

# **A fine balancing Act in a Dog's World**

Edited by Viren Lobo

## **An Especioza Trust Production**

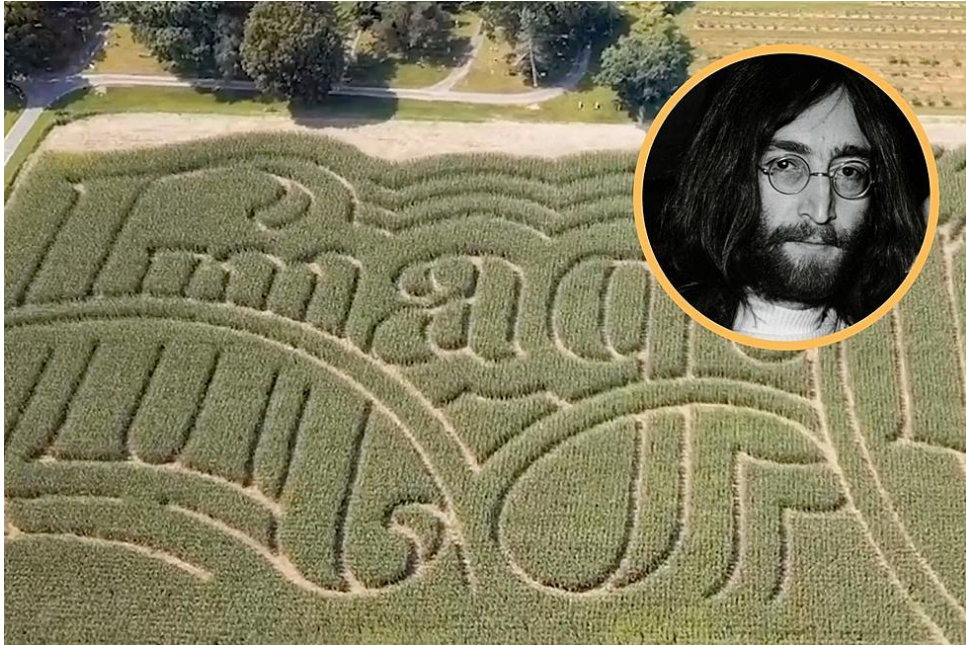
*(Dedicated to the question of Human Rights and hence released on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021)*



A chance observation in NY by Aunty Hazel on the occasion of her son Tim's birthday

# Forward

## Extracts from Equinox<sup>1</sup>



Cardozo family discovers this recently, inspired by the song sung by John Lennon and Yoko Ono fifty years ago.

we had joy we had fun we had seasons in the sun  
but the ...Like the seasons are all gone  
Goodbye to you my trusted friend  
Goodbye my friend ... its hard to die”

---

<sup>1</sup> A story recently updated by Aunty Hazel

## Background

This edition of Especioza trust makes a transition from the US-India framework while seeking continuity too. The scene shifts to Germany a country that arose a second time from a bitter and bruising World War 2. The fall of the Berlin Wall meant to symbolise freedom but in fact raised a whole lot of new questions still unanswered.

<https://ednh.news/three-lives-transformed-by-merkels-decisions/>

This picks up on a story of Slovenia told by Toby Applegate and tells a new one related to Germany. It links also to the refugee connection which was so much a part of my Aunt Marie Lobo's life in different parts of the globe.

The first story relates to a selfie taken by Syrian refugee Anas Modamani with Angela Merkel not knowing she was Chancellor of Germany, rather thought she was a film star. The selfie as expected went viral. Anas Modamani later claimed that Angela Merkel saved his life as her policy to allow refugees into Germany gave 7,00,000 Syrians a home. On the other hand the far right stoked fears about Germany being overrun by refugees. The AfD party was able to 12.6% of the vote in the 2017 elections and 10.3% in the current one.

The second is about Rolf Geuldner and President of the German Nuclear forum in 2010 (retired in 2016 but still active). After Fukushima, the German's took efforts to prove that German Nuclear plants were safe. Despite this over the next weekend a plan to shut down seven nuclear reactors was made and went offline in five months. The remaining are to be shut down by 2022. A bitter pill to swallow not only for Geuldner, for 'science' but also for all those who see their long term careers in the sector go up in ashes.

The third Constantina Kuneva once a cleaner struggling for rights for people like her set her sights on a seat in the EU parliament after the austerity measures by the EU, personified by Merkel. A bailout package according to Constantina imposed war conditions on Greece without there actually being a war. Kuneva herself was at that time recovering from a horrific acid attack suffered just months before Greece slumped into its biggest post-war crisis. She lost her sight in one eye and suffered serious damage to her vocal cords and other internal organs. Kuneva said the poor conditions in Greece meant she could not get the treatment she needed in the country and had to travel to France. "If conditions had been better (in Greece), I would not have needed to travel abroad for my surgery operations," she said. Merkel "supported this policy" that hurt the common people, Kuneva added.

From an exposure of human interest stories the lens shifts to geo-politics.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/macron-dials-pm-modi-creation-of-aukus-inclusive-indo-pacific-on-agenda-101632245895839.html>

An event embracing four continents, Australia scrapped a \$ 90 billion deal for submarines with France in favour of AUKUS (Australia, UK, US), at the time of article, India had not been roped in. This was remedied later.

<https://www.rediff.com/news/column/mkbhadrakumar-a-challenging-us-visit-for-modi/20210927.htm>

I am not going into the details of the articles posted above as that is not central to the story being told. What is the sharpening contradiction between the people and the State. What reason would be there to develop alliances targeted at China?

A people divided, a common thread uniting the stories emanating from Angela Merkel's stories and the geo-politics of the Pacific Ocean. That all countries have economic alliances with China is in sharp contrast to military alliances to surround and contain China. I will leave this here for you to ponder on.

## Dedication

### Atrij Gupta passes away<sup>2</sup>



Atrij Gupta always smiling

Message from Dr Leena Gupta his aunt

*Atrij was suffering by Duchene Muscular Dystrophy. He slowly lost all muscles, organs and yesterday he got silent attack on heart muscles. He could never stand and play since 2010. He was a brilliant student of his school. He was doing home schooling and always got 90%. He was very brave. He was terribly suffering so practically I accept his journey. But due to Covid we could not fulfil his wish to see some place; it's extremely painful for us.*

---

<sup>2</sup> Reference Atrij Ryan Centre for Holistic Living. Atrij is the nephew of my colleague Dr Leena Gupta, CEO Habitat Ecological Trust. Ryan is my nephew. Both have different versions of Congenital Muscular Dystrophy, a rare disease with no cure. Only wholistic health care can provide some relief. The dedication made in the last edition was extremely timely.





