


KSCH
KOLKATA
SOCIETY FOR
CULTURAL
HERITAGE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR



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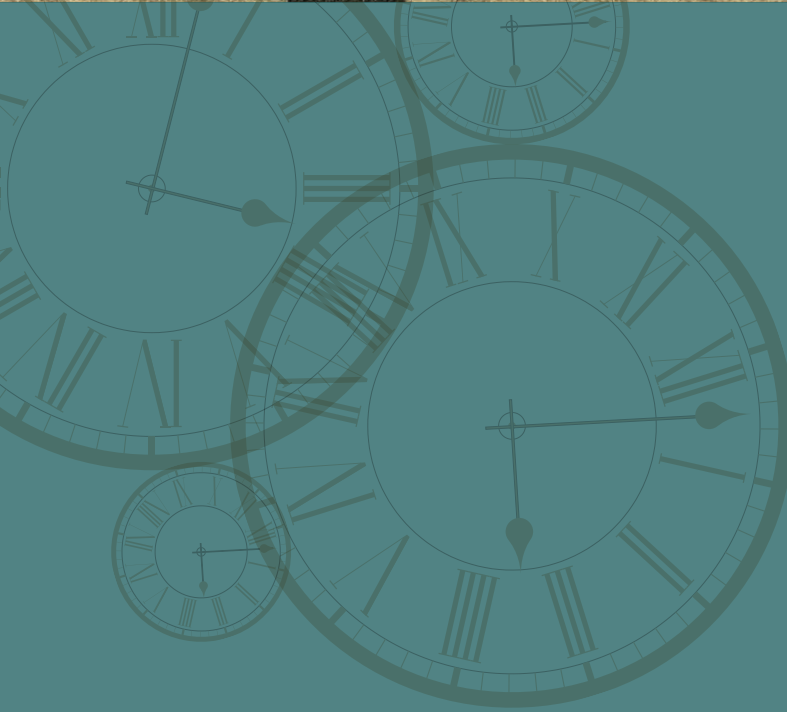


A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER

"We are working to empower underprivileged people (especially women) who all are victims of sociological systematic problems through capacity building and community led environment friendly sustainable development by using capacity building as a tool. Our mission is to develop the existing livelihood including Agriculture, Paper plate making, Crab & Shrimp harvesting and Mangrove Nurseries that are prevalent in these rural areas of Sundarban. We provide technical assistance for the development of Education, Health, and Sanitation. We are also working to develop a sustainable city by reducing single use plastic. We are also using solid waste management as tool to create livelihood."



FOUNDER





A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

"We are a social enterprise working across India with a mission to foster pro-poor growth and protect and uphold the rights of women, children and indigenous communities. We specialise in communication for development using different IEC tools, and developing community-led creative industries based on entrepreneurship model through capacity building, intangible cultural heritage like performing arts and crafts."



