



# SERInews

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*With you in Pursuit of Sustainable  
Management of Finite Water Resources*

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**Point for discussion this month** **Are we pacing towards endangering Humans on earth?**

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## Eternal Words

*Nature never says one thing and wisdom another.*

*- Decimus Junius Juvenalis*

*"The dominant culture eats entire biomes. No, that is too generous, because eating implies a natural biological relationship. This culture doesn't just consume ecosystems, it obliterates them, it murders them, one after another. This culture is an ecological serial killer, and it's long past time for us to recognize the pattern."*

*~ Aric McBay, Deep Green Resistance: Strategy to Save the Planet*

*Uniformity is not nature's way; diversity is nature's way*

*- Vandana Shiva*

Dear Readers,

Greetings!

SERI in association with SEERAM started '**Prof. Sandeep Joshi Memorial Lecture Series**' in the fond memories of Prof. Sandeep Joshi, our mentor and philosopher. The thought behind starting this lecture series is to make the masses aware of the work and vision of great personalities working devotedly in environment sector. Dr. Chitale has witnessed Prof. Sandeep's work for so many years. This is why when Dr. Chitale, Stockholm Water Prize laureate, accepted our invite to deliver the first memorial lecture of this series we were deeply honored. Dr. Chitale's lecture on 'Environmental Management of Water' was justly appreciated by the august gathering.

A lecture of such renowned personalities is planned to be conducted annually, under this lecture series.

Sandeep worked relentlessly for 25 years in the field of river and lake restoration which was his passion. During this, he wrote more than 350 popular articles and 140 research papers. He has left this legacy of his visionary thought which is an inspiration for the water aficionados all over the world. He addressed the concerned spanning from a village head to the Head of the nation. He was a hard core researcher and was interested in focused research beneficial for the society. The technologies he invented stand being highly economical and nature friendly.

Although it's difficult to move ahead without Sandeep, we have commenced on the path lit by him. We perpetually sense his accompaniment while working for his passion. Every successful project of river and lake restoration by SERI is a homage to him. He still expresses himself through his articles and research papers. The book of compilation of some of his articles, "River, Me and Environment" was published at the hands of Dr. Chitale.

SERI team stands in debt of those who have given a strong hand of support and encouraging words to overcome this tough situation.

Thanking you

Chief Editor

## Prof. Sandeep Joshi Memorial Lecture Series – First Year 2015

Shrishti Eco-Research Institute (SERI), Shrishti Environment and Sustainability Society (SESS) and Society for Environment Education Research & Management (SEERAM) organized "**Prof. Sandeep Joshi Memorial Lecture – First Year 2015**" on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Pune, Maharashtra (I).

This lecture was organized to commemorate the loving memories of **Prof. Sandeep Joshi**, Impact Analyst and Ecotechnologist, who relentlessly worked for more than 25 years for the restoration of the rivers and lakes.

**Prof. Sandeep Joshi** was a world-renowned Indian ecologist. He worked unswervingly for sustainable ecological restoration of polluted water bodies in multitude of countries. He served as a technical expert for various national as well as international organizations like the 'International Lake Environment Committee' (ILEC) foundation of Japan, 'Indian Association of Aquatic Biologists' (IAAB) etc. He worked with JICA, Japan and Government of Zimbabwe for ecological restoration of Lake Chivero and also worked with ILEC and Government of Kenya for the effective solution for the pollution of one of the biggest trans-boundary lakes, Lake Victoria. He published more than 100 scientific reports and research papers on eco-technology at national and international podiums.

This memorial lecture was organized to reminisce his extravagant achievement and to honor the great tradition of work set by Prof. Sandeep Joshi.

The programme was inaugurated traditionally with lighting of an auspicious lamp. The dais was graced by Dr. Madhav Chitale, Dr. Mangesh Kashyap, President of SEERAM, and Ms. Sayali Joshi CEO of SERI.

A film '**Sandeep Joshi... An Inspiring Confidence**', on the journey of devoted life of Prof. Sandeep Joshi, conceptualized by Mr. Kiran Joshi, well-known reporter who traveled a lot with Mr. Joshi on river expeditions in Maharashtra state of India and scripted by Mrs. Ambegaonkar from SEERAM was publicized. It touched the heart of the audience and inspired them profoundly.

We at SERI are very much honored to have had Stockholm water prize winner Dr. Madhav Chitale as Guest speaker for this first memorial lecture. He delivered lecture on, '**Environmental Management of Water**'.

