

**Regional Media Briefing Workshop on
'Arsenic Contamination of Groundwater in Uttar Pradesh'**

Organised by

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi
Rural Journalists Association of India
Indian Media Centre for Journalists, Lucknow
Madan Mohan Malaviya Institute of Hindi Journalism, Kashi Vidyapeeth,
Varanasi

**Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
January 27-28, 2005**

DAY 1: January 27, 2005

9.00-9.30 AM: **Registration**
9.30-10.00 AM: **Introduction to the Workshop**
 Souparno Banerjee, Coordinator
 Media Resource Centre, CSE, New Delhi

Session 1:

10.00-10.45: **Arsenic in Uttar Pradesh: the Tragedy of Ballia and Beyond**
 Pradip Saha, Managing Editor
 Down to Earth, New Delhi

10.45-11.15 **Reliving the Horror**
 Dinanath Singh, victim of arsenic contamination, Ballia

11.15-11.30 Tea Break

11.30-12.00 **Dark Zone: an Account of Official Apathy in Ballia**
 Bharat Singh, BJP Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Ballia

12.00-12.30: **Writing about Ballia**
 Vidya Sagar Tiwari, Reporter
 Dainik Jagran, Ballia

12.30-1.00: **Question Hour**

1.00-2.00: **Lunch**

Session 2:

2.00-2.45: **Curtailing the Menace: Technological Solutions**
 Anirban Sarkar, Managing Director
 Wotech Technologies Pvt Limited.

2.45-3.30 **Curtailing the Menace: The Best Options**
 Ritu Gupta, Senior Sub-Editor
 Down to Earth, New Delhi

3.30-4.00: **Question Hour**

4.00-4.15 **Tea Break**

Session 3:

4.15-5.30: **Panel Discussion: The Challenge for the Media: Writing for a Cause**
Pradip Saha
Dr R M Pathak, Director, Madan Mohan Malaviya Institute of Hindi
Journalism, Kashi Vidyapeeth
Ashutosh Singh, National Joint Secretary, Rural Journalists Association
of India

5.30-6.00: **Concluding Address**
Ashutosh Singh

DAY 2: January 28, 2005

7.00-6.00: **Site visit to Rajpur village, Ballia district**
(Site of arsenic contamination)
Visit Coordinators: Dinanath Singh, Ritu Gupta and Souparno Banerjee