



International Citizen Science Conclave: The Power of People in Science

organized by
Pune Knowledge Cluster

Organized By	Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC)
Date and Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Date: 5th July 2025<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇒ Citizen Science Expert Dialogue, Time: 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM A closed-door convening of organizations and individuals leading citizen science programmes.⇒ Citizen Science Expo, Time: (two hours) - 05:00 PM to 07:00 PM A public exhibition of diverse Citizen Science Initiatives, showcasing posters, tools, and interactive displays open to citizens from all walks of life. Experts to showcase their work through posters and products.
Location	<p>Citizen Science Expert Dialogue : Guest House, 1st Floor, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Seminar Hall, IISER Pune</p> <p>Citizen Science Expo : Guest House, 1st Floor, Multipurpose Hall behind Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Seminar Hall, IISER Pune</p>
About the Conclave	<p>The Pune Knowledge Cluster is organizing an international Citizen Science Conclave with the aim of bringing together passionate individuals, communities, researchers, and innovators committed to advancing science through collective action. The Conclave will serve as a platform to showcase citizen science initiatives from across the world and help foster collaborations, sharing of best practices, and the development of new citizen science initiatives. Through this event, we wish to explore the transformative potential of citizen-led research in promoting scientific inquiry and addressing global challenges.</p>
For whom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Citizen Scientists: Individuals who engage in scientific research as part of a community effort.● Researchers & Academics: Professionals from universities and research institutions interested in engaging with public science.● Tech Innovators: Developers of apps, software, and platforms that support citizen science initiatives.● Policy Makers: Government officials and decision-makers involved in science, technology, and environmental policy.● NGOs & Environmentalists: Organizations focused on conservation and sustainability that utilize citizen science for data collection.

Registration Link

Shorten Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/MjwYoAhGttYHbXwB7>

QR Code for registration link:



Profile of the Speakers



Dr. Laura Trouille

Vice President of Science Engagement at the Adler Planetarium, Chicago, Co-Principal Investigator at the Zooniverse platform

Dr. Laura Trouille is Vice President of Science Engagement at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, Co-Principal Investigator for the Zooniverse platform, and a Research Associate at Northwestern University. She earned her Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and conducted postdoctoral research at Northwestern on galaxy evolution. Since 2015, Dr. Trouille has led Adler’s science engagement initiatives, including expanding public participation in scientific research through Zooniverse, the world’s largest platform for people-powered research with millions of participants and hundreds of projects. She also serves on the Governing Council of the International Astronomical Union’s Office of Astronomy for Development, working with partners across North America and globally to leverage astronomy in advancing the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those focused on economic development and equitable access to quality jobs.



Prof. Ajit Kembhavi

Co-Founder, Pune Knowledge Cluster & Emeritus Professor, IUCAA

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi is the Co-Founder of the Pune Knowledge Cluster, along with Professor L. S. Shashidhara. Kembhavi is a Professor Emeritus and former Raja Ramanna Fellow at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, India. He was the Director there until August 2015. He did his Ph. D. from TIFR, Mumbai with Professor Jayant Narlikar, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge. Professor Kembhavi is a distinguished astronomer who works on galaxies, quasars, and other extragalactic objects in various areas of high-energy astrophysics, X-ray, and radio pulsars.



Mr. Atharva Pathak
Big Data & AI Consultant
Pune Knowledge Cluster

Mr. Atharva Pathak is currently working as a Software Engineer, Big Data & AI Consultant for the Pune Knowledge Cluster, A project under the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt. Of India & Supported by IUCAA, Pune, IN. Before this, He was an Astronomer at the Inter University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics, IUCAA, and has also been working on various Freelance projects, development required for Websites, Applications, as well as Localizations of various software. He is also a life member of Jyotirvidya Parisansta, India's Oldest association of Amateur Astronomers, and looks after the IOTA-India Occultation section as a webmaster and data curator.



Mr. Shirish Kanitkar
Consultant (Environment)
Pune Knowledge Cluster

Mr. Shirish Kanitkar have been consulting on various environmental programs at Pune Knowledge Cluster, more specifically, the Urban Forestry Programs over the past 4 years. With 16 years in the software industry and the same number of years of ecological education and engagement, he brings a blend of systems thinking, cross-disciplinary experience, and people-centred communication. He has led grassroots projects on water resource management, grassland restoration, and biodiversity education while also engaging over 400 corporate volunteers in ecological monitoring. The more recent 17 years had me focused on the science of ecology and its application in sustainable development, **working** on conservation and community-based initiatives across urban and rural contexts.



Dr. Thomas Vattakaven
Senior Application Scientist, Strand
Life Sciences, India Biodiversity
Portal

Dr. Thomas Vattakaven is working as Senior Application Scientist IV at Strand Life Sciences, Bengaluru, India. Thomas earned his PhD in Microbiology from the University of the West of England in 2010. With over 12 years of experience at Strand Life Sciences, he has been managing the India Biodiversity Portal (IBP) since 2012. He specializes in biodiversity informatics, data manipulation, crowdsourcing data, and engaging the public in citizen science, focusing on its role in aggregating open-access biodiversity information.



