

EPISTEME

July, 2026



1 International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

On the occasion of World Mangrove Day, the South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE) and Progyan Foundation for Research & Innovation (PFRI), in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Calcutta Camaraderie, organised a community-driven celebration at the

CRACK Centre of PFRI & SAFE, Tipligheri, Lahiripur Gram Panchayat, Gosaba Block, in the Indian Sundarban.

The celebration brought together local communities, Sabuj Pathshala students, children, and volunteers for a series of meaningful activities, including mangrove awareness sessions, creek-side nature walks, interactive discussions on the importance of mangrove ecosystem services, and plantation activities.

Through experiential learning and community participation, the programme aimed to strengthen awareness of the critical role mangroves play in protecting coastal ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing climate resilience. By empowering children and community members with knowledge and opportunities for practical action, we continue to nurture a new generation of Mangrove Guardians dedicated to safeguarding the Sundarbans.



2 Advancing Climate-Resilient Agroforestry for Sustainable Livelihoods

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), in collaboration with the Progyan Foundation for Research and Innovation (PFRI) and with the generous support of IndusInd Bank, organised a workshop on “Climate-Resilient Agroforestry Systems: Multi-Dimensional Assessment, Policy Recommendations, and Science-Informed Scaling Strategies” on 9 July 2026 at the IC&SR Auditorium, IIT Madras.

The workshop brought together experts, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, development partners, and representatives from various institutions to deliberate on strengthening climate-resilient agroforestry systems and sustainable rural livelihoods through science-informed decision-making and collaborative action.

The distinguished expert panel included Mr. I. Anwardeen, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Mission Director, Green

Green Tamil Nadu Mission; Mr. Jayapandi, Former Joint Director of Horticulture, Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Government of Tamil Nadu; and Dr. Dipnarayan Ganguly, Scientist-C, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai.

The discussions were further enriched by the participation of representatives from IndusInd Bank, IIT Madras, South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE), SRM University, PFRI, Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), Shiv Nadar University, Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, and other organisations.

The workshop highlighted the need for robust national and state-level loss and damage frameworks, greater adoption of native species in agroforestry, and

strengthened public-private partnerships to translate policy into action. Participants emphasised the importance of blended financing involving CSR, government support, private investment, and community contributions to promote long-term sustainability.

The discussions also stressed the need for context-specific planning, ecologically appropriate policy convergence, and livelihood-sensitive agroforestry models that can support farmers during transition periods. The importance of integrating scientific and traditional knowledge through bottom-up approaches, communicating recommendations in simple and community-friendly language, and incorporating post-project sustainability from the outset was also emphasised.



The workshop further explored the role of nature-based solutions in restoring degraded and pollution-affected landscapes and strengthening the resilience of rural communities.

The workshop reaffirmed the importance of bringing together science, policy, finance, and community participation to build resilient landscapes, sustainable livelihoods, and climate-ready rural communities.



3 Together for the East Kolkata Wetlands

On 28th July 2026, the South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE) and Progyan Foundation for Research and Innovation (PFRI) proudly participated in the World Nature Conservation Day workshop, “Green Catalyst: Youth-led Wetland Conservation & Urban Ecological Resilience in Kolkata,”

organised by Child in Need Institute (CINI) at Paribesh Bhawan, Kolkata.

The workshop brought together NGOs, schools, government officials, environmental experts, and youth to raise awareness about the conservation of the East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW). Insightful sessions by representatives from the Wipro Foundation,

West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), and other distinguished dignitaries highlighted the ecological importance of EKW and inspired collective action towards its protection.

The event was made even more impactful through captivating dance and dance-drama performances by school students, delivering a powerful message on wetland conservation and environmental stewardship.

Together, let's protect our wetlands, preserve biodiversity, and build a sustainable future for generations to come.



4 Global Tiger Day 2026 | Roaring for the Future of the Sundarban

On 29 July 2026, Progyan Foundation for Research and Innovation (PFRI), the research wing of the South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE), in collaboration with the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR), celebrated Global Tiger Day 2026 at the Sundarban Tiger Reserve, Sajnekhali, Sundarban.

The celebration brought together young minds through engaging drawing, quiz, and extempore competitions, highlighting that the future of the Royal Bengal Tiger depends on collective action. Reflecting the global conservation focus on protecting tiger habitats through community participation and youth engagement, students learned about the tiger's crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and the importance of the Sundarban

mangroves as natural climate defenders. The programme inspired participants to become responsible stewards of nature and champions of wildlife conservation.

We are proud to congratulate our young achievers from Gosaba R.R. Govt. Sponsored Institution, Gosaba, South 24 Parganas:

🏆 **Drawing Competition (Junior Group) – Winner: Trisha Das**
🥈 **Quiz Competition – 2nd Place: Krishnendu Baitya & Ritam Mandal**



Their creativity, knowledge, and enthusiasm reflect the growing commitment of the younger generation towards protecting our natural heritage.

At PFRI, we believe conservation begins with awareness. By empowering children with knowledge about the Sundarban ecosystem, we are nurturing future custodians who will safeguard its mangroves, rich biodiversity, and the iconic Royal Bengal Tiger for generations to come.

