



YEARS OF PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

Sunbird Trust



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK

The past year has been one of remarkable progress and resilience for Sunbird Trust. As we reflect on our achievements, challenges and growth, I am proud to share this comprehensive overview of our journey. The year was also special for all of us as it marked the 10th anniversary of our foundation day.



During each of these past ten years we have seen our vision of building peace come to life not only through the sheer passion and commitment of our team members but also through their dedication and hard work.

This report highlights key milestones, programmatic performances and strategic initiatives that have positioned us for sustained success. With a commitment to innovation and excellence, we look forward to building on this foundation in the years ahead.

Through the generous support of all our donors, enduring partnerships with community stakeholders and hard work of our dedicated team members we have yet again scaled new heights, both in terms lives impacted through our various programmes and funds deployed during the year.

Major Highlights of the year

Government School Transformation Programme (GSTP) – Styled on our School Transformation Programme, we entered into a long-term MOU with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for a district level Government School Transformation Programme. This strategic programme envisages to transform 11 extremely remote and near defunct government schools into Schools of Excellence serving the marginalized communities in the border district of Shi-Yomi, Arunachal Pradesh.

As many as 450 students from the most marginalized and isolated communities are provided quality education right in their own villages with our education specialists working with the local teachers 24x7. Besides this we will also be creating critical school, hostel and staff infrastructure at the schools under this programme, thereby improving the quality of physical infrastructure.

Teacher Training & Skilling Academy – We have successfully established the Axis Bank – Sunbird Trust Teacher Training and Skilling Academy. This academy aims to train teachers from the remotest parts of NE India, thereby empowering them in their professional journeys as teachers and educators. In its first year of operations, we conducted 4 batches empowering a total of 99 teachers from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Assam.

Improving Government School Infrastructure – In order to complement our efforts in the private school ecosystem, we undertook a strategic programme for one of our donors to development infrastructure for 12 government schools in the aspirational districts of Udalguri, Assam and Chandel, Manipur. Through this initiative we aim to improve physical access to education for the most marginalized communities of these two districts.



Highlights in Numbers

The last year also gave us an opportunity to re-evaluate our mission numbers and with the revised target for 2030 we embarked upon with renewed zest and passion. With **12573 scholarships** provided during the year we are poised to achieving our 2030 target of 1,00,000. With the completion of the under-construction school in Kabui Khullen and hostel in Chinjoroi (both in Manipur) we have now built and dedicated a total of **21 schools and 14 hostels** in NE India for the benefit of scores of students. **Solar Lamp and Solar Street light installation** picked up pace once again with a total of 2200 Lamps distribution across Dhemaji and Majuli districts of Assam.

Besides this we also installed 628 solar street lights in the remotest corner of Nagaland, Manipur and Assam. With these two projects alone, we were able to empower 58,818 people who hitherto were suffering from acute shortage of grid power. Other projects undertaken by the Community Development Team involved strengthening our work in the area of livelihood through the **Sloping Agriculture Land Technique (S.A.L.T.)**. With our Demo S.A.L.T. Farm in Puichi, Manipur bearing fruits (literally) we continue working with 70 farmer families across Noney district to enhance livelihood and also protect the land/soil from degradation due to Jhum cultivation.

Although the **ethnic conflict**, which erupted in May 2023 in **Manipur**, ebbed to a large extent due to the continuous efforts of all key stakeholders we continued to reach out to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) staying in various relief camps and provided them with necessary relief material ranging from blankets, Water filters, Emergency Lamps, Stationery items, Mattresses, Mosquito nets, Thermo steel Water flasks, Plastic Jumbo Clothes Storage amongst other required household items. These efforts helped provide dignified and comfortable living conditions to more than 15780 IDPs living in as many as 66 camps across Manipur's Imphal, Jiribam and Churachandpur areas.



All the magical impact was a direct result of the dedicated team of young professionals who have joined Sunbird over the years and share our vision of building peace and empowering the marginalized. We closed the year with 48 strong team mates coming from as many as 12 states of India. It is also a moment of extreme pride for us that 6 out of these are our own sponsored students who have completed their education and chosen to work with Sunbird Trust in various capacities with the passion to give back to their own communities. For us having our own sponsored students as full time Sunbirders is completing the circle of empowerment which is the core of our vision.

We are also immensely thankful to the deep support we get from our friends in the Armed Forces and Assam Rifles who enable us to reach to the farthest parts of the North Eastern India and participate along with us in nation building. From developing key infrastructure for some of our partner schools to being the logistical backbone for our men and material, our partnership with them has developed into a unique model of CSO, Army, CSR and Government working in tandem with a shared vision.

As we enter a new financial year we aim to work with renewed zeal and commitment to uphold our core values of humanity and inclusivity.

With Gratitude

Aliasgar Janjali

Chief Executive Officer



For us, having our own sponsored students as full-time Sunbirders is completing the circle of empowerment which is the core of our vision.



FOUNDERS' NOTE

A special year leading to our 10th anniversary in December 2024

As Sunbird Trust enters its 11th year, we look back with immense pride on what has been a landmark period in our journey. The year 2024–2025, our tenth, marked the most significant growth and expansion in our history—an affirmation of our mission and a springboard for what lies ahead.

Throughout the year, we've remained deeply engaged in reflecting on our mission and vision—ensuring that our strategies evolve in step with ever-shifting ground realities. This introspection has led to meaningful improvements in our processes and internal structuring, making us more resilient, adaptive, and ready for the road ahead.

In our beautiful Manipur, while the situation has seen some improvement over the past few months, we are aware that tensions remain. Our work continues with empathy and sensitivity to the ground situation. Guided by our secular and inclusive values, we are grateful to be trusted by communities with empathy and sensitivity to the ground situation. Guided by our secular and inclusive values, we are grateful to be trusted by communities across ethnic and cultural divides. In the coming year, a key focus will be the rehabilitation and care of children affected

by the conflict—continuing our core mission of fostering peace through education. None of the progress we have made would have been possible without the generous and unwavering support of our donors. We are truly grateful for their trust in us. We are also privileged to have the wholehearted cooperation of local state governments in all the regions we operate in. At the grassroots level, our partner organizations and their dedicated staff at the cutting edge have shown exceptional commitment, often in the face of adversity—and we are proud to stand beside them.

Our strength lies in our team. United by purpose and drawing on diverse backgrounds—social, cultural, religious, and educational—our team exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and courage. In some of the most remote areas of Arunachal, close to the China border, our colleagues continue to work with passion and dedication—often without electricity, connectivity, or even proper roads. Yet, the strength of their commitment inspires us all.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Trustees and Board of Advisors for their invaluable wisdom and guidance. Their support has opened many doors, enabling us to scale our work significantly.

Of immense joy to us is the growing success of our alumni. Throughout the year, we've witnessed our students graduate, secure employment, and begin lifting their



families and siblings with them. Their progress is a powerful validation of our work and purpose. We are especially proud to now count two of our alumni as Board Members, and seven as permanent members of our team. They bring not only lived experience but also a deep-rooted commitment to paying it forward.

We remain firm in our belief that organizations like ours in the development sector must be seen not as charities, but as equal partners in the nation-building process. Our goal is to build strong, self-reliant communities through education and empowerment.

Our newest initiatives under the Axis Bank Foundation's DilSe programme—including the transformation of six Government Schools in Shi Yomi District and the launch of the Teacher Training Academy in Mechuka—have already made a deep impact in these frontier communities. We are deeply thankful to the Indian Army, whose unwavering support through Project Sadbhavana, and with critical logistical and material assistance, has been instrumental. Similarly, in other conflict-affected regions, our strong partnership with the Assam Rifles in WHAM (Winning Hearts and Minds) continues to bear fruit—through outreach efforts in remote villages.

It has now been over a year since Aliasgar succeeded me as CEO in January 2024. With his deep and unwavering commitment to Sunbird Trust—and the return of several dedicated leaders to our team—this transition has not only been remarkably smooth but has also strengthened and built confidently on the foundation laid in our first decade.

As we step into our 11th year, we reaffirm our commitment to working hand in hand with our donors, partners, and host communities—for the future of the thousands of children whose lives we touch every day.

With gratitude and hope,

Chris & Myrna Rego,
Founders, Sunbird Trust





TRUSTEES' REPORT

Our tenth year has flown by and what a milestone it has been. This has been the most expansive year so far in Sunbird Trust's journey - in scale, scope, and impact. We are delighted to present this comprehensive Annual Report and I hope it conveys, in some measure, the full and profound magnitude of what has been achieved across the northeast of our beloved nation.

A telling sign of a strong and inspired organization is the quality of its leadership. When our founder and then-CEO, Colonel Christopher Rego, decided to hand over the reins to Aliasgar Janjali in January 2024, it came as a profound moment for all of us considering his continuous and tireless efforts to raise Sunbird from the ground up into the beacon of hope, peace

and education it is today. That said, the transition has been smooth—thanks to Col. Chris's profound and wholehearted involvement in shaping strategy, mentoring the team, expanding the vision and critically, in fundraising. Supported by our co-founder Myrna Rego, he remains an integral part of Sunbird's leadership and vision. Thank you, Col. Chris and Myrna, for your vision, your sacrifice, and your steady commitment to a cause that continues to transform lives in profound ways.

We extend our deepest appreciation to Aliasgar for taking on the mantle during a dynamic and demanding year. Under his inspiring stewardship, Sunbird has expanded its reach despite significant challenges. In Manipur, where we have some of our deepest roots, the situation remains volatile, though signs of recovery are emerging. Meanwhile in Arunachal Pradesh,

the rollout of the District School Transformation Programme and the launch of the Axis Bank – Sunbird Trust Teacher Training Academy, demanded enormous perseverance and effort in the face of tough terrain, poor connectivity, and fragile or nonexistent infrastructure.

“

I was amazed to see how unique Arunachal is, in so many aspects. Amidst the sheer remoteness, poor accessibility, and socio-cultural challenges, what stood out was our groundbreaking effort in formulating a meaningful partnership with the state government to improve public schools. This is a first for Sunbird, and I can't wait to see the impact!

Dr Sonal Sethia





Across six Northeastern states, Ali and our dedicated team of 48 young professionals—seven of them Sunbird alumni—have displayed resilience, adaptability, and dedication. Our team members deserve a special tribute. Grit, courage, stamina, and quiet perseverance define their work. Serving in some of India's most remote and underserved regions, they face inclement weather, uncertain security, daily logistical challenges and poor connectivity. These young professionals are the lifeblood of Sunbird, translating vision into hard won progress on the ground and bringing hope, education and opportunity to communities in need.

