




KSCH
KOLKATA
SOCIETY FOR
CULTURAL
HERITAGE

77

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2023



KOLKATA SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

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A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER

We are working to empower underprivileged people (especially women) who are all victims of sociological and 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 livelihoods, including Agriculture, Paper plate making, Crab and 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 a 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 specialize in communication for development using different IEC tools and developing community-led creative industries based on the entrepreneurship model through capacity building and 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
MURSHIDABAD
PURULIA
JHARKHAND
RANCHI
GOMIA
CHHATTISGARH
KANSABEL
MUMBAI
BIHAR

West Bengal

South 24 Parganas

North 24 Parganas

Kolkata

Nadia

West Medinipur

East Medinipur

Hooghly

Darjeeling

Murshidabad

Purulia

Jharkhand

Ranchi

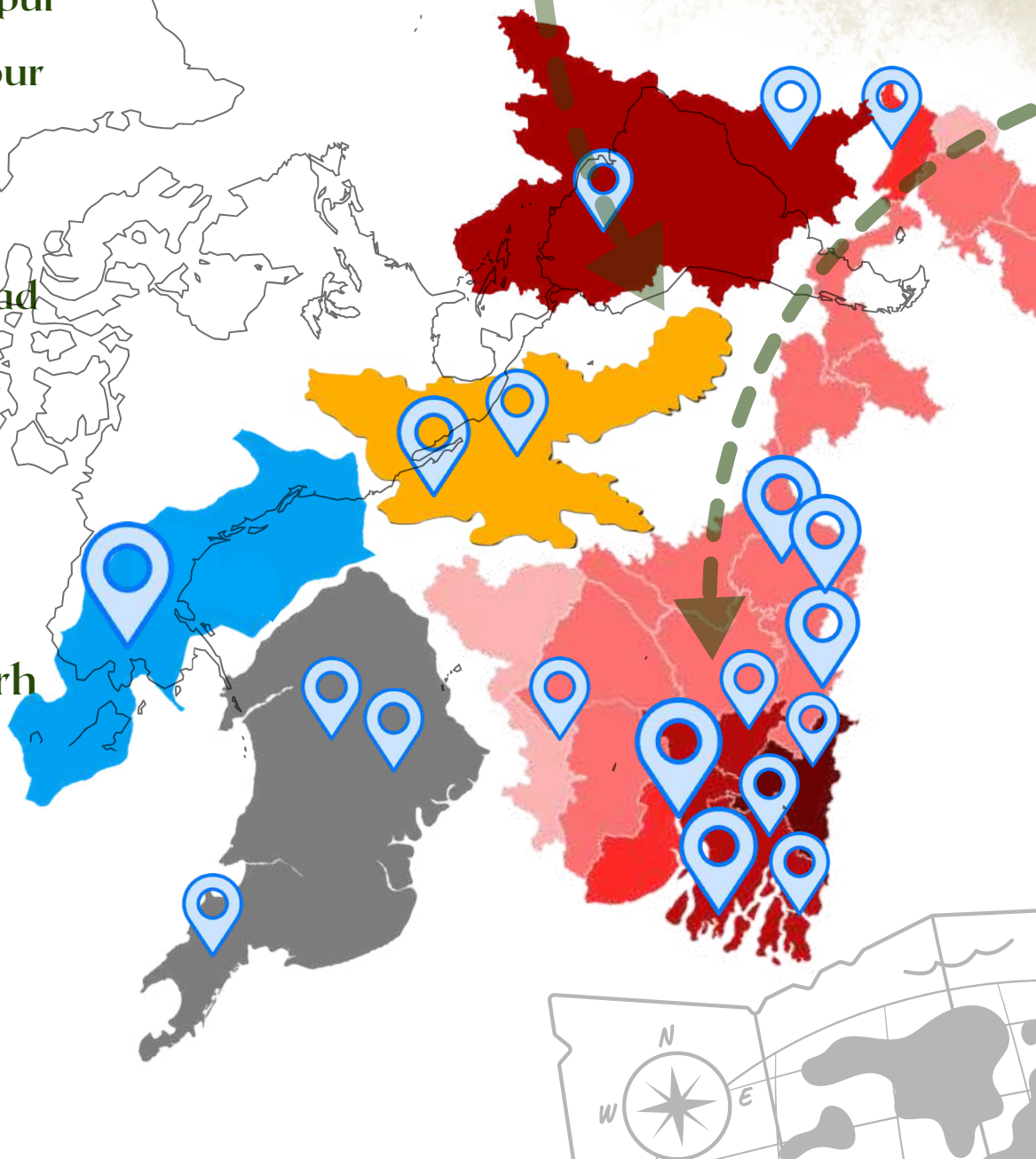
Gomia

Chhattisgarh

Kansabel

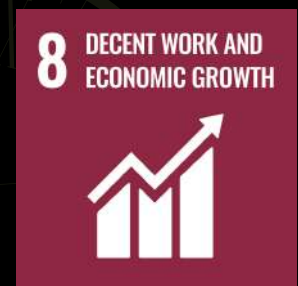
Mumbai

Bihar



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR

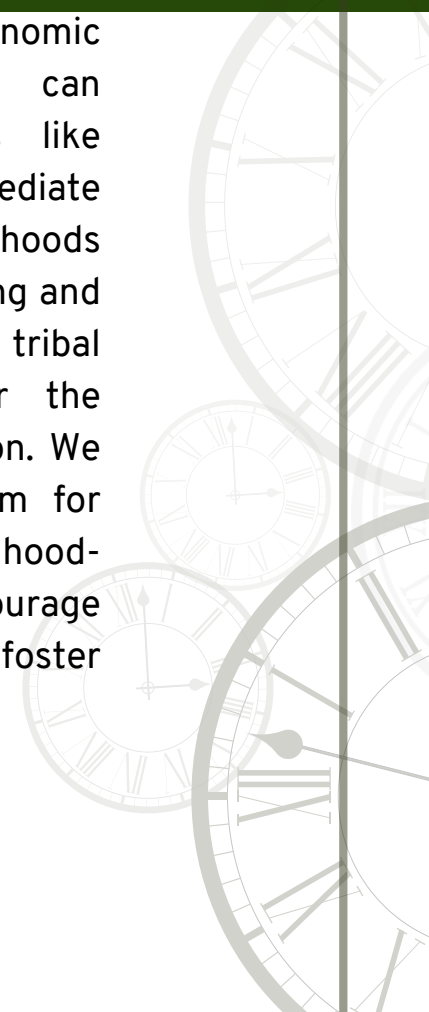
**KOLKATA SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE (KSCH)
IS IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE
UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SINCE 2023**





ABOUT KSCH

Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH) is a social enterprise functioning at the grassroots 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 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 livelihoods 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



BAN-MOHATSAV 2023

Mass Plantation Drive: As part of the state-wide Ban Mahotsav, KSCH participated in a mass plantation drive, which was inaugurated by Honorable Minister Shri Bankim Chandra Hazra. This initiative aimed to enhance biodiversity and improve the local environment through large-scale tree planting.

Recognition: KSCH was honored for its significant contributions to biodiversity and wildlife conservation. This recognition highlighted KSCH's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and its efforts to create a greener future.



BOSCO BRAIN CHILD EVENT

