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# VEDITUM INDIA FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT: FY 2024 - 2025



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## PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Date of publishing of report - 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Cover image: Mayflies over the Chambal, by Siddharth Agarwal

Back cover : Exploring a local stream with kids of Happy Children's Library (Seem Village), by Siddharth Agarwal

Original report design created by Mehuli Das (Summer 2023 intern)

Design updated in 2025 by Madappa PS

People currently at Veditum:

- Aishani Goswami (Associate)
- Madappa PS (Communications Associate)
- Mohit M Rao (Moving Upstream Luni Fellowship co-lead)
- Pawan Kumar Agarwal (Accounts & Book Keeping)
- Priyans Murarka (Volunteer: 1+ day per week)
- Rhea Lopez (Associate)
- Siddharth Agarwal (Founder)

To checkout our earlier activity reports, head to this link: <https://veditum.org/veditum-activity-reports/>

# VEDITUM'S YEAR IN NUMBERS



11

PUBLICATIONS



362

APPLICATIONS TO  
WORK WITH VEDITUM



>60%

APPLICATIONS FROM  
WOMEN



600+

VOLUNTEERING HOURS  
WITH VEDITUM



6

NEW PARTNER  
ORGANISATIONS



50

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS  
EVENTS | SCREENINGS |  
WORKSHOPS | LECTURES



5

NEW PEOPLE

INTERNS | FULL TIME



5

FEATURES & AWARDS

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# VEDITUM'S YEAR IN NUMBERS



**16,000+**

TOTAL FOLLOWERS  
ACROSS PLATFORMS



**2,500+**

REPORTS ARCHIVED ON  
INDIA SAND WATCH



**8,00,000+**

IMPRESSIONS ON  
SOCIAL PLATFORMS  
& WEB



**7000+**

DOCUMENTARY VIEWS



**63,000+**

VIEWS ON  
WEBSITES & NEWSLETTER

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**Dear reader,**

Thank you for your interest in our work at Veditum. The past year (April 2024 - March 2025) saw us build momentum with our approach and projects.

Our work through India Sand Watch to protect India's rivers from destructive sand mining has gained significant pace. The Moving Upstream project continues its deep storytelling work and mission as a transformative program. Team Veditum has been participating in residency programs, conducting workshops & attending conferences, bringing new funding partners on board, and also taking breaks together through our newly instituted team retreats. Most importantly, we continue to expand our collaborations across disciplines and push for a systems thinking approach in addressing climate challenges.

Veditum also received the Action Grant 2024 by The Habitats Trust, for our project India Sand Watch.

With your interest and support, we hope to continue doing meaningful work. Do enjoy reading the report!

**Siddharth Agarwal**

Founder, Veditum India Foundation

asid@veditum.org

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# ACCOUNTS & ADMINISTRATION



## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

In the Financial Year 2024 - 2025, we saw an increase in funds raised through individual donors. This is important for us as our work expands, allowing us to have some amount of fiscal freedom for exploring new ideas.

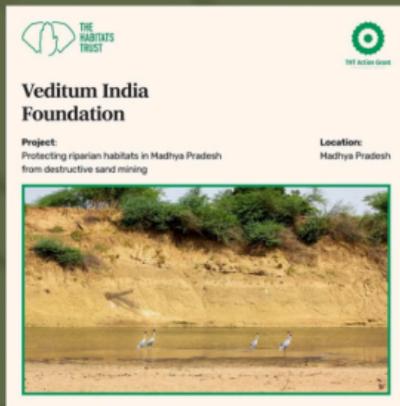
We invite you to become a recurring donor to Veditum, committing a certain amount annually towards our work. You can donate directly at this link - [veditum.org/DL-AR-25](https://veditum.org/DL-AR-25) - or see the next few pages to support us via our annual fundraiser!

## INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

We're happy to share that along with our existing partners - Rainmatter Foundation by Zerodha, we now also have The Habitats Trust and Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies as funding partners for Veditum.

This provides much needed long term programmatic and organisational support for our work.

We're happy to share that India Sand Watch is one of the recipients of the Action Grant 2024 by The Habitats Trust!



Interested in protecting India's rivers from destructive sand mining? Let's work together!

Email us at: [sandwatch@veditum.org](mailto:sandwatch@veditum.org)  
Learn more: [sandwatch.in](http://sandwatch.in)

## ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATION

# ACTION GRANT: THE HABITATS TRUST

Veditum is one of the recipients of the Action Grant 2024 from The Habitats Trust.

Our project is titled: **Protecting riparian habitats in Madhya Pradesh from destructive sand mining.** This is part of our project India Sand Watch.

This work will happen in collaboration with actors across disciplines from the state, and the systems created through this process will be possible to use for similar action in other parts of India.

You can read more about the grant here:

[THT Action Grant 2024 : Veditum India Foundation](#)

**VEDITUM INDIA FOUNDATION**  
*fundraiser: August 2024*

**AMOUNT RAISED: INR 4,27,450**

**TARGET AMOUNT: INR 5,00,000**

*Thank you dear supporters & contributors for helping us run a successful fundraiser to support Veditum's work of conserving and protecting India's rivers*

*We have paused the active campaigning for the fundraiser, but the link to the fundraiser is still live and folks can still make a contribution when possible!*

VISIT THIS LINK TO DONATE  
[veditum.org/VFC24-25](https://veditum.org/VFC24-25)



## ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATION

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN - PAST YEAR

We ran our annual fundraising campaign over the month of August 2024 - and were touched by your generosity and support for our work.