Anpita Mukherjee

PRESIDENT



OUR REACH

West Bengal

South 24 Parganas

North 24 Parganas

Kolkata

Nadia

West Medinipur

East Medinipur

Hooghly

Darjeeling

Murshidaabad

Purulia

Jharkhand

Ranchi

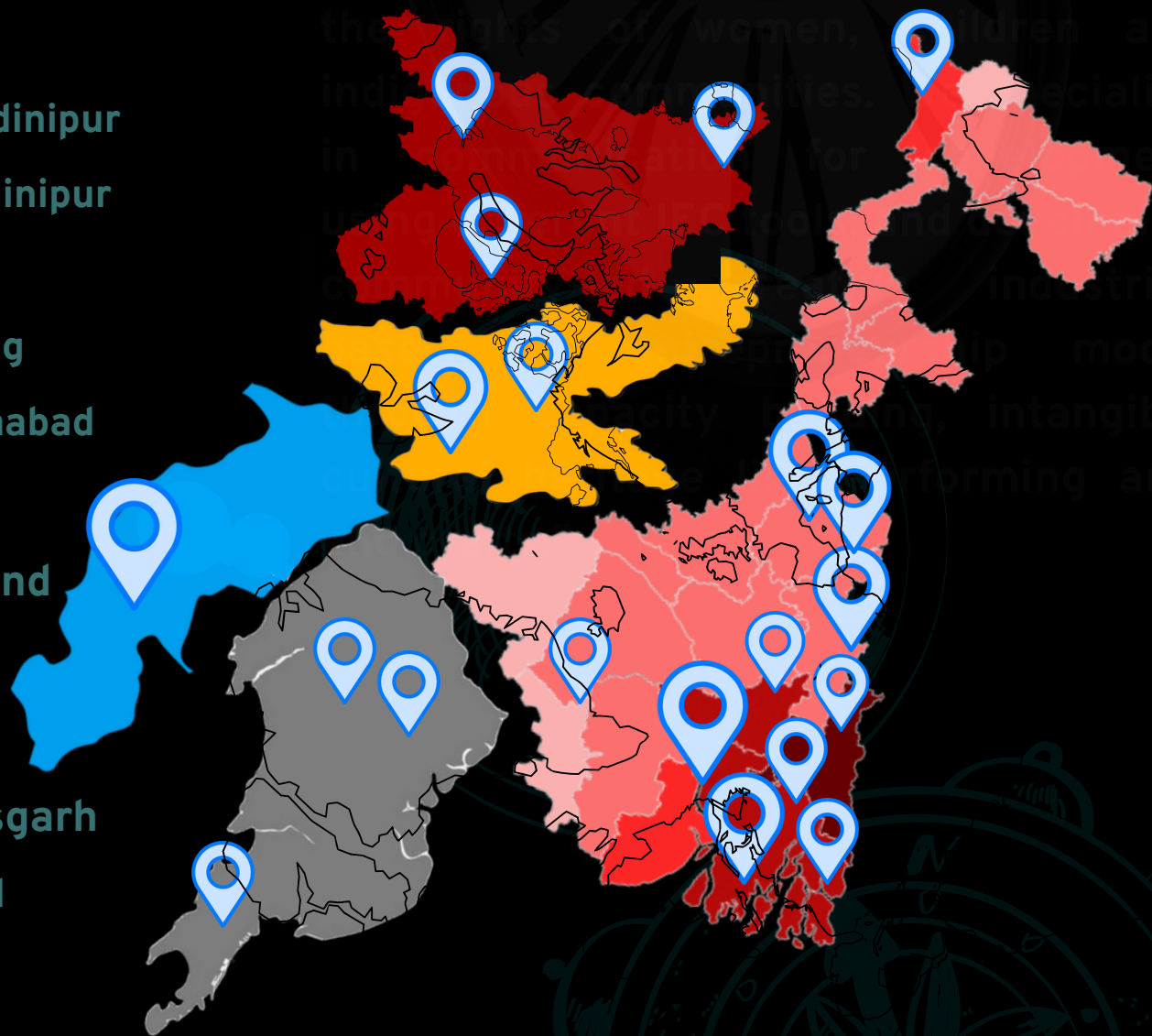
Gomia

Chhattisgarh

Kansabel

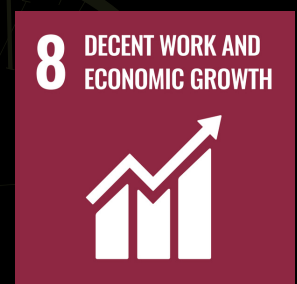
Mumbai

Bihar



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR

KOLKATA SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE (KSCH)
IS IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE
UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SINCE 2022





ABOUT KSCH

Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH) is a social enterprise functioning at the grass root level for the permanent developmental changes of rural, urban and tribal areas of India. We believe that livelihood is the most important component of any sustainable developmental model. If we can improve economic conditions in the rural and tribal areas, we can automatically address other social aspects like Education, Health and Sanitation. Hence, our immediate focus is on the development of existing livelihood including Agriculture, Horticulture, Fish Harvesting and Poultry that are prevalent in these rural and tribal areas. We provide technical assistance for the development of Education, Health, and Sanitation. We are also working towards providing a platform for traditional folk music, dance and artifacts as livelihood generating mechanisms for rural people. We encourage community led developmental programs to foster growth and awareness within the communities.

