

# India is committed to fulfill its responsibilities towards lowering carbon footprint

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[Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates symposium and Photo Exhibition on Chilika](#)

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Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship inaugurated a unique symposium and photo exhibition titled 'The Mangalajodi Inheritance', organised by ONGC in association with the The Bhubaneswar Bird Walks, at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

The objective of the symposium and photo exhibition is to bring together opinions of experts from diverse fields to strategise a way forward towards Chilika - The largest brackish water lake - to obtain heritage status from UNESCO.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan- Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, accompanied by Shri Kenji Hiramatsu -Japanese Ambassador to India, Shri Shashi Shanker- CMD ONGC, Shri Narendra Verma- MD ONGC Videsh and Shri D D Misra - Director (HR), ONGC at the photo exhibition by Avinash Khemka, noted wildlife photographer

Shri Pradhan highlighted that the Chilika ecosystem is an integral part of the Odia psyche, history and culture and therefore its preservation is crucial. "Chilika has immense potential to be developed as an eco-tourism destination. ONGC has shown great passion in taking up the project for conservation and holistic development of Chilika, and for accordance of status of UNESCO 'World Heritage Site' for Chilika Lake. It is a commendable initiative", he said. "India is committed to fulfill its responsibilities towards lowering carbon footprint under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India by building an ecological economy to ensure sustainable development", he said. The minister appreciated the public sector oil companies for playing a stellar role to accomplish this objective. From environment protection to focus on bio-fuels and 2nd Gen ethanol fuel, many initiatives have been taken.

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