The transformation dear team members that you help bring about in the lives of children and youth is profound. You are not only shaping brighter futures through education, but also strengthening the fabric of peace, patriotism, and mutual respect in regions that need it most. In a world that often overlooks the quiet, steadfast work of grassroots pioneers, your perseverance, humility and efforts are deeply inspiring. We are deeply indebted and thankful to our donors. Their belief in our mission and boundless generosity have enabled us to scale our work and transform the lives of thousands of children, affecting the quality of life and futures of countless families. Your contributions have not only helped open the doors to classrooms but also to potentials, peace, prosperity, and patriotism.

Dr. Dayaprasad G. Kulkarni, MD

We also extend a special gratitude to our Board of Advisors whose wisdom and guidance have helped shape our strategic direction at crucial junctures. A decade of hard work is bearing fruit.

Our alumni are stepping confidently into the world—graduating, pursuing postgraduate studies, attaining financial independence, and supporting their families. Today, we proudly count seven alumni among our team members and two on our Board of Advisors. Another five are enrolled in our SELF programme. We believe and hope that one day, Sunbird Trust may be led and inspired by one of its own alumni.

As of today, Sunbird Trust partners with over 114 institutions across six Northeastern states. Each partnership is tailored to the local context, and rooted in mutual respect and vision. While we serve as facilitators and funders, our deepest respect goes to our grassroots partners who work tirelessly to deliver transformative change.

With rapid growth comes the responsibility to pause, reflect, consolidate and plan ahead in an effective way. The coming year will be one of strategic introspection as we prepare for the next phase of Sunbird's journey. With our model of Peace through Education and a decade of ground experience, we now aim to share our learnings and step into a thought leadership role in this space.

A special note of appreciation and thanks goes to our leadership team—Michelle Markos, Ajinkya Hande, Saniya Kirloskar, and Pratip Ganguly—each of whom returned for a second innings with Sunbird and have taken on significant responsibilities.

Together with Ravi Kumar Konathala, our longest-serving team member, and rising leaders like Meenatchi Prabhu and Ayushi Pande, they have led key verticals of the organization with unwavering dedication, perseverance, and distinction.

We remain deeply grateful to each one of you for your unwavering support and belief in the Sunbird mission. As Trustees—Dr. Dayaprasad Kulkarni, Dr. Sonal Sethia, and I, Ryan Lobo— sign off with respect, gratitude, and hope for the road ahead. With your continued partnership and efforts, we look forward to building an even more impactful second decade.

My warmest regards,
Ryan Lobo
(on behalf of the Board of Trustees)

Ryan Lobo, *Founder Trustee*





years of
PEACE
THROUGH
EDUCATION



10 YEARS OF PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

Sunbird Trust

2005-2013



- 2004: Interest-free loans to Mizoram youngsters.
- 2008: Free Loan Scholarships for undergraduates.
- 2011: Launched **Sponsor a Child** scheme.
- 2013: Expanded **Sponsor a Child** to Manipur & Nagaland.

2014



December 11

Sunbird Trust
Formally registered as a
Trust in Bangalore

2015



349

- Hostel at Ijeirong built for 250 Kids,
- Community Halls were built at Muirei, Muvanlai; Nursery School in Muvanlai.
- Launched **Sponsor a Child** in Majuli, Assam and Nutrition Scheme in Manipur & Assam.

2016



680

- Col Christopher Rego (Retd.) takes charge as CEO.
- Ashoka Fellowship was awarded to him for peace-through-education work.

2017



1210

- Paankriang Friendship School & hostel, Ijeirong were electrified with solar
- Lyzon Friendship School built in Khomunnom, Manipur
- Helped building Hummingbird School in Majuli, Assam

2018



2356

- Sungcham School inaugurated in Puichi, Manipur
- 18-terminal Computer Centre and 75,000-litre water tank built in Ijeirong
- Hostels facilitated in Majuli, Tamei, Sajik Tampak, Khomunnom, Leimakhong.

2019



3254

- Second Hostel, Dining Hall and Sunbird Staff Centre inaugurated at PFA, Ijeirong
- 15-terminal Computer Centre opened at Lyzon School, Khomunnom
- Team size exceeded 20

2020



5933

- COVID-19 relief efforts with ration kits and medical supplies distribution and vaccination drives held in Manipur, Assam, and Bangalore.

2021



6100

- Added Alpha Friendship School (Kachai) and Haite Memorial School (Assam) under School Transformation Program

2022



8454

- Expanded into Arunachal Pradesh, working with Papikrung Government Residential School on the Indo-China border in Shi-Yomi District
- Expanded into Majuli Island, Assam, partnering with 7 schools.

2023



9242

- Friendship and Peace Curriculum designed to promote unity.
- Specialised teacher training curriculum created for Northeast India educators.

2024



10,169

- Manipur Conflict Relief – Ration, relief material and financial support for students
- Mr. Aliasgar Janjali took over as CEO
- Signed MoU with Arunachal Pradesh for district-wide School Transformation Program.
- Team Size: 50+ with Great Place to Work Accreditation

2026-2030



By 2030

- Provided 51,640 annual scholarships
- Raised 35 schools/hostels
- Positively impacted 4,04,115 people through community development projects
- Established a Teacher Training Academy in Mechuka to train 900 teachers from the Northeast over the next 4 years
- Provide 1,00,000 annual scholarships
- Raise 50 schools/hostels
- Positively impact 5,00,000 people through community development projects



Click the icon to listen

I met Col Chris Rego in 2017. He told me about his work in the Northeast, particularly in Manipur, where he is trying to build trust amongst various stakeholders and is using education to bring about peace. The idea was so compelling that we in Caring Friends decided to support Sunbird Trust. Our support began in 2017 and continues to this day.

Mr Babu Joseph

Volunteer – Caring Friends, Ex-Executive Trustee and CEO, Axis Bank Foundation 2010-15





10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

All our locations across the Northeast celebrated Sunbird's 10th anniversary in their own grand, unique style; In Bangalore there was a heartfelt gathering of donors, students, supporters, and partners, which included a documentary showcasing Sunbird's journey, a keynote address by CEO Mr. Aliasgar Janjali, and alumni testimonials. Fundraising stalls featured Northeast cultural items. Alpha Friendship School Kachai celebrated with a Sunbird Carnival, and a documentary on its three-year impact in Kachai, engaging parents and the community. Majuli Gurukul Academy's celebration included speeches, a friendly football match among local schools, and a community feast. At Dew Drops Academy, the celebrations began with a community walk to the school. At Mualdam, a winter carnival and medical checkups were done. At Singngat village, the celebration united the community with a volleyball tournament and performances from neighboring villages. Oinam celebrated with a volleyball tournament. At Maram, Sunbird sponsored students came together for celebrations at 16 Assam Rifles, Maram.

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND CHANGE





Sunbird Trust is working towards Building **Peace** Through **Education** and empowerment of children and youth in remote and conflict-affected areas of Northeast India.

By **2030**, Sunbird Trust aspires to-



PROVIDE **1,00,000 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS** TO UNDERSERVED CHILDREN



RAISE **50 SCHOOLS/HOSTELS**



POSITIVELY IMPACT **5,00,000 PEOPLE** THROUGH **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** PROJECTS TO IMPROVE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL WELL-BEING.



**years of
PEACE THROUGH
EDUCATION**

EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

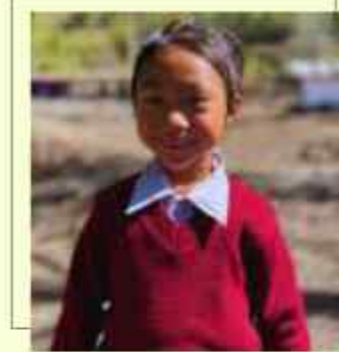
SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM (STP)

Enhancing remote schools into centers of excellence and peace through holistic school development



GOVERNMENT SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM (GSTP)

Collaborations to improve pedagogy & infrastructure in govt. schools of Arunachal Pradesh



TEACHER TRAINING ACADEMY (TTA) PROGRAM

The TTA in Mechuka aims to up-skill teachers of the Northeast with latest pedagogical approaches



ACCESS FOR ALL (AFA) PROGRAM

Scholarships that make quality education accessible



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



SUNBIRD EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP (SELF) PROGRAM

Enhancing the employability of youth in northeastern India while cultivating essential leadership qualities

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



SLOPING AGRICULTURAL LAND TECHNOLOGY (SALT) PROGRAM

Building capacity of jhum farmers to switch to more sustainable and productive methods of farming



SOLAR ACCESS

Ensuring access to light in the most remote villages of Northeast India

Sunbird Trust has for the second time in a row been certified as a **Great Place to Work** in the category of Non-profit and Charity Organizations (Under 50 Employees)



EDUCATE

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS HELD ACROSS 4 BASE SCHOOLS

Empowering students to take on leadership roles is crucial for a student-centric school model. Student leadership fosters ownership and encourages collaboration with teachers, parents, and leaders, enhancing personal growth. Student leaders become role models, creating a cycle of engagement that enriches the school community. Sunbird Trust, through its School Transformation program, emphasizes providing leadership opportunities for students and supports teachers and leaders in nurturing student leadership.



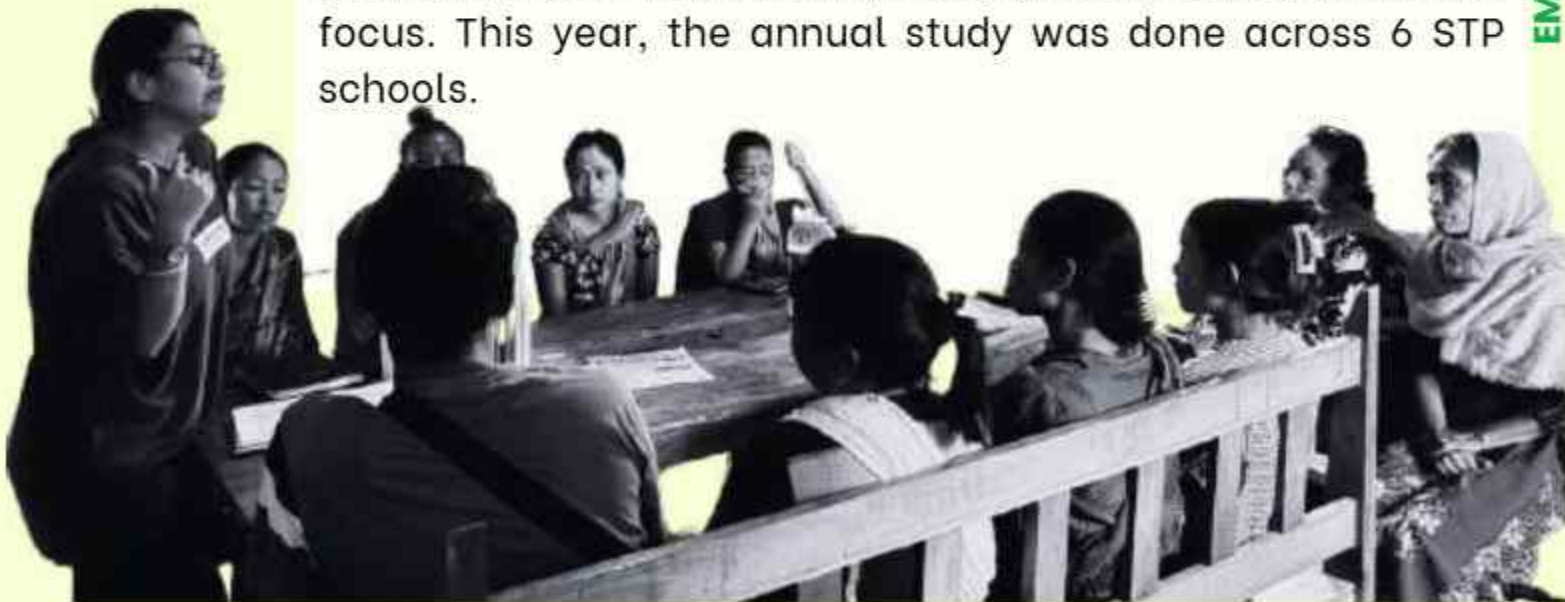
4 COHORTS TRAINED AT AXIS BANK-SUNBIRD TRUST TEACHER TRAINING ACADEMY

Sunbird Trust, in partnership with Axis Bank, is driving a district level education initiative in Shiyomi District, Arunachal Pradesh. Under this project, Sunbird Trust, upon the request of the Government, has converted an unused tourism complex in Mechuka into a state-of-the-art teacher training academy for the teachers of Northeast India.

SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM ANNUAL STUDY CONDUCTED

This annual review evaluates the progress achieved by the school since the implementation of the School Transformation Program (STP). Key program indicators aligned with the program's logic model are assessed and compared against baseline scores from the previous year to identify areas of improvement and those requiring additional focus. This year, the annual study was done across 6 STP schools.

EMPOWER



TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS CONDUCTED ACROSS SCHOOLS

EMPOWER

Our belief in strengthening school systems through teacher and school leader capacity building inspired us to conduct sessions spanning diverse topics.

2014-2024



51,641

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED



35

SCHOOLS/HOSTELS
CONSTRUCTED



120

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSTRUCTED



4,04,115

LIVES POSITIVELY IMPACTED THROUGH
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THIS YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS



12,573

Annual scholarships provided



75,183

community interventions beneficiaries



2

one school & one hostel constructed

This year, we amplified our **community intervention** efforts. The Kuki-Meitei conflict in Manipur has ravaged the state since May 2023 displacing more than 60,000 people and claiming the lives of more than 250. With the generous contribution and support of our donors, we were able to support **15,780 people** across **66 relief camps**. This year, we distributed solar lamps and street lights to some of the remotest of villages in the northeast, lighting the lives of **58,818 people**. Through our **sponsorship program**, we were able to provide **12,573 scholarships**, resulting in financial access to the most deserving students of the northeast; to support tuition fee, nutrition fee, college education, skill building course and more. We supported **114 partner institutions** through scholarships and capacity building of which 14 are base schools where team members stay on campus and work on strengthening school governance.





2024-25

States with our sponsorship interventions projects



12,573
SCHOLARSHIPS ISSUED

Our Sponsorship Initiatives



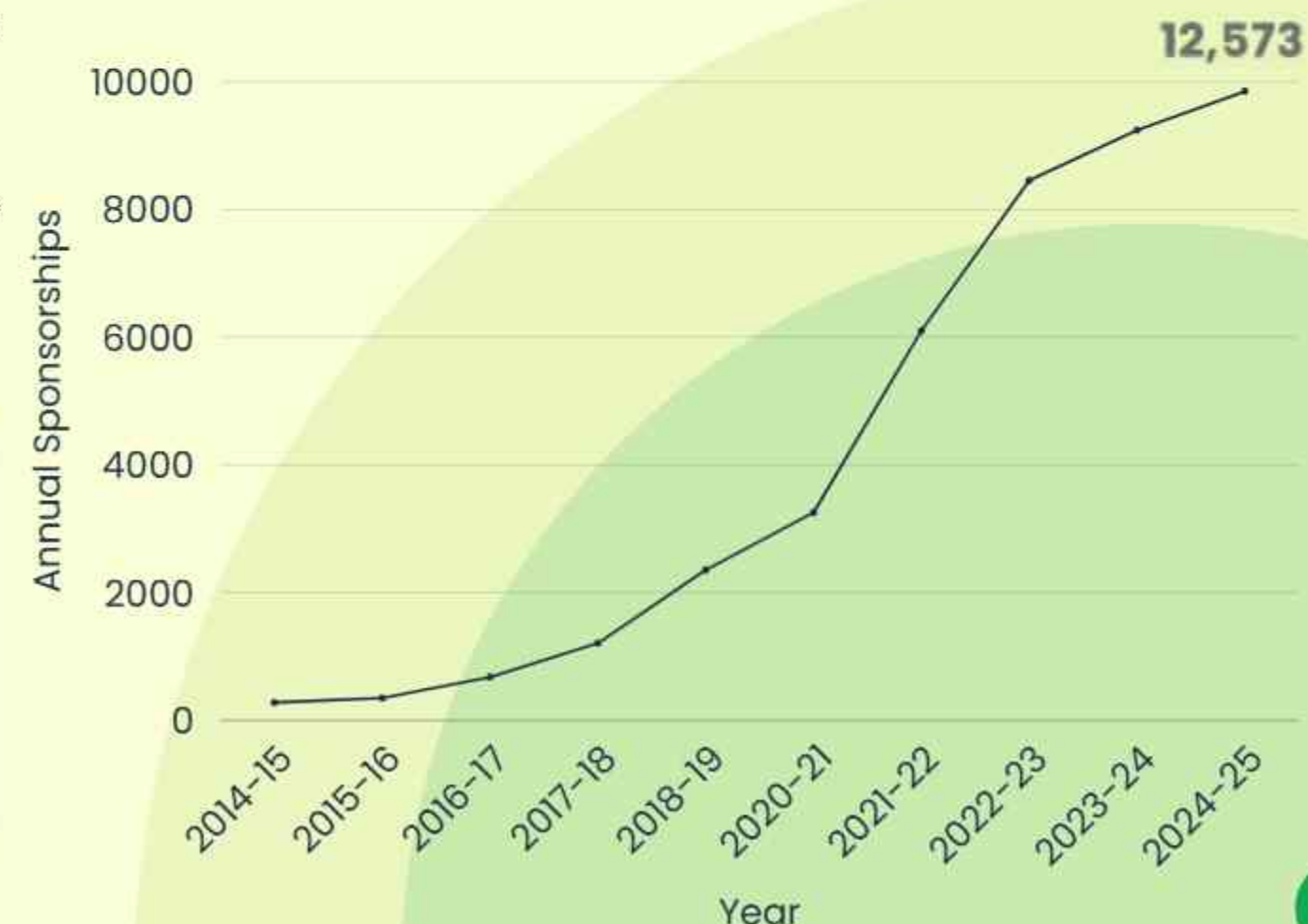
*sponsored students include those who receive sponsorship support in our partner institutions and individual college sponsorships

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PEACE THROUGH SPONSORSHIPS

Sunbird Trust provides financial access to students from the most underserved communities of the northeast by providing annual scholarships; for school, college, undergraduate, and postgraduate education, apart from sponsoring students pursuing other fields.





“

I came to know about Sunbird Trust while staying in a relief camp. With their support, I was able to come to pursue a Diploma in Home Health Care in Aug '24. I have now completed a six-month course at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, and working as a nursing assistant at the hospital, thanks to the love and support of the Sunbird family.

Doipakkim



Build soft skills and technical competencies to ensure students are job-ready and life-ready.



5 sponsored students **trained** in soft skills as part of SELF*



In-person meets and individual **counselling sessions** done for sponsored students

Supporting students' higher education to discover their individual potential

174 students' **college education** sponsored

paved the way for **37** students' **sports journeys**



52 students **graduating** this year; 3 of them in Nursing



Providing financial access to education to students from underserved communities of the Northeast

1,961 students' **nutrition** sponsored in 2024-25



1,272 students' **hostel fees** sponsored in 2024-25



9,851 students **sponsored** in 2024-25



Sunbird Trust has also been actively involved in identifying and sponsoring students who have outperformed in various fields like medicine to sports to mixed martial arts, but lack the financial resources to pursue multiple opportunities.



601 sponsored students are part of our alumni



174 students sponsored through college this year



6 alumni are full-time employees with us



Sunbird Trust's assistance went beyond covering my fees. To my mentors and Sunbird team, your guidance and sacrifices and going the extra mile has been instrumental in shaping my academic journey. I am committed to making the most of the opportunities I have been given and hope to inspire and assist others in the society to pursue their dreams, just as I have been encouraged to do.

Ms Rapunga Agnes

Rapunga is currently in the final semester of her Masters in Sociology her PhD at Don Bosco College (Autonomous) Maram and has cleared the NET exam to pursue a PhD.

Parents Orientation



Parents' Orientation was conducted in 89% partner schools in which parents are informed about Sunbird Trust's mission and sponsorship benefits, using presentations, videos, and discussions for comprehensive understanding. As part of the orientation, each school received a certificate for their educational contributions.



Event Highlights



10-year anniversary celebrations at Maram

Sunbird Trust's 10th Foundation Day event at 16 Assam Rifles, Maram Bazaar, with Chief Guest Col. Sandeep Sharma included Sunbird alumni and founders of partner institutions. Guests were welcomed followed by a Sunbird Trust video screening and memento presentation. Sponsored students performed a tribal song, and cut the anniversary cake. An Alumni Discussion Panel addressed challenges in Northeast India followed by Don Bosco Maram students' dance performances.



Visit to Gerizim Rehabilitation Trust

The Sunbird team, including Co-founder Myrna Rego and students from Bangalore, visited **Gerizim Rehabilitation Trust**, which supports mentally challenged and underprivileged individuals, including 18 school children from Manipur. The day had singing, dancing, playing games, sharing meals. Sunbird donated 10 bags of rice to help with daily needs. The visit aimed to provide a meaningful experience for the students and inspiring them to contribute positively to society through acts of kindness and compassion.



Counselling session in Bangalore

Sir Chris and Myrna Ma'am hosted a heartwarming gathering for Sunbird students and alumni in Bangalore, featuring a guest speaker, Mrs. Debahuti. She shared how to overcome low self-esteem, anxiety, and personal growth. It was a space where students shared personal experiences.

Art by Sunbird Sponsored Student





Empowering Change

SUNBIRD EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP

Watch our SELF fellows in action!



The Sunbird Emerging Leaders Fellowship (SELF) is dedicated to empowering Sunbird alumni from conflict-affected areas in Northeast India. Over a span of 15 months, fellows will engage in practical skill development, receive mentorship, and gain real-world experience in their respective placement schools. This initiative aims to connect theoretical education with professional skills. Currently, our SELF fellows are actively engaged in our base locations across Assam, Manipur, and Meghalaya.

