

## SHIS NEWS LETTER – NOVEMBER 2011

**Editor:**

**M. A. Wohab, Director-SHIS**

**Advisor:**

**Ms. Sabitri Pal, President-SHIS**

**Published By:**

**Southern Health Improvement Samity (SHIS)  
P.O. Bhangar, District: South 24 Parganas**

***E-mail: [mawohab@yahoo.com](mailto:mawohab@yahoo.com) / [wohab@shisindia.org](mailto:wohab@shisindia.org)***

***Phone: [91-3218-270-245](tel:91-3218-270-245) / [271 034](tel:91-3218-271-034)***

***Fax: [91-3218 –271-969](tel:91-3218-271-969)***

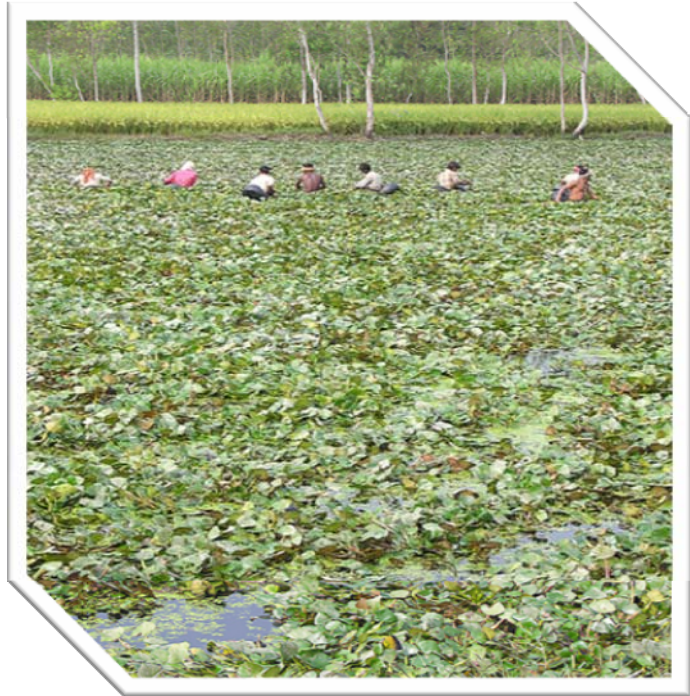
***Mobile: [9830031780](tel:9830031780) / [9433007878](tel:9433007878)***

***Website: [www.shisindia.org](http://www.shisindia.org)***

## Cultivation of water fruit in flooded paddy field of Sunderbans

- Sk Soharab Uddin

Undivided Bengal is a Land of Abundance of water bodies. This is also true of Southern Part of West Bengal to a great extent, specially in Sunderbans area consisting of 19 Blocks of North and South 24 Parganas, Flooding is an annual recurrence in monsoon /rainy season. To illustrate the point being raised, the paddy field in Baduria Block of North 24 Parganas gets flooded during rainy season which causes havoc due to overflowing of Ichamati river Landless workers take on lease other's land to cultivate



vegetables. But this proves to be an uneconomic Proposition due to cost of pesticide, manure etc. Landless farmers turn their attention to Wetlands, mostly submerged in water they get it on low lease rate and cultivate water fruit on the water surface of the wetland.

They purchase seedling plants before monsoon sets in and plant the same on the wet floor of the wetland and during the full swing of monsoon the creeper covers the whole surface of water bodies with roots fruits all around. It lasts for 5 Months. This fruit is rich in carbohydrate, calcium & calories. In Gujarat peasants dry out the white pulp of the fruit and powder the same through machine to make nutritious flour for their daily bread. They export the same to Delhi & Mumbai, where, cake, Biscuits etc. is also made out of the same.

In Sunderbans, vast track of water bodies turn saline after flooding. With suitable genetic modification of the seeds of the fruit to make the plant salinity resistant. This will open up opportunity for vast profitable operations of water fruit cultivation over almost whole of Sunderbans and open of new avenues of income for 4m. People of Sunderbans.

## Himachal shows the way for recycling of non-biodegradable Plastic Pollutant

- By our own correspondent

Plastic has opened up a revolution in packaging and carrying of mercantile commodities, but has added nightmarish prospect of choking of drains, canals, agricultural fields etc, being the motion of civilization to a standstill. But Himachal showed the breakthrough by using thrown away Plastic, after processing, to lay down a layer of plastic sheet, over which Bitumen for road is



spread, making the road non-porous for water and thus increasing the durability, longevity of the road surface. Now people are collecting and storing the used plastics, instead of throwing it around and increasing the pollution of neighborhood & selling it to public works department, for them to use it in road construction.

