



HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
RAIPUR



In collaboration with

**CHHATTISGARH STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY &
CHHATTISGARH STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD**

Workshop on

50 YEARS OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

Wetland Conservation in Global & Indian Contexts

with Special Focus on

CHHATTISGARH'S FIRST RAMSAR SITE
(Kopra Reservoir / Kopra Jalashay)

2nd February 2026 ONLINE 04:00-05:00 PM

Organised by

Center for Law & Sciences (SLT)

Centre for Environmental Laws (SLPP)



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HNLU Raipur

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The year 2026 marks 50 years of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1976–2026), one of the earliest global environmental treaties dedicated to the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Wetlands are among the most productive yet threatened ecosystems, playing a critical role in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, water security, and sustainable livelihoods.

India, as a Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention since 1982, has progressively strengthened its wetland governance framework through constitutional mandates, environmental jurisprudence, statutory instruments, and policy initiatives. The designation of Kopra Reservoir (Kopra Jalashay) as Chhattisgarh's first Ramsar Site represents a significant milestone for the State and offers an important case study in decentralised wetland governance, community participation, and inter-departmental coordination.

This workshop aims to provide a legal, scientific, and policy-oriented understanding of wetlands, with a special emphasis on the Ramsar Convention and its implementation in India and Chhattisgarh.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- To examine the science behind wetlands and their role in ecological balance and sustainable development
- To trace the history, evolution, and achievements of the Ramsar Convention over the last five decades
- To understand India's engagement with the Ramsar Convention, including regulatory and institutional mechanism
- To explain the procedure and criteria for Ramsar site identification and designation
- To highlight Chhattisgarh's legal, policy, and governance framework for wetland conservation

RESOURCE PERSONS



Dr. Ritesh Kumar

Director, Wetlands International – South Asia



Mr. Pratik Verma

Legal Advisor, Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Board & Chhattisgarh State Wetland Authority, Forest and Climate Change Department

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Legal and Environmental policy makers and planners
- Forest, wildlife, and environmental officials
- Wetland scientists, ecologists, and researchers
- Local community leaders & non-governmental organisations
- Students, researchers, and academic stakeholders in law, ecology, and environmental governance

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced understanding of wetland conservation from legal, scientific, and policy perspectives
- Greater awareness of Ramsar obligations & implementation challenge
- Contextual learning through the Kopra Reservoir case study
- Capacity building for students, practitioners, and community stakeholders

Registration Fees: NIL

Participation: Open to HNLU students and faculty, as well as external participants

Certification: E-Certificate of Completion will be issued to registered participants attending the full workshop and scoring 70% on a 20 MCQs test online available for 30 minutes post-workshop).

CONTACT INFORMATION

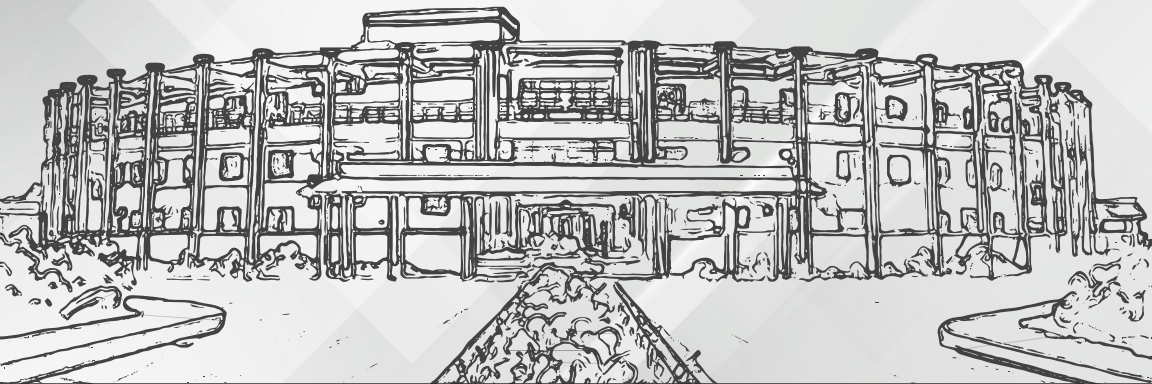
For further details and queries, please contact:

Dr. Debmita Mondal
Workshop Coordinator

Head, Center for Law & Sciences, SLT
Email: centerforlawandsciences@hnlu.ac.in /
debmita@hnlu.ac.in, Mob.: +91 8827116648



HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, RAIPUR
Sector-40, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar - 493661 (C.G.)



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