Five out of 33 interns are currently transitioning into full-time roles, while others pursue higher education and thrive in diverse career paths. This achievement has helped us develop the SELF program towards empowering individuals and transforming communities.

5 of our Sunbird sponsored students are currently SELF fellows

Focus areas



Cross-functional
Skill Development



Teaching as
Leadership



Leadership
Development



Mentorship
Support



Community
Engagement

”

This fellowship is helping me become more self-aware, confident, and resilient. I enjoy learning every day and bonding with the team. Professionally, I am developing a growth mindset and taking ownership of my learning. I want to keep learning, mentor others, and apply my skills in different contexts.


Ningthuilu Inka

SELF fellow at AFS Kachai, Manipur



Watch the 4 new music videos Sunbird Trust released in 24-25



Click on  icon to watch the videos



STAY STRONG OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO



Sunbird Trust
2.64k subscribers

Subscribe



371



Share

2.6k views • 3 weeks ago

Manipur, a land shaped by resilience and diversity, is home to the Friendship Band, a group of students from Paangkriang Friendship School in Noney District. As the base school for Sunbird Trust, Paangkriang Friendship School stands as a beacon of unity, where children from different tribes come together to learn, grow, and build bonds of friendship despite the ongoing conflict in the region. It is this spirit of harmony and peace that inspired the band's name. Coming from Manipur, a state currently torn by conflict, the name Friendship Band holds even greater significance. It is more than just a name—it is a symbol of harmony, hope, and the power of friendship. In a place where ethnic and political unrest often divides communities, the Friendship Band is proof that music can unite, heal, and inspire.

Impact

Sponsorships

Community

Infrastructure

Education



Smile Official Music Video

Smile captures the essence of Peace Through Education, inspiring students to become the voices of harmony and unity.



Savera, cover by Paangkriang Friendship Band

A glimpse of our band embracing the beauty of a language that's new to them - Hindi!



Khwabon Ke Parinday | Ton mang Sirvate (Hindi | Biate) | Cover

This video was produced as a part of the Biate Language Revival Project.



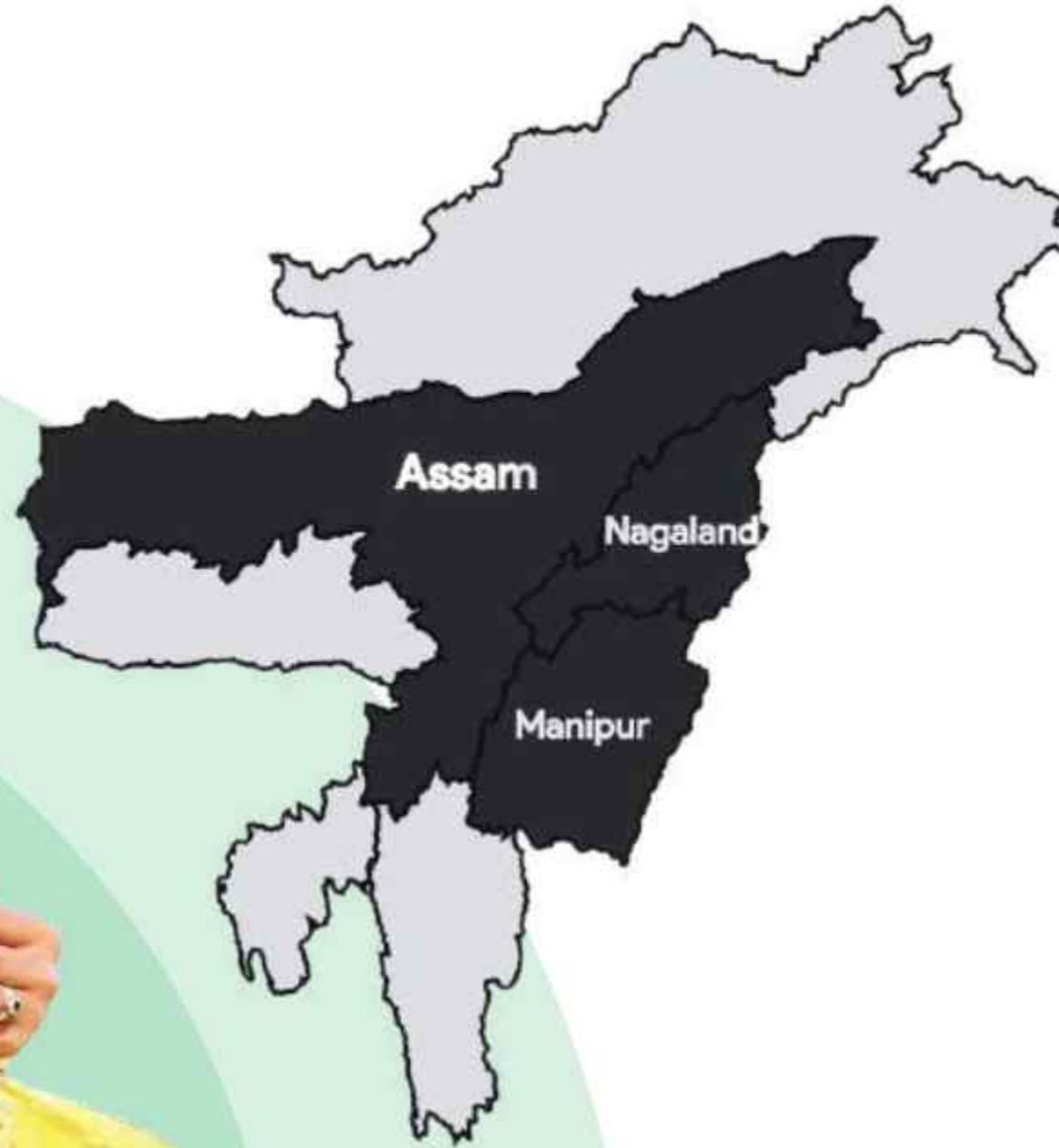
NEVER GIVE UP ORIGINAL MUSIC VIDEO

The first original song by our Paangkriang Friendship Band.



2024-25

Impact of our community-building projects



Impact Sponsorships Community Infrastructure Education

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PEACE THROUGH COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

With the generous contribution and support of our donors, we were able to support 15,780 people displaced by the conflict in Manipur across 98 relief camps. This year, we also focused on distributing solar lamps and street lights to the remotest of villages in the northeast, lighting the lives of 58,818 people.

75183 | **3** across
lives benefitted through
community development projects*
Northeastern
states



58818

beneficiaries of solar lamp and
street light distribution



15780

beneficiaries of relief material to
Manipur's displaced

**includes beneficiaries of projects not mentioned here*



Empowering Communities

SOLAR STREET LIGHTS AND SOLAR LAMP DISTRIBUTION

In 2024, Sunbird Trust, in collaboration with the Indian Armed Forces, installed solar street lights and distributed solar lamps in remote villages of Nagaland, Manipur and Assam. Sponsored by generous donors, these facilities brought much-needed illumination to communities where electricity was once a dream.

Through our initiative

58,818

Lives positively impacted



2828

Solar street lights and lamps distributed



63

Villages illuminated

Partner

HDFC Bank CSR, Gharda Foundation

street lights

Schneider Electric Foundation India

solar ball lamps



Click on the play icon to get a glimpse of the journey our team members make to reach some of these remote locations!



Impact

Sponsorships

Community

Infrastructure

Education

On behalf of my companions and myself who received pocket lamps, we are really grateful for this help. As our School and hostel is in a simple area of Manipur, power supply is very irregular. Our studies get disturbed even during examinations. This study lamp is a great blessing for us.

Gaiguangthuilu Pamei
Class 8





Aiding Manipur's Displaced

RELIEF AND EDUCATION EFFORTS IN MANIPUR

Since the onset of conflict on May 3, 2023, which has displaced over 60,000 individuals in Manipur, Sunbird Trust has provided essential relief and educational support to more than 15,000 people across over 60 camps from March to December 2024. In partnership with generous organizations, vital supplies such as hygiene kits, kitchen utensils, solar lamps, mattresses, school materials, water purifiers, and recreational items for children have been distributed, offering crucial assistance during this crisis. In addition to material support, Sunbird Trust is dedicated to the education of displaced children. At the Akampat Relief Camp, school admission fees were covered for 183 students attending 14 different schools. In Churachandpur, 29 displaced students are enrolled at Lyzon Friendship School, while 135 are attending St. Joseph School in Singngat. Through its unwavering commitment to education and care, Sunbird Trust is helping to nurture resilience and promote peace.

Partners

- Axis Bank
- Caring Friends
- Goonj

15780
individuals across
66 relief camps
received essential relief
and educational support





Sustainable farming practices

SLOPING AGRICULTURAL LAND TECHNOLOGY (SALT)

Demo Farm, Puichi, Manipur



69 farmers impacted directly

Sunbird Trust has implemented Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) in the Puichi cluster for 4 years, with the aim to establish an exemplary SALT Demonstration Farm. This 4-acre farm managed by Sunbird Team members Pougiale and Kholi Anthony serves as a learning space for farmers, showcasing SALT's benefits. This year 50 new farmers were introduced to SALT; a total of 69 farmers received knowledge, skills, and financial aid.



300+ fruit saplings planted



3 bee boxes-1ltr honey harvested from each box



3 batches of 25 chicks managed



8 goats reared in the farm; shed for 25 goats built



500+ kg banana harvested; donated to Ijeirong school hostel

Aben

The SALT programme by Sunbird Trust started in Aben in 2024. Team members Pratip Ganguly and Rinchuiba Bariamtak engaged with Aben's SALT Development Committee (SDC) for implementation and monitoring. They conducted farm visits and 15 in-depth interviews comparing SALT with traditional jhum cultivation. Additionally, 30 new SALT farmers received training at the SALT Resource Centre with support from the Hope Foundation Academy; Sunbird team also participated in this training.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A Programmatic Approach

On October 29, 2024, a Community Development Perspective Building workshop was held at the Sunbird Office in Majuli, focusing on enhancing understanding through interactive activities. Ten participants from various Sunbird Trust locations attended, engaging in a rich exchange of ideas. Facilitated by Mr. Pradyut Bhattacharjee, founder of SESTA NGO, the workshop included group activities such as identifying strengths, discussing meaningful aspects of their work, addressing development challenges, and visualizing concepts of happiness in community settings. Participants analyzed common themes to inform future community development efforts.



