

Special Edition  
for 49th Kolkata  
International  
Book Fair



Green

## ECO-STORIES- *Redefined*

*Vol. 1*

*Issue 2*

*January, 2026; Kolkata*

**West Bengal Pollution Control Board**





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Environmental awareness programme by the WBPCB at Kolkata International Book Fair-2025

## চন্দ্রিমা ভট্টাচার্য

রাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী (স্বাধীন দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত)  
অর্থ দপ্তর, পরিবেশ দপ্তর  
কর্মসূচী পর্যবেক্ষণ দপ্তর  
রাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ দপ্তর,  
ভূমি ও ভূমি সংস্কার এবং উদ্বাস্ত, ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন দপ্তর,  
পরিকল্পনা ও পরিসংখ্যান দপ্তর  
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



## Chandrima Bhattacharya

Minister-of-State (Independent Charge)

Department of Finance, Department of Environment  
Department of Programme Monitoring

Minister-of-State

Department of Health & Family Welfare,  
Department of L & LR and RR & R,  
Department of Planning & Statistics  
Government of West Bengal

Date - 15.01.2026

### MESSAGE

I am delighted to witness the launch of the Special issue of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) Newsletter- **GREEN ECO-STORIES** on the occasion of one of the most celebrated annual events of the City of Joy- the Kolkata International Book Fair-2026. This initiative marks a significant step forward in our commitment to transparency, public engagement and environmental excellence.

West Bengal is a land of unique ecological diversity –from the majestic peaks of the North to the vital mangroves of the Sundarbans. As we strive for rapid economic and industrial development, the responsibility to protect this natural heritage becomes even more profound. Our goal is not just growth, but Sustainable Growth.

The WBPCB has been at the forefront of this mission, implementing rigorous monitoring systems and innovative waste management protocols. However, environmental protection cannot be achieved by policy alone; it requires the active participation of every citizen.

This newsletter serves three vital purposes:

- \* Information: Keeping stakeholders informed about multifaceted activities as well as achievements of the State Board.
- \* Education: Sharing best practices for pollution abatement and resource conservation.
- \* Connection: Building a bridge between the Board's technical work and the community's daily life.

All these objectives contribute cumulatively towards fulfilling the Vision of the State Environment Department - '**Building Environment Smart and Climate Change Resilient West Bengal**'.

I commend the State Board for creating this platform to highlight our milestones and the challenges that lie ahead. I am quite certain that this publication will definitely inspire the readers towards transition from being silent observers to active guardians of our environment.

Let us join hands to ensure a "Green and Clean Bengal" for our future generations.

Best wishes,

*Chandrima Bhattacharya*  
Smt.Chandrima Bhattacharya,

**Roshni Sen, IAS**  
Additional Chief Secretary



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No: 05/ACS/ENV/2026

Dated, the 19<sup>th</sup> January of 2026

**Message**

One of the cornerstones for environmental conservation is public awareness as well as participation in environmental conservation activities. I am happy to know that the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) is leveraging the prestigious platform of the 49<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Book Fair-2026 to release the special edition of **GREEN ECO-STORIES** Newsletter of January, 2026 in the form of a magazine, aimed at fostering a deeper dialogue on sustainability, for wide publicity and circulation.

In an era where climate change and environmental sustainability are the most pressing challenges facing humanity, the role of informed literature is paramount. This pictorial magazine, I am certain, will serve as a vital resource—offering deep insights into the present ongoing initiatives, highlighting innovative green practices, showcasing students' active involvement and fostering a sense of environmental stewardship amongst readers of all ages.

I congratulate the Chairman, the Member Secretary, and the entire editorial team of the WBPCB for their dedication in bringing out this edition.

I am confident that this publication will inspire the citizens of West Bengal to join hands in our collective mission for a "Clean and Green" Bengal.

I wish the publication every success.

**(Roshni Sen, IAS)**  
Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment  
Government of West Bengal



**Dr. Kalyan Rudra**  
[Ph.D., D.Sc. (Honoris Casua)]  
Chairman



**WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)

## Foreword

“If you really think that the environment is less important than the economy, try holding your breath while you count your money”.

Professor Guy McPherson (2009).

Human society had been living in a perfectly balanced Ecosystem for thousands of years before the mid-18th century. Unfortunately, with the improving quality of life, we have also witnessed the rapid degradation of the ecosystem comprising four major components- Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere, and Biosphere. This Anthropocene era, a proposed geological epoch, highlights the unprecedented, profound, and often devastating impact of human activity on Earth's ecosystems, atmosphere, and geology, particularly since the mid-20th century. This era is defined by the "Great Acceleration," where population growth, industrial production, and consequent resource depletion skyrocketed, creating a systemic environmental crisis.

Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, rapidly increasing greenhouse gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, methane) from fossil fuel combustion have been driving global temperature rises, ocean acidification, and the melting of polar and mountain glaciers. Human activities—habitat destruction (deforestation for agriculture), overexploitation, and pollution—are driving species to extinction at 100 to 1000 times the natural background rate.

Human-induced changes to nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, combined with the widespread presence of "techno-fossils" like plastic and radioactive materials, are leaving permanent marks on the ecosystem. Humanity's ecological footprint now exceeds the Earth's capacity to regenerate its resources, indicating a serious capacity deficit, often called "ecological overshoot".

The crisis is not driven equally by all humans; rather, it is heavily linked to high-income nations, industrialization, and colonial legacies that prioritized economic growth over environmental stability. The crisis is characterized by inequity, where the highest polluters are least affected, while vulnerable populations suffer the most severe consequences.

The environmental crisis in the Anthropocene represents an existential threat to society, prompting a shift from seeing Nature as a resource to respecting its inherent value. Addressing it requires systemic changes, including decarbonizing the economy, circular economy models, and protecting biodiversity. The Mission Life aims towards changing our lifestyle for an environmentally sustainable development.

(Dr. Kalyan Rudra.)  
Chairman,

জগদীশ প্রসাদ মিনা, আইএএস  
Jagdish Prasad Meena, IAS



সদস্য সচিব  
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পর্ষদ  
Member Secretary  
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

### EDITORIAL: *Turning the Page for a Greener Kolkata International Book Fair-2026*

I wish everybody a very Happy New Year-2026. It is my immense pleasure that the West Bengal Pollution Control Board is ready to release the Special second issue of the E- Newsletter- '*Green Eco-stories*'- **January, 2026** at the beginning of this new year. This issue recapitulates various interesting and impactful environmental events carried out by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board and some Eco-clubs during the last year from observing various important days to extending scope of environmental learning for the students and even motivating them towards hands-on environmental activities.

We all know that; the Kolkata International Book Fair is more than a literary event; it is the cultural heartbeat of West Bengal. But its massive scale of visitors brings an equally massive environmental footprint. The shift from the Maidan to the *Boimela Prangan* years ago, was rooted towards environmental protection. Today, at the *Boimela Prangan* of Salt Lake Central Park, the stakes remain high with millions of footfalls, the environmental footprint is massive—ranging from dust and noise pollution to the staggering volume of waste generated by the food stalls and promotional materials.

Hence, as we step into the 49th edition of the Fair from 22 January to 3 February, 2026), the "Green Campaign" must move from the periphery to the front page as the sheer volume of waste, dust, generation and energy consumption during these twelve days poses a significant challenge to the city's ecological balance. At this critical juncture, I proudly state that, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board takes sincere efforts to face the challenge in order to provide a healthy environment for all of us.

The Book Fair offers a unique opportunity for the State Board to engage a captive and intellectual people towards environmental consciousness. Apart from the regulatory steps, since last few years, the State Board sets up its stall decorated with campaign boards displaying its various environmental initiatives, engages water sprinkling vehicle to suppress the dust at the fair ground and organizes environmental campaign under the Mission LiFE theme- '*Single use Plastic Reduced*' involving a number of Eco-club students to create awareness among all the book sellers as well as the book-lovers about banned single use plastic carry bags (thickness < 120 micron) and banned items made of single use plastic (SUP), thermocol etc., proper solid waste management, combating noise and air pollution in order to make the Book Fair ground clean and green. The students picked up plastic wastes from the fair ground for proper disposal and requested all the visitors to use eco-friendly cloth or jute bags distributed by the State Board during the campaign. As the visitors carry home cloth or a jute bag alongside their new books, the message of conservation travels from the fairgrounds into thousands of households. Thus, The WBPCB catalyses the transformation of the fair from a mere marketplace into a massive classroom for climate action.

The Kolkata Book Fair has always celebrated the triumphs of the human spirit. Today, our greatest triumph must be the protection of our planet. As we flip through the pages of new releases, let us ensure we aren't writing the final chapter for our environment. This year, let's make sure the only thing we leave behind at the fairgrounds are our footprints—and even those, as light as possible.

Again, I appreciate the editorial team of the WBPCB for presenting this beautiful and informative Newsletter and wish all the very best for the future endeavours.

Jagdish Prasad Meena, IAS,  
Member Secretary, WBPCB

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## WBPCB'S FLASHBACK 2025

### Observation of World Environment Day-2025

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board observed the auspicious occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June, 2025 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata in an impressive yet decent manner. The event comprising sustainable lifestyle workshop, exhibition, Poster-making and Eco-art competition, Quiz competition etc. religiously focussed on the UN theme of 'Beat Plastic Pollution' with special emphasis upon 'Exploring alternatives of Plastics'. Various industries, parastatals of State Environment department (EKW, WB Biodiversity Board) participated in the exhibition by installing stalls to display various activities to sensitize the people. The Best 20 posters and Eco-art items prepared by the Eco-club students were also displayed in a stall.

The State Board sincerely tried to disseminate the crucial message of preventing plastic pollution across the world by campaigning not only through print media, FM Radio but also digitally through Social media.

State song of Bengal followed by an Audio-visual on the extent of plastic pollution in present days set the tune of the grand event. The event was graced by Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal and other renowned dignitaries including Guest of Honor- Roshni Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal, Chief Guest- Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray- (Padma shri Awardee), Director, JIS Institute of Advanced Studies & Research & former Director, IIST, Shibpur, Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB, Shri Jagdish Prasad Meena, IAS, Member Secretary, WBPCB, Shri Sasim Kr. Barai, IAS, Senior Special Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal and Dr. Himadri Sekhar Debnath, Chairman, West Bengal Biodiversity Board who inaugurated the event traditionally by watering our State plant-*Chhatim*.

