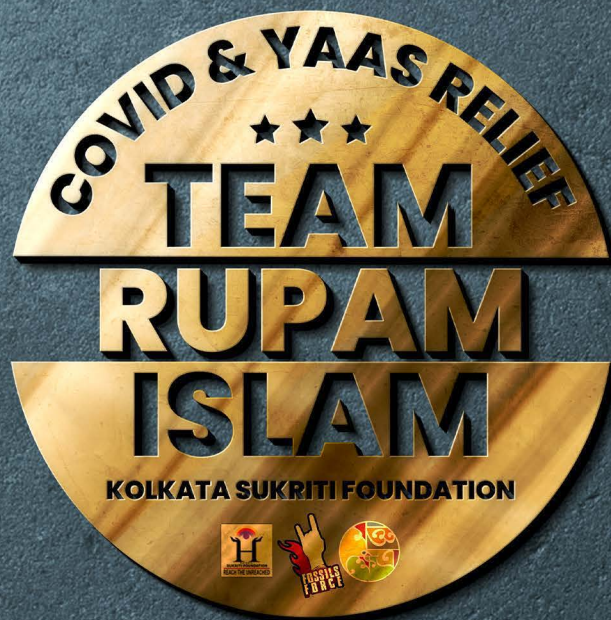




As Covid-19 second wave wrecked the country, West Bengal was not exempted. People used the social media to connect and help others in such a critical time. At this crucial juncture “Covid Relief – Team Rupam Islam” emerged under the initiative of Rupsha Dasgupta. Who were they? None other than the fans and followers of Rupam Islam from each and every corner of West Bengal. The official fan club of Bangla band 'Fossils', 'Fossils Force' and Rupam Islam Fan Club 'Muktokhetro' teamed up together. Under the leadership of Rupam Islam, Rupsha Dasgupta and in association with Kolkata Sukriti Foundation from 26th April 2021 Covid Relief – Team Rupam Islam started their journey. Working in total 18 districts (Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, North and South 24 Parganas, East & West Midnapur, East & West Burdwan, Jhargram, Purulia, Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri) of West Bengal, the volunteers took charge of almost all the requirements of the people in those areas. For the sake of help and relief, Rupam allowed the volunteers access and control two of his social media accounts of this noble initiative.

From delivering food to oxygen cylinders, giving leads for hospital-beds to ambulances, or gathering blood/plasma to medicines, oximeter, or even arranging for BiPAP, CPAP supports the Team was already ready. Be it midnight or afternoon, be it scorching heat or heavy downpour, be it Covid or Cyclone Yaas, keeping aside everything this team has build up an active defence line up between the life threat of Covid and fearsome common people.



The members of our online team have worked tirelessly for almost 24 hours daily as an Emergency Helpline for almost a month and a half starting from 26th April 2021. From sharing leads of hospital beds to oxygen cylinders, arranging medicine to ambulances, or even for mentally and morally supporting the patient and their relatives, members of Team Rupam Islam were just a phone call away. This online team had been vigilant in every nook and cranny of social media, aiding as many pleas as possible.



Our volunteers delivering free oxygen cylinders to the Covid affected house.

Murshidabad



From admitting an alone Covid patient to the hospital to delivering oxygen cylinder to Covid affected houses, arranging for medicines & ambulance for covid patients, or delivering essentials items to their house, Team Rupam Islam had its fingers in every pie and saw through it all.

Nadia



With the local eateries and restaurants being shut down, the stray animals had been no way to get food. The volunteers of Team Rupam Islam Krishnanagar took the initiative of feeding stray dogs and cats during this crisis period so that they wouldn't starve.



Alongside delivering oxygen cylinders and food, Team Rupam Islam Nadia also provided cooked food to the covid affected families and also helped in sanitizing the affected homes.

