

**GOA UNIVERSITY
GOA BUSINESS SCHOOL
DISCIPLINE OF ECONOMICS**

**Report on the Eco-Talk titled "Valuing Wetlands-Setting an Agenda for
Transformative Change"**

Programme schedule (24th February, 2022)

The Goa Business school (GBS), conducted an Eco-Talk on the topic "Valuing Wetlands-Setting an Agenda for Transformative Change" on 24th February, 2022 at 03:00 P.M. The objective of the lecture was to build knowledge and raise awareness regarding wetlands in India.

The program was held online using Google meet. Through a Google form, a total of 110 people registered for the session, 61 of whom were from Goa University and the rest from different other institutions. A total of 67 people attended the programme.

- Registered link: <https://forms.gle/pum1yTwAr8ishrrHA>
- G meet link: <https://meet.google.com/pij-pknt-sty>

The resource person for the webinar was Dr. Ritesh Kumar, Director of Wetlands International South Asia. Wetlands International is a global, independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands. Over the last 25 years, Dr. Kumar has supervised multidisciplinary wetlands projects and led integrated management planning for various wetlands in the South Asia region. He's also been involved in a number of policy-making processes relating to wetlands in India, as well as internationally. He has worked on a number of global, regional, and national assessments, including the IPBES Values Assessment as the Coordinating Lead Author. Dr. Kumar's have also work as an associate editor of journals such as Marine and Freshwater Research, PLoS-one Water, and Wetlands Ecology and Management

The programme started with an opening remark delivered by Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Prog. Director of Economics discipline, which was followed by the introduction and a welcome address from Ms. Dina, MA part II Student. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member secretary of Goa State Biodiversity Board, presided over the event.

In his keynote address, Dr. Kumar discussed the importance of wetlands as well as the primary difficulties that they face. He expressed concern about the expanding concretization and the shrinking size of wetlands, as well as the loss of their natural beauty. He discussed the necessity for transformation by bringing a behavioural change and creating a language that different sectors can comprehend. He concluded by urging everyone to help protect wetlands.

The session ended with a round of discussion followed by a vote of thanks by Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay.

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Speakers and their Bio sketch

Dr Ritesh Kumar is the Director of Wetlands International South Asia, a non-government organisation working for sustaining and restoring wetlands, their resources and biodiversity in the South Asia region. Wetlands International is a global, independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to conservation and restoration of wetlands, and presently works in over 100 countries through a network of 18 regional and national offices and expert networks headquartered in The Netherlands.



Over the last 25-years, Dr Kumar has led integrated management planning for several wetlands in South Asia region, and coordinated multidisciplinary projects on wetlands. He has also been a part of several policy making processes related to wetlands in India, and internationally through engagement with Ramsar Convention and Convention on Migratory Species. He has been part of several global, regional and national assessments, including being Coordinating Lead Author to IPBES assessment on values. Dr Kumar's pursuit for inter-disciplinary research on wetlands, especially human dimensions is conveyed through his published works, and as associate editor of journals Marine and Freshwater Research, PLoS-one Water and Wetlands Ecology and Management

