

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2007

National Seminar on 'Global Climate Change: Issues & Challenges for India'

Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Salt Lake

June 5, 2007

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment. The World Environment Day Slogan for 2007 is "Melting Ice – a Hot Topic?". In support of International Polar Year, the theme selected for 2007 focuses on the effects that climate change is having on polar ecosystems and communities, and the ensuing consequences around the world. The main international celebrations of the World Environment Day 2007 will be held in Norway.

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) celebrated World Environment Day 2007 in a special programme held at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Salt Lake City on June 5, 2007. Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and Shri Sailen Sarkar, Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Departments of Parliamentary Affairs & Environment, Government of West Bengal were present in the programme. Prof. S.K. Sanyal (Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University), Shri. M.L. Meena, (Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal), Prof. A. N. Basu (Chairman, WBPCB), Shri Debal Ray (Member Secretary, WBPCB) and Shri S. K. Bangur (President, Indian Chamber of Commerce) were amongst the other dignitaries present in the programme. The Hon'ble Chief Minister released a WBPCB publication 'WBPCB Environmental Campaign: An Update 2006-2007' and a CD 'Air Quality Data of West Bengal 2006' during the inaugural programme.

Following the inaugural session, the main programme of the day included a national-level seminar on 'Global Climate Change: Issues & Challenges for India'. Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal inaugurated the seminar. The seminar had two technical sessions and was organised in collaboration with the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Jadavpur University. Technical Session I was chaired by Prof. A. N. Basu (Chairman, WBPCB) and the key speakers were Dr. Prodipto Ghosh (Ex-Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests) and Dr. Surya Sethi (Principal Advisor - Energy, Planning Commission, Government of India). Technical Session II was chaired by Dr. Prodipto Ghosh (Ex-Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests) and the key speakers were Prof. Jayashree Roy (Department of Economics, Jadavpur University), Dr. K. Krishna Kumar (Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology) and Dr. P. K. Aggarwal (Division of Environmental Sciences, Indian Agriculture Research Institute).