

TOGETHER FOR NEURO INCLUSION

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2025-2026



The **CHINI (Centre for Holistic Intervention for Neurodivergent Individuals) Trust** is a heartfelt initiative founded by the family of Srijoni (Chini) Mitra, dedicated to supporting neurodivergent individuals and promoting mental health awareness.

Established in loving memory of Chini a passionate advocate for neurodiversity, the Trust continues her mission by providing resources, education, and a voice for those who need it most.

A Year of Building Connections, Capacity, and Inclusion

During 2025-26, The CHINI Trust continued to advance its mission of creating a more inclusive world for neurodiversity. In this issue of *Together for Neuro Inclusion*, a title now reflecting our growing focus on inclusion and belonging for all, we share the highlights of a year marked by growth, collaboration, and impact as we worked alongside educators, families, caregivers, trainers, and community partners to strengthen inclusive ecosystems of support.

Through awareness-building initiatives, educator recognition, grassroots capacity development, and youth engagement, we continued our efforts to create opportunities for individuals and communities to learn, participate, and thrive.

Our Four Focus Areas



Raise Awareness About Neurodiversity

Sponsor Special Educators for Neurodiversity

Create and Replicate Ecosystems of Change

Promote and Sustain Srijoni (Chini) Mitra's Work

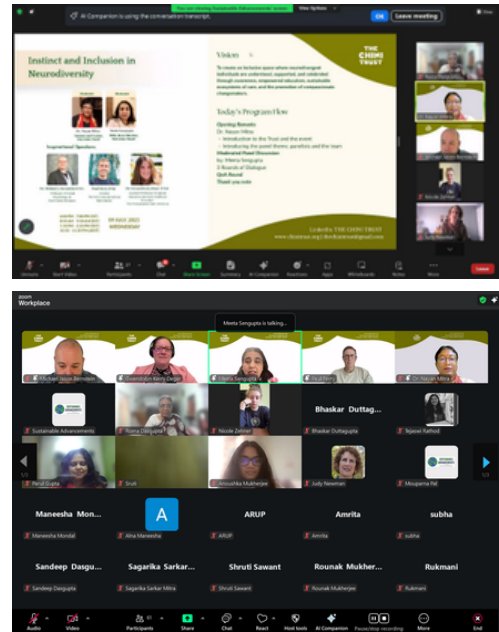
— Raise Awareness About Neurodiversity

Founder's Day Global Panel Discussion

Instinct and Inclusion in Neurodiversity 09 July, 2025

To mark the Founder's Day, The CHINI Trust hosted a global online panel discussion, Instinct and Inclusion in Neurodiversity, **bringing together over 80 participants from India, the UK, USA, Australia, and beyond.** The session was opened by Dr. Nayan Mitra, Founder and Trustee and moderated by Ms. Meeta Sengupta, Board Member.

The distinguished panel featured **Dr. Michael Bernstein (Penn State Abington, USA), Mr. Paul Ferry (Will Ferry Soccer School, UK), and Dr. Gwendolyn K. Deger (Penn State, USA).** Drawing on expertise from psychology, education, and inclusive sport, the speakers explored how empathy, participation, and responsive environments can foster meaningful inclusion for neurodivergent individuals.



Participant Reflections

"This has been such a wonderful learning - an insightful session. I am going back with lots of thoughts at my workplace." - Ratna

"Insightful and thought-provoking." - Sreya Mukherjee

[Click here to read more about the Panel Discussion](#)

2nd Annual Lecture

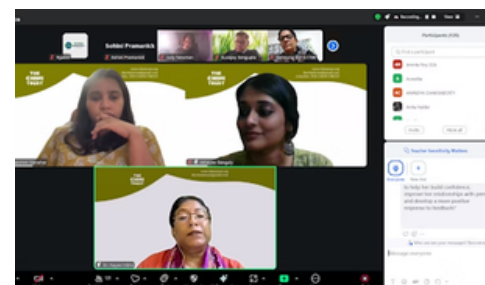
Teacher Sensitivity Matters! 09 February, 2026

Building on the success of our inaugural Annual Lecture, The CHINI Trust hosted its **Second Annual Lecture in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru.**

The session featured **Dr. Harshini Manohar, Assistant Professor, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS, and Ms. Attrayee Ganguly, Clinical Psychologist and Doctoral Scholar, NIMHANS.** The lecture brought together **over 150 educators, parents, and professionals from India and internationally** to explore how greater understanding of neurodiversity can help create responsive and inclusive classrooms.