Contributions came in from all corners. Old friends, family, past fellows and interns of Veditum, students, well wishers on the internet, and more. Their donations ranged from INR 200 to INR 40,000

By the end of the campaign, through donations from 80 supporters, we were able to raise **INR 4,27,450** of our **INR 5,00,000** target!

**VEDITUM INDIA FOUNDATION**

*fundraiser: August 2025*

**TARGET AMOUNT: INR 8,00,000**

*Do you care for India's Rivers?*

*Support action driven grassroots documentation and awareness work for our rivers.*

VISIT THIS LINK TO DONATE  
[veditum.org/VFC25-26](https://veditum.org/VFC25-26)

or

SCAN THE QR CODE



*campaign ends: 31st August 2025*

## ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATION

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN - CURRENT YEAR

We're excited to share with you Veditum's annual public fundraising campaign for FY 2025-2026, which will run through the month of August 2025. Our target amount for this year's campaign is INR 8,00,000.

Apart from our regular programming, your contribution this year will also support the community hub being currently put together at our new office in Kolkata.

We invite you to contribute to the fundraiser and also share this in your networks! The poster for the fundraiser is available on the left, and here's the link to donate: [Veditum Fundraiser 25-26.](https://veditum.org/VFC25-26)

Thank you for your support!

## TEAM MEMBERS

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We recruited one new team member for the position of Communication Associate this year (May 2025).

**Madappa PS** joins us with experience in the development sector working on Commons and Communications. The addition to the team will help us bring more of our work to all our supporters and into the public domain!

We received over a 100 applications for this role, and are happy to report that a significant number of applications were received from women, non-binary, and queer applicants.



Madappa PS

# MOVING UPSTREAM

*Intimate Walking Journeys Documenting India's Rivers and Riparian Ecosystems*



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MOVING UPSTREAM : LAST YEAR IN NUMBERS



7

ARTICLES PUBLISHED



4

SCREENINGS OF MOVING  
UPSTREAM:GANGA



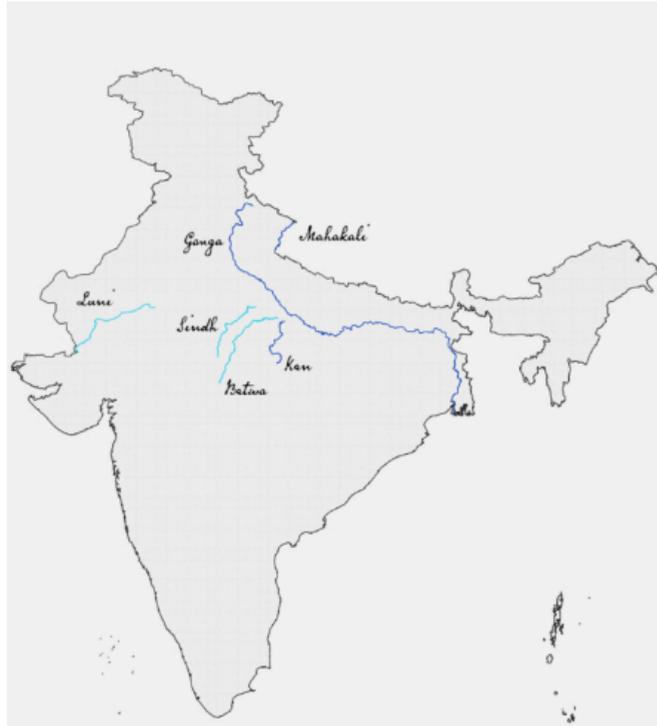
10+

EVENTS AND TALKS



7000+

DOCUMENTARY VIEWS



Map showing the rivers walked as part of our Moving Upstream project and fellowship program.

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## MOVING UPSTREAM

# MOVING UPSTREAM

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Since 2016, we have walked over 6000kms across rivers in India.

Rivers Ganga, River Ken, and River Mahakali have been walked as part of our Moving Upstream program.

Rivers Betwa, Sindh and Luni have been walked as part of our Moving Upstream Fellowship program that we co-host with the Out of Eden Walk & School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi.

The fellowship program is a subset of the project.

# MOVING UPSTREAM: FELLOWSHIP

OUT OF EDEN WALK



The School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi, @ Veditum invite you to

## STORIES FROM RIVER LUNI

Join us for a storytelling and interaction event with fellows from the Moving Upstream Luni Fellowship

They will narrate stories @ share audio-visuals from their 500+ kms walk along River Luni in Rajasthan

**In person @ IIT Delhi**  
 10:30am - 2pm  
 Sunday, 1st December

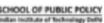


scan QR or sign up here:  
[veditum.org/luni2024](https://veditum.org/luni2024)










Poster of our storytelling event

### MOVING UPSTREAM:FELLOWSHIP

## MOVING UPSTREAM: LUNI

The walk along river Luni as part of the Moving Upstream Luni Fellowship that we co-hosted with the School of Public Policy at IIT Delhi was completed in March 2024.

In the year 2024-2025 we've continued to publish stories from the Fellowship on Veditum's website, hosted a public storytelling event, and created opportunities through collaborations for our fellows to share their stories. Publications like 101 Reporters and CarbonCopy have also carried stories from the fellowship.

In the section, you will see some of the writings and features from the Moving Upstream Luni fellowship, with some public speaking efforts appearing in subsequent sections.

