



Sir A. J. C. Bose Memorial Lecture-2021

Date: 16th December, 2021

Place: S. R. Basu Memorial Hall, Raidighi College

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Jointly Organized by

Department of Geography, Raidighi College

&

IQAC, Raidighi College, South 24 Parganas

Speaker

Prof. Malay Mukhopadhyay

*Eminent Geographer & Retired Professor
Department of Geography, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan*

Summary Report of 'Sir A. J. C. Bose Memorial Lecture-2021'

Topic: Environment and Sundarbans

Introduction:

In this year, the Department of Geography was the host to organise the "Annual Sir A. J. C. Bose Memorial Lecture-2021" which focused on the critical theme of "Environment and Sundarbans," highlighting the ecological significance of the Sundarbans and the challenges it faces in the context of environmental conservation and sustainable development. Prof. Malay Mukhopadhyay, Retired Professor & eminent geographer of Visva-Bharati, Shantiniketan was invited to deliver a special talk on this occasion. He has pointed out the major environmental problems of the Sundarbans region and recommend some scientific managerial approaches for the future Sundarbans. More than 100 students and 24 faculties attended those discussions. Dr. Sasabindu Jana, the principal of the college has chaired the entire session and welcome address is given by Sri Sanat Kumar Purkait, Assistant Professor & Head of Geography Department and Dr. Sisir Chatterjee has conducted the interactive sessions. Vote of thanks was given one of the faculties Sri Arindam Bhattacharya. It was a contemporary brainstorming session. With this event, the department of geography also published their 7th edition of 'Geo-Diversity', the wall magazine of Geography Department, Raidighi College in presence of Prof. Malay Mukhopadhyay

Key Points:

Ecological Importance of the Sundarbans:

- The Sundarbans, located in the delta region of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers, is the largest mangrove forest in the world.
- It serves as a crucial habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna, including endangered species such as the Royal Bengal Tiger, Dolphin, and Estuarine Crocodile.
- The Sundarbans plays a vital role in regulating the climate, protecting coastlines from erosion, and providing livelihoods to local communities through fishing, agriculture, and tourism.

Environmental Challenges:

1. The Sundarbans ecosystem faces numerous threats, including deforestation, habitat degradation, pollution, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict.
2. Deforestation and habitat loss are primarily driven by unsustainable logging, agricultural expansion, and urbanization in the surrounding areas.
3. Pollution from industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, and plastic waste poses a significant threat to water quality and marine life in the Sundarbans.
4. Climate change-induced phenomena such as sea-level rise, increased salinity, and extreme weather events exacerbate existing environmental pressures, leading to loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation.

Conservation Efforts and Initiatives:

- Various governmental and non-governmental organizations are actively involved in conservation efforts aimed at protecting the Sundarbans and its unique biodiversity.
- Conservation strategies include the establishment of protected areas, community-based natural resource management initiatives, afforestation programs, and awareness campaigns on sustainable resource use and environmental stewardship.
- International cooperation and collaboration are essential for addressing transboundary issues and implementing effective conservation measures in the Sundarbans region.

Conclusion:

The Sir A. J. C. Bose Memorial Lecture-2021 underscored the urgent need for concerted action to address the environmental challenges facing the Sundarbans. By prioritizing conservation efforts, promoting sustainable development practices, and fostering community engagement, stakeholders can work together to safeguard this invaluable natural heritage for future generations.

Key Takeaways:

The Sundarbans is a globally significant ecosystem that requires proactive conservation measures to mitigate environmental threats. Collaboration between governments, organizations, and local communities is essential for effective environmental management and sustainable development in the Sundarbans region.



