



21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

Hosted by Indian Institute of Forest Management





## About Coalescence '18

**September 21-22**

Coalescence has been organized as a platform for industry-academy linkage with the common purpose of highlighting issues and finding solutions on matters related to sustainability in India and the world. The event was first organized in 2008. Coalescence-2018 will be a two day event from 21st to 22nd of September with an overarching theme of TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE: issues, solutions, adventure & beyond.

From deciding the theme, list of speakers, contacting them, raising funds, event management, promotion and hospitality are taken care by the students themselves. The student community works day and night together to take care of all the arrangements and to deliver a two-day experience of brilliant intellectual discourse. The journey to this grand event is completed by the students successfully by converting the whole painstaking process into an opportunity of working together with each other and spending time together. This year also the students from both PGDFM '19 and PGDFM '20 came together to put forward a splendid display of their talents to culminate Coalescence' 18 with success and taking it to new heights.

Within Coalescence-2018 a case study based competition named **ABHIPSA** has been organized. The case study would relate itself to an environmental issue for which the contestants need to find out a solution. As waste management in Tier-2 cities is an environmental menace across India it is emerging as a national issue. IIFM through this platform would highlight the problem and make a step towards solving it.





## Speakers

### Dr Janak Palta McGilligan S.

She began by talking about her childhood and how an open heart surgery at the age of 16 changed her life forever. She talked about the Barli Development Institute that has trained around 6000 young tribal women till date. She explained how these women have now become chain agents who practice and promote solar cooking and consumption of sustainable food.

Talking about her journey from Mrs. Janak Palta to Janak 'Didi', she shared her experience of working for eradication of Guinea worm in 302 villages of MP for which she was included in the UNEP Global 500 roll of honor in 1992 Earth Summit. Mrs. McGilligan believes that humanity is a bird with men and women being the 2 wings. Recollecting the fond memories of her late husband Mr. Jimmy McGilligan, Janak didi talked about their work at grass route level of training rural women of Sanawadiya village to design and work on solar cookers, pannels and develop their own community solar kitchen. She briefed the students about the livelihood training programs like solar tea stalls and 'Jaivik Setu' an organic outlet. She said that this has not only made these women independent and self-sufficient but also helped in reducing the instances of sexual assault against them.

Janak didi believes that "only sustainable choices can lead to sustainable development". She told students that she has stopped using plastics for the past 5 years. She said that she only accepts eco- friendly gifts and also talked about the tree plantation drive that she carries out every year on Rakshabandhan. She also talked about the solar food festival that she organizes every year to celebrate the selfless life of her husband Mr. Jimmy McGilligan.

Her inspiring anecdotes and her love and concern for the ailing planet has surely fueled the young minds at IIFM and has ignited their souls to work for a brighter and sustainable future.

### About Speaker



Dr Janak Palta McGilligan, founder and director of the Jimmy McGilligan Centre and Barli Development Institute for Rural Women was invited as the main speaker on day one of the annual business conclave 'Coalescence' of IIFM. She spoke at length about the sustainable solutions to climate change challenges.



## Dr. HARISH K. AHUJA

In his interaction with the students, he had touched upon numerous topics beginning with the two types of the solar project his team holds expertise upon- Utility Scales solar project (60 GW) and rooftop solar project (40 GW). He talked about how customer segmentation is an important part of his business and mentioned the broad classification of the customer segments into 2 groups namely- Gain market (the market in which customers use solar installations in order to decrease their existing costs) and Pain market (a market in which customers use solar installations because they're restrained by the absence of alternates). The discussions of solar products in rural and semi-urban regions invited questions towards the acceptability of modern technologies into such societies where people are a bit resilient to the existing technologies and hesitant to switch to newer ones. The answer to that was given by Dr. Harish K Ahuja using a Harvard case study on 'Commercial Complex'

The rise of solar energy had specifically been compared with that of the wind energy and the trend line based on usage had been shown over the period of time, which was enough to conclude why solar would be, one of the major energy sources in the coming future. As much as the problems concerned with the solar, the only major thing is with regard to the disposal of Solar panels which was concluded to be producing 300 times more toxic waste per unit energy than nuclear power plants do for producing the same unit of energy (study by David Middleton), to which he responded saying that Disposable solar panels would be the one-stop solutions to all such problems. He also complimented and connected Solar energy to India's growth, and how it'd gain a hand over China as Indian rates of 21 Rupees/Watt would although be as equal as China's rate of 22 Rupees/Watt, yet due to the added duties on imports, the Chinese product rates would shoot to Rupees 27 Rupees/Watt which would lead to total market shift towards Indian market. He discussed the application of solar power in the automobile industry and explained how solar power was not just limited to huge industries and housing facilities but is now finding its application in the daily-use gadgets.