## PUBLISHING FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

The joy and tragedies of River Luni | Saurav Vaishnav & Vandita Sariya | Veditum  
<https://veditum.org/2024/07/11/the-joy-and-tragedies-of-river-luni-samdhari-pichiyak/>

How the realities of Luni defy our imaginations of a river | Madhuri Sharma | Veditum  
<https://veditum.org/2024/11/14/the-imaginations-and-realities-of-a-river/>

Pipes and pomegranates: Unfolding surprises along River Luni | Avisha Jain | Veditum  
<https://veditum.org/2025/03/23/pipes-and-pomegranates/>

एक रूपांतरति नदी की कहानी – लूणी | Satish Malviya | Veditum  
<https://veditum.org/2025/06/29/a-transforming-luni/>

## PUBLISHING FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

### 101 REPORTERS

Luni Fellow Satish Malviya's article on the sandy marshes of the Luni was published by 101 Reporters. The article explores the impact of the Narmada Canal systems - the functioning and the non-functioning components - in Southern Rajasthan.

Read the article here: [Curse of the canal](#)

### CARBONCOPY

Luni Fellow Vandita Sariya's article on the complex role of *Neltuma juliflora* was published on CarbonCopy. The article explores how the invasive tree has become an integral part of the local ecology and economy and poses a serious ecological question.

Read the article here: [Kill or Keep: A Thorny Invasive Shrub is Shaking Up India's Ecosystem](#)



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## MOVING UPSTREAM: FELLOWSHIP

# STORYTELLING FROM THE LUNI FELLOWSHIP

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The School of Public Policy at IIT Delhi in collaboration with Veditum hosted a storytelling session on campus in December 2024. This was facilitated by our collaborator at IIT Delhi - Dr. Pooja Prasad.

7 of our 8 fellows from our Moving Upstream Luni Fellowship were present. They narrated stories and showcased audio-visuals from their 500+ kms walk along River Luni in Rajasthan. We also put up a small exhibit of pictures, stories and maps, at the venue.

It was a well attended event, especially for a winter morning in Delhi.



Fellows, organisers and participants at the storytelling session  
at IIT Delhi

## STORYTELLING FROM THE FELLOWSHIP



Vaishnavi speaking at ALT-EFF Voices in Goa

### ALT-EFF VOICES

Fellows Vandita, Saurav and Vaishnavi, from various iterations of the Moving Upstream Fellowship spoke at 3 different stages across the country as part of ALT-EFF Voices. They shared their stories and learnings from walking along rivers Luni and Sindh.



Moving Upstream at Justicemakers Mela

### JUSTICEMAKERS MELA

Hosted by Aditi at the Justicemakers Mela in Bhopal, Kabini Amin, Aishani Goswami, & Satish Malviya, fellows from the Moving Upstream Fellowship along rivers Betwa, Sindh and Luni, along with Siddharth, participated in a story telling session designed in the form of a human library. Listeners got an opportunity to have 1 on 1 conversations with these river walkers.

## THE FELLOWSHIP AT CONFERENCES

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RIVERS, VMLS

Fellows Hassan S Islam and Madhuri Sharma, from the Luni Fellowship program, presented their paper at the International Conference on Rivers organised by the Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS). Their presentation - "What are the values a river holds? The story of Luni River, Rajasthan" - was well received, and earned them the award of Best Paper Presentation in their session.



Hassan and Madhuri presenting at the International Conference on Rivers

### SCCS BENGALURU

Hassan also made a presentation at the Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) Bengaluru, titled - "What are the values a river holds? The socio-ecological and cultural tragedy of the Luni River".



Hassan presenting at SCCS

# MOVING UPSTREAM: GANGA





Poster of Moving Upstream: Ganga

## MOVING UPSTREAM: GANGA

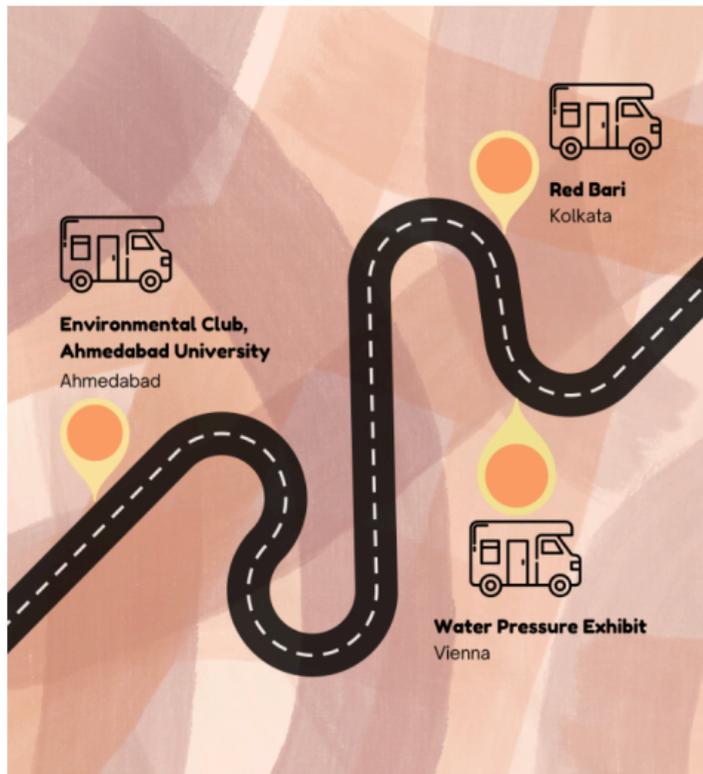
# MOVING UPSTREAM: GANGA

As part of this project, Siddharth walked 3000km along the River Ganga in the years 2016-2017.

Our documentary from this walk - 'Moving Upstream: Ganga', was made open access via YouTube on 3rd April 2024. In the time since then, it has had 7000+ views

The documentary continues to be shown at various festivals and institutions across the world, and at community screenings.

