

Maharaja Agrasen College

University of Delhi

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6th National Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Wildlife Ecology, Conservation and Iconography

February 8-10, 2018

Bio Notes

Inaugural Session

1. Dr. Sunil Sondhi

Dr Sunil Sondhi is a distinguished scholar in the field of international relations and organization. After completing doctoral research from the University of Delhi he did post-doctoral research at the George Washington University and the University of Toronto. During his research and teaching career spanning over three decades, Dr Sunil has received many international research awards, which include: J. William Fulbright Fellowship; Salzburg Program Fellowship; Canada Asia Pacific Award; and Shastri Applied Research Project Award.

Dr. Sondhi has published widely in scholarly journals on international relations and organization. He has over one hundred research papers to his credit. His most recent research paper on "Terrorism and Governance in Kashmir" was published in *The Journal of Conflict Studies* (New Brunswick). He has presented several research papers at international conferences across the globe. Sunil Sondhi has published seven books of which the most recent is on "International Relations: Search for Security and Development". Sunil Sondhi has considerable experience of working with civil society organizations throughout the world and raising funds for education and development activities. He has been active in organizing leadership development programs for the youth and involving them in social work in rural areas of the world.

He has recently completed an applied research project on "Engaging Communities in Environmental Management". This involved study and participation of civil society organizations in managing the environment. This study covered metropolitan areas of India and Canada and remote regions in northeast India and northwest Canada. He had earlier completed a project on "Governance and Development in South Asia" which included a study of the role of civil society organizations in improving the quality of governance in south Asian countries.

Sunil is an expert rock climber and mountaineer and has trekked and climbed extensively in the Himalayas. His travels in the mountains have taken him to distant places and communities nestled in nature far away from modern civilization. These experiences have awakened him to the need for balancing human and material values in personal and social life.

2. Dr Sangeeta Mittal

She is an Associate Professor in the Department of English, Maharaja Agrasen College. She has over 25 years of experience of teaching English literature, with Romanticism, Jacobean Age, and Shakespeare as her favourite areas, apart from contributing to the corporate life of the College by holding all major portfolios. She has submitted dissertation on "Delhi Culture: A Literary Perspective" and is continuing with her work in Urban Studies and Memory Studies through academic publications and research projects. She was the Convener of the Conference Committee for the Interdisciplinary Conference on City Lives: Spaces and Narratives as well as Practicing Quality Culture in Institutions of Higher Education in 2015-16. Pursuing her interest in urban environments, she has been a contributor and organizer of the National Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change focusing on the area of sustainable cities.

3. Ms. Renu Singh

She is an officer of the Indian Forest Services since 1997 and has held various important positions as the Director, Lucknow Zoo (2007-2013), as Deputy Conservator of Forests Kanpur (2013-2015), as Divisional Director, Social Forestry Division, Hardoi (2015-2016), as conservator of Forests Endangered Species Project in Lucknow (2016-17) and her current position is of the Director, National Zoological Park, New Delhi. She was awarded Devi award for conservation of Wildlife by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of U.P. She is a zoologist by qualification and has earned a degree in MSc Zoology from University of Delhi. She has closely worked with and for management of Bird sanctuaries. She also has experience of conducting various workshops on wild life including International workshop of Turtle Survival Alliance.

4. Sh. Nila Madhab Panda

He has produced and directed over 70 diverse and cutting edge films, documentaries and shorts. These films are based on important social issues such as climate change, child labor, education, water issues, sanitation and many other developmental issues in India. His films have won him several awards and critical acclaim. Most of his films have unique insights drawn from his own life, the metaphorical distance that he has traversed from a small obscure village based in one of the remotest parts of India, to metropolitan cities across the globe. His

