

**West Bengal Sustainability Conclave**  
**on**  
**Productivity and Green Growth**

**Jointly Organized by**  
**National Productivity Council, DPIIT, MoC&I, GoI**  
**And**  
**West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission**  
**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**Venue: Hotel Golden Tulip, DD-19, Sector-1, Salt Lake, Kolkata**

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## **Proceedings**

West Bengal Sustainability Conclave on Productivity and Green Growth was organized by National Productivity Council, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (WBERC) at Hotel Golden Tulip at Kolkata on Monday i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Indian Potash Limited (IPL) was supporting the conclave as Industry Partner. One of the key objectives of the conclave was to promote green growth in the state of West Bengal. This conclave was sixth in series as part of NPC's pan India Sustainability Conclave on Productivity and Green Growth. The earlier conclaves were organized at Imphal, Goa, Dimapur, Vishakhapatnam and New Delhi respectively. The conclave addressed sustainability issues to promote green growth for a productive and sustainable future.

The Government of India has committed to reach its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030, meeting 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030, reducing total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from till 2030, reducing the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45 percent and achieving the target of Net Zero by 2070. "Lifestyle for Environment" or LiFE, as declared by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Glasgow on the sidelines of COP26 is indicative of all-inclusive green growth improving standard of living. Green growth is possible only through sustainable practices, resource efficiency and renewable energy sources. The green growth envisions a future with environmentally sustainable and equitable economic growth, resource security, healthy environment (air, water, and land), and restored ecosystems with rich ecology and biodiversity.

The region is known for its rich natural resources and Industries, but there has been a growing concern over the adverse impact of economic activities on the environment. Energy is at the heart of the climate challenge – and key to the solution. Generating electricity and heat by burning fossil fuels – coal, oil, or gas – causes a large chunk of the greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, that blanket the Earth and trap the sun's heat. The electricity sector acts as a catalyst for an economy-wide transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable future. This conclave shines a light on the nature and pace of the ongoing transition to low carbon electricity systems, takes stock of the immediate impact of the Global warming and weighs prospects for accelerating the transition for low carbon electricity systems. Therefore, the conclave aimed to explore ways to promote economic development while ensuring environmental sustainability. The event provided a forum to representatives from Electricity Sector of the government, private sector, academia, and Consultants to exchange ideas and develop strategies for promoting sustainability, which is crucial for the long-term growth and prosperity of the region.

List of the dignitaries who were present in the Conclave were as follows:

- 1) Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, IAS, Director General, National Productivity Council
- 2) Dr. M.V.Rao, Chairman, WBERC
- 3) Prof. K.R.Salin, Chairperson of Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (AARM), Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and Director, NEDAC, Thailand
- 4) Prof. K. Rangarajan, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata
- 5) Mrs. Sumita Nag, Additional Secretary, Corporate Plan, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)
- 6) Shri Utpal Bhattacharya, President, CESC Ltd
- 7) Shri B K Raja, Jt. Advisor, WBERC
- 8) Shri K.D.Bhardwaj, Group Head & Director (Environment & Climate Action Group), NPC

In addition to the above, Senior Management personnels from West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (WBERC), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (WBSEDCL), CESC Ltd., West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. (WBPDC) were present in the Conclave. This Conclave was attended by 70 participants from Electricity Sector of West Bengal Region.

Before the start of the conclave all the dignitaries were welcomed with flower bouquets and felicitated with mementoes depicting artwork from Bengal. With the lighting of the lamp, the dignitaries marked the beginning of the event.

**Sh. B K Raja**, Jt. Advisor, WBERC, welcomed all the dignitaries and highlighted the crucial role that energy can play in promoting sustainability and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change.

**Sh. K. D. Bhardwaj**, Group Head & Director (Environment & Climate Action Group), National Productivity Council, shared presentation about IPL Centre for Rural Outreach (ICRO) and discuss about various projects that were carried out by ICRO in the field of Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation and sustainability. He also stated that climate change is an important issue to be addressed and we have a goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions globally by the year 2070 and strategies need to be drawn to work towards this goal.

**Prof. K.R.Salin**, Chairperson of Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (AARM), Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and Director, NEDAC, Thailand emphasized on Fisheries and aquaculture and discuss about how it play a major role in the global food system producing and supplying valuable nutrition for humans. As the marine capture fisheries has been declining or being stagnant of over the past few decades, aquaculture has emerged as a significant contributor to aquatic food production, globally, and in India, which is the world's third largest producer of seafood. Because of the ongoing intensification of aquaculture systems to boost food production, there could be potential issues of environmental degradation as well. Sustainable intensification of aquaculture production and responsible consumption are essential in this context. Intensive aquaculture also needs to be energy efficient using technologies that have less carbon footprint and using renewable energy sources. The inputs for aquaculture production also need to be more eco friendly while the husbandry practices should be more responsible to achieve the best product quality and food safety standards. Such a production

environment and responsible value chain would ensure sustainability and green growth in India's aquaculture sector.

There were three Special addresses by the eminent experts:

- 1) Prof. K. Rangarajan, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata
- 2) "Role of DVC in formulation of Low Carbon Electricity Generation Systems" by Mrs. Sumita Nag, Additional Secretary, Corporate Plan, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)
- 3) "Role of CESC Ltd. for creating Sustainability Future" by Sh. Utpal Bhattacharya, President, CESC Ltd

**Dr. M.V.Rao**, Chairman, WBERC discussed about adopting Green Electricity generation and cited case examples of various regions of West Bengal where low carbon electricity systems have been implemented in the state. He emphasized Purulia Pump Storage facility which has become case study in itself in the country. He also highlighted green growth initiatives taken by Govt. of West Bengal.

The conclave was chaired by **Sh. Sundeep K Nayak**, IAS, Director General, National Productivity Council and during his address he emphasized the carbon neutrality of organisations in order to reduce and offset greenhouse emission. He also suggested utilizing NPC's "SAPTAPADI" approach for achieving green growth by DISCOMS. In his speech, he emphasized the critical role that the National Productivity Council plays in spearheading the green growth movement in the country. Shri Nayak highlighted that the National Productivity Council provides technical assistance to state governments and organizations to facilitate the adoption of sustainable practices.

**Sh. K. D. Bhardwaj**, Group Head & Director (Environment & Climate Action Group), National Productivity Council, delivered a thematic address that highlighted the activities undertaken by the organization to promote sustainability. He shared valuable insights into the initiatives undertaken by the National Productivity Council to encourage sustainable practices across various sectors of the economy. He also shared about the areas of expertise and unique strength of NPC and also the achievement of the council with more than 7500 consultancy assignments.

He also talks on Productivity, Value addition, GDP, Environment, Climate changes and impact, Green house Gas, Green growth, Recent initiatives taken up etc.

Sh K. D. Bhardwaj, Group Head & Director (Environment & Climate Action Group), National Productivity Council coordinated the Question & Answer Session. Many participants raise question to the dignitaries and they also gave suggestion to the concern department. He sum up the conclave by giving a summary about the discussion put up by all the dignitaries. He concludes that without sustainability there in no other growth path we can follow.

The conclave was concluded with Vote of Thanks from **Sh. S.Mallik**, Regional Director, NPC, Kolkata.

Deliberations in the Conclave helped bring about awareness on green growth among the stakeholders. The event was very informative and provided a platform for all the participants to understand the importance of aligning business goals with sustainability and green growth and blending it with the way we do our business.













