

# ক্যানেল রোড সমাজ সেবা সমিতি



## Canal Road Samaj Seva Samity

### A Legacy Rooted in Social Responsibility

Founded in 1932, during India's freedom movement, Canal Road Samaj Seva Samity began as more than just a club – it was a silent yet powerful platform for patriots, reformers and common citizens who believed in building a better society. Its foundation was laid on the values of selfless service, community bonding and inclusive growth, ideals that continue to shape its work even today.

### Struggle to Service : A Historical Pillar of Hope

In the pre-independence era, when colonial rule loomed large, this modest club quietly became a sanctuary for freedom fighters, offering shelter, strategic meeting spaces, and moral support. What began as a meeting point for freedom fighters and youth with nationalist ideals, soon transformed into one of Kolkata's most respected socio-cultural organizations.



Its earliest members included visionaries like Late Taranath Ganguly, a respected freedom fighter, along with Late Manoranjan Ray, Late Bishwanath Banerjee, Late Shankar Das, Late Sachin Sarkar, Late Atul Dutta, Late Bijoy Mukherjee, Late Moni Mitra, Late Chitto Biswas, Late Ramesh Biswas, Late Santosh Das, Late Suren Dutta and other committed members, who transformed this space into a base for grassroots resistance. These pioneers laid the foundation for what would grow into a legacy of community care and cultural pride. After independence, this same spirit was redirected towards nation-building and community care – a transformation from revolution to rehabilitation.



### Torchbearers across Generations



In the post-independence years, Late Asim Banerjee, Late Mona Dutta, Late Ashok Banerjee, and Late Dibakar Pakhira carried forward the cultural and social torch of the club, mentoring the youth and guiding festival arrangements. Their efforts brought dignity, structure and a renewed vision to the club's work.

Today, that same commitment lives on through Shambhu Roy, Hemlal Ghosh, Babu Sarkar, Tapan Roy, Ratan Dutta, Shambhu Saha and Arun Das — senior members who act as pillars of wisdom, guiding both the internal management and external impact of the Samity's events and service projects. Carrying the fervor of Indian Freedom Struggle, the Club grew up day by day with the incessant toil of dedicated members and well wishers to reach the dimension of what it is today.

### Committed to Social Change : Then and now

Even today, Canal Road Samaj Seva Samity stands tall as a beacon of social commitment. Through decades of socio-political change, the club has remained firmly rooted in public welfare and neighbourhood engagement. Whether it is a festive celebration or a quiet winter evening, the Samity is always active in uplifting the underprivileged and creating platforms for those whose voices often go unheard.

### Empowerment through Inclusion



One of the Samity's most admirable traits is its focus on empowerment through inclusion. While Durga Puja is the club's flagship event, the essence of the celebration lies in its deeper purpose — fostering community spirit, providing livelihood and promoting social awareness. After independence, the club redirected its energy toward rebuilding society through service, culture and compassion.



The Puja became a medium to highlight social causes. Every year, the club selects themes that raise important issues — from women's empowerment to forgotten heritage, from marginalised voices to contemporary social struggles.

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## Celebrated Thematic Innovation



In 2022, the Samity's Puja theme — "Kaaler Srot" (Stream of Time) — recreated the old-world charm of Tagore family mansions, complete with nostalgic courtyard imagery. The concept stood out as one of the most artistically thoughtful themes that year. The club was honoured with the Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman by the West Bengal Government and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee — a moment of immense pride and gratitude for the entire community. In 2023, inspired by the traditional Ratha Yatra, the theme



"Ashwarath" (The Horse-Chariot) was designed to connect heritage with celebration. These concepts continue to make the Samity's Puja more than a religious event — it becomes a cultural statement rooted in art and awareness. In 2024, the theme "Shreeekshoy" paid tribute to the power of womanhood by honouring women who had been cast aside by society. These brave women stood beside the club during the celebration, not as passive recipients of sympathy, but as symbols of courage and dignity.

## Art As Livelihood

Beyond the celebration, the Samity provides year-long employment and creative platforms for local artisans, light designers, painters, sculptors and technical workers which truly brings meaningful employment through the Club's year long Puja planning and theme execution. Especially in times of crisis – such as post pandemic recovery this support has helped numerous families to sustain their livelihoods. The Puja is not just a display of art and culture but a way to create sustainable economic opportunities.



## Service Beyond the Festivities

The club organizes free health camps, blood donation drives and aid distributions during emergencies, such as floods or health crises. Workshops, discussions, and awareness campaigns — especially for youth, women, and the elderly — are conducted throughout the year. Cultural programs on the occasion of Birth / Death Anniversaries of great personalities of Indian Renaissance are organised every year to inbide their life struggles in our lives.

## 'Ek Paara, Ek Poribar'

What makes Canal Road Samaj Seva Samity unique is its unshaken belief that every member of the locality is part of a larger family. Their Durga Puja, which dazzles thousands, is still grounded in empathy, social purpose and neighborhood identity. Carrying forward the spirit of 'Ek Paara, Ek Poribar', the Samity provides educational support for underprivileged students, aid distributions during natural disasters. It also offers moral and financial support to elderly residents ensuring no one in the locality feels neglected or left behind. In an increasingly disconnected world, this club continues to set a powerful example — that culture and community, when combined with compassion, can truly change lives.



## Looking Ahead : Social Change through Cultural Roots



As it steps confidently into the future, Canal Road Samaj Seva Samity continues to redefine the role of a community club. It believes that culture can be a catalyst for social progress and that festivals are not merely events but opportunities to unite, uplift and educate. blending art with activism, celebration with compassion and tradition with transformation, the club serves as a powerful reminder of what a true community-based organization can achieve.

In a time where many cultural platforms are turning inward, Canal Road Samaj Seva Samity proudly looks outward – building bridges, raising awareness and quietly working towards a more inclusive, empathetic and empowered society. Thus, with the passage of time, Canal Road Samaj Seva Samity with a rich legacy of 93 years, known for its various social, cultural and sports activities have earned a steller reputation in the community.

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## CANAL ROAD SAMAJ SEVA SAMITY

- 📍 6, CANAL ROAD, KOLKATA - 700053
- ☎ +91 90070 35563 / 70037 16215
- ✉ samajsevasamity1955@gmail.com
- 🌐 canalroadsamajsevasamity.org