films are entertaining, yet portray profusely socially relevant themes; driving home the point that films can be a powerful medium of positive social change. In 1998, Madhab founded Eleanora Images, a Multimedia Production House. His first iconic feature film, the highly acclaimed 'I am Kalam', has won 32 International awards, one national award. Amongst the most prestigious he won Viewers' Choice award at IFFLA, People's Choice Award at the Montreal, Best Feature Film and best director award in California, Most Prestigious "The Don Quixote Prize" of the ICCF at Germany, Best film at Frankfurt and Bronze Cairo, The Prize of the International Center of Films For Children & Young People, Best film from the Indian Panorama by the Young Jury at the IFFI, Goa, Best Debut Director Aravindam Purashkaram, and many more. His second feature film "Jalpari", about female feticide and gender equality, was also well received by audience and was highly acclaimed. It received the prestigious, MIP Junior award at Cannes. His third feature film "Babloo Happy Hai", was well received, based on Youths and HIV/AIDS. It was also well appreciated by audience and critics in India. His new film "Kaun Kitney Paani Mein", a satire on water crisis in India released last August. The film was highly critically acclaimed. The film talks about the current scenario & how water will become a scarce currency unless we save and manage it.

Awards & Recognition: Padma Shri 2016, British Council- Creative Futures of India 2006 (Longest Journey award). UK Environment Film Fellowship 2005. Heroism in Cinematography, 2003 THP, New York. "Excellence in media" for fighting the cause Female foeticide. United Nations Visual Media fellowship 2002. "Odisha icon" 2011. "Living Legend" 2012. "Son of Odisha" 2012. Bharat Gaurav (India's pride) 2015. Asia Pacific entrepreneurship award (Karmaveer Purasakar).

5. **Dr. B.C. Sabata**

He is currently working in the Department of Environment (DoE), Government of NCT of Delhi, as Senior Scientific Officer and also Director, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Combating Climate Change (MGICCC). In addition, he is presently also looking after the Plan Scheme Eco-Clubs in Schools and colleges of Delhi and Public Environment Awareness. Imparting knowledge on Climate Change issues to various stakeholders like eco-club students of Schools/ Colleges, Polytechnics, ITIs etc. Also organize workshops/training programs for Youths, RWAs, farmers, women groups etc. on various environment issues including Climate Change. Has a teaching experience as Lecturer in Botany in Arunachal University from 1992-1999. He has done M.Sc in Botany. Dr. Subata has done M.Phil, Ph.D, (thesis on - Aquatic Pollution of River Hooghly) LLB and MBA (Disaster Management). Also has long

list of publication and 3 books to his credit. His interest areas are Environment Education and awareness, Renewable Sources of Energy, Environmental Pollution Control and Climate Change Issues

6. **Prof Radhey Shyam Sharma**

He is a distinguished Professor in the Environmental Studies Department at University of Delhi. He is actively involved in teaching at post graduate level, at M Phil level (Restoration Ecology) and has mentored several PhDs. List of publications of books, monographs and papers mostly in refereed and indexed journals is long and huge. Participation in national and international conferences list is equally inspiring. Has about five sponsored Research collaborations? His major awards are DBT CREST Award in Environmental Biotechnology(2011-12), Expert member, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, South Asian Region (2005-till date) , member, core group on the UNCCD, Govt. of India (2005-08). Has association with professional bodies of his domain of knowledge Society of Biological Chemist, India, Bacteriophage Ecology Group Ohio and member. His areas of interest range from soil Microbial Ecology: Bio-/Phyto-Remediation; Plant-Microbe Associations; Bio-resources and their Utilization.

Day 1

Session: 2

1. **Prof. S D Biju**

Prof Biju is an MSC from Kerala University and double Ph. D from Kerala in Plant Systematics and from Brussels in Animal Science. He has 10 years of teaching experience and 25 years of research experience. He has been specializing in systematics and conservation of Indian amphibians with over 25 years of field experience. He have discovered over 150 new species of amphibians and formally described 80 along with my students and collaborators, including the description of two new families, eight new genera and the smallest Indian tetrapod. Additionally Dr. Biju has discovered seven native plant species. Disciplines covered by his research include systematics, molecular evolution, biogeography, reproductive ecology, developmental biology, behavioral ecology, bioacoustics, phylogenetics and biodiversity conservation. Currently he serves as Project Director of the Western Ghats Network of Protected Areas for Threatened Amphibians (WNPATA). He is also the Project Director of “LOST! Amphibians of India” (LAI) aims to discover and conserve the lost amphibians of India in partnership with over 700 volunteers from different parts of the country.

