

2024 - 25



ANNUAL REPORT



KOLKATA SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

Index

A word from the founder
A word from the president
Our Reach
About KSCH

Key Initiatives and Achievements

Chitropot: Reviving the Lost Art of Sundarban Patachitra
India Post – Special Cover Release
Education & Empowerment: Right to Education

Sustainability and Conservation

Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict
Key Initiatives and Achievements
Mangrove Plantation
Cyclone Relief

Community Engagement & Cultural Celebrations

Banabibi-Dakshinray Festival 2025
Monsoon Charity Fair
Winter Donation Drive
World Tiger Day
Khelo India & Green Transport Promotion
Sight and Vision Initiative
Health - Wellbeing & prosperity

Recognition & Collaborations

Economic Times Now - Industry Icons 2025
Participation in Bengal Global Business Summit 2025
Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Cup Reception

Our Clients.
Clients Testimonials.
Join With Us.



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.

Sourov Mukherjee



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

OUR REACH

West Bengal

South 24 Parganas

North 24 Parganas

Kolkata

Nadia

West Medinipur

East Medinipur

Hooghly

Darjeeling

Murshidaabad

Purulia

Jharkhand

Ranchi

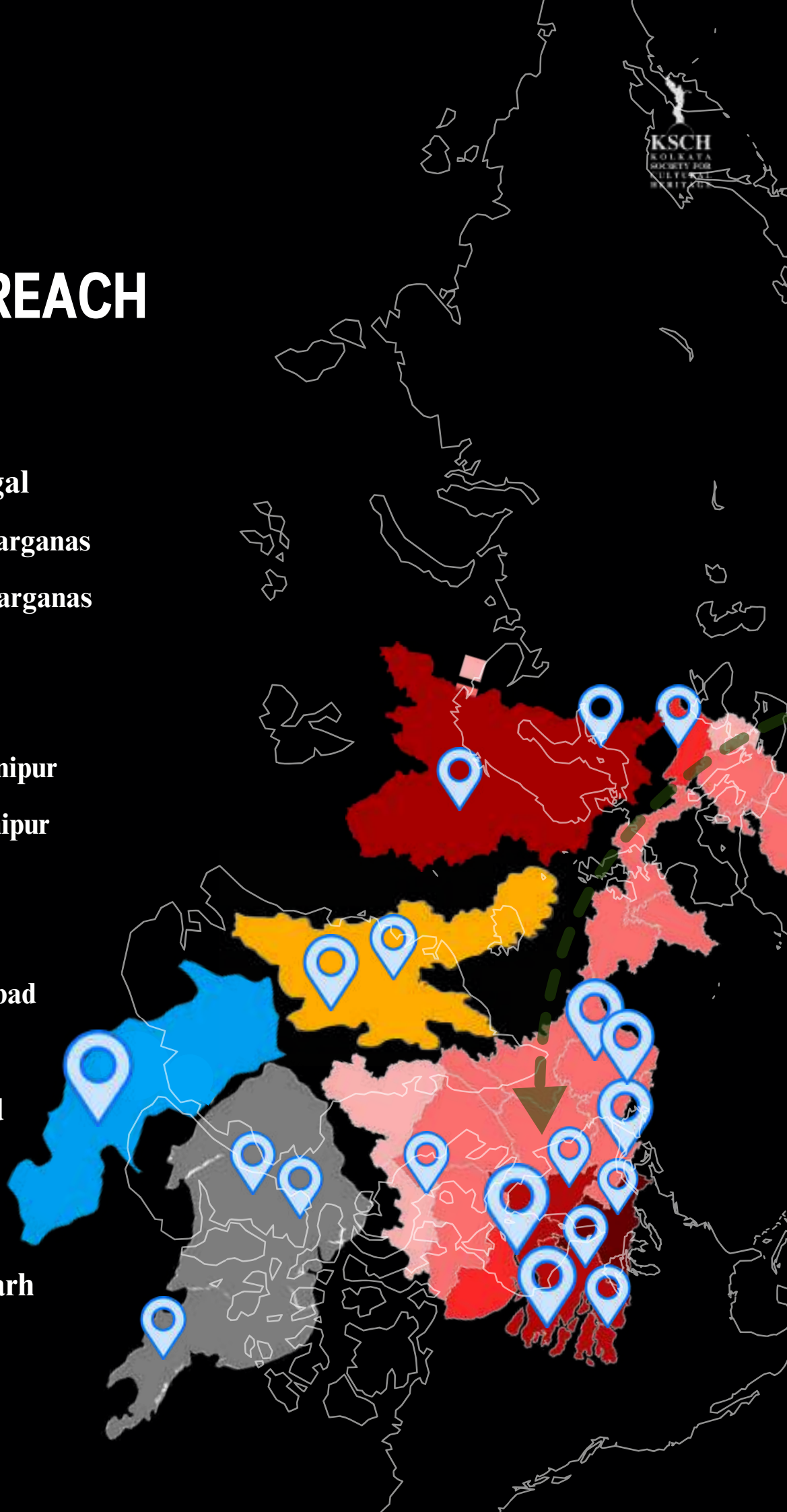
Gomia

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 2023





INTRODUCTION

the Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH), founded in 2013, is a social enterprise committed to promoting sustainable development and preserving the cultural heritage of rural, urban, and tribal communities across India. Our mission is to empower underserved populations, with a particular focus on women, by addressing social challenges through community-driven programs and environmentally responsible initiatives. KSCH's work encompasses sustainable livelihoods, environmental protection, education, healthcare, and the preservation of cultural traditions, with significant efforts in various regions of the country.

At KSCH, we believe that economic independence is essential for lasting community development. Through initiatives such as self-help groups (SHGs), support for traditional arts and crafts, and environmental projects like the Mangrove Community Forest Movement, we aim to create meaningful opportunities while protecting natural resources.

Since 2023, KSCH holds Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council, reflecting its credibility and international engagement.

Our dedication to impactful change was recognized in 2020 when KSCH received the Chanakya Award for NGO of the Year from the Public Relations Council of India.



KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



CHITROPOT: REVIVING THE LOST ART OF SUNDARBAN PATACHITRA

Chitropot is a collaborative initiative between KSCH and the South 24-Parganas Forest Division, unveiled at Gallery Gold in Kolkata in April 2024 to spotlight a nearly lost art form – The Sunderban Patachitra. It is a traditional art form from Bengal in which artists paint long, continuous narratives on cloth using colours made entirely from natural materials. Over time, however, the region's remoteness and the absence of reliable markets caused most practitioners to abandon the craft.