Event Participation: KSCH participated in the Bosco Fest 2023, where President Smt. Arpita Mukherjee served as a judge for the Bosco Brain Child event. This competition focused on innovative solutions for solid waste management.

School Engagement: Over 15 schools, including La Martiniere for Boys and Calcutta Boys, participated in the event, showcasing their creative approaches to managing waste and promoting sustainability.



REDUCING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

KSCH responded swiftly to rescue a Kaalnagini snake (*Chrysopelea Ornata*) in Jaynagar, Majilpur, with the cooperation of the Directorate of Forest's Baruipur Range Office. Rescuing a snake and releasing it back into its natural habitat allows the snake to continue its role in the ecosystem, controlling pest populations and maintaining ecological balance. This action also reduces human-snake conflicts and supports biodiversity, contributing to the overall health and stability of the environment.





KHELO INDIA 2024

The second edition of the Women Sports Championship under "Khelo India Khelo" concluded on February 18, 2024. Organized by the Sports Authority of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, the event saw participation from seven states and was held in association with the West Bengal Cyclists Association and KSCH

WORLD MANGROVE DAY 2023

The Directorate of Forest, 24 Parganas South Division, entrusted KSCH with over 1,020 hectares of non-forest land for mangrove restoration. KSCH has successfully restored more than 200 hectares and established a nursery. The initiative has generated over 20,000 man-days of employment for underprivileged villagers. On World Mangrove Day, the allocation of 1,020 hectares of non-forest land was formally announced, marking the largest state government initiative in the Sundarbans. KSCH plans to plant and maintain nearly two crore mangroves over the next five years, creating more than 2 lakh man-days of jobs and applying for carbon credits



WORKSHOP ON LOW EMISSION ZONES

Strategy Development: KSCH participated in a workshop focused on developing strategies for low-emission zones. The event, held at the British Club, was jointly organized by the British Deputy High Commission and West Bengal Transport Corporation. It featured insights from Mr. Steve Carroll of CENEX UK, an expert on low-emission transport solutions.



