



“Wetlands: Wise Use Today & Media’s Role in Shaping Narratives”

A REPORT

Framing Wetlands:

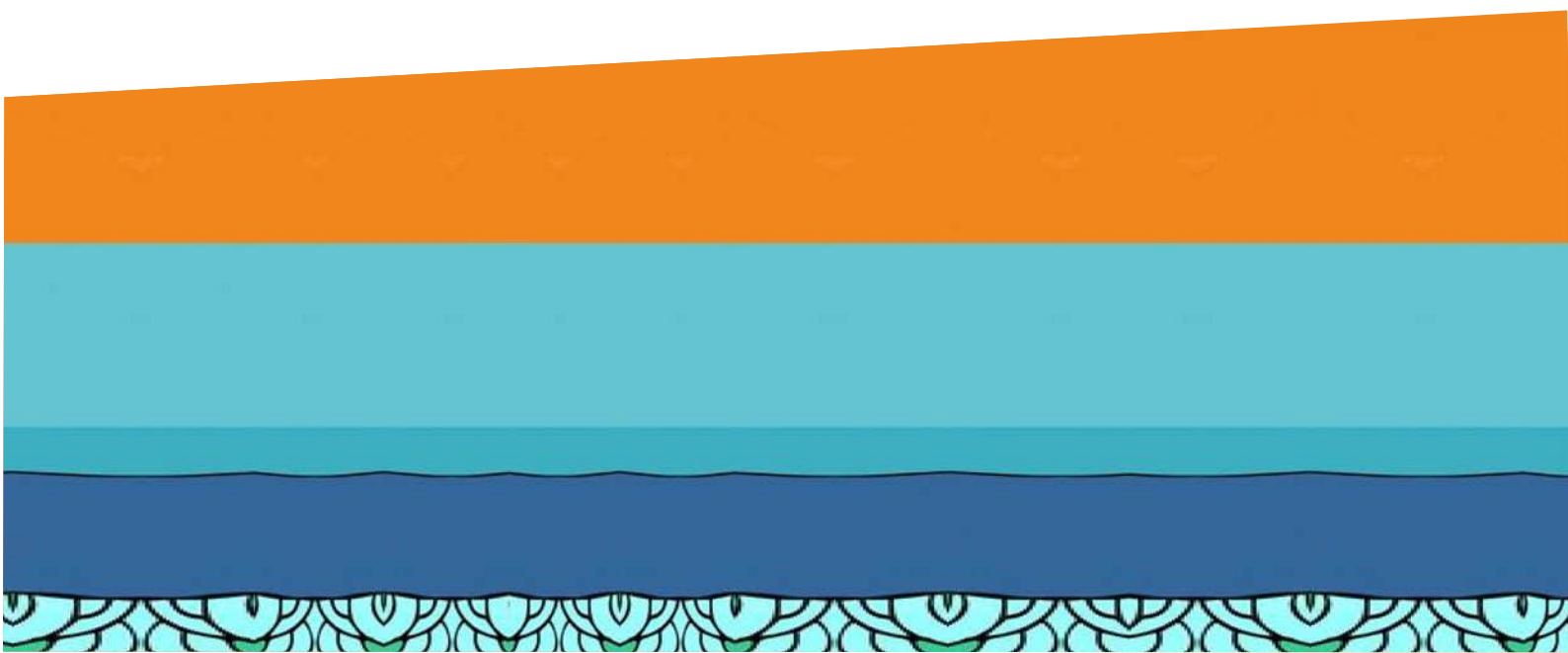
Wetlands for LiFE: National Media Consultation

November 21–23, 2024

Hamdard Convention Centre, The LaLiT and Surajpur Wetlands

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Attendees of Day 1 Empowering Future Journalist Workshop



Attendees of Day 2 Enhancing Media Engagement Consultation



Attendees of Day 3 Surajpur Wetland Field Visit



Media Future Change-makers of Amity University & Jamia Hamdard

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Media Consultation under the Wetlands for LiFE initiative engaged over 150 participants, including budding journalists, senior media professionals, environmental experts, and policymakers. Spanning three days, the program aimed to strengthen media's role in advocating for wetland conservation through capacity building, collaborative discussions, and immersive field experiences.

The program highlighted wetlands' ecological and socio-economic significance, explored the media's potential in bridging the gap between science and public understanding, and provided participants with tools to craft impactful conservation narratives. The consultation concluded with a visit to the Surajpur Wetlands, enriching participants' practical understanding of wetland ecosystems and conservation challenges.

The programme has laid a strong foundation for enhanced media engagement in wetland conservation. Participants are now equipped with tools, knowledge, and networks to effectively communicate wetland conservation stories. The initiative is expected to catalyse improved coverage of environmental issues and strengthen public support for wetland protection efforts.

This landmark initiative represents a significant step toward bridging the gap between environmental science, policy, and public understanding. By empowering media professionals with specialized knowledge and tools, the programme has created a multiplier effect for wetland conservation advocacy across India.

This initiative is part of the year-long Wetlands for LiFE campaign, was orchestrated through Indo-German cooperation to strengthen media's role in wetland conservation advocacy. Organised by the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), this is part of the Indo-German Technical Cooperation Project, 'Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection'. This project is implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), along with the International Climate Initiative (IKI), in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).



Representatives of CMS, Jamia Hamdard, MoEFCC & GIZ during the Inaugural Watering of Plant Ceremony

II. DAY 1: INAUGURAL SESSION EMPOWERING FUTURE JOURNALISTS NOVEMBER 21, 2024

First day brought together key stakeholders, experts, and budding journalists to exchange knowledge about the critical narrative of wetlands conservation. Dr. Vasanti Rao, Director General of CMS, set the tone with a compelling welcome address that underscored the pressing need for informed journalistic engagement with wetland ecosystems. Her opening remarks emphasized the transformative power of responsible media in raising awareness and driving conservation efforts, she asked the students to identify the connection between pollutions & wetlands and to talk to experts to learn more about it.

Imam Sahab of Jamia Hamdard shared his words of wisdom correlating the relation of pollution of all forms created by human beings today and the impact that it has been having on the nature and our lives and encouraged all to make a social positive change in our society. The session featured a distinguished panel of speakers, each bringing unique expertise to the forefront of environmental journalism and wetland conservation. Mr. Kirtiman Awasthi from the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme provided an insightful overview of the program, highlighting the collaborative approach to biodiversity preservation and the livelihoods surrounding wetlands.

