

International Webinar on

'Environmentalism: Issues of Sustainability and Public Participation'

Organized by the Department of Political Science, Prafulla Chandra College

8th August 2020, 4pm

Activity Report

Discourses on Environment and Sustainability have often reserved a central place to varying socio-economic situations and differing democratic processes across the Globe. The United Nations ever since it began initiating and collaborating efforts towards environmental protection has highlighted the symbiotic relation between environmental protection and an all-round development and wellbeing of mankind. The involvement of humans in environmental protection and conservation is therefore pivotal towards achievement of sustainable goals. This international webinar served as a platform wherein the resource persons, each from a different academic, professional and social background successfully highlighted the need for environmental protection along with its underlying principles of sustainability albeit public participation and civil society engagement.

Beginning with the enlightening keynote address delivered by the Vice Principal of the College having expertise on issues relating to environmentalism, the programme received a progressive start. Following this was Dr. Sourish Jha, Associate Professor from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata vividly and in an engaging manner shared his insights on the issue of public participation and how the social sector can be the steering wheel in matters relating to sustainability. This was followed by the erudite discussion led by postdoctoral scientist, Dr. Arijit Kumar Das from Cambridge University, United Kingdom whose primary focus was on the technical aspects of biowaste, waste management and sustainable uses of resources. The final speaker, Prof. Abhijit Kundu from Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra helped our listeners in understanding how sustainability can be achieved in case of food production and agricultural output. His rich experience as a Project head from NABARD helped throw light on environmentalism relating to agriculturalism in specific. The Webinar ended with a question and answer session thus reinforcing the thought that efforts at both national and international level that revolve around individual financial and technological resources must also ensure at the same time that international environmental agreements are complied with and if necessary, enforced.