Atrij on his 14th Birthday

On behalf of the Atrij, Ryan Centre for Holistic Living would like to inform that Atrij passed away for his heavenly abode at 1.30 pm on 13<sup>th</sup> September. May his soul Rest in Peace. We pray for the bereaved family in particular Ravi, Kalpita and Kanan that they may have strength in this hour of grief. Atrij's struggle for life and healthy living and what he taught us by his life will be remembered forever as try to come to terms with this loss. His smile, zest for living and brilliant intellect stay with me as we wish him well in his heavenly abode away from suffering and helplessness he felt in his last days.

From

Sunil Dubey

*I am feeling heavily shocked. Dear Leena, try to be strong to bear this loss. You were the person who knew his medical situation at best. Try to keep yourself strong for taking care of Kanan*

Naushad Ahmed

*Sorry to hear, Viren.*

Apoorva Oza

*Sad.*

Vikram Singh

*Rip Atrij,*

*Death is nothing but a passage for the soul.*

*May you find happiness and peace with the Gods.*

Viren Lobo:

*Condolences from all my family members.*

[

Shankar Narayan

*My heartfelt condolences.... This is very very painful.*

Ryan on hearing the news of Atrij

♥-Ryan

Alpna

*Leena Its terrible to hear about your loss. My heartfelt condolences to you and your family. I pray for his soul to rest in peace and for you and your family to regain strength from this*

**Part I**

**The Story of Two Stalwarts from Maharashtra**



Hermann Bacher and Sulabha Warde



## Fr. Bacher & People led Watershed Development<sup>3</sup>

Fr. Hermann Bacher SJ

12 October 1924 – 14 September 2021

Fr. Bacher's funeral service is scheduled for today (21<sup>st</sup> September) at 14.15 hrs. (17.45 IST) at Lassalle-Haus Bad Schönbrunn, 6312 Edlibach ZG, Switzerland.

Coming from God's own beautiful land of Switzerland, Fr. Bacher made the Ahmednagar district his home, when our people were in a desperate and hopeless situation, struggling to live off their dry barren fields in the rain shadow areas. In the true Jesuit spirit of the *magis*, Fr. Bacher was never content with the *status quo*. True to his name, which means BREAD in our local language, our people saw in him God's gift of life-giving bread for the hungry in the desert. Through the watershed programme, he brought alive Isaiah's prophecy: '*I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.*'

Fr. Bacher brought the watershed programme to our village communities, transforming dry barren lands and rebuilding broken lives. Shantabai, a widow in Mendwan, expressed very beautifully how Fr. Bacher's work changed their lives and their community in simple words: *Today, we all have enough to eat, and we eat from the same plate!*

We, the Pune Province Jesuits, thank God for the gift of Fr. Bacher to our Province and our people. We have been touched by the fire in his heart, his compassionate commitment and his tireless striving to bring a more abundant life to those living on the margins of society. We remember with love and are deeply grateful to him for the seeds of transformation he planted and nurtured, building people, local communities, programmes, organizations and institutions that continue to grow and bear abundant fruit.

We thank Fr. Bacher for showing us how to respond creatively and courageously to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor; how we take care of our common home as one human family; and how we must work together to ensure that no one is left behind. May the good Lord bless Fr. Bacher a hundredfold for his inspiring life, witness and mission; for his cheerful, generous and compassionate giving, for the difference he has made in our lives and the lives of so many at the margins, who now look to the future with hope because he chose to take the road less travelled. May God grant him the fulness of life and peace! RIP

Stan Fernandes SJ

Socius, Pune Jesuit Province

Sanjeevan Ashram, Pune 411001

020-26162181; 9860791697

---

<sup>3</sup> A title given to him due to his pioneering work in this field

*Dear Frs. Siju and Stan<sup>4</sup>,*

*Even as I feel a loss at the passing away of Fr Bacher today, I feel a very strong inner calling to renew my commitment to the cause of Laudato si to which I dedicated my work in February 2016 in memory of my father whose name also happens to be Francis. My vision at that time was - from Francis Lobo to Pope Francis. Wealth from Waste (the slogan of my father - I was working in The Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development till March 2015) to Laudato si -Ecological democracy ( I created Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action in March 2015. The url of my speech given below.*

*<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/A-Call-for-restoration-of-broken-societal-threads-as-a-precondition-for-ecological-democracy.pdf>*

*I met with Fr Bacher during my stint in Pune from January 1987 to September 1990. Fr Bacher caught me up in the whirlpool of consultations he was undertaking relating to developing a programme for watershed management, prior to the formation of WoTR. To me it found resonance with the brand of spirituality I had developed under the guidance of Fr Cyril Desbruslais and Fr Stan Fernandes while being associated with the AICUF and SSU.*

*His death comes at a time when Fr Siju and I are in the process of developing collaboration between the Social Centre/ XINRM and IELA (the Institution of which I am the Managing Trustee). So I see this sudden link brought about by Fr Stan as something that did not happen merely by accident but by destiny (an inner calling - to give back to Society what I have in no small measure received).*

*I therefore dedicate this collaboration and the potential one emerging at the Province as well to Fr Bacher who has been our guiding light in this vision of the future which we are trying to develop.*

*Rest in Peace Fr Bacher, we pledge to renew our commitment to the ideals and goals you instilled in all of us.*

*Viren Lobo*

*Crispino Lobo*

*Regret to inform you that Fr. Hermann Bacher passed away today (14.9.21) morning at 9.00 am peacefully in his 97th year of life in Switzerland, his birthplace. He spent 60 years of his life in India, from 1948 to 2008, most of it in Maharashtra. He was the father of the Indo German Watershed Development Program and Co-founder of WOTR, besides several other institutions. A great life, well lived and greatly amplified. May he rest in Peace!*

---

<sup>4</sup> My message to Fr Siju, Director Social Centre and to Fr Stan, Socius Pune Jesuits on hearing about the passing away of Fr. Bacher.

## **Social Centre: The Epicentre of Fr Bacher's work**

<http://socialcentre.in/>

Social Centre is a philanthropic organization of Pune Jesuit Province engaged in integrated comprehensive sustainable development of communities in the drought-prone Ahmednagar district and other surrounding districts of Maharashtra. Since its establishment by Fr. Hermann Bacher in the year 1966 various pioneering interventions have been undertaken in poverty alleviation programmes based on the natural resources available in the villages such as land, soil, water, forest, air, animals and human beings, in short whatever is connected with land and life. Social Centre is a pioneering institution that designed the "Ridge to Valley Watershed Development Programme" with active participation of people at every stage of its implementation. It became so successful that the Government of India took it up as a national programme and promoted it across several states of India through NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).

Since then Social Centre has worked in more than 197 villages in Ahmednagar, Beed, Akola, Amravati districts of Maharashtra State in India. It is a recipient of many awards for its innovative, holistic, conceptual development programmes and projects.

### **VISION**

Integrated development of the weaker exploited and deprived sections of the society.

### **MISSION**

Social Centre works towards the integrated development of socially, economically, educationally, morally, culturally and politically weaker, exploited and deprived sections of the society.