The exhibition featured over fifty cloth-based paintings and two extended narrative scrolls crafted by forty women artists from the Jharkhali Joint Forest Management Committee. Beginning in 2022, KSCH organized intensive training cycles where professional mentors taught traditional brush techniques, dye extraction methods and compositional design, emphasizing locally sourced pigments—such as indigo from mangroves, soot-black and mineral reds—to reconnect the work with its ecosystem. By securing fair-trade pricing and establishing urban and online sales channels, Chitropot has revived this cultural treasure while providing reliable income for the participating women artisans.

INDIA POST SPECIAL COVER RELEASE

India Post marked the 11th anniversary of KSCH by issuing a Patachitra-themed special postal cover and matching stamp at the General Post Office in Kolkata on 14 May 2024, the first time the Indian Postal Service in this region has officially recognised the cultural revival of Patachitra in the Sundarbans. The cover's artwork features motifs of mangrove flora and depictions of local folklore, while the stamp displays a detailed segment of a cloth scroll painted by women artisans trained under KSCH's Chitropot programme. The postal release ceremony, attended by senior officials and KSCH representatives, highlighted the society's decade-long efforts to restore this nearly lost art form and to create sustainable livelihoods for the region's women.





SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION



A man wearing a white polo shirt, a dark cap, and sunglasses is holding a large, light-colored snake. He is standing in the center of a group of people, including several children and women, in a rural, outdoor setting with trees and foliage in the background. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark rectangle containing text.

REDUCING HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

KSCH collaborated with the Matla Range Office to safely rescue a venomous Kewte snake. In the Sundarbans, human–wildlife encounters with tigers, crocodiles, and snakes pose significant risks. Such rescue missions are vital in the Sundarbans, where dense mangrove forests bring humans into frequent contact with tigers, crocodiles and snakes. By demonstrating humane handling techniques and explaining animal behaviour, KSCH teams help local residents understand how to avoid dangerous encounters. Outreach sessions in villages share practical measures—such as securing food and waste, maintaining clear pathways and using simple alarms—to discourage wildlife from entering human settlements. Over time, these efforts reduce fear-driven killings and foster a spirit of coexistence. Ultimately, KSCH’s approach balances safety with conservation, helping to maintain the region’s rich biodiversity while safeguarding livelihoods and promoting respect for the natural world



