

## Profile of Dr. Shiraz Wajih

Dr. Shiraz Wajih is a well-known environmentalist, development professional, and policy advocate, currently serving as the President of the Gorakhpur Environment Action Group (GEAG). He is widely respected for his long-standing contributions to environmental governance, climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development, particularly in the flood- and climate-vulnerable regions of eastern Uttar Pradesh and the Gangetic plains. With decades of experience in grassroots action, research, and policy engagement, Dr. Wajih has emerged as a prominent voice linking community-based initiatives with national and international development frameworks.

Dr. Wajih's academic background and professional training have equipped him with a strong interdisciplinary perspective, integrating environmental science, development studies, and public policy. Throughout his career, he has emphasized evidence-based decision-making and participatory approaches, ensuring that environmental and climate interventions remain socially inclusive, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable. His work reflects a deep understanding of the complex interconnections between ecosystems, livelihoods, governance structures, and vulnerable communities.

As President of the Gorakhpur Environment Action Group, Dr. Shiraz Wajih has provided strategic leadership to one of India's most respected civil society organizations working at the intersection of environment and development. Under his guidance, GEAG has implemented numerous innovative projects focused on climate change adaptation, flood resilience, wetland conservation, sustainable agriculture, urban planning, and disaster preparedness. His leadership has strengthened GEAG's role as a knowledge-driven organization that combines grassroots action with policy advocacy and research.

A central theme of Dr. Wajih's work has been climate resilience in flood-prone regions. He has been closely associated with initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerability to recurrent floods and extreme weather events in eastern Uttar Pradesh. These initiatives include promoting flood-resilient agriculture, water-sensitive urban planning, ecosystem-based adaptation, and community-led disaster risk reduction strategies. His efforts have contributed to improved preparedness, adaptive capacity, and livelihood security for thousands of households living in high-risk environments.

Dr. Shiraz Wajih has played a significant role in advancing the concept of ecosystem-based approaches to development. He has consistently highlighted the importance of wetlands, rivers, forests, and urban green spaces in enhancing climate resilience and environmental sustainability. Through research, advocacy, and demonstration projects, he has helped bring attention to the role of natural ecosystems in flood mitigation, water security, biodiversity conservation, and urban resilience. His work has influenced planning processes at local and state levels, particularly in the context of environmentally sensitive urban development.

In addition to field-based work, Dr. Wajih has made substantial contributions to policy dialogue and institutional processes. He has actively engaged with government agencies, academic institutions, and international organizations on issues related to climate change, disaster risk reduction, sustainable cities, and environmental governance. His expertise has been sought in advisory committees, consultations, and expert groups, where he has advocated for integrating climate resilience and social equity into development planning and infrastructure investments. Dr. Shiraz Wajih has also contributed to knowledge generation and dissemination through research papers, policy briefs, technical reports, and public commentary. His writings emphasize practical solutions grounded in field experience, highlighting lessons learned from community-based adaptation and participatory planning. He has been a regular participant and speaker at national and international conferences, workshops, and forums, where he shares insights on climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and inclusive development pathways.

Capacity building and public awareness form another important dimension of Dr. Wajih's work. He has played a key role in training local government officials, community leaders, civil society practitioners, and young professionals on climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development practices. Through these efforts, he has contributed to strengthening institutional capacities and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and climate awareness at multiple levels of society.

Dr. Wajih's leadership approach is characterized by collaboration, inclusivity, and long-term vision. He has successfully built partnerships across sectors, bringing together communities, researchers, policymakers, and development agencies to address complex environmental and climate challenges. His ability to bridge the gap between grassroots realities and policy frameworks has been a defining feature of his professional journey.

Overall, Dr. Shiraz Wajih stands out as a committed environmental leader and development practitioner whose work has had a lasting impact on climate resilience and sustainable development in India. As President of GEAG, he continues to champion nature-based solutions, community-centered development, and evidence-informed policy advocacy, contributing significantly to building resilient ecosystems and societies in the face of climate change.