Sunbird Trust team members with SESTA NGO Founder Mr. Pradyut Bhattacharjee

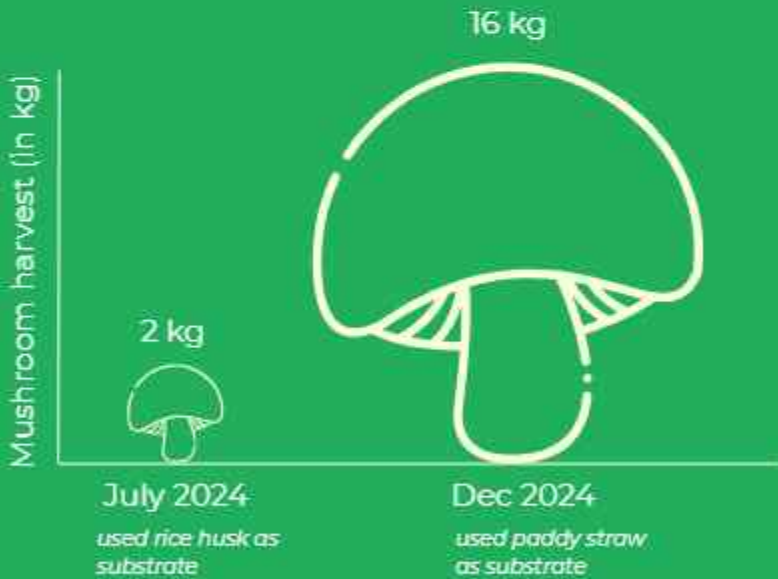
MUSHROOM CULTIVATION AT LANCHAH VILLAGE



The Mushroom cultivation project began in 2019 in Singngat, Manipur in collaboration with Sunbird Trust and ICAR. Initiated by three families from Lanchah Village, cultivation faced interruptions due to COVID-19 in 2021 and again in 2023 from a lack of proper facilities and ethnic conflict affecting spawn availability. In 2024, with support from Sunbird Trust and Mrs. Thenkhovah Haokip, a new mushroom hut was built.



Mrs Thenkhovah Haokip, Lanchah village, in her mushroom hut



- Source of income
- Source of food



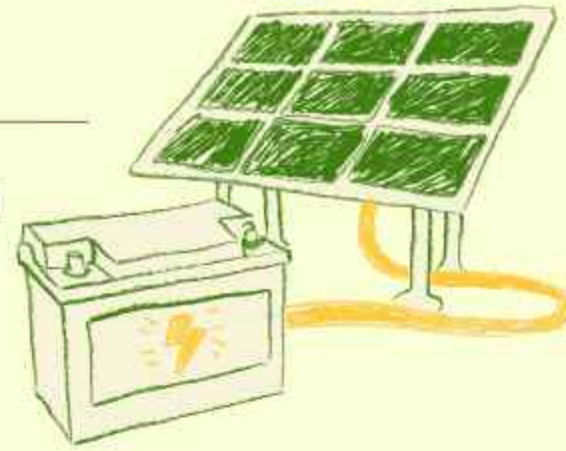
- Unavailability of substrate
- Unavailability of spawn
- Labour intensive





In 2024-25

In the first phase of Project Parivartan, We coordinated with the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)** government for the efficient planning and execution of the project in **Udalguri district, Assam** and installed essential infrastructure in **6 schools** and solar street lights in **12 villages**.



Our journey across 12 villages this year in phase 1 of Project Parivartan

01 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Identified existing gaps and tailored solutions accordingly



RECRUITMENT
Hired local from Bodoland region to coordinate with stakeholders

02

03 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Upgraded infrastructure in 6 government schools in Udalguri

- Set up computer, printer, etc
- Constructed boundary fence
- Set up water harvesting system
- Constructed separate boys' and girls' toilet blocks
- 2kW solar powered system installed



STREET LIGHT INSTALLATION
360 solar street lights installed across 12 villages in Udalguri

04

Impact

Sponsorships

Community

Infrastructure

Education

PROJECT PARIVARTAN- THE JOURNEY

Launched in 2024, the Parivartan Project is an initiative to upgrade educational infrastructure and ensure access to safe lighting across two underserved districts in Assam and Manipur. The project aims to bridge critical infrastructure gaps in 12 government schools and improve access to sustainable lighting solutions in 12 remote villages. This intervention will create a positive impact on student attendance, engagement, and learning outcomes, contributing meaningfully to the educational landscape of these remote regions.

Spread of Sunbird's Parivartan Projects across the northeast



Partner





Partnership for Child Nutrition

SUNBIRD TRUST AND FEEDING INDIA LAUNCH NUTRITION PROGRAMME IN ASSAM'S SCHOOLS

In collaboration with **Feeding India**, Sunbird Trust is **providing food support to eight partner schools** across Majuli, Dhemaji, and Golaghat districts.



Problem

- Most day scholars usually arrive at school without meals
- Large percentage of those who bring lunch from home bring nutritionally insufficient items like chips and uncooked noodles.



Intervention

- Extending food support to day scholar and hosteller students through the Feeding India program
- Day scholars now benefit from the midday meal and snacks, hostellers receive breakfast and dinner as well, ensuring comprehensive nourishment.

Through this initiative

949

Students positively impacted

8

partner
schools

3

districts
of Assam



Spread of Sunbird's Feeding India Projects
across Assam



Partner
zomato
Feeding India





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PEACE THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Sunbird Trust enables physical access to students from the most underserved communities of the northeast by installing adequate essential infrastructure; from toilet blocks to school buildings, hostels, handwashing & drinking water facility to computer labs.

45

Infrastructure projects executed* in 24-25



19 new school infrastructure projects

This includes a school, a hostel, a computer center, science lab, kitchen & dining facility, new toilets and staff quarters



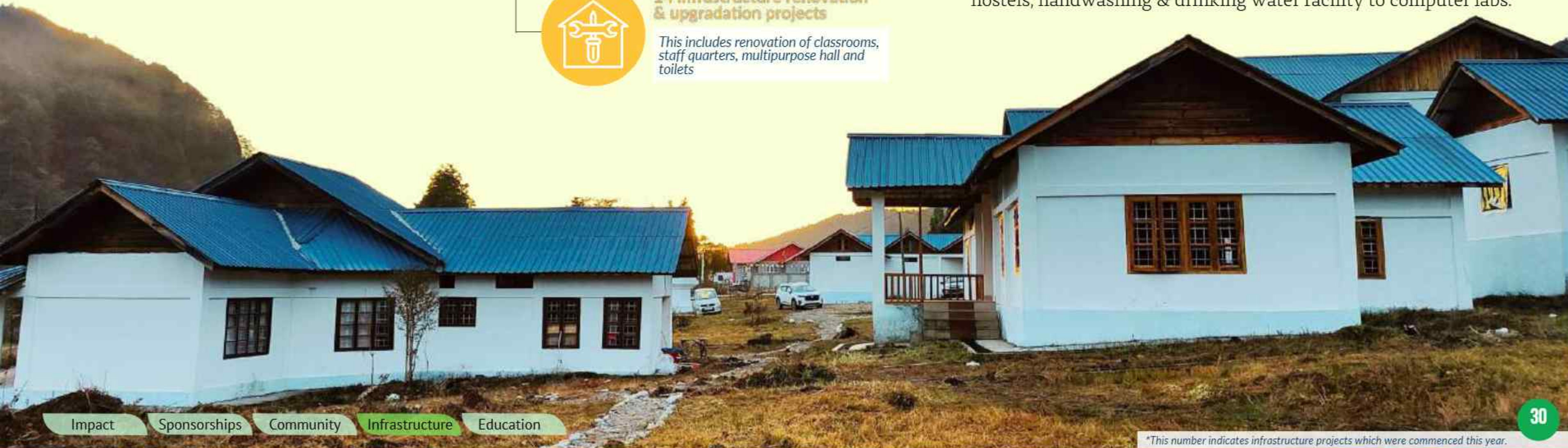
12 sustainability related infrastructure projects

This includes 6 solar installations and 6 water harvesting facilities.



14 infrastructure renovation & upgradation projects

This includes renovation of classrooms, staff quarters, multipurpose hall and toilets



ALPHA FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL TURNS 30

Since its inception in 1995, AFS has remained steadfast in its mission—welcoming students from all backgrounds and providing them with quality education and a nurturing home.

Sustaining the school has always been a challenge, as many parents (mostly subsistence farmers and daily wage labourers) struggle to pay fees. However, since partnership with Sunbird Trust in 2021, transformative changes have taken place. From rebuilding dilapidated structures to enhancing academic standards and introducing child sponsorship and nutrition programs, AFS has become a thriving learning environment. Today, 246 children from kindergarten to Grade 10 are growing in an atmosphere that instils respect for diversity, national pride, and a broader world view.

Despite challenges posed by ongoing ethnic conflict and Kachai's remoteness, construction on the new school building continued. This year, AFS proudly inaugurated the new school and staff quarters and a basketball court.

