



Seminar on

Environment, Social and Governance: Challenges and Prospects

held on 30.10.2025



ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) refers to a framework used to evaluate how organizations operate in terms of sustainability, ethics, and societal impact. ESG has gained importance among investors, policymakers, and businesses as a tool to assess long-term sustainability and responsible performance. Strong ESG practices can enhance organizational resilience, reduce risks, and improve reputation, while also contributing to broader goals like climate action and social equity. To understand and discuss the challenges and prospects of implementing ESG for achieving sustainability in industrial processes, the *Departments of Social Work and Environmental Studies, Center for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Rabindra Bharati University* jointly organized a *Seminar on Environment, Social and Governance: Challenges and Prospects* on 30.10.2025, where participants could meet and learn from experts with years of experience and expertise in industrial sustainability and social justice.



**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION
RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY
JOINTLY ORGANISES**

**A SEMINAR ON 'ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE:
CHALLENGES AND PROSPECT'**

EMINENT SPEAKERS



MS. SAMRIDDHA CHAKRABORTY
CONSULTANT, DIGITAL SERVICES
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT PVT LTD. (ERM)



MR. DEBAYAN DUTTA
EXECUTIVE (LAR/ CSR)
NTPC, PAKRI BARWADIH COAL
MINING PROJECT

CONVENORS: DR. ARUNIMA DHAR AND DR. INDRANIL SARKAR
DR. PALLAVI MITRA AND DR. PRIYA BANERJEE

DATE: 30.10.2025 TIME: 12:00 NOON
VENUE: SEMINAR ROOM (ROOM NO: 604, 6TH FLOOR), CDOE-RBU

This seminar was inaugurated by watering of a plant by, Dr. K. S. Chakraborty, Director, CDOE RBU, Dr. Kousik Bhattacharya, Deputy Registrar, CDOE RBU, and the invited speakers of the day. This was followed by felicitation of both delegates by The Director and The Deputy Registrar of CDOE RBU.



Director, CDOE RBU, felicitating Mr. Debayan Dutta



Deputy Registrar, CDOE RBU, felicitating Ms. Samriddha Chakraborty

The welcome address of the seminar was delivered by The Director, CDOE RBU, whereby he highlighted the significance of this event and introduced the theme for the same.

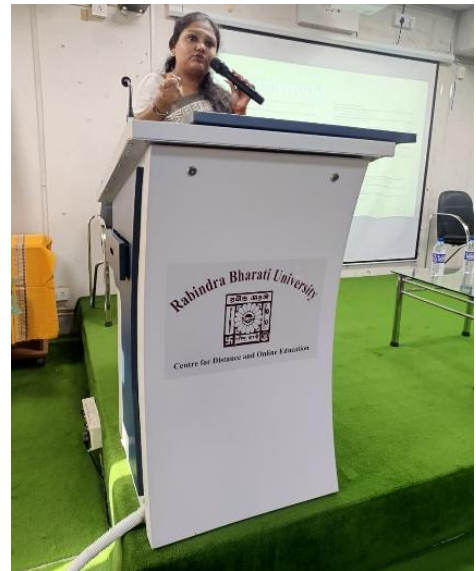


Director, CDOE RBU, delivering the welcome address of the seminar



Faculty and students of CDOE RBU attending the seminar

The inaugural session was followed by a lecture delivered by **Ms. Samriddha Chakraborty**, Consultant, Digital Services, Environmental Resources Management Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata. Her lecture was titled *ESG Beyond Popular Trends: Understanding the Future of Environmental, Social, and Governance*. She provided a comprehensive overview of global environmental governance and sustainable development frameworks emerging from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and its follow-up processes. She further discussed the relationship between trade, environment, and development, highlighting the role of environmental regulations, green consumerism, and global economic structures. Moreover, she also spoke regarding the declining financial assistance, lack of progress in technology transfer, weak environmental commitment by developed nations, and persistent development challenges faced by the developing countries in the post-UNCED phase. Overall, her lecture underscored the gap between policy commitments and actual implementation, highlighting the need for stronger global cooperation, equitable frameworks, and integrated approaches to achieve sustainable development.



**Ms. Samriddha Chakraborty
engaging with the participants**



**Mr. Debayan Dutta interacting
with the participants**

The second session of the day included an invited lecture by **Mr. Debayan Dutta**, Executive (LAR/CSR), NTPC, Pakri Barwadih Coal Mining Project. He delivered a lecture titled *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), ESG and Community Development: A Pragmatic Approach*. He presented an overview of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), ESG, and community development with a practical case study of NTPC Mining Limited (NML) and the Pakri Barwadih Coal Mining Project (PBCMP). He began by highlighting India as the first country to mandate CSR under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, requiring eligible companies to allocate 2% of their average net profits toward social development activities. His presentation outlined NTPC's organizational profile, sustainability vision, and its commitment to environmental protection, community welfare, responsible mining practices and initiatives for reducing carbon footprint. He provided a detailed description of NTPC's CSR initiatives in education, healthcare, skill development, women empowerment, infrastructure, water supply and programs such as scholarships, medical camps, vocational training, and community infrastructure development aim to improve the quality of life of project-affected populations. According to him, impact assessments have indicated positive socio-economic outcomes, including reduced poverty levels, increased income, improved education, and better healthcare indicators. He emphasized on the development of a sustainability framework based on environmental, social, and economic pillars for aligning corporate operations with inclusive and sustainable development goals.

Both sessions addressed several significant contemporary environmental issues and probable sustainable solutions. Students (pursuing Master's in Social Work and Environmental Studies from CDOE RBU) who attended this seminar derived significant academic and practical benefits from these. The first session helped students understand key global frameworks such as sustainable development, North–

South relations, and environmental governance. It strengthened their theoretical grounding in topics like policy analysis, global environmental politics, and sustainability principles. From the second session, the students could learn how global ideas (ESG, sustainability, circularity) translate into ground-level interventions such as community development, renewable energy adoption, and resource management. This event provided a platform to the students to share their thoughts and understanding regarding the same. The significance of the theme of the seminar in times of active global initiatives for achieving sustainability and the lectures delivered by contemporary experts at the said event evoked an overwhelming response from the students pursuing Masters in Social Work and Environmental Studies from CDOE RBU. The interaction of the students with the speakers and presenters showed how engrossed and enthralled they were by the sessions of this seminar. Interaction with the invited speakers inspired the students to identify potential sectors for future research as well.

This event ended with the distribution of certificates to all attendees. This seminar was attended by Assistant Professors, staff and students (pursuing Masters in Social Work and Environmental Studies) of CDOE RBU. Their support throughout the preparation for this event facilitated the smooth execution of the same. Dr. Arunima Dhar and Dr. Indranil Sarkar, Assistant Professors, Department of Social Work, CDOE RBU and Dr. Pallavi Mitra and Dr. Priya Banerjee, Assistant Professors, Department of Environmental Studies, CDOE RBU, were co-convenors and co-conductors of this seminar.



Co-convenors of the seminar, Dr. Arunima Dhar and Dr. Indranil Sarkar, Assistant Professors, Department of Social Work, CDOE RBU and Dr. Pallavi Mitra and Dr. Priya Banerjee, Assistant Professors, Department of Environmental Studies, CDOE RBU with eminent speakers and student participants after the successful completion of the seminar