### **AREA OF OPERATION**

Social Centre's area of operation is the state of Maharashtra, in central peninsular India. Our interventions are restricted to rural farming communities that are among the poorest of the poor and live in ecologically degraded environments

A short video on Social Centre and its work

<https://youtu.be/7HX50AV1oH8>

## **WOTR: the organisation jointly founded by Fr Bacher and Crispino Lobo**

Taking watershed development to new heights

<https://wotr.org/>

Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) is a globally recognised organisation dedicated to transforming the lives of millions of poor villagers across India through participatory watershed development and ecosystems restoration, climate resilient sustainable agriculture, integrated and efficient water management and climate change adaptation, with a special emphasis on building resilience of vulnerable communities, farmers, and women. WOTR was established in 1993 and is headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

In loving memory of Fr Bacher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyXXcMeRtw8&t=43s>

Water gives life

<https://youtu.be/thdevpZ-vio>

From Watershed development to the ecosystems approach

<https://wotr.org/ecosystems-and-landscapes>

A watershed is an area of land comprising a common set of waterbodies such as streams, rivulets and overflowing ponds during the monsoon, that all drain into a single larger body of water, such as a large river, lake or an ocean.

Watershed development refers to the conservation, regeneration and the judicious use of all the natural resources, especially land, water, vegetation and animals, along with sustainable human development within the watershed.

Our approach to watershed development aims to unite vulnerable communities to regenerate degraded watersheds they live in. This includes a participatory approach undertaking soil and water conservation measures and integrating biodiversity concerns into watershed development efforts. The idea is to bring about natural resources regeneration and check over exploitation of the resources by the community.

We believe by mobilising communities to harvest rainwater and regenerate ecosystems, the quality of life and incomes can improve substantially.

And from there to Climate Change

<https://wotr.org/climate/>

India is a hotspot for the fallout of the climate crisis with 50% of the population depending on nature-based livelihoods for sustenance — agriculture, forests, livestock-related and allied occupations. As temperature, rainfall and other weather patterns become erratic, dependent communities are exposed to vulnerabilities with increased risks and failure of traditional coping mechanisms.

In order to build resilience to this climate emergency, WOTR adopted a knowledge-based, multi-disciplinary and participatory approach involving a wide range of activities towards an evidence and policy-focused engagement with all stakeholders.

WOTR's approach to the climate crisis seeks to develop knowledge, strategies, approaches, measures and processes that enable vulnerable communities to cope with and adapt to the impending impacts of the climate crisis in a manner which can be widely adopted, replicated and upscaled going forward.

The objective is to improve the adaptive capacities of rural communities to respond to the effects of emerging scenarios by regenerating ecosystems they inhabit, diversifying livelihood sources in order to reduce risks, and adopting new agricultural and renewable energy technologies.

Health, Nutrition and Sanitation a very critical aspect of development

<https://wotr.org/health-nutrition-and-sanitation/>

A very critical aspect of any development index relates to the health of vulnerable communities, especially of women and children. Across rural areas, anaemia among women and children, adequate and nutritious food intake, access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation facilities are still major challenges and hence, the motivating factor behind WOTR's involvement in this thematic area. This is also rooted in our approach to development as a holistic concept.

Alignment with International frameworks- The Sustainable development goals

## **XINRM - the organic link between theory and practise**

<https://xinrm.edu.in/>

Xavier Institute of Natural Resource Management' (XINRM), conceived as an academic institution of excellence in the field of natural resource management has been established by Social Centre at Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.

### ***We are on a mission to create leaders and ambassadors of the natural world*** **Natural resource management**

Natural resource management (NRM) is the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how their management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations. Natural resource management deals with managing the way in which people animals and natural landscapes interact. It brings together natural heritage management, land use planning, water management, bio-diversity conservation, and the future sustainability of industries like agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry. It recognises that people and their livelihoods rely on the health and productivity of our landscapes, and their actions as stewards of the land play a critical role in maintaining this health and productivity . Natural resource management specifically focuses on a scientific and technical understanding of resources and ecology and the life-supporting capacity of those resources.

Here at the social centres educational wing xinrm we are on a mission to create leaders and ambassadors of the natural world. Our course is established in response to the Universal sustainable development goals 2017. We have four semesters packed with modules that aid understanding of natural resources at national and international level. Our theoretical modules are backed by relevant field excursions where students get hands on experience in topics of nascent in, the news, origin. Such as agroforestry, botany, types of permaculture design, water and soil management, farming. They get a chance to meet and interact with the village community of farmers and entrepreneurs. We assess our students by a combination of presentations, keen observation, classroom participation in learning and research desertation and critical thinking, creativity, collective team work. We encourage participation of students in our ecological clubs where they can interact with children of schools and villages, do activities that stay in the young minds. You will have a chance to influence future decision makers. A desertation project towards the end of the year arms the students with invaluable research skills that stay with the students all their lives. We at Xavier Institute of Natural Resource Management are a diverse team of knowledge imparters. We see learning as a exciting two way activity with our teachers giving interactive presentations and our students learning in our world class facilities through relevant movies, videos, hands on activities and regular talks from movers and shakers of the natural resource world. We also provide lodging and boarding facility for students who need it. Student benefit from the connections of the parent ngo, social centre, whose brain child is the xinrm. Social centre is an environmental ngo with 51 years of experience in renewing land and lives. Our alumni have the potential of joining the un, ipbes, municipal corporations, politics, founders of environmental movements and NGOs, they nurture dreams that our course shapes and converts into a reality.

So brace yourself for an adventure in the world of natural resources, and innovation along this two year long journey and At the end of this course we promise you that you will have gained more than your money's worth and see the world as your oyster who came naïve but left with knowledge and skills to make the world a better place. You will have gained



perspective on an international level with more information under your belt than you already came with.

### **Ethos of XINRM**

True to the Jesuit spirit, the Xavier Institute of Natural Resource Management (XINRM) is a novel initiative of the Pune Jesuits in the academic world. The synergy of Social Centre has given birth to a most valuable, field experience based, comprehensive and thorough academic center. The Institute is being designed to educate the present generation to give substance/credence to research, methodologies, best practices and endorse sustainable development perspectives in tune with the Sustainable Development perspective to respect, restore and responsibly care for creation.

### **Vision statement**

To educate human resources of society who will exemplify and elucidate their learning's through research, technologies and innovations to create key platforms to guarantee and improve the sustainability of creation.

### **Mission statement**

By training proactive visionary Leaders for vibrant catalyze institutions, where collaboration and networks towards trustworthy interventions to achieve the unachievable, reach the unreached, protect the unprotected, restore the destroyed, replenish the depleted, and sustain nature and creation.