Dr. Farhat Basir Khan, a professor at Jamia Hamdard's Centre for Media and Mass Communication Studies, delivered a special address that bridged academic insights with practical media strategies. He advised the students to use the identifying local heros method in storytelling around wetland ecosystems.

Dr. Ramesh M, the Scientist F at Wetlands Division, Moefcc addressed the gathering of aspiring journalists and environmental enthusiasts, presenting a comprehensive overview presentation. Speaking with experience from his position at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, he illuminated the critical importance of wetlands in India's ecological landscape.

He explained that India encompasses around 16 million hectares of wetlands, representing 4.86% of the country's geographical area. Addressing the aspiring journalists, Dr. Ramesh emphasized the unique storytelling potential of wetlands. He described a diverse landscape ranging from the high-altitude wetlands of the Himalayas to the extensive marshes and coral reefs along the coastlines, each ecosystem presenting a unique narrative of ecological significance.

The scientist highlighted the significant challenges facing these ecosystems. Anthropogenic pressures such as agricultural conversion, changing water use patterns, rapid urbanization, and infrastructure development continuously threaten the delicate ecological balance.



Dr. Ramesh M of Wetlands Division MoEFCC Presenting on the Ministry's Conservation Efforts



Dr. Vasanti Rao of CMS Giving Her Opening Remarks

Dr. Ramesh illustrated how wetlands function as natural water management systems, with the Ganga floodplains serving as prime examples of ecosystems supporting freshwater fish biodiversity and potential aquatic crop resources. He used the Sundarbans Mangroves as a compelling example, he demonstrated how these ecosystems absorbed 40 million tonnes of carbon, playing a crucial role in climate change mitigation. He emphasized wetlands' deep integration into India's cultural fabric, manifesting in local art, architecture, music, cuisine, and traditional livelihoods.

Detailing the ministry's conservation efforts, Dr. Ramesh outlined key initiatives like the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) and India's active participation in the Ramsar Convention. He proudly noted that India now hosts 85 Ramsar Sites - the largest network in Asia and third-largest globally.

He highlighted recent initiatives such as Mission Sahbhagita and the Save Wetlands Campaign. To the young journalists, Dr. Ramesh presented a compelling challenge, to become storytellers who could bridge scientific understanding with public awareness. He encouraged them to document challenges, celebrate conservation efforts, and communicate the intrinsic and economic value of these remarkable landscapes.

The scientist concluded by sharing the ministry's ongoing efforts to add 15 more Ramsar Sites by 2025 and their effort in exploring ways to use wetlands in mitigating with Delhi's air pollution crises. He stressed that this journey requires collective effort from policymakers, local communities, and most importantly, communicators who can effectively narrate these ecological stories.

Prof. Reshma Nasreen, Director of the Centre for Media and Mass Communication Studies at Jamia Hamdard, highlighted two significant environmental initiatives. First, she discussed the institution's rainwater harvesting project and the challenges they have experienced with water supply. Second, she shared details about the eco-club's efforts to educate students about reducing plastic use on campus and promoting a more sustainable lifestyle that emphasizes mindful consumption.

Mr. Utkarsh Lal from the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme delivered the vote of thanks, encapsulating the collaborative spirit of the initiative and setting the stage for more intensive discussions and knowledge sharing.

The inaugural session concluded with the student participant's introduction, bringing together a diverse group of budding journalists from multiple institutions of Delhi NCR, environmental communicators, and subject matter experts.



Student Participant Mr. Sunny Sharing his Favourite Memory of a Wetland



Technical Expert Dr. Pranab J Patar Delivering His Session

II.I. UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERIES AND BEAUTY OF WETLANDS

Dr. Pranab J Patar, Technical Expert, CMS

This session aimed to teach future journalists about the vital role of wetlands and their complex ecosystems. Dr. Patar started by explaining the Ramsar Convention's definition of wetlands. These are not just simple water bodies but dynamic environments shaped by water, supporting diverse plant and animal life. This definition includes a wide range of water systems, from natural to artificial, permanent to temporary, and even shallow marine areas no deeper than six meters at low tide.

Dr. Patar shared alarming facts about wetland loss. Since the 1700s, over 80% of wetlands have disappeared, vanishing three times faster than forests. This rapid loss has serious consequences for biodiversity, putting one in three freshwater species and 25% of all wetland species at risk of extinction.

He identified two main causes of wetland destruction: human activities and climate change. Specific threats include agricultural expansion, unsustainable farming practices, pollution, overfishing, and infrastructure development.

The session also highlighted insights from India's water body census by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. India has 24.24 lakh water bodies, including ponds (59.5%), tanks (15.7%), reservoirs (12.1%), water conservation structures (9.3%), and lakes (0.9%).

Despite these challenges, Dr. Patar emphasized positive conservation efforts. India has 85 Ramsar Sites covering 1.33 million hectares, 130 wetlands and lakes under conservation programs, and successful initiatives like the Namami Gange Programme, which the UN has recognized as a leading global restoration project. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) also supports ecosystem revival efforts.

The session included an engaging activity where participants were encouraged to share their personal memories related to wetlands. For example, Mr. Sunny, a student from Jamia Millia Islamia University, spoke about water skiing on Srinagar's Jhelum Lake a few years ago. Dr. Patar also asked students to share local names for wetlands in their languages.

He ended the session with a quote by Henry David Thoreau, calling wetlands a "sanctum sanctorum"—a sacred place that reflects the essence and power of nature.



Climate Science Communication Expert Mr Nishant Saxena Delivering His Session



A Student Participant Asking Queries Related to Environmental Journalism

II.II. ENVIRONMENT JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION FOR WETLANDS: UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

Mr Nishant Saxena, Climate science Communication Expert

The second session focused on equipping future journalists with fundamental insights into environmental communication, particularly in the context of wetland conservation. Mr. Nishant Saxena provided a comprehensive exploration of the critical intersection between journalism, environmental challenges, and effective communication strategies.

The session emphasized that the biggest threat to our environment is the mindless consumption of natural resources by humans. This consumption pattern has profound consequences, with extraction and processing of natural resources accounting for half of global greenhouse gas emissions, directly contributing to the greenhouse effect and global warming.

Mr. Saxena delved into essential environmental concepts that journalists must understand, global warming represents a long-term increase in Earth's average surface temperature, greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide trap solar heat, causing planetary warming, climate change manifests as shifts in regional weather conditions over time, in India, and the annual mean temperature has increased by 1.2 degrees Celsius over the past century.