Watch it here: [Moving Upstream:Ganga](#)



Screenings and exhibits of Moving Upstream: Ganga

## MOVING UPSTREAM: GANGA

# MOVING UPSTREAM: GANGA - SCREENINGS & EXHIBITIONS

On occasion of World Environment Day Celebrations in 2024, we hosted a screening in Kolkata, followed by a discussion with Siddharth. We had a full house at the screening!

The Environmental Club of Ahmedabad University hosted a screening of our film Moving Upstream: Ganga, followed by an interactive discussion with Veditum's Aishani Goswami.

Parts of the film have been included in the traveling [WATER PRESSURE](#) exhibit that has been put together by Museum für angewandte Kunst (MAK), Vienna in cooperation with the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg (MK&G) and Jane Withers Studio, London.

# INDIA SAND WATCH

*India Sand Watch is an environmental accountability project, protecting India's rivers from unsustainable and destructive sand mining. At its heart is an open data platform.*



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INDIA SAND WATCH : IN NUMBERS



450+

REGISTRATIONS FOR  
ISW EVENTS



6+

PARTNERS INVOLVED



90+

RIVERS WITH SAND  
MINING DATA  
IDENTIFIED LAST YEAR

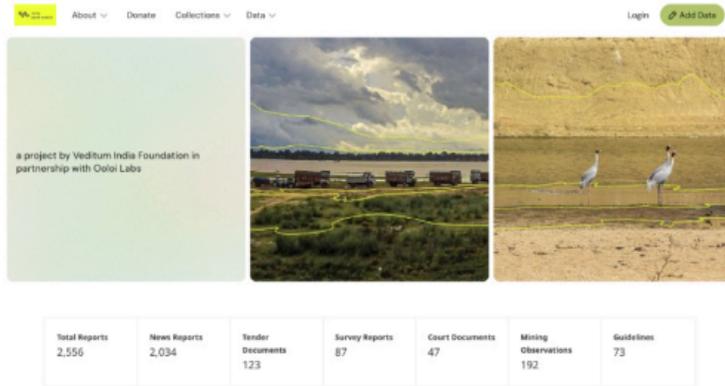


2500+

REPORTS ON INDIA SAND  
WATCH

## INDIA SAND WATCH

# INDIA SAND WATCH



A screenshot of the India Sand Watch website. The top navigation bar includes links for 'About', 'Donate', 'Collections', and 'Data', along with 'Login' and 'Add Data' buttons. Below the navigation is a header section with a green background on the left containing the text 'a project by Veditum India Foundation in partnership with Ooloi Labs'. To the right are two images: one showing a landscape with sand mining activity and another showing two birds in a sandy area. Below the images is a table with the following data:

Total Reports	New Reports	Tender Documents	Survey Reports	Court Documents	Mining Observations	Guidelines
2,556	2,034	123	87	47	192	73

A screenshot of the India Sand Watch website

India Sand Watch (ISW) deploys a systems thinking approach to protect India's rivers from unsustainable and destructive sand mining. At the heart of this approach is an open data platform.

This data archive coupled with various strategies being deployed for evidence generation & monitoring of mining activity at scale, and assessment of records & processes, is bringing in accountability in the sector.

The initiative has been supported by Rainmatter Foundation since 2022, and this year we also have The Habitats Trust joining in with support.

Explore the archive here: [India Sand Watch](#)

# INDIA SAND WATCH PARTNERS



Project partners



Event partners in the last year

## INDIA SAND WATCH: 1 YEAR

### ISW: A YEAR IN REVIEW

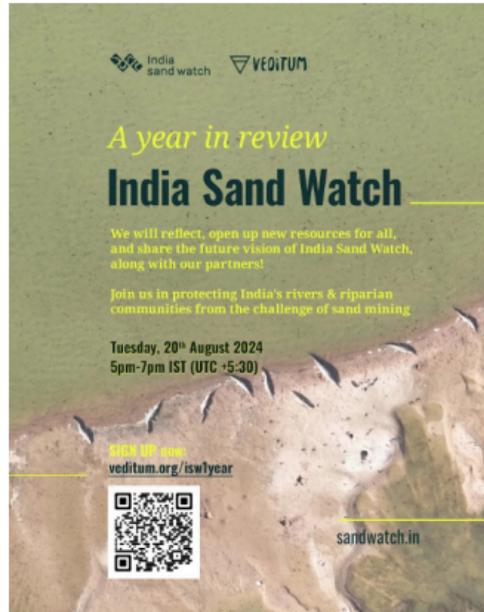
In August 2024, we held an open public event to review our progress in the 1 year since India Sand Watch went public.

Along with the ISW team, our partners from Agami, Ooloi Labs, UC Berkeley, Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), and Youth Ki Awaaz, also shared the work that we have done together to advance protection for rivers and to enable positive action.

In August 2025, we will be hosting an event to review the progress in year 2. If you're interested in joining us, email [sandwatch@veditum.org](mailto:sandwatch@veditum.org)

The recording from last year's event can be found here:

[\*\*A Year in review - India Sand Watch\*\*](#)



Poster inviting our supporters to join the 1 year review event

## MINING OBSERVATIONS & PREDICTIONS



Looking at the river Chambal with Tarun Nair from WCT



### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST (WCT)

Our work intersects well with the Freshwater Ecosystems focus within WCT's work. Through our partnership, we are focussing on the challenge of sand mining in the conservation of the Gharial. Additionally, WCT's extensive field work in the Gangetic basin also surfaces a large dataset of mining activities in these rivers.

### SCHOOL OF INFORMATION, UC BERKELEY

With our collaborators Ando and Suraj, a machine learning model has been trained to identify at scale sand mining activity on India's rivers.

A set of mining predictions can already be seen on the ISW website, with an aim to start generating a wider set of frequent predictions for India's rivers.

