

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people." - Franklin D. Roosevelt



SABUJ SANGHA LEADS POWERFUL WORLD EARTH DAY CELEBRATION ACROSS SOUTH 24 PARAGANAS

On April 22, 2025, Sabuj Sangha spearheaded a powerful awareness initiative across the blocks of Mathurapur II, Sagar, Patharpratima, and Namkhana in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, to mark WORLD EARTH DAY. The initiative aimed to educate and mobilize local communities on urgent environmental issues, strongly focusing on preserving the Sundarbans—a crucial ecological zone and natural shield against climate threats. The day's events began with a public gathering and Earth Day assembly that set the tone for action and reflection. Community members, students, educators, and leaders united in a vibrant rally through the surrounding villages, carrying banners, posters, and slogans that underscored the importance of a clean and healthy environment. Participation was both spirited and widespread, illustrating deep-rooted local concern for environmental protection.

The celebration culminated in Gram Panchayat-level meetings where various stakeholders discussed environmental challenges and explored sustainable solutions. A central message echoed throughout the day was the undeniable link between human activity and the well-being of the Sundarbans, urging communities to act as stewards of the environment. Through inclusive engagement and collective resolve, Sabuj Sangha's Earth Day initiative highlighted the power of community in addressing global environmental concerns at the local level.

MANGROVE RESTORATION PROGRAM REVIVES HOPE IN CLIMATE-VULNERABLE SUNDARBANS

In a major ecological and community-led effort, Project ARANYA, implemented by Sabuj Sangha in partnership with the SBI Foundation, is rejuvenating mangrove ecosystems across four climate-stressed blocks of the Sundarbans: Mathurapur-II, Namkhana, Patharpratima, and Sagar.

Covering over 40 villages and 12 Gram Panchayats, the initiative targets more than 95 hectares of degraded land for mangrove plantation, to protect coastal embankments from erosion and cyclones. The project restores vital mangrove cover and empowers vulnerable communities—especially women and youth—through training in climate-resilient farming, sustainable aquaculture, and disaster preparedness. In erosion-prone areas, the intervention also addresses issues of displacement and unsafe migration by building local livelihoods and resilience. This intervention promotes nature-based solutions to combat climate change while uplifting socio-economically marginalized communities.



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES



Sustainable livelihood initiatives have indeed brought a wave of optimism to the rural communities in the Kalyani block of Nadia district and the Sagar block of South 24 Parganas. The Local Self-Help Groups (SHGs), particularly those led by women, are at the forefront of this positive change. Through targeted support in fish farming, poultry, and goat rearing, these SHGs are experiencing a significant transformation in their lives towards empowerment.

These income-generating activities are part of a broader strategy to boost rural resilience and self-sufficiency. With hands-on training and financial support, SHG members have witnessed tangible improvements in their earnings and quality of life. The community's growing interest and active involvement in these programs are being hailed as models for rural development.

Residents are lauding these initiatives for not only generating job opportunities within their vicinity but also for fostering economic independence among them.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The inauguration of the Infrastructure Development program marks a pivotal moment in addressing the urgent need for improved facilities in government schools and healthcare centers in West Bengal. The lack of basic infrastructure has contributed to high dropout rates and compromised healthcare services, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Through the School Infrastructure Development initiative launched by Sabuj Sangha with support from the STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI), LHO Kolkata efforts are underway to enhance learning environments and healthcare facilities across 11 districts, including Kolkata.

The ceremony took place at Naskarhat F. P. School in Kolkata on 29th April 2025. The program witnessed the participation of key SBI officials, including Mr. Satyendra Kumar Singh, Chief General Manager, SBI Kolkata Circle, Mr. Sanatan Mishra, General Manager Network 2, Mr. Vivekanand Singh, Deputy General Manager, Mr. Ajoy Sinha, Regional Manager, Region 3, and Mr. Subrata Hazra, Assistant General Manager. Dignitaries from the education sector present were Mr. Samir Mazumder, Inspector of Schools, Kolkata Primary Council; Ms. Rinku Dasgupta, Headmistress, Naskarhat Free Primary School; and Ms. Kalipriya Joardar, Headmistress, Gayaram Sishu Siksha Niketan. The event also welcomed special guests who have long championed public welfare — Mr. Javed Ahmed Khan, Minister for Disaster Management, Govt. of WB, and Ms. Lipika Manna, Councillor of 107 Ward KMC. Representing Sabuj Sangha, Mr. Ansuman Das, Director, and Mr. Arunabha Das, Head of Operations & Resource Mobilization, also graced the occasion. This collaborative effort aims to create safe, hygienic, and conducive spaces for education and healthcare, empowering students and improving public health outcomes. The event symbolizes a significant step towards driving positive change and laying the foundation for a better future for the region.