His presentation highlighted 12 key concepts essential for effective environmental reporting, greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, gases that trap heat in Earth's atmosphere, total greenhouse gas emissions produced by an individual, organization, or event, natural systems like forests, wetlands, and oceans that absorb and store carbon compounds, the variety of life forms in an ecosystem, process of reducing carbon emissions across sectors, naturally replenished energy sources with minimal greenhouse gas emissions, marketplace for buying and selling carbon emission credits, actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strategies to cope with climate change impacts, ecosystem flooded or saturated by water, internationally significant wetland designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Mr. Saxena underscored why environmental journalism matters, global relevance, significant community impact, public awareness generation, ensuring accountability, interdisciplinary nature, long-term societal implications, and ethical responsibility.

The session provided strategic advice for aspiring environmental journalists, identify local environmental impacts, understand global environmental challenges, generate innovative story ideas, utilize digital tools like AI, newsletters, and advanced search techniques.

Participants were introduced to digital resources for enhancing journalistic research, specialized climate change glossaries, experts' directories, real-time update platforms, artificial intelligence research tools.

The session reinforced that environmental journalism is not just about reporting facts, but about creating meaningful narratives that drive awareness, understanding, and potential action towards sustainable environmental practices.



Four Panellists & the Moderator during Panel Discussion

II.III. PANEL DISCUSSION: TELLING THE WETLAND STORY

The dynamic panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Vasanti Rao, Director General of CMS, brought together experts from journalism, academia, and environmental advocacy to explore the role of media in wetland conservation.

The panel featured, Mr. Manish Chandra Mishra, Assistant Editor, Mongabay India, Ms. Vibha Varshney, Consulting Editor, Down to Earth, Dr. Farhat Basir Khan, Professor, Jamia Hamdard and Ms. Suchita Awasthi, National Project Coordinator, IMWBES, Wetlands International South Asia.

The diverse expertise of the panellists provided a holistic perspective on wetland conservation challenges and highlighted storytelling's critical role in addressing these issues. The discussion emphasized the ecological significance of wetlands in biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, and livelihoods.

Ms. Vibha Varshney shared her experiences of connecting wetland conservation to local food systems, highlighting how stories about foods like makhana and jute leaves raised awareness and supported livelihoods. She emphasized that food is a powerful connector in conservation narratives.

Mr. Manish Chandra Mishra recounted a story about a guard-turned-conservationist protecting Indian skimmer nests in the Chambal River. He noted the importance of engaging with local communities to uncover compelling stories.

Dr. Farhat Basir Khan stressed the need to adapt traditional and digital media for conservation communication while maintaining core values. He highlighted the role of academia in prioritizing wetland issues and training future communicators.

Ms. Suchita Awasthi discussed Wetlands International South Asia's collaborative work with governments, communities, and organizations like Mongabay to amplify grassroots conservation efforts. She highlighted the importance of Ramsar sites and engaging youth as "wetland mitras" to ensure sustainable conservation.



*Left to right: Mr. Manish Chandra Mishra of Mongabay India Talking about His Story on a Guard-Turned-Conservationist
Ms. Vibha Varshney of Down to Earth Sharing her Experience of Working on Foods of Wetland Ecosystems
Ms. Suchita Awasthi of Wetlands International South Asia Talking About Wetland Mitras
Dr. Farhat Basir Khan of Jamia Hamdard Highlighting the Role of Academia in Prioritizing Wetland issues*

A recurring theme was the responsibility of journalists to research thoroughly, connect with communities, and inspire action through impactful storytelling. Dr. Rao emphasized the importance of workshops like this in preparing journalists to address conservation challenges. The panellists urged budding journalists to focus on community experiences and ground realities. Explore fresh, positive stories to mobilize public opinion. Simplify technical language for broader audiences and decision-makers.

During the Q&A session, student participant Ms. Anshula Gupta asked how to start a career in environmental journalism and how long it takes to improve. Mr. Manish Mishra advised seeking opportunities with the right media organizations and exploring unique and interesting stories.

Mr. Yash Raj inquired about covering Supreme Court judgments as an environmental journalist. Ms. Vibha Varshney explained that Down to Earth incorporates legal aspects as components within broader environmental stories rather than separate topics, and the importance of highlighting the legal aspect of any environmental stories. The session concluded with an encouraging and hopeful advice from the panel to the students on navigating journalism dilemmas and creating impactful conservation narratives.

*Left to right: Student Participant Ms. Anshula Gupta Inquiring about a Career in Environmental Journalism
Student Participant Mr. Yash Raj Asking about Supreme Court's Judgments on Wetland Issues
Dr. Vasanti Rao of CMS Encouraging Students to Become Wetland Mitras*





Representatives of CMS, MoEFCC, Wetlands International South Asia & GIZ during the Watering of Plant Ceremony



Representatives of GIZ, MoEFCC, Wetlands International South Asia, WWF India & CMS during the Inauguration

III. DAY 2: INAUGURAL SESSION ENHANCING MEDIA ENGAGEMENT NOVEMBER 22, 2024

The second day of the Wetlands for LiFE National Media Consultation brought together senior journalists from across India to discuss the media's critical role in wetland conservation. The session commenced with a symbolic plant-watering ceremony, followed by participant introductions.

Dr. Sujit Bajpayee, a member of the Commission for Air Quality Management (previously the Joint Secretary of the Wetlands Division at MoEF&CC), was the Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the connection between air quality and wetland health. He informed that Delhi currently has over 1,000 wetlands and the need to promote their conservation through participatory approaches, including community engagement and eco-tourism initiatives. He highlighted the government's "Save Wetlands Campaign" as a movement to revive and rejuvenate wetlands while promoting sustainable lifestyles. Stressing the media's role as a bridge between science and society, Dr. Bajpayee called for systems thinking in reporting, linking wetland conservation to broader societal and environmental goals.

In her welcome address, Dr. Vasanti Rao, Director General of CMS, emphasized the ecological, cultural, and economic significance of wetlands in India, while underscoring their vulnerability to rapid urbanization and climate change. She highlighted the consultation's goal of equipping journalists with tools and knowledge to prioritize wetland conservation stories, calling for a collaborative effort between journalists, scientists, and policymakers to amplify awareness. She stressed that the session was a two-way exchange, encouraging learning from one another throughout the day.