Awards and Recognition: IUCN/ASG SABIN award 2008 for research & Conservation, Sanctuary Asia Wildlife Service Award 2011.

Subject: Story of the first land vertebrate

2. Dr. Sumit Dookia

Dr. Sumit is currently working as Assistant Professor in the School of Environment Management at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi and teaching on various interdisciplinary issues of Biodiversity and Conservation at PG level. His main research area is Mammalian Ecology and Avian Biology. Dr. Dookia is working on Chiropteran (Bats) ecology and taxonomy in Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi region. Currently having three projects in hand, Bats and Urban spaces in Delhi, Bats in Thar Desert of Rajasthan, Ecology of Desert Fox in Thar Desert and Community Conservation of Wild Ungulates and Great Indian Bustard (Critically Endangered Species) in Thar Desert of Rajasthan.

Along with this working as an individual capacity with financially supported by The Ruffords Small Grant Foundation, UK, Department of Science & Technology and UGC (Govt. of India), on “Chinkara Conservation through Community Participation in western Rajasthan” since last 17 years. Of late he has worked as Scientist-Ornithology in Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), as a Post-Doctoral Fellow/Research Associate at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, and as the Field Coordinator and Research Associate in Satpura-Maikal Range in Central India for evaluation of Tiger Census methodology.

He has also worked with the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Desert Regional Station, Jodhpur for faunal surveys of birds and mammals. Completed five conservation projects, on avian diversity (funded by OBC, UK) and Chinkara conservation through community involvement (funded by Ruffords Small Grant Foundation, UK), on individual capacity in Thar Desert of Rajasthan. He has been awarded as the Young Scientist by Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi in 2010 and Wildlife Conservation Award-2016 by Carl Zeiss.

Sub: Bats of Delhi and then Conservation Issue

3. Dr. Debanik Mukherjee

Dr. Debanik Mukherjee did his M.Sc in Zoology from University of Kanpur in 2000 and PhD from Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (2007) on community ecology of reptiles from Anikatty hills, a part of Western Ghats.

Currently associated with university of Delhi and DDA in Biodiversity Parks Programme, comparatively more applied field ecology called conservation and restoration ecology.

Sub: Reptiles of Aravali Biodiversity Park

4. **Dr. Priya Gupta & Jaskirat Singh Saini**

Dr. Priya Gupta is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. Her Doctoral Degree is from BIT (Mesra), Ranchi. She has more than 14 years of teaching and 5 years of Industry Experience. Her research interest lies in the area of Machine Learning, Theory of Computation, Compiler Design, Data Mining, Artificial Intelligence etc. She has authored book titled “CRM System and Cross Selling in Indian Banking Industry”, “Innovation In Payment Systems – An Approach Towards Cashless Mandis”, "Banking the Unbanked - A step towards Financial Inclusion in Indian Mandis". She has also edited book titled “Innovative Minds – Technocrats with Vision” (Unfolding the dimensions of Compiler Design and Microprocessor) - Volume I and “Innovative Minds – Technocrats with Vision” (Unfolding the dimension of Artificial Intelligence and Information Security) - Volume – II. Apart from the Profession Work, she is keenly interested in working for the Environment.

Jaskirat Singh Saini

Jaskirat Singh completed his B.Tech in Computer Science from Maharaja Agarsen College, University of Delhi in 2017. After his graduation, he started working on a business venture named “Plant Your Air”. This venture provides natural and sustainable solutions to reduce air pollution at places where there is a significant human concentration such as residencies, corporates, and hotels. As part of the operations team, his main job is to plan how solution can be incorporated into the client’s facility and to ensure that the orders are executed efficiently. He is also involved with the marketing team where he pitches the concept to prospective clients and convinces them to get on board. He has been an active investor in stock market for the past two years, and has also conducted financial literacy sessions for fellow students at MAC.