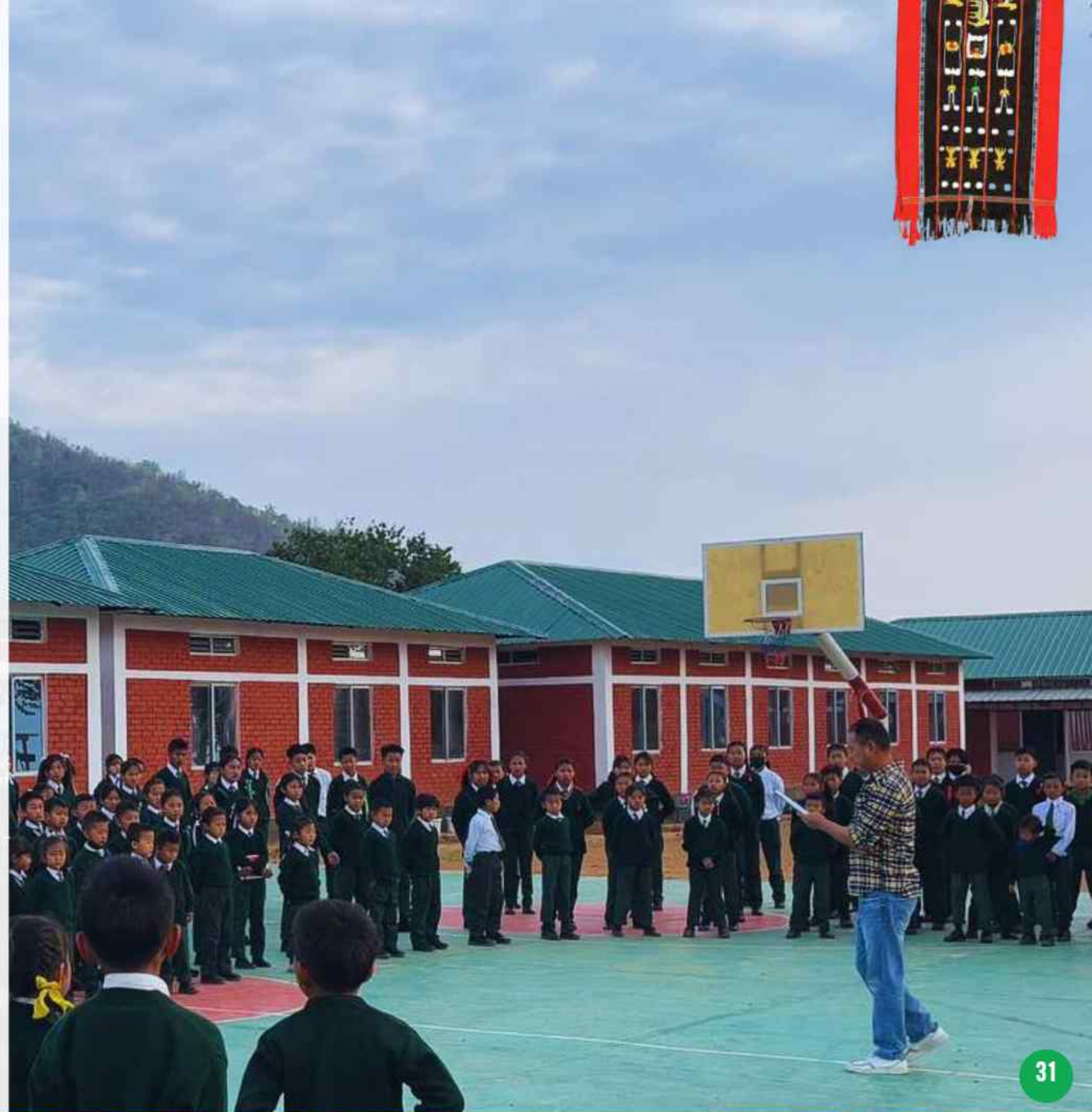


In just a short time, Sunbird Trust has transformed the school completely. Improved infrastructure has relieved students of the hardships they previously faced. Teacher training sessions have empowered educators with modern teaching methods and innovative curriculum practices are reshaping students' perspectives on education. The nutrition program has improved children's health and sponsorship programs have eased the financial burden on struggling parents.

Thank you, Sunbird Trust - may your impact continue to grow!

Mr. Mataisang Shirak

Principal, Alpha Friendship School





1 SCHOOL AND 1 HOSTEL BUILDING INAUGURATED

On March 8th, Sunbird Trust inaugurated its 13th school, Hope Friendship Academy. The event was attended by donors, including Mr. Sukthankar's family, to commemorate this milestone. The project was also made possible through a generous contribution from the estate of the late Ms. Freny Parakh. With support from the Assam Rifles who assisted with preparations and hosted guests at their Keithalmanbi base, the event became a memorable celebration. Students from Ieirong, Puichi, and Kabuikhullen showcased their talents through vibrant cultural performances.



Hostel Building Inaugurated at Chingjaroi



On **March 12th**, Sunbird Trust inaugurated **Asinei Children's Hostel** in Chingjaroi Village, Manipur which will provide a safe home for 60 tribal students from remote villages near the Myanmar border. It was inaugurated by Brig. Sandeep Singh, SM, Commander, 10 Sector Assam Rifles. This project was made possible by Learn for Life Foundation & donors from the USA, whose generosity is transforming lives.

2024-25

Highlights of the Year



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GOVERNMENT SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

The program aims to transform under-resourced and under-performing Government Schools in the remote Shi-Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh into Schools of Excellence through a 360 degree strategy;

- Infrastructural development,
- Capacity building of the local teachers
- Capacity building of School leaders and SMC
- Enhancing Student Leadership
- Leveraging multiple stakeholders

ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS

- Focus on **Foundational Math & Literacy, Play-based learning** and setting up Teaching-Learning Materials in all schools.
- **Student-led assembly**, Movie Screenings, Gardening activities taken up across all schools.
- Children's Day carnival organised in 2 schools
- **Cross school learning experience** organised between Papikrung and Lungte students
- **Library** books set up in all schools.



CAPACITY BUILDING - TEACHERS & SCHOOL LEADERS

- **3 teacher trainings** conducted in Lungte, Karo, Monigong, Papikrung and Tato; **29 teachers** took part.
- Long-term Planning, Classroom Management Techniques, Lesson Planning, Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and Personal Safety Programmes were some modules conducted this year.
- A 3-day School Leader capacity building workshop was conducted for 12 school leaders of Shi-yomi.

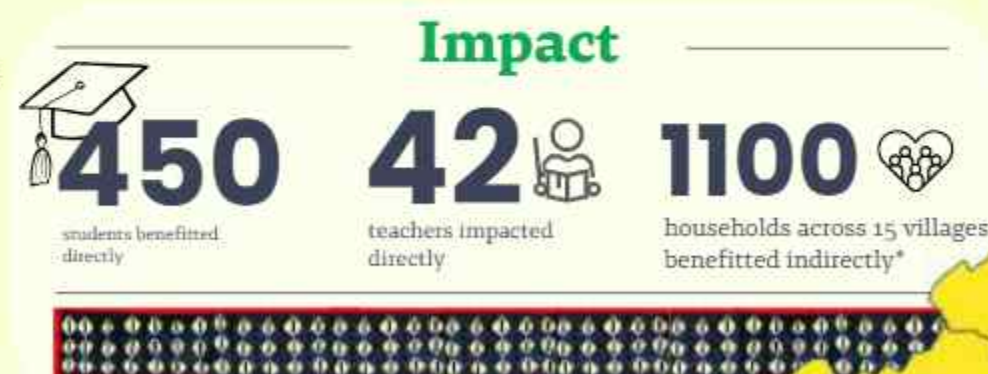


INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- A total of **12 infrastructure units renovated** - 4 classroom units, 1 hostel, 3 staff quarters, 1 kitchen, and 3 toilet blocks.
- **2 infrastructure units constructed**; handwashing & drinking water facility in Lungte and Kitchen in Karo.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- School Management Committee set up in **2 schools**.
- **5 SMC capacity building sessions** conducted benefitting 9 schools (6 base schools and 3 other schools in the district.)
- Adult Literacy classes conducted in Karo and Lungte.
- Collaborative school painting activity conducted with community members in 2 schools.
- Community-wide events organised across all schools.

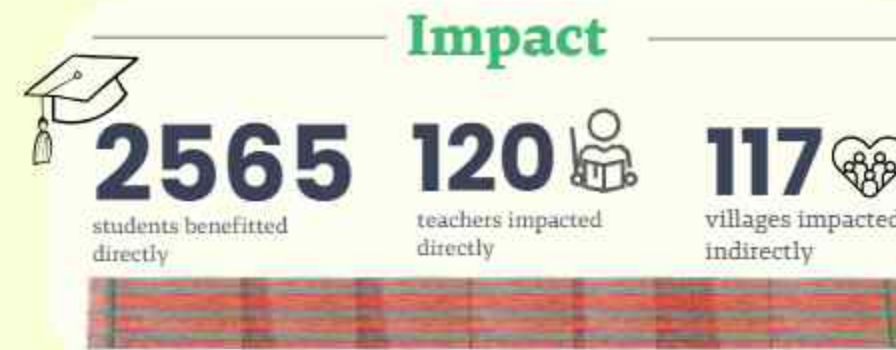


- The schools under GSTP are
1. Govt. Secondary School Monigong
 2. Govt. Residential School Karo
 3. Govt. Residential School Lungte
 4. Govt. Upper Primary School Yapik
 5. Govt. Residential School Rapum
 6. Govt. Residential School Papikrung



2024-25

Highlights of the Year



ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS

- AFS Kachai organized weekly movie screenings and a Cognitive Skill Development Program.
- DDA held a mental health workshop.
- PFA students trained regularly in football, badminton, table tennis, and basketball.
- An inter-school art competition took place among partner schools in Majuli.
- LFS hosted a Talent Hunt and Art Mela, and astronomy summer camp.



CAPACITY BUILDING - TEACHERS & SCHOOL LEADERS

- DDA teachers received training in goal setting, classroom management, and lesson planning.
- A 2-day training at Berbhanga Friendship School included 25 teachers from five partner schools.
- LFS, Singngat hosted a 3-day workshop for 58 teachers from six schools.
- Teacher orientation and trainings occurred through the year at AFS Kachai and HMFS Mualdam.
- The Breaking Boundaries initiative connected HMFS teachers with education leaders across India online.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- SMCs were formed at PFA, HMFS, and LFS
- Winter essentials were distributed
- Parent-teacher meetings were conducted in all schools.
- Community-wide events organised across all schools.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- PFA hostellers created a children's park and renovated the Old Assembly Hall.
- Two schools in Majuli opened new toilet blocks.
- HMFS launched hostel facilities, a waiting shed, and plans for a new Science Lab.
- AFS inaugurated a new school building and a basketball court.



Through the STP, significant transformation is observed in HR management, teacher training, teaching methodologies, and other key areas, contributing to the overall development of our school.

Genevafa Behphat

Founder, Dew Drops Academy, Nongshken, Meghalaya

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

The School Transformation Programme (STP) aims to transform under-resourced private schools in conflict-affected regions of Northeast India into centers of excellence and peace. The initiative empowers students, strengthens school management, and fosters sustainable, self-sufficient schools that promote peace, unity, and community engagement.

Focus Areas:

1. Infrastructure Improvement,
2. Strengthening School Leadership and Management,
3. Pedagogical Excellence
4. Student Leadership





Student Leadership is an integral component of the School Transformation Program. This year, Student Council elections were held at

- Lyzon Friendship School, Singngat
- Alpha Friendship School, Kachai
- Haite Memorial Friendship School, Mualdam
- Majuli Gurukul Academy, Majuli

Apart from this, student-led assemblies and events are a part of the school operations across our STP and GSTP schools. The student council at HMFS, Mualdam went one step further and helped set up a playground in the school for students and staff both.

SUNBIRD SPONSORED STUDENTS SHINE IN SPORTS!

Dynamic Duo Gunshalu and Thoibi's saga continues

We are incredibly proud to announce that Gunshalu and Thoibi, two of Sunbird's sponsored students from Manipur, recently participated and excelled in the REC Talent Hunt Boxing Tournament. Both of them showcased exceptional skill, winning gold medals in their respective categories! Gunshalu and Thoibi are currently undergoing training at Mary Kom Boxing Academy. In the Tournament

This isn't the first time the dynamic duo have shone in the boxing ring; Gunshalu won a gold medal in the Manipur State Boxing Championship in 2022; Thoibi was declared champion of the State Level Boxing 2024 Manipur in the Sub - Junior Category held at Imphal.

