



Green News



LiFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya: taking charge as the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Environment Department, Govt. of West Bengal



Smt Chandrima Bhattacharya with Md. Ghulam Rabbani

Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya took charge of the State Environment Department as the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge on 13 August, 2024. Former Hon'ble Minister Md. Gullam Rabbani cordially welcomed and felicitated Smt. Bhattacharya at the office of the Environment Department at Pranisampad Bhawan in presence of Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal and Member Secretary of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board and the other senior officials of the department and the State Board.

Human demands intensifying pressure on nature - Dr. Kalyan Rudra

On 18 and 19 July, 2024, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board organised a Nature Study Camp and a Workshop cum Eco-Hackathon on Individual Identified LiFE Actions in Jhargram. The Nature Study camp was organised by the Board at Kanak Durga Sacred Grove, Biodiversity Heritage Site, Chilkigarh, Jhargram and the venue of the Workshop cum Eco-Hackathon was at Garshalboni, Jhargram.

Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB shared his thoughts with the school students and dignitaries. He put his concern over how for the last 70 years humans have been overexploiting the environment. In his address, he highlighted the growing environmental challenges posed by human activities. "Humans have exceeded the natural limits of nature's powers. Unlike other animals, human needs are unlimited" stated Dr. Rudra.

The vast demands of humanity are exerting immense pressure on nature. In his speech, Dr. Rudra mentioned four phases. The first phase involves the loss of soil's natural character and productive capacity. Farmers use chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides which contaminate the soil and thus soil loses its fertility. It

may also lead to soil erosion.

The second phase concerns water, which is continuously losing its quality as rivers, ponds and seas become increasingly polluted. Before the Industrial Revolution, people had to look after the environment around them because that's where they got their products from. If they didn't



Dr. Kalyan Rudra delivering his speech.

look after it they would face great consequences. He focused on the hydrosphere and how rivers longer than 1,000 kilometres no longer flow freely from source to sea, despite supporting millions of people.

Dr. Kalyan Rudra mentioned the third phase as the degradation of air quality. On the other hand fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas are the largest contributor to global climate change,

accounting for over 75 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions.

The fourth phase, observed over the last fifty years, is the gradual extinction of many animals and plant species due to various human activities. He conveyed that 70 % of many plants and animals have been lost to human intervention while our own population has doubled which puts even more stress on the limited environmental resources nature stores for us.

The use of plastic is one of the conveniences of modern life, but in recent years microplastic contamination has become an emerging global concern. Microplastic can be found everywhere.

"But we can evade over a century of exploitation by adopting very simple yet effective measures. We are part of the ecosystem that we live in, so we must support it", conveyed Dr. Rudra. The humans vs nature predicament has never been a productive one and leads to a destructive mindset. Changing this mindset can lead to more mindfulness towards nature in general.

Editorial



We are humbled to have Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya as the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Environment Department, Govt. of West Bengal since August, 2024. We also convey our heartiest gratitude to the former Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Md. Ghulam Rabbani.

At the advent of the monsoon season, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board has splurged on massive plantation initiative to make the environment of West Bengal literally green and healthy like earlier years. For this purpose, the State Board has not only launched the 'Plant 4 Mother' initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India in Jhargram but also has mobilized a number of industrial units, housing complexes, local bodies etc. across the State to be a part of this noble green initiative.

In the month of July, the State Board has conducted two interesting events of Environment Education programme (EEP) with the students of different schools and colleges of Jhargram district, which is famous for its wooded beauty and topography culminating in the hill ranges of Belpahari, Kankrajhor to the north and Subarnarekha to the south. It is a favorite destination for people who love forests. Hence, Kanak Durga Sacred Grove, Biodiversity Heritage Site was an excellent place for Nature Study Camp where the students had the opportunity to get enough knowledge about the rich biodiversity of the said forest area. The State Board also conducted an Environmental Hackathon about some topics based on Mission LiFE themes in order to get some innovative ideas from the

Each student participated with great enthusiasm - Dr. Anirban Roy



Dr. Anirban Roy at the event

An Environment Education Programme and a workshop cum hackathon, under Mission LiFE was organised by the WBPCB in Jhargram. Dr. Anirban Roy, Research Officer, West Bengal BioDiversity Board, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal, shared his views with the students. He conveyed that students of various schools and colleges along with their teachers participated in the programme. This drill was focused on enhancing student's knowledge about their surrounding environment and raising their interests in nature's machinery. This learning about the surrounding flora and fauna will increase the interest of the students towards nature. In the workshop cum eco-hackathon, the students displayed their thoughts and knowledge on spe-

participating students of different schools and colleges of the said district. It was an awesome experience for both the students and the officials present there.