Dr. Ananya Karmakar
Scientist-C, India Meteorological
Department (IMD)

Dr. Ananya Karmakar is a scientist in the Climate Applications and User Interface (CAUI) Division at the Office of Climate Research and Services, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune. She holds an M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Atmospheric and Space Sciences. She pursued a post-doctoral fellowship in France. Dr. Karmakar's current research focuses on the development and implementation of climate services tailored to support key sectors such as hydrology, agriculture, and public health. She is actively involved in heat-health applications aimed at mitigating the impacts of rising temperatures on human health. Since 2024, she has been involved in the first field experiment on Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) in Pune city to assess and understand urban heat stress conditions. Dr. Karmakar played a leadership role in the preparation and publication of the Rainfall Atlas of India 2020.



Mr. Krishnan Komandur
Chief Executive Officer, Adar
Poonawalla Clean City Initiative
(APCCI)

Mr. Krishnan Komandur is the CEO of the Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI), bringing 30 years of experience in sustainability and urban waste management. At APCCI, a project supported by the Serum Institute of India, he leads urban transformation initiatives through technology-driven solutions. Under his leadership, APCCI deploys advanced interventions including battery-operated machines, vacuum sweepers, and Water ATMs, supported by digital tools and a citizen app for transparency and participation. He manages 600 waste warriors and 300 GPS-enabled vehicles, prioritizing worker dignity and safety through systems that eliminate direct waste contact. Krishnan has fostered partnerships with civic agencies, corporations, and NGOs, building a volunteer network of 50,000 individuals. Previously, as Vice President at BVG India Ltd. and Kam-Avida Enviro Engineers, he led mechanized sanitation initiatives aligned with government policies. With a Post Graduate Diploma from Osmania University and fluency in multiple languages, he speaks at sustainability forums globally.



Dr. Suhel Quader
Scientist and Programme Head,
Nature Conservation Foundation

Dr. Suhel Quader serves as a Senior Scientist and Programme Head at the Nature Conservation Foundation in Mysuru, India. He earned his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Florida, where he studied under Dr. H. Jane Brockmann. His academic and research pursuits have centered on wildlife sciences and animal behavior, leading him to spend time at the Wildlife Institute of India, the University of Florida, the University of Cambridge, and the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bengaluru. Over the past 12 years, he has been with the Nature Conservation Foundation in Bengaluru, focusing on public engagement with nature through communications, education, citizen science, and capacity building.



Dr. Anupreeta More

Research Faculty, Inter-University
Centre of Astronomy and
Astrophysics (IUCAA)

Dr. Anupreeta More is a scientist at the Inter-University Centre of Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, India. Her research focuses on gravitational lensing, gravitational waves, and cosmology. She is one of the PIs of Space Warps, a citizen science project to discover lenses. She is involved in major international projects such as the Rubin LSST and LIGO. At a personal level, she deeply cares about sustainable living and strives to follow an environmentally friendly lifestyle.



Prof. Katrien Kolenberg

Professor of Science Communication
and Outreach, Professor of
Astronomy and Astrophysics, KU
Leuven - Faculty of Science,
University of Antwerp (UAntwerpen),
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB),
Institute of Astronomy, KU Leuven

Prof. Katrien Kolenberg is a Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Antwerp and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and Professor of Science Communication at KU Leuven, where she is also an Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Astronomy. She is also an artist and science communicator whose international career bridges research, education, and public engagement. Her astronomical expertise lies in the study of variable stars and asteroseismology, with involvement in major space missions such as Kepler and TESS, as well as in ground-based observations using photometry and spectroscopy. Her interdisciplinary projects - such as *Music of the Stars*, *Galileo in Senegal*, and *PiLoT* - combine research, creativity, and intercultural dialogue.



Mr. Raghuvansh Saxena

Chief Executive Officer,
Earthwatch Institute India

Mr. Raghuvansh Saxena is working as CEO of Earthwatch Institute, Gurugram, Haryana, India. He has 30 years of experience in environmental conservation and sustainability. Under his 15-year leadership, the institute has developed projects in water conservation, biodiversity, waste management, and climate science. Earthwatch India focuses on citizen science programs, engaging scientists, students, and communities in long-term research. Saxena previously worked at British Council India, managing climate security and science programs, and at WWF-India. His career began in the corporate sector before transitioning to non-profit organizations. Saxena's expertise spans environmental sustainability, climate science, and natural resource conservation, with a focus on aligning programs with India's National Missions.