Participants engaged with practical strategies for supporting diverse learners and discussed the critical role teachers play in fostering belonging, confidence, and participation for every student.

[Click here to read more about our 2nd Annual Lecture](#)



Participant Reflections

The most valuable takeaway for me was understanding how to make my classroom inclusive for every student. - Dr. Priyanka Kumari Singh

Our Four Scholarships

THE CHINI TRUST
Srijoni (Chini) Mitra
 Special Educator Scholarship
 Supports aspiring and deserving Special Educators who are passionate, committed and willing to dedicate their lives to providing special education to people living with neuro-divergency and mental health challenge.

THE CHINI TRUST
The Parul Bala Sen Scholarship for Special Educators
 Supports aspiring Special Educators who are committed to empowering individuals with neurodivergence through specialized therapeutic interventions.

THE CHINI TRUST
Arijit Ghosh
 Spirit of Sports Scholarship
 Supports aspiring and deserving Athletes living with neuro-divergency who are passionate, committed and willing to dedicate their lives to pursuing sports.

THE CHINI TRUST
Paul and Will Ferry
 Scholarship for Sports Trainers
 Supports passionate Sports Trainers through Specialized Football Training.

[Click here to know more about the scholarships](#)

Impact Highlight 🌍

Launched in 2025, the Paul and Will Ferry Scholarship for Sports Trainers, in collaboration with its India partner Sustainable Advancements (OPC) Private Limited, promotes accessible, inclusive, and equitable sporting environments for children and young people in India.

A key highlight was a six-day intensive football training programme conducted in January 2026 by **Paul Ferry alongside UK-based coaches Tom Feighan and Adam Rowles, engaging over 60 players, coaches, and support staff through technical training, tactical learning, and coach education.**

During its first year, the programme reached over **210** children through grassroots football initiatives. With the expansion of support to girls' football development, its reach now extends to over **228+** participants reinforcing a commitment to gender-inclusive participation in sports.

Sustainable Advancements strengthened the evidence base through a second baseline study focused on girls' participation and the successful completion of its first year of monthly monitoring and evaluation. Early findings indicate improvements in technical awareness, coaching capacity, game understanding, and participant confidence.

The programme's impact is further reflected in the achievements of Urchin Saha and Priyanshu Naskar, who represented West Bengal as U-14 National Sub-Junior Champions.



Urchin Saha and Priyanshu Naskar representing West Bengal as U-14 National Sub-Junior Champions



Celebrating Exceptional Educators

Renu Dasgupta Memorial Prize



Renu Dasgupta Memorial Prize
Honouring the legacy of an extraordinary woman

The prize will be awarded to exceptional teachers and educators who create inclusive classrooms with compassion, conviction, and an unwavering belief in every child's potential.

Nominate an inspiring educator today
Open to all primary and secondary school teachers/educators in India

Scan QR to Nominate

Application deadline:
07 August 2026

Winner announcement:
13 September 2026

www.chinitrust.org
thechinitrust@gmail.com

Renu Dasgupta Memorial Prize honours the legacy of a woman whose life reflected resilience, compassion, and a deep belief in education. The annual award recognises educators who demonstrate excellence in teaching and in supporting children of all abilities including neurodivergent children guiding not only academic growth, but life journeys with care and conviction.

Nominate someone you know for Renu Dasgupta Memorial Prize.

Impact Highlight

The inaugural Renu Dasgupta Memorial Prize recognised two outstanding educators whose work has transformed lives through inclusive education. **Smt. Subarna Ghosh, Founder of Nalini Vidya Mandir, Odisha**, was honoured for her lifelong commitment to advancing education for tribal girls, while **Smt. Maitrayee Mazumdar, Principal of The Turning Point–Rupnarayanpur Branch**, was recognised for her dedication to empowering children with special needs through inclusive and life-skills-based education.

Each recipient was awarded INR 25,000/- and a Certificate of Recognition. The Trust also acknowledged three Highly Commended Nominees whose work continues to inspire equitable and inclusive educational practices across India. Nominations for the Renu Dasgupta Memorial Prize 2026 have now been opened, extending the opportunity to celebrate educators creating meaningful change in the lives of their students.