Shri Jagdish Prasad Meena, IAS, Member Secretary, WBPCB cordially welcomed all the dignitaries, eminent guests, govt. officials, 310 students, teachers of different schools, colleges and universities across the State enlisted under the Environment Education Programme (EEP). He described the objective of the event precisely.

The dignitaries unveiled the following publications prepared by the team of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board:

- Annual Report-2023-24
- World Environment Day- 2025 theme-based posters
- Book on Air Pollution
- Book on Plastic Pollution



Release of WBPCB Annual Report-2023-24

The Hon'ble State Environment Minister Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya delivered an appealing speech and urged everybody especially the young crusaders present in the event to be more aware as well as proactive towards prevention of plastic pollution.

On behalf of the State Environment department, Roshni Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary elaborated the fruitful initiatives undertaken by the concerned department so far and also the upcoming planning in order to make our State clean and green.



Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray delivered a mind-blowing speech, which was resourceful with some relevant data of plastic wastes generation as well as its harmful impacts on ecosystems across the World. Hence, it was an eye-opening speech highlighting the gradual rise in overall environmental adversities.



Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB addressed the audience with an exceptional speech explaining the environmental degradation due to plastic pollution from hills to ocean which is a severe threat for humans as well as animals. He talked about the effective steps undertaken by the State Board to tackle the problems and earnestly appealed all the citizens and students to bring significant changes in lifestyle following Mission LiFE themes and be cooperative by discarding single-use plastics and exploring eco-friendly alternatives to achieve sustainable development goals (SDG).



The inaugural session ended with thanksgiving to the dignitaries.

The second session of the event was yet more interesting with State-level Environmental Quiz competition for the students of participating schools and colleges from Kolkata and adjacent districts of West Bengal. During the Award ceremony, the three winners of each State-level Poster-making and Eco-art competitions were awarded.

#### **Poster-making competition:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Arannya Debnath, Class-X, The Scottish Church Collegiate School, Kolkata
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Snigdha Ghosh, Class-IX, Bethune Collegiate School, Kolkata
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Dipshikha Sen, Class-VI, Raghunathpur Girls High School, Purulia district

#### **Traditional Handicrafts of Bengal as alternatives of Plastics (Eco-art) Competition:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Supriya Mandal, Class-VIII, Bijoyanagar Adarsha Vidyamandir (H.S), South 24 Parganas district
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Inpan Roy, Class-XI, Tapsikhata High School, Alipurduar district
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sneha Koley, Class-XI, Chinsurah Balika Siksha Mandir High School, Hooghly

#### **Environmental Quiz Competition (Schools):**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Scottish Church Collegiate School, Kolkata
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission High School, South 24 Paraganas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sakhawat Memorial Govt. Girls' School, Kolkata

#### **Environmental Quiz Competition (Colleges):**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Derozio College, Kolkata
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Presidency University, Kolkata
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bethune College, Kolkata

The event marked its successful end with a chorus of National anthem. It got huge publicity on Social media platform also.



Hon'ble State Environment Minister along with Additional Chief Secretary of State Environment department, Chairman and Member Secretary of WBPCB at the WBPCB stall



Environmental quiz Competition for Schools and college students



Prize distribution Ceremony



Participating students of EEP schools and colleges



Mission LiFE Pledge-taking



Distribution of environmental campaign materials to the participants



The team WBPCB

## Experiential Learning Programme on Environmental Awareness and Pollution Control activities

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board organised a workshop- “Students’ Experiential Learning Programme on Environmental Awareness and Pollution Control activities”, as per the guidelines of Environment Education Program (EEP) on **9 July, 2025** at the Auditorium, Paribesh Bhavan, Bidhannagar, Kolkata. The knowledge sharing event was presided over by Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB.

About 91 students and teachers of the following EEP enlisted schools participated in the event and had an exclusive educational session to enrich themselves:

1. Rishi Aurobindo Memorial Academy, Kolkata
2. Shri Aurobindo Institute of Educations- Saltlake, Kolkata
3. Saltlake School, Saltlake, Kolkata

Each student was given campaign kits comprising T-shirt, cap, stationaries along with evaluation sheet and feedback forms after getting enrolled for the event.

Shri Samanjit Sengupta, WBCS (Exe.), Senior Personnel Manager & Nodal Officer-EEP, WBPCB & Ex Officio Special Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal cordially welcomed all the students, teachers and senior Board officials present at the event. He set the tune of the educational programme by explaining its objective of behavioural change in community level for environmental cause. He defined Mission LiFE themes as well as its effective implementation in daily life and role of Eco-clubs in a comprehensive manner.

Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB delivered his resourceful keynote address on Environmental degradation during Anthropocene and Ecological Security. He explained different aspects of ecology by stressing upon major causes of ecosystem degradation due to the major environmental threats of climate change, air pollution, plastic waste pollution, biodiversity loss etc. and ecological conservation. The students got the scope of understanding the concept of ecological footprint. He also enlightened the severity of air pollution and single-use plastics especially intake of micro-plastics on human health as well as ecosystem from the mountains down to oceans across the world.

Shri Debasish Sarkar, Chief Engineer- Planning, WBPCB talked about the Structure and role of the WBPCB for pollution control management with special emphasis upon legal provisions.

Shri Anjan Fouzdar, Environmental Engineer, Waste Management Cell briefly described the Role of the State Board for Implementation of Waste Management Rules.

Dr. Ramkrishna Saha, Chief Scientist, WBPCB elaborated the Wholesomeness of Rivers of West Bengal and water Quality monitoring activities of the State Board. He also highlighted the Scientific Laboratory Works being carried out at WBPCB.

Dr. Debasish Chakrabarty, Sr. Scientific Officer & In-charge- NCAP, WBCPB and NCAP team gave a hands-on demonstration about air pollutant measuring techniques as part of the air quality monitoring system to the students.

All the participants took Mission life pledge followed by a thanksgiving speech by Shri Arup Guhait, Public Relation officer, WBPCB. Some students also exhibited some posters and models prepared by them based on environmental topics highlighting Mission LiFE themes. The participants submitted the evaluation sheet and feedback form duly filled up by them and participation certificates were distributed amongst them on behalf of the State Board at the end of the event. However, there was huge viewership of the event on social media platform.



Welcome address by Shri Samanjit Sengupta, WBCS (Exe.), Senior Personnel Manager & Nodal Officer-EEP, WBPCB & Ex Officio Special Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal



Keynote address by Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB



Speech by Shri Debasish Sarkar, Chief Engineer-Planning, WBPCB



Speech by Shri Anjan Fouzdar, Env. Engineer, WBPCB



Mission LiFE Pledge-taking



Demonstration of models prepared by the participating students



Speech by Dr. Ramkrishna Saha, Chief scientist, WBPCB



Demonstration of Air Quality testing system



The gathering of teachers, students and Board officials at the event

## Observation of International Mangrove Day and International Tiger Day-2025

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board celebrated the International Tiger Day along with International Mangrove Day as part of the Environmental Education Program (EEP) on **29 July, 2025** from 11 am at our Paribesh Bhavan auditorium. It was a half day program based on Mission LiFE and the target audience was the senior Eco Club students and teachers of different schools and colleges enlisted under the EEP. The program was also live streamed through our social media platforms.

The programme was graced by Roshni Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal as Chief Guest, Shri Debal Roy, IFS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Forest, Govt. of West Bengal as Guest of Honor, Dr. Himadri Sekhar Debnath, Chairman, West Bengal Biodiversity Board as Special Guest, Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB and Shri Debasish Sarkar, Chief Engineer- Planning, WBPCB. Other State Board officials, about 122 students and teachers of the following schools and colleges attended the programme:

### Schools:

1. Beltala Girls' High School, Kolkata
2. Gokhale Memorial Girls' School, Kolkata
3. Bagbazar Multipurpose Girls' School, Kolkata
4. Ramkrishna Mission Boys Home, Rahara, North 24 Parganas
5. Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission, Narendrapur, Kolkata
6. Rishi Aurobindo Memorial Academy, Dum Dum, North 24 Paraganas

### Colleges:

1. Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata-700008
2. Sarsuna College, Kolkata
3. East Calcutta Girls College, Kolkata
4. Derozio Memorial College, Kolkata
5. Presidency University, Kolkata
6. Basanti Devi College, Kolkata
7. Deshbandhu College for Girls, Kolkata

Each student was given campaign kits comprising T-shirt, cap, stationaries along with evaluation sheet and feedback forms after getting enrolled for the event.

The programme began traditionally with watering of a plant by the dignitaries. Roshni Sen, IAS delivered an introductory speech explaining the aim of the programme. She also talked about multifaceted importances of mangrove ecosystem, biological diversity of various wild animals like, tiger, deer, crocodile, birds etc. and tiger conservation. She reminded us about the carbon absorption capacity (carbon sequestration) of Sunderban mangrove forest to improve ambient air quality and its protective role against the severe cyclonic impact in our State.

Dr. Himadri Sekhar Debnath described the background of observing the significant days of International Mangrove Day and International Tiger Day of 2025 and highlighted on the theme of both the days – *'Protecting Wetlands for our future'* and *'Securing the future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the heart'* respectively. He gave a detail scientific account of mangrove growth and development of human habitat in Sunderban area, which is acknowledged as World Heritage site and Ramsar site. He also explained about the gradual evolution and adaptation of mangrove forests and tigers as well while mentioning about agricultural activities, fish conservation, honey collection, wetland conservation etc.

Shri Debal Roy, IFS showed two consecutive power point presentations on 'Mangroves of Sunderbans' and 'Wildlife in an Anthropocentric World' to enrich as well as create awareness about the importance of mangrove and tiger conservation amongst the students. He explained about various threats of Sunderban mangrove ecosystem, Like, land erosion, increase of salinity, sea-level rise due to global warming leading towards reduction of island size, reduction of fresh water flow etc. and also focused on wildlife conservation efforts. He mentioned about some fruitful efforts of the State Forest department like making fresh water pond with channels to bring down the salinity level and necessary steps to increase tiger population in the forest areas across the State.

Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman of the State Board delivered keynote address on the occasion of International mangrove Day and Tiger Day and showcased yet another power point presentation on 'Mangrove & Royal Bengal Tiger in the Sunderban- Exploring impacts of climate change'. He elaborated climate change impact on Sunderban mangrove ecosystem and wildlife population exist there. He specifically described the gradual environmental degradation of Sunderban due to climate change as a result of various natural and anthropogenic factors over the time. He urged all the participating students and teachers to be aware about the uniqueness of Sunderban mangrove forest and its wildlife inhabitants and concern for its protection.

All the participating students and teachers enjoyed the enriching session thoroughly and clarified their queries with the speakers during the interaction session of the event and took Mission life pledge followed by a thanksgiving speech by Shri Debasish Sarkar, Chief Engineer, WBPCB.

Some students also exhibited some posters prepared by them based on environmental topics highlighting Mission LiFE themes.

The participants submitted the evaluation sheet and feedback form duly filled up by them and participation certificates were distributed amongst them on behalf of the State Board at the end of the event. However, there was huge viewership of the event on social media platform.



Distribution of campaign kits to the participants



Watering of plant by the dignitaries



Speech by Roshni Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal



Speech by Dr. Himadri Sekhar Debnath, Chairman, WB Biodiversity Board



Speech by Shri Debal Roy, IFS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Forest, Govt. of West Bengal



Speech by Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB



Mission LiFE pledge-taking



Interaction session during the programme



Poster display at Paribesh Bhawan by the students



The gathering in the programme



# আন্তর্জাতিক যুব দিবস উপলক্ষে শুভেচ্ছা

"চিরযুবা তুই যে চিরজীবী  
জীর্ণ জরা ঝরিয়ে দিয়ে  
প্রাণ অফুরান ছড়িয়ে দেদার দিবি..."



**College students observe International Youth Day on 12 August, 2025  
through various environmental activities**

## Plantation drive by Eco-clubs and industrial units of West Bengal during July- August, 2025 (Monsoon season)



Candol Kolkat One Hi-Tech Structures Pvt. Ltd.



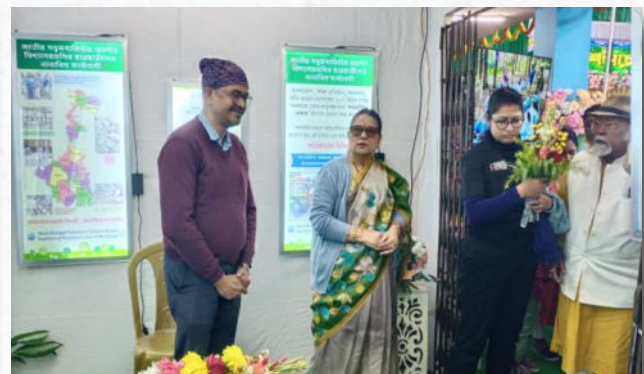
ASG Biochem Pvt Ltd.



Plantation near Paribesh Bhawan by the students along with dignitaries of the WBPCB

## Paribesh Sachetanata Mela at Madhyamgram: A Green Initiative

Like earlier, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board participated in the Paribesh Sachetanata Mela (Environment Awareness Fair) held at Madhyamgram in North 24 Paraganas district from **24 to 28 December, 2025**, marked a significant milestone as it celebrated its 20th anniversary. Organized by the Madhyamgram Municipality at the Netaji Subhas Maidan (near Madhyamgram Chowmatha), the fair has grown into one of the most vital platforms in the North 24 Parganas district for promoting ecological balance and sustainable living.



Hon'ble MP Dr. Kakali Ghoshdastidar visited the Board's stall at Paribesh Sachetanata Mela, Madhyamgram.

The primary objective of the 2025 fair was to bridge the gap between policy and public action regarding climate change and pollution. The event was inaugurated on December 24 by high-profile dignitaries, including Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar (MP, Barasat), Rathin Ghosh (Minister and MLA of Madhyamgram), and other local leaders. The inauguration emphasized the urgent need for individual responsibility in environmental protection, particularly in curbing plastic waste and improving urban waste management.

The fairground featured approximately 50 eco-friendly stalls, designed to educate visitors through interactive displays and live demonstrations.

- **Government Stalls:** Departments such as the West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Fisheries, Agriculture, and the Meteorological Department showcased their initiatives.
- **Green Distribution:** A hallmark of this fair remained its commitment to afforestation; visitors were provided with free saplings to encourage plantation at home.
- **Waste to Wealth:** Several stalls focused on “Waste Management” and “Solid Waste Rules,” demonstrating how household waste can be recycled or composted.
- **Water Conservation:** Special exhibits highlighted techniques for rainwater harvesting and the preservation of local water bodies.



Hon'ble Food Minister Shri Rathin Ghosh has visited the Board's stall at Paribesh Sachetanata Mela, Madhyamgram.

Beyond exhibitions, the fair integrated cultural heritage with environmental themes. Every evening, the stage hosted cultural programs featuring local artists and renowned singers, which helped draw massive crowds. To engage the younger generation, the municipality organized:

1. **Quiz Competitions:** Focused on biodiversity and climate science.
2. **Scientific Illustrations:** Demonstrating the hazards of global warming.
3. **Workshops:** Teaching residents how to make paper and cloth bags as alternatives to single-use plastics.

The Paribesh Sachetanata Mela 2025 was more than just a seasonal festival; it was a call to action. By blending education with entertainment, Madhyamgram continues to set a precedent for how urban local bodies can lead the fight against environmental degradation.

## The Principles of Environmental Science & Studies: How Mission LiFE EEP Brings Them to Life

Environmental Science is not merely an academic discipline confined to textbooks and classrooms. It is a comprehensive framework for understanding the intricate relationships between living organisms and their physical environment. To truly grasp environmental science, one must understand its foundational principles—principles that have guided scientific inquiry for decades and now form the backbone of progressive environmental education initiatives like Mission LiFE's Environmental Education Program.

The Core Principles of Environmental Science are explained now. The first principle is holism and systems thinking. Environmental systems do not exist in isolation. A river is not merely water flowing downhill; it is an interconnected system involving geology, climate, vegetation, soil chemistry, and countless organisms. When we study the Sundarbans or the Brahmaputra ecosystem, we must view them as integrated wholes, not fragmented components.

The **second principle** is sustainability and balance. Nature operates in cycles—carbon cycles, nitrogen cycles, water cycles. These cycles maintain equilibrium. When human activities disrupt these cycles, consequences cascade through the system. This principle teaches us that development and conservation are not opposing forces but complementary necessities. The **third principle** is interdependence and interconnectedness. Every organism, from the tiniest microbe to the largest predator, plays a role in the ecosystem. Remove one, and the entire web trembles. This principle fosters ecological literacy and ethical responsibility. The **fourth principle** is energy flow and nutrient cycling. Understanding how energy enters ecosystems through photosynthesis and flows through food chains, and how nutrients cycle back through decomposition, is fundamental to environmental understanding.

Now let us see how Mission LiFE EEP is translating these Principles into Practice. Mission LiFE's Environmental Education Program brilliantly operationalizes these abstract principles into concrete, experiential learning.

Here's how - **From Holism to Field Immersion:** Rather than teaching systems thinking through diagrams, Mission LiFE EEP takes students into the field. Nature camps, wetland studies, and forest surveys force students to observe ecosystems holistically. When students conduct a biodiversity survey in a local pond or forest patch, they witness firsthand how soil, water, plants, insects, and microorganisms interact. This is not passive learning; it is active discovery.

**From Sustainability to Behavioural Change:** The program doesn't merely lecture about sustainability. Through activities like waste management projects, water conservation initiatives, and afforestation drives, students practice sustainable living. They learn that individual choices matter. This bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical action—what we call the "heartware" of environmental education.

**From Interdependence to Ecological Citizenship:** Eco clubs and student-led environmental projects cultivate a sense of ecological citizenship. When students organize tree-planting drives or monitor local water quality, they internalize the principle of interdependence. They realize they are not separate from nature but integral parts of it.

**From Energy Flow to Scientific Inquiry:** Mission LiFE EEP encourages students to conduct investigations and maintain observation journals. Students learn to ask questions: Why do certain plants grow in wetlands? How do decomposers function? These inquiries naturally lead them to understand energy flow and nutrient cycling through direct observation rather than memorization.

**The Gains for Students-** The benefits are multifaceted. First, students develop scientific literacy—not just knowledge of facts, but understanding of how scientific inquiry works. They learn to observe, hypothesize, experiment, and draw conclusions. Second, they cultivate environmental consciousness. When a student plants a tree and returns months later to see it thriving, or when they document the return of migratory birds to a restored wetland, environmental protection becomes personal and meaningful. Third, they gain practical skills applicable beyond the classroom—data collection, field identification, project management, and community engagement. Fourthly, they develop critical thinking. Environmental issues are complex, often involving trade-offs between development and conservation, economic growth and ecological stability. Mission LiFE EEP trains students to navigate these complexities thoughtfully.

Also let us not forget the The Multiplier Effect. What makes Mission LiFE EEP particularly powerful is its multiplier effect. When students become environmental advocates, they influence families and peers. A student who understands nutrient cycling becomes an advocate for composting at home. One who has witnessed wetland ecology becomes a voice against their destruction. This ripple effect extends environmental consciousness beyond the classroom.

So, we may conclude that Environmental Science principles are not abstract concepts for examinations. They are living truths governing the natural world. Mission LiFE's EEP creates learning experiences where students don't just learn these principles—they live them. Through field work, practical projects, and guided inquiry, students transform into informed environmental stewards.

This is education that changes hearts and minds, building the sustainable future we need. When students understand that environmental science is woven into every choice they make, we have created not just educated individuals, but conscious citizens of our planet.

*Samanjit Sengupta, WBSC (Exe.)*

*Senior Personnel Manager, WBPCB, Nodal Officer- EEP & e.o. Special Secretary to Government of West Bengal*

## Glimpses of Eco-club activities during 2025



Seminar on Noise Pollution Control at Bodhra Pantheswari High School, Purba Medinipur dist.



The students of Chirimarsai Shri Shri Radhamadhabjee High School, Paschim Medinipore dist. campaigned for cleanliness at school premises



Rally for environmental awareness by the students of Jhargram Raj College, Jhargram dist. and Bulanpur High School, Paschim Medinipur dist.