### **Our Values**

- Present environmental and climate change challenges need wise responses to mitigate.
- Provide tested knowledge on Natural Resource Management, this could train human resource and by pursuing research for the sustainable development movement further.
- Transfer laboratory tested knowledge on Natural Resource management for extensions and theorization to university level education.
- Create a management level human resource to take up leadership in enhancing the response towards sustainable use and management of Natural resources justly at various agencies like NGOs, Government, national and international development agencies to manage the projects with professionally and duly trained capacities, having valid knowledge with right perspectives for the practice of the same.
- Fill up the present missing gap of qualified human resources to work in the government and private institutions of sustainable development with special reference to Natural Resource Management to assure sustainable development in the nation

## **Sulabha Warde and the Paraplegic Foundation<sup>5</sup>**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/weekend/paraplegics-at-the-barracks>

Since the number of young turks in the field of social entrepreneurship has boomed, it is time to head back in time and meet a stalwart in the area. Back in 1968, when the area around Sion Hospital was more forested and populated by hutment dwellers, Sulabha Warde set up a modest workshop for paraplegics in the military barracks nearby. She was then a medical social worker at the Hospital and met likeminded peers, who decided to help the paraplegics help themselves. Today, the Paraplegic Foundation is still at the Sion barracks and makes sure that the philosophy of so long ago is still safeguarded.

Tracing the establishment of the Paraplegic Foundation, Warde recalls seeing several patients whose irreparable spinal cord injuries turned them paraplegic. As a condition in which the lower extremities of the body can lose motor and even sensory functions, paraplegia can be a very difficult situation in conditions that are not sensitive to a patient's needs. Many of these patients and their families returned despondently to their home environment with hardly enough skills to get rehabilitated.

She wanted to do something more for the patients beyond getting discharged from a hospital. As she sought for a space in Vasai to set up a centre, the then Dean of Sion Hospital, Dr. Panse, suggested that she should make good use of the nearby barracks to set up the Foundation. "We had a very diffused identity then. It was challenge to collect all the people related to the issues of paraplegia. While we had a workshop, sports and games, we wanted to take that further," says Warde. With the support of Ashraf Macchiwalla, who worked as a medical social worker at KEM Hospital, and other medical professionals, Warde was able to start a full-fledged centre. "My co-founders were such that even without talking to each other, we thought alike. It is rare to find a similar commitment among people these days," says Warde.

In 1990, the Paraplegic Foundation increased its capacity from a workshop to a space for accommodation and physiotherapy. For Rs. 4000 a month, paraplegic patients and their families receive treatment, counselling, food and accommodation. There are professionals here who administer acupuncture and physiotherapy while also training family members to do the same. Close family members are requested to stay with the paraplegic patient with the motto that it is not enough to rehabilitate just the patient, but the family as well. In the premises, there is a basketball court and a throwball arena as well.

The workshop at the Foundation runs three main avenues for generating income for paraplegics. Warde has been very keen to make sure that the disabled are encouraged to help

---

<sup>5</sup> Marie helped support this marvelous initiative of Sulabha Warde, it has blossomed and grown. I met Sulabha Warde on 27<sup>th</sup> September to hand deliver the bouquet preped in honor of Marie on her 77<sup>th</sup> Birthday – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

themselves and says, “Back then, I used to find several paraplegics on wheelchairs near the Siddhivinayak temple who were begging and were even taught, very derogatorily, the right manner to beg. I asked them to join the workshop. Though all opportunities are given to them, our focus on them is as people.” The workshop has an arts section that makes block prints, candle-making and other home decor products. There is also a group of paraplegics that makes sanitary napkins that are disbursed to the maternity wards of BMC hospitals since 1980. The stall operators for these napkins at the wards are paraplegics themselves.

It is heartening to see many of the administrative work being managed by paraplegics or their family members at the Foundation. Right from the cook in the kitchen to a sweeper, there is a sense of confidence and independence that resounds in the facility. Rajendra Manjrekar, the workshop accounts manager who is nearing his fifties, has been a paraplegic since birth due to an attack of polio. He wrote his tenth standard Board Exams independently and even went on to finish his graduation in commerce by attending a night college. He joined the centre in 1989 and while he gets substantial moral support from Warde and her team, he says, “We should make all public and private companies into wheelchair friendly spaces so that the disabled have an equal opportunity to live amongst others in society.” Manjrekar says he would love to see a space such as the Mantralaya become disabled-friendly.

For Warde, the need to set up the Paraplegic Foundation also stemmed from the personal loss of her brother who passed away in an accident. “I have learnt to use pain positively,” says Warde who hopes that soon every district should have a rehabilitation centre for the paraplegics attached to a general hospital.

*(To receive our E-paper on whatsapp daily, please [click here](#). We permit sharing of the paper's PDF on WhatsApp and other social media platforms.)*

Published on: Sunday, October 20, 2013, 12:00 AM IST

Sulabha Warde with Gemini Dhar of Take Charge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWWTSpFRw8E>

## Paraplegic Foundation

<http://www.paraplegicfoundation.in/>



6

### About Us: *The Beginning.....*

The **PARAPLEGIC FOUNDATION** was started in **1968** by a group of social workers and doctors, in the barracks of LTMG Municipal Hospital located at Sion, Mumbai, India, to rehabilitate, and provide total health care facilities for paraplegics and the severely orthopedically disabled.

### Who is a Paraplegic ?

A **PARAPLEGIC** is a person whose lower extremities are affected and has usually no control over his bladder and bowel movements and little or no sensation in his lower extremities. This usually occurs due to a fall, injury or infection of the spinal cord.

### The Mission:

The aim & mission of the foundation is to work for the paraplegics, to provide facilities in total health care, to encourage & motivate them to be self-confident, self-reliant and self-sufficient.

### The Motto: " I CAN, I WILL ! "

### Paraplegic Foundation Today.

The foundation has expanded the scope of its activities by also working towards the total rehabilitation of differently abled children and youth at its Sanjeevan Deep Centre established in the year 1996.

### VISION *beyond* WHEELS (Our Future Plans & Vision)

Our ambition is to make the paraplegic foundation an exclusive centre with 'state of art facilities' for paraplegics by modernizing the various departments to suit the need for total rehabilitation and provide for the latest facilities & equipments, modern skills & technological training to suit the demands of industry and society.

---

<sup>6</sup> Sulabha Warde and Ashraf Machiwala – founder Trustees

### ***Vocational Training***

\* To provide a professional work space & training in a variety of skills like -Computer savvy techniques for office operations, personality grooming, intrapersonal & communicational skills to meet modernization & global standards of work culture \*To provide modernized facilities like -Reading room/library, gymnasium, meditation centre & children play area & garden

### ***Total health rehabilitation:***

\*To provide latest facilities with modern medical & health related equipments & patient friendly gymnasium for patients \*To modernize the patients wards with patient friendly ambience, bell,electric kettle,jugs,trolleys \*To provide modern consulting & therapy rooms \*Family/visiting room for visitors \*Media/entertainment room

### ***Sheltered workshop: Shram safalya - A pay packet of Joy***

To provide modernized workspace with modern worktables & infrastructure  
To provide uniforms/equipments/lights/ventilation & ambience

### ***Jigar sports: Wellness & Beyond***

\*To provide sports facilities: training & sports equipments & customized play areas  
\*To provide modern training skills in sports at national & international levels  
\*To provide sports kits & uniform to encourage the beneficiaries  
\*To provide customized wheelchairs for sports

### ***Talent Promotion: Kala se kalakar tak***

\*Training for stage presentations in arts/crafts/performances/other talents  
\*A hall with centre stage with lights/sounds/acoustics & seating capacity.  
\*A green room/changing room

### ***Environment & Landscape:***

Modern facilities like rain water harvesting/solar lighting & garden landscaping is our dream .  
Garden with play area for children of beneficiaries & seating for senior citizens of family members of patients

Mrs Sulabha Warde , Founder, Trustee, President Emeritus and author of “**Dhyas aani Pravaas** “a book penned by her on Paraplegics says :

Our futuristic vision is :To House Total Wellness ,Share Wealth of Happiness, and give a Pay-packet of Joy .