Mr. Ravindra Singh, Director of GIZ India, provided an overview of the program, focusing on the importance of storytelling to drive awareness and action for wetland conservation. He discussed the Indo-German collaboration's commitment to integrating biodiversity conservation with sustainable development goals and emphasized the necessity of adopting a "whole of society" approach, as outlined in India's national biodiversity targets. He acknowledged the challenges of environmental reporting, sharing examples of conflicting narratives, such as renewable energy installations in wetlands, and invited journalists to provide feedback on how GIZ could better support their efforts.



Dr. Sujit Bajpayee of the Commission for Air Quality Management Emphasizing the Connection between Air Quality & Wetland Health



Mr. Ravindra Singh of GIZ India Providing an Overview of the Indo-German Collaboration on Wetland Conservation

Mr. Suresh Babu, Senior Director of WWF-India, shared insights into WWF's efforts to reduce ecological footprints on wetlands and the role of grassroots involvement in sustainable management. He recounted inspiring stories, such as a young boy monitoring dolphins in the Beas River and Tamil Nadu's "wetland mitras," who repurpose invasive water hyacinths into useful products. Mr. Babu urged journalists to uncover and share such local stories to inspire communities and governments alike. He also encouraged adopting wetlands in local neighbourhoods and becoming wetland mitras, observing their ecosystems, and acting as "media scientists" to advance wetland science. Addressing the concept of "wetland innovation," he highlighted examples like using phytoremediation to improve water quality. Journalist Rachna Priyadarshini from Patna asked about the term "wetlands innovation," he elaborated with examples, such as students in Kerala making products from water hyacinths. He emphasized the need for exploring similar innovations to advance wetland conservation.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks from Mr. Utkarsh Lal, Junior Forestry and Biodiversity Advisor at GIZ. He expressed gratitude to the dignitaries and participants for their contributions and reiterated the media's pivotal role in shaping public narratives on wetlands. He encouraged participants to bring their curiosity and insights to the forum, fostering collaboration and driving impactful outcomes for wetland conservation.

Mr. Suresh Babu of WWF-India Sharing Insights into WWF's Efforts to Reduce Ecological Footprints on Wetlands



Mr. Utkarsh Lal of GIZ India Delivering the Vote of Thanks Speech





Dr. Ramesh M of Wetlands Division MoEF&CC Delivering a Session on the Ecological Importance of Wetlands

III.I. WETLANDS CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

DR. RAMESH M, SCIENTIST F, WETLANDS DIVISION, MOEF&CC

Dr. Ramesh M, Scientist F from the Wetlands Division at MoEF&CC, delivered an insightful presentation on wetlands in India, their ecological importance, and the challenges in conserving them. He highlighted wetlands as vital ecosystems at the intersection of land and water, serving as biodiversity hotspots and providing essential ecological and economic benefits. However, they face severe threats from agricultural expansion, urbanization, and infrastructure development. Dr. Ramesh stressed that wetlands are often overlooked in development planning, leading to their degradation and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Drawing from the 2021 Wetlands Decadal Change Atlas, Dr. Ramesh revealed that India has approximately 15.98 million hectares of wetlands, making up 4.86% of the country's geographical area. These wetlands range from high-altitude Himalayan wetlands to coastal marshes and coral reefs, each contributing to biodiversity, water security, and carbon storage. While there has been an increase in man-made wetlands since 2011, the loss of 1,342 wetlands, mainly tanks and aquaculture ponds, underscores the need for sustainable management. Dr. Ramesh described wetlands as natural sponges, mitigating floods, replenishing groundwater, and supporting freshwater biodiversity. He cited examples like the Ganga River floodplains, which sustain agriculture and fisheries, and the East Kolkata Wetlands, which act as a natural purifier for the city. The Sundarbans Mangroves, another example, absorb around 40 million tons of carbon annually, reinforcing the role of wetlands in climate resilience.

The cultural significance of wetlands was also explored, with Dr. Ramesh highlighting their deep connection to Indian art, architecture, and livelihoods. He encouraged journalists to use these cultural dimensions as narratives to engage the public and promote conservation. The presentation covered India's conservation frameworks, including the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) and the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, which focus on activities such as wastewater treatment, biodiversity preservation, and community participation. He also emphasized the government's decentralization initiatives, citing Uttar Pradesh's village-level committees that manage wetlands locally, and the ministry's capacity-building programs, including outreach efforts like the CMS festival and this consultation.

Dr. Ramesh showcased impactful campaigns like Mission Sahbhagita and the Save Wetlands Campaign, which have mobilized millions through events, wetland health assessments, and the registration of Wetland Mitras. These campaigns highlight the importance of societal ownership and community engagement in conservation efforts. He also introduced the Amrit Dharohar initiative, which integrates wetlands into sustainable development by focusing on species conservation, nature tourism, livelihoods, and carbon assessment.

Addressing senior journalists, Dr. Ramesh underscored their critical role in bridging the gap between scientific knowledge, policies, and public awareness. He urged them to translate technical data into accessible narratives, critique policies, and craft compelling stories to inspire action. He pointed to the Wetlands of India portal as a valuable resource for information and storytelling, reinforcing the media's potential to drive conservation success.



Dr. Ritesh Kumar of Wetlands International South Asia Delivering an Insightful Session on the Challenges & Opportunities in Wetland Conservation

III.II. WETLANDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY: BALANCING BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Dr. Ritesh Kumar, Director, Wetlands International South Asia

Dr. Ritesh Kumar, Director of Wetlands International South Asia, delivered an insightful presentation on the challenges and opportunities in wetland conservation. Drawing on extensive research and policy insights, he explained how wetlands, once viewed as melancholy landscapes in Western culture, are now recognized in India as vital ecological resources. He emphasized that the current state of wetlands is a reflection of society's priorities and actions. Highlighting alarming ecological issues, Dr. Kumar noted that around 40% of wetlands have degraded, with dissolved oxygen levels unsuitable for wildlife. He cited examples like the Bangalore floods, which caused ₹225 crores in damages in a single day, and the \$9.2 billion USD in losses attributed to invasive species.

Dr. Kumar discussed the disconnect between policies and sectors, particularly how urban development and "Smart Cities" projects have led to significant wetland losses. Despite these challenges, he pointed to encouraging developments such as increased local conservation initiatives, growing international support, and approximately 30% of wetlands now being effectively preserved. He proposed an "all-of-society" framework for wetland conservation, focusing on site-based management, sectorial integration,

Mr. Niraj Kumar of Dainik Jagran Raising a Question about Encroachments on Wetlands





Mr. Athar Parvaiz Inquiring about the Work of Wetlands International South Asia with Departments like Jal Shakti and Fisheries

and community involvement. He stressed that the survival of cities is intrinsically linked to the survival of their wetlands, sharing Tamil Nadu's example of allocating a higher budget for wetland conservation than the central government. He also shared the success of the Chilika Lake fishery restoration program and highlighted Wetlands International South Asia's collaboration with Mongabay to feature 25 inspiring stories of local wetland heroes. He called for collective action to transform wetlands from a "story of crisis" into a "story of hope," describing this as an age of citizen-driven action.