Sub: A Sustainable Path to a Pollution Free Future

Chair: Dr. S Bala Bawa

Dr. Bawa is a well- known botanist with a Ph.D. from University of Delhi and Post-doctoral from Harvard University. She has a teaching experience of forty years at SGTB Khalsa

College, University of Delhi. She retired as Principal Maharaja Agrasen College. She has been member of Governing Bodies of several Delhi University colleges.

Day 2

Session: 3

Movie Screening

1. *Nagaland is Changing, But ...* by Gurmeet Sapal

Gurmeet Sapal is an independent cinematographer and filmmaker based in New Delhi, India. He has filmed over 30 feature length documentaries. He actively works for some of leading international broadcasters including Al Jazeera, Channel 9 (60 minutes), National Geographic Channel, Discovery, BBC, ZDF, ABC etc. He is on the panel of United Nations and films and photographs actively with various UN bodies. His interests are social issues, climate change, environment, wildlife and travel. As a filmmaker, Gurmeet's forte lies in bringing out the fine human emotions and filming larger than life images. His strength is to weave the engaging story with the help of strong visuals, testimonies, narrative and soulful music. He has directed over twenty-five films.

He graduated from Indian Institute of Mass Communications in 1998 and has been since making wildlife and environment films to sensitize viewers. Gurmeet's debut film 'Chasing butterflies' is has been shown to millions of kids all over the country. The film takes life cycle of butterflies out of the textbooks and repackages it into the most interesting form of storytelling. He directed and produced a TV series called 'Zindagi Abhi Baki Hai' on cricketer Yuvraj Singh's cancer and his comeback for general entertainment channel, Colors. His film 'Nagaland is changing. But...' has won Golden Beaver Award at National Science Film Festival. His Debut film 'Chasing Butterflies' won best film award at 'Vatavaran Film Festival' in 2012. Apart from this his films 'Leopard in Lurch' and 'The Silk Route' have also won several awards at different forums. He was awarded UK Environment Film Fellowship (UKEFF) twice. He is trustee of an NGO called 'Friends of Himalayas'.

2. "*Should big dams be built in the Himalayas?*" by Sh. Sushil Bahuguna

Sh. Sushil Bahuguna is a renowned Environmentalist, Senior News Editor and TV Anchor with NDTV. He has made some path breaking movies in the field of environment focusing mainly on the resplendence of nature in the Himalayan region and various issues pertaining to them. A postgraduate from the prestigious Indian

Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), some of his widely known documentaries are *The Mood of the Himalayan River*, *Ladakh – A cold dry desert*, *Man-made artificial glacier in Ladakh*. Recently, a documentary on Ghost villages highlighting migration from villages of Uttarakhand earned him wide acclaim. His work has sensitized millions across the globe about climate change and other challenges facing humanity today.

3. *Rebuilding Life* by Qissa- The Filmmaking Society of Maharaja Agrasen College

Rebuilding life talks about the development and efforts of scientists at Yamuna Biodiversity Park, who are working towards making Delhi habitable for all kinds of Flora and Fauna. Since its inception the Biodiversity Park has become bigger and more diverse. We try to showcase their journey while also talking about the achievements they have to their name. This film is presented by Qissa- The Film making society of Maharaja Agrasen College, which was founded under the guidance of ECA Convener, Dr. Deepa Sharma, and efforts of film enthusiast college students with the aim of promoting film literacy across University of Delhi.

4. *Kadwi Hawa* by Nila Madhab Panda

About the Movie

“*Kadwi Hawa*” where the film’s star cast -Sanjay Mishra, Ranveer Shorey and Tilotama Shom will be present along with the producer – Akshay Kumar Parija and director- Padmashri Nila Madhab Panda.

The National Award winning film *Kadwi Hawa*, addressing the world’s biggest present day problem “Global warming and Climatic Change” is evoking unprecedented response all over world after its trailer release.

The film “*Kadwi Hawa*” was screened at Kaleidoscopic Festival at New York, USA on 9th with United Nation’s representative present. Conceived and directed by Padmashri Awardee Odiya youth Nila Madhab Panda and produced by another National Award winning Odiya producer Akshay Kumar Parija, the film throws a warning to the world to be conscious and take corrective steps to save the earth from the disasters of Climatic Change.

