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# DR MANU SINGH

## AN ECO-SPIRITUAL INTELLECTUAL IN THE LONG STRUGGLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Anjali Sharma | The CEO Magazine

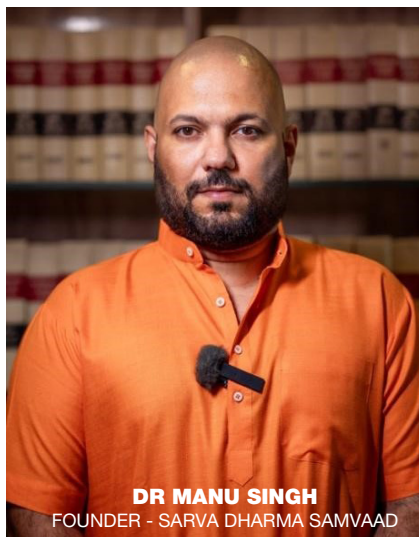
To understand the contemporary environmental conscience of North India, one must pay attention not only to institutions and policies, but to individuals whose sustained ethical labour has shaped public awareness over time. Dr Manu Singh stands among those rare voices who have transformed environmental concern from episodic activism into a continuous intellectual and moral practice. His life and work reflect a deep commitment to ecological integrity, rooted in scientific reasoning and a spiritually informed understanding of humanity's relationship with nature.

### INTERROGATING DELHI'S AIR CRISIS

For more than a decade, Dr Singh has persistently addressed the ecological emergency facing Delhi NCR, particularly its collapsing Air Quality Index (AQI). Unlike commentary that surfaces only during seasonal pollution spikes, his engagement has been sustained and pedagogical. Through over a hundred published articles and more than two hundred media interventions, he has translated the technical language of air pollution into a form intelligible—and ethically urgent—for the wider public. His analyses consistently trace Delhi's smog to structural causes: unchecked vehicular emissions from car-centric urban planning, pollution from Diwali fireworks, dust from unregulated construction, and stubble burning linked to agrarian distress in neighbouring regions.

### AN ECO-SPIRITUAL FRAMEWORK OF RESPONSIBILITY

What distinguishes Dr Singh's environmental scholarship is its refusal to treat pollution as a technical malfunction remedied solely by regulation or technology. In seminars, academic



DR MANU SINGH  
FOUNDER - SARVA DHARMA SAMVAAD

conferences, and civil-society dialogues, he has argued that Delhi's air crisis reflects a deeper rupture—between economic aspiration and ecological limits, and between cultural traditions and environmental responsibility. Drawing from environmental science, public health data, and Indic philosophical traditions, he articulates an eco-spiritual framework emphasising awareness, restraint, and intergenerational accountability. Within this framework, clean air is not merely a regulatory outcome, but a moral condition of collective life.

### WATER, RIVERS, AND MORAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Dr Singh's interventions extend beyond atmospheric concerns. He has been an early and consistent voice on the depletion and contamination of groundwater systems in Delhi NCR, warning that indiscriminate extraction, poorly regulated borewells, and chemical infiltration from urban waste threaten a slow, invisible hydrological collapse. Rather than treating groundwater as an abstract resource, he frames it as a

shared ecological inheritance, whose degradation signals failures of governance and civic imagination.

Equally central to his thought is his sustained engagement with the crisis of the Yamuna. Dr Singh approaches the river not only as a polluted water body, but as a civilisational axis whose degradation reflects ethical incoherence. He highlights the contradiction between ritual reverence and material neglect, arguing that symbolic devotion loses meaning without ecological responsibility. In his work, the Yamuna becomes both a scientific case study and a moral text, demanding accountability from institutions and individuals alike.

### BEYOND ACTIVISM: AN INTELLECTUAL LEGACY

Notably, Dr Singh's environmental advocacy is marked by intellectual restraint rather than spectacle. He relies not on alarmist rhetoric, but on careful argumentation, historical perspective, and ethical reasoning, consistently situating environmental decline within broader questions of culture, governance, and consciousness.

To describe Dr Manu Singh merely as an environmental activist would understate his contribution. He belongs to the tradition of eco-spiritual intellectuals who recognise that ecological crises are inseparable from crises of value and perception. His life's work demonstrates that the battle for clean air, clean water, and living rivers is ultimately a battle for moral clarity in an age of ecological excess.

In an era of reactive environmentalism, his sustained scholarship and quiet persistence remind us that meaningful ecological change begins with enduring intellectual and ethical commitment.