

Ecological Society Faculty

(In the order of appearance in the program schedule)

[Ajay Phatak](#)

Ajay is an IT professional. Ajay is an alumnus of IIT-Bombay and was the head of Harman Connected Systems, a Samsung group company. Ajay's research is in sustainability and more specifically in energy and renewable energy. He has written several articles. He is also the trustee of [TERRE](#) Policy Centre. Ajay is on the board of Trustees of Ecological Society.

[Dr. Gurudas Nulkar](#)

Gurudas is a Professor and Director of [Centre for Sustainable Development, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics](#). His research is in sustainability and ecological economics. He has a post-doc as the Endeavour Fellow 2018, of Government of Australia. Gurudas is a full Professor (Visiting) at IIT-Kanpur. He has published 5 [books](#), [several academic papers](#) and writes regularly in [vernacular magazines](#). Gurudas is on the board of Trustees of Ecological Society.

[Prof. S. D. Mahajan](#)

a well-known botanist and author, Prof. Mahajan was the Head of Botany at Kolhapur. He is popular for his writing style and his lecturing ability. Besides others, Prof. Mahajan has written three major books in Marathi, on native and non-native flora of India. He was a part of various research projects and workshops initiated by Prakash Gole.

[Ketaki Ghate](#)

Co-founder of [Oikos for Ecological Services](#), Ketaki has a double B.Sc. in Chemistry and Botany. She has been involved in ecological restoration for the last 15 years and has worked closely in many of Ecological Society's research projects. She has several publications and has co-authored books with Manasi. She was member of Pune Tree Authority of PMC and is currently the member of the JFMC.

[Manasi Karandikar](#)

Co-founder of [Oikos for Ecological Services](#), Manasi is an Instrumentation engineer and has done her MSc in Environmental Sciences from Pune University. She has been involved in ecological restoration for the last 15 years and has worked closely in many of Ecological Society's research projects. Manasi was a member of Matheran Conservation Committee. She has written several articles and has co-authored books with Ketaki.

Dr. Swati Gole Retired as a professor of Geography in the S.P.College. She has participated in taken most of Ecological Society's research programs and expeditions, since inception. Dr. Gole has several publications to her credit and has been instrumental in designing the course along with Shri Prakash Gole. Dr. Gole is the Chairperson of Ecological Society.

Kedar Champhekar Kedar is an NABET accredited EIA Functional Area Expert in Ecology & Biodiversity; freelance ecology and biodiversity consultant, visiting faculty and biodiversity educator.

[Dr. Asim Auti](#) Senior Teaching Associate, Center of Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education ([CoESME](#)), IISER Pune. PhD (Microbiology), Post Graduation in Biodiversity & Graduation in Microbiology. He has been teaching Life Science courses at UG & PG level for the past 10+ years and has been a part of curriculum designing for SPPU affiliated colleges. He has academic interests in the field of Microbiology, Ecology & Evolution, and Conservation of Biodiversity. He has worked on various projects engaging labs as well as field components, some of which resulted in popular as well as scientific publications. He was a National Academies (USA) Education Fellow in the Life Sciences 2013-14 and takes keen interest in developing and implementing various pedagogical tools centered on Active Learning.

[Dr. Mandar Datar](#) is a scientist and researcher at [Agharkar Research Institute](#), Pune. Mandar has done extensive research in Goa and Western Ghats and [published several papers](#). He has also authored several books and writes regularly in Marathi publications. He is a core faculty at the popular Field Botany course at ARI.

Shailaja Deshpande Shailaja is a graduate in Child Psychology and holds a diploma in interior design. She has also worked as Director, Kisan Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd during 2000 – 2014. She is alumni of Ecological Society. She has done field botany courses. From 2014 onwards, she is working on Revival of Rivers. She is an active member of Jeevitnadi group, spearheading activities with her excellent communication and leadership skills. She is practicing Toxin free life style in her own house since last 3 years.

[Parineeta Dandekar](#) Parineeta is a researcher at [SANDRP](#) and has widely studied and written on rivers in India. She is on several committees and institutions and travels widely.

Prof. Vishwas Sawarkar is the retired Director of [Wildlife Institute of India](#), Dehradun, one of the world's leading research institutes on fauna. He is the advisor to the Ministry of Environment, office of the Prime Minister and on boards of several NGOs and institutions. He was a leading member of the Tiger Conservation project and has recognized contributions to the Bustard and other conservation programs in India. Prof. Sawarkar is on the board of Trustees of Ecological Society.

[Nima Pathak](#) Nima is a core member of [Kalpvriksh](#), a reputed NGO. Her work is in community conservation and management. She has led several internationally funded projects on it and has several publications to her credit.

Dr. [Aparna Watve](#) Aparna is a visiting faculty at Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She has undertaken extensive studies on rocky plateau ecosystems and has international research collaborations. She has published in reputed journals.

Dr. [Rajashri Joshi](#) Rajashri, works with [BAIF](#), an NGO, is a Social Scientist and a professionally trained social worker with thorough knowledge on development issues and required development interventions in different settings. Have relevant skills for planning interventions on livelihood development, Natural Resource Management, NGO management.

Dr. [Himanshu Kulkarni](#) is a well-known authority on ground water management. He is on several high-level committees and an advisor to ministry of environment. Dr. Himanshu is the founder of [ACWADAM](#), a reputed NGO working in the field of water conservation.

Dr [Pramod Moghe](#) is a retired scientist from the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and has done seminal work on toxins in daily use products. He has been experimenting with a toxin-free lifestyle for several years and has published his experiences. He has several formulations to his credit and some of them have been commercialized by companies.

Adv. Amogh Paralikar is a practicing advocate and his core capabilities include environmental litigation and social causes. Amogh has helped in several major environmental causes and helps NGOs and citizens in their fight against environmental injustice.

Ar. [Malak Singh](#) Malak is a practicing architect and a professor at Rachna College of Architecture, Mumbai. He works in the field of sustainable architecture and has been doing innovative experimentation in it. He has experimented with several

forms of sustainable architecture and has mentored many students to take up such practices.

Dr. [Priyadarshani Karve](#)

Founder Director of Samuchit Enviro Tech and a Co-Founder of OrjaBox LLP. She is currently also the National Convener of Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC) and CEO of Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN). She has a Ph.D. in Physics from University of Pune, and works on rural cooking energy solutions, decentralised organic waste to fuel technologies, and strategies for low carbon, sustainable urbanisation. She developed an easy-to-use Samuchit Carbon Footprint Calculator for Urban Indians, and conducts workshops and courses focused on climate change literacy. She serves on the Governing and Advisory Bodies of several national and international organisations. Her work has been honoured by national and international awards and recognitions.

[Ashish Kothari](#)

founder member of [Kalpvriksh](#), Ashish is a well-known environmentalist in India. He has written several books and been a part of many UN funded projects and programs. He is well known for his work in Biodiversity laws.