## OUTREACH & AWARENESS

### DATA SPRINTS

Our Data Sprints bring together communities of open-data enthusiasts, and people concerned about rivers, to participate in a collective, day-long, intensive data digitisation effort. In the last financial year, we conducted 3 data sprints - 2 online and 1 in-person.

Through these 3 sprints, 100 participants spent countless hours archiving 1000s of data points related to sand mining in India's rivers.

For these data sprints we partner with other organisations to co-host the sprints with us. We've had the Alliance for Conserving Freshwater Ecosystems, Awaaz Leadership Labs, India Rivers Forum, and Samagata Foundation, as co-hosts last year.

You can checkout detailed reports & visualisations from our sprints here:

[ISW DATA SPRINTS](#)



Participants at the South India Data Sprint

## OUTREACH & AWARENESS

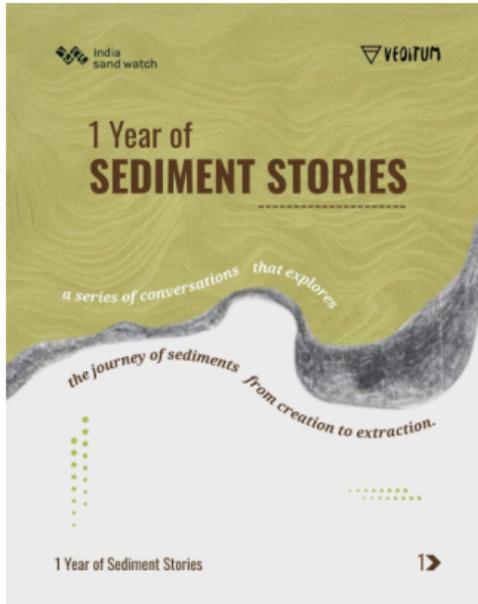
### SEDIMENT STORIES

Sediment Stories started as a conversation series a year ago, to explore a new way of looking at sediments from their creation to extraction.

Since then, we've spoken to journalists, researchers, academics, and entrepreneurs to understand their work as it relates to sediments. They also helped us understand the different roles played by sediments in ecosystems such as rivers and estuaries, the challenges faced by journalists in reporting on sand mining, and how their work reduces the need for fresh sand extraction.

On completion of 1 year of Sediment Stories, we did a recap into the learnings offered by our speakers, and played it back for a larger audience.

Find all the session recordings at this link: [Sediment Stories](#)



A glimpse of our social media post that shared 1 Year of Sediment Stories

# EVENTS & PUBLIC SPEAKING



## EVENTS / CONFERENCES



Glimpses from the Open NyAI Residency 2024

### OPEN NyAI MAKERS RESIDENCY

The Veditum team participated in the Open NyAI Makers residency hosted by Agami in September 2024 at the TinkerHub Space in Kochi.

We brainstormed, discussed, and co-defined a problem statement between a group of people with backgrounds in law, technology and the development sector.

In the context of our project - India Sand Watch, and our work on evidence collection for environmental accountability, we identified challenges in the overall environmental governance landscape that could possibly be solved with technology and prototyped solutions.

Read more about it here: [Veditum in Kochi](#)

## EVENTS / CONFERENCES



Pictures from Veditum's stall at Who's Who, SCCS 2024

### SCCS BANGALORE '24

The Veditum team was in Bengaluru for the Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) in October 2024.

### WHO'S WHO

At SCCS, we had a stall in the 'Who's Who' segment, showcasing the breadth of our work across projects, through posters, handouts, interactive activities, postcards, stickers, and some of the creative and insightful outputs created by our fellows from the Moving Upstream project.

Visitors heard about our work, asked curious questions, wrote postcards, and interacted with the displayed artefacts.

## EVENTS / CONFERENCES



Notes and reflections from our participants during the workshop

### USING OPEN DATA & COLLABORATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY

We hosted a workshop where participants developed their own problem statements and stakeholder maps for a variety of threats, listed the data they would possibly need to build evidence for their respective problem statements, and looked up sources where they could find this data.

Through the workshop, we offered a template to look at complex problems from a systems lens. While the participants worked on their chosen problem statement, we guided them on how to systematically create a framework to describe their problem statements.

Read more about our experience here: [Veditum at SCCS](#)

## EVENTS / CONFERENCES



Pictures from the exhibition area at VMLS

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RIVERS, VMLS, MAHABALIPURAM

The Veditum team travelled to the beautiful coastal town of Mahabalipuram, for the International Conference on Rivers (ICR) hosted by Vinayaka Mission's Law School.

Rhea and Siddharth from the Veditum team co-chaired different sessions on river policy, engaging with students and researchers about this critical topic.

We also put up an exhibition - Beyond Boundaries - of photos from our Moving Upstream project and fellowship. This was setup alongside the exhibition put up by Eklavya Prasad of Megh Pyne Abhiyan, showcasing stunning and impactful images of river floods from Bihar.

## EVENTS / CONFERENCES

### JUSTICEMAKERS MELA

At the Justicemakers Mela 2024 hosted by Agami in Bhopal, we were surrounded by vibrant decorations, enthusiastic attendees, and inspiring justicemakers from different fields.

Veditum co-curated parts of the mela, and spent time conducting workshops and sharing our work, stories and imaginations. We had a stall at the Innovation Pop Up with interactive displays about our work informing evidence creation and governance of sand mining in India.

Siddharth and Akshay (from Ooloi Labs), hosted a workshop called Maps for Justice, exploring new ways of mapping, and maps in the justice space, and even mapping the venue!