ESTABLISHING PAPER PLATE PRODUCTION UNIT IN THE SUNDERBANS

Rapid deterioration of ecology because of the pollution caused by Styrofoam and plastic items in the Sunderbans has been a matter of great concern. Since most of the people who live in the islands of the Sunderbans rely on the forests and the rivers for their livelihood, any harm caused to the ecology harms their livelihood too. To save nature and the people of the delta region Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage came up with the idea of installing paper plate making machines which would churn out eco-friendly paper plates and at the same time would become a source of income for the villagers. Sunderban Tiger Reserve (STR), one of the custodians of the delta forest chose Bally island as the place to establish the paper-plate production unit.

The machines were handed over to self-help group women who were then trained to operate them. Raw materials were also provided. In the beginning the daily production was 500 plates per day. But once the SHG women got accustomed to operate the machines more deftly the daily production touched 4500 plates per day. Boat owners, hotel owners, local shopkeepers started using the biodegradable paper plates in place of the non-biodegradable thermocol plates. Direct market linkage widened the profit margin and as a result the SHG women got to see a respectable growth in their monthly earnings. Above all the usage of hazardous items such as thermocol plates and plastic containers have come to naught in the region since the installation of the paper-plate making machines.



SCHOOL FACELIFT

A school located at Jatragachi in Newtown had been looking for a helping hand as they lacked basic amenities like fans, computers or access to safe drinking water for the hundred odd students it nurtured. The school, Jatragachi Nandanagar Primary School is located in an area where most of the people struggle to make both ends meet. It was founded and run by a group of good samaritans who knew that education was the only ray of hope for them. The school has been providing education to the children of the local people in exchange of meagre monthly fees. The monthly fees are not enough to take care of the basic infrastructural requirements. Some of the ceiling fans were out of order. There were no computers. Students would drink water from the nearby tube well. When Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage came to know about the plight of the students, it made arrangements for funds with the help of 'I Am Kolkata', the CSR wing of Merlin Group. New ceiling fans were installed along with two new computers. A water purifier was also provided so that the students got access to safe drinking water. Toys and other sports merchandise were also handed over to the school. According to the school authorities the outreach by KSCH came as a god's gift and would make life much easier for the students.

SUNDERBAN PAPER PLATE EXPORT

Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage had installed a paper plate production unit in Jharkhali in 2021 to reduce the use of Styrofoam plates or other bio-hazardous items such as plastic containers. The production unit has also been serving as an alternative source of income for 45 self-help group women. They sell the paper plates to hotel owners, retail sellers, boat operators and home stay owners. The effort of the village women got a huge moral boost when a Durga Puja organizer from the Netherlands showed interest to buy and use the paper plates to serve prasadam to the devotees. The export filled the SHG women with a renewed sense of self-belief and hope. They are now looking forward to getting more such overseas orders which would increase their earnings and decrease their dependence on the forest.



MANGROVE PLANTATION CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy invited Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage to be a part of its celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Indian Navy's Western Command has lined up myriads of activities to celebrate the 75th year of India's independence. Planting mangrove saplings along the Mumbai coastline topped the chart. A formal invitation was sent to KSCH to visit the western navy base Hamla and share the technical intricacies of planting mangrove saplings and growing a mangrove forest much like KSCH did in the Sunderbans. On the auspicious day KSCH visited the base and explained to our esteemed hosts how the plantation should be done and what were the risks and rewards of the same. The navy officials thanked KSCH for sharing such rare knowledge with them and promised to get back to us for future consultations too.