During the discussion, journalist Mr. Niraj Kumar from 'Dainik Jagran', Bihar, raised a critical question about government-led encroachments on wetlands, citing the example of Patna AIIMS being constructed on a wetland despite protests. Other participants added similar examples from Himachal Pradesh and other states. Dr. Kumar acknowledged the issue, explaining that governments are often credited for infrastructure development but rarely for conservation efforts. However, he emphasized the need to hold governments accountable, framing the struggle as one of narratives and education rather than conflict. He stressed the importance of continually challenging governments to prioritize conservation.

Another journalist, Mr. Athar Parvaiz, questioned how frequently Wetlands International raised concerns with departments like Jal Shakti and Fisheries about wetland degradation. Dr. Kumar responded that his organization consistently raises such issues and actively advocates for policies that protect wetlands and rivers, such as opposing the construction of sewage treatment plants within 10 km of wetlands or rivers. He described these efforts as part of a long and necessary struggle for sustainable development.

The discussion also highlighted the transformative role of the media, with Dr. Kumar urging journalists to move beyond sensationalism and focus on constructive narratives that inspire action. He emphasized the interconnected ecological, economic, and social importance of wetlands, positioning their preservation as essential for water security, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. Concluding with a call to action, he encouraged journalists to take on the role of storytellers, shaping a hopeful and proactive discourse around wetland conservation as a cornerstone of sustainable development.



Mr. Pushymitra of India Today Sharing His Experience in Documenting Bihar's Wetlands

III.III. PANEL DISCUSSION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS IN WETLAND REPORTING: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

This panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Vasanti Rao, Director General of the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), and featured eminent speakers Ms. Shweta Thakur Nanda, an award-winning journalist; Mr. Pushymitra, senior journalist with India Today; and Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Khudsar, Senior Scientist from the Biodiversity Parks Programme, CEMDE, University of Delhi. Dr. Rao highlighted the crucial role of media in raising awareness about wetlands, emphasizing their ecological significance in biodiversity conservation, water security, and climate resilience. She stressed the importance of nuanced storytelling that explores socio-ecological dimensions and called for equipping journalists with the tools to address the complexities of wetland reporting.

Mr. Pushymitra shared his extensive experience in documenting Bihar's wetlands, addressing issues such as chemical pollution, encroachments, waste disposal, and the livelihoods of fishing communities. Notable examples included reports on Patna's NMC Hospital construction on wetlands and the shrinking Kanwar Lake in Begusarai. Recognized for his "critical stories," he argued that highlighting environmental destruction and governance failures is vital for societal and policy change. He cited instances where his work prompted government actions and urged journalists to persist with critical narratives to drive transformation.

Ms. Shweta Thakur Nanda focused on the challenges of accessing credible data and the importance of partnerships with scientific institutions. She emphasized the need for human-centered and jargon-free storytelling, citing her impactful work on Lake Conservator Mr. Ramveer Tanvar and innovative uses of invasive water hyacinth by communities in Assam. Disagreeing with Pushymitra's emphasis on the need for negative stories, she advocated for positive narratives to inspire action and highlighted the role of digital platforms in amplifying wetland stories.



Mr. Athar Parvaiz Sharing about His Journey of Reporting on Kashmir's Hokersar Wetland



Mr. Manish Chandra Mishra of Mongabay Talking About Green Washing In Environmental Journalism

Mr. Athar Parvaiz shared his journey of reporting on wetlands in Kashmir, beginning with the Hokersar Wetland, where his investigative piece led to rectified mismanagement. He advocated for a basin/landscape approach to conservation and encouraged other journalists to adopt this perspective.

Mr. Manish Chandra Mishra from Mongabay India underscored the importance of a strong narrative format in reporting and warned against “green washing” in environmental journalism, urging editors to critically evaluate content.

Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Khudsar elaborated on the concept of restoration ecology and the role of urban wetlands as critical infrastructure in city planning. He emphasized the need for precise terminology in scientific reporting and highlighted examples from his work, such as the ecological significance of wetland grasslands. Dr. Khudsar provided a philosophical take on the balance between human activities and wetland ecosystems, citing examples like the paradoxical impact of lotus plants on wetland oxygen levels.

The discussion also addressed the need for collaborative efforts to bridge gaps between science, policy, and media. Actionable solutions included building journalists’ capacity to understand ecological principles, creating centralized repositories for credible wetland data, and fostering regular interactions between scientists and journalists. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, where participants explored strategies for aligning public perception with scientific insights. The panellists collectively emphasized the power of persistent, authentic storytelling to mainstream wetland conservation in environmental agendas, with Dr. Rao encouraging participants to foster collaborations for impactful reporting.

Ms. Shweta Thakur Nanda Talking About Her Work on the Story of Lake Conservator Mr. Ramveer Tanvar



Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Khudsar of University of Delhi Talking About the Balance between Human Activities & Wetland Ecosystems





Ms. Dipanjali Singh of PARI Sharing About Their Work with Community Storytelling



Ms. Iram Siddique of the Print Expressing Her Concern about Madhya Pradesh Wetlands

III.IV. OPEN DISCUSSION & EXPERIENCE-SHARING: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS IN WETLAND-BASED MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

This session began with a presentation by Ms. Dipanjali Singh, Assistant Editor at the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI), who provided insights into PARI's work in amplifying grassroots voices through multimedia storytelling. She highlighted PARI-Education's role in training young people in rural India to tell their own stories, emphasizing the importance of dignity and empowerment in showcasing individuals' lives. She shared two impactful examples: a story by a seventh-grade student about a fisherman in the Kolkata wetland (her father) and another that explored the symbiotic relationship between wetlands, arts, crafts, and nature.

Ms. Singh underscored the power of multimedia tools like videos, podcasts, and photo essays to make wetland issues relatable and engaging, while advocating for a human-centered approach in environmental journalism. She opened the floor by asking journalists to share examples of crafts emerging from rural India's wetland ecosystems and to identify infrastructural needs for reporting on wetlands.