Pictures from the mela opening (top) and Maps for Justice workshop

## EVENTS / CONFERENCES



A moment from our mining data party (top) and participants at Veditum's innovation pop-up

### JUSTICEMAKERS MELA

Kabini Amin, a fellow from the Moving Upstream: Betwa fellowship co-hosted a crafty workshop with [Samarth](#), helping attendees tell changemaking stories through colourful zines!

We hosted a Mining Data party to archive court documents to the India Sand Watch platform, with attendees from the law and justice space.

Rhea was part of an exciting panel discussion on alternative forms of evidence in environmental justice cases and asserting traditional land rights.

Read more about it here: [Veditum at JusticeMakers Mela](#)

## EVENTS / CONFERENCES

### 4TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP, URBAN WATERS FORUM

In February 2025, Siddharth attended the Urban Waters conference in Dhanbad, hosted by the Urban Waters initiative by Wipro Foundation.

### ACM COMPASS 2024, NEW DELHI

Siddharth shared Veditum's work from the India Sand Watch project at the CoRE Stack RIC (Research to Impact Collaborative) at ACM COMPASS 2024.

### WATER COMMONS DIALOGUE, IISER PUNE

In March 2025, Siddharth participated and contributed to the dialogue on Water Commons, aimed at exploring and deliberating a framework for deepening social accountability in the governance of water as a commons.



Field work during the Urban waters conference



Siddharth speaking at the CoRE Stack RIC

## PUBLIC SPEAKING



Siddharth at the INK talk

### INK TALK

Siddharth was inducted as an INK fellow last year.

On 17th October 2024, Siddharth delivered his INK Talk at Bengaluru where he shared his experiences from walking along India's rivers, his learnings from addressing systemic challenges like sand mining through technology, open-data and collaborations, and his philosophy on the value of slowing down!

His talk highlighted Veditum's approach of creatively using technology and collaborations to deal with daunting, systemic challenges to our rivers.

Watch the talk here : [Siddharth's INK Talk](#)

## PUBLIC SPEAKING



### PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA

In March 2025, Siddharth delivered a talk titled "Learning about India's rivers by walking along them and protecting them through open data" at a 2 day workshop organised by Dr. Priyank Patel at the Dept. of Geography, Presidency University in Kolkata.



### ALT EFF 2024

As Knowledge Partners with All Living Things Environmental Film Festival's 2024 edition, the Veditum team spoke to audiences across 3 states about our work with rivers through different lenses.

Aishani spoke in Ahmedabad, Rhea in Goa, and Siddharth in Bangalore.

Siddharth at Presidency University (top)  
Aishani in Ahmedabad (left), Rhea in Goa

## PUBLIC SPEAKING



Siddharth was part of the panel at the IUCN World Species Congress 2024



Siddharth in conversation with other panelists at the talk

### SPECIES IN SPOTLIGHT, GHARIAL: IUCN WORLD SPECIES CONGRESS 2024 (ONLINE)

In May 2024, Siddharth presented as a panelist at the 'Species in Spotlight, Gharial' session organised as part of IUCN World Species Congress 2024.

### INDIA WATER SUSTAINABILITY FORUM, BY SOULACE

Siddharth co-designed and co-curated this event along with CSR research & advisory firm SoulAce. He was also one of the speakers on the panel - Water and Climate Resilience

The audience included over 50 heads of CSR from medium to large corporations of India.

# AWARDS / RECOGNITION



# 2024 INK Fellows



Abhishek  
Likam



Akshat  
Dave



Ashiwini  
Hiremath



Chandrashekhar  
Mandala



Richa  
Gupta



Rishi  
Sharma



Sarjan  
Shah



Siddharth  
Agarwal



Vibha  
Nadig

Siddharth along with the rest of the INK Fellowship Cohort of 2024

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

# INK FELLOWSHIP

Veditum founder Siddharth Agarwal was inducted as an INK fellow by the INK Global Foundation in the 2024 cohort.

Recognition of the deep & foundational work we do at Veditum is slow to come, but we're happy when it's meaningful, especially when we are placed in a cohort of outstanding changemakers from across disciplines.

The INK Fellowship opens up new networks, possibilities of collaborations, and access to an inspiring peer group of over 200 change makers.

Read more about the Fellowship here: [INK Fellows](#)

# INTERVIEWS & FEATURES





Illustrations by Kabini Amin

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## INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

# A BANK OF POSSIBILITIES

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The wonderful folks at Agami (Aditi Kim Karolil and Sachin Malhan) did a deep dive into the evolution, thinking, working, vision and more, of the work we do at Veditum India Foundation, and created a long form profile.

Weaving things together in this profile are a video from the Luni Fellowship, and gorgeous illustrations related to our work at India Sand Watch by designer & illustrator [Kabini Amin](#) (also a fellow from an earlier iteration of Veditum's Moving Upstream fellowship program).

Read the profile here: [A Bank of Possibilities](#)



## Episode 8. Open Data Linking Observations about Sand Mining

[READ MORE](#)



THIS POST IS PART OF A SERIES



Screenshot from the podcast website

### Understanding the sand mining crisis in India's rivers

CHANGE PLANET | PUBLISHED 07 MAY 2024



Screenshot of the article

## INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

### DATA DIALOGUES PODCAST

Siddharth from Veditum spoke to Madhuri Karak on the Data Dialogues podcast by the Open Environmental Data Podcast. They discussed the India Sand Watch project.

