

ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE **2026**

CSE's annual conclave of communicators and media professionals
writing and reporting on environment and development in India

February 24-27, 2026

Anil Agarwal Environment Training Institute (AAETI), Nimli, Rajasthan

THE AGENDA

DAY 1
TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Arrivals

All participants arriving at AAETI are expected to check into their respective rooms and settle down. They can head towards the Cafeteria at 6.30 PM for registrations and evening tea.

6.30 PM onwards

Registrations & Tea

AAETI Cafeteria

7.30 PM

PROLOGUE: A Brief Introduction to AAETI, its Features & its Facilities

Sarabjeet Randhawa, Director, AAETI

AAETI Cafeteria

8.30 PM onwards

INAUGURAL DINNER: A Taste of Rajasthan

AAETI Cafeteria



1.00-2.00 PM

THE AAD LUNCH

SEEDS: A SAVOURY SAGA

The AAD Lunch this year is devoted to a celebration of seeds of India, and the multitude of delectable fare that can be derived from them.

Curated by Vibha Varshney
Head, Biodiversity and Food, CSE

The Cafeteria



SCAN HERE
FOR THE MENU

SESSION 2

2.00-4.30 PM

HUMANS, ANIMALS & CLIMATE CHANGE

**CLASSROOM 4,
ACADEMIC BUILDING**

2.00-2.30 PM

Address by the Chair

Prof Jagdish Krishnaswamy, Dean, School of Environment and Sustainability, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru

2.30-2.45 PM

From the SOE: The Big Stories of 2025-26

Himanshu Nitnaware, Senior Correspondent, Down To Earth

2.45-3.10 PM

The State of the Species: An Overview

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

3.10-3.35 PM

A State of Strife: Farmers vs Animals and Changing Animal Behaviour

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

3.35-4.00 PM

Invasion of the Species

Ninad Mungi, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Arrhus University, Denmark

4.00-4.30 PM

OPEN HOUSE: On Reporting



ANCHOR

Ananda Banerjee
Conservation
Journalist and
Photographer

LEAD DISCUSSANTS

Nikhil Ghanekar
Assistant Editor,
The Indian
Express, Delhi

**Himanshu
Nitnaware**
Sr. Correspondent,
Down To Earth

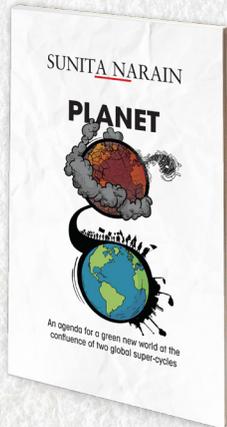
Satakshi Gawade
Senior Editor,
Sanctuary Asia,
Pune, Maharashtra

4.30-6.00 PM: TEA BREAK & RECESS

**SPECIAL
SESSION 1**

6.00-7.00 PM

THE AMPHITHEATRE LAWN



**THE AAD CONVERSATIONS:
SUNITA NARAIN**



With Richard Mahapatra, Managing Editor, Down To Earth

Planet G: An Agenda for a Greener World



**7.30 PM ONWARDS
FILM SCREENING WITH
BARBEQUE & DINNER**

The Amphitheatre lawn

DAY 3
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 2026

**CLASSROOM 4,
ACADEMIC BUILDING**

SESSION 3
9.45 AM-1.00 PM
**AIR POLLUTION:
SOURCE
APPORTIONMENT,
MONITORING,
ESTIMATION AND
HEALTH IMPACTS**

**CLASSROOM 4,
ACADEMIC BUILDING**

6.00-7.00 AM
THE ARAVALLI TREK
Starting from the Cafeteria foyer

9.00-9.45 AM
**THE CLASSROOM: Sewage First: Lessons
from Indore**
Sunita Narain, Director General, CSE

9.45-10.15 AM
Address by the Chair
Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, CSE

10.15-11.00 AM
**THE CLASSROOM: The 'Indeterminate' Connect
– Health and Air Pollution**
Dr Sanjeev Bagai, Chairperson, Nephron Clinics, New Delhi

11.00-11.20 AM: TEA BREAK

11.20 AM-12.00 PM

THE CLASSROOM: Estimating Pollution and Apportioning its Sources – the Science of Doing an Inventory

Dr Sri Harsha Kota, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, IIT Delhi

12.00-12.30 PM

THE CLASSROOM: Mind the Gaps – Monitoring Missteps

Sharanjeet Kaur, Deputy Programme Manager, The Urban Lab, CSE

12.30-1.00 PM

OPEN HOUSE: On Reporting



ANCHOR

Sanjeev Gupta
Principal
Correspondent,
Dainik Jagran,
New Delhi

LEAD DISCUSSANTS

Srishti Choudhary
Science and
Environment
Journalist,
CNN-News 18, Delhi

Aathira Perinchery
Environment
Correspondent,
The Wire, Bengaluru,
Karnataka

**Krishnendu
Bandyopadhyay**
Environment Editor,
The Times of India,
Kolkata, West Bengal

SESSION 4

2.00-4.30 PM

**CLIMATE
CHANGE:
APOCALYPSE
IS NOW – THE
BREACHING OF
THE PLANETARY
BOUNDARIES**

1.00-2.00 PM: LUNCH

2.00-2.15 PM

Address by the Chair

Jayanta Basu, Environment Correspondent, The Telegraph, Kolkata, West Bengal

2.15-2.55 PM

The Breach has Begun: An Overview

Dr Kousik Pramanick, Professor and Head, Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University, Kolkata