The students of Kali Kamala Vidyapith for Girls, Kolkata and Talliguri High School (HS)-Coochbehar dist. at Nature Study tour



Plastic waste segregation, recycling & reusing by the students of Dalapchand High School, Kalimpong dist. at school premises



Photography competition cum exhibition by Malda College



Nature Study Camp by Channa Jr. High School, Purba Bardhaman

**Some Eco-clubs did excellent activities under EEP during  
December, 2025 -January, 2026 (till date)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Schools/Colleges	District
<b>Schools</b>		
01	Jamna Dhruvabati N.R High School	Birbhum
02	AGPN Convent & ER School	Purulia
03	Akuni B.G. Beharilal Institution	Hooghly
04	Bagdogra Chittaranjan High School (H.S)	Darjeeling
05	Bandel Mahatma Gandhi Hindi Vidyalaya	Hooghly
06	Bandhgora Kali Krishna Vidyalaya	Birbhum
07	Bandipur Ideal Academy for Girls (H.S)	North 24 Parganas
08	Behala Balika Vidyapith	Kolkata
09	Belegkata Deshbandhu Girls' High School (H.S)	Kolkata
10	Bodhra Pantheswari High School	Purba Medinipur
11	Chandernagar Banga Vidyalaya	Hooghly
12	Channa Jr. High School	Purba Burdwan
13	Dhubulia Shyamaprosad Shikshayatan	Nadia
14	Hirapur Dasagram High School (H.S)	Purba Medinipur
15	Kali Kamala Vidyapith for Girls	Kolkata
16	Kawakhali Jr High School	Darjeeling
17	Kishore Vidyapith	Kolkata
18	Laghata Santal Jr High School	Birbhum
19	Nabadwip Bakultala High School	Nadia
20	Nilganj Sikshayatan	North 24 Parganas
21	Putiary Braja Mohan Tewary Girls' High School	Kolkata
22	Rathtala Rajlakshmi Vidyamandir	North 24 Parganas
23	Basirhat Naihati NCM Sikshaniketan	North 24 Parganas
24	Bandel Mahatma Gandhi Hindi Vidyalaya	Hooghly
25	Shakhawat Memorial School	Kolkata
26	Tapsikhata High School	Alipurduar
<b>Colleges</b>		
27	ABN Seal College	Coochbehar
28	Ananda Chandra College	Jalpaiguri
29	Rani Dhanya Kumari College	Murshidabad
30	Malda College	Malda
31	East Calcutta Girls' College	Kolkata
32	Narajole Raj College	Paschim Medinipur

## ECO-CLUB SUCCESS STORIES (UNEDITED)

### ✚ 'Miniature Plastic Recycling Factory designed by Young Innovators' - *Bandipur Ideal Academy for Girls, North 24 Paraganas dist.*

In an era where plastic pollution poses an existential threat to our ecosystems, students of Bandipur Ideal Academy for Girls have showcased a brilliant solution to manage waste effectively. The model designed by the students highlights the urgent need for local recycling infrastructure to reduce landfill dependency and protect our natural environment from non-biodegradable waste.

The students designed a sophisticated multi stage model that replicates a professional industrial cycle. Each step is crucial for ensuring the final material is pure and reusable. The process begins with an automated belt that transports raw plastic waste into the system. The main parts of the system are shredder, floating tank, friction washing, dewatering and melting and pelletizing. This recycling technology is a cornerstone of the circular economy, ensuring that plastic remains a resource rather than becoming trash. By converting waste into high quality pellets, manufacturers can create a wide range of new products including eco-friendly packaging, textiles, construction materials etc. The lead student said 'we wanted to show that plastic is not garbage, it's a valuable resource that just need the right technology to be reborn.'



**Model 1:** the model displays two types of the consequences of using plastic



**Model 2:** model of plastic recycling factory

## 🚩 'Celebrating International Mangrove Day – 2025: Empowering Youth for Eco-Action'

- *Hirapur Dasagram High School (H.S.), Purba Medinipur dist.*

### **Brief Description:**

On **25 to 26 July, 2025**, Hirapur Dasagram High School (H.S.) under the initiative of the Eco-Club in collaboration with WWF-India, West Bengal State Office, organized a two-day event to commemorate International Mangrove Day – 2025. The programme aimed to raise awareness on mangrove conservation, promote sustainable practices, and engage students in community-oriented environmental action.

### **Action Taken:**

**Day- 1** began with a ceremonial sapling plantation drive ('Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0') led by Smt. Sangita Mitra, Director, WWF-India, West Bengal State Office. A discussion session chaired by Headmaster, Dr. Pritiranjana Maiti, highlighted the ecological value of mangroves and youth responsibility in climate resilience.

On **Day- 2**, a community awareness rally was held involving 54 students, teachers, and locals. Participants carried placards on biodiversity, anti-plastic campaigns, and mangrove protection. Street outreach followed by an interactive awareness session at Digha Science Centre included a thematic dance, quiz competition, and a detailed presentation on mangrove ecology. Dr. Maiti was felicitated by WWF-India for his environmental leadership.

The event also showcased long-term sustainability initiatives of the school: preparation of three PBRs under the BMC, on farm conservation of indigenous crops and development of community seed bank, study of estuarine biodiversity, biodiversity awareness aligned with SDG-15, and ongoing association of the school with the West Bengal Biodiversity Board. Dr. Maiti, Headmaster, received the State Biodiversity Award - 2014 (serving as BMC Chairman), Paryavaran Mitra Award - 2021 and Global Sustainability Award - 2023.



Plantation activity by the students & Environmental seminar

### **Outcome:**

- Students gained practical and scientific understanding of mangrove ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Behavioural change promoted through hands-on learning and community participation.
- Strengthened collaboration with WWF-India and Digha Science Centre.
- Elevated the role of the school as a model institution for environmental education and Mission LiFE.
- Fostered a culture of sustainability, aligned with SDG-15 and national biodiversity goals.

## 'Development of Vertical Kitchen Garden'

- Acharya Brojendra Nath Seal College, Coochbehar dist.

The project was undertaken by the Eco-club students at Acharya Brojendra Nath Seal College Campus on 17 December, 2025. 44 nos. of Student and 2 nos. of teacher participated in the project.

### Objective of the Activity:

- (i) **Waste to Wealth - Promoting Circularity:** To mitigate plastic pollution on campus by upcycling 48 discarded PET bottles into functional planters, showcasing a practical model of the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” (3R) principle (to demonstrate how non-biodegradable waste can be repurposed into productive assets).
- (ii) **Sustainable Resource Management:** To implement a vertical farming design that maximizes limited spatial resources and optimizes water usage, demonstrating how urban spaces can be used for food security without land expansion (aligns with the LiFE pillar of saving water and land resources).
- (iii) **Promoting Biodiversity and Nutritional Security:** To conserve local flora by cultivating a mix of medicinal plants and kitchen spices, thereby creating a micro-habitat for pollinators and providing organic, zero-carbon-footprint food sources for the college community (Mission LiFE encourages the cultivation of local species and sustainable food systems).
- (iv) **Behavioral Change through Experiential Learning:** To foster an eco-conscious mindset among students through community-based sourcing and hands-on maintenance, transforming them into active practitioners of sustainable lifestyle choices (a core tenet of LiFE is “Pro-Planet People” (P3)).

### Methodology Adopted:

The development of the Vertical Kitchen Garden on the ABN Seal College campus adhered to a sustainable, resource-efficient methodology, primarily utilizing recycled waste. The project was established against the iron fencing of the Botany Department’s Parashar Uddan. The first step involved community-based material sourcing, with students collecting 48 discarded plastic bottles from the surrounding environment. These bottles were prepared by cutting them to size and assembling the vertical structure using GI wires, creating 16 vertical lines, each holding three bottles. The containers were subsequently filled with soil sourced directly from the college campus. The final planting phase involved sowing seeds of kitchen spices and transplanting saplings of various medicinal plants, followed by consistent watering to ensure successful establishment and growth.

### Materials Used:

- (i) Discarded plastic bottles (used as containers).
- (ii) Marker pen (to mark hole positions)
- (iii) Iron nail (to make holes in the bottles)
- (iv) Spirit lamp (for heating the iron nail)
- (v) Scissors and blades (for bottle cutting)
- (vi) Soil (collected directly from the college campus).
- (vii) Spade (for digging and loosening soil from the ground).
- (viii) Khurpi (for breaking soil clods and removing weeds, roots, or debris).
- (ix) Buckets (for collecting, carrying, and temporarily storing the soil).
- (x) Sieve (to remove stones, roots, and unwanted materials).
- (xi) GI wires (used for assembling and hanging the vertical structure)
- (xii) Gloves (to protect hands from injuries, dirt, and possible contaminants).
- (xiii) Face mask (to prevent inhalation of dust particles during soil handling).
- (xiv) Watering can (for watering saplings / seeds)
- (xv) Medicinal plant saplings (plant material)
- (xvi) Seeds of kitchen spices (plant material)

### Activities Done /Performed:

- (i) Waste Collection: Clearing the environment of non-biodegradable PET waste.
- (ii) Structural Assembly: Engineering a space-saving vertical grid using upcycled materials and wire.
- (iii) Planting & Cultivation: Integrating botanical science with urban farming by selecting diverse spices and medicinal varieties.
- (iv) Aftercare: Sustaining the garden through routine hydration and growth tracking.

### Products Made / Outputs Generated (if any):

The activity successfully transformed environmental waste into a functional green asset, resulting in several tangible outputs that enhance the college's ecological footprint. The primary physical product is a modular vertical gardening structure comprising of upcycled plastic containers, effectively reclaiming vertical space against the campus fencing. This installation serves as a living laboratory, yielding a consistent supply of fresh kitchen spices and diverse medicinal plant saplings. Beyond the botanical yield, the project generated repurposed planters, successfully diverting non-biodegradable waste from local landfills. These outputs collectively establish a "Green Fence" that functions as both a source of organic produce and a visual demonstration of sustainable urban agriculture.