We observed 78 Independence Day at Paribesh Bhawan by assembling some school students in a befitting manner like every year.

Apart from that, a seminar on 'Awareness programme on effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2022 (amendment) in MSME units', and a Workshop on 'Sensitization Programme on E-waste Management' were organized during July. Si-



Dr. Anirban Roy with the students at the nature study camp



Dr. Kalyan Rudra and Dr. Anirban Roy presenting a sapling to a student.

cific environmental issues and provided innovative solutions.

The programme aimed to foster awareness and engagement among students regarding environmental conservation. Through the hackathon and discussions participants explored various environmental issues, emphasizing the importance of collective actions to address these challenges.

multaneously, a review meeting was also conducted by the Central Ministry regarding NCAP for combating air pollution in Non-attainment cities during this time.

The July issue of Green News presents all these events in a compact form, which is very much commendable. I promise to carry on all such sincere efforts in order to create awareness among all in the days ahead.

**Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS,
Principal Secretary, Dept. of
Environment, GoWB & Member
Secretary, WBPCB**

Nature Study Camp at Kanak Durga Sacred Grove, Jhargram

On 18 July, 2024, the WBPCB organised a Nature Study Camp under the Environment Education Programme, under Mission LiFE at



Dr. Anirban Roy explaining the details to the students.

Kanak Durga Sacred Grove, Biodiversity Heritage Site, Chilkigarh, Jhargram. The students of 10 schools of Jhargram along with their teaching staffs participated in the Nature Study Camp.

"To understand the environment one needs to nurture a keen interest towards how nature works. So keeping an open eye is of immense importance" conveyed Dr. Anirban Roy, Research Officer, West Bengal Bio Diversity Board, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal. With these words and in the spirit of learning more about the habitat and ecosystem, Dr. Anirban Roy encouraged the students to observe and record what they noticed in microhabitats in tree roots, aquatic life forms.

In the Nature Study Camp, the students interacted regarding the natural habitat. They discussed



The students beside the Dulung River, during the Nature Study Camp at Jhargram.

about microflora and macro organism. Dr. Roy and Dr. Suwendu Majumdar, Associate professor of Zoology department at Shibpur Dinabandhu Institution, Howrah explained the students about the different species and medicinal plants present in the heritage site. The trees also have competition and also helps each other to grow. They explained about "Bokul Tree", its leaves, its color and the different kind of flies that comes around the trees. The students observed the species and everything was explained in detail by Dr. Roy and Dr. Majumdar. The importance of pollination was also explained by them. Under the Mission LiFE we need to protect all the species in order to sustain our lives.



Dr. Suwendu Majumdar with the students.

The students were taken to the nearby Dulung river, where Dr. Roy and Dr. Majumdar showed some visible examples to the students. The Dulung river which harbors not just Piscean life form but also Dragon flies and Damsel flies. Various kind of birds comes to river and millions and millions of microorganisms are also present, which balance a very vital domino of this habitat.

The knowledge about the ecosystem will not only build curiosity towards nature but such practices enhance a young mind to be more interested in his or her surroundings which will keep them more invested in building a sustainable environment in their and everyone's future.