Listen to it here: [Data Dialogues Podcast](#)

### THRED MAG

This piece about the issue of sand mining in India's rivers, highlights our work at India Sand Watch in addressing this challenge, along with the work of our partners - Wildlife Conservation Trust, as technological and grassroots attempts crating awareness and accountability around sand mining

Read it here: [Understanding the sand mining crisis in India's rivers](#)

# COLLABORATIONS & PUBLICATIONS



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COLLABORATIONS & PUBLICATIONS : IN NUMBERS



11,000+

VIEWS ON  
NEWSLETTER



1200+

SUBSCRIBERS FOR  
NEWSLETTER



7

PUBLICATIONS

## COLLABORATIONS

### VEDITUM X AGAMI

#### JUSTICE MAKERS MELA 2024, BHOPAL



A view of Justice Makers Mela

Team Veditum worked with Team Agami to co-curate parts of the inaugural Justice Makers Mela. We also worked together to create spaces for storytelling, design new formats for workshops, and indulge in last minute experiments.

#### MULTISPECIES DISPUTE RESOLUTION CANVAS

Veditum co-hosted the Multispecies Dispute Resolution canvas in Kolkata, part of a larger shared effort between Agami and Socratus. These canvases are an exploratory attempt at reimagining what law and justice could mean in a multispecies world.



Participants at the Canvas in Kolkata

## COLLABORATIONS

### HEAT WATCH DATA SPRINT

We helped the Heat Watch project conduct a community driven data-sprint documenting heatwaves and their devastating impacts on people's lives in India.

This was inspired by, and designed on the lines of the data sprints we have been conducting as part of our India Sand Watch project.

### ALL LIVING THINGS ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

Veditum is a Knowledge Partner for the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF).

We work together with the festival team to co-imagine possible climate initiatives, and also drive attention to their wonderful programming.



Poster from the Heat Watch Data Sprint

## PUBLISHING - VEDITUM

**A year in review – India Sand Watch – event recap | Veditum | Team Veditum**

<https://veditum.org/2024/08/26/isw1year/>

**Notes from a field trip – Chambal, Crocodiles, Canoes, and Classrooms | Veditum | Aishani and Rhea**

<https://veditum.org/2024/04/23/chambal-crocodiles-canoes-and-classrooms/>

**Justice X Tech Maker Residency + Team Retreat – Kochi | Veditum | Aishani and Rhea**

<https://veditum.org/2025/01/02/kochi-2024/>

**Veditum in Bangalore: SCCS & Data Sprint | Veditum | Aishani & Rhea**

<https://veditum.org/2025/01/08/sccs-south-sprint/>

**Veditum @ Justicemakers Mela 2024 | Veditum | Aishani & Rhea**

<https://veditum.org/2025/01/06/veditum-justicemakers-mela-2024/>

## PUBLISHING - VEDITUM

### Muddy waters: The role of sediments in river hydrology

*Sediments play a crucial role in river hydrology, influencing flow, flooding, and ecosystems. Explore their journey from mountains to the sea and see how human actions alter this natural process.*



Screenshot from India Water Portal

### MUDDY WATERS

Aishani and Rhea from our team published their first piece in a series for India Water Portal where they discuss the crucial role played by sediments in river systems.

Read the piece here: [Muddy Waters](#)

### INDIA SAND WATCH: A JOURNEY MAP

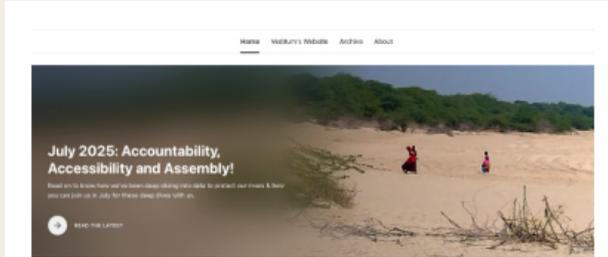
In collaboration with Aditi from Agami, and Kabini Amin (artist & Moving Upstream fellow), we co-created a scroll that documents the journey of the India Sand Watch project. It is a meandering dive into the many streams of ideas and inspiration that come together to create change.

Check the scroll here: [India Sand Watch: A Journey Map](#)



Siddharth, Kabini and Aditi with the scroll at Justice Makers Mela 2024

## VEDITUM'S NEWSLETTER



It has been 3 years since we started off our monthly newsletter. Along with updates from Veditum, we try to offer interesting reading suggestions and updates from our partner network as well.

We've been fairly consistent with the frequency of our posts, while also being mindful to not spam our subscribers. In FY 2024-2025 we sent out a total of 13 posts (over 12 months).



Our subscriber base has organically grown over this period (300+ new subscribers over the year), with a decent 35% of subscribers opening our emails.

Subscribe here: [Veditum's Newsletter](#)

# INTERNSHIPS AT VEDITUM



## CALL FOR INTERNS summer '25 with Veditum

PERIOD: MAY - JULY 2025

ROLES: POLICY RESEARCH / MULTIMEDIA

REMUNERATION: ₹10,000/MONTH

APPLICATION DETAILS HERE:

[veditum.org/interns2025](https://veditum.org/interns2025)



apply by 10th March 2025



INTERNSHIPS AT VEDITUM

## INDIA SAND WATCH

As part of our efforts to engage young minds in environmental topics through an active lens of environmental justice and governance, we are continuing with our internship program.

Last year, we had 6 interns working with us, selected from a pool of 150+ applicants.

This year, 4 interns are working with us, selected from a pool of 250+ applicants.

Ashwin, Khushi, Sunidhi, and Yogeshwar are currently working with us to create reports on various facets (Policy, Law, District Level documents, etc) of the state of river sand mining activity in Madhya Pradesh state.

