

Kolkata City Dialogue – Panelists Biographies

SEN, Ms Aparna



Ms Aparna Sen is one of India's leading film directors and actors. The daughter of the respected critic and filmmaker, Chidananda Dasgupta, she was brought up in a cultured environment dedicated to the pursuit of the arts. She first appeared on screen while still in school, as the teenaged protagonist of Satyajit Ray's classic short film, SAMAPTI (The Conclusion), based on a story by Rabindranath Tagore. Ironically, it was the beginning of an illustrious career for her.

After completing college, she returned to Bangla Cinema as a young actress, and took both the art cinema circuit and commercial cinema circles by storm. She worked with the leading Calcutta filmmakers of her time, and extended her experience to the mimetic arts and theatre. The real change, however, came at the zenith of her acting career, when she chose a new role for herself – behind the camera.

A filmography that opened with an English language film, 36 CHOWRINGHEE LANE, made in Kolkata for the first time laid the foundations for a successful artistic career as a director. The films that followed explored many significant aspects of women's experience, from PAROMA to SATI, from television films like PICNIC, to controversial films such as PAROMITAR EKDIN.

Ms Sen has revealed women perhaps in ways that no other Indian filmmaker has. But she cannot be pigeon-holed as just a feminist director – her canvas goes beyond this. She edited one of the leading women's magazine, SHANONDA; worked as the artistic director of a non-fiction television channel called KOLKATA TV; and is presently heading a large film production company backed by the music and entertainment giant, SAREGAMA FILMS.

DANDA, Dr Anamitra Anurag



Anamitra Anurag Danda has been working in the Sundarbans since 1998 beginning with a project of the Swiss Tropical Institute dealing with illness, emotional distress and disorder due to ecological and environmental stress. Danda has over 10 years of experience working in the Sundarbans including PhD field work. Broadly, his PhD thesis examines the concept of Sustainable Development and the prospects of achieving SD goals. The Sundarbans delta provides the backdrop. At the micro level, the thesis examines from a multi-disciplinary perspective, the circumstances under which strategies could be developed that allow minimization of contradictions arising from intense human pressure on the ecosystem due to its use as a common pool resource, and the commitment at the global level to conserve the eco-region as a World Heritage Site. The PhD thesis will be published on 27 September 2007 in The Netherlands in a book form entitled *Surviving in the Sundarbans: Threats and Responses*.

Danda holds a masters degree in Sociology and Social Anthropology, and a postgraduate diploma in Environment Management. He is currently Programme Coordinator of the WWF-India Sundarbans Program. Interests include climate vulnerability in the Sundarbans, human-wildlife conflict, livelihood and development issues, and nature conservation. He has a number of research articles published in peer reviewed journals dealing with sustainability and sustainable development issues of the Sundarbans to his credit. He has wide ranging experience in formulating and conducting research, and implementing projects in the environment and development sectors. Danda has a well-developed understanding of problems of poverty, livelihood and development, in urban as well as rural contexts.

Danda has been actively volunteering in the Sundarbans since 2004 in the field of education and runs scholarships and book banks. In 2002, he was a recipient of the **IUCN-Ford Foundation Small Grant Award** for research on Sustainable Development.

BANDYOPADHYAY, Prof Jayanta



Jayanta Bandyopadhyay is **Professor and Head of the Centre for Development and Environment Policy** at the **Indian Institute of Management in Calcutta**, India. He has a Ph. D. in engineering from IIT Kanpur. After completing the doctorate he moved to work at the interdiscipline of science and technology studies, with special interest in sustainable development. Prior to joining his present position, he was a member of the Senior Professional Staff at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, and Director of Research at the International Academy of Environment (IAE), Geneva.

His research in the past 25 years has been guided by the objective of generating trans-disciplinary public interest knowledge on critical environmental issues, specially mountain development and water systems. He is currently the President of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE), New Delhi and the South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resource Studies (SaciWATERs) in Hyderabad. He was a Coordinating Lead Author for the Responses Working Group in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and presently he is an expert reviewer for the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report. He has published more than 100 papers, books, articles and book reviews.

MUKHOPADHYAY, Mr Ujjal Kumar

Ujjal Kumar Mukhopadhyay is Senior Scientist & In-Charge Central Laboratory West Bengal Pollution Control Board. He has earned his PhD from Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, University of Calcutta. He has 13 years of research experience in various esteemed universities in India and Abroad.

After joining WBPCB, he has carried out research in Air and Water Quality Monitoring and Environmental Management; Fine-Particulate Study & Particular Composition & Characterization

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