## **Part III**

### **Different indicators of the health of the ecosystem**



Beehives found below Bagdarra pond



## **Mahaseer: An indicator of the health of the river**



The legend behind Lord Vishnu's Matsya Avatar

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/mps-mahseer-fish-now-faces-extinction/articleshow/49336168.cms>

In a recent webinar on State Fish of Madhya Pradesh Mahaseer (Tor tor or the Tiger of the River), Status & Conservation Strategy, Dr. Sriparna Roy Saxena pointed out that the fish was as old as civilisation itself though the size has declined over time.

<http://mahseerconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/4.-Saxena-compressed.pdf>

The story below is of communities, protecting the Mahaseer fish and their rivers across the country: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh.

<https://sandrp.in/2013/11/21/community-fish-sanctuaries-protecting-the-fishes-and-their-rivers/>

Narmada, the oldest river system in India, originates from Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, flows east-west, and joins with the Gulf of Cambay on the Arabian Sea. The river drains 45.64 km<sup>3</sup> of annual run-off and a series of dams was proposed to hold some of its water resources for multipurpose use. Currently, three dams have been built in Madhya Pradesh and one is under construction in Gujarat. A comparison of pre- and post-impoundment eco-environment and fisheries revealed changes in water quality, productivity, and aquatic flora

and fauna of the river system. Among the fish, species like Tor tor, Labeo fimbriatus and Labeo dyocheilus suffered most. The percentage contributions to total yield of Carp, Catfish, and miscellaneous groups have significantly changed, indicating falls of 17%, 36% and an increase of 410%, respectively. Percentage contributions to catches of Macrobrachium rosenbergii and Tenulosa ilisha have also declined by 46% and about 75% in the estuarine stretch of the river system. Suitable conservation measures for sustenance and development of fishery have been suggested

[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Mahseer-Tor-tor-from-River-Narmada\\_fig2\\_316560238](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Mahseer-Tor-tor-from-River-Narmada_fig2_316560238)

The impact of Dams on fishing in general and Mahaseer in particular

<https://scroll.in/article/936142/from-farming-to-fishing-occupational-change-hasnt-helped-the-people-affected-by-dams-on-narmada>

[https://dcfr.res.in/download/journalsep18/D\\_Sarma\\_M.S.Akhtar\\_P.Sharma\\_and\\_A.K.Singh\\_Resources\\_breeding\\_eco-tourism\\_conservation\\_policies\\_and\\_issues\\_of\\_Indian\\_mahseer.pdf](https://dcfr.res.in/download/journalsep18/D_Sarma_M.S.Akhtar_P.Sharma_and_A.K.Singh_Resources_breeding_eco-tourism_conservation_policies_and_issues_of_Indian_mahseer.pdf)

<https://sandrp.in/2014/10/03/narmada-estuary-hilsa-other-fish-and-fisher-people-need-protection/>

<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/damaged-rivers-collapsing-fisheries-impacts-dams-riverine-fisheries-india-article-sandrp>

## Sundarban and the Royal Bengal Tiger



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclone\\_Aila](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclone_Aila)

The Aila cyclone that displaced upwards of 2.3 million people, destroyed 1,75,000 homes and 2,70,000 damaged. There was more than 50,000 hectares of land that was lost and half a million hectares affected. I came in touch with this due to a study on the Ganga being done by us while I was in SPWD. Subsequently on leaving SPWD, the name IELA and its logo was meant to symbolise the questions faced by the people of Sundarban.

<http://www.dishaearth.org/Traditional%20Fishers%20in%20The%20Sundarban%20Tiger%20Reserve.pdf>

Disha study on the fishermen of Sundarban outlines the kind of issues being faced by the fisher community in Sundarban. The study is dedicated to Shekar Mondal a respondent in the study who was taken away by a tiger on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008. His remains if any are yet to be found.

[http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/AIFFRS-Polcy-Brief-2-Perspective-on-Mangrove-Forests\\_Rights-of-Fishers-and-other-Forest-Dwellers.pdf](http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/AIFFRS-Polcy-Brief-2-Perspective-on-Mangrove-Forests_Rights-of-Fishers-and-other-Forest-Dwellers.pdf)

The policy brief above draws from the study done by Tarun Kanti Bose and outlines a road map that would help fishers struggling for their rights in the mangrove forests get their due.

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ABMKSS-Study-on-Local-Self-Governance-Ch7-Fishers.pdf>

This study outlines the issues facing the small and traditional inland and marine fishers across the country.



## Part III

### Coincidences and Connections



Hazel and Russ at Amherst

## The German – US connection

From Marina

**Clara is the daughter of my best friends in Munich** where I had gone last weekend. She was sitting close to me in the garden when she heard the name **AMHERST** in our zoom meeting...