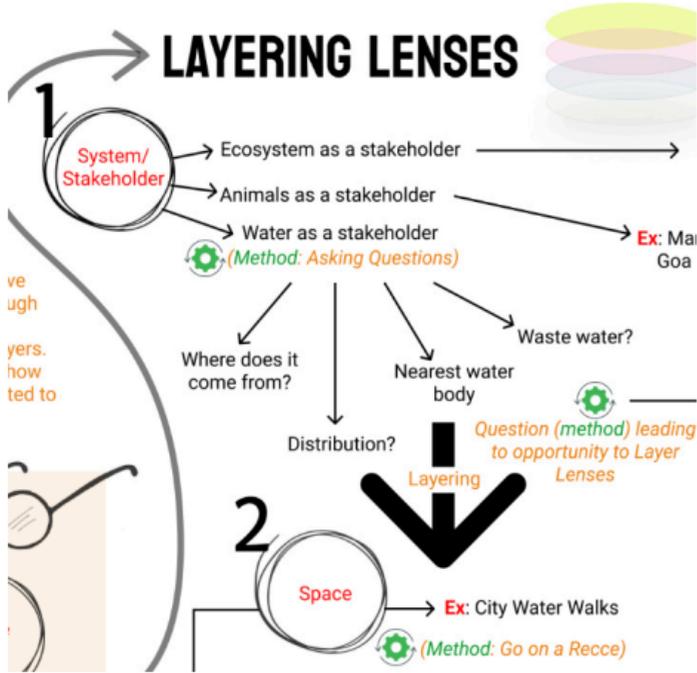
# CITY WATER WALKS

Building upon the slow development of our project - City Water Walks, Malavika Nair, an intern from last year worked under the guidance of Siddharth (Veditum) and Akshay (Ooloi Labs), both of whom had collaboratively thought up the idea of this project many years ago.

Malavika worked to dig deep into the philosophy of how an initiative such as this project comes to life. She spoke to leaders of numerous such initiatives from across India.

We now have a toolkit that we're hoping to deploy, towards City Water Walks surely, but also as a method to look at other resources around us.

Interested? Email [asid@veditum.org](mailto:asid@veditum.org)



Screenshot from Malavika's presentation board

# NEW INITIATIVES



## TEAM RETREAT

Starting this year, we've instituted a new practice for our team. Team Retreats, twice a year. Our first retreat took us to Fort Kochi in October 2024.

We explored the old town of Fort Kochi, visited Museums, and true to form, we went on long, slow walks observing the people, places and happenings around us, punctuated by animated discussions about trees, birds and architecture.

*"Beyond the fact that the team works remotely and informal time spent together goes a long way in making things work smoothly on the regular, I recognise the incredible amount of sincere hard work that the team puts in. Not to forget that our choice of work theme forces us to deal with very disturbing information every day. This is a well deserved break for the team" - Siddharth*



The team at Kochi, Kerala

## KOLKATA CHANGE MAKERS

In the last year, seeds have been sown for a gentle but dedicated community of change makers in the city of Kolkata.

Kickstarted from a small meeting co-convened by Ayera from the Agami team and Siddharth from Veditum, the community has slowly yet surely been coming together.

Siddharth has continued to nurture this community, and there were a total of 3 such gatherings that were hosted last year.

These have been in collaboration with Changemakers from Kolkata like Sachin Malhan (Agami), and Change Makers in Kolkata like Aishik Saha (Avagam) & Meghdut RoyChowdhury (Techno India Group).

We aim to continue nurturing this community, and support change making in and from the city.



Pictures from the various Kolkata Changemakers gatherings

**OUR WORK IS  
SUPPORTED BY**



# FUNDING PARTNERS

This is apart from the numerous individual donors who continue to be our strength



Current funding partners

OP JAIN FOUNDATION



Past funding partners

# PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



# PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

a non-exhaustive list



IDEAS  
THAT SERVE  
JUSTICE

agaumi



Alliance for  
Conserving  
Freshwater  
Ecosystems



ALT  
EFF



Awaaz  
Leadership  
Labs



Berkeley  
SCHOOL OF  
INFORMATION



IRF | INDIA  
RIVERS  
FORUM



INTERNATIONAL  
RIVERS  
people • water • life



Let  
ndia  
Breathe



manthan  
मंथन अध्ययन केंद्र

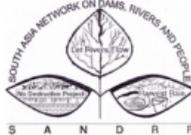


मेघ पार्वत अभियान  
Megh Parni Abhiyan



oolo Labs

OUT OF EDEN WALK



SOUTH ASIA NETWORK ON DAMS, RIVERS AND PEOPLE  
S A N D R P



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY  
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi



Wildlife  
Conservation  
Trust



YOUTH  
KI AWAAZ

# OUR APPEAL



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## OUR APPEAL

I hope you enjoyed reading through the report, learnt a thing or two, and also felt happy at what your contributions have enabled us to do.

While we have managed to receive institutional support for a couple of new projects, we hope that you will continue your financial contribution towards Veditum's work. Individual donations have built the bedrock of stability on which we're continuing our work.

Indian citizens can make a tax deductible donation (under Section 80G) to Veditum via this link: [veditum.org/DL-AR-25](https://veditum.org/DL-AR-25) or reach out if you'd like to use UPI / NEFT for a direct transfer.

In case you have any leads for institutional support, or any questions for us, please reach out to me at [asid@veditum.org](mailto:asid@veditum.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

**Siddharth Agarwal**

Founder, Veditum India Foundation

[asid@veditum.org](mailto:asid@veditum.org)

**THANK YOU FOR  
WALKING ALONG WITH US**



[www.veditum.org](http://www.veditum.org)  
[www.movingupstream.in](http://www.movingupstream.in)  
[www.sandwatch.in](http://www.sandwatch.in)