### Mission LiFE Theme Covered:

- (i) Waste Reduced (Swachh Bharat): Use of discarded plastic bottles
- (ii) Sustainable Food Systems: Planting spices/medicinal herbs (kitchen garden)
- (iii) Sustainable Land Use: Vertical layout on fencing
- (iv) Community Engagement: Student-led sourcing/care

### 75-EEP Activity Covered:

- (i) LiFE Action – 42 (use recycled plastic over virgin plastic, wherever possible)
- (ii) LiFE Action – 48 (created kitchen garden at College)

### Learning Outcomes / Social Outcomes:

The activity serves as a powerful catalyst for both environmental literacy and community cohesion. By transforming discarded waste into a productive green space, students gain hands-on experience in urban agriculture and the circular economy, moving beyond theoretical knowledge to practical sustainability. Socially, the initiative fosters a sense of collective responsibility and "Pro-Planet" behavior, as the community-based sourcing of materials encourages students to view their campus as a shared ecosystem. Furthermore, the cultivation of medicinal plants and spices promotes traditional ecological knowledge, bridging the gap between scientific botanical study and everyday wellness, ultimately, this activity provides a scalable and replicable model that students can implement within their own home premises, allowing them to act as knowledge ambassadors who share and expand these sustainable techniques within their local communities.



Tree Plantation (Pre-event scenario)



Students After Collecting Discarded Bottles



Activity in Progress (Bottle Cutting)



Activity in Progress  
(Bottle Cutting & Hanging Bottle Planters)



Activity in Progress (Hanging Bottle Planters & Soil Filling)



Activity in Progress (Sapling plantation and Seeds sowing)



Post-event Outcome



Participating team

## 🚩 'Beat the Plastic Campaign'

- Nilganj Sikshayatan, North 24 Paraganas district



### Inauguration by Teacher-in-charge:

The programme of 'Beat the Plastic Campaign' was inaugurated by teacher-in-charge on 15 August 2025. A welcome speech was delivered by the teacher-in-charge on the occasion.

### Arrangement of an Awareness Rally:

An awareness rally was organized by the students to nearest locality to make them aware about the ill effects of plastic on the environment.

### Formation of Eco-Club:

Eco-club was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 with the following member:

**Eco-president-** Deblina Chakraborty

- Members –**
1. Sushmita Biswas
  2. Arko Mali
  3. Nur afsana

### Plantation programme:

On 30 August, 2025, a plantation programme was organized in the school premises to encourage the students in plantation. Total 6 trees was planted in this programme. They were nurtured and watered by the students every day.



### Model Competition:

A model competition was held on 29 August, 2025 on the topic 'Save Environment Topic' amongst the students. They were encouraged to make Environment friendly models for sustainable development and plastic free world.



## Model Exhibition



### Installation of Collection Hub:

Total 6 collection hubs were placed in different places of school to collect plastic bottles.

## 'Poster Drawing Competition on Mission LiFE themes'

- Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri

### Teachers Guidance:

The activity was explained by the teachers, and the entire event was conducted under their constant supervision and guidance. The teachers provided necessary instructions regarding the theme, rules, and time management, and encouraged students to express their ideas creatively while maintaining the environmental focus of the programme.

### Objectives:

- To promote awareness about Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)
- To encourage environmentally responsible behaviour among students
- To sensitise students about pollution-related issues and conservation of natural resources
- To provide a creative platform for expressing ideas related to environmental sustainability



### Description:

The Eco Club of Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri, organised a Poster Drawing Competition on 6 January, 2026 with the aim of spreading awareness about environmental protection and sustainable lifestyles among students as per the Mission LiFE themes.

Before the commencement of the activity, the teachers associated with the Eco- Club explained the concept of Mission LiFE and its relevance in addressing current environmental challenges. The objectives, themes, sub-themes, rules, and time limits

of the competition were clearly communicated to the participants. Throughout the programme, the teachers guided the students in understanding the environmental aspects of their chosen themes, encouraged creative expression, and ensured that the messages conveyed through the posters remained scientifically accurate and environmentally relevant.

A total of 35 students from various departments participated actively in the programme, presenting posters on sub-themes such as save energy, save water, say no to plastic pollution, reduce waste, sustainable lifestyle.

### Outcome and Learning:

The poster drawing competition proved to be an effective awareness-building activity under the Environmental Education Programme (EEP). Through active participation, students developed a deeper understanding of Mission LiFE and the importance of adopting sustainable and environmentally responsible lifestyles. The activity enhanced students' awareness of key environmental issues such as energy conservation, water conservation, plastic pollution, reduction of waste, and sustainable life systems.

The programme encouraged students to think critically about environmental challenges and express possible solutions through creative visual communication. It helped in developing creativity, environmental sensitivity, and a sense of individual responsibility towards nature. The guidance and supervision provided by teachers ensured that students gained scientifically accurate knowledge and a clearer understanding of the role of youth in environmental protection.



### Conclusion:

The Poster Drawing Competition organised by the Eco Club of Ananda Chandra College under the Environmental Education Programme (EEP) was successfully conducted and achieved its intended objectives. The programme effectively raised awareness among students about Mission LiFE and the need for adopting sustainable and eco-friendly practices in daily life. Active participation, creative expression, and continuous guidance from teachers ensured the smooth execution of the event. The activity strengthened students' environmental awareness and encouraged responsible attitudes towards environmental protection, thereby contributing meaningfully to the goals of the Environmental Education Programme.

### Mission LiFE Themes Covered:

- Save water
- Save Energy
- Reduce waste
- Adopt Healthy Lifestyles
- Say no to plastic pollution

## **'Formation of Kitchen Garden at School premises'**

- by Dhubulia Shyamaprosad Shikshayatan, Nadia dist.

### **Introduction:**

The formation of a kitchen garden at Dhubulia Shyamaprosad Shikshayatan (H.S) was initiated to promote sustainable practices, enhance students' understanding of agriculture, and provide fresh produce for the school cafeteria. This report outlines the objectives, activities undertaken, and the outcomes of the kitchen garden project.

### **Objectives:**

- To educate students about the importance of gardening and sustainable food practices. To provide hands-on experience in growing vegetables and herbs.
- To encourage healthy eating habits among students.
- To enhance the aesthetic appeal of the school environment.

### **Activity Planning:**

A team of teachers and students of eco club collaborate with ADO office to design the layout of the kitchen garden, selecting suitable locations and types of plants to grow.

### **Soil Preparation:**

The soil was prepared by adding compost and organic fertilizers to ensure a healthy growing environment. Compost supplied by Block ADO office.

### **Planting:**

Students of Eco Club participated in planting various vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, eggplant, coriander leaves and spinach, as well as herbs like basil and mint. The vegetable seedlings were provided by the ADO office.



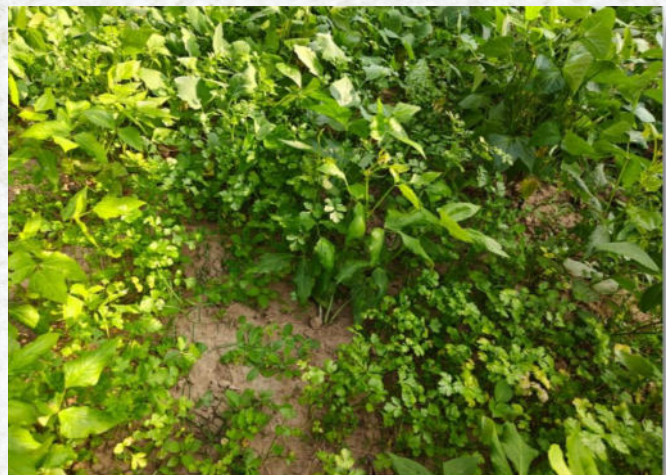


**Maintenance:**

Regular watering, weeding, and monitoring of plant growth were conducted by students of eco club as part of their learning experience.

**Educational Impact:**

Students gained practical knowledge about gardening, plant biology, and the importance of sustainable practices.



**Health Benefits:**

The availability of fresh vegetables in the cafeteria encouraged students to make healthier food choices.

**Community Engagement:**

The project fostered a sense of community as parents and local gardeners volunteered to assist in the garden's upkeep.

**Conclusion:**

The kitchen garden project has been a resounding success, achieving its objectives of education, health promotion, and community involvement. Moving forward, we plan to expand the garden and incorporate more educational programs related to gardening and nutrition.

### ARTICLE

#### The Green Wall

Gregor Steifmann arrived each morning before sunrise, if one could still call it that. The sun's old routines—those golden, hopeful hours—were memories now, blurred by thick mists outside the Department of Reclamation. No one knew where the mists came from; every official shrugged, every scientist offered promises instead of answers, as if uncertainty itself was now the law. The eastern wall of the building hid something vast and unknowable. Colleagues called it the Green Wall, though to Gregor, it was no green at all—only a suffocating shade of mold, the memory of life. He sometimes stared past the fog, trying to recall stories from stiff, yellowed archives: there had once been a forest here, trembling with life. Now the Department carried out its purpose, as stated in the oldest Manifesto posted in the bare entry hall—“manage organic overgrowth threatening urban advancement.” The phrase mocked Gregor more with each passing morning, solemn as a priest reciting another man's prayer. He had never seen a tree. Sometimes, he wondered if anyone here truly had. He'd seen the Wall itself—a mass of sagging shapes, tangled, pulsing slightly as if trying to remember its old name. Most days, Gregor recorded changes on his grey pad as required, but there were none. The Wall did not change. Or if it did, it remained silent about it. Days blurred together, their shape lost to routine. Once, in his first year, Gregor climbed a broken stairway to look closer. The wall was not simply attached to stone—it crept through the guts of the building, coiling in pipes, sprouting from vents. It breathed, slow and damp. Pressing his ear to cold brick, Gregor heard something—an undercurrent of murmurs, muffled and ancient, a thousand unseen things whispering through the soil. When he reported this sound, the answer returned: “It's only the wind.” No further questions were asked. He grew lonely, ignored in the hall's furthest corner, surrounded by condensation forever dripping and pooling at his feet. Sometimes he imagined that the puddle carried messages from the Wall—messages that he'd almost forgotten how to read. The quiet pressed in around him like old water, but he stayed silent. It was easier that way. Every few months, Reclamation Officers arrived with their little blue machines, muttering codes—“containment” and “compliance”—before vanishing up the stairs.

They didn't speak to Gregor, and when they left, he felt even smaller, even less real. Their passing was like a cold wind. One day, even the machines stopped visiting. Gregor kept working anyway, entering numbers nobody would see, clinging to the ritual for comfort. The mist outside thickened until some rooms disappeared entirely beneath it, so he moved higher, drawn by the hope that air there would taste different. It didn't. Through a cracked window, Gregor finally saw movement: a slow swell, as if earth itself exhaled. The Wall crept past the former boundary of the city, turning the air sickly-sweet, the last perfume of something living now fading to rot.

