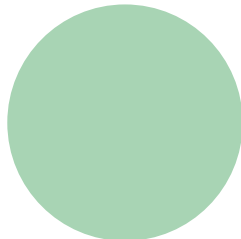
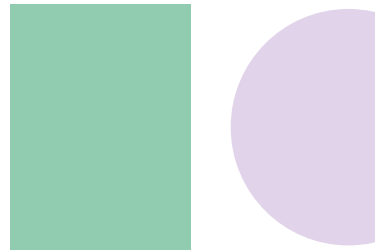
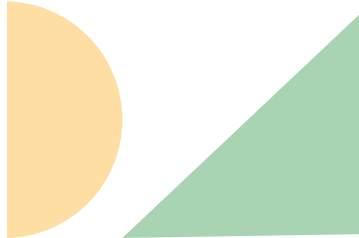
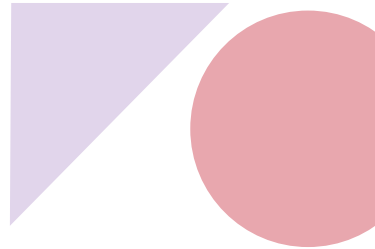




Contact Base

Making Change using Culture as a Tool



About Us

Contact Base, trading as [banglanatak dot com](http://banglanatak.com), works for inclusive and sustainable development and protection of rights of women, children and indigenous people using culture based approaches. Contact Base has 80G, CSR1, 12A and FCRA. Our Headquarter is at Kolkata and we also have a branch office at Purulia. We have 65 members team with backgrounds in Engineering, Management, Sociology, Theatre, Arts, Media and Literature.

Society Registration Number : S/1L/8602 of 2001- 02



'Can Art and Culture Drive Social Development at Scale?'

[banglanatak dot com](http://banglanatak.com) is now a Harvard Business case, published in March 2023.



Accreditations:

- Advisory Status to UNESCO 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (2010)
- Global partner of UNWTO for Responsible Cultural Tourism
- Technical agency for SFURTI cluster initiative of KVIC
- Empanelled with TRIFED as Technical Agency for SFURTI

Awards:

- Outlook Responsible Tourism Award 2023
- Earth Festival Award 2022 by Earth Day Network-India, Y-East and SwitchON Foundation
- Jeonju International Award for promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage 2019
- Bihar Innovation Forum II award for Good Practice in Non Farm Sector 2014
- Community Outreach Project Award by Project Inspire of UN Women & MasterCard, Singapore, 2009
- UNFPA-LAADLI Media Award for Gender Sensitivity for Best Community Theatre Project in Eastern India, 2007
- Civil Society Award for Communication on HIV/AIDS using Art & Culture by UNAIDS & NACO, 2006



Head Office: 188/ 89 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata - 700045, India
Email: banglanatak@gmail.com
Phone: +91 33 40047484 x 130



www.contactbase.org



[banglanatak dot com](http://banglanatak.com)



banglanatakdotcom



[banglanatak](https://twitter.com/banglanatak)

What we do

Our vision is to foster social inclusion and socio economic development of marginalized groups through safeguarding of their cultural heritage, strengthening community identity and pride, and leveraging traditional skills and knowledge to develop grassroots creative enterprise.

We empower women, youth and community members with skills, knowledge and resources to champion their own well being and negotiate their rights. We engage and empower communities to safeguard their natural and cultural heritage. We promote entrepreneurship by women and youth with a focus on social and creative entrepreneurship.

Our verticals

Development Consulting

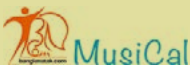
Our services include strategising and planning communication and enterprise development programs, action research, socio-economic field survey, impact assessment studies, enterprise and collective development, curation of folk & world music festivals, and symposiums on culture, development, entrepreneurship.

C4D

Social and Behavior Change Communication is our forte. We specialise in the use of Theatre in Development based methodology for public education and empowering men, women and young people to be change makers in their own communities.

Art For Life

Our flagship initiative, Art For Life (AFL), has evolved as a model for culture-led rural development. AFL has a tripartite focus of strengthening art, artists and villages together. The methodology enhances livelihood opportunities of tradition bearers and accredited pride and recognition to traditional cultural practices and practitioners.



