



NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE AND COEXISTENCE NARRATIVES:

Communications Strategies
for Planet and Wildlife

26 & 27 Sep 2026, BHOPAL

THEME 2026

DAY-1

Communications Strategies for Environment & Forests

DAY-2

Communications Strategies for Rivers

DATE

26th & 27th Sep, 2026

VENUE

EPCO Conference Hall, Paryavaran
Parisar E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal (MP)

ORGANISING AGENCY

SNHC India

(Society of Nature Healers, Conservators and
Local Tourism Development) Bhopal

COLLABORATIVE AGENCY

MP State Biodiversity Board &
Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO)



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The National Workshop is a premier nationwide masterclass designed to bridge the gap between complex environmental science, state policy, and impactful public storytelling. Hosted in Bhopal in collaboration with the **MP State Biodiversity Board**, **EPCO**, **MP Forest Department**, and **Green India Mission** (GIM), this intensive workshop brings together journalists, university researchers, and grassroots NGO advocates. By framing climate change as an overarching global crisis, the workshop equips participants with the data-driven tools, satellite mapping techniques, and legal frameworks needed to investigate critical issues like public health lifelines, freshwater biodiversity loss, and landscape fragmentation. Ultimately, the **SNHC** is trying to move beyond traditional environmental reporting, producing actionable multimedia pitches and fostering a permanent cross-industry network dedicated to driving public accountability and community-led coexistence models across India.

SCHEDULE

DAY-1 (26 th Sep, 2026)	
Time	Topics/Details and Speakers
09:15-10:00	REGISTRATION
10.00-11.00	INAUGURATION By PS MP Forest Dept.(TBC) OR PCCF & HOFF MP (TBC)
10:00-10:10	Introduction & Welcome of guests by Organizers
10:10-10:15	LIGHTING OF LAMP
10:15-11:00	Introductory remarks by the Guests, including the Keynote address by Mr Brij Mohan Singh Rathore, IFS (Retd) Former PCCF, MP
11:00-11:10	Memento distribution to dignitaries and Group Photo
11:10-11:45	TEA BREAK
	SESSION -1
11:45-12:15	From Awareness to Action: Communicating for Behaviour Change in Conservation- by Ms. Vidya Venkatesh , Director Last Wilderness Foundation, Mumbai <i>Concluded by: Mr K Raman, IFS (Retd), Former APCCF, MP</i>
12:15-12:45	Exotic Pets: An emerging threat to native Wildlife and Human Health- by Dr. Kajal Jadhav , Associate Professor, School of Wildlife Forensic & Health, NDVSU, Jabalpur
12:45-13:15	"Who Speaks for the River? Reviewing Laws and Policies for Conserving Rivers" by Mr. Debadityo Sinha , Lead - Climate & Ecosystems at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi
13:15-13:45	Breakout Session for Discussion
13:45-14:40	LUNCH BREAK
	SESSION -2
14:40-15:10	Visual Storytelling and the art of building Narratives - by Ms. Akshita Jain , Wildlife and Conservation Photographer, Co-Founder OneWild India Collective, Hyderabad
15:10-15:40	Efficiency on the Earth's Crust' - Soil, Water & Daily Chapati...Bagel...Damper... Pray for all things that embrace the new World' by Mr. Craig Cooper , Founder One Earth One Breath and Third Pole Magazine, Australia
15:40-16:10	Green Impressions: Communicating Climate and Environmental Concerns Through Art and Design by Mr. Sunil Shukla , Documentary Filmmaker, Communication Designer & Consultant Art Promoter & Cultural Activist, Bhopal
16:10-16:40	Building Conservation Narratives through Social Media by Ms. Iraa Swasti , Narrative Strategy Lead & Mr. Shriram Pandey , Communications Consultant, Momentum Shifts, Bangalore
16:40-17:15	Breakout Session for Discussion
17:15 Onwards	HI TEA

SCHEDULE

DAY-2 (27 th Sep, 2026)	
Time	Topics/Details and Speakers
09:15-10:00	REGISTRATION
	SESSION -3
10:00-10:30	Dying Rivers, Declining Groundwater and Environmental Challenges by Dr. Sunil Chaturvedi , Hydrogeologist, Director Vibhavari, Indore
10:30-11:00	How is India writing/covering water and its Rivers? by Mr. Ajay Mohan , Managing Editor, India Water Portal, Bangalore
11:00-11:40	TEA BREAK
	SESSION -4
11:40-12:10	Communications on Rivers beyond the water bias by Dr. Vipin Vyas , Professor Bioscience, Head Dept. of Zoology & Applied Aquaculture, Barkatullah University, Bhopal
12:10-12:40	Turning the Tide: Examining Media Coverage of River Habitats and Species by Mr. Tarun Nair , Lead Programme Makara, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai
12:40-13:10	Breakout Session for Discussion
13:10-13:50	Valedictory along with Summary of Breakout Sessions by all Groups
13:50-14:45	LUNCH BREAK
14:45-17:15	Field Visit to Kaliyasot Catchment, Downstream and Dam in leadership of Mr. Saurabh Popli , Associate Professor, SPA Bhopal
17:15 Onwards	HI TEA

ABOUT MPSBB

Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board has been constituted by the State Government as per the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 notified by the Government of India. Objectives of the Board being Conservation of biodiversity, Sustainable use of its components and Equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Board has an advisory role in promoting biodiversity concerns among various stakeholders. One of the focus areas of the board includes promotion of research and advocacy of policy in gap areas. The lesser known faunal species is one such gap area which needs focus and action.

OUTCOME

Published Investigative Pitches: Production of verified environmental stories, public advocacy campaigns, and media pitches ready for national or international funding.

Advanced Technical Data Literacy: Practical mastery of open-access portals, CPCB dashboards, and satellite imagery to independently track river pollution and habitat loss.

Cross-Industry Action Network: Creation of a permanent network linking journalists, young researchers, NGO advocates, and state bodies for rapid resource sharing.

Grassroots Story Repositories: Generation of localized story baselines utilizing PBRs to highlight traditional community conservation knowledge.

Policy-Media Liaison Channels: Establishment of direct communication channels between local journalists and state authorities to speed up information verification and environmental reporting.

KEY SPEAKERS



Brij Mohan S Rathore

IFS (Retd), Former
PCCF MP & Ex. Member Secretary
MP State Biodiversity Board



Dr. Vipin Vyas

Professor, Bioscience, Head
Department of Zoology &
Applied Aquaculture



Dr. Sunil Chaturvedi

Hydrogeologist
Director Vibhavari
Indore



Vidya Venkatesh

Director
Last Wilderness
Foundation, Mumbai



Debadityo Sinha

Lead (Climate &
Ecosystems), Vidhi Centre
for Legal Policy, New Delhi



Ajay Mohan

Managing Editor
India Water Portal
Bangalore



Tarun Nair

Lead-Programme
Makara, WCT
Mumbai



Craig Cooper

Founder One Earth
One Breath and Third
Pole Magazine, Australia



Sunil Shukla

Documentary Filmmaker,
Communication Designer
& Consultant, Art Promoter
& Cultural Activist



Dr. Kajal Jadhav

Associate Professor
School of Wildlife Forensic &
Health, NDVSU, Jabalpur



Iraa Swasti

Narrative Strategy Lead
Momentum Shifts
Bangalore



Shriram Pandey

Communications Consultant
Momentum Shifts
Bangalore



Akshita Jain

Wildlife & Conservation
Photographer, Co-Founder
OneWild India Collective
Hyderabad

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