The talk then progressed towards a Q & A session with the students which were enthusiastically responded by Dr. Harish K Ahuja. The session ended on a happy note with Dr. Harish K Ahuja quoting the key to his business philosophy 'People buy emotions and not products'

### About Speaker



Dr. Harish K Ahuja, founder of Indiagosolar (India's first solar e-info and e-commerce marketplace) graced Coalescence 2018 by his presence and talked about the potential of solar power in India.



## Mr. Mohamed Aatish Khan

Mr. Mohamed Aatish Khan was the second speaker of the second day of coalescence. His work profile includes experience as a climate finance negotiator for UNFCCC Climate treaties and has been in the environment and energy sector for 10 years. He has evaluated 12 international environment and development projects located in 18 countries. But in spite of working in different countries in different projects, he found one issue similar everywhere with only very few differences; and that is the development and the environmental issues.

He started by remembering his days in IIFM and talked about how the teachings and techniques that he learned here has helped him in making better decisions in his life. He shared his experience as a Climate finance negotiator for UNFCCC Climate treaties and the innovation in the Philippines and West Africa. He said, "With the arising problems of global warming and climate change, every big company is now worried about how this scenario might affect their business in the future and so they're working extensively in tackling the situation". He also briefly mentioned the importance of mission India 2022 and about its ambition along with the transformational changes that it has brought in the country. He also talked about how they develop solutions and execute them keeping the frameworks in mind.

Making the session interactive, he also took up questions from students and faculties regarding the menace of plastic pollution. He explained how these plastics could be transformed into a value chain system. Next, he led the discussion into integrated energy solutions. Last but not the least he talked about the role of startups and how it deals with social issues.

### About Speaker



Mr. Mohamed Aatish Khan has worked climate finance negotiator for UNFCCC Climate treaties. Mr. Khan has an experience of 10 years in the field of energy and environment and has evaluated 12 international environment & development projects located in 18 countries.



## Mr. Amit Dubey

The final session of the first day of Coalescence experienced an informative talk on Industrial waste management by Mr. Amit Dubey from Ramky Associates. Mr. Amit Dubey is the Business head of Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited, which is Pioneer in recycling and waste management with a diverse portfolio. Started in 1999, Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited currently owns 56 management facilities with a transnational presence. The company is currently involved in municipal solid waste management in Katni, Sagar and Rewa districts of Madhya Pradesh with a capacity of 90,000 tons of waste treatment in the state. The talk was focused on the nuances of waste management.

Mr. Dubey discussed about the problem of waste water in Industrial waste management and their collaboration with General Electrics for treating wastewater. Since, waste is generated from different sources therefore the operations are segregated under different verticals namely, industrial waste management, municipal waste management, biomedical Waste Management, e-waste management and waste recycling. The attendees learned about integrated end to end operations and in-house management of different types of waste and their waste management solution. The main components of facility and flow of operations i.e. flow path of waste were discussed. Mr. Dubey identified collection and transport as a measure cost in municipal solid waste management.

On being critical about the future prospects industrial waste management in Madhya Pradesh, the audience agreed to the fact that with the increase in upcoming polluting industries, there exists a bright scope for capacity utilization in the state.

## About Speaker

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## Dr. RAVI CHOPRA

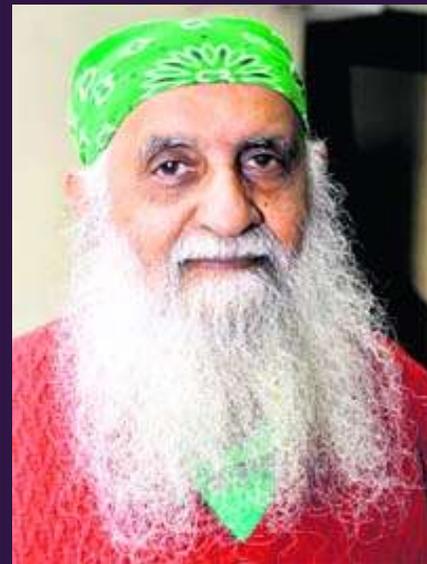
Dr. Ravi Chopra director of **People's Science Institute, Dehradun** and a managing trustee of **Himalaya Foundation, New Delhi** was invited as the key note speaker on day one of 'Coalescence'. He talked about the water management crisis in India.