Our focus is folk music, including traditional folk and contemporary urban acoustic music. We believe that music is an important element to strengthen creative economy, engaging youth in development and achieving global peace by connecting communities.



We develop and promote culture based responsible tourism in the villages of rural artists, weavers and crafts persons for sustainable development. Local folk art centres and village melas offer the visitors unique experience of culture and heritage.

Communication for Development

Communication for Development (C4D) happens to be one of the main pillars of our work. In this regard, we use Theatre in Development based methodology for capacity and awareness building of local community members, thereby enabling them to be change makers in their own communities. We undertake 360 degree communication campaigns using interactive street theatre, social and digital media.



Street & Interactive theatre



Dance



Folk traditions



Digital Media



Art

[f /KEY](#) [f /Women Empowered](#) [f /Green Champions](#) [f /Diversity Beyond Border](#) [f /Fight TIP](#)

Sectors Where We Work



Ending VAWC



Livelihood



Sexual & Reproductive Health



Maternal & Child Health



Sanitation & Public Health



Environment



Peace & Inclusion



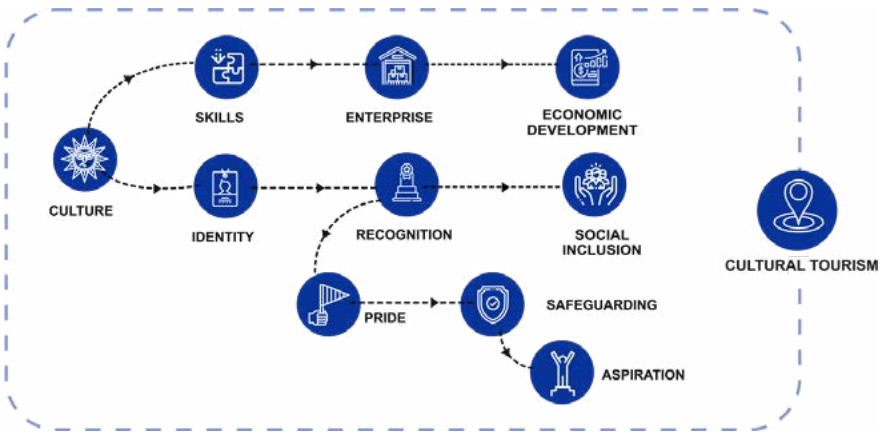
Gender Equality

Ongoing Projects:

- Building Safe and Equal Tea Estates in Assam and West Bengal (supported by Women Safety Accelerator Fund)
- Shifting social and gender norms for greater participation of women in labourforce (supported by U.S. Department of State)
- Umang: Strengthening voice of adolescents in Jharkhand (Supported by ICRW)
- Academy of Women Entrepreneurship (AWE 4.0) in Mizoram and Tripura (Supported by U.S. Consulate)

Art For Life

Our flagship initiative, AFL, is a culture based development model focusing on holistic development of marginalized cultural practitioners by making their traditional cultural practices the premise for inclusion and poverty alleviation. AFL promotes Village, Artist & Art together. This tripartite focus makes AFL a catalytic methodology in paving the path for inclusive tourism, which makes local communities active stakeholders in the process of tourism development. Development of grassroot entrepreneurship of tradition bearers of skills in art and culture has resulted in four times return on investment. We also work to protect the rights of the artists through Intellectual Property Rights.



Ongoing Projects:

- Rural Craft & Cultural Hub (RCCH) Project for empowering rural tradition bearers of Bengal and developing creative enterprises (Collaborative effort of UNESCO and Department of MSME&T, Govt. of West Bengal)
- Project Strengthening Intangible Cultural Heritage based tourism in western Rajasthan to promote the plethora of cultural practices through tourism (Collaborative effort of UNESCO and Department of Tourism, Govt. of Rajasthan)

www.rcchbengal.com
www.rajasthansafar.com



Economic self-resilience & increased income



Development of Micro-enterprises



Recognition as artists & showcase art internationally



Increased agency & participation in decision making



Ownership on achieving SDGs



Villages emerging as cultural destinations

Development Consulting

We use our diverse sectoral experience and domain knowledge in grassroots development for providing technical consultation, programme design and management, strategy and policy formulation in alignment with the specific needs of the stakeholders.