**Brief summary of his lecture-**

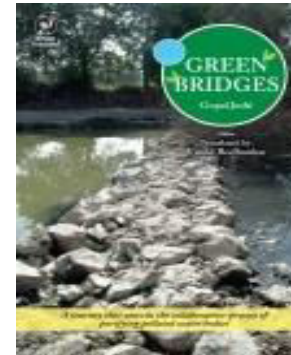
- Human waste too is imperative along with industrial waste.
- Water is used as a carrier for disposal of human waste. Water has biochemical properties to absorb human waste easily, however, it is very difficult to separate and treat the same once absorbed.
- Construction of water resource projects for scaling down the vulnerability below 50% as implemented in USA (Hoover Dam) and Australia for scarcity-stricken areas so as to mitigate fluctuating water availability due to recently observed climate changes, substantially. This might prove to be unusually crucial in India, especially in Maharashtra state.
- The basins which are fully developed to their optimal capacity such as Bhima basin in Maharashtra, demand special attention for optimal water utilization.
- Enactment of laws such as the 'Environment Protection Act', 'Forest Conservation Act' and the 'Biodiversity Protection Act' is pivotal; however, they must be supported and supplemented by appropriate social and technical institutions.
- 'International Association for Water and Environment' has a dedicated and specialized 'Valley Management' and membership to it will be very helpful to the cause.
- Groundwater management too, is vital and needs appropriate optimization.
- Establishment of a devoted 'Environment and Hydrology Research Institute' on Ujjani Reservoir, similar to such institutes operating in Japan, is needed and its execution shall be the real justice to the work and memory of Late Dr. Sandeep Joshi.
- Watershed is an optimal unit for water resource planning both for ecological sustainability as well as economical development for poverty removal. There are 1500 watersheds in Maharashtra, however, no such efforts through water balance of watershed even for a single one has been done so far and needs intensive and extensive efforts in this direction.
- Optimal utilization of available water resource at village level is a need of the day. However, it has to be further enacted towards that individual farmer at his field level particularly in drought prone area. Harvesting the rainwater available on the farm of such farmers needs to be enacted and the water stored and utilized for a sustainable livelihood.

He elaborated the need to work relentlessly to bring about the changes needed in society and in governance for sustainable environment.

Shrishti Eco-Research Institute, Pune

Two books '*River, Me and Environment*' – visionary thoughts of Prof. Sandeep Joshi and English version of the original Marathi book of '*Green Bridges*' were published at the hands of honorable Dr. Chitale.

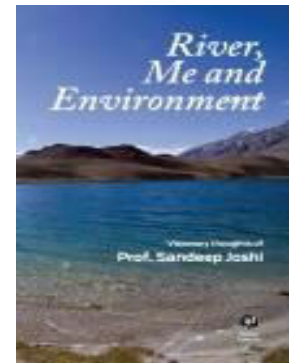
Original "*Green Bridge*" book written by Gopal Joshi in regional Marathi language is re-script into English by Mr. Vinod Bodhankar. Mr. Gopal Joshi, author of the original book, wrote his views, findings experiences and interactions with local villagers to apprehend the socio-economic impacts after adaptation of simple zero electricity natural technologies to rejuvenate a highly polluted river and that also without any "concrete-steel infrastructure". Mr. Vinod Bodhanakr is the Founder of 'Namashyog' (Spiritual Practice to transform *homo sapiens* to *cosmo sapiens*), Director of 'Vishwasanskriti Sarvaanga Sahayog Center', Tulapur, Dist. Pune, member of Jalbiradari, Pune region and writer of 'Jidnyaasa: Ek Shodh' a book on the significance of idol-worship in Vedic Religion in 1992.



The research articles written by Prof. Sandeep Joshi are compiled in the '*River, Me and Environment*' book. It is not only a compilation of the articles by Late 'Green-Surgeon' Sandeep Joshi on Eco-technology, but also, Enviro-nomics, Environmental governance, Biodiversity, Eco-healthcare, River-basin management, Integrated development, and much more.

People from all walks of society who has worked with Prof. Joshi and who know his work and passion were present to show their gratitude towards the great visionary.