Gregor's hope dried up, a flower in the dark. The final lamp flickered and died in the highest corridor, leaving only blue twilight and shadows. Gregor sat at his desk—no new assignments, no registry, no officers. He should have been liberated by it, but instead felt himself attended to by the silent bulk pressing from all directions, an impossible intimacy that chilled him. He thought of love, then—love as a gentle erasure. That evening, the sound returned—the deep, wet heartbeat, echoing through walls, into his chest. Leaning into it, Gregor felt warmth on his face, but it was the warmth of fever, not comfort—a reminder of childhood nights spent shivering, waiting for something to pass. Perhaps the Wall remembered what he never could: how things once simply existed, without labels, without observation, without apologies. As the last light faded, Gregor imagined the building—himself inside it—being absorbed into the shapeless body of the world. Something vast, indifferent.

Maybe complete. He dropped his pen; it slid into the puddle and vanished without a sound. Gregor curled up, longing for sleep without dreams, wishing for a forgetfulness deeper than oblivion. Existence, it seemed, had been nothing but a brief interruption in nature's silent pulse. No one would remember him. Not even the moss that grew quietly over his shoe, gentle and unseeing, eager to soften even the ache of despair into nothing more than root and silence.

*-By Rishita Sinha Mahapatra, Bethune College, Kolkata*

## SEEDS OF TOMORROW

The neem tree was right outside the window of Mira's hostel. It had been her steady companion through her first college year. Back then, its thick branches offered cool shade from the blazing afternoon sun. She would lean against its trunk, scribbling last-minute notes for class. Or she would pass around packets of spicy chips with her roommates, laughing over silly stories. The leaves rustled softly in the breeze, a green canopy that made the heat bearable. But this summer felt different. The branches of the tree hung empty and stark; leaves had dropped weeks ahead of schedule. Only dry dust swirled where vibrant green had swayed before. Mira stared at it each morning—a knot forming in her stomach. She knew summer heat waves had grown harsher these days. Reports from news clips mentioned how rising temperatures stressed trees like this one. That morning in the class of Environmental Studies, her professor asked a simple question. "Mission: Life—what does it mean to you?" Students erupted into chatter. One boy yelled about landing the dream job in tech. A girl seated next to Mira shouted of backpacking across Europe. Others threw in building a family or chasing adventure sports. The room hummed with energy, full of big plans and bright futures. Yet Mira said nothing. Her eyes drifted again and again toward the window, where the bare tree stood. Later that evening, she wandered down to the old college pond. Once, it had been a sparkling spot for picnics. Now, it had dwindled to a shallow puddle of murky water. Plastic bottles floated on the surface, candy wrappers clung to the mud. A skinny stray dog lapped at the edge, desperate for a drink. Crows gathered nearby, pecking at bits of trash mistaken for food. The air smelled stale, like wet dirt mixed with rot. Mira's chest tightened. This wasn't just litter. It came from all the single-use plastics students tossed without a thought, water bottles from late-night study sessions, snack packs from rushed lunches.

A wave of guilt crashed over her. The world changed in small, secret ways: trees shed leaves too early, ponds became sludge. Yet life scurried along. Students crammed for exams, chased grades, and plotted careers. All of it rested on a planet that groaned under the load. She remembered reading a line from her book: more than 70 percent of India's water bodies are polluted due to waste and exploitation. These simple habits add up and suck the earth dry bit by bit. That night, when she was alone in her room, Mira pulled out her worn notebook. She wrote with care, pen scratching the page. "Maybe life's true mission skips the chase for distance or glory. Maybe it means treading light on the ground we share. Perhaps it's about restoring more than we harm—planting seeds where we've stripped away." The words flowed from her growing worry. She remembered her own routines: plastic cups in the cafeteria, forgotten bags flying in the wind like litter. How could personal goals count if the very fundamentals which is clean air and waterslipped away? Yet, even experts, such as ecologist Vandana Shiva, said the same thing: true progress heals the soil, not just pockets.

By morning, Mira had taken a shovel from the groundskeeper's shed. She chose a spot right by the fading neem tree. With steady hands, she dug into the parched soil. A small sapling from the nursery went in, its roots nestled deep. Her friends spotted her from the hostel steps. At first, they teased. "What, starting a forest now?" one joked, arms crossed. But curiosity won out. Priya knelt down to help pat the dirt. Sam fetched water from the tap. By the time the sun dipped low, five saplings were plotted on the ground. Each one tiny, roots gripping earth, shoots reaching for light. Mira stepped back, dirt smudged across cheeks. For the first time in months, hope stirred within her. One person's decision to act could spark more. If hearts began to turn toward care, perhaps the world yet might draw a full breath.

*-By Anushka Das, Department of Microbiology, Sarsuna College, Kolkata*

## মিশন লাইফ (নতুন আলোর দিশা)

ছোটবেলা থেকে অয়নের স্বপ্ন ভূগোল নিয়ে পড়বে। ক্লাস ৬ থেকে ভূগোল বিষয়টা যখন জানলো, ওর কেমন একটা ভালোবাসা জন্মে গেলো বিষয়টার প্রতি। অন্যান্য বিষয়গুলোর থেকে ভূগোল-এ কী আছে সেটাই জানার ইচ্ছে অয়নকে এতটা আকৃষ্ট করলো যে মাধ্যমিক গন্ডি পেরিয়ে সে ভূগোল নিয়ে অর্থাৎ আর্টস নিয়ে পড়াশুনা শুরু করলো। এটা বলে রাখি, অয়ন গ্রামের ছেলে তাই গ্রামের সুন্দর মনোরম পরিষ্কার পরিবেশে সে বড়ো হয়েছে তাই তার মনোভাবে দূষিত, কলুষিত, অপরিষ্কারের ছাপ পড়েনি তখনও।

কিন্তু এটার শেষ হলো যখন সে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শেষ করে কলকাতার কলেজ-এ পড়তে গেলো।

গ্রামের ছেলে তাই যাতায়াত ওর দ্বারা করা সম্ভব হলো না তাই বাধ্য হয়ে হোস্টেলে থেকে পড়াশুনা শুরু করলো ও। প্রথম কয়েকমাস অয়নের তেমন অসুবিধা হয়নি। বেশ ভালোই সে ভূগোল নিয়ে পড়াশুনা চালিয়ে যাচ্ছিলো কিন্তু একদিন বিপদ এসে পড়লো, ওর হোস্টেলের যে জলনিকাশি জায়গাটা আছে সেইখানে জল ঠিক মতো যাচ্ছে না যার জন্য নোংরা জল জমে দুর্গন্ধ বেরোচ্ছে। অয়ন সেই গন্ধ সহ্য করতে পারলো না। দীর্ঘদিন ধরে জল জমেই রইলো। আরও সমস্যার মুখো মুখি হলো সে, প্রথমত শহরের দূষিত বাতাস, কম গাছ, প্লাস্টিকের জমাট যা তার জীবনকে অতিষ্ঠ করে দিলো।

কিছুদিন পর সে ফিরে গেলো তার গ্রামে। সেইখানে গিয়ে দেখলো যে সব কিছু কেমন সুন্দর তাই সে ঠিক করলো ফিরে গিয়ে কিছু একটা করবে যেহেতু সে একজন ভূগোলের ছাত্র তাই তার একটা কর্তব্য আছে এই পৃথিবীকে বাঁচাতে হবে নাহলে শহরের অত্যাচারে পৃথিবী একদিন বিনষ্ট হবে।

কলেজে ফিরে অয়ন তার কয়েকজন বন্ধুকে নিয়ে বেরিয়ে পড়লো মানুষকে সচেতন করতে, বোঝাতে যে পৃথিবীকে বাঁচানো দরকার। শুরু করলো “মিশন লাইফ” যার অর্থ প্রতিটা জীবন খুব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। অয়ন প্লাস্টিকের ব্যবহার কমিয়ে মানুষকে চটের থলি ব্যবহারের কথা বলা শুরু করলো। বিভিন্ন জায়গায় গাছ লাগানো শুরু করলো এমনকি নিজে বিভিন্ন জায়গার নালাতে নেমে সেগুলো পরিষ্কার করার দায়িত্ব নিলো।

যখন সে কলেজের তৃতীয় বর্ষে সেই সময় সে কলেজের মধ্যে সে নির্বাচন হলো একজন দায়িত্বশীল, কর্তব্যপরায়ণ, সমাজের কল্যাণমুখী মানুষ হিসেবে। যখন অয়নকে কলেজের এক পরিবেশবান্ধব অনুষ্ঠানে এই সম্মান তুলে দেওয়া হলো।

তারপর ওর মুখ দিয়ে কয়েকটা শব্দ বেরিয়ে এলো....

হে বসুন্ধরা

আমরা তোমার সন্তান,

আমাদের ক্ষমা করে দিও,

দিন দিন তোমাকে অসুন্দর করে দেওয়ার জন্য।

মানুষ এই ধরিত্রীর শ্রেষ্ঠ জীব হতে পারে কিন্তু মা (পৃথিবী)

আমরাই সব চেয়ে নিকৃষ্ট কাজ করছি,

তোমাকে দিনদিন শেষ করে দিয়ে।

তাই আমি কথা দিচ্ছি তোমাকে (ধরিত্রীকে) আগের মতো সুন্দর করার জন্য। ধরিত্রী মা তুমি আবার দূষণমুক্ত হও এটাই আমার প্রচেষ্টা। আমি যে ভাবনা নিয়েছি সেটা পূরণ করেই ছাড়বো তোমাকে আবার আগের মতো সবুজে (অরণ্য) ভরিয়ে দেবো।

কথাগুলো শেষ করে অয়নের চোখে জল এসে গেলো। শেষে সে নিজেকে বললো, “ভূগোলকে যখন ভালোবেসেছি, তখন আমি শেষ পর্যন্ত এই বিষয়কে ভালোবাসবো। আর যত্ন করবো, নিজের সমাজ, নিজের পরিবেশকে, আর বদলে দেবো সমাজের প্রতিটা মানুষকে”।

**শেষ কথায়:**

মিশন লাইফ যেন প্রতিটা ঘরে ঘরে মানুষের কাছে পৌঁছে যাক, যাতে তারা বুঝতে পারে যে নিজের বাসস্থান একমাত্র তাদের বাসস্থান নয় সমস্ত পৃথিবীটা তাদের একমাত্র বাসস্থান, সেটা পরিষ্কার রাখা উচিত।

*-By Sourish Das, Msc Geography, (Hons.), Sarsuna College*

## From Rock to Cloud

I was born among stones - silent, strong, and forgotten by time. My beginning was rough, grounded in a world that never moved. The mountains were my family, the wind was my first teacher. I watched rivers carve their way through cliffs, teaching me that even softness has power.