- Socio-economic Research
- Strategy & Policy Formulation
- Promoting Entrepreneurship as Social Movement
- Mentoring Social Entrepreneurs
- Programme Management
- Advocacy & Research on Culture & Development
- Developing Creative industry



Documentation of ICH in Arunachal Pradesh
www.arunachallivingheritage.com



Building network to strengthen Women's Participation in Workplace

www.women4economy.net

We have worked with

- Government of India, State Governments of West Bengal, Goa, Bihar, Punjab, Jharkhand & Rajasthan
- UNICEF, UNESCO, UNWOMEN, UNODC, ILO
- U.S. Department of State, European Union, British Council, ICHCAP, British Academy, German Consulate Kolkata
- BBC Media Action, IPAS, ICRW, Sesame Workshop, Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative

CSR Projects

- Strengthening of Kantha cluster at Ausgram, Purba Bardhaman by Axis Bank Foundation, and
- Strengthening foundational literacy in 3 villages supported by Bargach Foundation.

At **TourEast**, we have developed a number of villages as cultural destinations in both West Bengal and western Rajasthan, and promote these destinations in terms of their Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) based offerings. One can experience local art and culture, led by the communities at these spaces. This also comes at affordable prices with simple, clean and modern accommodation facilities. The Dept of MSME&T, Govt of West Bengal has covered all of these villages under Rural Craft and Cultural Hub project. Villages now have annual Village Mela celebrating their heritage. UNWTO endorsed this model of ICH based Tourism and showcased as Best Practice of ICH based Tourism in 2015 at ITB Berlin and Sustainable and Responsible Tourism at ITB Berlin in 2017. We also support our local partners to manage two eco-tourism properties at Nimdih Gandhi Ashram in Jharkhand and Tepantar Theatre Village in Bardhaman and promote the same to responsible tourists. We have created Bannabagram Baul Ashram, which serves as a soulful seat for music lovers. In Rajasthan, as part of Rajasthan Tourism and UNESCO funded project, we have created multiple destinations and made villagers ready to host guests interested in cultural tourism destinations.



For further details

www.toureast.in

toureast@banglanatak.com

MusiCal is an initiative by banglanatak dot com to support and promote folk music of India with a focus on strengthening skills of the practitioners, provide exposure through global linkage, hold festivals and encourage music entrepreneurship to boost creative economy.

In West Bengal, since 2004, we have worked till date with more than 7000 musicians covering different genres of folk music, including Baul, Bhawaiya, Jhumur and Bhatiyali. All of these rural folk musicians are now covered by UNESCO and Govt of West Bengal funded project Rural Craft and Cultural Hub. We also work extensively with many urban folk musicians, produced music albums, facilitated many collaborations with both National and International musicians.

In Rajasthan, since 2019, as part of UNESCO and Govt of Rajasthan funded project we have worked till date with more than 600 musicians covering Langa, Manganiyar and Mir music of the desert. As part of the project, we field recorded about 300 songs, produced music albums, facilitated collaborations with global musicians.



Folk music of Rajasthan at Safar Tunes app available at google play store for Android and IOS users



Android



IOS

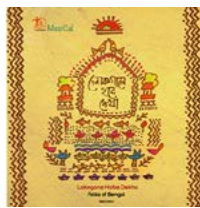
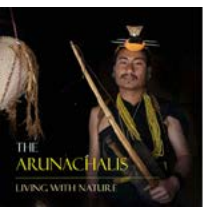
We host musical residencies with International musicians both in West Bengal and Rajasthan.

We have our own cultural space in West Bengal – Bannabagram Baul Ashram.



Publications

We document oral traditions. Books on Baul and Jhumur songs have been shared with the folk singers. We have also recorded over 2500 folk songs of Bengal & 292 desert folk songs, published 73 music albums, 4 graphic novels and a few folk documentaries. Our recent publication includes a Coffee table Book on traditional lifestyle and culture of indigenous people in Arunachal Pradesh.



Global recognition: Our latest music album by Folks of Bengal (released at Sur Jahan 2023) is selected as the top 20 musical by World Music Charts Europe. <https://streamlink.to/lokoganehobedekha>



New Partnerships

IIT Jodhpur and Jodhpur City Knowledge and Innovation Foundation (JCKIF) have signed partnership with us as a knowledge partner in research on culture & development and development of knowledge material.