Dr. Shubha Sathyendranath
Principal Scientist,
Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Dr. Shubha Sathyendranath is currently working as Principal Scientist at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Plymouth, United Kingdom. She has 40 years' experience in the field of marine optics and remote sensing of ocean colour. Her interests include bio-optical properties of phytoplankton, marine primary production, biological-physical feedbacks in the ocean, phytoplankton phenology, ecological provinces in the ocean, water-borne infectious diseases, development of algorithms for remote-sensing of phytoplankton, and the use of ocean-colour data in climate studies. Her many scientific contributions have been recognized in the Grande Médaille Albert 1er of Monaco and the A.G. Huntsman Award for Excellence in the Marine Sciences. She has received the UNESCO/IOC Pannikkar Memorial Medal. She has been a Fellow of the Marine Biological Association of the UK since 2020, and she is the current chair of the IOCCG. Since 2016, she has been working on problems related to water-associated diseases through the networking Project ONWARD, the Trevor Platt Science Foundation, the Wellcome Trust project WADIM, the Indo-UK project REVIVAL, and ESA projects WIDGEON and EO4HealthResilience.



Dr. Ritesh Kumar Choudhary
Scientist-E,
Agharkar Research Institute (ARI)

Dr. Ritesh Kumar Choudhary is working as a Scientist-E at Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, India. He is a distinguished plant taxonomist with 19 years of experience. He has conducted research in India's biodiversity hotspots, described 15 new plant species, and reported 21 new records. As a pioneer in the molecular systematics of plants in India, he has published 99 research papers and 5 books. Dr. Choudhary moderates eFloraofIndia, mentors PhD students, and serves on academic boards. His contributions have been recognized with prestigious awards, including the Prof. Y.S. Murty Memorial Gold Medal and Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Gold Medal. He is a fellow of the Linnean Society and an editor for various journals.



Mr. Masatoshi Shimosuka
Policy Analyst, Global Science Forum
(GSF), OECD

Mr. Masatoshi Shimosuka joined the Global Science Forum Secretariat in August 2022 as a policy analyst. He supports the Forum activities and works with members and delegates. Before joining the GSF Secretariat, he was deputy director of Japan's science ministry (MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). Throughout his career, he has addressed policy issues around human resources in science and technology, research infrastructure, strategic competitive funding, and research integrity. He majored in theoretical particle physics with a master's degree in science (Tohoku University) and obtained a master's in international affairs from UC San Diego and entrepreneurship from Brown University in the US.



Dr. Anas Abdulaziz

Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)

Dr. Anas Abdulaziz is working as Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Kochi, India. Dr. Anas holds a PhD in Environmental Biotechnology (2006) and a postgraduate degree in Environmental Studies (2000) from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kerala, India. He completed his postdoctoral research in Nanobiotechnology at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan. He began his academic career as an Assistant Professor of Marine Biotechnology at CUSAT and currently serves as a Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR–National Institute of Oceanography, Cochin. A specialist in environmental microbiology and biotechnology, he has worked extensively on the microbiology of tropical estuaries, mudbanks, the deep ocean, and coral reef systems, with a particular focus on microbial interactions and their implications for human health.



Mr. Seán Lynch

Founder, OpenLitterMap

Mr. Seán Lynch is the founder and developer of OpenLitterMap.com. Starting pre-iPhone in 2008 as a 1st year undergraduate Geography student, he began researching the gamification of crowdsourcing. During a master's in GIS & Remote Sensing, he was introduced to OpenStreetMap. Inspired by its open values and vibrant academic community, he went looking for its real-time data collection layer, which didn't exist, leading to the conceptualisation of openlittermap. After doing a second master's, Seán taught himself how to code, built openlittermap.com, and has spent the last 10+ years working as a software engineer for various startups and enterprises. Seán is currently leveraging AI to accelerate and transform the development of OpenLitterMap and is working on a huge new release while continuing to apply for funding.



Dr. Vishal Choudhary

Scientist-F, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India

Dr. Vishal Choudhary is working as Scientist-F in Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. He Previously worked as Dy. Industrial Advisor in Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, where he was looking after all industry related issues for chemicals sector and Co-ordinating all Technical matters pertaining to Pesticides, Chlor-Alkali, Speciality Chemicals and other Industrial Chemicals. He was co-ordinating for all International Conventions on Environment, Health and Safety like Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, Montreal Protocol, Kyuoto Protocol etc. He was also co-ordinating industrial clusters (PCPIRs) and was looking after the Policy division in the Department. Dr. Choudhary is also having more than 20 years of experience in Chemicals industry (both MNCs and PSUs) including Pesticides and Pharmaceutical industry and he is Doctorate in Chemical Sciences with 06 research publications in reputed journals.



About the Organiser



The Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC) has been established by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. It aims to bring together academia, R&D institutions, and the industry of Pune and its surrounding areas to address the challenging problems of the region through innovative means, using scientific knowledge and engaging highly skilled human resources.

PKC is administered by the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). In the initial phase, PKC would focus on Health, Sustainability and Environment, Sustainable Mobility, BIG Data and AI, and Capacity Building.

For more information, visit: <https://www.pkc.org.in/>