



Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity - 2019



By
West Bengal Biodiversity Board
(Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal)
Kolkata

জীববৈচিত্র্যের সুরক্ষাই আমাদের খাদ্য ও স্বাস্থ্যের চাবিকাঠি

দেবব্রত গাঙ্গুলী- বিগত কয়েক বছর ধরে প্রায় সব দেশেই উচ্চ ফলনযুক্ত ফসলের জন্য নানারকম রাসায়নিক ব্যবহৃত হয়ে চলেছে। ফলে অনেক পরম্পরালব্ধ দেশীয় শস্যের অবলুপ্তি ঘটেছে, তেমনই বিভিন্ন প্রকার মাছ ও জলজ প্রাণীর বৈচিত্র্যও ক্রমে হ্রাস পেতে চলেছে। মানুষের ভূমি ব্যবহারের ধরণ যত পাল্টাচ্ছে সেই সঙ্গে ঔষুধসম্পন্ন গাছপালা ও প্রাণীরাও ক্রমে হারিয়ে যাচ্ছে। জীববৈচিত্র্যের এই ধ্বংসপ্রায় অবস্থা মানব জীবনে প্রতি পলে পলে বিরূপ প্রতিক্রিয়া ফেলতে শুরু করেছে। বহুমুত্র, স্তূলতা, অপুষ্টির মত স্বাস্থ্যসমস্যা আমাদেরকে আশ্চর্যপূর্ণ বেঁধে ফেলছে, খাদ্যবৈচিত্র্যও এনেছে সঙ্কট। প্রকৃতির রসদের উপরই আমাদের বেঁচে থাকা। তাই জীববৈচিত্র্যের সুরক্ষায় আমাদের সকলকে এগিয়ে আসতে হবে নচেৎ মানবে জীবনে ঘনিয়ে আসবে মহাদুর্যোগ। গত ২২মে, কলকাতার সায়েন্সসিটিতে বিশ্ব জীববৈচিত্র্য দিবস উপলক্ষে, ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল বায়োডায়ভারসিটি বোর্ড কর্তৃক আয়োজিত এক অনুষ্ঠানে এমনই সাবধানবাণী ধ্বনিত হল বিশিষ্ট বিজ্ঞানীদের কথায়। অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত



সমবেতভাবে বৃক্ষ জলসিঞ্চন দ্বারা বিশ্ব জীববৈচিত্র্য দিবসের সূচনা করছেন, ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল বায়োডায়ভারসিটি বোর্ড -এর চেয়ারম্যান অশোককান্তি সান্যাল, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ পলিউশন কন্ট্রোল বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান ডঃ কল্যান রুদ্র, রামকৃষ্ণ মিশনের সহ-উপাচার্য (আর.এম.ভি.ই.আর. আই) স্বামী আত্মপ্রিয়নন্দ, পরিবেশ দপ্তরের অ্যাড. চীফ সেক্রেটারি- ইন্দিবর পাণ্ডে (আই.এ.এস), মেম্বার সেক্রেটারি ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল বায়োডায়ভারসিটি বোর্ড- সিদ্ধার্থ রায়।

ছিলেন ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল বায়োডায়ভারসিটি বোর্ড -এর চেয়ারম্যান অশোককান্তি সান্যাল, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ পলিউশন কন্ট্রোল বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান ডঃ কল্যান রুদ্র, রামকৃষ্ণ মিশনের সহ-উপাচার্য (আর.এম.ভি.ই.আর. আই) স্বামী আত্মপ্রিয়নন্দ, পরিবেশ দপ্তরের অ্যাড. চীফ সেক্রেটারি- ইন্দিবর পাণ্ডে (আই.এ.এস), সিদ্ধার্থ রায় (মেম্বার সেক্রেটারি ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল বায়োডায়ভারসিটি বোর্ড) সহ প্রমুখ বিশিষ্টজন।

**A Brief Report on The Celebration of
International Day for Biological Diversity, 2019
By the West Bengal Biodiversity Board**

Date & Time: 22nd May 2019, 10.00 a.m.

Place: Science City Seminar Hall (S – 18A&B) Kolkata

Background: The International Day for Biological Diversity – 2019 was observed on 22nd May in order to recapitulate, our duties towards conservation and sustainable utilization of vast resources of biodiversity that envelops us. It is also a reminder that we need to arrest the pace of extinction of our biodiversity mainly due to over bearing acts of humans, which are all but sustainable.

The state level observance with different stakeholders, has very rightly justified the main theme of IDB-2019 *i.e.* **Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health** to generate awareness by involving all stakeholders who need to be appraised of their dual roles, both as a protector and as conservative consumer.