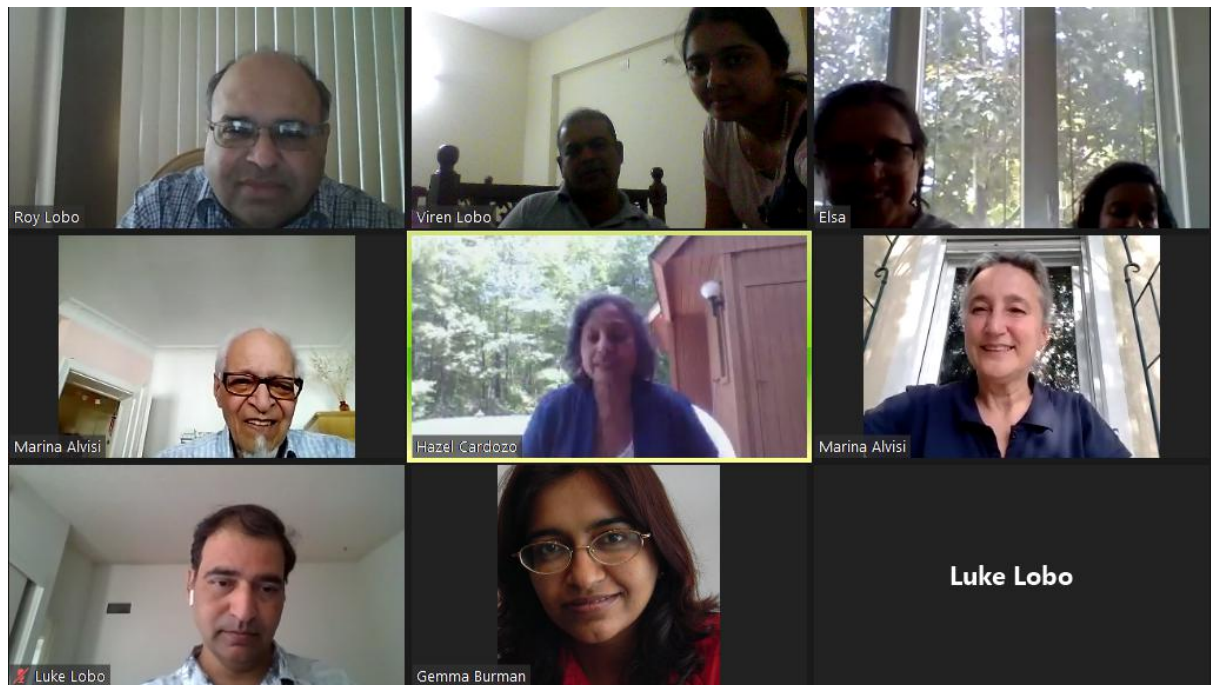
Clara's boyfriend Russ lives in Munich, but actually is an American hailing from Amherst, MA, and – as they found out later – he went to school with **Joe, Hazel's son Joe!!!**

Joe and Russ had common friends. **Imagine!**

Russ had just gone to Amherst for 10 days to visit his parents. Russ took his mother and dropped in at Hazel's place yesterday for a visit. They all enjoyed.

Clara sent me this Photo ... wow, what amazing coincidences!

God works in miraculous ways 😊 Marina



**The Zoom Meeting reported by Marina 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

### Follow up from Hazel

I Hazel have since seen Susan the Mom of RUSS - twice on my daily walk to Daily Morning Mass one time with her husband and their dog.. **Marina** married my First Cousin Anthony Lobo POONA India **Priest for 40 years** She and he both now lead YOGA classes in Berlin and Goa in the Village - ASSAGAO - where Papa Timothy Cardozo and Rev Sister Zita Cardozo My In LAWS were born Both died same DATE **March 3/4 Papa 1975 Zita 2011...Assagao** is the Same Village where my Karachi Pinto Grandpa Parents ( MY GREAT grands) were born so is my Mom's Village It takes a WHOLE Village" ( HILLARY RHODHAM CLINTON election 2016 ) to Raise a Child to become ... Miss Bombay? Miss India? Miss International Los Angeles 1960? Runner Up was **IONA Pinto** raised by her Mom Mabel married to POVORIM Sebastian Pinto !! She Mabel my Mom's first cousin ASSAGAO - who became **private Secretary to one TATA bro** founders of Air India, Hospitals and Dozens of Modern Facilities and economic [structures.in](https://www.structures.in) Modern 21 St Century greatest Democratic Republic in the world



The Republic of INDIA where we find VIREN LOBO the son of Francis brother of Anthony Lobo...Here's to all Republics As Miss Zanzibar was NOT permitted to see her Island become a Republic...It is now Socialist Republic of TAN ZAN IA so I will settle for an Island closest to us here ..The DOMINICAN Republic St Dominic is connected with the Rosary and OCTOBER is the MONTH of the Rosary



Anthony and Marina on his 88th Birthday

The Yoga connection

<https://bksiyengar.com/>

Anthony's yoga guru: the one that taught him to stand on his head. Many stories to tell about this but will leave them for Anthony.

Rocque's German Wikipedia site

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocque\\_Lobo](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocque_Lobo)

This is the English one

[https://second.wiki/wiki/rocque\\_lobo](https://second.wiki/wiki/rocque_lobo)

Note the wolf in the name, so speaking of wolves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>

Here's how they help change rivers.

Back to the USA once again



**Part IV**  
**The Politics of Chance**

## **The Politics of Chance: Determinism as against Predetermination**

In a world where uncertainty dominates due to market forces, finance capital seeks to reduce this uncertainty by creating monopoly conditions for itself, still it cannot defeat the determinism created by the crisis of markets due to lack of purchasing power. In such a scenario, where Capitalism is unable to feed the mouth that feeds it (providing secure employment conditions for labour), seemingly random events follow a deterministic path too.

<https://www.justicenews.co.in/charanjit-singh-channis-elevation-as-punjab-cm-must-not-be-reduced-to-electoral-logic/>

The story above caught my attention due to a debate among my alumni class mates on the fate of the Congress party in Punjab. While my class mates gave a different spin, this story in essence matched the drift I was following. In the game of chance, there are indeed deterministic events that do not follow Capitalist logic but rather attempt to compromise with forces opposing it. Will not go into the details here, just flag it as a distinct possibility, one that has the chance of the events to follow turning out differently too. It is the point of unity between Capitalists and the working-class/struggling masses.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot9Q8us9EM0>

The video above flags two random events and points to their significance in terms of the course of politics for the Congress party. While the first has already been flagged above, the second is about Kanhaiya Kumar joining the Congress party. Kanhaiya Kumar's claim to fame stems from being the focal point of a vicious and brutal attempt by the BJP/RSS to smash the left hold in JNU. That they failed was an accident. They were expecting the classical left response, but instead they got Kanhaiya Kumar who cleverly blended identity politics with left wisdom thereby sharpening class politics with an emotional flavour that had the right cutting edge for the time. A similar situation happened in Gujarat when Jignesh Mewani a left Dalit activist realised the need to assert his Dalit identity. What this portends for the future time will tell.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kd67Vkebls>

This story by Shekhar Gupta follows the classical approach to analysing who has the ability to defeat Modi. My take on this is that an approach centred on an anti Modi platform is bound to fail. The story has been flagged to provide an antithetical approach to the one being followed by me and watch the different stories unfold in practise. Will the game of chance change the way the story is being told or will business as usual prevail?

<https://www.newsclick.in/hate-unlimited-times-sectarian-nationalism>

The story above makes me shudder to think of where business as usual is headed. Civilised man turned barbarian, convinced that the inhuman act of dancing on a dead man's body reflects justice. Similar barbaric acts witnessed in Hitler's Germany and in other parts of the world as well. As we know George Floyd's death sparked a reaction which ultimately led to the first black woman becoming Vice President of America. While the Indian Government is

still in denial of the act, claiming it to be a plot to bring the government down, the anti Muslim (clever Bangladeshi ploy – due to the fact that most illegal Bangladeshi refugees currently found in Assam were actually Hindu) plank was one which won the Assam elections for the BJP. So its electoral politics is caught in a vicious trap it cannot get out of on its own violation.