The Indian Football Association, West Bengal (IFA) have signed an MoU with us as a part of Football for Development to provide opportunities to develop career in sports and mobilise community champions.

Research Innovation and Scientific Entrepreneurship (RISE) Foundation, IISER Kolkata have signed an MoU with us for science based entrepreneurship development, innovative problem solving, technology dissemination, research collaboration, support for spin out formation.



Our Festivals

We have created many village festivals since 2010, like the Pot Maya in West Medinipur, Dokra Mela in Bankura, Chau-Jhumur Mela in Purulia, Wooden Doll in Natungram and many others. All these festivals are now managed by the artist communities themselves and supported in West Bengal by Rural Craft & Cultural Hub project. We have three annual festivals: Sur Jahan, Baul Mela and Folk Holi celebration.



Sur Jahan, the World Peace Music Festival is an initiative that brings the world musicians together in one forum. It has evolved as the headliner festival in Kolkata & other cities and carved out a niche for itself in the global musical scenario. We held it from 2011 to 2023.

Baul Fakiri Music Festival – We have been holding this since 2010 and last edition was held on 24-26 November, 2023 at Bannabagram Baul Ashram.



সুর জাহাজ

'কেসরিয়া বালম' রে সাগে সজী 'আমীচে তুম্হার' রী জুলালবন্দী

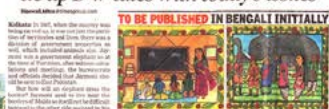


কাল যাহ 'সুর জাহাজ' (সে-ইতিহাসে স্মিতিতে স্নিগ্ধে স্মরণে স্টেপ্সে স্মারক হলে, এই স্মৃতি উদ্দেশে। ইতিহাসে স্মৃতি থেকে স্মৃতি স্মৃতি। দুর্দিনে স্মরণে স্মরণে স্মরণে। অতীতের উদ্দেশে স্মরণে স্মরণে স্মরণে। ইতিহাসে স্মরণে স্মরণে স্মরণে। অতীতের উদ্দেশে স্মরণে স্মরণে স্মরণে।

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Booklets with Patachitra paintings to tie up D947 tales with today's issues



Millions of Bengalis are familiar with the tales of D947, a collection of 947 folktales from the region. These tales are being brought back to life through a series of booklets, each accompanied by a Patachitra painting. The project is a joint effort by the National Book Trust, India, and the National Book Trust, Bangladesh. The booklets are being distributed to schools and libraries across the region.

আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা

millenniumpost

Striking right notes: Baul & Bhatiali singers from Bengal win hearts at global concert

Rina Das Baul becomes first woman artiste from state to perform at WOMEX



Rina Das Baul, a prominent Baul singer, has made history by becoming the first woman artist from West Bengal to perform at the WOMEX festival. The festival, held in London, showcased the unique and soulful music of the Baul and Bhatiali traditions. Rina's performance was a highlight, earning her widespread acclaim.

আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা



বউল-ভটিয়াল মেলা: কলকাতায় প্রথম বৈশিষ্ট্যবিশিষ্ট মেলায় 'কেসরিয়া বালম' ও 'আমীচে তুম্হার' রী জুলালবন্দী।

বর্তমান



আজকের পটভূমিতে গুরুত্ব পাই নিয়ন্ত্রণমণ্ডলে।

The Arunachal Times

Book on state's cultural heritage released



A comprehensive book on the cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh has been released. The book, titled 'Cultural Heritage of Arunachal Pradesh', is a collaborative effort by the state government and various cultural organizations. It provides a detailed account of the state's rich and diverse cultural traditions, including its music, dance, and art forms. The book is available for purchase at various bookstores.

What thought leads beings, poverty, why live in a world of environmental pollution?



এই স্মৃতি স্মরণে স্মরণে স্মরণে। অতীতের উদ্দেশে স্মরণে স্মরণে স্মরণে। ইতিহাসে স্মরণে স্মরণে স্মরণে। অতীতের উদ্দেশে স্মরণে স্মরণে স্মরণে।

আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা



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এই সময়



এই সময়, এই মুহুর্তে, এই মুহুর্তে।