

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“The best way to judge the character of a nation is to see how it treats its women.”

—Indira Gandhi



**SABUJ
SANGHA**

Sabuj Sangha Marks 50 Years of Social Service and Impact

DECEMBER 2025

Sabuj Sangha, a community-based development organisation that began its journey in 1975 from the small village of Nandakumarpur in South 24 Parganas, celebrated its Golden Jubilee on Thursday at Hyatt Centric, Kolkata. The occasion marked 50 years of the organisation’s dedicated service to vulnerable and underserved communities.

Over the decades, Sabuj Sangha has evolved from a grassroots initiative into a rapidly expanding development organisation, with its work now extending across several districts of West Bengal and other Indian states. Throughout this five-decade-long journey, the organisation has remained firmly rooted in community participation, transparency, and a strong commitment to social justice.

In its early years, Sabuj Sangha focused on supporting families affected by floods and cyclones. Gradually, its interventions expanded to cover key development areas including health and nutrition, education and child protection, women’s empowerment, livelihood development, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), disaster management, and climate resilience. These sustained efforts have positively impacted the lives of lakhs of people across different regions of India.

The Golden Jubilee celebration brought together eminent personalities from diverse fields, CSR partners, supporting organisations, academicians, and community representatives who have been part of Sabuj Sangha’s collective journey. Among the distinguished guests were Dr Amal Mukhopadhyay, Founder Chairman of Hanseatic India Forum e.V.; Dr Arun Dev, Board Member of the Global Water Alliance; and Mr Samir Sharma, Chief Sustainability Officer, L&T Finance, along with several other partners and well-wishers.

During the event, the 50-Year Impact Report and the Golden Jubilee Souvenir Book, “Golden Miles in Mission (50 Years of Journey towards Sustainable & Inclusive Development),” were formally unveiled by Mr Samir Sharma, Head – CSR, L&T Finance. The publication documents the organisation’s five-decade-long journey, key achievements, and community-centric initiatives. The ceremony also honoured frontline champions for their outstanding contributions to community-led development.

A cultural performance by adolescents from the Nayantara project added an emotional and vibrant touch to the program, reflecting Sabuj Sangha’s long-standing commitment to the empowerment of women and children.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Ansuman Das, Secretary and Director of Sabuj Sangha, said, “Over the past 50 years, our communities, volunteers, staff, and partners—who have stood by us with trust and dedication—have been an integral part of our journey. Today, we renew our pledge to continue working towards building a healthier, more inclusive, and compassionate society.”

The program concluded with reflections and interactions among partners and well-wishers, along with renewed commitments to advance Sabuj Sangha’s mission, with a shared vision of creating deeper and more meaningful social impact in the years to come.



Golden Jubilee Celebration Highlights Four-Day Conclave on Rural Development and Youth Leadership



On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Sabuj Sangha, a four-day program was held from 12th to 15th December 2025 at the Sabuj Sangha Knowledge Campus in Nandakumarpur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The event brought together social workers, government officials, youth representatives, and community members to deliberate on rural development and youth engagement.

The celebration commenced with an inaugural session led by Dr. Amal Mukhopadhyay, Founder-Director and Chairman of the Hanseatic India Forum, Germany, who reflected on the organisation’s 50-year journey and outlined its future roadmap. Cultural performances by students of associated institutions added vibrancy to the occasion.

The second day featured a thematic dialogue on the role of Panchayati Raj institutions in village development, conducted by Mr. Dibyendu Sarkar, IAS (Retd.).

On the third day, the Annual Conference of Nayantara Kishori Bahini saw participation from South 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur districts, where speakers encouraged adolescent girls to emerge as leaders of change. The program concluded with a musical evening and screening event, reaffirming Sabuj Sangha’s enduring commitment to community development and youth empowerment.

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Inspiring Young Leaders for the Conservation of the Sundarbans

In an effort to promote environmental awareness and strengthen conservation efforts in the ecologically sensitive Sundarbans region, a series of school-level awareness programs were conducted under the SBIF Aranya Program across the blocks of Namkhana, Patharpratima, Sagar, and Mathurapur II in South 24 Parganas district.

During the year 2025, a total of 48 awareness camps were organised, reaching 6,979 school students. The programs aimed to sensitise children at an early age about environmental conservation, forest protection, mangrove preservation, and sustainable practices.



The sessions were conducted through interactive discussions and participatory activities, where students learned about the history and ecological importance of the Sundarbans, the causes and impacts of climate change and global warming, and the critical role of mangroves in preventing coastal erosion and flooding. Special emphasis was given to the importance of mangrove afforestation, plantation drives, and community participation in protecting the fragile ecosystem.

Students were also educated on environmental pollution and its impact on coastal biodiversity, and encouraged to adopt simple, everyday actions to reduce pollution and promote sustainability. Practical knowledge on mangrove plantation techniques and conservation practices was shared to strengthen their understanding and involvement. To reinforce the messages, posters and handbills were distributed among the students, motivating them to act as young ambassadors of nature conservation within their schools, families, and communities.

Many students pledged to plant and protect mangrove saplings, reduce plastic use, and spread awareness in their villages and schools. Several schools expressed interest in organising plantation drives and cleanliness campaigns, while teachers reported increased curiosity and discussions among students on environmental issues. The initiative not only enhanced their knowledge but also instilled a sense of responsibility, leadership, and ownership towards protecting the Sundarbans ecosystem.

From Darkness to Light: A Journey of Vision and Hope

The SBIF Eye Care Program has made a significant impact in rural West Bengal by bringing quality eye care services to underserved communities. From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2025, the program covered 180 villages and organized 1086 eye screening camps, benefiting 32,633 people through free eye check-ups and awareness activities.



During this period, 5,340 cataract cases were identified, out of which 2,974 patients successfully underwent cataract surgeries, helping them regain their eyesight and lead a dignified life.

One such beneficiary is Mr. Subimal Maity (73), a resident of Purbachintamonipur village under Pathar Pratima Block, South 24 Parganas. A small tea shop owner and the sole earning member of his large family, Mr. Maity had been suffering from poor vision in his right eye due to cataract. Because of a previous unsuccessful eye treatment, he was afraid to undergo surgery again.

After being encouraged by other successfully treated patients, he visited Swarnalata Sabuj Seva Sadan Hospital and agreed to the operation. He underwent cataract surgery on 9 December 2025, and his vision improved remarkably from 6/36 to 6/9. Today, he can continue his work and daily life with confidence. Mr. Maity expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the doctors and staff of Swarnalata Sabuj Seva Sadan and the SBI Foundation for providing high-quality treatment free of cost near his home. Through such initiatives, the SBI Eye Care Program continues to bring light, hope, and dignity to thousands of lives across rural areas.

Where Roads End, Care Begins: Healthcare in the Remote Dooars

The Alipurduar II and Kalchini blocks, situated in the forested and hilly region of the Himalayan Dooars, bordering Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Assam, face significant challenges in accessing basic healthcare. A large section of the population lives in remote tea gardens and forest-side settlements, where poverty, poor connectivity, and the absence of nearby hospitals often force people to depend on unqualified medical practitioners.

To address this situation, Sabuj Sangha, with the support of SBI Foundation, has been providing healthcare services through Sanjeevani mobile medical units in these areas for the past four years. The program includes MOPD services, awareness camps, specialized health camps, and Swachh Bharat activities.

Currently, MOPD services are operational in 22 villages of Kalchini and Alipurduar II blocks. To improve accessibility and awareness, banners displaying service locations and timings are being installed in 44 MOPD camps. The Sanjeevani initiative is playing a crucial role in delivering essential healthcare services to people in some of the most remote areas of the district.