2.55-3.30 PM

The Coming of New Climate Regimes

Dr Arpit Tiwari, Project Scientist, BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), NOIDA

3.30-4.00 PM

Collapse of the Corals

Sajan John, Co-Principal Investigator, Marine Projects, Wildlife Trust of India, Delhi

4.30-6.00 PM: TEA BREAK AND RECESS

4.00-4.30 PM

OPEN HOUSE: On Reporting



ANCHOR

Jayanta Basu,
Environment Correspondent,
The Telegraph, Kolkata,
West Bengal

LEAD DISCUSSANTS

**Akshit
Sangomla**
Correspondent,
Down To Earth

K Rajendran
Senior News Editor,
Kairali TV,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Raju Nayak
Group Editor,
Gomantak,
Panaji, Goa

**SPECIAL
SESSION 2**

6.00-8.00 PM

**THE AAD
CONVERSATIONS**

THE AMPHITHEATRE LAWN



Aravallis – Time for a Requiem?

With **Snigdha Das**, Chief Copy Editor, Down To Earth

Discussants

Dr Ghazala Sahabuddin, Visiting Professor, Ashoka University, Sonipat and Senior Fellow, Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR), Dehradun

Dr C P Rajendran, Geologist and Adjunct Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru



Have we Overcome Poverty?

Richard Mahapatra, Managing Editor, Down To Earth speaks with **Prof Santosh Mehrotra**, Development Economist and Lead Research Fellow, Institute of Education, Higher School of Economics, Moscow



DAY 4
FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 27, 2026

SESSION 5
10.00 AM-12.30 PM

**MANAGING
SOLID WASTE:
CHALLENGES,
ISSUES,
PERSPECTIVES**

CLASSROOM 4,
ACADEMIC BUILDING

SESSION 6
1.30-4.00 PM

**HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT –
THE EMERGING
TRIGGERS**

CLASSROOM 4,
ACADEMIC BUILDING

6.30-7.30 AM
AAETI campus tour
To start from the Academic Building

10.00-10.10 AM
Address by the Chair
Atin Biswas, Programme Director, Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy, CSE

10.10-11.00 AM
Marine Litter: An Unfolding Global Crisis
Aniket Chandra, Senior Research Associate, Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy, CSE
Dr Manju Lekshmi N, Senior Scientist, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi

11.00-11.30 AM: TEA BREAK

11.30 AM-12.00 PM
THE CLASSROOM: Extended Producer Responsibility and the Cost of Plastic Waste Management
Siddharth G Singh, Programme Manager, Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy, CSE

12.00-12.30 PM
A Regional Perspective: SWM in India's Northeast
Atin Biswas, Programme Director, Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy, CSE

12.30-1.30 PM: LUNCH

1.30-2.00 PM
Address by the Chair
Richard Mahapatra, Managing Editor, Down To Earth

2.00-2.20 PM
TRIGGER 1: Hot Zones – Heat and our Cities
Rajneesh Sareen, Programme Director, Sustainable Habitat, CSE

2.20-3.00 PM
Heat and Health
Dr Ajay Chauhan, Doctor of Medicine, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Delhi **ONLINE**

5.00-7.00 PM
**THE AAD
WORKSPACE:
THE REAL AND
THE ARTIFICIAL**
A Workshop on
Visualisation, AI and
Fact-checking
CLASSROOM 4,
ACADEMIC BUILDING

3.00-3.15 PM

TRIGGER 2: Matters of Food and the Gut

Amit Khurana, Programme Director, Sustainable Food Systems, CSE

3.15-3.40 PM

The Gut Microbiome and Human Health

Dr Bhabatosh Das, Professor, Translational Health Science
and Technology Institute, Delhi

3.40-4.00 PM

Our Gut, Food and Environment

Dr Balamurugan Ramadass, Additional Professor, Department of
Biochemistry, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar **ONLINE**

4.00-4.30 PM: **TEA BREAK**

SESSION 1

VISUALISING ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

Why data journalism is important and how Down To Earth
uses charts, maps and graphics to report on environment
and development issues

Anchored by **Kiran Pandey**, Programme Director, Environmental
Resources, CSE, **Ajit Bajaj**, Senior Creative Director, Down To Earth
and **Pulaha Roy**, Data Correspondent, Down To Earth

SESSION 2

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND FACT-CHECKING

Understanding how AI is increasingly used to source
information, generate text, visuals/graphics/video and
the risks of misinformation that is becoming a common
bugbear

Led by **Shakoor Rather**, Director and Editor-in-Chief, Science Matters
and anchored by **Kiran Pandey**

7.30 PM: **AAD CONCLUDING DINNER &
FILM SCREENING**

**WHAT MORE DOES
AAD 2026 OFFER**

THE AAD SHOWSPACE:
Panel exhibition on marine litter

Media
Centre

Film
screenings

CSE Store:
AAETI Outlet



www.cseindia.org