MANGROVE PLANTATION

A collaborative effort between KSCH and Soroptimist International of South Kolkata - joined by expert volunteers from Germany and Scotland - led to the planting of over 48,000 mangrove saplings along the vulnerable shores of the Sundarbans. Beyond strengthening embankments against erosion and storm surges, these mangrove forests serve as powerful “blue carbon” sinks, sequestering carbon at rates up to five times greater than terrestrial woodlands, and restoring rich habitats for fish, crustaceans and birds. By integrating hands-on training, ecological restoration and long-term monitoring, this initiative not only strengthens coastal resilience but also offers sustainable income opportunities through improved fisheries and emerging eco-tourism ventures.

A photograph of three men standing under a thatched roof. The man on the left is wearing a light blue shirt and a patterned tie. The man in the middle is wearing a grey polo shirt and glasses. The man on the right is wearing a black shirt with a red collar and a patterned shawl. In the background, there is a white banner with green leaves and the text 'KSCH KOLKATA SOCIETY'.

CYCLONE RELIEF

When Severe Cyclonic Storm Remal struck the Sundarbans on 26 May 2024, it brought torrential rains, fierce winds and devastating floods that uprooted homes and lives across the region. In response, KSCH teams moved quickly to reach the hardest-hit villages, distributing emergency shelter kits that included tarpaulins, blankets and basic tools to help families rebuild temporary roofs and walls. Alongside these supplies, we provided food supplies to 5,000 displaced households. Recognising the long-term impact on farming, KSCH also provided agricultural rehabilitation support to the local people. Throughout the relief effort, volunteers and staff offered guidance on safe-well construction and basic hygiene practices, helping communities reduce waterborne illnesses. By combining immediate material aid with support for rebuilding livelihoods, KSCH's intervention helped thousands of Sundarbans residents move from crisis toward stability and hope.