In response, Ms. Iram Siddique of The Print shared her concerns about Madhya Pradesh's wetlands and her work on a floating solar panel project over the Omkareshwar Dam. While acknowledging the potential benefits of renewable energy, she highlighted the lack of ecological studies on such projects.

Mr. Rohit Nagal of Dainik Jagran (Himachal Pradesh) narrated a conservation success story at Pong Dam Lake, calling for recognition of local conservation heroes.

Mr. Anil Bhardwaj of Punjab Kesari shared concerns about declining agricultural practices in Himachal due to water shortages and urged for greater empowerment of local conservation efforts.

Mr. Vikram Mishra of News24 Uttar Pradesh raised concerns about the Gomti River's deteriorating state, prompting Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Khudsar to discuss the unique characteristics of India's rivers and their sacred significance, stressing that they should not be commoditized.

Mr. Tarun Kumar Ranjan of the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, urged all journalists to research and write in-depth stories that provides all round perspectives so it gives a full-fledged angle to any issue.

Mr. Gyanendra Kumar Keshri of Deccan Herald cited the Yamuna River's plight and emphasized the need for consistent awareness reporting on wetlands.

Ms. Shweta Thakur Nanda observed that wetland issues are not as broadly recognized as other environmental concerns and suggested using innovative techniques to make wetlands relatable without disrupting their ecology.



Mr. Vikram Mishra of News24 Uttar Pradesh Raising His Concern about the Gomti River



Mr. Tarun Kumar Ranjan urging journalists to report in-depth stories

Ms. Aishwarya Tripathi, an independent rural journalist, called for documentation of the cultural and artistic traditions tied to wetlands, especially in regions like Uttarakhand.

Ms. Karishma Kotwal of Times of India Indore connected wetlands conservation to Indore's success in community-driven cleanliness efforts, advocating for similar community participation in wetland conservation.

Ms. Rachna Priyadarshini, a freelance journalist from Patna, raised a critical question about balancing India's growing housing demands with wetland conservation.

Mr. Pankaj Kumar Jain of Swadesh Bhopal called for mandatory wetlands education in school curriculums and greater protection for Madhya Pradesh's wetlands.

Mr. Wahid Bhat of Ground Report emphasized the need for better utilization of conservation funds and prioritizing community-driven solutions.

The session transitioned into an open discussion, where participants shared challenges and potential solutions for wetland reporting. A recurring theme was the difficulty of maintaining public interest in environmental issues. Many noted that wetland stories often receive attention only during major events like natural disasters. Another challenge highlighted was the lack of region-specific, updated, and credible data on wetlands, leading to suggestions for centralized repositories and collaborations between media, academia, and government. Dr. Rao's closing remarks stressed the urgency of wetland conservation and the media's critical role in advocating for their protection.

*Left to right: Ms. Rachna Priyadarshini from Patna Raising Her Concern about India's Housing Demand & Wetlands Conservation
Mr. Wahid Bhat of Ground Report Highlighting the Need for Better Utilization of Conservation Funds
Ms. Karishma Kotwal of Times of India Highlighting on the Community-Driven Wetland Conservation Efforts*



IV. DAY 3: FIELD VISIT TO SURAJPUR WETLANDS

The third day of the Enhancing Media Engagement workshop culminated in a hands-on field visit to the Surajpur Wetlands, Greater Noida, an integral component of the Wetlands National Media Consultation. The visit offered senior journalists from across India and media students from Delhi NCR universities an immersive experience to better understand the ecological significance of wetlands and their management practices.

Dr. Ramesh M, Scientist F from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), played an active role in the visit, contributing his enthusiasm and expertise to the group's exploration. His insights into the policies and frameworks guiding wetland conservation in India added a valuable dimension to the experience.

Attendees of the Surajpur Wetlands Field Visit





The field visit was facilitated by a team of experts, including District Forest Officer Pramod Kumar Shrivasta of Gautam Budhnagar, Range Forest Officer Anamika Jha, and Site Incharge Ram Avtar Chaudhary. Their leadership ensured a seamless exploration of the wetlands, complemented by an insightful session led by avid bird watcher Surrender Mia, who enriched the participants' understanding of the avian diversity thriving in this unique ecosystem.

The Surajpur Wetlands, spanning an area of over 300 hectares, serve as a vital habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. Participants were introduced to the wetland's diverse ecosystem, which includes over 180 species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic plants. The wetland's significance as a biodiversity hotspot and a natural water reservoir was emphasized, highlighting its critical role in mitigating climate change impacts, recharging groundwater, and supporting local livelihoods.

A central theme of the visit was the concept of wise-use of wetlands, as explained by Dr. Ramesh during second day of the consultation. The facilitators explained how this approach balances the conservation of wetland ecosystems with sustainable human activities. Participants learned about the importance of preserving the ecological character of wetlands while promoting their sustainable use for agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. This principle was exemplified by the Surajpur Wetlands' management practices, which aim to harmonize ecological preservation with the needs of nearby communities.

During the visit, participants engaged in birdwatching under the guidance of Surrender Mia, who shared valuable insights into the migratory patterns, nesting behaviors, and ecological roles of the wetland's avian inhabitants. Highlights included sightings of several migratory bird species, such as the Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, and Black-winged Stilt. These observations underscored the wetland's importance as a critical stopover for migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway.

The field visit also provided participants with an opportunity to observe firsthand the challenges faced by wetland ecosystems, such as encroachment, pollution, and the impacts of urbanization. Discussions during the visit emphasized the need for collaborative efforts among policymakers, conservationists, and the media to address these threats and promote wetland conservation.

For the media professionals, the visit served as a practical extension of the workshop's objectives, equipping them with firsthand experiences and story ideas to enhance their reporting on wetland conservation. For the media students, it offered an inspiring introduction to the complexities of environmental journalism and the critical role of storytelling in driving awareness and action.



Students in Surajpur Wetland before Start of the Guided Tour



Participants in Surajpur Wetland Admiring Birds from the Distance

V. KEY MESSAGES & SUGGESTIONS

1. Enhancing Journalism Training & Awards

It emerged from the consultation that journalists need specialized training to understand and report on the ecological, cultural, and socio-economic dimensions of wetlands. Field visits, such as those to Surajpur Wetlands, were suggested as invaluable firsthand experiences. It was also suggested that wetlands-related journalistic awards could incentivize impactful reporting.

2. Amplifying Local Voices & Livelihood Stories

Participants suggested that reporting on wetlands should prioritize grassroots narratives, emphasizing the intersection of wetlands with livelihoods and the contributions and struggles of local communities.