Nadia

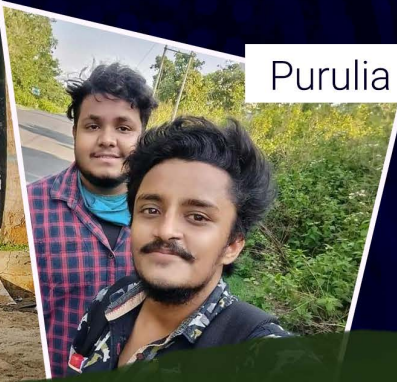
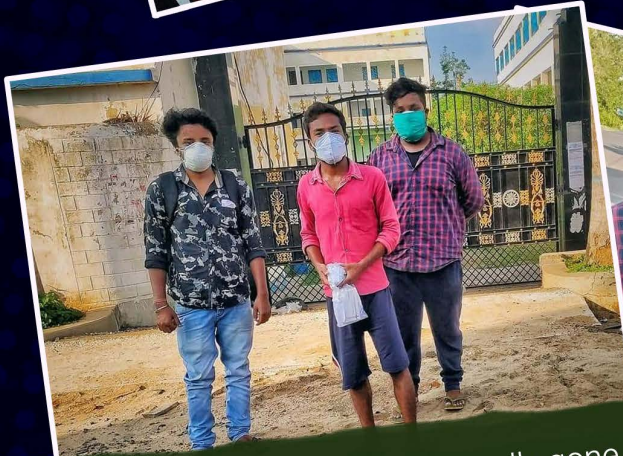


Burdwan



The volunteers of Team Rupam Islam Burdwan has not only helped people in arranging hospital beds and oxygen cylinder but also in association with Udaan Burdwan has regularly distributed free ration to needy and helpless people during the lockdown period when most of them were jobless.

Purulia



The volunteers of Team Rupam Islam Purulia has really gone an extra mile by covering a distance of 220 kilometers in a bike just to deliver emergency medicine to Covid and Pneumonia affected patient.

কলকাতা



The volunteers of Team Rupam Islam Kolkata has worked tirelessly round the clock in and around the city delivering vegetables, fruits, groceries, essentials items, medicines or even cooked food to Covid affected people, elderly senior citizens, or even people who were unable to come out of their houses due to various other reasons. They were also in charge of shipping the required medicines, safety gears and PPE Kits to the volunteers of Team Rupam Islam in various districts of West Bengal.



During the lockdown period when everything was closed, our only savior was home delivery services. Keeping aside the fear of anything, these home delivery executives were doing their duty of delivering our orders safely and securely at our doorstep. As roadside shops were closed and restaurant food is not affordable by them regularly, they were continuously working for 14-15 hours without having a single bite of food. As a gesture of gratitude, members of Team Rupam Islam took the decision to keep dry food items, water and juice for them and hand it over to them when they come for delivery. Many people outside the team have also joined us in this noble initiative. Though the current situation is a little better than before, still this initiative hasn't stopped.



The blood and plasma crisis was huge during this period alongside the Covid situation. To tackle the situation, Team Rupam Islam and Bloodmates joined hands to organize multiple blood donation camps during that period. They also came forward to take care of the blood crisis at M.R. Bangur Hospital.

Nitasha Das, a member of Bloodmates mentioned that Rupam Islam's Facebook Page had a major role here. another member, Arpita Roy Chowdhury mentioned, she received an average of 70-80 phone calls during that time. 'Normally during summertime, there is a huge scarcity of blood and on top of that, due to the fear of Covid-19, it was really difficult to make people understand and make them agree to donate blood by going to Blood Bank or at the Hospital. Whenever Team Rupam Islam received any enquiry for Plasma or Blood, Bloodmates have come forward, in the same way, whenever we have received any enquiry for Hospital Beds, Oxygen, Ambulance for Covid patients, we have forwarded them to Team Rupam Islam. In this way, our slogan **"Ashol Ashtro Somonnoy"** was justified.'



Team Rupam Islam also took care of the mental wellness of all the volunteers. In this initiative we were aided by Psychologist Suparna Ghosh, who agreed to take complimentary group sessions and sometimes personal sessions without any monetary reimbursement, guiding the team on how to take care of their mental health while working as a frontline worker during this pandemic situation.



With the bettering of the situation as the Covid helplines were receiving fewer enquiries than before, Team Rupam Islam in association with Kolkata Sukriti Foundation started Free Covid Vaccination drive. It began with the frontline volunteers of the team and later moved to the underprivileged and people below the poverty line. All of them were vaccinated while Team Rupam Islam bore not only the cost of vaccination but their conveyance charges. In this initiative, a total of 553 individuals are vaccinated till now.



All our work is still going on along with the preparation of any upcoming crisis situation that may arise. You can also help us with your generous donation by clicking the below link.



<https://milaap.org/fundraisers/support-covid-19-affected-people-3>



An initiative by Team Rupam Islam and Kolkata Sukriti Foundation led by Member-Directors Rupam Islam & Rupsha Dasgupta