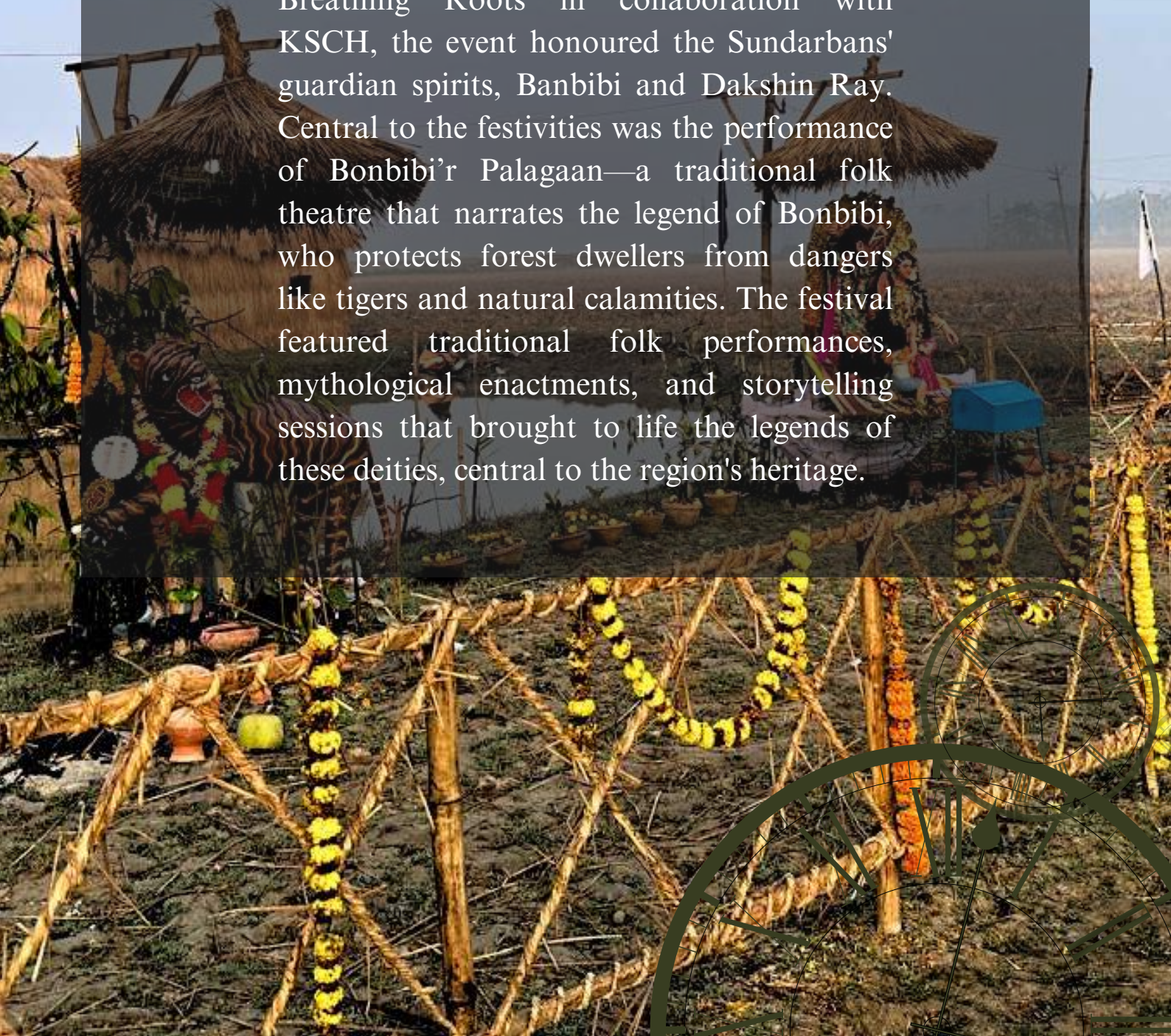


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

From January 31 to February 3, 2025, the Banbibi & Dakshin Ray Festival unfolded in Hingaljanj, blending cultural celebration with environmental awareness. Organized by Breathing Roots in collaboration with KSCH, the event honoured the Sundarbans' guardian spirits, Banbibi and Dakshin Ray. Central to the festivities was the performance of Bonbibi'r Palagaan—a traditional folk theatre that narrates the legend of Bonbibi, who protects forest dwellers from dangers like tigers and natural calamities. The festival featured traditional folk performances, mythological enactments, and storytelling sessions that brought to life the legends of these deities, central to the region's heritage.





MONSOON CHARITY FAIR

In collaboration with the British Deputy High Commission, the Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH) organized the Monsoon Charity Fair, spotlighting the artistic talents of marginalized women from the Sundarbans. The event showcased a diverse array of handcrafted items, including traditional Patachitra paintings, lanterns, T-shirts, and home décor, all inspired by the region's rich cultural heritage. The fair not only provided them with a platform to display their creations but also facilitated direct market access, ensuring fair compensation for their work. By bridging the gap between rural craftsmanship and urban markets, the initiative empowered these women economically and played a pivotal role in preserving the Sundarbans' intangible cultural heritage.



WINTER DONATION DRIVE

During the colder months, KSCH initiated a Winter Donation Drive to support forest-fringe tribal communities in the Sundarbans. Recognizing the challenges posed by dropping temperatures, the organization distributed blankets and warm clothing to vulnerable families. This effort aimed to mitigate cold-related health risks and provide comfort to those lacking adequate winter protection. By addressing immediate needs, the initiative contributed to the well-being and resilience of these remote communities during the harsh season.



ADVOCACY & AWARENESS





WORLD TIGER DAY

On July 29, 2024, the Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH) was honoured by the Sundarban Tiger Reserve for its dedicated efforts in tiger conservation. Collaborating with the reserve, KSCH organized awareness camps aimed at educating local communities about the importance of preserving tiger habitats and promoting coexistence. These initiatives are crucial in the Sundarbans, where human-wildlife interactions are frequent due to overlapping habitats. KSCH's programs contribute to reducing conflicts and ensuring the safety of both humans and tigers. Such efforts align with broader conservation goals, emphasizing the role of local communities in protecting endangered species and maintaining ecological balance.



KHELO INDIA & GREEN TRANSPORT PROMOTION

In line with the national Khelo India initiative, the Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH) actively promotes cycling as a sustainable and healthy mode of transport. By participating in events like the 44th West Bengal State Cycling Championship, KSCH encourages youth engagement in sports, aligning with the program's objectives to foster a strong sports culture at the grassroots level. Through these efforts, KSCH not only advocates for environmental consciousness by endorsing green transportation but also contributes to the holistic development of young individuals by instilling discipline, teamwork, and a spirit of healthy competition. Their involvement underscores the organization's commitment to integrating physical well-being with sustainable practices, reflecting a broader vision of community development and ecological responsibility.