<https://www.thehindu.com/books/literary-review/At-sea-level/article14580409.ece>

Switching gears, my chance exposure to this book by Sanjeev Sanyal, grandson of the freedom fighter Sachindranath Sanyal pointed to a world different from the many battles fought at Panipat and the story of Invasion of India from the over the mountains in the West. This story talks of Indian forays across the world. To Africa, Zanzibar for instance (the story of Zanzibar has been covered in previous editions) and to South East Asia. While Vasco da Gama forever changed the history of India subsequently, it points to trade more than conquest as the driver of change. Sanjeev Sanyal attempts to use this perspective to provide a different economic vision for India; it gives me a chance to do the same. In a letter to him, I pointed out how we need to look at the relevance of renewable energy as having the potential to revive the concept of decentralised governance and Swaraj put forward by Tilak and later in a different way by Gandhi.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st9tEtDRzpE>

Bhanwari Devi and her struggle, the woman behind the Vishaka guidelines. More than twenty nine years after she was raped, Bhanwari Devi has not got justice. Though she struggles for her own justice, her struggle spawned a struggle that has helped facilitate girls going to school and the movement that led to Vishaka guidelines on prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace. This is the soft underbelly of the socio-economic, cultural and political situation today. Despite all these struggles women are still not safe, the struggle goes on. Equality for women still has not seen the light of day, but certainly more women are getting education, more women are seen at the work place and more importantly more women can hold their own in a man's world. Our conception of equality for women is not that women can do better than men but that women provide a perspective without which the whole process of production is incomplete. Is it production for production's sake, or quality of life that matters? Those at the helm will have us believe that GDP growth will provide equality for all. The De-growth movement says no, as part of the De-growth movement, we say, De-growth is real growth, for whom, why, for what and how production is being done? Women are not the private property of men to do as they please as so too the production system built of the labour of all over centuries not the exclusive property of a few to decide as they deem fit. Reproduction of the means of production, reproduction of the conditions of life are very much part of what we envisage. Pro-choice is a precondition for pro-life choices.

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/A-discussion-on-pro-choice-as-a-precondition-for-pro-life-and-ecology-livelihood-and-governance.pdf>

## **Part V**

### **Human Rights in an Inhuman World**

## Lakhimpur Kheri: As the dark side of humanity unfolded yet again

<https://thewire.in/agriculture/lakhimpur-kheri-violence-was-a-long-time-coming>

*It was a tragedy waiting to happen. The **violence and killings in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri** did not occur by serendipity. Like in west UP, the sugarcane growers elsewhere sat in protest over the non-payment of long pending dues for their produce by private mills as well as state cooperatives. The irony was that, when things boiled over, the epicentre of the cataclysm was not the western region, which has caught popular attention and interest, but Avadh in central UP.*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/lakhimpur-kheri-violence-live-updates/liveblog/86743981.cms>

*Retired Allahabad high court judge Pradeep Kumar Srivastava has been named to enquire into the eruption of violence on Sunday on Tikonia-Banbirpur road in Lakhimpur Kheri district. Eight people were killed in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence on Sunday. Of the eight, four were farmers who were allegedly knocked down by vehicles driven by BJP workers*

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/what-happened-in-lakhimpur-kheri-sequence-of-events-according-to-both-sides-101633416583402.html>

*Hours after news broke of the clashes on Sunday evening, several Opposition leaders attempted to make their way from Delhi and Lucknow to Tikunia village, roughly 70 km from Lakhimpur district headquarters. But barring some farm leaders and Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad, most were stopped by the police, citing prohibitory orders in the district.*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/lakhimpur-kheri-violence-two-arrested-sit-summons-ministers-son/articleshow/86851017.cms>

*LAKHIMPUR KHERI: Hours after a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was set up and a judicial inquiry panel appointed, the first arrests - two men, part of **Union minister** of state for home Ajay Mishra's son's convoy that allegedly ran over and killed four farmers - were made in Sunday's **Lakhimpur Kheri** killings case. The minister's son, Ashish Mishra, has been summoned by the **SIT**.*

<https://thewire.in/media/ground-report-lakhimpur-kheri-raman-kashyap-farmers>

*Ram Dulare says that even though he and his two other sons are farmers, his deceased son should not be treated the same as the others who lost their lives during the violence because Raman was a journalist. "He was not there to protest, or support anybody. He went there as a reporter to report the incidents. He was killed while doing his job and should be treated like that," he stated.*

## Love Jihad : Behind the reality not visible to the naked eye

<https://countercurrents.org/2021/10/the-struggle-between-love-and-hate-within-christianity/>

*` It is very unfortunate that the term “Narcotic Jihad” was coined and used by someone holding a responsible position in the Catholic Church leadership in Kerala without foreseeing the dreadful consequences of using such an expression.*

*The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan also came out strongly against the statement of Bishop Joseph Kallarakattu.*

*While it is argued that the Bishop of Pala has used this expression as a precautionary measure to safeguard catholic youth from getting trapped by terrorist forces, the terminology deployed is extremely dangerous as it cuts deep into the core religious sensibilities of a community. The use of narcotics is a very serious crime in any part of the world and it is possible that there could be deeper links between the narcotic business and terrorism. If at all this is true, it is up to the government machinery to address it, not the bishops. To brand one particular community with the narcotic label and that too without substantiating evidence is an equally serious offence as it destroys the health and wellbeing of a society. Besides polarizing religious communities that have been coexisting thus far without major conflicts in this state, allegations of this nature have led to divisions even within the Christian community and its families.*

<https://www.opindia.com/2021/09/youth-kerala-love-jihad-narcotics-drugs-pala-diocese-bishop-islamist-terrorist-conversion/>

*Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt of the Pala diocese of the Syro-Malabar Church has stated that young Christian boys and girls of Kerala are being targeted for not just ‘Love Jihad’ but for ‘Narcotics Jihad’ too. As per a **report** in Kerala Kaumudi, the Bishop has been vocal about the targeting of young Christian by Islamist groups for conversion and exploitation.*

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/hindu-christian-girls-being-targeted-bjp-promises-anti-love-jihad-law-in-kerala-ahead-of-polls/717502>

*Kerala BJP president K Surendran said that his party would bring law against ‘love jihad’ – a term used to describe alleged forced conversion of non-Muslim women to Islam in the guise of marriage – if they come to power in the state.*



## Minorities in Kashmir: Does religion change the minority question

<https://thewire.in/security/srinagar-sikh-school-principal-kashmiri-pandit-teacher-shot-dead-by-terrorists>

*The spate of targeted killings in Kashmir continued on Thursday, with two more from civilians the minority community, including a female principal, being shot dead on the premises of a school on the outskirts of Srinagar, officials said. The attack at a government-run Boys Higher Secondary School in Srinagar's Eidgah locality took place barely 36 hours after three civilians were shot dead by terrorists, underscoring the worsening security situation in Kashmir. The deceased have been identified as Supinder Kour, a Sikh who worked as the principal of the school in downtown Srinagar where the incident took place, and Deepak Chand, a Kashmiri Pandit who was a teacher there.*