PAKHI-GHOR

'Pakhi-Ghor' which literally means bird's nest was a unique initiative which focused on providing birds spaces for living in buildings and man-made structures. Rapid urbanization has decimated the greenery in and around the city. As a result, our feathery friends are rendered homeless and they are forced to migrate to other places. Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage in collaboration with Merlin I am Kolkata and Dept. of Architecture, Jadavpur organized a day long workshop where sixty students of architecture from different colleges and universities of the city

participated and created nests for birds by using eco-friendly materials and solid waste. The students were divided in groups and each group was mentored by a professional architect. The idea was to create prototypes of bird-nest which could be incorporated in modern buildings without compromising the aesthetics. The enthusiasm amongst the participants was notable as they had never participated in an event so out of the box. Pakhi-Ghor showed that the concrete jungle meant for human beings could also serve as an aviary and cohabitation of different species in an urban set up is not a myth.



CRAB FARMING

Most of the people living in the Sunderbans are completely dependent on the forest for their survival. They either catch crabs, shrimps, fish or collect honey. They cannot do so without venturing deep inside the jungle. This dependence on the forest gives rise to the man-animal conflict. The only way to minimize such fatal encounters is to provide the villagers with alternative sources of income. Catching crabs has been a lucrative source of income for the villagers but to catch bigger crabs they sometimes enter the core areas. Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage encouraged the villagers to farm crabs in local ponds and other water bodies where they would be safe from tiger attacks. At first a water body was selected. Then the water body was turned into an ideal place for crabs to thrive by using various scientific methods. The idea was to rear the crabs in plastic boxes which would float on the surface of the water. In less than three months the crabs grew in size and weight and became marketable. KSCH created direct market linkage so that the beneficiaries could sell the crabs themselves without the help of middlemen. The villagers now know how to rear crabs and sell them. KSCH wants to emulate this pilot project in various parts of the Sunderbans so that more people can reap the benefits of such a successful initiative.

SOLAR STREET LIGHT INSTALLATION IN SUNDERBAN

More than 4500 villagers living in five villages situated in the Kultali Range of the Sunderbans breathed a sigh of relief as solar street lamps installed by Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage illuminated the road frequented by both humans and tigers. Walking on the brick road after sunset used to be a nightmarish experience for the villagers because the road happens to be very close to the jungle and there were no street lights. Only a canal stood between the jungle and the road. Taking advantage of the darkness, tigers would easily cross the canal and target villagers and domestic animals at will. Snake bites were also a very common occurrence. The villagers were terrified to come out of their homes after sunset. Power supply in

these areas was either infrequent or non-existent. Under such circumstances solar powered lamps were the only option. With funding from The Chatterjee Group (TCG) and logistical support from the Dept. of Forest (SBR) KSCH installed 25 solar street lamps on the kuchharoad that bordered the Chituri forest. According to forest officials the solar lights would act as a deterrent as tigers tend to avoid illuminated areas. The villagers now can walk on the same stretch without the fear of a tiger lurking in the dark. The solar lights are capable of generating 182.5 kilowatt of renewable electricity every year. The idea of installing solar street lights reduced man-animal conflict drastically in that area and at the same time helped the ecologically fragile Sunderbans by reducing carbon footprint.



REVIVAL OF SUNDERBAN PATACHITRA

'There was a time when the villagers of the Sunderbans would paint their day to day life or the local folklore on a long piece of cloth much like the scroll painting of Midnapore. Then they would describe the paintings through songs. This was how 'Bono Bibir Pala' was handed down from generations to generations. But with time the art went extinct. Bono Bibir Pala is still sung by a handful of people but the tradition of painting the same on a scroll is long gone. Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage felt the need to revive the lost art and decided to turn it into an alternative source of income for the villagers, especially women. Meanwhile, Sunderbans Tiger Reserve had been looking for new ideas to minimize the number of human-wild encounter within its jurisdiction. KSCH and STR (Sunderban Tiger Reserve) joined hands and started training a group of women from villages located near the Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary. Expert painters were brought from Kolkata to