Dignitaries on Dias: Swami Atmapriyananda, Vice Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute (deemed University)
Sri Indevan Pandey, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, GoWB
Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, W.B. Pollution Control Board
Dr. Asoke Kanti Sanyal, Chairman, W. B. Biodiversity Board
Sri Siddhartha Roy, IFS, Member Secretary, W. B. Biodiversity Board

Moderator: Sri Moloy Ghosh

Session I

Inauguration: The central programme to mark the commemoration of IDB-2019 was held during a one-day long programme at Science City Seminar Hall (S – 18A&B) Kolkata on 22nd May, 2019. More than 200 people from different segments of the society including representatives of BMCs/ Research Institutes/ Govt. Organizations/ NGOs, students / Teachers of Schools, Colleges, Universities and others took part in the event.

Respectable dignitaries *viz.* Swami Atmapriyananda, Vice Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute (deemed University), Sri Indevan Pandey, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, GoWB, Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB, Dr. Asok Kanti Sanyal, Chairman, WBBB, Sri Siddhartha Roy, Member Secretary, WBBB present on the dias and were greeted with floral reception on stage.

The programme started with a Sanskrit bandana by Smt. Tanvi Sanyal followed by its Bengali version written by Rabindranath Tagore. Then the Chief Guest along with other dignitaries formally inaugurated the session by watering a potted Tulsi (*Ocimum tenuiflorum*) Plant.

Deliberation

Dr. A. K. Sanyal, Chairman, WBBB delivered his welcome address and set the tone of the programme. At the outset he welcomed all the dignitaries and the distinguished participants present in the programme. In his address Dr. Sanyal unveiled the theme of this year's programme- '**Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health**' and highlighted the significance of the day and theme in the light of the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for betterment of millions of lives by sustaining biodiversity. He mentioned about Millenium Summit where UN fixed some targets among which security of food and health of human topped the list. Currently implementation of 17 SDGs is the highest priority all over the world he said. He pointed out that on this 19th year of global celebration of IDB it is the need for better plan and management to mitigate the ill effects of unplanned development underlining the various advantages of sustainable development towards a healthy and sustainable life by eradicating hunger and death due to starvation. He also briefly narrated the activities and various achievement of the State Board since inception towards generating awareness and steps taken for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act & Rules in the state. Dr. Sanyal concluded his talk with a recitation of a poem on 'Mother Nature' written by him.



Sri Indevvar Pandey, IAS, the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, GoWB



expressed his gratitude to all the participants for being present in the programme. In his deliberation he mentioned about the serious threat to biodiversity in the context of global trends and warnings raised by various agencies both national and international about immediate need to minimise the adverse human activities on biodiversity. He pointed out the need for integration of biodiversity conservation in all the development initiatives being undertaken. This day, he asserted, will definitely act as a trigger

for generating awareness among all. He applauded the various activities undertaken by the Board for conservation and spreading awareness e.g. setting up Biodiversity Park, Bio Tour, School Wall Painting etc. to name a few.

Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman W. B. Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) graced the programme with his inaugural speech. In his deliberation he stressed on the overgrowing dependence on biodiversity for the sustenance of humankind which is damaging the nature. He warned about the gradual increase of chemicals in agriculture sector contributing to various serious health issues. Some indexes point out serious fragility of biodiversity due to habitat shrinking, river degradation etc. putting immense pressure on dwindling natural capitals. The downgrading trend in the number of various species has already rung the warning bell. He cautioned that destruction of one will surely affect another irrespective of geo-political barrier. Climate change, GHGs, biodiversity loss all are posing threat to our very existence. We are living by destroying natural capital stocks of earth without hardly any replenishment. The pollution would one day cast a shadow on the very existence of human if we don't put effort to pull the brake.



Swami Atmapriyananda, Vice Chancellor, RKMVU initiated his Keynote address with a sanskrit



verse depicting the intricate role of nature on human life. He elucidated that Mother nature protects us with all the kindness and generosity but when man tried to control nature the downfall started. All our discovery and invention should be directed to the welfare of human which is not happening. We need to live in cooperation with the other components of nature and not by coercing them. He quoted the famous comments of Mahatma Gandhi "The World has enough for man's need but not enough for man's greed" - which is leading to ecological crisis. The services being provided by the nature without any break for our sustenance is absolutely free without any expectation in return. We should be warned that the wrath of nature cannot be confronted by human. We should rely more on natural system by discarding artificial system and try to restrict ourselves within the nature's threshold of tolerance. The divine server of God has made us interconnected with all the beings of this universe just

like internet. The need of the hour is to acknowledge the rule of nature by being responsible, sharing and practicing conservative use for a happy and prosperous life. He signed off by saying that the morale of this day should be observed on each and every day.