Inspired by the likes of **Mahatma Gandhi, Vinowa Bhave and J.C. Kumarrapa**, Dr. Chopra talked with great pain about the economic instability of India in the initial years of post Independence era. He also enlightened students about the efforts of renowned personalities like **Lal Bahadur Shastri** and importance of movements like **Green revolution** that bought some respite for India after struggling with famine and hunger for years. He believes that Industrial development led to the problem of water crisis in India. He mentioned how while researching he found that the problem was not water shortage but the shift towards cultivation of high water consuming food grains. He talked about his meetings with people like **Anupam Mishra and Anna Hazare** in 80s and also mentioned how during one such meetings, they all realised that **'biomass production and not industrial production is India's niche.'**

According to him, farming is not only about farmland but also includes forest, people and water and this was precisely the reason why India was called a Golden Bird back in olden days. He emphasised on the Integrated National Resource Management approach to deal with the growing distress in the country. He further stated, **"Meet people, talk to them. Real wisdom lies across the land."**

He ended his speech with a Mahatma Gandhi's quote, **"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."**

### About Speaker



Dr. Ravi Chopra is currently serving as the director of the People's Science Institute, Dehradun and is involved in the research for regeneration of Himalayan Springs. He was also a member of the National Ganga River Basin Authority and was also appointed as the chairman to assess environmental degradation by hydroelectric projects in Uttarakhand.



## Mr. Bharat Parekh

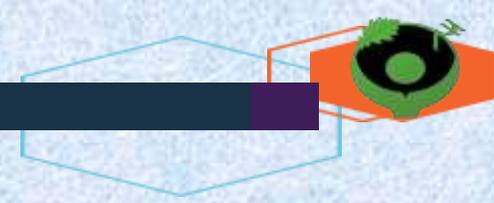
Second day of Coalescence was embellished by Mr. Bharat Parekh, former project director at ASSEFA, served at Care CASHE as project manager, has been the senior program officer at INBAR. With a passion of incubating and mentoring, he has incubated 10 FPO's in MP under NABARD and has mentored 30 microfinance institute in MP for ICICI.

A strong believer of institutionalization, Mr. Bharat Parekh aims to bring the large volume of workers of unorganized sector to the organized sector leading them towards operational and financial sustainability. He stressed on the lack of sensitivity among the youth in India. His major concern is therefore to efficiently organize the workforce from unorganized sector. Mr. Parekh emphasized on the handicraft industry, he said that our country is rich in handicrafts and contributes to 2% of the global market of handicrafts of USD 400 billion. With a totally different business perspective, he also believes in brand enhancement and so he gave a statement, "I would want a Hussain on my wall not because it's attractive but because it's Hussain." He proposed certain steps to provide market to artisans starting with making it a business venture. He said that the corporation should float a proper regular for profit and have a robust plan at place and then the plan should be reviewed on quality basis. He further mentioned to *stick to the business plan as it's the holy book*. He further asked to aggregate artisans into clusters and with a proper market research should work upon the branding of the product which is the most important of all. Mr. Parekh reiterated about the importance of building a strong equity base and doing its risk analysis on a regular basis.

### About Speaker



Mr. Parekh is the Project Director at ASSEFA. In his long and illustrious career, he has also incubated around 10 FPO's in MP under NABARD apart from a company named Eco Alternates, that would market eco-friendly products. He has also developed the concept of Bambu Shop.



## Raghunandan Chundawat

Ragunandan Chundawat started his career as a conservation biologist in 1985 with pioneering research on the ecology of snow leopard and its prey species in the Ladakh Mountains. Since then, he has been involved intimately in the conservation of wildlife of the central Asian mountains and was Regional Science and Conservation Director for the International Snow Leopard Trust and supervised five country programmes in Mongolia, China, Kirgizstan, Pakistan and India.

During his panel discussion at Coalescence, he put forward his views on many subjects of importance and relevance. He began with talking about the importance of forests. He said that the air we breathe, the water we drink and the environment we live in, are all governed by forests and preserving them should be our utmost priority. He then spoke about the role of wildlife, especially the carnivores in maintaining the balance. He went ahead and talked about his concern for the wild animals, especially tigers, outside the protected areas in India and how it is conveniently ignored by most. He looks forward to the day when the humans can live in harmony with the tigers without any conflict, and to reduce that, taking care of the wild animals is extremely necessary and inclusive development could solve a majority of the problems. The coexistence of the wild and humans in the same space is what Dr. Raghunandan hopes for.