For years, I stayed still. People passed by, climbing over me, breaking me, ignoring me. I was just another rock - cold, heavy, ordinary. Yet, deep inside, I dreamed of the sky. I wanted to rise, to float, to become part of something larger than myself.

Then one day, rain came. It fell endlessly, washing through cracks and corners, teaching me to let go. I began to crumble, not from weakness, but from change. I became dust - light enough to travel, brave enough to move. The river carried me downhill, and for the first time, I was free.

The world was vast. I saw valleys bloom, trees stretch upward, and people build homes where the earth met the sky. Every place I touched left a mark on me - the scent of flowers, the song of birds, the warmth of sun on water. I was no longer just stone; I was becoming a part of life itself.

Seasons passed. I became part of soil, then part of roots, then part of a leaf reaching toward sunlight. The air whispered to me, calling me higher. The sun's warmth lifted me into vapor - invisible, weightless, free.

Now I drift among clouds. I look down at the world I once belonged to - mountains, rivers, and valleys that shaped me. I see people climbing their own mountains, dreaming their own skies. And I realize every rise begins with a fall, every cloud begins with a rock.

I am no longer afraid of endings. The mountain still stands where I began, but I've learned that even stone can move, even dust can dream. I've learned that transformation is not loss - it's freedom.

From rock to river, from river to sky - my journey continues. Someday, the rain will bring me back to earth again, to begin a new story, another rise, another climb.

*-By Mousumi Gharami, Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata*

## E-POSTER

**A global movement launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 to promote eco-friendly and sustainable living. It aims to shift from a "use and dispose" lifestyle to mindful and responsible use of resources.**

**MISSION LIFE**  
LIFESTYLE FOR ENVIRONMENT

**Be the Change, Live the Green!**  
From "Use & Throw" to "Reduce & Grow."  
Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.  
Mission LIFE: My Planet, My Responsibility

**Switching off the car / scooter engines at traffic lights / railway crossings can save up to 22.5 billion kWh of energy**

**Turning off running taps when not in active use can save up to 9 trillion litres of water**

**Using a cloth bag instead of a plastic bag while shopping can save up to 375 million tonnes of solid waste from entering the landfill**

**Discarding non-functioning gadgets in the nearest e-recycling unit can recycle up to 0.75 million tonnes of e-waste**

**Composting waste food at home can save up to 15 billion tonnes of food from going to landfills**

**Save Energy, Save Earth.**  
Every Drop Counts – Conserve Water!  
Say No to Single-Use Plastic.  
Join the Pro-Planet People (P3) Movement.  
One Earth, One Future, One Mission – LIFE!

**MISSION LIFE Themes**

- Reduce Waste
- Reduce E-waste
- Adopt Healthy Lifestyles
- Adopt Sustainable Food Systems
- Say No to Single Use Plastic
- Save Water
- Save Energy

**Mission Life aims to create Pro-Planet People (P3) who care for the environment. It follows a holistic approach through Demand, Supply, and Policy changes. The mission promotes actions like reducing waste, saving water, and using energy efficiently, with a goal to make 80% of India's villages and cities eco-friendly by 2028**

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT. BE A PRO-PLANET PERSON.**  
www.missionlife.gov.in

**LIVE FOR THE PLANET, LEAD FOR THE FUTURE**

*-By Sangeeta Chowdhury, Sarsuna College, Kolkata*

## POEM

### সবুজ দীপাবলী

রঙিন রঙিন আলপনা আর সজ্জিত ঘরবাড়ি,  
আলোকচ্ছটায় এলো সবার প্রাণের দীপাবলী।  
সন্ধ্যে পরে চোদ্দ প্রদীপ আকাশ পানে রাখো,  
আলোয় আলোয় ভরিয়ে তুলে ধরাকে আজ ঢাকো।  
শুধু রঙিন সাজ নয় আজ, হৃদয় করো রঙিন,  
পরিবেশের সুস্থতা আজ হয় না যেন বিলীন।  
পটকা বাজি আজ আর নয়, বন্ধ পলিথিন—  
পথপ্রাণীর ক্ষতি করে নয় আর আনন্দ দিন।  
শুধুই কেবল আকাশ নয়, আজ জীবন করো উজ্জ্বল,  
সবুজ দীপাবলী পালন আমাদের লক্ষ্য অবিচল।  
দীপাবলী আজ হোক শুধু সম্প্রীতি আর সুস্থতার।  
আলো- বাজি- দূষণ মুক্ত পৃথিবী সবার অঙ্গীকার।।

*-By Ayantika Mitra, Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata*

# BEST POSTERS OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY- 2025



1<sup>st</sup> - Arannya Debnath, Class-X, The Scottish Church Collegiate School, Kolkata

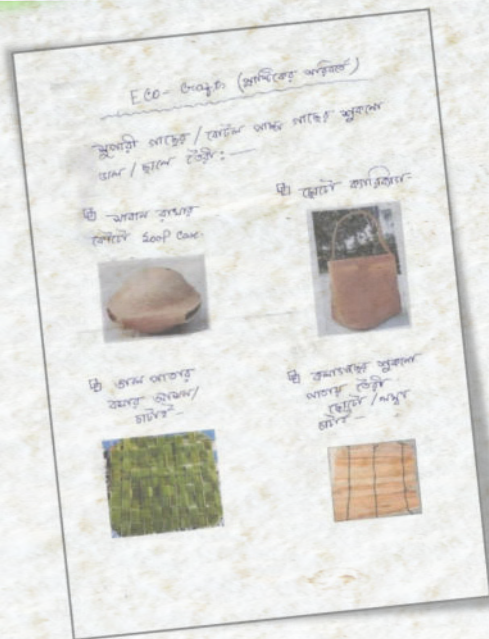


2<sup>nd</sup> - Snigdha Ghosh, Class-IX, Bethune Collegiate School, Kolkata



3<sup>rd</sup> - Dipshikha Sen, Class-VI, Raghunathpur Girls High School, Purulia district

# BEST ECO-ARTS ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY- 2025



1<sup>st</sup> - Supriya Mandal, Class-VIII, Bijoynagar  
Adarsha Vidyamandir (H.S), South 24  
Parganas district



2<sup>nd</sup> - Inpan Roy, Class-XI, Tapsikhata High School,  
Alipurduar district  
South 24 Parganas district



3<sup>rd</sup> - Sneha Koley, Class-XI, Chinsurah Balika Siksha  
Mandir High School, Hooghly district

উন্নয়নের কর্মকাণ্ড হিমালয়কে যুদ্ধক্ষেত্র বানিয়ে তুলেছে তার পর বিনাশের পালা

১৩ মে থেকে ১৩ দিনের মধ্যে কলিকাতা নগর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃক পরিষ্কার করা হবে ৩৩ কিলোমিটার দূরত্বের একটি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের অধীনে।

**কল্যাণ রুদ্র**

কলিকাতা নগর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃক পরিষ্কার করা হবে ৩৩ কিলোমিটার দূরত্বের একটি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের অধীনে।

কলিকাতা নগর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃক পরিষ্কার করা হবে ৩৩ কিলোমিটার দূরত্বের একটি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের অধীনে।

Anandabazar Patrika, September, 2025

### State seeks Ramsar tag for Rasikbil

JAYANTA BASU

Calcutta's Rasikbil, a lake in Cooch Behar district in north Bengal, has been nominated by the state government for the consideration of the Union environment, forests and climate change ministry as a potential Ramsar site (wetland of international importance).

If New Delhi approves, Rasikbil's case will go to the Ramsar authorities for formal clearance.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands governs Ramsar sites. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Rasikbil, if cleared, will be the third Ramsar site in the state after the East Kolkata Wetlands and the Sunderbans. Presently, India is third in the world, after the United Kingdom and Sweden, with 89 Ramsar sites.

"We have nominated Rasikbil as a potential Ramsar site and the decision will be forwarded to the Union environment, forests and climate change ministry for clearance and Ramsar referral," environment minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said on the sidelines of a meeting to mark World Wetlands Day on February 2.

"The proposal, which came from the state forest department as Rasikbil is located within a designated forest area, got cleared about a week back in the state wetlands committee meeting," a senior environment department official said.

Rasikbil, a habitat for bird species like cormorants, storks, ibis, spoonbills, kingfishers, parrots, owls, and many others, is a major tourist spot in north Bengal.

"We welcome the decision and hope that Rasikbil will meet the criteria set by the Ramsar authorities for official clearance," stated Animesh Bose of the non-profit Himalayan Nature & Adventure Foundation (HNAF).

State environment secretary Roshni Sen said her department was working to stop encroachment into the east Calcutta wetlands and end the lake desilting of the fisheries there.

Rasikbil in Cooch Behar. Picture credit: Animesh Bose

The Telegraph, 05.02.2025

### Bengal plans 800-km 'green wall' along Jharkhand border

Will act as a shield in intercepting pollutants entering the State, says W.B. Pollution Control Board Chairperson Kalyan Rudra; once completed, the project will become a major attraction, he adds

**Shrabana Chatterjee**  
KOLKATA

In an ambitious move to combat air pollution, West Bengal Pollution Control Board Chairperson Kalyan Rudra said on Wednesday that the State government was planning to create an 800-km 'bioshield' of forested areas, or a 'green wall,' along the Jharkhand border to intercept pollutants entering Bengal.

"It will take about a decade to grow, but when fully grown, people who go to see the Chinese wall (Great Wall of China) will come to Bengal to see the green wall," said Mr. Rudra, at a Bharat Chamber of Commerce event.

West Bengal shares the north-western border with Jharkhand. The proposed 'green wall' will extend to the Birbhum and Dinajpur districts of West Bengal.