Subarna Ghosh
Founder,
Nalini Vidya Mandir, Odisha

Honoured for her lifelong commitment for promoting and facilitating education for women, leading to the large-scale transformation of an entire tribal community



Maitrayee Mazumdar
Principal, The Turning Point
RupCRJ Branch, West Bengal

Honoured for her extraordinary commitment to education and for empowering children with special needs through inclusive education, skills training, and hope for independent futures

Certificates Presented to the 2025 Prize Winners



Upcoming Event

2nd Founder's Day Panel Discussion, 2026

Topic: *Different Minds, Shared Classrooms: Understanding Behaviour, Learning and Belonging*

Date: 09 July, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM IST | Online

A global dialogue featuring national and international speakers on neurodiversity, learning, and belonging. **Click here to register.**

— Create and Replicate Ecosystems of Change —



Nature, Well-Being, and the Gentle Giant Initiative

A growing body of research suggests that spending time in nature can have significant benefits for mental well-being. Studies have shown that even short periods spent in green spaces can help reduce stress, improve mood, lower anxiety, and enhance overall quality of life (Kotera et al., 2022; Harvard Medicine, 2024). Researchers have also found that natural environments help restore attention, reduce mental fatigue, and support emotional resilience, making nature an increasingly recognised component of holistic health and well-being.

Importantly, these benefits are not limited to forests or remote landscapes. Parks, community gardens, and tree-lined pathways can also create opportunities for reflection, connection, and restoration. As evidence continues to grow, healthcare professionals and researchers are increasingly advocating for greater access to green spaces as an important contributor to both individual and community well-being (Harvard Medicine, 2024).

At The CHINI Trust, this understanding is reflected in the Gentle Giant Initiative, an ecological effort under our vision to create and replicate ecosystems of change. The initiative recognises that healthy ecosystems not only support biodiversity but also contribute to healthier, more connected communities. By nurturing green spaces and encouraging environmental stewardship, the initiative seeks to strengthen the relationship between people and the natural world.

In 2025, **Ms. Pallavi Salvi** became a patron of the Gentle Giant Initiative and sponsored a grove of bamboo trees at Green Verge located in Kolkata, India in memory of her late husband, Arijit Ghosh – a man remembered for his quiet strength, kindness, and gentle spirit. In a touching reflection of his legacy, the bamboo under her care has grown to become among the tallest on the land.

Her support extends beyond the planting itself. Through her continued commitment to the maintenance and nurturing of the grove, a deeply personal act of remembrance has become part of a larger living ecosystem. Today, the bamboo grove stands as a symbol of resilience, renewal, and the enduring connection between people, communities, and nature.

Promote and Sustain Srijoni's Vision

Internship Programme

In 2025, The CHINI Trust launched its first Internship Programme, engaging students from Psychology background in research, outreach, documentation, and inclusion-focused initiatives.

In 2026, the Trust is looking forward to its second internship cohort and has received applications from students across leading institutions, including IITs, NITs, and reputed psychology and allied disciplines programmes. The strong interest reflects a growing commitment among young people to engage with neurodiversity, inclusion, and technology-enabled solutions.

Our First Cohort of Interns



Arpita Kushwaha

Interning at The Chini Trust was a deeply enriching experience. I aligned with their mission to build an inclusive world for neurodivergent individuals and felt proud to contribute meaningfully.



Akanksha Rajput

My internship with The Chini Trust was an incredibly enriching experience. The team's dedication to neurodiversity and inclusion truly inspired me. From thoughtful mentorship to meaningful responsibilities, TCT created a space where learning felt empowering.



Ilma Khan

My internship was an incredibly enriching experience that helped bridge the gap between theory and practice. I had the opportunity to work on real-world projects, collaborate with supportive mentors, and grow both professionally and personally.

Our Trustees, Board Members, and Advisors

Trustee,
Nayan Mitra, PhD

Trustee,
Roma Dasgupta

Board Member
Meeta Sengupta

FRSA, Writer, Advisor,
Speaker on Education, India

Board Member
Sohini Pramanick

Partner at OC&C
Strategy Consultants, UK

Advisor

Boni Fernandes Wozolek, PhD

Director of Inclusive Excellence,
Penn State Abington
Associate Professor, Education, USA

Advisor

Michael J. Bernstein, PhD

Interim Division Head - Division of Social Science,
Business, & Education, Penn State Abington
Professor of Social Psychology, USA

Advisor

Malancha Dasgupta

History Teacher at Holy Cross
School, Baruipur, India

Advisor

Arup Mitra

U.S. India Business Strategist &
Facilitator
Kolkata, India / Philadelphia, USA

Join Us

Partner with us to expand awareness, strengthen inclusion, and create meaningful opportunities for neurodivergent individuals and their families.

Donate | Volunteer | Partner

Website: www.chinitrust.org

Email: techinitrust@gmail.com

LinkedIn: [THE CHINI TRUST](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-chini-trust)

Thank you for your time!

With gratitude,

Team TCT!