

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“Development is of no use unless it touches the lives of the people at the grassroots.” — Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



**SABUJ
SANGHA**

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Prak-Saradiya Celebration Unites Students in Joy and Expression

West Bengal is geared up to welcome Goddess Durga. Nandakumarpur came alive with the **Prak-Saradiya Program** — a vibrant pre-puja celebration organized by the children of Nayantara, Kishalaya Sishu Siksha Niketan (KSSN), and Natun Alo program at the Nandakumarpur Knowledge Campus. Children showcased their talents through songs, dances, and skits that celebrated courage, unity, and hope, setting the perfect tone for the festive season.

The event also featured the **inauguration of the KSSN Wall Magazine** by **Mr. Anshuman Das**, Hon'ble Director of Sabuj Sangha, who emphasized its importance in nurturing creativity and expression among students.

The celebration concluded with joy and pride as students, teachers, and community members came together — proving that the true spirit of Durga Puja lies in creativity, learning, and togetherness.



Sabuj Sangha Observes World Sight Day Across South Bengal



Marking **World Sight Day 2025**, a series of eye care camps were organized across three key locations — Herambagopalpur, Sagar Vision Center, and Nandakumarpur Swarnalata Sabuj Seva Sadan Hospital — as part of its ongoing Eye Care Program supported by the **SBI Foundation**.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the importance of eye health and to ensure that quality eye care services reach underserved rural communities. A total of 157 patients attended the camps and availed free eye check-ups, counseling, medicines, and guidance on maintaining good vision. During the screening, **25 cataract cases, 2 DCT cases, and 2 PTG cases** were identified and referred to Swarnalata Sabuj Seva Sadan Hospital for advanced treatment and surgical intervention.

The initiative aims to bring accessible and affordable eye care to the doorstep of every individual in rural Bengal, emphasizing that early detection and timely treatment can prevent many forms of avoidable blindness.

Through continuous support from SBI Foundation and several partner organizations, Sabuj Sangha has been conducting regular vision camps, promoting community eye health, and extending medical services to remote regions where access to healthcare remains limited. As part of its broader health outreach efforts, Sabuj Sangha remains committed to reducing preventable blindness and ensuring that no one loses their sight due to lack of care or awareness.

World Sight Day, observed globally on the second Thursday of October, serves as a reminder of the need to prioritize eye health as an integral part of overall well-being. This year's observance by Sabuj Sangha highlights the power of collaboration and compassion in restoring vision and transforming lives across the communities it serves.

Global Hand Washing Day Reinforces the Power of Simple Hygiene Habits

As part of **Global Hand Washing Day 2025**, several engaging awareness activities were organized across the Sagar and Mathurapur blocks of South 24 Parganas. The events saw enthusiastic participation from students of **Kishalaya Sishu Siksha Niketan**, children from the **Nayantara Program**, and local **community members**.



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The celebration aimed to highlight the life-saving importance of hand hygiene in preventing common illnesses and promoting overall community health. Teachers and facilitators led interactive sessions that demonstrated the correct handwashing steps and explained how a simple act can have a lasting impact on well-being.

Students actively participated by practicing **handwashing techniques** at specially set-up washing stations, turning the message of hygiene into everyday action. The program emphasized that washing hands with soap for just a few seconds can protect families and communities from numerous infections. The initiative enhances public health awareness and equips rural communities with knowledge and habits that promote healthier living. Global Hand Washing Day, observed worldwide on October 15, serves as a reminder that clean hands save lives – and these efforts in South 24 Parganas are a step forward in making hygiene a way of life.

Mangroves as Brothers, Mangroves as Protectors: The Sundarbans Unite for Nature and Tradition

In a remarkable fusion of tradition and environmental consciousness, rural women from the Sundarbans celebrated “**Bhaiphonta**” this year with an unusual gesture – offering the sacred ritual to mangrove trees, whom they lovingly regard as their brothers and protectors.



Standing along the tidal creeks and riverbanks, these women tied symbolic threads and offered prayers to the mangroves – their green guardians who shield them from cyclones and tidal surges. The heartfelt act transformed a traditional sibling festival into a moving tribute to nature’s resilience.

The event was part of the SBIF-supported “**Aranya Program**”, implemented by Sabuj Sangha, which is restoring mangrove ecosystems across four blocks of South 24 Parganas. The initiative aims to revive degraded stretches of the mangrove belt, strengthen community participation, and build climate resilience in one of India’s most vulnerable coastal regions.

Speaking on the occasion, community members shared that the ritual symbolizes both gratitude and awareness. “When storms come, these trees stand before us and take the impact. They are our real brothers,” said one participant.

By blending cultural tradition with ecological stewardship, the women of the Sundarbans have sent a powerful message – that protecting nature is not just an environmental act, but also an expression of love, faith, and family.

Mr. Sumit Kumar John, Assistant Manager, SBI Foundation, recently visited the Patharpratima, Mathurapur II, Sagar, and Namkhana blocks to assess progress and interact with local communities. He visited nurseries and plantation sites, commending the active role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in leading mangrove restoration and climate resilience efforts.

The visit also covered Sabuj Sangha’s livelihood and healthcare initiatives, including the Sanjeevani Hospital and Bakery Unit, which are improving rural livelihoods. The initiative reflects the joint vision of SBI Foundation and Sabuj Sangha to rejuvenate ecosystems and empower coastal communities.



Digital Sakhis Lead Cleanliness Drive on Swachhata Divas in Murshidabad

On the occasion of Swachhata Divas 2025, more than **100 Digital Sakhis** came together across the four blocks of Bhagwangola II, Jiaganj, Berhampore, and Beldanga I in Murshidabad district to promote hygiene and sanitation.

The Sakhis led cleanliness drives in schools, ICDS centers, health facilities, and community spaces. They actively engaged with residents, spreading awareness about hygiene, waste management, and the importance of maintaining clean surroundings.

The initiative, supported by **L&T Finance** under the **Digital Sakhi** Project, emphasized the role of women as change-makers in their communities. By combining social awareness with action, the participants demonstrated leadership in addressing public health and environmental challenges.



The campaign not only helped clean public areas but also encouraged sustainable community-led sanitation practices. The event reflected a growing movement in rural Bengal, where digitally empowered women are driving transformation through collective responsibility and civic engagement.