Rethinking Single-Use Plastics: Sustainable Alternatives for a Greener Future

Pijush Koiran from Jhargram Kumud Kumari Institution spoke on alternative use of Single-use plastics. Single-use plastics can be defined as items designed to be used once before being discarded, these plastics have become ubiquitous in modern life. From shopping bags to straws and cutlery, these items are convenient but they come with severe environmental repercussions. They do not decompose nat-



Students at the event

urally but instead they fragment into microplastics that persist in the environment, infiltrating oceans, waterways, and soil. This durability leads to widespread pollution, affecting wildlife and ecosystems. In response to this crisis we must explore organic alternatives to single-use plastics. Jhargram district is known for its rich biodiversity and traditional practices. Many innovative solutions are being implemented to reduce plastic waste. Organic materials such as bamboo, banana leaves, areca palm leaves, and jute are increasingly used to replace plastics.



Student of Jhargram Kumud Kumari Institutions during the hackathon

THE IMPACT OF INCREASING HUMAN POPULATION ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE



Antima Mahato, a student of Dudkundi Charulata Balika Vidyalaya

As the global human population continues to grow, its impact on the environment becomes increasingly pronounced. This rapid population increase has led to significant biodiversity loss, followed by deforestation, usage of chemicals in agriculture and greenhouse gas emissions. Antima Mahato, a student of Dudkundi Charulata Balika Vidyalaya, explained her views about Growing human population and Bio-diversity loss.

Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss:

The burgeoning human population has led to a heightened demand for living space, resulting in widespread deforestation. Forests, which are rich in biodiversity, are cleared for residential, commercial, and agricultural purposes. This deforestation disrupts habitats, leading to the loss of countless plant and animal species. The removal of trees also affects the balance in the ecosystem, reducing the habitat available for wildlife and contributing to soil erosion.

Chemical Fertilizers and Agriculture: In the quest to boost agricultural productivity, chemical fertilizers have become a staple. However, their use has adverse effects on biodiversity. These fertilizers can kill beneficial insects, such as pollinators and natural pest predators, disrupting the delicate balance of ecosystems. The loss of these insects can lead to decreased crop yields and increased dependency on chemical pesticides, which further harms the environment.

Greenhouse Gases and Climate

Change: The rise in greenhouse gas emissions from everyday appliances,

RAINWATER HARVESTING A BOON FOR LIFE

Rainwater harvesting is a vital practice for sustainable water management, particularly in regions facing water scarcity. By capturing and storing rainwater, communities can reduce dependence on traditional water sources and mitigate the impact of droughts. However, to maximize the benefits of rainwater harvesting, it's crucial to address agricultural and household negligence and implement effective education and regulation. Sabyasachi Singh, the student of Jhargram Ekalavya Model Residential School spoke about Conservation of water.

Households contribute mostly to water wastage through negligence. Common issues include improper system installation, neglecting regular maintenance, and using excess water in cleaning utensils, washing clothes, keeping the tap open when not in use and many more.

Negligence in households can be solved by:

Proper Installation: Ensuring that rainwater harvesting systems are correctly installed by qualified professionals which has been adopted by Jhargram Ekalavya Model Residential School.

Routine Maintenance: Regular inspection and clean storage tanks and gutters to prevent blockages and contamination.



Dr. Suvendu Majumdar and Dr. Anirban Roy at the nature study camp.

such as refrigerators and air conditioners, contributes significantly to global warming. These appliances release chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other potent greenhouse gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. As a result, the global temperature has risen, causing more frequent and severe weather events, such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall.

Addressing the Issues -

To mitigate these environmental impacts, several measures can be



Sabyasachi Singh of Jhargram Ekalavya Model School

In agriculture, rainwater harvesting can significantly reduce water waste, but negligence often undermines its effectiveness. Key issues include improper storage, inefficient irrigation systems, and lack of maintenance. To combat this, farmers should employ techniques such as:

Efficient Storage Systems, Improved Irrigation, The Role of Education of Government Regulations plays a pivotal role in promoting effective rainwater harvesting practices. Training programs and workshops can educate both farmers and homeowners about efficient techniques and the importance of maintenance.

taken:

Sustainable Land Use: Implementing policies that promote sustainable land management and conservation can help reduce deforestation and preserve biodiversity. Reforestation and afforestation efforts are essential in restoring lost habitats.

Organic Farming: Transitioning to organic farming methods can reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This approach supports biodiversity by preserving beneficial insect populations and improving soil health.

