Annual Report – Nilachala Foundation (2025–26)

Respected guests, members, and well-wishers,

It is my pleasure to present the **Annual Report of Nilachala Foundation for the year 2025–26**, highlighting our activities in education, science promotion, environmental awareness, and community service.

Educational Support

Nilachala Foundation continued its support to **HOPE School, Rajgangpur**, assisting in its operational and logistical activities so that the institution can continue its work in supporting children and promoting inclusive education.

Community Service

On the occasion of the **97th Death Anniversary of Pandit Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das**, Nilachala Foundation organized **Seba Sebaka Week**, during which food packets were distributed to patients at the **Government Hospital, Rajgangpur**. We thank **Md. Irfan, Vice Chairman**, the hospital staff, members of Nilachala Foundation, and the morning walk group for their support in making the programme successful.

Environmental Initiatives

Nilachala Foundation organized **plantation programmes** in July 2025 at **Kishan Panchayat High School, Jampali**, **Sri Aurobindo Integral Education & Research Centre, Rajgangpur**, and **Buchkupara Government High School**. These programmes aimed to create awareness among students about the importance of trees and environmental protection. Small **medicinal plant gardens** were also initiated at Kishan Panchayat High School and Buchkupara Government High School to promote awareness of medicinal plants.

Science Awareness and Educational Programmes

The **Zero Shadow Day programme** was observed at **Sri Aurobindo Integral Education & Research Centre, Rajgangpur**, where students presented a project on the phenomenon under the guidance of **Rohit Das**. The programme was graced online by **Shri Brahmanand Swain, Former GM, BHEL**, as Chief Guest.

Nilachala Foundation also observed **National Science Day 2026** at **Municipal Government Gandhi Girls High School, Rajgangpur**, with participation from several schools. The programme was graced by **Mrs. Sarita Sarnia, B.E.O., Rajgangpur**, as Chief Guest and **Smt. Sandhya Panigrahi, ABEO, Rajgangpur**, as Guest of Honour. **Sj. Girish Ch. Rout**, **Sj. Abhisek Ratha**, and **Sj. Mahima Badhei** addressed and inspired the students. A science drama on superstition was also performed by students.

Awards Encouraging School Students

Nilachala Foundation continued to encourage academic excellence and innovation among school students.

The **Haribansha Memorial Award**, instituted by **Dr. Sahoo in memory of his father**, was presented to the toppers of **Class VI to X of Kulita Tukura High School**.

The **Scientist Dr. Nilachala Sahoo Memorial Award** for the **Best Innovative Project** was presented at the **Rajgangpur Block Level Science Exhibition** and also at the **District Level Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani**, encouraging creativity and scientific thinking among young students.

The **Bigyan Jyoti Award – 2026** was presented at the annual function of **PM SHRI Gopabandhu Government (CoE) High School, Rajgangpur**.

Awards Encouraging Higher Education

Nilachala Foundation also continued to recognize excellence in higher education and research.

The **Dr. N. Sahoo Memorial Award**, presented during the **Annual General Meeting of the Indian Refractory Makers Association (IRMA)** at **Hyatt Regency, Salt Lake, Kolkata**, honoured outstanding student research in refractory and materials science.

Nilachala Foundation also sponsored the award for the **Topper of the +3 Science Stream** at **Dalmia College, Rajgangpur** during its **53rd Annual Function**. The Foundation also continues to present the **Dr. Nilachala Sahoo Memorial Award** to the **Topper of Graduation in Chemistry at GM University**.

Recognition and Honours

The **Dr. Nilachala Sahoo Smruti Samman** was presented to **Mr. Basudev Kamliya** and **Mr. Subodh Kumar Jha** for their contributions to science at the **International Honour Award Ceremony** organized by the **Science & Mathematics Development Organization, India**, under the guidance of **Dr. Pradeep Kumar Singh Deo, Deoghar**.

Nilachala Foundation also had the privilege of felicitating **Prof. Bhanu Pratap Jena**, the distinguished Indian–American cell biologist known for discovering the **porosome**, at **Sri Aurobindo Integral Education & Research Centre, Rajgangpur**.

Conclusion

Through these initiatives—supporting educational institutions, promoting environmental awareness, encouraging scientific curiosity, and recognizing excellence in education and research—Nilachala Foundation continues to contribute to the intellectual and social development of society.

We express our sincere gratitude to all institutions, volunteers, teachers, students, and well-wishers whose cooperation made these programmes possible.

Thank you.