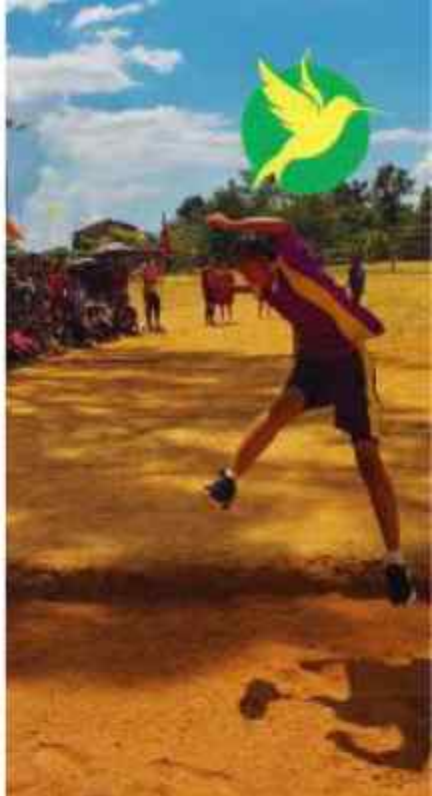


Sports and Literacy Week celebrated across our base schools in Assam and Manipur

Here's a glimpse of the Annual sports meet held across our base schools in Assam and Manipur. The celebrations were filled with excitement and energy as students participated in various sports such as football, badminton, athletics, even chess. These activities not only provided a platform for students to showcase their talents but also emphasized the importance of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. Annual sports meet was conducted this year in the following base schools.

1. PFS, Ijeirong
2. LFS, Singngat
3. HMFS, Mualdam
4. AFS, Kachai

These events were not just about winning; they were about learning the values of fair play, resilience, and respect for others. The sports and literacy week successfully instilled a sense of community and encouraged students to embrace a healthy, active lifestyle. It was a delightful experience for everyone involved, leaving lasting memories and inspiring young minds to strive for excellence both in sports and academics.



FROM REMOTE SCHOOLS IN ASSAM TO BANGALORE

Our little sports stars going places

HMFS IN THE PARIKRAMA CHAMPION LEAGUE

This year, 16 boys from Haite Memorial Friendship School traveled to Bangalore to participate in the Parikrama Champion League. They secured a win in their opening match and were recognized as the *Most Disciplined Team*. The experience marked a proud milestone, offering the boys and their community valuable exposure and inspiration.



Last year, 14 students from Majuli Island were selected for the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy (RBTA) in Bangalore after excelling in statewide trials. They began their journey from Majuli to Bangalore, filled with excitement and hope. At RBTA, the students received the necessary gear equipment and balanced daily sports training with academic learning. Meeting tennis icon Rohan Bopanna and stepping onto professional courts marked a life-changing experience, opening doors to new possibilities and dreams.





Leveraging Community Participation

Community Participation is one of the major domains that both the STP and the GSTP focus on. Team members stationed in the school go on regular community visits and build strong relationships with major stakeholders in the village. In some of our GSTP schools, capacity building sessions have been conducted on topics such as roles and responsibilities of a school management committee and POCSO Act with special emphasis on how to facilitate age-appropriate Personal Safety Education Programme modules with students. Apart from this, some of the schools have also invited womenfolk of the community and offered them mementos as a way of thanks for their valuable contributions. During summer school, 2 of our schools also conducted adult literacy classes with womenfolk of the community. These measures bring us closer to the community and ensure their support in school functioning and governance.



Meetings

SMC meeting and PTMs held once a month; inclusive decision-making



Home visits

Sunbird team members ensure to visit every one's homes and get an understanding and pulse of the community



Community teachers

Inviting community artisans to teach students local art



Capacity Building

School Management Committee capacity building and also empowering community through adult literacy classes



Cleanliness drive

Students and community members together clean the village surrounding



Celebrations

Celebrating local festivals together and bringing to the community the festivals celebrated by team members is a great way to make strong bonds!



CAPACITY BUILDING

Interventions

Teacher training sessions were held across all the base schools. Notably, lead teachers from Assam and Meghalaya base schools conducted 2-day **capacity building session** for teachers of partner schools in Dhemaji district. Our teachers from Dew Drops Meghalaya also got the chance to visit two schools in Tamilnadu through a week-long **exposure visit**.

Key focus areas of the capacity building sessions



Multiple Intelligences

Strategies for recognizing and engaging diverse learning styles.



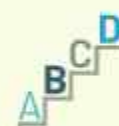
Foundational Numeracy

Approaches for teaching elementary mathematics effectively.



Planning for Teaching

Long term and Lesson planning, aligned with National Curriculum Framework (NCF) goals.



Foundational Literacy

Methods for building strong language and reading skills



Execution Strategies

Strategies to engage students and increase



Classroom Culture

Setting up values and norms in place for a culture of excellence and joy of learning



Sunbird Trust has enhanced Dew Drop Academy's educational experience through investments in teacher training and faculty development. Collaborations with external educators have broadened students' minds, essential for rural schools in overcoming challenges and building confidence. The ongoing support from Sunbird has deeply impacted the school's progress, and gratitude is expressed to them.

Mr Meaibanshngain Diengdoh

Teacher, Dew Drops Academy, Nongshken, Meghalaya



Impact

170

teachers impacted directly



13

schools impacted indirectly



2024-25

Highlights of the Year



Impact

97



teachers impacted directly

54



schools impacted indirectly

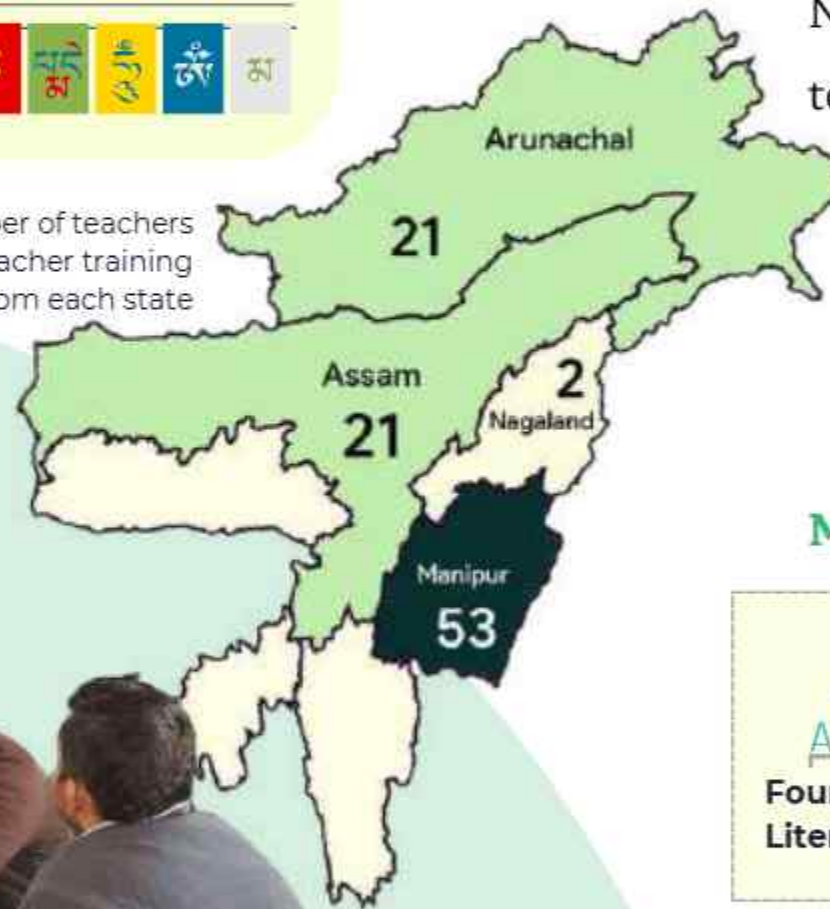
210



hours of training across 4 batches



Map showing number of teachers who attended the teacher training workshops from each state



TEACHER TRAINING & SKILLING ACADEMY

The Teacher Training and Skilling Academy (TTA) at Mechuka was established in November 2024 in partnership with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Sunbird Trust to address the need for systematic professional development among educators of the Northeast. The TTA aims to transform education in the Northeast by empowering teachers to cultivate inclusive and student-centric pedagogy by

- Strengthening Arunachal Pradesh's Educational System
- Training 900 teachers from North-east India
- Equipping teachers with Enhanced Pedagogical Skills
- Building Long-term Educator Capacity

Modules covered in the 10-day workshop



Foundational Literacy



Foundational Numeracy



Multiple Intelligences



Planning for Teaching



Classroom Culture



Execution Strategies

This session has enlightened me on how to be more effective in the classroom as a teacher and has really benefitted me. It helped me to have a different understanding on how to make students more engaged.

Khangembam Nisha

Teacher, Khongjom Standard English School



SPOTLIGHT

School Leader Capacity Building

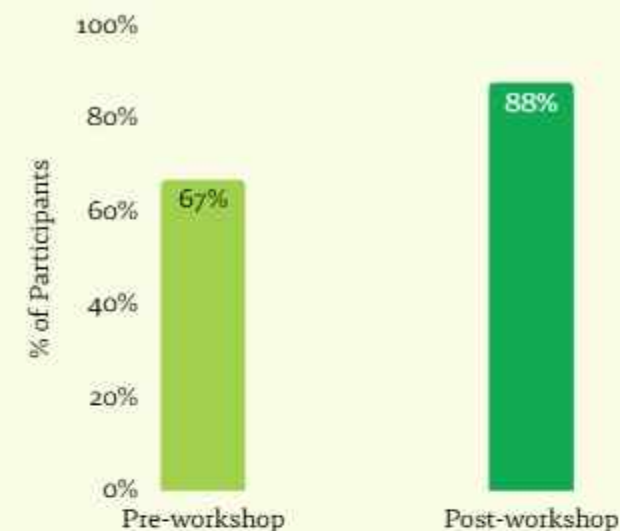
The Arunachal Pradesh team in collaboration with Sunbird team in Majuli conducted a 3-day School Leaders' Capacity building workshop between 12th and 15th March at Ayang Okum in Majuli for **22 participants** from **16 Govt schools in AP** and **Sunbird-supported schools in Majuli, Dima Hasao and Dhemaji**; education dept officials of AP were also a part of this workshop.



Impact Sponsorships Community Infrastructure Education



Findings from reflection and feedback forms



The Percentage of Participants who rated their confidence level to lead their school effectively at Level 4 or 5 (on a scale of 5) rose from **67%** to **88%** pre to post workshop.

71%

agreed/strongly agreed that the school visit helped them understand how to introduce student voice and agency in their schools

82%

rated their confidence level as 4 or 5 (on a scale of 5) to create an action plan in their schools.