“Giving current examples of lack of cold even by mid-November and rain warning at the time of paddy harvest are the burning examples of climatic change. These erratic behavior of climate definitely affect society not only for agricultural loss but unknown diseases”, says Parija.

The unprecedented response to the trailer and tribute written by revered Shri Gulzar and view by over two crores people on social media reflects people's interest on the subject of global warming and climatic change, says Shri Nila Madhab Panda, Director of the film. The film poised for worldwide release on November 24th, 2017.

Chair: Dr. Anupama Jaidev

Session: 4

Student Session

Saavi Srivastava, Maharaja Agrasen College, DU

Politics of Fauna Persona

Kendra Vijayvergiya and Pratishtha Choudhary, Kamala Nehru College, DU

Botanical Audit of Kamala Nehru College

Vaishnavi Srivastava, Maharaja Agrasen College, DU

6th Episode of Extinction

Neekita Raj and Soumya Rakhe, Daulat Ram College, DU

The Endangered Fauna

Rupal Poddar, Maharaja Agrasen College, DU

Nature and Civilization

Chair: Saumya Shukla:

Dr. Saumya Shukla is an Assistant Professor in Economics at Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. With a BA (H) degree in Economics from LSR College, DU, she went on to do her MA and M.Phil in Economics from CESP, JNU. She has a PhD from the Department of Business Economics, University of Delhi. She has keen interest in Green Buildings and Environmental issues. With a teaching experience of 24 years in various colleges of Delhi University, Saumya has been actively involved in the designing of course structures for various papers in Economics, Business Economics and Journalism in the University and is one of the primary investigators on the Delhi University Innovation Project on Spiritual Ecology (2013-15).

Day 3

Session: 5

1. Dr. Tanuja Kothiyal

Dr. Tanuja is a faculty in Liberal Studies Department of Ambedkar University, Delhi. She holds a Ph. D from the prestigious JNU. Her thesis has been published by CUP under the title “Nomadic Narratives: A History of Mobility and Identity in the Great Indian Desert”. Her interest lies in understanding various aspects of mobility and its relationship with social and political formations.

Subject: Thar: The Making of an Ecological Frontier

2. Dr. Meenakshi Khanna

Meenakshi Khanna is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at the Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi. She has done her M.A. in History from the University of Delhi and M.Phil. & Ph.D. from the Centre for Historical Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her field specialization is Sufism in South Asia and traditions of dreams in Indo-Islamic culture. She is also interested in looking at translations of Indic works into Persian as illustrated texts. She has edited the *Cultural History of Medieval India*, published by Social Science Press, 2007.

She has held the *Annemarie Schimmel Professorship* in the Institute for Oriental & Asian Studies, Rheinische Friedrich-Whilhelms-University at Bonn in 2011, and was awarded *Fulbright Visiting Lectureship* in the Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006.

Subject: Imaging the Emperor as Mahawat: Akbar and the Construction of Royal Pilkhana

3. Mr. Wasim Akram, Wildlife SOS

Fresh out of college, Wasim Akram started off as a project coordinator with Wildlife SOS at its headquarters in Delhi in June 2014. Now the Special Projects Manager at the Delhi Headquarters, Wasim's got a lot under his belt. He has helped design India's first elephant ambulance, a pilot project to turn feral dogs into security dogs, saved 200 old trees from being cut down by arranging their translocation to the

Wildlife SOS Elephant Conservation and Care Centre with a 100% survival rate, and manages the Delhi rescue team, amongst a host of other achievements.

Subject: People's participation in Wildlife Conservation

Chair: Dr Sangeeta Mittal

Session: 6

1. Dr. Anupama Jaidev

Anu Jaidev is an Associate Professor of English in Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. She holds a PhD in English Literature from University of Delhi. Her research areas are Romani Studies, Narratives of the Emergency, Tribal Narratives and Migration Studies. She also translates and writes poetry.