SIGHT AND VISION INITIATIVE

In collaboration with the Flawless Foundation, the Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH) organized free eye camps in the Sundarbans region, providing essential vision care to 100 individuals. These camps offered comprehensive eye examinations, and for individuals diagnosed with refractive errors, corrective spectacles were distributed at no cost. By addressing vision impairments, the initiative aimed to enhance the quality of life for residents, enabling better participation in daily activities and livelihoods. Such efforts are particularly impactful in remote areas like the Sundarbans, where access to specialized healthcare services is limited. Through this program, KSCH and the Flawless Foundation demonstrated a commitment to improving primary health services and promoting well-being among marginalized populations.

alized People

e of Forest
f West Bengal



HEALTH - WELLBEING & PROSPERITY

Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH), in collaboration with North Barrackpore Municipality and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), has enhanced healthcare access by installing advanced medical equipment at Jamini Bhusan Memorial Maternity & General Hospital and Monirampur Poly Clinic under BPCL's CSR program. The initiative includes state-of-the-art devices like X-ray machines, Digital Radiography Panels, a 5-Part Hematology Analyzer, a High-End Ultrasound Machine (USG) with 4 Pro A, and ICU Ventilator 9C Plus. These upgrades significantly elevate diagnostic capabilities, emergency response, and overall patient care.

The inauguration on 20th February 2025, attended by dignitaries such as the Honorable MP & MLA of Barrackpore, the Chief Manager (Admin-HRS) of BPCL East, the Chairman of North Barrackpore Municipality, and the Director of KSCH, underscored the collaborative effort to strengthen local healthcare infrastructure.

Benefitting approximately 1.62 lakh rural residents, this initiative exemplifies CSR's impact in closing healthcare gaps and delivering life-saving advancements. KSCH pledges ongoing support to ensure sustained benefits, showcasing the power of partnership in fostering a healthier community.



RECOGNITION & COLLABORATIONS





ECONOMIC TIMES NOW INDUSTRY ICONS 2025

KSCH was honoured as the “Iconic Social Organization of the Year” by ET Now, recognising its innovative social enterprise model and significant impact in cultural preservation and community development.



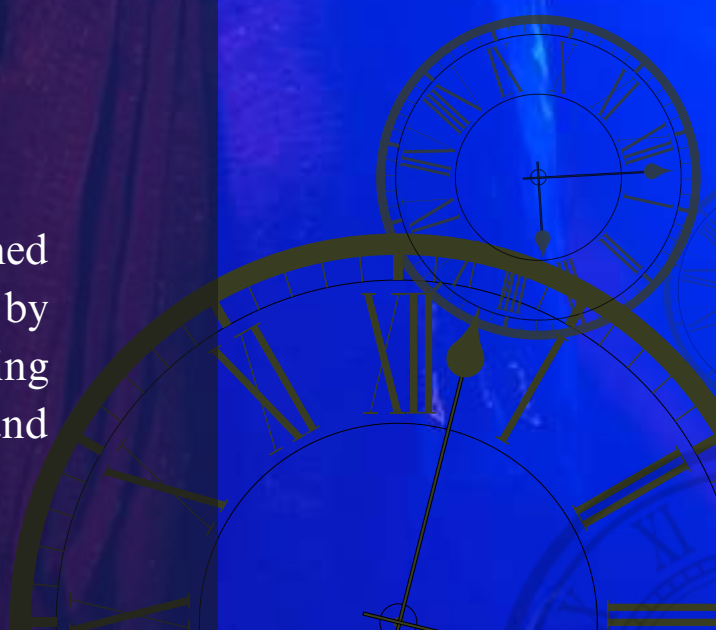
PARTICIPATION IN BENGAL GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT 2025

At this West Bengal government summit, KSCH leaders presented flagship projects on mangrove restoration, biodiversity conservation, and carbon-trading mechanisms. Their contributions drew commendations from representatives of the World Bank Group, UK Deputy Commission, and NABARD, bolstering future collaboration.

A photograph of a man and a woman at a night reception. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue suit, a white shirt, and a striped tie, and is smiling. The woman, on the right, is wearing a purple sari and has a bindi on her forehead. They are standing in front of a blurred background of other guests and lights.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEMORIAL CUP RECEPTION

KSCH's leadership strengthened international ties at this reception hosted by the British High Commission, facilitating dialogue on heritage conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

A decorative graphic of a clock face with Roman numerals, partially visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

OUR CLIENTS



CLIENTS TESTIMONIALS





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