

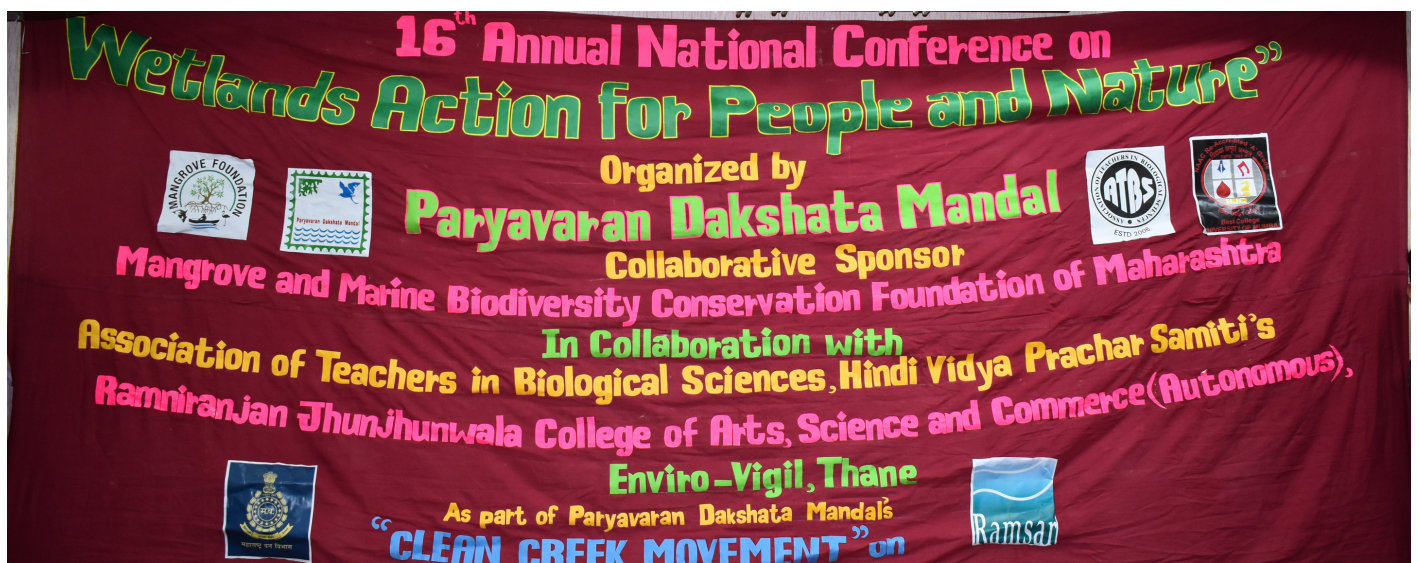


**16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
WORLD WETLAND DAY  
REPORT**

**PREPARED BY  
PARYAVARAN DAKSHATA MANDAL**

**2ND FEBRUARY 2022**

As part of its Clean Creek Movement with respect to the Thane creek, Paryvaran Dakshata Mandal, a Thane based NGO has been organizing a one-day conference on the occasion of World Wetlands Day, which is celebrated on 2nd February every year for the past 15 years. The participants generally include school and college students, research scholars, college teachers and representatives of the local fishermen community. Participating students /teachers present their research on wetlands through various mediums such as research presentation, essay competition, poster competition in this conference. Through this, aspiring researchers get to know the right direction and there is also exchange of ideas. This year, on 2nd February 2022, the 16th one-day conference was organized in a virtual manner by Paryvaran Dakshata Mandal in collaboration with Association of Teachers in Biological Sciences (ATBS) and Hindi Vidya Prachar Samiti's Ramniranjan Jhunjunwala College, Ghatkopar, Mumbai. This conference was funded by the Mangrove Cell of the Government of Maharashtra.



CLOTH BANNER OF 16TH WORLD WETLAND DAY CONFERENCE

This inaugural session of the conference started with Ishastavan, and a small Tulsi sapling was planted in a pot. After this, Dr. Himanshu Dawda, Principal, R. J. College delivered his speech welcoming all the dignitaries and attendees. He said that, "If we want to understand the wetland, we should have an emotional relationship with it and for that; we need to go and work in such an environment".



DR HIMANSHU DAWDA



DIGNITARIES PLANTING TULSI SAPLING

The convener of this conference was Dr. Praveen Nayak. He briefed about the details and schedule of the conference to all the attendees. After this, the Wetland special issue magazine 'Apala Paryavaran' of the Enviro Vigil was published by the dignitaries. Prof. Vidyadhar Walavalkar, President Paryvaran Dakshata Mandal spoke about this magazine.



**CAPT. PRAVIN NAYAK (CONVENOR)  
BRIEFING ABOUT THE SCHEDULE**

Shri. Yugal Kishor Joshi, Director, Jal Shakti Mission at Jal Shakti Mantralaya, Govt. of India, New Delhi was invited to give a keynote speech during the inaugural session. In his speech, he emphasized the need for proper conservation of valuable natural resources like water. To illustrate this, he summed up the well-known story of Satyakam Jabal and Gautam Rishi who was a famous saint. Humans have plundered the totality of natural resources and that is why serious environmental problems are plaguing the entire human race today. Citing the verses in the Upanishads, if we do not avoid the excess use of natural resources, the destruction of the environment in the near future will endanger the very existence of human beings. To conserve and protect the environment, he emphasized the need for community participation in environmental conservation.