Key focus areas of the capacity building sessions



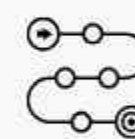
School Leadership & Management

Diving into leadership frameworks and Shaala Siddhi strand on school leadership



School Culture

Setting up values and norms for creating excellence and joy of learning



School Processes

Putting processes in place for bringing culture alive in schools



Action Planning

Backward planning and prioritising challenges for creating step by step action plan



School visits

Visit to nearby schools to see student voice and school leadership in practice

Our Approach



Hands-on learning



School visits to see practice in action



Based on NEP and NCF-SE





Exposure trip time

Students of Dew Drops Academy, Nongshken, Meghalaya on an exposure visit to nearby Cherrapunji





PEACE THROUGH COLLABORATIONS WITH THE ARMED FORCES

The Armed Forces have played a vital role in Sunbird's initiatives in the Northeast. Due to the remote locations where Sunbird operates, and with a vision of fostering peace through education and national integration, the Armed Forces and Sunbird Trust have collaborated closely to ensure that numerous projects are effectively delivered to the last mile. Here's an overview of the different ways the Indian Army and the Assam Rifles have supported our efforts.



From logistical support to on-ground assistance, involvement of the Armed Forces has been instrumental in overcoming challenges that come with working in remote and often difficult terrains. The Indian Army and Assam Rifles have provided transportation for materials and team members, ensuring that essential resources reach communities in need.

More than a crore-worth classroom and hostel infrastructure built under Operation Sadbhavana at Papikrung, AP

Basketball court built in Alpha Friendship School, Kachai, with the support of the Assam Rifles.

In collaboration with Assam Rifles, Sunbird distributed 2200 solar lamps and 448 street lights across Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.



Medical camps conducted in various schools by the Armed Forces.



Exposure visit for students - arranging stay, food and transportation done in collaboration with Assam Rifles.

Support for team members provided in case of emergencies and in times of need.



Our team of 48 is



50% FEMALE



44% FROM THE NORTHEAST

Great
Place
To
Work®

Certified
OCT 2024-OCT 2025
INDIA™



2024-25 Highlights



2 well-being circles conducted



L&D survey done - access to courses provided for professional development



Comprehensive term and health insurance coverage for all employees



Training on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the work place session conducted by One Future Collective



3-day team conclave held in June at Kaziranga, Assam



Women's day celebrated with a fun virtual gathering and breast cancer awareness session

Sunbird Presents at the Resurgent Arunachal Conclave

Col. Christopher Rego (Retd.) participated as a speaker at the Resurgent Arunachal Conclave on March 21-22, focusing on security and development. The event featured notable attendees, including the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and senior military officials. He discussed the potential for increased CSR funding in Arunachal Pradesh and highlighted the impact of Sunbird Trust's partnership with Axis Bank, showcasing initiatives like the District School Transformation Programme and the Teacher Training Academy under Axis Bank's DilSe Open CSR initiative.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Sunbird Receives Special Mention at the 2nd NE CSR Awards - 2024

Sunbird Trust's School Transformation Programme was honored at the 2nd NE CSR Awards 2024, organized by the NE CSR Forum in collaboration with TISS Guwahati. The final presentation was delivered by founder, Col. Christopher Rego (Retd.) on 6th December at a conference which brought together stakeholders to discuss innovative solutions, address challenges, and foster collaborations for impactful CSR initiatives in the North East region.

Sunbird Trust Honored at BTR's 4th Anniversary Celebration

Sunbird Trust was honoured as one of 15 non-profits invited for felicitating the BTR Government (Bodoland Territorial Region) 4th anniversary celebrations in Udalguri, Assam, recognizing organizations contributing to Bodoland's development.



PRESS MENTIONS



War, Peace and Education: The Northeast India Story
Col. Chris Rego (retd.) featured in this podcast episode of VitaminBe



Sunbird Trust And NTT DATA Join Forces To Enhance Sanitation Facilities For Students On Majuli Island, Assam

By India Today Staff

3rd Oct 2021

In a significant step towards ensuring child-friendly hygiene and sanitation facilities for educational institutions in remote areas of Assam, Sunbird Trust, with financial support from NTT DATA, a global leader in digital business and IT services, has enhanced sanitation facilities in schools in Majuli Island, Assam. The collaboration has led to

World No. 1 Doubles Tennis Star Rohan Bopanna Empowers 25 Students from Assam in collaboration with Sunbird Trust

By Hubnews



Guwahati, June 15: In a remarkable initiative, World No. 1 doubles tennis player and Padma Shri awardee Rohan Bopanna has selected 25 talented students from Assam to visit at his prestigious Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy in Bangalore in collaboration with Sunbird Trust, which works towards the development of students from the marginalized section of the society.

15 of the 25 selected students are from the Majuli island region of Assam. The initiative is from Sunbird Trust, an organization dedicated to support education and sports training in low-income areas.

Sunbird Trust works with 10 low-income private schools in Assam, identified and facilitated the participation of these deserving children, bridging the gap between remote communities and world-class opportunities.

India Today PCE

12446 Followers

Arunachal: CSR initiative drives educational transformation in Arunachal's Shi-Yomi district

Story by Yuvraj Mehta • Smeo • 1 min read



Arunachal: CSR initiative drives educational transformation in Arunachal's Shi-Yomi district

Shi-Yomi district in Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed a significant stride in educational development through a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative by Axis Bank. Under its Axis DISE - School Transformation Program, the bank has launched a transformative project in Segong, in collaboration with the Sunbird Trust and Sieraga Shikha, Arunachal Pradesh, following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

A 12-day Teacher Capacity Building Workshop contributed successfully as part of the initiative. This residential program focused on foundational literacy, numeracy, and effective classroom management. The workshops were conducted by reputed organizations, including the Axis Prenti Foundation and Navimrit Learning Foundation, aiming to empower educators with innovative teaching techniques.

Pasang Dorjee Sona, MLA of the Medhuka-Tato constituency and Minister of Education, Tourism, and Rural Works Development, commended the initiative on social media, stating, "Education is not just about classrooms; it's about building brighter futures. Workshops like these showcase our commitment to holistic educational reforms in Arunachal Pradesh."

He also expressed gratitude towards facilitators, teachers, and partner organizations for their dedication to enhancing the state's educational framework. This collaboration is seen as a pivotal step in strengthening the educational landscape and inspiring transformative change in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Sentinel

Arunachal Pradesh Education Minister Seeks Support from SMCs and Panchayat Bodies

Arunachal Pradesh Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona has sought support from school management committees (SMCs) and panchayat bodies for smooth functioning of the government-run schools.



Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona has sought support from school management committees (SMCs) and panchayat bodies for smooth functioning of the government-run schools.

Inspecting Karo government residential school in Pidi circle of Shi-Yomi district on Saturday, Sona expressed displeasure over the absenteeism of teachers.

"If you don't want to teach or attend classes you should resign from your respective post," he said while cautioning of disciplinary action.

Emphasizing the need for imparting quality education and proper coordination among the teachers, SMC and other local bodies, the minister said, "teachers should not come to me if they get terminated for neglecting their responsibilities."

The Sunbird Trust is doing their best so that students may excel in their academics and it is your duty as local teacher to discharge your duties with full dedication, he said. With reference to the Karo residential school, Sona said the reputation of the school has been tarnished due to molestation and sexual assault of minor girls, the onus is on all to bring back the lost glory of the school.

As the proposed Tato-Monigong highway is affecting a part of the residential school, the minister urged the SMC and panchayat leaders of Karo village to identify an alternative place, so that hostels, playground and teachers' quarters can be shifted at the earliest.

A representative of the Sunbird Trust claimed that classrooms remain empty due to absence of teachers.

Although most of the schools have adequate teachers, there is lack of sincerity and dedication among the teachers, he lamented.

He revealed many students from Class 8 and 10 are indulging in unwanted activities.

The Bengaluru-based Trust has adopted Yapki government primary school, Lungte government primary school, Karo government residential school, Monigong government secondary school and Papikrong government primary school.

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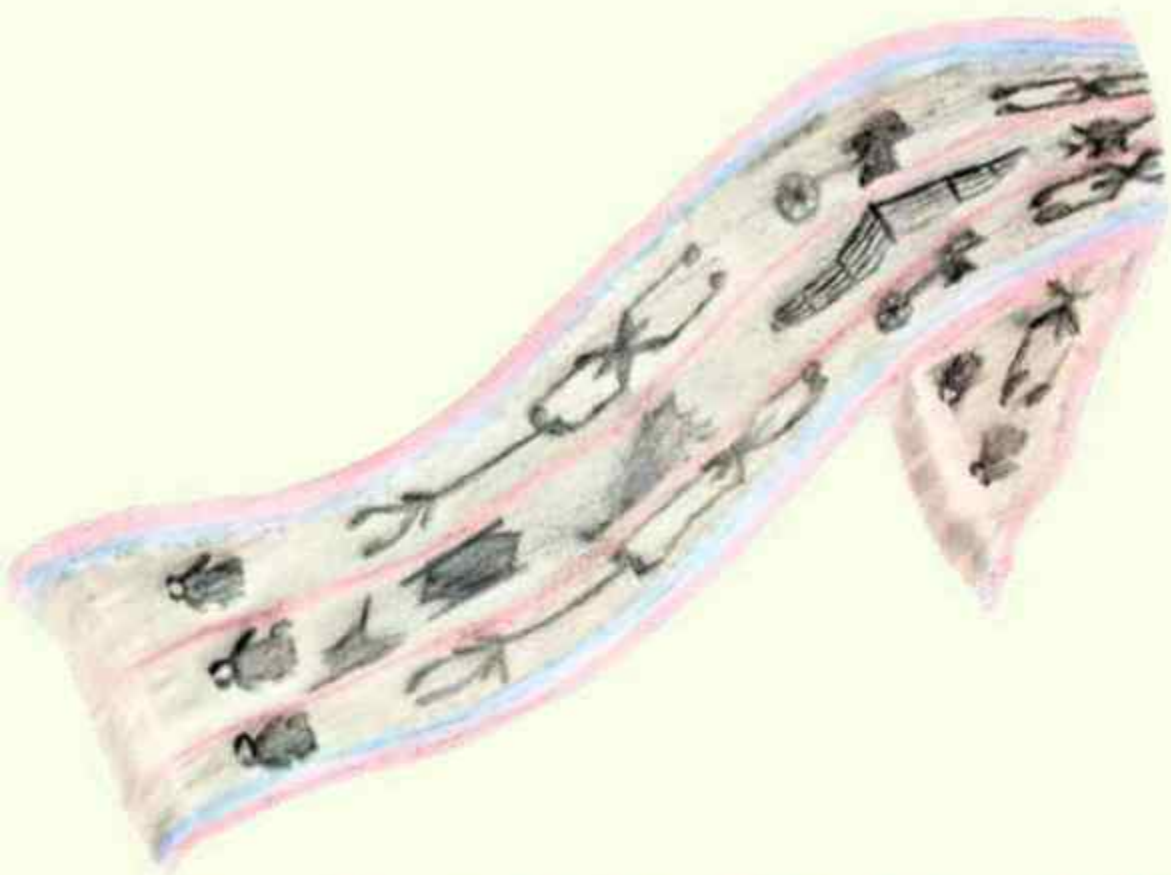
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