

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.”

-Malala Yousafzai



**SABUJ  
SANGHA**

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## **Nabadiganta Strengthens Education Access in Remote Alipurduar Villages**



In the remote forested belt of Kumargram Block in Alipurduar district, where poor connectivity and limited livelihood options continue to challenge daily life, an education initiative is making a significant difference for local children.

The **Nabadiganta Project** is currently reaching 180 children across Turturikhanda and Uttar Nararhali villages, many of whom are first-generation learners. Situated in the Himalayan Dooars region along the borders of Bhutan and Assam, the area largely depends on tea garden labour and daily wage work. This economic vulnerability often results in seasonal migration, increasing the risk of school dropouts among children.

To address these challenges, the project provides regular academic support through two community-based centres. The Uttar Nararhali centre supports 85 students, while the Turturikhanda centre engages 95 students. A key development has been the improvement of the learning infrastructure. With the support of **Asha for Education**, the Uttar Nararhali centre has been renovated, while a new centre has been constructed at Turturikhanda. Earlier, classes were conducted in a government primary school building, often limiting regular learning activities.

Children travel 2–3 kilometres on foot or by bicycle to attend these centres, reflecting their commitment to education despite challenges. The initiative also addresses broader social concerns, including early school dropouts and migration-related vulnerabilities among children and adolescents. By providing structured learning support and a safe environment, the Nabadiganta Project is helping bridge educational gaps in one of the region's most underserved areas, offering children a stronger foundation for the future.

## **Rising Above Poverty: Inspiring Journeys of Two Sundarbans Youths**

In the remote villages of the Sundarbans, where poverty and limited opportunities often hinder access to education, two young boys have rewritten their futures through determination and timely support.

Basari Sardar from Purbajaterdeul grew up in a financially struggling family, contributing to household income through farming and fishing from an early age. With little scope to continue his studies, his life took a positive turn when he was enrolled in Sabuj Sangha's residential program seven years ago. There, he gained access to quality education, healthcare, and skill-based training—including fine arts and computer literacy—which enabled him to complete his secondary education. Today, he is pursuing a Diploma in Elementary Education, moving steadily towards a stable and meaningful career.

A similar transformation is seen in the journey of Khokansona Halder, who faced acute socio-economic hardship during his childhood. Coming from a family with minimal and irregular income, his future once seemed uncertain. He was enrolled at a young age in the **Notun Alo (meaning "New Light")**. This is a residential program designed for children from highly vulnerable backgrounds in the Sundarbans, supported by **Asha for Education**. The initiative provides a safe living environment along with access to education, nutritious food, healthcare, and overall care and protection. Through this holistic support system and consistent mentoring, Khokansona completed his higher secondary education and is now also pursuing a Diploma in Elementary Education.

Today, both youths are part of the Primary School KSSN initiative by Sabuj Sangha, where they are gaining practical teaching experience while nurturing their aspirations to become educators. Their journeys highlight the transformative power of structured support and community-based initiatives, demonstrating how children from vulnerable backgrounds can overcome adversity, break the cycle of poverty, and build confident, self-reliant futures.



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## Healthcare on Wheels Brings Relief to Remote Alipurduar Village

In many remote villages of Alipurduar district, access to proper medical care remains a daily challenge due to distance, cost, and limited awareness. Residents often rely on unqualified practitioners, putting their health at risk.

One such case was that of Madhabi Das (name changed), a 60-year-old homemaker from Soudpara village. Suffering from severe lower back pain for over six months, Madhabi had tried local informal treatments but found little relief.

Her condition took a turn when the Sanjeevani Clinic on Wheels reached her village. The mobile clinic provided comprehensive medical consultations, timely treatment, and ongoing follow-up care. Within months, Madhabi experienced significant improvement and was able to resume her daily activities comfortably. “Now I can work and move without pain,” Madhabi said, adding that she encourages fellow villagers to seek proper medical care.

The initiative has not only provided healthcare at the doorstep but also reduced dependence on unsafe medical practices and raised awareness about formal healthcare in the community.

**The Sanjeevani Clinic on Wheels, supported by SBI Foundation,** continues to reach underserved regions of Alipurduar, demonstrating how mobile healthcare models can make a tangible difference in rural areas.



## Financial Literacy Week Sparks Awareness Among Murshidabad School Students



In alignment with the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, Financial Literacy Week was observed from February 9 to 13, 2026, under the theme “KYC – Your First Step to Safe Banking.”

The program was implemented under the **Digital Sakhi Project, an initiative of L&T Finance,** covering 50 schools across four blocks of Murshidabad district. A total of 3,175 students aged 13 to 18 participated in the initiative.

The sessions were conducted by trained Digital Sakhis in collaboration with school authorities, aiming to promote financial literacy, digital safety, and social awareness among adolescents. The program focused on enhancing students’ understanding of saving habits, budgeting, banking systems, digital payments, and the prevention of cyber fraud. Special emphasis was laid on the importance of KYC compliance as a fundamental step towards safe and secure banking practices.

Alongside financial awareness, the initiative also addressed important social issues such as child marriage, sensitizing students about its legal, social, and health implications. Students were encouraged to continue their education and act as informed change-makers within their families and communities.

The sessions were delivered through the structured module titled “Smart Kids, Safe Future,” designed specifically for students from Classes VI to XII. Using interactive methods such as storytelling, games, role-play, discussions, and visual aids, the program ensured active participation and engagement. Topics like safe smartphone usage, the 33-33-33-1 saving rule, cyber safety practices including STOP-THINK-TELL, awareness of government schemes, and basic entrepreneurial thinking were also covered.

The initiative received an enthusiastic response from both students and teachers, contributing to the development of financially aware, digitally responsible, and socially conscious young citizens. The program marks a significant step towards strengthening life skills and informed decision-making among adolescents in the district.

## Women Unite to Revive Sericulture Tradition in Alipurduar

Once on the verge of fading away, the traditional practice of sericulture among the Boro community in Kumargram Block is slowly coming back to life. This revival has been made possible through collective efforts driven by the **HDFC-supported FRDP (Focused Rural Development) Project.**

In villages such as Madhya Narathali, Uttar Narathali, and Gocchimari, women have long been skilled in rearing silkworms and weaving the traditional Mekhla Chador. However, due to the labour-intensive nature of the work and limited market access, the practice had been gradually declining. To address this, Sabuj Sangha formed a sericulture cluster bringing together 60 women across 3 groups. The initiative focuses on collective production—from cocoon rearing to weaving and marketing—helping women sustain their livelihoods while preserving their cultural heritage.

A key highlight of the initiative is the establishment of a community-built thread extraction unit, developed with active participation from villagers, fostering a strong sense of ownership.

Today, women are actively engaged in all stages of production and regularly meet to plan, learn, and support each other. The initiative not only restores a traditional skill but also empowers women through collective action and leadership.