Highlighting Kolkata's recent recognition as one of the country's cleanest metropolises, Mr. Rudra said the proposed project is part of a larger effort to reduce in-situ pollution and mobilise industry participation in sustainable practices. Present at the event, Prof. Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay of the University of Calcutta, highlighted that behavioural change was needed to bring about a bigger impact.

Kalyan Rudra addressing a Bharat Chamber of Commerce event, KOLKATA

The Hindu, 05.06.2025

# পরিবেশ সচেতনতায় জোর চন্দ্রিমার

আজকালের প্রতিবেদন

পরিবেশ এখন অগ্রদূতপূর্ণ বিষয়। কিন্তু পরিবেশ নিয়ে সংবিধানে কিছু বলা নেই। যৌথ তালিকাতেও কিছু নেই। পরিবেশমন্ত্রী চন্দ্রিমা ভট্টাচার্য মঙ্গলবার বিধানসভায় একথা জানান। তিনি বিষয়ক শঙ্কর ঘোষকে বলেন, 'আপনি দিল্লিতে গিয়ে বলুন, সংবিধানে এবং যৌথ

হবে। যেভাবেই হোক পরিবেশকে রক্ষা করতেই হবে।' পূর্ব কলকাতা জলাভূমির ক্ষেত্রে কন্যা পদক্ষেপগুলির বিষয়ে মন্ত্রী জানান। সুন্দরবনের পরিবেশ রক্ষাতেও কাজ হচ্ছে বলে জানান মন্ত্রী। উত্তরবঙ্গের জঙ্গল-পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকায় মহানন্দা অভয়ারণ্যের বিষয়ে মন্ত্রীর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেন ড. শঙ্কর ঘোষ। অবৈধ নির্মাণ নিয়েও মন্ত্রীকে জানান বিষয়ক।



চন্দ্রিমা ভট্টাচার্য

তালিকাভুক্ত পরিবেশকে রাখার জন্য। শুধু দেশ-বিদেশে বক্তৃতা পেশ করলেই হয় না। এদিন পরিবেশ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে জয় করেন বিধানসভা কারক, মমুসুদন বাগ, ড. শঙ্কর ঘোষ। মন্ত্রী বলেন, 'পরিবেশ নিয়ে আমরা সাক্ষরিত হয়েছি।' শান্তিপুরের দু'ঘণ্টা নিয়ন্ত্রণ পর্বের সব জায়গায় খুব ভালো কাজ করছে। জাতীয় পরিবেশ আদালত যে ৩৪টি নির্দেশিকা দিয়েছে, সেগুলি আমরা কার্যকর করার ব্যাপারে সব ধরনের উদ্যোগ নিয়েছি। বায়ুদূষণ, শব্দদূষণ, জলাভূমি সংরক্ষণ, সবুজ বাজির ক্ষেত্রে পদক্ষেপ করা হয়েছে। জলাভূমি বুজিয়ে কেউ যাতে অবৈধ নির্মাণ করতে না পারে, সে বিষয়ে রাজ্য সরকার কড়া পদক্ষেপ করেছে। অবৈধ নির্মাণ যাতে কোথাও না হয়, তা সবাইকে দেখতে

পরিবেশ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে মন্ত্রী চন্দ্রিমা ভট্টাচার্য বলেন, 'কারও কোনও অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৮০০২৪৩৩৩৩৩৩৩৩ নম্বরে ফোন করলে জানানো যাবে। পল্ল্যাদেশের ক্ষেত্রেও পরিবেশ দপ্তর বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপ করেছে।' মাইকের শব্দদূষণ নিয়ে প্রশ্ন করেন মমুসুদন বাগ। মাইকের শব্দের তীব্রতা ৬৫ ডেসিবেল পর্যন্ত হতে পারে। এর বেশি হলে পুষ্টিমিত্র বিষয়টি দেখবে। অধিক বিমান ব্যানার্জি এই বিষয়ে বলেন, 'আমার কাছে কয়েকজন ছাত্রছাত্রী ফোন করে অভিযোগ করেছিল, পরীক্ষা চলছে, মাইক বাজছে, পড়াশোনা করতে পারছি না। সুতরাং বিষয়টি সনাইকেই দেখতে হবে।' মন্ত্রী জানান, দাঁপাবলি, ছটপুঞ্জা, বড়দিনে মাইক ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে নিয়ম আছে।

Ajkal, 03.09.2025

# PCB catches them young at nature camp



Students had an immersive experience at the camp held at Jayanti

Krishnendu.Bandyopadhyay @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) on Monday took a significant step towards fostering environmental awareness among young minds by organising a nature study camp at Jayanti in the Buxa Tiger Reserve, north Bengal. This initiative, aimed at immersing students in nature, aligns with 'Mission LIFE'—a global movement advocating a sustainable lifestyle to combat climate change. The WBPCB plans to expand the initiative across the state.

Under its Environment Education Programme (EEP), the WBPCB invited eco-club students from various schools in Alipurduar and neighbouring districts for a two-day nature study camp, workshop, and model exhibition. Scheduled for March 24-25, the event was held in collaboration with EEP-enlisted schools at Jayanti, a picturesque location within Buxa National Park. A total of 100 students from 10 schools across Cooch Behar and Alipurduar were selected to participate in this immersive experience. Living in tents, trekking nature trails, and closely observing biodiversity, the students are gaining a hands-on understanding of ecological conservation and the principles of Mission LIFE. WBPCB chairman Kalyan Rudra said, "There is no second Earth. Our planet is in grave danger as we surpassed all previous records in carbon emissions. Bengal, a microcosm of India with the Himalayas in the north and the sea in the south, is particularly vulnerable to climate change." "The students were exposed to nature in its raw beauty to instill lifelong lessons about environmental conservation," said Subrata Ghosh, officer on special duty, WBPCB.

The Times of India, 25.03.2025

# Kol beats other metros, reports more than 50% of good air days in 4 years: CSE study

Krishnendu.Bandyopadhyay @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The city has taken the top spot with the best air quality among six key Indian metros, a study by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has revealed. Kolkata witnessed 791 days—over 50% of the total 1,550 days assessed—of 'very good' and 'satisfactory' air quality, highest among the metros. The findings, part of CSE's State of India's Environment in Figures 2025, analysed air quality data from Jan 1, 2021 to March 31, 2025. According to the study, Kolkata reported 589 days of 'very good' air and 202 days of 'satisfactory' air during this period. While only 231 days of 'moderate' air was recorded in the ci-

## POLLUTION SNAPSHOTS

City	Very Good	Satisfactory	Moderate	Poor	Very Poor	Severe
Kol	368	423	231	513	15	0
Del	5	539	396	265	62	284
Chennai	237	179	7	1,178	0	0
B'uru	246	214	0	1,090	0	0
Mum	145	537	118	649	1	0
Hyd	190	440	0	920	0	0

AQI range: Very Good 0-50, Satisfactory: 51-100, Moderate: 101-200, Poor: 201-300, Very Poor: 301-400, Severe: 401-500 (Figures indicate air quality days from Jan 2021 - Mar 2025)

ty, not a single day was reported in the 'severe' category. With fewer 'poor' and 'very poor' air quality days—231 and 15 respectively—Kolkata faces lower exposure to harmful pollution levels, which in turn meant better health, the analysis highlighted. Delhi remained the most polluted metro during the study period, with 899 'moderate', 265 'poor' and 62 'very poor' air quality days. Significantly, the national capital's 284 'severe' air days was in sharp contrast

to Kolkata's nil, an indication of the former's prolonged hazardous pollution levels. "Kolkata's success story is a result of several key policy decisions by PCB and their effective implementation by the local bodies," said West Bengal Pollution Control Board chairman Kalyan Rudra. "Using sprinklers to prevent dust-resuspension, deploying fire tenders at landfills, binning of garbage heaps, shifting to clean fuel, use of smokeless chulha by food vendors and urban and rural poor have all been crucial in improving the city's air quality," he added. Rudra, however, cautioned that significant challenges remained in reducing emissions further. >Clean Air project', P 2

The Times of India, 30.07.2025



পশ্চিমবঙ্গ দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পর্ষদ আয়োজিত অনুষ্ঠানে প্রাস্টিক দূষণ রূপে পোষ্টার প্রকাশ। রয়েছেন পরিবেশমন্ত্রী চন্দ্রিমা ভট্টাচার্য, দপ্তরের অতিরিক্ত মুখ্যসচিব রোশনি সেন, দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পর্ষদের চেয়ারম্যান ড. কল্যাণ রুদ্র, সদস্য সচিব জগদীশপ্রসাদ মিনা, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ জীববৈচিত্র্য পর্ষদের চেয়ারম্যান হিমাদ্রিশেখর দেবনাথ, বিশিষ্ট শিক্ষাবিদ পদ্মশ্রী অধ্যাপক অজয়কুমার রায়। ছিলেন পরিবেশ দপ্তরের সিনিয়র স্পেশ্যাল সেক্রেটারি সসীমকুমার বরুই—সহ দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পর্ষদের আধিকারিকরা। বিশ্ব বাংলা কনভেনশন সেন্টারে, বৃহস্পতিবার। ছবি: তপন মুখার্জি

Ajkal, 06.06.2025

## ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS TO OBSERVE IN 2026

DAYS	DATE
National Bird Day	5 January
International clean energy day	26 January
World Wetland Day	02 February
International Polar Bear Day	27 February
World Wildlife Day	03 March
International Day of Action for Rivers	14 March
Global Recycling Day	18 March
World Wood Day	21 March
International Day of Forests	21 March
World Water Day	22 March
Earth Hour	27 March
Earth Day	22 April
World Migratory Bird Day	08 May
World Bee Day	20 May
Endangered Species Day	3rd Friday of May every year
World Turtle Day	23 May
World Environment Day	05 June
World Oceans Day	08 June
Global Wind Day	15 June
World Population Day	11 July
Forest Week	14 to 20 July
World Mangrove Day	26 July
World Tiger Day	29 July
International day of Clean Air for Blue skies	07 September
World Ozone Day	16 September
World Rivers Day	4th Sunday of September every year
World Habitat Day	04 October
World Food Day	16 October
International Jaguar Day	29 November
National Pollution Control Day	02 December
International Mountain Day	11 December

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