Sri Siddhartha Roy, IFS, Member Secretary, WBBB in his deliberation reiterated the need to practice sustainable method to maintain the resilience of nature. We are shocked by the intensity of natural calamities but never try to introspect the cause behind them. Time has come to pay back to the nature for the damage we have done to the nature. Referring to the theme of the day he reminded about our duty to respect biodiversity for providing our food, shelter and health. He mentioned about the expansion of the activities of the State Board to



implement the provisions of Biological Diversity Act & Rules. He stressed the need of involvement of common people for conservation and protection of biodiversity as no policing and institutional protection is there for non-forest areas. He mentioned about involvement of common people who are coming forward for protection of biodiversity.

Biodiversity Award

Annual Biodiversity Awards in the BMC category was conferred to Contai Municipality BMC of Purba Medinipur for their activities & achievements involving local people.

Annual Biodiversity Award in the individual category was given to Sri Kushal Mookherjee of Prakriti Samsad for his commendable contribution in conservation of Biodiversity and generating mass awareness by involving people in the process. His notable effort in sensitizing common people about birds is recognised by all and sundry.



PBR release

On a solemn note, 31 (thirty) PBRs were formally handed over to the Chairman of the Board by the members of the respective Biodiversity Management Committees as given below.

S.No.	Name of the BMCs	S.No.	Name of the BMCs
1	Krishnanagar-I Block BMC, Nadia	7	Bardhaman-II Block BMC, Purba Bardhaman
2	Birnagar Municipality BMC, Nadia	8	Memari-I Block BMC, Purba Bardhaman
3	Taherpur Notified Area BMC, Nadia	9	Memari-II Block BMC, Purba Bardhaman
4	Kalna -I Block BMC, Purba Bardhaman	10	Raninagar-II Block BMC, Murshidabad
5	Kalna-II Block BMC, Purba Bardhaman	11	Chanchol-II Block BMC, Malda
6	Raina-II Block BMC, Paschim Bardhaman	12	Gazole Block BMC, Malda

S.No.	Particulars	S.No.	Particulars
13	Baklurghat Block BMC, South Dinapur	22	Debra Block BMC, Paschim Medinipur
14	Hemtabad Block BMC, North Dinajpur	23	Ghatal Block BMC, Purba Medinipur
15	Sitai Block BMC, Coochbehar	24	Dantan - II Block BMC, Paschim Medinipur
16	Dhaniakhali Block BMC, Hooghly	25	Kharagpur Municipality BMC, Paschim Medinipur
17	Pursura Block BMC, Hooghly	26	Brinpur-I Block BMC, Jhargram
18	Arambag Block BMC, hooghly	27	Arsa Block BMC, Purulia
19	Khanakul -I Block BMC, hooghly	28	Jaipur Block BMC, Purulia
20	Nandakumar Block BMC, Purba Medinipur	29	Swarupnagar Block BMC, North 24 Parganas
21	Chandipur Block BMC, Purba Medinipur	30	Kulpi Block BMC, South 24 Parganas



Chairman, WBBB informed the audience about the launching of a new portal by the State Board for facilitating online registration by the commercial organizations for obtaining approval for accessing the bio-resources and sharing of benefit to the conservers. This website will help the commercial institutions to complete the filling up of Form-I online and transfer the benefit without any physical appearance in the SBB.

Dr. Anirban Roy, Research Officer, WBBB proposed formal Vote of Thanks. He acknowledged the illuminating talk of Swami Atmapriyananda and expressed the gratefulness of the Board. He extended hearty thanks to Sri Indevar Padey, IAS, ACS, DoE, GoWB, Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB and Sri Siddhartha Roy, IFS, MS, WBBB. He made a special mention to Dr.A. K. Sanyal, Chairman, WBBB for extending his support in organizing the programme successfully. He also extended thanks to the BMC officials, academia, student communities, press fraternities, officers & staff of WBBB, all the support staff of Science City, Event Management Agency for making the event a grand success.



The first session was followed by a cultural programme performed by a drama group (Channachara) from Birbhum district. The dance drama titled 'EKTI GACH ONEK PRAN' was themed around the concept of mother nature as the provider of life to all living beings and the perilous effect of anthropogenic activities and greed of human for making profit out of exploitation of wildlife. The drama ended with a note of optimism and a message to save nature to save mankind.



The second session came to a close followed by lunch arranged by the Board for all the participants.

Handwritten signature in blue ink.

Member Secretary
West Bengal Biodiversity Board