STATE CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Green Transport Promotion: KSCH organized the State Cycling Championship to promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transport. The event attracted new participants from across West Bengal, raising awareness about the environmental benefits of cycling.



WORLD TOURISM DAY

Guest of Honor: KSCH Founder Mr. Sourav Mukherjee was the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the World Tourism Day event organized by Amity Institute of Travel & Tourism in Kolkata. His speech highlighted the importance of sustainable tourism practices and their impact on local communities and environments.



INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY

Green Transport Promotion: KSCH organized the State Cycling Championship to promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transport. The event attracted new participants from across West Bengal, raising awareness about the environmental benefits of cycling.



PRESERVING BENGAL'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

UNESCO Workshop: For the first time, KSCH was represented at UNESCO's workshop on "Intangible Cultural Heritage as an Enabler for Sustainable Development." The workshop focused on the role of cultural heritage in promoting sustainable development and included presentations by President Ms. Arpita Mukherjee and Mr. Sayantan Das Purakayastha.



RECYCLING PARTNER OF BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION

Coronation Celebration: During the coronation celebrations of King Charles III and Queen Consort, KSCH took a prominent role by showcasing a variety of recycled and upcycled products made from electronic waste. This exhibition was part of the Abartani project, which aims to convert electronic waste into useful and aesthetically pleasing items.

Environmental Impact: The showcased products underscored the innovative ways in which KSCH addresses the electronic waste crisis. By repurposing electronic waste, KSCH not only reduces environmental pollution but also raises awareness about sustainable waste management practices.



WATER ATM FOR PURIFIED DRINKING WATER

Addressing Water Scarcity: KSCH installed a Water ATM in Kultali, a region affected by water scarcity and arsenic contamination. The Water ATM provides desalinated, arsenic-free drinking water 24/7, ensuring that local villagers and forest staff have access to clean and safe drinking water.

This expanded report provides a more comprehensive overview of KSCH's diverse initiatives and their impacts throughout the year, highlighting the organization's commitment to sustainability, community development, cultural heritage, and environmental conservation.

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS PRESENTATION

Multi-Stakeholder Event: KSCH presented its comprehensive sustainability projects at the "Multi-stakeholder Initiative for Dialogues, Collaboration & Action involving EU Businesses & Stakeholders on CSR & Sustainability in India." This event was organized by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I).

EU Representation: The event featured notable attendees such as Mr. Laurent le Danois from the Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan. This collaboration with European stakeholders fostered discussions on best practices and innovative solutions for sustainability.

Multi-stakeholder
Dialogue for
Collaborative Actions on
Sustainability and SDGs

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON SUNDARBAN POTOCHITRO

‘Traditional Art Revival: KSCH conducted capacity-building training sessions for 24 underprivileged women in Jharkhali to revive the traditional Pot Chitra (Scroll Painting) of the Sundarbans. These sessions aimed to preserve this unique art form and provide sustainable livelihoods for the participants. Efforts are underway to seek UNESCO accreditation for this art form.



ILLUMINATING THE SUNDARBAN WITH SOLAR STREET LIGHTS

Solar Initiative: KSCH installed 30 solar street lights in six forest fringe villages in Kultali. These lights generate 219 kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity annually, enhancing safety and reducing human-wildlife conflict.

Overall Impact: KSCH produces a total of 401.5 kilowatt-hours of renewable green electricity annually, supported by the Super Shakti Foundation. This initiative demonstrates the organization's commitment to renewable energy and sustainable development.



COMMUNITY LIBRARY IN NEW TOWN

Establishment: In collaboration with NKDA and WBHIDCO, KSCH established the first charitable community library in New Town. This library aims to foster a love for reading and provide free access to books for residents.

Inauguration: Shri Debashis Sen, Chairman of NKDA, inaugurated the library and urged local residents to donate books and support its growth.

SMILE INITIATIVE

Clothing Donation: KSCH, in collaboration with the Directorate of Forest, Government of West Bengal, donated new clothes to 700 underprivileged families in the G-Plot Ramganga range. This initiative aimed to foster unity and compassion within the community during the Durga Puja celebrations.