train the beneficiaries. The training period lasted four months. Besides scrolls the village women were taught to paint on other items such as earthen pots and plates, tea pots, hand fans, book marks, lanterns and t-shirts. The idea was to sell these merchandise to the tourists as souvenirs. Perseverance and hard work of the beneficiaries did not go in vain and soon they learned the art form. An exhibition cum handicraft fair was held at the Mangrove Information Centre inside the Sajnekhali Range Office which is frequented by tourists in great numbers. The tourists were more than happy to see such beautifully painted merchandise and bought as mementoes. The beneficiaries too were excited as they sold their creations with their own hands. The success of the exhibition cum fair prompted the forest dept. to open permanent stalls at different locations. The beneficiaries now have a steady source of income and they do not want to go back to the jungle for honey or crab.



SIGNING OF MOU WITH WBCA

'On 24th March 2023 Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage signed an MOU with West Bengal Cyclists Association to use sports for all round development of boys and girls and to provide opportunities to develop career in sports and mobilise social entrepreneurship. The signing of the MOU took place at the Sports Journalists Club, SAI, Kolkata. Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage and West Bengal Cyclists Association were also handed over the responsibilities of conducting the All Women Cycling Championship involving 7 states under Govt. of India's Khelo India Khelo scheme by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of India.



KHELO INDIA KHELO- WOMEN ROAD CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The All Women Road Cycling Championship under Govt. of India's Khelo India Khelo initiative was organized by Sports Authority of India in association with West Bengal Cyclists Association and Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage on 26th March 2023. The event was sponsored by Shyam Steel India. Cyclists from 7 states took part in the championship. Tanu Bharti from UP bagged the gold medal in 15km Time Trial. Sital Chhetri from West Bengal bagged the gold medal in Elite Category (20km trial). Tara Minz from Jharkhand earned the gold medal in Sub Junior Girls' Time Trial. Eminent former footballer

Sri Mehtab Hussain and Sri Milan Kanti Mondol, DFO, South 24 Parganas were present during the prize giving ceremony along with other eminent dignitaries. Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage now wants to promote the sport at district level and find talents for national level from West Bengal. Those talented boys and girls will then be trained and groomed. They will also be provided with sponsorship. In this way KSCH wants to create a healthy and scientific mechanism to find talents and nurture them for the growth of sports and games in the country.



MANGROVE PLANTATION

The fortification of the mangrove forests in the Sunderbans is being prioritized by all the national and international organizations working on environment due to its high vulnerability rate of being affected by the rise in sea-water level. The mangrove forests have been shielding the delta region from the ill effects of global warming but successive cyclones in the past few years have damaged the green armour to a great extent. Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage has been working with the forest dept. and other private entities such as WEBEL, NKR Trust, SISK to reinforce the mangrove forests for the past few years. So far we have planted more than 600000 saplings. The saplings are grown by the villagers in their own nurseries and they plant the saplings themselves. They are also given the responsibility to take care of the saplings post plantation. In this way a sustainable model has been established through capacity building that has created an alternative source of income for the villagers. In this war against climate change KSCH promises to be at the frontline and take the challenge head on.



42ND WEST BENGAL STATE CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 42nd West Bengal State Cycling Championship was held on 28th and 29th of February in New town under the supervision of Cycling Federation of India. Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage and West Bengal Cyclists Association were in charge of conducting the grand event. Over 310 cycling enthusiasts from across the state got themselves registered for the event. To make the event more inclusive A separate segment was created for the girls who had got cycles under the state governments 'ShobujSathi' scheme. The goal of the event was to promote cycling, the eco-friendliest means of transport. The event was not only a mere competition but also an awareness program to educate people about the

benefits of cycling. Air pollution levels in the cities are touching new heights every year due to the unprecedented growth in numbers of motorized vehicles which are run on fossil fuel. The common citizens have to bear the brunt of this environmental disaster. More and more people should be encouraged to use bicycles as the mode of last mile connectivity and reduce their dependence on motorized vehicles. It is good for our health too. Through this event KSCH promoted UN Sustainable Development Platform Goals and they are; Goal no 5: Gender Equality, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communications, Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 15: Life on Land and Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals.