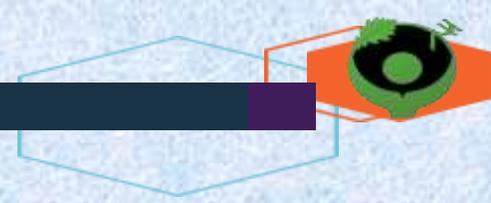
According to Dr. Chundawat, the key to future development is wildlife conservation and inclusive development that would cause positive behavioral changes in the society and maintain the ecological balance. Another important thing that the wildlife conservationist mentioned, was the importance of creating more buffer population than buffer habitat as that would make the fauna grow and reproduce in a more diverse area. Wildlife conservation is entirely dependent on the goodwill of the country and community and newer conservational models need to be identified and incorporated to yield better results. Sustainability, conservation and development with the help of extensive models are the actual requirements of the forests, which need to be satisfied very soon.

Towards the end of the discussion, Dr. Raghunandan Chundawat specified the importance of wildlife tourism and how more money generated from it could be used to preserve the endangered and rare animal species of the world. Taking conservation models into implication is the solution to all the problems related to forest and wildlife, said Dr. Chundawat.

### About Speaker



Dr. Chundawat has an experience of more than 33 years in the field of Wildlife conservation and responsible tourism. He has served as the conservation director for the International Snow Leopard Trust. In 2003, BBC produced an award winning documentary film on his work with the tigers in Panna – “Tigers of the Emerald Forests” and the “Battle to Save Tigers”



## Dr. Rahul Banerjee

Dr. Rahul Banerjee is a social activist fighting for tribal rights. He has played a pioneering role in upliftment of India's largest tribal community, Bhils. He has initiated a conscious process of cultural revival and the creation of a new literature, plays and songs from the classical oral folklore of the Bhils which has been used as a crucial to help a non-literate community. His Participatory Rural Appraisal helped improve their articulation and self-esteem and better their socio-economic condition. He believes that industrialization of the west was done by exploiting the third world countries.

He believes 'Environment always speaks. It might not speak immediately but it does.'

He reminded the audience, the importance of Article 21 and how dignified livelihood should be interpreted. He stressed on the fact that the Adivasi rights have never been implemented properly. Rahul Banerjee also feels that the forest Rights Act was not a gift by the state but a byproduct of people's 'movement'

### About Speaker



Dr. Banerjee is a pioneer in social activism and development research. He is a fellow at the McArthur Foundation, USA and Ashoka Foundation, USA. Dr. Banerjee has also actively participated Narmada Bachao Andolan, Khedut Mazdoor Chetna Sangath, Adivashi Riti Badhao Tola. He is also the founder of Mahila Jagat Lihaj Samiti.



## Dr. Jitendra Agarwal (IFS)

Dr. Jitendra Agarwal (IFS) served 38 years in forest department and retired as PCCF. As he also worked in rural development sector he brought different perspective of FRA into the discussion.

He shared the fact that 2.5% land of India is acquired by 18% people so there will always be land hunger which implies conflict will be always there. He supported his argument with referring to speech by Mrs. Indira Gandhi at Stockholm conference. Again he shared his experience of conflict between Ministry of Environment & Forestry and Ministry of Tribal people.

Discussion already aroused doubt of implementation of FRA so he responded with evidence regarding his own experience of working along with common people for implementing JFM. His view was in favor of decentralized participatory decision making. But as he mentioned, here was also conflict because when certain group of people satisfies other did not. He further discussed one experiment at Sohpur District where he took two strategies intensive and extensive in which intensive strategy failed.

Dr. Jitendra advised students to build own argument by own thinking process.

### About Speaker



Dr. Jitendra Agarwal served as an IFS officer in MP and retired as PCCF.

He has immensely contributed to wildlife conservation and forest management.



## Mr. Ranjan Mathur

Ranjan Mathur, the associate director of PWC India, working in GRID (Government Reforms and Infrastructural Development) was the valedictory speaker of 'Coalescence' 2018. He discussed about the ecosystem of skill development.

Being specialised in skill development, he talked about how education in India is not fulfilling the industry requirements. He said that there is a noticeable divergence between formal education that is provided and skills that are required in the labour market. He believes that the ecosystem of India provides education and not the skills. India being a country with highest demographic dividends is facing severe challenges. The challenges are what market requires, the mismatch between skills required and skills have, informing the youth what skills are needed and what skills to acquire. He mentioned about the steps taken by the government of India to bridge the gap by creating a separate ministry for skill development, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. He mentioned how private companies like PWC and Reliance comes in this structure to provide the required skill.

He concluded by talking about the importance of career planning and family counselling in mitigating the risk factor involved with our career choices

## About Speaker



Mr. Ranjan Mathur is the associate director with social sector practice of PwC and GRID. Mr. Mathur is involved in Human Resource Assessment and skill gap study in 21 coastal districts and also in Designing Odisha Skill Development Programme. He has also served as the Project Manager for ministry of Energy and Minerals, Tanzania.