



IISWBM

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
SOCIAL WELFARE AND
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

WASH & Sustainability Dialogue 2026

February 27, 2026, at IISWBM Kolkata

The WASH & Sustainability Dialogue 2026 was organised by the Department of Environment Management on Friday, February 27th. It is a major outcome of a strategic partnership between the **Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM)** and **Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee - National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS), Kolkata**. The main motto of the event was to translate high-level academic research and institutional knowledge down to the grassroots level—spanning rural, semi-urban, and urban governance.

The event was inaugurated by Prof.(Dr.) K.M Agrawal, Director, IISWBM, Shri Priyatu Mandal, IAS, Joint Secretary cum Director & Head, SPM-NIWAS and Dr Manas Kumar Kundu, Director, AIIHPH.

Prof. (Dr.) K.M. Agrawal, delivered the welcome address, setting the academic and strategic context for the dialogue. Shri Priyatu Mandal, IAS, provided administrative and policy-driven insights into governance and infrastructure implementation. Dr Manas Kumar Kundu, emphasised the vital intersections between clean water access, proper sanitation, and national public health outcomes.



For an institution like IISWBM, particularly within its Public Systems and Environment Management domains, this collaboration serves as a vital conduit for translating academic research into government-aligned policy and green technologies. A defining takeaway of the dialogue was the critical role of environmental stewardship, specifically emphasising that women environmental managers must step up as lead communicators to drive community behavioural change in the WASH sector. By bridging the gap between technical strategies and grassroots engagement, these professionals are uniquely positioned to spearhead advocacy and optimise resource management.

The event was also enriched by the presence of various faculty members from IISWBM, alongside esteemed professors and leading researchers from across the environmental and public health sectors. Their participation fostered a robust academic atmosphere, bridging the gap between student innovation and veteran expertise.



The afternoon sessions shifted the spotlight to the next generation, featuring dynamic student events that drew active participation from numerous reputed colleges across the region. Through parallel tracks of highly competitive photography and poster presentations, these young scholars showcased their unique visions for environmental action. A dedicated Youth Innovation Speech and a spirited quiz competition further energised the venue, serving as powerful platforms for spreading awareness. By blending creative media with technical insights, the students offered fresh, forward-thinking perspectives on the dialogue's core themes. Ultimately, their vibrant ideas and enthusiastic engagement left the audience deeply inspired and underscored the vital role youth leadership plays in driving sustainable WASH solutions.





WASH & SUSTAINABILITY DIALOGUE 2026

Organized by :
SPM-NIWAS, Kolkata & IISWBM, Kolkata

27th February, 2026 • Friday

Venue:
Indian Institute of Social Welfare and
Business Management (IISWBM), Kolkata