For people of Kolkata this offers a golden opportunity to free ourselves from the marauding menace of plastic pollution & chalking and instead use it to make the road water resistant and increase their effectiveness and opening and opportunity for householders to make some money by selling their Plastic waste.

## Opening of an additional Vision Centre in Kolkata Slum area by SHIS Eye Care Hospital.

- By our own correspondent

SHIS Eye Care Hospital under Kolkata Urban Comprehensive Eye Care Project – Opened a vision Centre at Kohinoor Market near Park Circus. On 16<sup>th</sup> September this year another vision centre at Dilkhush street near Park Circus was opened through the initiative of Bulbul Hossain and opening ceremony was attended by



local dignitaries and eminent ophthalmologist Dr. V.K. Srivastheva. The Centre will function on Thursday & Friday. On the Opening day there were 178 patients, of which 72 female, 85 male & 21 children. 17 Patients were diagnosed as due for cataract operation and were sent for operation at SHIS Eye Care Hospital at Bhangar.

## Sunderban A refuse bin of contempt & Neglect

- Rabindranath Mondal

AILA came and years passed. Stormy season on AILA devastation and damage of embankments in the Islands, but nothing has moved since them. Sunderbans evoke a mixed feeling of fear and majestic glory. But people of Sunderbans are face to face with cruel adversity of the lives in desolate Sunderbans. The cruel neglect of the administration is more ferocious than the ones from Tiger in the land and crocodile in the river.



For last three years, People are passing through drought in one year and flood in the next. With Promise of total change in the scenario new government came after assembly election. There is plethora of activity in erecting marble plaque and promise of rosy future. But no change in the inevitable fate of hunger, shelterless-ness, insecurity in the lives of millions in Sunderbans. Relief and rehabilitation eluded their reach.

Law makers' allowance for car, Telephone etc has gone up by 2.5 to 5 lakhs rupees. Crores gone for commonwealth games Scandal. Anemia all around. No blood in the hospital. Roads in Jungle Mahal are awashed in blood. But Promises of India becoming economic Super Power is blaring out in Radio and TV channel. Scholars are busy in fighting out developmental options Embankment of earth or of cement. Earth will Come from Island or from outside, Height and width of Embankment. VIPs in Helicopters have filled up the sky. Sunderbans will become the Seventh Natural Wonder of the World and the treatment meted out to the famished People of Sunderbans will earn a place in Gunees Book of Record. Beggars are above Poverty Level (APL) and their pay masters are below poverty level (BPL). Left has done wrong for 34 years. the Right must be given 68 years to right the wrong, since construction takes double the time of destruction.

## Sunderbans – Ballad of Manik Peer is a Product of Cultural Blend

- Adhir Krishna Mondal

Sunderbans majestic greatest delta of the world is a hub of unique bio-diversity. Ancestors of four million people of Sunderbans came from far & wide and nearby districts. The tribal's, Scheduled caste and poor Muslims came through ages with their separate cultures. But the uncertainty of their lives and daily threats to their existence made them live together as one great family. Thereby evolved a mixed culture, breaking the barriers of language, caste and creed.

'Gold in Gold mine comes to an end, but treasures of wild life in Sunderbans is inexhaustible' - Pramatha Choudhuri. 'Tillers are the Product and protectors of their land' – Dakshina Ranjan Basu. With diverse nature abounds varied blend of best in culture. Along with Satya Pir, the folk lore of Manik Pir won the hearts of all, high or low, driving away all artificial barriers erected by vested interest. Before entering dense mangrove forests for wood or honey, they offer 'Sirni' (Offerings) to pancha (five) Pir'. On 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the year (1<sup>st</sup> Baisakhi), People let loose their cattle for pasture, and clean the stable and arrange items of worship there, Incense is burnt, conch shells are blown, the Muslim Priest swings the tail of the yak (Tibetan Cow) and then people from different background pray together for common good and prosperity of all. These helpless poor's living under constant threat of wild nature ('Red in tooth & Claw') and exploitation of affluent money lenders / businessmen / landlords, ray draw their confidence from their faith in almighty, disregarding all artificial barriers of Society, in their common cause and common interest to fight the common battle of their lives.