RIGHT TO EDUCATION

KSCH provided 'education kits' to over 55 underprivileged students at Nilambarpur Vidyamandir, fostering equality and inclusivity in education. By equipping these children with essential supplies like books, notebooks, and writing materials, the initiative helps close the educational gap created by economic disparities. This support boosts their academic performance and self-esteem while paving the way for future employment opportunities and personal development, ultimately aiding in breaking the cycle of poverty.



SUSTAINABLE PARTNER FOR DURGA PUJA

KSCH partnered with Almere Durga Puja in the Netherlands and Saltlake CE Block Durga Puja to promote eco-friendly practices. During the Durga Puja celebrations, KSCH showcased initiatives to the Mayor of Almere and celebrated the cultural significance of the Sundarbans. Promoting Durga Puja is the promotion of intangible cultural heritage recognized by UNESCO. Highlighting Durga Puja helps preserve these cultural expressions, fostering a sense of identity and continuity among communities, while showcasing the living traditions that contribute to humanity's collective heritage.



RECYCLING PARTNER FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEMORIAL CUP RECEPTION

Sustainable Event Management: KSCH served as the official recycling partner for the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Cup Reception, organized by the British Deputy High Commission. The partnership highlighted sustainable waste management practices and showcased KSCH's commitment to environmental conservation.



UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK INDIA FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION

Corporate Sustainability: KSCH participated in a focused group discussion organized by the UN Global Compact Network India (GCNI). The discussion explored opportunities for corporate sustainability and strategies to align business practices with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) strategy and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



PARIJAYI CAFETERIA INITIATIVE: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND CELEBRATING REGIONAL CULTURE

KSCH proudly supervised the launch of Parijayi, an all-women-run cafeteria in Jharkhali Wildlife Sanctuary, Sundarbans, inaugurated virtually on March 12th, 2024, by Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee. This initiative provides employment opportunities for local women and celebrates regional culture, offering authentic Sundarbans delicacies and managed by local self-help groups (SHGs).



WORLD BICYCLE DAY

Collaborative Event: KSCH, in collaboration with NKDA, WWF, and other organizations, organized a highly successful cyclothon and race at Ecopark Newtown. This event aimed to promote cycling as a healthy, environmentally friendly mode of transport.

Seminar: An evening seminar was conducted to discuss the various benefits of cycling and strategies to make it a more popular mode of city travel. Experts shared insights on infrastructure improvements, policy changes, and community engagement to encourage cycling.



CYCLE TO WORK INITIATIVE

Promotion of Sustainable Commuting: In collaboration with Shyam Steel Industries Limited and NKDA, KSCH launched the "Cycle to Work" initiative. This program offers free bicycle rentals and secure parking, encouraging people to adopt cycling as a regular mode of transport.



LOK UTSAB EVENT

KSCH supported the Lok Utsab event at Hingalgunj, Sundarbans, organized by Breathing Roots and Banglanatak dot com, showcasing vibrant cultural festivities. Promoting local intangible culture helps preserve unique traditions, languages, and practices, ensuring their transmission to future generations. It fosters community pride and identity, supports cultural diversity, and can boost local economies through cultural tourism. By celebrating and sharing these cultural expressions, we strengthen social cohesion and contribute to a richer, more varied global heritage.



WORLD MUSIC DAY

Classical Music Festival: KSCH, along with Suromurchhana US, organized a festival at Uttam Mancha to celebrate World Music Day. The event paid tribute to classical music legends Pt. A.T. Kanan and Vidushi Malabika Kanan, featuring performances by renowned artists and promoting the rich heritage of classical music.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Workshop on Solid Waste Management: In partnership with the Zoological Garden, Alipore and the Government of West Bengal, KSCH organized an educational workshop focused on solid waste management. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to manage waste effectively.

Participants: Thirty children from an orphanage took part in the workshop, where they engaged in hands-on activities to create products from solid waste materials. This practical approach helped them understand the importance of recycling and the creative potential of waste materials.





COMMUNITY MANGROVE PROJECT AND CRAB CULTIVATION

Project Implementation: In collaboration with Soroptimist International of South Kolkata (SISK), KSCH implemented the Community Mangrove Project and Crab Cultivation. The project involved planting 1500 mangroves and setting up 25 crab cultivation boxes in Jharkhali, promoting environmental sustainability and providing livelihoods for local communities.