3. Balancing Narrative Tones

It was suggested that participants shift the narrative from a crisis-driven focus to one of hope. While highlighting wetland degradation is critical, showcasing positive conservation efforts and community-driven initiatives was seen as a way to inspire action and optimism.

4. Holding Policymakers Accountable

Journalists suggested recognizing their role in scrutinizing government policies impacting wetlands. They emphasized balancing reports on destructive practices like encroachments with positive initiatives, such as the Save Wetlands Campaign, to foster accountability and dialogue.

5. Promoting Public Awareness & Indigenous Knowledge

It emerged that integrating wetlands into educational curricula and public campaigns would create a well-informed citizenry. Participants suggested linking wetlands to relatable issues like water security, livelihoods, and climate resilience while highlighting indigenous and community knowledge.

6. Showcasing Wise-Use Approaches

It was suggested that reporting feature innovative approaches such as eco-tourism, sustainable wetland management, and phytoremediation to showcase practical solutions that can be replicated and encourage sustainable practices.

7. Strengthening Community Engagement

It emerged that stories should emphasize the role of communities in wetland conservation, recognizing unsung local heroes to inspire collective action and attract attention from policymakers and the public.

8. Ensuring Accessibility to Jargon-Free Data

Participants suggested the need for reports and data on wetlands to be simplified and jargon-free, making them accessible to a broader audience and ensuring more effective communication.

9. Engaging Emerging Digital Influencers

It was suggested that workshops and capacity-building programs include digital and social media influencers, facilitating interactions between them and wetland scientists to amplify conservation messages.

10. Recognizing Role Models & Local Heroes

Participants suggested including local conservation heroes and role models as panellists in workshops and consultations to share their experiences and inspire others.

11. Encouraging Adoption of Wetlands

Expert panellists encouraged participants to adopt a local wetland and consistently observe its ecosystem to identify story opportunities.

12. Preserving Wetland Arts & Crafts

It emerged that documenting and promoting wetland-related arts and crafts would help demystify wetland science and enrich storytelling about wetlands.

13. Addressing Sewage Drainage Issues

Participants observed during the Surajpur Wetlands field visit that open sewage drainage poses significant ecological risks. They strongly suggested implementing a comprehensive sewage treatment plan to prevent contamination, preserve ecological balance, and sustain biodiversity.

14. Improving Visitor Facilities

It was suggested that developing visitor-friendly infrastructure, such as resting areas, would enhance eco-tourism and public engagement. Participants emphasized that these facilities should align with sustainable practices to make wetlands more accessible and enjoyable while promoting conservation awareness.



VI. CONCLUSION

The National Media Consultation on Wetlands for LiFE marked a significant milestone in India's environmental communication landscape. Over three intensive days, the program successfully brought together over 150 participants, including journalism students, senior media professionals, environmental experts, and policymakers, to address the critical issue of wetland conservation. The initiative, supported by Indo-German technical cooperation, aimed to transform how wetlands are understood, reported, and protected in India.

The consultation achieved multiple important objectives. It trained more than 100 journalism students from Delhi NCR universities, engaged over 25 senior journalists in advanced environmental reporting techniques, and created a platform for direct interaction between emerging journalists and industry veterans. Participants gained deep insights into the ecological, cultural, and economic significance of wetlands, learning about India's 15.98 million hectares of diverse wetland ecosystems - from high-altitude Himalayan wetlands to coastal marshes and coral reefs.

Key outcomes included enhanced understanding of wetlands' critical roles in biodiversity conservation, water security, and climate resilience. The program equipped journalists with practical tools to craft compelling conservation narratives, emphasizing the importance of translating complex scientific data into accessible stories. Participants were encouraged to highlight local conservation heroes, explore innovative community-driven solutions, and bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and public awareness.

The field visit to Surajpur Wetlands provided a hands-on learning experience, allowing participants to witness firsthand the rich biodiversity and conservation challenges. With over 180 bird species and complex ecological interactions, the wetland served as a living classroom, reinforcing the need for collaborative conservation efforts. The consultation stressed the importance of an "all-of-society" approach, encouraging journalists to become active participants in environmental storytelling.

Looking forward, the initiative has laid a strong foundation for sustained media engagement in wetland conservation. By creating a network of informed environmental journalists and establishing new channels for science communication, the program aims to catalyse improved coverage of environmental issues and strengthen public support for wetland protection.

MoEFCC & CMS Representatives



Guided Surajpur Wetlands Tour





Dr. Vasanti Rao of CMS Moderating the Media Consultation

VII. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals and organizations whose collective efforts made the Wetlands for LiFE National Media Consultation a success. First and foremost, we thank the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for their unwavering support and guidance throughout this initiative. Special appreciation goes to Dr. Ramesh M, Scientist F from the Wetlands Division, whose expertise and passionate commitment to wetland conservation inspired all participants.

Our profound thanks to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the International Climate Initiative (IKI), implemented through GIZ. Mr. Ravindra Singh, Mr. Kirtiman Awasthi and Mr. Utkarsh Lal from GIZ India played crucial roles in bringing this collaborative vision to life. We are particularly grateful to Mr. Suresh Babu from WWF-India, whose insights and stories of local conservation heroes added depth to our discussions.

We acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our distinguished speakers and panellists: Dr. Vasanti Rao from the Centre for Media Studies, Dr. Farhat Basir Khan from Jamia Hamdard, Ms. Vibha Varshney from Down to Earth, Mr. Manish Chandra Mishra from Mongabay India, and Dr. Ritesh Kumar from Wetlands International South Asia. Their expertise and diverse perspectives were instrumental in shaping the consultation's rich narrative.

Our sincere thanks to the academic partners, especially Jamia Hamdard, with special recognition to Prof. Reshma Nasreen, Dr. Farhat Basir Khan and the Centre for Media and Mass Communication Studies. The Imam of Jamia Hamdard provided inspiring opening remarks that set a profound tone for our discussions. We are grateful to Dr. Sujit Bajpayee from the Commission for Air Quality Management for his inaugural address highlighting the critical connection between air quality and wetland health.

We extend warm appreciation to our field visit hosts at Surajpur Wetlands, including District Forest Officer Pramod Kumar Shrivasta, Range Forest Officer Anamika Jha, Site Incharge Ram Avtar Chaudhary, and the passionate bird expert Surrender Mia, whose guidance made our field visit an unforgettable learning experience.



