

International Biodiversity Conservation

Organized by the West Bengal Biodiversity Board

Venue: Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata

Date: 22 May 2025

Attendees: Government officials, academia, students of Raidighi College, NGOs, experts, media

1. Introduction & Background

The West Bengal Biodiversity Board (WBBB), a statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act of 2002, marked the **International Day for Biological Diversity 2025** on 22 May at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre. The global theme—**“Harmony with nature and sustainable development”**—emphasized converging biodiversity goals with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Objectives & Thematic Focus

The WBBB event aimed to:

- Raise public and stakeholder awareness on biodiversity’s integral role in socioeconomic well-being.
- Stimulate urgent alignment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with KMGBF and SDGs.
- Encourage cross-sector collaboration—including government, academia, private sector, NGOs, and communities—to integrate biodiversity conservation within development agendas.

These pillars closely mirrored objectives of the UN’s Biodiversity Day campaign for 2025.

3. Role & Participation of Raidighi College

Representatives from **Raidighi College** participated actively, reinforcing their commitment to biodiversity education. Their involvement included:

- **Panel Discussions:** Faculty and student delegates shared perspectives on integrating conservation into higher education curriculums and mobilizing youth initiatives.
- **Exhibition Booth:** Displayed research projects focusing on local ecosystems in South 24 Parganas—highlighting wetlands restoration, mangrove regeneration, and biodiversity surveys.
- **Networking Engagements:** Dialogue with WBBB officials, environmental scientists, and NGOs was initiated, laying the groundwork for future collaboration in citizen science, field-based monitoring, and environmental outreach.

This participation underscored Raidighi College’s proactive stance in situating academic communities at the forefront of conservation discourse.

4. Event Highlights & Key Sessions

- **Inaugural Ceremony:** Graced by senior officials from the Government of West Bengal and WBBB, acknowledging the urgency of biodiversity restoration and policy coherence.
- **Expert Lectures:** Covered region-specific biodiversity challenges—particularly habitat fragmentation, species decline, and climate change effects in West Bengal's varied ecosystems.
- **Panel Discussions:** Featured thought leaders from environmental education, community engagement, CSR, and research sectors, engaging on themes like eco-literacy, participatory conservation, and green infrastructure.
- **Student-Led Exhibits:** Including Raidighi College's active contributions, showcasing student research on water management, species inventories, and interactive awareness campaigns.
- **Awards & Recognitions:** Acknowledged outstanding contributions from students and institutions for innovative projects, eco-entrepreneurship, and conservation outreach.
- **Collaborative Networking:** Provided an informal forum for cross-sector partnerships to spur biodiversity initiatives across government, academic and community segments.

5. Key Outcomes & Resolutions

Participants collectively committed to several action points:

1. **Accelerate Conservation Measures**—with structured biodiversity audits to meet KMGBF targets by 2030.
2. **Educational Integration**—embed biodiversity education across college curricula and encourage student-led audits and awareness drives.
3. **Grassroots Research Empowerment**—endorse colleges like Raidighi to lead local ecosystem studies and engage in citizen science.
4. **Policy Integration**—mainstream biodiversity into broader development strategies within state and local planning frameworks.
5. **Community Participation**—promote inclusive mechanisms involving local, indigenous, and community voices in conservation efforts.
6. **Interlinkage of Agendas**—strengthen policy and practice synergies across biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable economic development.

6. Immediate Impact & Future Pathways

- **Short-Term:** Raised awareness through media coverage and academic communications; launched campus-based biodiversity audits; initiated formal collaborations between WBBB and academic institutions.
- **Mid-Term & Long-Term:** Plans include establishing a statewide network of college-led biodiversity audits, promoting field-based research hubs, offering institutional support through WBBB-backed grants, and holding recurring regional forums for progress evaluation.

7. Conclusion

The **International Day for Biodiversity Conservation 2025**, orchestrated by the West Bengal Biodiversity Board at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, reaffirmed West Bengal's dedication to living in **harmony with nature**. The event successfully brought together government, academia, civil society, and communities under a unified vision: integrating biodiversity stewardship into sustainable development.

Raidighi College's active engagement highlighted the indispensable role of educational institutions in catalyzing grassroots action and shaping future environmental leaders. The confluence of academic insight, policy intent, and grassroots activism presents a promising blueprint for advancing biodiversity conservation in the region—and beyond.

This official celebration marks a crucial step in translating global biodiversity aspirations into localized action, charting a path toward a climate-resilient, ecologically-conscious West Bengal.





Sanat Kumar Purkait | New Town | 22 May 2025 at 10:57 am