

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“Sustainable development begins with education.”

-Ban Ki-moon



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Mangrove Resource Hub ‘Aranyak’ Inaugurated to Strengthen Climate Resilience in Sundarbans

In a significant step towards ecological restoration and climate resilience, Sabuj Sangha, with the support of SBI Foundation, inaugurated the “**Aranyak**” Mangrove Resource Hub on March 23, 2026, under the **SBIF Aranya** – Mangrove Restoration Initiative in Sundarbans.

The Sundarbans, one of the world’s most ecologically significant regions, has been increasingly vulnerable to climate change, rising salinity, and frequent cyclones, resulting in the degradation of mangrove forests and biodiversity. The establishment of the resource hub aims to address these pressing environmental challenges.

The hub was inaugurated by Shri Swapan Dhar, Hon’ble Managing Director, SBI Foundation. The event was attended by several distinguished guests, including **Shri Subrata Hazra, AGM, LHO Kolkata Circle (Marketing, Communication & CSR Dept., SBI), and Shri Ritesh Sain, Program Head (CONSERW & ACE)**. Representing Sabuj Sangha were **Shri Ansuman Das, Secretary & Director, and Shri Arunabha Das, Head of Programme Development & Partnership and Lead – Programme Operation**.



Envisioned as a community-led knowledge and action centre, the “Aranyak” Mangrove Resource Hub will focus on restoring degraded mangrove ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, and strengthening community awareness and capacity through training and sustainable environmental practices.

The hub will also function as a platform for mangrove nursery development, community engagement—including the involvement of Self-Help Groups—and awareness generation among school students to promote conservation efforts. In addition, it is expected to serve as a centre for research and field-based learning, facilitating collaboration among researchers, institutions, and environmental practitioners.

Aligned with local governance systems and government initiatives, the “Aranyak” initiative reflects a collective commitment towards sustainable development and long-term ecological balance in the Sundarbans.

Strengthening Impact: Sabuj Sangha Holds Strategic Annual Planning Meet



Sabuj Sangha organized a three-day Annual Review and Planning Meeting from March 14 to 16 at its Knowledge Campus in Nandakumarpur, bringing together board members, senior management, and program leaders to assess progress and chart the roadmap for 2026–27.

The meeting focused on reviewing key achievements, addressing field-level challenges, and strengthening strategic planning through collective leadership. Inaugurating the sessions, Secretary and Director Ansuman Das highlighted the organization’s 50-year journey and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts and community-driven development.

Experts and senior professionals led sessions on social work practices, monitoring systems, and effective documentation. Discussions also covered digital tools, financial compliance, and the growing role of communication and social media in development work.

Day two featured presentations from various program units, showcasing initiatives in rural livelihoods, women’s entrepreneurship, financial literacy, adolescent empowerment, healthcare, and environmental conservation across different districts of West Bengal. Key projects included livelihood promotion in tea garden areas, digital financial inclusion in Murshidabad, and mangrove restoration under the Aranya initiative in the Sundarbans.

The final day focused on financial planning, budget allocation, and strengthening coordination between the program and finance teams to ensure efficient implementation.

Concluding the workshop, Vice President Mr. Saradindu Banerjee noted that the meeting enhanced team collaboration, cross-learning, and strategic clarity, reinforcing the organization’s commitment to sustainable and community-led development.

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A Ray of Hope by the Railway Tracks: 'Aalor Disha' Transforms Young Lives

Amid the crowded squatter settlements along railway tracks, where survival often overshadows dreams, a quiet transformation is taking place. For many children growing up in these marginalised communities, education remains a distant hope, often disrupted by poverty, neglect, and uncertain living conditions.

Bringing a new light into their lives, Sabuj Sangha, with support from **IndienHilfe e.V.**, has established 'Aalor Disha'—a Child Support Centre-cum-School in **Champahati, South 24 Pgs., WB**. True to its name, meaning "Direction of Light," the initiative is helping children find a path beyond hardship and helplessness.

The centre focuses on ensuring basic child rights—care, education, and opportunities for a better future. It works closely with children from vulnerable families living in extreme conditions, many of whom are first-generation learners. Through regular academic support, life skills training, and personality development activities, the initiative aims to prepare them not just for school, but for life.

Since its inception, Aalor Disha has steadily nurtured change. Children who once struggled to stay connected to education are now attending classes regularly, showing improved confidence and enthusiasm to learn. The centre has become a safe and supportive space where they are encouraged to dream, express themselves, and grow.

In a significant step towards bridging the digital divide, computer classes have recently been introduced. A group of 15 students has begun learning basic computer skills, opening up new possibilities in an increasingly digital world. For these young learners, it is more than just a new subject—it is a window to opportunities they had never imagined before. As small steps turn into meaningful progress, Aalor Disha stands as a powerful reminder that with the right support and guidance, even the most vulnerable children can rise above circumstances and shape a brighter, more hopeful future.



Annual Meet Celebrated with Enthusiasm, Highlights Women's Empowerment Initiatives



An Annual Meeting was successfully organized on March 17 at Murshidabad, bringing together key stakeholders, including Mr. Kiran Kadam (Chief Manager - CSR, L&T Finance) from **L&T Finance**, CAP members, **IMI representatives**, **project staff**, and **women entrepreneurs**. The occasion was also observed in the spirit of International Women's Day, celebrating the achievements and contributions of women.

The 'Digital Sakhi' initiative aims to empower rural women as community leaders by enhancing their digital literacy, promoting awareness, and strengthening grassroots engagement. A total of 100 trained Digital Sakhis are actively working at the community level, mobilizing households and facilitating interventions focused on women's empowerment, digital inclusion, and financial literacy.

The program was led by Digital Sakhis and women entrepreneurs, showcasing their leadership through presentations and cultural performances, addressing Social themes such as gender equality. Stakeholders appreciated their efforts and encouraged continued engagement in community development.

Following the cultural segment, guests shared their feedback and insights, appreciating the efforts of the Digital Sakhis in promoting awareness and driving grassroots-level change. They encouraged the participants to continue their work towards strengthening women's empowerment and inclusive development. The event concluded on a positive and inspiring note, with renewed motivation and guidance for future initiatives aimed at empowering women and strengthening community engagement.

Breaking Silence, Building Strength: A New Dawn for Sundarbans Girls

In the remote and climate-vulnerable Sundarbans, life is often shaped by poverty, migration, and limited access to education. For many adolescent girls growing up in this region, the future is uncertain—early marriage, school dropout, and social neglect remain common realities.

Amid these challenges, a quiet transformation is taking place. Sabuj Sangha has been working to change this narrative through the **Nayantara Kishori Bahini**, reaching nearly 800 girls across Mathurapur II, Patharpratima, and Sagar blocks. Through regular sessions, guidance, and community engagement, the initiative is helping girls stay in school, understand their rights, and build confidence to make their own choices.



The change is visible not only in classrooms but beyond. Girls who once hesitated to speak are now expressing themselves through dance, drama, and art. In open village fields, many of them can be seen playing football—an opportunity they never imagined before. The sport has become more than just a game; it is building teamwork, courage, and a sense of identity.

As these girls step onto the field and into classrooms with renewed confidence, Nayantara is slowly reshaping their journeys—helping them break barriers, continue their education, and move towards stronger, more independent futures.