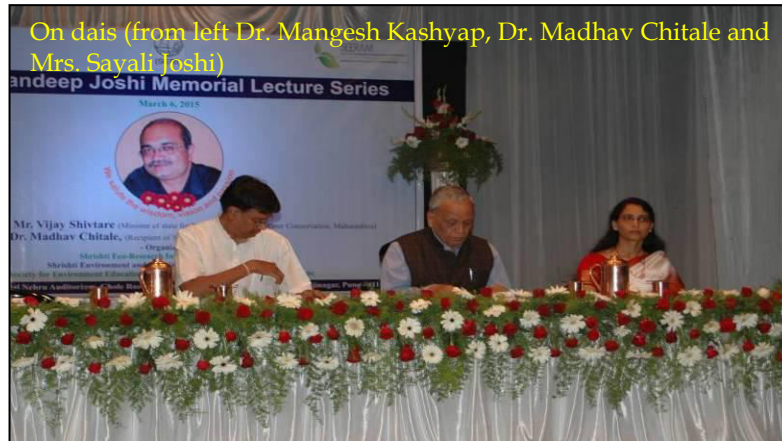
Mrs. Shaila Mukund anchored this felicitation event. Dr. Mangesh Kashyap expressed the vote of thanks.







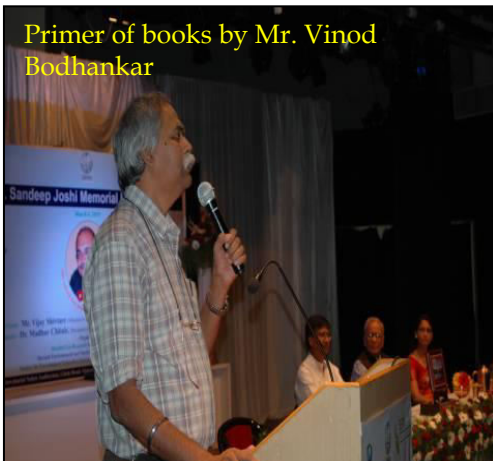
Inauguration of programme by lighting lamps



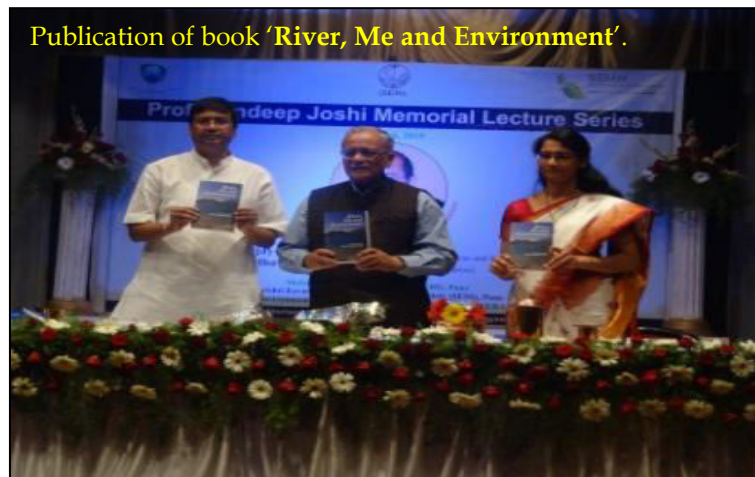
On dais (from left Dr. Mangesh Kashyap, Dr. Madhav Chitale and Mrs. Sayali Joshi)