Green Technologies & Climate Policy: Adopting energy-efficient appliances and green technologies can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Governments and international bodies need to enforce stricter regulations on emissions and invest in renewable energy sources to combat global warming effectively.

The Three R's of Waste Management: Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling



Somnath Mahato of Dudkundi Bapuji Sikshayatan

Somnath Mahato of Dudkundi Bapuji Sikshayatan spoke about the 3 R's. Waste management has become a pressing concern with the accumulation of waste posing significant environmental challenges. The three R's of waste management—Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—offer a systematic approach and can be effectively implemented in both residential localities and schools.

1. Reduce:

Reducing waste involves minimizing the amount of waste generated in the first place. This can be achieved through conscious consumption, purchasing products with minimal packaging, and choosing items that have a longer



Students at the event

lifespan. In residential localities people can practice reduction by opting for products with less packaging or by using reusable shopping bags, water bottles, and containers or by reducing food waste by planning meals and using leftovers creatively.

2. Reuse:

Reusing involves finding new usage for items instead of discarding them. This extends the life of products and reduces the need for new materials. One can practice reuse by methods like repurposing old clothes, furniture, stationery goods like pen and also by donating or selling items that are still in good condition.

3. Recycle:

Recycled products can be divided into two parts, biodegradable and non biodegradable. Recycling involves processing used materials such as plastic into new products, reducing the need for raw materials and minimizing waste.



Dr. Anirban Roy presenting a sapling to a student.

Educating local people and students about what can and cannot be recycled and separating recyclables (such as paper, plastic, glass, and metal) from general waste and following local recycling guidelines to ensure proper sorting and disposal. Also setting up clearly labeled recycling bins throughout the school corridors will encourage a recycle friendly mentality among younger minds. Engaging these students to participate in community recycling programs and initiatives will transform their mindset towards a healthy environment.

Implementing the three R's effectively requires education, commitment, and collaboration.



Dr. Kalyan Rudra presenting a sapling to a student.



The teacher of Dubra Adarsha Vidyamandir receiving the Best Performer Certificate for Nature Study Camp on behalf of the students.



Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Dr. Anirban Roy and Mr. Subrata Ghosh giving away the Best Performer certificate for the Workshop and Hackathon to Shaunli Mahata of Manikpara Balika Vidyalaya.

Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture, Human Health, and Biodiversity

Climate change is exerting profound and multifaceted impacts on agriculture, human health, and biodiversity, altering ecosystems and human societies in complex ways. Sonali Dandapat from Sevayatan Sikhshan Mahavidyalaya spoke about climate change and its effects on human beings.

Climate change affects agriculture through shifts in temperature and precipitation patterns, which impact crop yields and food security. Increased temperatures can stress plants, reduce yields, and disrupt growing seasons. For instance, heatwaves can reduce the productivity of staple crops like wheat and rice. Additionally, altered rainfall patterns lead to increased instances of droughts or floods, both of which can devastate crops. Moreover, climate change promotes the spread of pests and diseases, further threatening agricultural productivity. These impacts can lead to higher food prices and reduced availability, challenging food security globally. This vicious cycle of overuse of natural resources and continuous poisoning of nature has led to health impacts that are both direct and indirect. Direct effects include heat-related illnesses and deaths due to more frequent and severe heat waves. Indirectly, climate change exacerbates the spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever by expanding the habitats of mosquitoes and other vectors. Altered weather patterns also affect air quality, potentially increasing respiratory problems such as asthma. Additionally, extreme weather events like hurricanes and floods can lead to injuries, disrupt healthcare services, and cause mental health issues due to stress and displacement. Also climate change poses a significant threat to biodiversity. Rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns can alter habitats, forcing species to migrate to more suitable conditions or face extinction. Changes in temperature and precipitation affect ecosystems, such as coral reefs

Understanding Solar Energy: Production, Storage, and Everyday Use

Himanshu Das, a student of Gajasilimul KCM High School spoke about solar energy and its everyday usage in the hackathon organised by the WBPCB. Solar energy, harnessed from the sun's rays, represents a crucial and sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. Its production, storage, and application in daily life are pivotal to advancing renewable energy solutions.