<https://www.amazon.in/Our-Moon-Has-Blood-Clots/dp/818400513X>

*Rahul Pandita was fourteen years old when he was forced to leave his home in Srinagar along with his family. They were Kashmiri Pandits- the Hindu minority within a Muslim-majority Kashmir that was by 1990 becoming increasingly agitated with the cries of 'Azaadi' from India. Our Moon Has Blood Clots is the story of Kashmir, in which hundreds of thousands of Kashmiri Pandits were tortured, killed and forced to leave their homes by Islamist militants and to spend the rest of their lives in exile in their own country. Rahul Pandita has written a deeply personal, powerful and unforgettable story of history, home and loss.*

<https://thewire.in/diplomacy/epicentre-of-global-terrorism-india-slams-pakistan-for-raising-kashmir-issue-at-un>

*Strongly hitting out at Pakistan for again raking up the Kashmir issue at the UN, India has said a constructive contribution cannot be expected from a country that has an established practice of hosting terrorists and is the "epicentre" of global terrorism, and the biggest destabilising force in the world.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/15/kashmir-journalist-shot-dead-in-srinagar-alongside-bodyguards>

*A leading journalist and editor who worked for peace in the disputed Himalayan region of **Kashmir** has been shot dead along with his bodyguards. Shujaat Bukhari had just left the Srinagar city office of his newspaper, Rising Kashmir, on Thursday when three men on a motorcycle fired at him and his two guards, police said.*

Shortly after

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/jammu-kashmir-under-governor-s-rule-for-eighth-time-1265259-2018-06-20>

*After BJP broke its alliance with PDP and chief minister Mehbooba Mufti resigned, President Ram Nath Kovind has imposed the Governor's Rule in the state. This is the eighth time the state has been put under the Governor's Rule.*

## **The Lion and the pack of wolves**

Lion chased the deer and brought it down

Just as it was settling down to enjoy the feast

Wolves began to hover around

The Lion snarled

Wolves backed down

The Lion turn its attention to the prey once again

The wolves inched closer

Lion turned its head and snarled

The wolves backed away once again

Now maneuvering for a way to pounce

Lion turned its head again

Wolf cannot fight alone

Lion can

Watch this space for more later

## **The City of Joy and the Bomb threat**

The city of Joy awake one day to a frantic alarm call

A Bomb had been placed in the Chairman's room

The threat

Resign from your chair

Or else

The citizens gathered around

Bomb the talk of the town

Who done it

The talk of the town

People waited and waited

The bomb did not blow

But the nexus with the vested interest in the bomb

Soon became clear

There was more than the bomb at stake

And it was not about the chair

Termites termites everywhere

Making the word work hollow

The bomb emitted some strange gas

The termites to expose

One by one

Out of the wood-work they came

Life will now never be the same

## **Time travel to a not so distant past : A land where milk and honey flowed**

Subash got a call from the President

Take over operations in the land of Ravan

Payment in \$ for your pains

Subash the President could not refuse

So quit his Corporate job and returned

The PM however was the decision maker

Had other ideas

Subash cannot get more than what he was getting before

So salary was fixed

And destination changed

Kalinga it would be

Subash had given his word

So who the PM was did not matter

The story goes on

Time made Subash strong

The PM did another trick

In connivance with XYZ

Appointed somebody to the HRD Ministry

Someone not qualified

He later got disqualified

But damage done

Cases against HRD pending

And the person who filed them tortured beyond compare

The bystanders could only stand and stare

There were some who offered to help

The offers were turned down

HRD has the right to determine its own policies

Free from the interference of busy bodies

Who have nothing better to do but to criticise

Think of those in distress


And mind your own business

The Whistleblower was in distress too

Did not need an favours

Only an assertion of rights

But who cared

Do you ?? 

## **The Sounds of Silence amidst the din**

The first sound of silence was the cry of a stifled voice  
speaking out of forums that stifled him  
Then came the groans of those who had to bear with the bursting of the dam  
Stifling once again  
With a difference  
Attempts at regulation  
We all now know the failure of multipurpose dams to fulfill their promise  
There are other sounds of silence  
The voice of the voters that took the trouble to register before the deadline  
And those that woke up along the way  
Still others who did not register still  
May not be in favour of protesters  
But not in favour of administrators either  
There is a deeper silence  
One resulting out of the failure to listen  
Compulsions the name of the game  
One being towing the line  
The Amul ad talked of here being one of them  
His Master's voice  
The dog and the gramophone record  
A long outdated concept  
But still in vogue it seems  
Those in distress  
When do we hear their cry  
Sometimes distress comes suddenly

And brutally as well

An accident in the prime of life

How do we respond

The colours of the rainbow when scattered

Stand out in the horizon

When they come together a bright white light

When blocked, darkness and blackness

Yet black has many shades too

All visible if we care to see

Time .....

Einstein's special theory of relativity

Watching two distinct events (spaced over a long period of time) in one time frame

Changes the way you look at things

Einstein was autistic

It helped him see things differently

And the world became a different place for us

Through the differently abled prism



## About the editor:



Viren Lobo who was influenced by liberation theology during his college days did an MBA from Institute of Rural Management Anand. He has been working the development sector since he passed out from there in 1985. Employer, employee and other contradictions observed by him during his thirty year stint at Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) forced him to examine the relevance of Marxism as a way of looking at reality in relation to change he sought to bring. During the course of his work covering more than twenty States, he noticed a link between the livelihoods and ecology which he pursued strongly as Executive Director SPWD. The limitations of existing organisations to deal with the complex questions society posed motivated him to set up Institute of Ecology and Livelihood Action as the transition needed to address issues he was looking into at that time. The contradictions arising out of the a series of Bills that were passed during the last five years encouraged him to use the enforced sedentary life imposed on him to use his creativity to write plays. These were the first of a series which have helped serve the purpose of putting on paper the complex dilemma and diverse social opinions he came across.

## About Especioza Trust:



Especioza Trust is named after my great, great grandmother who widowed at an early age brought up her only son Aogustinho (seated in centre). Shortly after a family reunion in December 2013, we got news that the family home at 84 Porvorim had been illegally sold to a builder. My aunt Marie stepped in and after getting the required mandate from the family not only got the family home back but the previous ancestral home of 85 Porvorim as well. Since then it became her project in memory of her widowed great grandmother till her death on her mother Amy Lobo's 117<sup>th</sup> birthday (25<sup>th</sup> July 2019). Since the informal trust set up by her could not achieve fruition I decided to keep the struggle and memories alive by carrying on her mission to bring unity within the family and dedicate the work of the Trust to all widows and single women of the world. My Aunt/Cousin Hazel Cardozo the daughter of Liban Pinto one of the two brothers born on my birthday (6<sup>th</sup> September) has helped me to give this project shape. The other brother Lucian in whose name the house was, also happened to be born on my birthday as well. The spiritual connection and the necessity for me to step in also come from a lot of other quarters which need not be documented here.

Viren Lobo