

DownToEarth

CSE's annual media conclave, the Anil Agarwal Dialogue, to be held from March 1-4

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After a pandemic- and lockdown-induced hiatus of almost two years, Centre for Science and Environment's (CSE) signature media event, the Anil Agarwal Dialogue (AAD), is back. The four-day conclave will commence on March 1, 2022 at CSE's state-of-the-art residential environmental training facility, the Anil Agarwal Environment Training Institute (AAETI), in Nimli, Alwar district, Rajasthan.

This year's AAD will, once again, bring together journalists and environmental experts from all over India to discuss some of the burning environmental issues that confront the country.

Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, will open the conclave and release CSE and Down To Earth's *Annual State of India's Environment 2022* report.

The report, published every year by *Down To Earth*, is a comprehensive documentation of the year's major developments and happenings in a wide range of subjects and issues — ranging from climate change, waste management and the pandemic to air and water pollution, industrial contamination and food.

CSE director general Sunita Narain said: "CSE has a long-established tradition of working closely with the media across India. The aim of these conclaves is to bring together journalists and writers interested in covering environment and development issues, with some of the country's top experts who have been studying these issues, on to a common platform to discuss and understand the year's most significant developments and concerns. In fact, this year's conclave gains an urgent edge as we are faced with threats to our very existence of a kind we have never faced in our history."

The 2022 Dialogue will focus on the twin challenge of the pandemic and climate change. Souparno Banerjee, senior director, Outreach, Publications and Environment Education, CSE, said: "While our world is no stranger to earth-shaking crises, it has rarely been as sorely tested as over the last two years. A virus and its variants have brought it to its knees on one hand, while there are no signs of a slowdown in the speed at which climate change seems to be wreaking havoc. The Dialogue of 2022 will aim to unravel this twin challenge and its implications, and examine possible ways to move ahead."

The 2022 Dialogue has sessions on viruses in our environment; the COVID-19 pandemic and what lessons it offers us for the future; climate change and extreme weather events; how should India chart its energy roadmap to meet its climate commitments; the latest IPCC report on adaptation; climate change and urbanisation; electric mobility; the state of India's forests; the agriculture-biodiversity-livelihood-nutrition connections; biodiversity and the Great Extinction; amendments to the Biodiversity Act; and the human impacts of climate change (as witnessed in the large-scale migration across the world).

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