**KEY NOTE SPEAKER- MR. YUGAL JOSHI**

After this, the Dr. Kodarkar Memorial lecture was arranged in the memory of Late Dr. Kodarkar, who is a recognized lake researcher and scientist, is not only well known in India but also internationally. Shri. Ashish Loya was invited as guest speaker for this lecture.

Mr. Ashish Loya, a young man living in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, worked tirelessly with the help of local villagers to protect and conserve the vast wetland of Haiderpur near Hastinapur Sanctuary. This wetland ecosystem, rich in biodiversity and especially bird diversity, has recently been given the status of 'Ramsar Site'. Ashish Loya has contributed a lot to this. After living in the United States for 15 years, this highly educated young man returned to India and he became an active member of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living. Inspired by this, he set out to protect and nurture nature. He told the success story of all his journey's in this lecture.



**DR. KODARKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE  
SPEAKER : MR. ASHISH LOYA**

In the next part of the program, Dr. Manas Manjrekar, representative of Mangrove Cell informed the audience about the various initiatives and measures being taken by the Mangrove Cell for the conservation of Mangrove. Dr. Sasikumar Menon, representative of the Association of Teachers in Biological Sciences, informed about the various activities of the organization across the country.



**DR. MANAS MANJREKAR, MANGROVE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINING ABOUT THE MEASURES TAKEN BY MANGROVE FOUNDATION**

After this, the Vice President of Paryavaran Dakshata Mandal, Dr. Sanjay Joshi briefed the audience about the awareness program, “Swachh Khadi Abhiyan” campaign of the organization. Dr. Prasad Karnik, Vice President of Paryavaran Dakshata Mandal presented the scientific overview of the campaign and why this movement is necessary in preserving the Thane Creek. The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. D. B. Singh, Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College, by presenting a thank-you note. The next session started with Dr. Purushottam Kale, Retired Head of Zoology Department of the College. While Purushottam Kale reviewed the services that the wetland ecosystem provides to human beings uninterruptedly, Dr. Prasad Karnik gave a brief overview on the threats to water body ecosystems and conservation opportunities as well as coastal regulation.



**DR. PURUSHOTTAM KALE, DR. PRASAD KARNIK, DR. SANJAY JOSHI EXPLAINING THE SUBTHEMES**

Dr. Sanjay Joshi presented an overview of the wetlands biodiversity.

After this the participating students were bifurcated into their respective competitions and 3 parallel sessions were organized. One for research paper presentation, poster competition and short film making/ documentary competition accordingly. In a research paper session, research students and professors presented their research. The researcher and professors represented Group A while the degree students represented Group B. There were two participants in group 'A' and a total of 25 students in group 'B'. A total of 11 researchers in group 'A' and a total of 7 students in group 'B' had participated in presenting the research paper. For this, there were competitors from various places like Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kolhapur. The presentation was examined by the director of the college, Dr. Usha Mukundan and Dr. Purushottam Kale for Group A and for Group B, Dr. Prasad Karnik and Dr. Pramod Salaskar was the judge. In the Poster competition, posters on different aspects of wetland were presented by students, research scholars. The judges for this competition were Shri. Hemant Karkhanis and Dr. Sasikumar Menon.

A total 29 participants took part in this competition, out of which 2 were in group A and 27 in Group B. Examination of essay competition organized for school students was performed by Ms.Surabhi Walawalkar-Thosar and Dr. Sucheta Golwalkar. A total of 17 students had participated in this competition. Dr. Anil Avhad and Dr. Janhavi Bhagwat examined the short film competition on Wetlands. A total of 11 students had participated in this competition from various colleges, schools and by some freelancers.



**JUDGING OF POSTER COMPETITION**  
**JUDGES- DR. SASIKUMAR MENON, MR HEMANT KARKHANIS**



**RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION (GROUP A)**  
**JUDGE- DR. USHA MUKUNDAN**



**JUDGING OF RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION**  
**(GROUP B)**  
**JUDGES- DR. PRASAD KARNIK, DR PRAMOD SALASKAR**



**PARTICIPATED STUDENTS PRESENTING**  
**THEIR RESEARCH PAPER IN RESEACH PAPER**  
**COMPETITION (GROUP B)**

After the presentation session, the conference was concluded and the results of the competitions were announced. In this session, Dr. Sanjay Joshi reviewed the various sessions held throughout the day. After this the award ceremony was held and finally after the speech of Dr. Usha Mukundan, Director of H.V.P.S's Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College. The conference concluded with the national anthem. The day-long conference was moderated by two college students, Shamita Naik and Samita Natekar. Shubham Nikam, Rupali Shaiwale, Pournima Shirgaonkar, Suvarna Bange, Amita and Kirti were instrumental in making the conference a success.

A total of 100 delegates had participated in this conference