



ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE 2026

OUR SPEAKERS

SARABJEET RANDHAWA

Director, AAETI, CSE

Sarabjeet, an operations and project management leader with over 25 years of experience across the non-profit, education and corporate sectors, heads the team at AAETI, overseeing and managing all operations at the campus.



SOUPARNO BANERJEE

Senior Director, Outreach, Publications and Environment Education, CSE

Souparno has been with CSE's Media Resource Centre since 2002, and has been closely associated with most of the Centre's key campaigns during this period. He and his team have been behind the Anil Agarwal Dialogue series of media conclaves since its inception over 10 years ago.



SUNITA NARAIN

Director General, CSE

The driving force behind CSE and its work, Sunita is a globally known and respected environmentalist, writer and thinker. Her research interests range from global democracy with a focus on climate change, to the need for local democracy where she has worked on forest-related resource management, water and waste. Sunita is a recipient of several awards, including the Padma Shri, the Stockholm Water Prize, and the Indira Gandhi Prize.





JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

Former Judge, Supreme Court of India

Born in a family of legal professionals in Himachal Pradesh, Justice Gupta once headed the green bench of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. He has also served as Chief Justice of the High Courts of Tripura and Chhattisgarh. His judgement in the Him Privesh Environment Protection Society vs The State of Himachal Pradesh, which exposed the illegal manner in which environmental clearances are granted, is regarded as among the most significant in the field of environmental jurisprudence.

ASHOK LAVASA

Former Secretary, Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

A 1980 batch IAS officer, Mr Lavasa has served as one of the two Election Commissioners of India, and as Secretary to three ministries – finance, civil aviation, and environment, forests and climate change. He has also served as the Vice President of the Asian Development Bank.



VIBHA VARSHNEY

Head, Food and Biodiversity Programme, CSE

Vibha, a PhD in botany, has been associated with CSE for over 25 years, researching and writing on issues related to food systems, biodiversity, health and science. She has conceptualised CSE's First Food series of books, which explore the linkages between nature, nutrition and livelihoods.



PROF JAGDISH KRISHNASWAMY

Dean, School of Environment and Sustainability, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru

Prof Krishnaswamy is an alumnus of IIT Bombay and Duke University, USA and an IPCC author. His research has spanned the entire continuum from the semi-wild to the urban, covering India, USA, Costa Rica and Africa in the fields of ecohydrology, landscape ecology and biodiversity. His work on conservation science and planning led to the nomination of the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, besides informing the investment of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) civil society-led pilot projects.





HIMANSHU NITAWARE

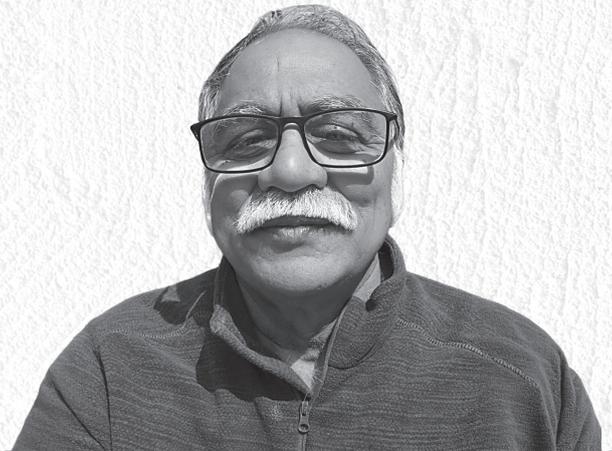
Senior Correspondent, Down To Earth

Himanshu is a multimedia journalist and Chevening Scholar with over 15 years of reporting experience, shaped by long stretches spent covering crime, environment and climate change. At Down To Earth, he closely tracks developments in the forests, wildlife and biodiversity sectors, paying particular attention to how climate change and anthropogenic pressures intersect. Alongside this, his reporting extends to rural livelihoods and public health, including sustained coverage of bird flu.

QAMAR QURESHI

Conservation Biologist and former Professor, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

Qamar Qureshi's career as faculty with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) had begun in 1993. An MPhil in wildlife biology, Mr Qureshi is a highly regarded expert in Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing., and has done extensive research in the Terai, Central Indian Highlands and the Trans-Himalaya on subjects ranging from community ecology to species biology. He has a special interest in landscape ecology. He is known for his work on enumerating India's tiger populations.



DR MILIND WATVE

Professor of Biology, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune

Dr Watve is a science teacher and researcher, with over 125 research papers, 10 books and numerous popular science articles to his credit. Since 2019, he has been working independently to develop a model of voluntary research by formally 'unqualified' individuals (including illiterate farmers).

NINAD A MUNGI

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Arrhus University, Denmark

Ninad has spent over a decade at the Wildlife Institute of India. Besides his work in Denmark, he continues to contribute in India to researches on invasive plants, ecosystem restoration and wildlife recovery. His research examines how climate change and socioeconomic pressures are transforming ecosystems in the Anthropocene, with implications for conservation, policy and people.





ANANDA BANERJEE

Conservation Journalist and Photographer

Ananda wears many hats – he is a journalist and columnist, author, visual artist, talk-show host and environmental specialist. He has been part of several leading media institutions, national and international non-profit organisations, corporates and government bodies, giving a voice to important environmental and development trends through his research, writing, and artwork. His interests lie in ornithology, environmental economics, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, ecological restoration, water and riverine ecosystem and sustainability. He is a recipient of the Earth Heroes Award (2015), Environmental Journalist of the Year and Asian Environmental Journalism awards, and the 2013 Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism.

RICHARD MAHAPATRA

Managing Editor, Down To Earth

Richard is a veteran development journalist with over 30 years of experience in reporting on rural India with a global perspective and context. He is at the helm of Down To Earth and all its publications, including the State of India's Environment reports, which he edits.



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