OUR CLIENTS

KSCH
KOLKATA
SOCIETY FOR
CULTURAL
HERITAGE



CLIENTS TESTIMONIALS



British Deputy High Commission Kolkata
 1A, Ho Chi Minh Square, Kolkata, West Bengal India, 700071
 Tel: +91 (33) 4082 2200

13 May 2023

The President
 Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage
 43, Sarat Pally Garia Kolkata - 700084 India

Dear Arpita,

Please allow me to express my warm and genuine thanks to you and the **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage** for their active participation as our waste recycling partner at the celebratory event on the occasion of The Coronation of Their Majesties, The King Charles III and The Queen Consort, organised by British Deputy High Commission Kolkata at Taj Bengal on 6 May 2023. We appreciated your support in helping us contribute to the sustainability theme of the event. Thank you for showcasing and promoting recycled and upcycled products from solid waste developed under your project. Activities involving 16 Self Help Groups. I saw for myself the impressive display and the creative talents of the women from the self-help groups that produced the craft pieces. Several guests at the event shared with me their surprise and pleasure at the display. It made a fascinating talking point for the event itself and helped highlight the sustainability theme that His Majesty King Charles seeks to champion. Thank you for making that all more possible.

I wish you and your team every success in the coming future.

Yours most sincerely
Peter Cook
 Peter Cook
 British Deputy High Commissioner (Acting)

Government of West Bengal
 Directorate of Forest
 Office of the Chief Conservator of Forest and Field Director
 Sundarban Tiger Reserve
 Canning Town, Dist. 24 - Parganas (South)
 West Bengal - 743129
 Ph: 033181 25286, 257048, Fax: 255286
 E-mail: sundarban@forest.gov.in

No. 16 / 10/28-2(MISC) Dated: 06.01.2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH)**, (Reg. S/2L/1452) successfully organized training program on scroll painting (pochitra) for SHGs in SWLS Range head quartered at Pabhinla and Bhasinlar Range head quartered at Jhila. KSCH also provided training to develop different merchandise products like, lantern, kettle, t-shirts, clay pots and etc. They used different folklores like Banabibi's pala, Manasha Mangal, Chandni Mangal to beautify the products. The project will also help to revive the intangible cultural heritage of Sundarban.

Now **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage** is also requested to take initiatives for marketing of the said products which will be ultimately beneficial for the forest fringe people.

[Signature]
 Deputy Field Director
 Sundarban Tiger Reserve

Government of West Bengal
 Directorate of Forest
 Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
 24 Parganas (South) Division
 4th floor, New Administrative Building
 12, Biplobi Kanahil Bhattacharjee Sarani
 Alipore, Kolkata - 700 027
 Tele & fax: (033) 2479 9032; Email - dfo24parga@s-wb@gov.in

We know **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH)** is the environment conservation organization in West Bengal who collaborated with Directorate of Forest, 24 Parganas (South) Division, Govt. of West Bengal to provide end to end solution to reduce human and wild conflict. Previously they successfully implemented multiple projects under our jurisdiction with able supervision of our department.

KSCH & 'Bhansu' successfully completed the installation of 25 solar street lights in forest fringe areas in collaboration with 'Bengal Intelligent Parks Pvt. Ltd. under TCG Real Estate of The Challenge Group' and 'TCG Foundation'. The project covered 4 Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) that helped more than 4,000 underprivileged people residing in these areas. Our officials visited and supervised the entire project and all lights are working fine.

Your contribution will help us to reduce the human and wild conflict. We are expecting your support in future as well.
 Wishing you all the best.