Mr. Sabyesachi Bharti of CMS Briefing the Media Consultation



Field Visit Participants Trying a Closer Look at the Wetland Biodiversity

To the 150 participants - journalism students from Delhi NCR universities, senior journalists from various media houses including Dainik Jagran, India Today, The Print, Deccan Herald, Times of India, News24, and ground reporting platforms - your enthusiasm, questions, and commitment to environmental storytelling were the heart of this consultation.

Special recognition goes to Ms. Dipanjali Singh from the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) and all the journalists who shared their experiences, challenges, and innovative approaches to wetland conservation reporting. Your stories and insights have created a powerful network of environmental communicators.

Lastly, we thank our organizing team at the Centre for Media Studies (CMS) who worked tirelessly to coordinate this complex, multi-day event. Your dedication ensured a seamless, impactful program that we believe will contribute significantly to wetland conservation efforts in India.

ANNEXURE-I



Day 1: Empowering Future Journalists

November 21, 2024 (09:30 AM - 5:30 PM)

Hamdard Convention Centre, Jamia Hamdard, Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi 110062

Time	Agenda and Speakers
09:30 – 10:30	Registration & Tea
10:30 – 11:30	<p>Welcome Address by Dr Vasanti Rao, Director General, Centre for Media Studies (CMS), New Delhi</p> <p>Watering the Plant & Felicitation of Dignitaries</p> <p>Overview of the Programme by Mr Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Advisor, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme, GIZ</p> <p>Special Address by Dr Farhat Basir Khan, Professor, Centre for Media and Mass Communication Studies, Jamia Hamdard</p> <p>Keynote Address by Dr Ramesh M, Scientist F, Wetlands Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)</p> <p>Inaugural Address by Prof. Reshma Nasreen, Director, Centre for Media and Mass Communication Studies, Jamia Hamdard</p> <p>Vote of Thanks by Mr Utkarsh Lal, Junior Forestry & Biodiversity Advisor, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme, GIZ</p>
	Participants Introduction
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Session 1: Understanding the Mysteries and beauty of Wetlands</p> <p>by Dr Pranab J Patar, Technical Expert, CMS</p>
12:30 – 13:30	<p>Session 2: Environment Journalism and Communication for Wetlands: Understanding the Basics</p> <p>by Mr Nishant Saxena, Climate science Communication Expert</p>
13:30 – 14:15	LUNCH BREAK
14:15 – 15:30	<p>Session 3: From Idea to Impact: Developing Compelling Wetland Conservation Narratives</p> <p>by Mr Nishant Saxena, Climate science Communication Expert & Dr Pranab J Patar, Technical Expert, CMS</p>

15:30 – 15:45	Wetland Mitras and Field Visit Orientation by Dr Vasanti Rao , Director General, Centre for Media Studies (CMS)
15:45 – 16:00	TEA BREAK
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Session 4: Panel Discussion: <i>"Telling the Wetland Story: Media Insights on Conservation Challenges and Solutions"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Manish Chandra Mishra, Assistant Editor at Mongabay India • Ms Vibha Varshney, Consulting Editor, Down To Earth • Dr Farhat Basir Khan, Professor, Centre for Media and Mass Communication Studies, Jamia Hamdard • Mr Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Advisor, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme, GIZ • Ms Suchita Awasthi, National Project Coordinator (IMWBES), Wetlands International South Asia • Dr Vasanti Rao, Director General, Centre for Media Studies (CMS), (Moderator)
17:30 onwards	Networking Tea



based on a decision of
the German Bundestag



Nov 21 : Hamdard Convention Centre
Nov 22 & 23 : The LaLiT, New Delhi

Day 2: Enhancing Media Engagement

November 22, 2024 (10:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
The LaLiT, Connaught Place, New Delhi

Time	Agenda and Speakers
10:00 – 10:30	Registration & Tea
	Session 1: Inaugural Session
10:30 – 12:00	<p>Welcome Address by Dr Vasanti Rao, Director General, Centre for Media Studies (CMS)</p> <p>Felicitation of Dignitaries</p> <p>Overview of the Programme by Mr. Ravindra Singh, Director, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme, GIZ</p> <p>Special Address by Mr Suresh Babu, Senior Director-Ecological Footprint, WWF-India</p> <p>Special Address by Dr Ritesh Kumar, Director, Wetlands International South Asia</p> <p>Special Address by Dr Ramesh M, Scientist F, Wetlands Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)</p> <p>Inaugural Address by Dr. Sujit Bajpayee, Member, Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas</p> <p>Vote of Thanks by Mr Utkarsh Lal, Junior Forestry & Biodiversity Advisor, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme, GIZ</p>
	Group Photograph
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 2: <i>Wetlands for Sustainability: Balancing Biodiversity, Water Security, and Climate Resilience</i></p> <p>by Dr Ritesh Kumar, Director, Wetlands International South Asia</p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 3: <i>Panel Discussion: Challenges and Solutions in Wetland Reporting: A Collaborative Approach</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Shweta Thakur Nanda, Ramnath Goenka Award Winner Journalist - Mr Pushymitra, Senior Journalist, India Today - Dr Faiyaz Ahmad Khudsar, Senior Scientist, Biodiversity Parks Programme, CEMDE, University of Delhi - Dr Vasanti Rao, Director General, Centre for Media Studies (CMS), (Moderator)
15:30 – 15:45	TEA BREAK

15:45 – 17:00	Session 4: Open Discussion & Experience-Sharing: Challenges and Solutions in Wetland-based Media Engagement Moderated by Dr Vasanti Rao , Director General, Centre for Media Studies (CMS), & Ms Dipanjali Singh , Assistant Editor, People's Archive of Rural India (PARI)
17:00 – 17:30	Networking Tea

Day 3: Field Visit

November 23, 2024 (09:00 AM - 14:00 PM)
Surajpur Wetlands, Greater Noida, UP

09.00 – 10:00	Assembly at Jamia Hamdard (for students) and Bloom Boutique, Babar Rd, Fire Brigade Lane, CP, New Delhi (for journalists)
10:00 – 13:00	Departure & travel for field visit to the Surajpur Wetlands, Greater Noida
	Wetlands visit and discussions at the Site
	Group Photograph
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
Return to Delhi	
	<i>(departure around 14.30 pm from the lunch venue to Delhi)</i>

GIZ INDIA

B 5 / 1, Safdarjung Enclave
New Delhi - 110029

P: 91 11 4949 5353
www.giz.de

CENTRE FOR MEDIA STUDIES

RESEARCH HOUSE, Saket Community Centre
New Delhi - 110 017

P: 91 11 2685 1660
www.cmsindia.org