Solar energy production is primarily achieved through two technologies: Photovoltaic (PV) cells and solar thermal systems. PV cells, commonly known as solar panels, convert sunlight directly into electricity using semiconductor materials, such as silicon. When sunlight hits these cells, it excites electrons, generating an electric current. This electricity can be used immediately or stored for later use.

Solar thermal systems, on the other hand, use sunlight to heat a fluid, which then produces steam to drive a turbine connected to an electricity generator. This method is particularly effective in large-scale power plants.

One of the challenges with solar energy is its intermittent nature—solar power is not available when the sun isn't shining. Therefore, efficient storage solutions are essential. The most common

method is through battery storage. Solar batteries, such as lithium-ion or lead-acid batteries, store excess electricity generated during sunny periods for use during the night or cloudy days. Another method involves thermal storage, where excess solar heat is stored in materials like molten salts or phase-change materials and used when sunlight is insufficient. Solar energy's versatility extends to various household appli-



Himanshu Das speaking about solar energy and its use in everyday life.

cations. This can reduce reliance on grid power and lower energy bills. Also solar energy can be used for heating purposes with the help of solar thermal systems that can provide hot water for domestic use, such as in showers and for heating homes. Solar energy lights our highways at night already including garden and security lights. Also, small solar-powered devices, such as chargers for electronics or solar ovens for cooking, are increasingly popular, offering sustainable solutions for everyday needs.

and rainforests, which are highly sensitive to environmental changes. Species that cannot adapt quickly or migrate may face increased risk of extinction.



Student of Sevayatan Sikhshan Mahavidyalaya

Initiating "Plant 4 Mother"

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board launched the "Plant 4 Mother" initiative in Jhargram district on 19th July, 2024. The ecoclubs are participating in this unique program. Planting and distribution of saplings will continue throughout the month of August 2024.



“Awareness Program on Effective Implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules 2022(Amendment) in MSME Units”

The WBPCB organized one day workshop jointly with Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology(CIPET): Centre for Skilling and Technical Support(CSTS)-Haldia at Conference Hall (Bengal School of Technology, Near Sugandha More, Delhi Road, Chuchura), Dist: Hooghly



Dignitaries at the work shop

Secretary, Hooghly Chamber of Commerce, Shri Niladri Basu, Manager, EOSH & Sustainability, Bengal Beverage, Shri. Anjan Fouzdar, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB, Shri. Baijayanta Majumdar, Environmental Engineer & Incharge Hooghly Regional Office, WBPCB, Prof Amit Dutta, Professor - Jadavpur University graced the inaugural session of the workshop. All speakers deliv-

ered valuable speeches during the technical session, which was followed by the interaction session. The speakers highlighted the harmful effects of Plastic Waste materials in environment by the unauthorized sector. It was advised to follow the guidelines as per rule and recycle the plastic waste materials through authorized recycler. The session ended by Shri Arindam Patra, CIPET with vote of thanks to and from the chair. Approximately 60 participants from Govt. Sector and Industries attended the workshop.

Workshop on Sensitization Programme on E-Waste Management

The Senior Officials of the WBPCB participated in a one day workshop organised by the West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation(WBEIDCL) on Sensitization Programme on E-Waste Management on 31.07.2024 at BN-4, Tower-I, IT Park, Salt Lake(Premises of WEBEL).

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Environment, GoWB & Member Secretary, WBPCB was the Chief Guest of the programme. Other Senior Officials like

Shri Sanjay Kumar Das, Additional Secretary, Dept. of IT & Electronics, GoWB & Managing Director, WBEIDCL graced the inaugural session of the workshop.

Shri. Anjan Fouzdar, Environment Engineer, WBPCB and Shri Swarup Brahma, WBEIDCL delivered their valuable speeches during the technical session, which was followed by the interaction ses-



sion. The speakers highlighted the harmful effects of e-Waste materials in environment. It is advised to follow the guidelines as per rule and recycle the E-Waste materials through authorized recycler. The session ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair. Approximately 170 participants from Industry, Govt.Sector and Recyclers attended the workshop.

