

A Brief Report on World Wetlands Day 2022 celebrated at Integral University, Lucknow

The Department of Environmental Science, Integral University, as part of global celebrations for **World Wetlands Day 2022** conducted an online talk on the topic “**Sarus Crane: A Wetland Icon in Need of Protection**” on 2nd February 2022. The talk was delivered by **Dr Samir Kumar Sinha**, Head of conservation, Wildlife Trust of India, Noida. Dr Sinha has over 20 years of experience in the field of environment, wildlife conservation, wetlands, protected area management, etc. He is also an expert member on several State Boards and National level government committees on protected areas and commission on ecosystem management.

The program started with the welcome address delivered by Prof (Dr.) Monowar Alam Khalid, Head Department of Environmental Science, who after a brief introduction about the significance of World Wetlands Day introduced the eminent guest speaker Dr Samir Kumar Sinha.

World Wetlands Day is observed on the second day of February every year to raise global awareness about the importance of wetlands, not only for people but for the planet Earth. This day also marks the date of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands (also called Ramsar Convention) which took place in 1971 at Ramsar in Iran.

Dr Sinha in his interesting talk gave an insight on the importance of Wetlands for our environment, and also talked about the conservation of Sarus Cranes in its various habitats involving local communities. He highlighted certain human activities and involvements such as electrocution, agricultural intensification due to use of insecticides, pesticides as responsible factors for the decrease in the population of Sarus Cranes.

The Sarus crane is the tallest flying bird in the world standing 1.5m tall, with a largest wingspan of nearly 2.5m. Sarus cranes play an important role in controlling the population of small invertebrate and vertebrate populations. Currently, it is under IUCN’s Red list and is in dire need of conservation. Dr Sinha mentioned various activities like agricultural expansion, aquaculture and change in cropping patterns are few significant steps that could help in conserving our wetlands and this important species. The session ended on an interactive note as a number of queries by the participants were answered by the speaker.

The program was successfully coordinated by Dr Anand Mishra and Ms Mohsina Khan, faculty of Department of Environmental Science. It concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Ms Mohsina Khan.