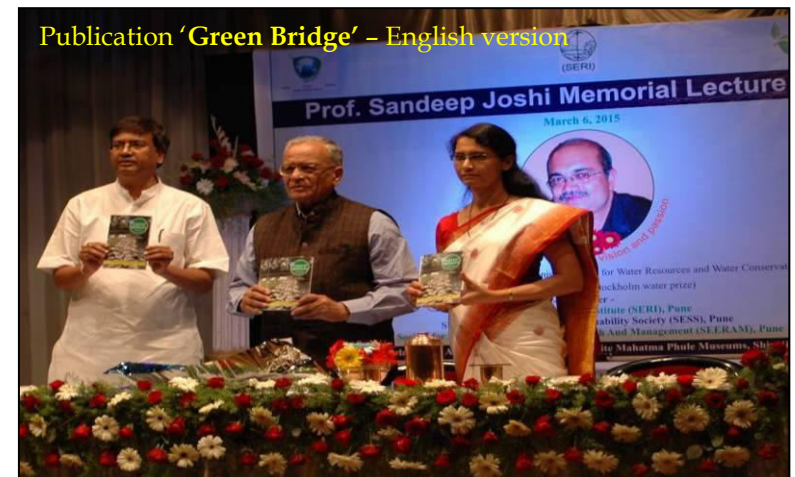
Dr. Mangesh Kashyap



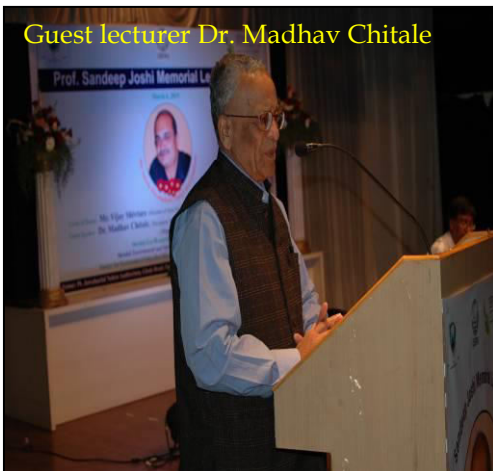
Primer of books by Mr. Vinod Bodhankar



Publication of book 'River, Me and Environment'



Publication 'Green Bridge' - English version



Guest lecturer Dr. Madhav Chitale



Felicitation of Dr. Madhav Chitale



August gathering



## Endanger species

BirdLife International is a global Partnership of independent organizations working together as one for nature and people. We create action through insight. Through our expertise on birds we act for nature and people. Through sharing local challenges we find lasting global solutions.

BirdLife International is the world’s largest nature conservation Partnership. Together we are 120 BirdLife Partners worldwide – one per country – and growing.

BirdLife International is driven by our belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through our global Partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet. This unique local-to-global approach delivers high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

BirdLife is widely recognized as the world leader in bird conservation. Rigorous science informed by practical feedback from projects on the ground in important sites and habitats enables us to implement successful conservation programmes for birds and all nature.

BirdLife International in 2013 started an initiative to identify seriously threatened and insufficiently protected Important Bird Areas. In partnership with Bombay Natural History Society, they have identified 466 bird areas. This includes various sites across the country such as Dihaila Jheel,

Madhya Pradesh, Karera Wildlife Sanctuary ,Madhya Pradesh, BASAI wetland, Haryana, Sardarpur Florican sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh, Ranebennur Blackbuck sanctuary, Karnataka etc, However to select few, five in need of urgent attention for conservation are listed below with their site specific details.



\*From internet

Bird area	Species	Habitat	Place	Ground reality	Threats	Remedy
<b>Flamingo city, Gujrat</b>	Flamingo, Indian Wild Ass, Great Indian Bustard, Indian wolf and caracal	Wetland	Part of the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary	Asia's largest breeding site for Flamingos  Approximately half a million Greater and Lesser Flamingos	A40-km road in two sanctuary areas in Kutch for the Movement of the Border Security Forces.  The development may rob the flamingos of their site	An alternative alignment of the road
<b>Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary, Maharashtra</b>	Great Indian Bustard	Grassland	Nannaj in Solapur district	population dropped from 27birds in 2006 to 3 birds in 2013; no record of successful breeding in recent years.  A large area (8,496 sq km) was initially notified even though the birds inhabited a few grassland plots scattered in the area	The local population is against the birds  Decline in bird population coincided with a local campaign against it.  Overgrazing, habitat destruction, changing agricultural patterns	A well-implemented conservation Breeding programme
<b>Mahul-Sewri Creek, Maharashtra</b>	Flamingos, migratory water-birds	Wetland	Mumbai	Home to 15,000 Lesser Flamingos Migratory flamingos come here in winters	22-km Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link, industrial effluents, oil refineries and power plants	Realigning the road, Stricter implementation of pollution norms
<b>Sailana Kharmor Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh</b>	Lesser Florican	Wetland	Ratlam	Florican numbers fell from 63 in 1999 to 12 in 2013.  They are endemic to the Indian subcontinent but migrate according to rainfall patterns	Overgrazing and cattle movement  Crushes the eggs and prevents incubation of the ground nesting birds  Excessive use of pesticides in nearby agriculture fields.	
<b>Tillanchong Island, The Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</b>	Nicobar Megapode/ Scrubfowl (endemic to Nicobar islands)  Nicobar Sparrowhawk, Glossy swiftlet, Edible-nest swiftlet, Andaman Woodpigeon, Nicobar Parakeet	Tropical forest	Nicobar Islands	Uninhabited island has been declared a wildlife sanctuary	A missile testing base proposed by Indian navy.  Construction of roads.  Proposed radar station.	

\*Reference – Times of India, November 27, 2014, Pune edition.