

IQAC, Government Arts College, Maninagar, Ahmedabad

A Report

on the Two-Days' National-Level Conference

“Conversations on Conservation: Preserving the Globe for Future Communities”

Organized by: Government Arts College, Maninagar, Ahmedabad

Dates: 2nd and 3rd February, 2026

Venue: Government Arts College Campus, Ahmedabad

1. Introduction

Government Arts College, Maninagar, Ahmedabad successfully organized a Two-Days' National Level Conference titled “Conversations on Conservation: Preserving the Globe for Future Communities” on 2nd and 3rd February, 2026. The conference aimed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on environmental conservation, preservation of languages, literatures, culture and tradition, sustainability and future-oriented ecological responsibility.

The event brought together academicians, researchers, practitioners, and students from diverse disciplines including Languages, Social Sciences, and Pure Sciences. Through keynote addresses, expert sessions, plenary discussions, and technical paper presentations, the conference created a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and critical engagement with contemporary conservation challenges.

Day 1 Proceedings (2nd February, 2026)

Inaugural Session and Keynote Address

The conference commenced with the Inaugural Ceremony held at the College Auditorium. The inaugural address was succinctly delivered by Dr. Namita Sharma, Principal, Government Arts College, Maninagar. Her inaugural address formally set the tone for the event, emphasizing the institutional commitment to environmental and cultural consciousness and academic excellence.

The keynote address was delivered by Padmashree awardee, Dr. Anil Gupta, Former Professor at IIM Ahmedabad and Founder of Honey Bee Network, SRISTI, GIAN, and NIF. He is an eminent environmentalist. His address highlighted grassroots innovation, indigenous knowledge systems, and sustainable development, underscoring the importance of community-led environmental conservation practices.

Plenary Session

The **Plenary Session** featured **Dr. Ravindra Jaybhaye**, Professor of Geography at Savitribai Phule Pune University. His session provided a geographical and ecological perspective on conservation, environmental resilience, and spatial sustainability in the context of climate change, with particular reference to the Western Ghats. He demonstrated his ground-breaking conservation practices has been highly acclaimed and followed widely.

Technical Sessions

A total of 99 paper presentations and 23 poster presentations were made during the technical sessions over a period of two days.

The paper and poster presentations centred on three broad categories: Languages and Literature, Social Sciences and Pure Sciences. These sessions were chaired by eminent dignitaries who offered valuable insights to the researchers who made presentations on their research. Interdisciplinary research received enthusiastic encouragement.

No.	Areas of Research	No. of papers presented	Session Chairs
1.	Languages and Literature	34	Dr. Pranav Joshipura, Principal, (Uma Arts and Nathiba Commerce Mahila College, Gandhinagar
2.	Social Sciences	46	Dr. Niyati Mistry, Associate Professor of Geography, Government Arts College, Maninagar
3.	Pure Sciences	19	Dr. Chirag Shah, Principal, Government Arts College, Maninagar

These sessions showcased innovative research on environmental conservation, ecological ethics, sustainable development, cultural ecology, and scientific approaches to environmental protection.

Day 2 Proceedings (3rd February, 2026)

Plenary Sessions

Expert Session 1: Dr. Utpala Desai, Convener, INTACH, Ahmedabad Chapter – emphasized on heritage conservation and cultural sustainability. She discussed this with particular reference to the evolution of the Garba, not only as a form of folk dance but as a channel that breathes life into the Gujarati community through its deep-rooted heritage.

Expert Session 2: Dr. Bhagvandas Patel, Indian Folklorist – highlighted folklore, traditional knowledge, and community-based environmental wisdom. He described the distinctions between Valmiki’s *Ramayana* and Bheel *Ramayana*, highlighting the merits of its oral literature.

Expert Session 3: Dr. Preeti Pancholi, Director-in-charge, B.J. Institute of Learning & Research – focusing on education, research, and policy frameworks in conservation. These sessions reinforced the interdisciplinary nature of conservation, integrating heritage, folklore, education, and environmental responsibility.

Valedictory Ceremony

The conference concluded with a valedictory ceremony and the awarding of certificates to the participants. The session was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Utpala Desai, Dr. Bhagvandas Patel, and Dr. Preeti Pancholi as Chief Guests.

In her concluding address, Principal Dr. Namita Sharma stated that the intellectually enriching two-day conference concluded not with a sense of ending, but with a feeling of fulfillment—marked by the exchange of ideas, expansion of perspectives, and the strengthening of collective commitment.

Conference Coordinator Dr. Pinal Doshi proposed the vote of thanks, expressing sincere gratitude to the expert speakers, participants and the organizing committee of the conference. She highlighted that in an era marked by unprecedented environmental challenges and the gradual erosion of art, culture, language, and literature, the conference provided a meaningful platform for dialogue, collaboration, and renewed commitment toward preserving the planet and shared heritage for future generations.

Certificates were presented to participants, presenters, and organizers in recognition of their valuable academic contributions.

Special Features of the Conference

In an effort to practice environmental and cultural conservation the dignitaries were welcomed with a sapling in a pot decorated with various kinds of folk and traditional art and a pocket-sized fabric of intricate Patola as mementos. The premises too were similarly decked with plants and artefacts crafted by the students of the hosting college. Artisans like fabric designers, potters, mehndi artists, mud-mirror artists and Patola weavers thronged the venue showcasing a wealth of their craftsmanship. The participants included students, academics, practitioners, artists and freelancers who contributed immensely to the rich dialogue of the theme of the conference.

Key Outcomes of the Conference

- Promotion of **interdisciplinary dialogue** on environmental and cultural conservation.
- Strengthening of **academic and institutional networks** across disciplines.
- Encouragement of **student and researcher participation** in conservation-oriented scholarship.
- Integration of **indigenous knowledge, folklore, scientific research, and policy perspectives**.
- Generation of actionable insights for **sustainable environmental practices**.

Conclusion

The Two-Days' National Level Conference on “**Conversations on Conservation: Preserving the Globe for Future Communities**” successfully provided a meaningful academic platform to address ecological, cultural, and scientific dimensions of conservation. Through keynote lectures, expert interactions, and technical sessions, the conference contributed significantly to fostering environmental awareness, cultural sensitivity scholarly engagement, and sustainable thinking. The event reaffirmed the commitment of Government Arts College, Maninagar to promoting research, sustainability, and responsible stewardship of the planet for future generations.