Review meeting of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on National Clean Air Programme Implementation in West Bengal

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) Govt. of India convened a review meeting on 14 June, 2024 to oversee the implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in West Bengal. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), Non-Attainment Cities (NACs), and Institutes of Repute (IoRs). Dr. N. Subrahmanyam, Joint Director of MoEF&CC, welcomed the attendees and highlighted West Bengal's performance in air quality management.

Key Addresses:

1. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Member Secretary, WBPCB:

- Praised the NCAP initiative launched by MoEF&CC in 2019.
- Emphasized the goal of achieving low pollution levels through collaboration with various departments.
- Highlighted efforts to enhance air quality monitoring, address biomass burning, and implement solid waste management software.

2. Dr. Prashant Gargava, Director NCAP, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- Stressed the need for all agencies to meet PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} targets.

- Emphasized a combined national and regional approach to combat air pollution.

- Informed about central-level committees for air pollution management and urged all departments to attend these meetings.

3. Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB:

- Addressed West Bengal's diverse meteorological conditions and the need for comprehensive airshed management.



Dignitaries at the review meeting.

- Highlighted the impact of wind patterns and secondary aerosols on air quality.

- Stressed the importance of understanding anthropogenic activities for effective air quality management.

4. Shri Abhinav Chandra, Director, IESWM:

- Emphasized that NCAP plays a crucial role within the State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC).

- Urged for a 60-40 funding ratio due to West Bengal's vulnerable geography.

- Highlighted the need for resilience measures, technological guidance, and a comprehensive approach to reduce emissions.

5. Smt Mayuri Vasu, Special Secretary, UD&MA:



Guests at the review meeting.

- Conveyed ULBs' need for environmental expertise and sought guidance from MoEF&CC.

6. Shri Supriya Ghoshal, Director, SUDA:

- Lauded Kolkata for achieving a 40% pollution reduction.

- Emphasized strategic locations for Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) and the importance of electric crematoriums.

7. Shri Indranil Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary, Transport Department:

- Highlighted initiatives such as EV charging stations and the expansion of the CNG bus fleet.

Presentations:

- Dr. N. Subrahmanyam presented the status and achievements of NACs in West Bengal, financial status under XVFC & NCAP, and key points for the way forward, including the preparation of Annual Action Plans and regular reporting on the PRANA portal.

Key Decisions:

1. Adoption of an airshed approach for air quality management.
2. Annual Target data submission for PRANA for FY 2023-24.



Dr. Kalyan Rudra and Dr. Rajesh Kumar presenting the Coffee Table Books of the WBPCB.

3. Timely submission of the revised State Action Plan.

4. Undertaking activities for dispersed sources of pollution.

5. Ensuring data transparency and capacity building.

Feedback from IoRs:

- Dr. Subha Verma, IIT Kharagpur: Stressed upon categorizing issues into controllable, non-controllable, and potentially controllable.

- Dr. Abhijit Chatterjee, Bose Institute: Emphasized proper statistical analysis of air pollution data and collaboration for effective pollution control strategies.

The meeting concluded with a consensus on key action points and the importance of collaborative efforts across all departments and stakeholders to achieve the targets set under NCAP for improving air quality in West Bengal.

Independence Day Celebration at Paribesh Bhavan



Dr. Rajesh Kumar and Dr. Kalyan Rudra at Paribesh Bhavan on 15 August.

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board observed 78th Independence Day of our motherland at Paribesh Bhawan, Kolkata on 15 August, 2024 in a befitting manner.

Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS, Principal Secretary, Dept. Of Environment, GoWB and

Member Secretary, WBPCB hoisted the National flag along with the chorus tune of our National anthem. Senior officials of the State Board and the students, teachers of Bagbazar Multipurpose Girls' School, Kolkata and NCC cadets from Barisha Asar Vidyapith, Kolkata

enlisted under the EEP accompanied the observance of the auspicious day. The students took Mission LiFE pledge together-'I pledge to make all possible changes in my daily life to protect the environment. I also commit to continuously motivate my family, friends and others about the importance of environmentally friendly habits.' for Environmental concern. The event ended with sapling plantation as part of the ongoing 'Plant 4 Mother' initiative.

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