Sub: Jab Laad Chale Banjara: Communities, Animals and Politics

2. Dr. Govind Singh & Ms Konsam Nirmala Devi

Govind Singh, an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi has completed his Ph.D. in Urban Water Management. His research interests lie in ensuring urban sustainability by balancing contemporary environmental management principles with spiritual ecology and traditional knowledge. He is the Co-Founder of "Delhi Greens" NGO, has been a member and co-coordinator of several environmental programmes, projects, and campaigns at regional, national and international platforms. Award winning Delhi Greens Blog and Urban Ecotourism projects, both of which aimed at ensuring environmental harmony and sustainable development, were initiated by him.

Ms Konsam Nirmala Devi

Konsam Devi is teaches Environmental Studies in Maitreyi College, University of Delhi. She holds a Master's Degree from Department of Environment Science, University of Delhi. She has been working to address the Natural Resource Management challenges in the Loktak Lake ecosystem in the north-eastern state of Manipur.

Subject: Role and Relevance of Zoological Gardens in Contemporary Times

Chair: Dr. Pratibha Rai**Pratibha Rai**

She has diverse professional experience of more than 24 years including Corporate exposure of 4 years (1991- 1994) as Eureka Forbes, service Franchisee Manager, Customer Care, entrepreneurial experience of 1 year in Array Health Care, has an experience of teaching in Maharishi Institute of Management and has taught in PGDBM and MBA Programmes (course affiliated with Iowa University, USA) where Transcendental Meditation was part of the curriculum. Currently working as an Associate Professor of Business Economics with Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi (1997 onwards), she specializes in Economics and Management, Environmental Economics and Finance. Having several publications in refereed national journals, she has participated in several sponsored conferences and seminars of repute, and has been one of the primary investigators on the Delhi University Innovation Project on Spiritual Ecology (2013-15).

Valedictory Session**1. Dr. Koustubh Sharma**

He has Masters in Physics from the University of Bhopal. During this period that he conducted a small study on the avian fauna of Bhopal, and developed his first stand-alone software to help identify birds. This led to his association with BNHS where he later joined as a Research Analyst. He then carried out field research for four years in Panna National Park on Ecology, on the distribution and behaviour of the four-horned antelope and obtained his Ph. D from Mumbai University.

His academic interests lie in quantitative ecology, population ecology, conservation biology and ecological and GIS modeling. Study designs, data analyses, developing application algorithm for specific and training are his inclinations in addition to conducting field work in remote locations. Apart from conducting field research and helping several research projects, he has delivered several lectures and interactive talks on wildlife and environment related issues. Dr. Sharma has conducted several training workshops for capacity building of field workers, researchers and officers in various countries. His work with the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) as Regional Field Biologist, helps in research planning, conduct of training and field work and helps analyze research data in the various range country programs of SLT. He has recently

worked in developing protocols for monitoring snow leopards and its prey populations in Ladakh and Mongolia using detection/non-detection surveys.

Sub: Snow Leopard Conservation: Scaling up action from frontlines to International Cooperation

2. **Dr. Faiyaz Khudsar**, is a wildlife biologist and has been working in the field of wildlife conservation and management for the last 15 years. He has extensive experience working in the Protected Areas. His field of interest is wildlife research and management, ecological restoration and also he initiated work in the field of aquatic biology recently.

Khudsar is a Master of Science in Environmental Biology from University of Delhi and Doctor of Philosophy from Jiwaji University in the area related to biodiversity assessment and monitoring wild ungulates population besides diploma in Environmental Law and a certificate for Training of Trainers Conservation: Practitioners Course from George Mason University, USA. Khudsar has carried out a long term research in the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh, proposed second home for Asiatic Lions. He has received Carl Zeiss Award for excellence in wildlife conservation. He has authored a book, “Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary: Preparing Second home for Asiatic Lion” and published national and international research papers. He is currently working as Scientist In-charge of Yamuna Biodiversity Park, a successful habitat restoration project (with the help of species assemblage in the form of biotic communities) in the midst of Delhi, where vital green space and wetland are urgent need to restore life supporting landscapes.

Sub: Yamuna Biodiversity Park: Rejuvenating river Yamuna floodplain