(Miban Kanti Mandal, W.B.F.S)
 Divisional Forest Officer
 24 Parganas (South) Division

Government of West Bengal
 Directorate of Forest
 Office of the Chief Conservator of Forest and Field Director
 Sundarban Tiger Reserve
 Canning Town, Dist. 24 - Parganas (South)
 West Bengal - 743129
 Ph: 033181 25286, 257048, Fax: 255286
 E-mail: sundarban@forest.gov.in

No.715/2D-2(MISC) Dated: 01.03.2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH)**, (Reg. S/2L/1452) successfully organized a festival cum exhibition on scroll painting (pochitra) for SHGs in SWLS Range. KSCH also provided training to develop different merchandise products like, lantern, kettle, t-shirts, clay pots and etc. KSCH successfully established direct market linkage for the beneficiaries. KSCH also organized capacity building sessions on marketing skills sets for the beneficiaries. KSCH also connected probable buyers with the beneficiaries. KSCH trained the beneficiaries for interactive sessions, storytelling, product pricing, maintaining relationship with customers, curation skills to organize festivals and exhibitions and also initiated train the trainer process.

Now **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage** is also requested to take further initiatives for marketing of the said products which will be ultimately beneficial for the forest fringe people.

[Signature]
 Deputy Field Director
 Sundarban Tiger Reserve

CHATTERJEE GROUP
 The Value of Time
 TCG Foundation
 9B Wood Street, 4th Floor
 Kolkata - 700018

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify, **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage**, a not-for-profit organization registered under Registration of Societies WB Act of 1961 bearing Registration No. SC001452 of 2012-23 operating from 43, Sarat Pally, Garia, Kolkata 700084 completed the following CSR Project supported by TCG Foundation, 9B Wood Street, Kolkata 700 018 during the Financial Year 2022-23. The Primary Contributor for this Project was Bengal Intelligent Parks Pvt Ltd.

Installation of 25 sets Solar Street Lights in Kullai Village in the Kullai Community Development Block of Banaripur Subdivision, South 24 Parganas to benefit approximately 4000 villagers.

The Project included delivery of Solar Street Lights with Solar Module, LED Light, Lithium Battery and Street Light Pole, transportation of goods from the factory to the village, on-site installation, and maintenance for a year.

Installation of Solar Street Lights was completed on 11th January 2023 and the formal inaugural Programme was held at the Project Site on 22nd February 2023.

Certified / Signed Utilization Certificates and Head-wise Statement of Expenses are due from Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage as on 30th June 2023 and 31st December 2023.

[Signature]
 Sneeshi Moha
 Authorized Signatory
 TCG Foundation, Kolkata

MERLIN PROJECTS LIMITED
 MERLIN GROUP

Date: 13/05/2023

To
 The President
 Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage
 43, Sarat Pally Garia Kolkata - 700084 India

Subject: Completion and Appreciation letter for Jatsagach school project

Dear Arpita Mukherjee,

I am pleased to provide this letter of completion and appreciation for the exceptional work done by **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage** (Registration No. SC001452 of 2012-2013) for providing necessary equipment to Jatsagach School for underprivileged students in Rajarhat, Kolkata.

As per the CSR initiative of Merlin Group - "I am Kolkata", KSCH has utilized the funds provided to purchase and supply vital equipment, including computers, water filters, ceiling fans, and sports materials to the Jatsagach School. This contribution has helped create an enabling environment for underprivileged students, providing them with the necessary tools and resources to achieve their full potential.

We acknowledge the remarkable work done by the **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage**. The donation of these items will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the education and well-being of students at Jatsagach School for years to come. We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Thank you for your exceptional work and dedication to this project.

Thanking you
[Signature]
 Sarban Bhattacharya
 Vice President - Corporate Communications, Corporate Affairs & CSR
 Merlin Group
 Email: sarban.bhattacharya@merlinprojects.com



Join Us



Contact number
+91 84799 72824



www.ksch.org.in



Email
kolkata.sch@gmail.com



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<https://www.facebook.com/kschdevelopment>



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<https://www.instagram.com/kolkata.sch/>



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<https://www.youtube.com/user/KSCHchannel>



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