OUR CLIENTS



CLIENTS TESTIMONIALS



British Deputy High Commission Kolkata

13 May 2023

The President
Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage
43, Seeta Pally Garia Kolkata - 700046 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 in our waste recycling project 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 1st 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. Almost 16 half kilo 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 aspects of the event stand 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
Department of Forests
Office of the Chief Commissioner of Forest and Field Director
Sunderban Tiger Reserve
Canning Town, Dist. 24 - Parganas (South)
West Bengal - 700028

No. 715/D2B-2(MISC) Dated: 01.12.22

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCCH), (Reg. S21/1452) successfully organized training program on scroll painting (patuchitra) for SHGs in SWLS Range head quartered in Pabnis and Bahadur Range head quartered at Jhita. KSCCH also provided training to develop different merchandise products like lantern, kerchie, cloth, t-shirts, clay pots and etc. They used different folklores like Bamsibi, paiti, Manusha Mangal, Chandi 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
Sunderban Tiger Reserve

Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
24 Parganas (South) Division
4th floor, New Administrative Building
12, Highdy Kachhali Bhattacharjee Sree Swarna
Alipore, Kolkata - 700 027

Tele & fax: 0331 2479-9032, Email - dfo24parga@s-wb@gov.in

We know Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCCH) is an 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 litter and waste conflict. Previously they successfully implemented multiple projects under our jurisdiction with able supervision of our department.

KSCCH & 'Samsat' successfully completed the installation of 25 solar street lights in forest fringe area in collaboration with 'Bengal Intelligent Parks Pvt. Ltd. under TCG Real Estate of the 'Chatterjee Group' and TCG Foundation. The project covered 4 Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMCs) that helped over 6,000 indigenous 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 litter and waste conflict. We are expecting your support in future as well.

Wishing you all the best.

(Mita Kanti Mandal, W.D.F.O.)
Divisional Forest Officer
24 Parganas (South) Division

Government of West Bengal
Department of Forest
Office of the Chief Commissioner of Forest and Field Director
Sunderban Tiger Reserve
Canning Town, Dist. 24 - Parganas (South)
West Bengal - 700028

No. 715/D2B-2(MISC) Dated: 01.03.2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCCH), (Reg. S21/1452) successfully organized a festival cum exhibition on scroll painting (patuchitra) for SHGs in SWLS Range. KSCCH also provided training to develop different merchandise products like lantern, kerchie, t-shirts, clay pots and etc. KSCCH successfully established direct market linkage for the beneficiaries. KSCCH also organized capacity building sessions on marketing skills for the beneficiaries. KSCCH also conducted profitable buyers with the beneficiaries. KSCCH trained the beneficiaries for interactive session, 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
Sunderban Tiger Reserve

CHATTERJEE Group
The Value of Time
TCG Foundation
9B Wood Street, 4th Floor
Kolkata - 700016

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify, Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage, a non-profit organization registered under Regulation of Societies, WB Act of 1961 bearing registration NO. 50201452 of 2012-13 operating from 43, Seeta Pally, Garia, Kolkata 700046 completed the following CSR project supported by TCG Foundation, 9B Wood Street, Kolkata, 700016 during the Financial Year 2022-23. The Primary Contributor for this Project was Bengal Intelligent Parks Pvt Ltd.

Installation of 25 solar Street Lights in Kachhali Village in the Kachhali Community Development Block of district Bahadurpore, 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 13th January 2023 and the formal Inauguration Programme was held at the Project Site on 22nd February 2023.

Certified / Signed Utilization Certificate and Valid also Statement of Expenses are due from Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage on or 30th June 2023 and 31st December 2023.

[Signature]
Sneha Mukta
Authorized Signatory
TCG Foundation, Kolkata

MERLIN PROJECTS LIMITED

File No: 143A/2022

To
The President
Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage
43, Seeta Pally Garia Kolkata - 700046 India

Subject: Completion and Appreciation letter for Sarangachi cultural project

Dear Arpita Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to provide this letter of completion and appreciation for the successful work done by Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (Registration No. 50201452 of 2012-13) for providing necessary equipment to Sarangachi KSCCH for undertaking activities in Kachhali, Kolkata.

We are the CSR Inhabited of Merlin Group - "I am Kachhali". KSCCH will utilize the funds provided to purchase and install vital equipment, including computers, water filter, ceiling fans, and sports materials for the Sarangachi 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 in Sarangachi 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 contribution to this project.

[Signature]
Sanku's Chatterjee
Sanku Chatterjee
Vice President - Corporate Communications, Corporate Affairs & CSR
Merlin Group
Email: sanchatterjee@merlinprojects.com



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



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



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



Linkdin
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ksch/>