

Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Ph.D. (Patna University, Patna) is presently Vice Chancellor of the Nalanda Open University, Patna. An internationally acclaimed scientist and Nature conservationist, Prof. Sinha was appointed as MHRD Nominee of the first Academic Council of the Central University of Bihar in 2009; Professor and Head of the Centre for Environmental Sciences of the Central University of Bihar on invitation of the Executive Council of Central University of Bihar in 2010 where he held the position of Dean of the School of Earth, Biological and Environmental sciences of Central University of Bihar, Patna; now Central University of South Bihar Prof. Sinha also held the positions of Head of the University Department of Zoology, Patna University, Patna (2014-2017); Member of the Cetacean Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN since 1994; Elected Chairman of the Asian River Dolphin Committee (1997-1999) under the aegis of Cetacean Specialist Group of International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Geneva, Switzerland; Chairman, Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore, Kolkata (2009-2012); Member of the International Congress of Ecology (INTECOL), USA; Member, RAC of the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow (1998-2001); Member, Training Research Academic Council (TRAC) of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun (2001-07); Member, RAC of the National Research Centre on Coldwater Fisheries, Bhimtal (2007-10); Member, RAC of CIFRI, Barrackpore, Kolkata (2007-10); Expert Member of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (2009-2014) under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India; Member, Training Research Academic Council of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun 2001-2008; Member Working Group of Planning Commission of India on Rivers, lakes, and aquifers for the Environment & Forests Sector for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-2012) 2006; Member, Bihar State Wildlife Board, 2001-2006 and 2010-2013; Member, Bihar State Forest and Wildlife conservation Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Bihar, 2006-08; Member, Bihar State Wetlands Development Authority, and Steering / Permanent Committee of the Wetlands Authority; Member, State Audit Advisory Board (SAAB), Office of the Accountant General (Audit) Bihar, Patna (2015-17); Member of the Program Advisory Council on Animal Sciences, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India (2007-2012); Member, State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Bihar(2011-2017); and Visitor's Nominee to the Executive Council of Mizoram University, Mizoram, Aizawl (2016-19). Prof. Sinha successfully completed over 20 nationally and internationally funded Research Projects on environmental issues, especially on River Ganga and Ganges River dolphin. He worked in collaboration with scientists of USA, UK, Japan, China, Germany, Canada, Colombia, and India; he has to his credit 119 research papers in nationally and internationally reputed journals and six books. Two documentaries, "Alert on the Ganges" and "Mr. Dolphin Sinha: think globally act locally" were produced by a French Producer in 2007 from Paris on the works of Prof. Sinha. He served as visiting Professor at Wadsworth Centre of Health, and State University of New York at Albany, New York, USA. Prof. Sinha is best known for his pioneer research and conservation to save the Ganges River dolphin from extinction. He is elected Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, recipient of several honors and awards, including the most excellent order, the Order of the Golden Ark, of the Netherlands by His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in 1999; the *Swarna Jayanti Puruskar* of the National Academy of Sciences, India in 2000; E. P. Odum Gold Medal by ISEC; and the fourth highest civilian award – Padma Shri from the President of India in 2016. He has delivered over 100 invited/plenary lectures, attended conferences and chaired scientific sessions in several countries including, UK, France, Austria, The Netherlands, Japan, China, Martinique (French West Indies), Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal. Prof. Sinha was one of the members of Indian Delegation of Government of India sent to London and Oxford, England on Water Securities in February 2016.