

## **Games People Play**

A Healthy body breeds a Healthy mind: So they say

Edited by Viren Lobo

### **An Especioza Trust Production**

*(A World Cup littered with surprises and wins that upset the apple cart. A pulsating final, the greatest ever a loss despite a hat trick and the cup that eluded Messi )*



Messi goal against Nigeria in 2018

# Foreword

## The Messi Mbappe magic that electrified Qatar

Qatar was alight

The football match of the century

Two bright stars lit the horizon

Shining on either side

To bring cheer

To those near and dear

One at the fag end , the other emerging

At Qatar their careers converging

Losing despite a hat trick

The intensity indicated

As Messi his class vindicated

Got the cup that eluded him all along

One that Mbappe at first attempt found

Martinez the unsung hero

As first the Netherlands

And then France

Fantastic saves to win the day

While his colleagues made the hay

Alvares and Di Maria their own moments of glory conjured

The crowd entertainment ensured

Of Mbappe more we will see

When on Klose he will bring closure

The next world cup for sure

A treat for the cynosure

## Background

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/french-soccer-sets-a-meritocratic-example-race-blindness-africa-mbappe-world-cup-le-pen-argentina-11671462913>

This article following the world cup highlights a contradiction rare to find in today's world. Having just 5% of France's population at one time out of the 11 on the field there were ten blacks. Hitler would have turned in his grave many times over at this overturning of Aryan supremacy. Some consolation for him perhaps that it was Argentina which won this world cup. One that will not remain for long as the blacks have infiltrated many European teams and will continue to dominate football in the years to come.

More important than this interesting snippet, is the question whether the colonialists who had once conquered the world are now ruled by those whom they colonized. Britain and Portugal now have Prime Ministers of Indian origin a reflection of changing demography. Bhagat Singh was however clear on the role of colour. In his comments to his mother he mentions: *'Ma, I have no doubt that my country will be one day free. But I am afraid that the brown sahibs are going to sit in the chairs the white sahibs will vacate'*,

Even as race, colour, caste, religion still dominate the political scenario today, from time to time we are reminded that it is humanity that will reign supreme in the end. The role of capital in the world of sports cannot be denied. The article below relates to the treatment Messi had to have to be the footballer he is today.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/messi-was-diagnosed-with-a-growth-disorder-when-he-was-11-how-he-overcame-it-9729001.html>

The story of the French team indicates this too. The Socialist experiment indicated that could be another path too, one where the Social Capital of the Nation was invested in sports. Certainly the performance of Haryana (as compared to the rest of India) at the Tokyo Olympics indicated how this can be a possibility too.

Can this investment defy the laws of nature ? The answers we find seem ambivalent. The role of talent is unmistakable so capital investment can only build on what already exists. The French experiment indicates a different path from the conventional Nationality/ Ethnicity one. The moot question still is whether it is a question of survival of the fittest, or whether human kind has evolved sufficiently to ensure that the necessity for change will bring about the new world order of justice, love and peace that we all seek.

The poem in the Foreword was in response to a computer generated poem on the world cup and a question posed as to whether the computer or man who will reign supreme. My answer to this was simple. If the computer provides the answer to end exploitation of man/nature by man then I would gladly retire, finding the time to do what I love best. Man in harmony with nature/machine is the answer all but the Capitalist seeks ( as for the Capitalist it is Return on Investment and not Welfare of Human Beings that is the goal).

# Dedication

## Family Matters

The famed family of Fullinfaws consists of Professors, Principals and Educationists serving in various capacities in many prestigious Universities and institutions. They are recognized for the dedication, service and commitment to the cause of education for youth in the country.

### **Late. Mr. Lawrence Anthony Fullinfaw**

A graduate from Madras University was an Educationist and prominent Social Worker. He became the Deputy Superintendent of the Central Excise and Customs and was the Principal of South Region Central Excise Training School at Madras. After retirement, he was responsible for building the “India Youth Brigade” – a non-political, non-communal, secular and democratic organisation which involved Principals, Lecturers, Teachers and students of the various colleges and schools across bangalore.

“Through the path of education, one can develop Courage, strengthen their character and can be equipped to face challenges and eradicate poverty.”

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### **Late Mrs Lynette Harriet Fullinfaw**

Hails from an eminent family of Judges, Lawyers, Principals and Educationists. Her life stands as an inspiration through her Unconventional Love, Never-ending Care and Sacrifices made that helped in forming a bastion of strength in encouraging the next generation of the Fullinfaw Family to become Doctors, Professors and Principals and Social Workers.

“Her sacrifices enabled the Fullinfaw family to imbibe the True Spirit of Learning and Education.”

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### **Prof. Bernadette C Vaz (Fullinfaw)**

A post-graduate from St. Joseph’s College, Bangalore (1971), headed the accounts department in the International Child Welfare Organization. She later joined her Alma Mater in 1981 and served at the St. Joseph’s College of Commerce as the Head of the Department of Commerce from 1998. She was also appointed the Dean of Studies and Registrar in 2004. She also served as the Principal at St. Joseph’s College for a brief period. She is appreciated by many of her students – Cricketer Rahul Dravid and Actress Ramya acknowledges the sheer motivation and dedication of Prof. B.C Vaz (Fullinfaw) towards the cause of education. She is regarded as a “Lady of Substance” for her meticulous service in the field of Higher Education. Later on, she joined Fullinfaws College serving as Principal in 2008 and retired in 2012.

“The Greatest Asset of any Institution is the personality of its teachers. Teaching students how to count can be easy. but teaching them what counts the best is what matters most”

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### **Prof. Desmond. T. S Fullinfaw**

A post-graduate from Bangalore University (Central College) in Mathematics, He served as a Professor in the Prestigious Christ (Deemed To Be University) Bangalore, heading the Mathematics and Computer Science Department for nearly 27 fruitful years.

A pioneer in teaching Operations Research and Computer Sciences in the Southern part of India, was one among the few that introduced Computers to people of Bangalore and conducted various courses in Computer Science and Technology in the early 1990s. He also served as the Chairman of the Board of Examiners in Computer Science and was a core resource personnel in framing the syllabi in Mathematics, Computer Science and Operations Research for Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate programs offered by Bangalore University, Madurai Kamaraj University and Gulbarga University. He also was actively involved in framing the Pre-University Courses and Post-Graduate Courses in MBA, MCA, M.Sc. under Bangalore University.

He is also the Founder and Chairman of the Lawrence Fullinfaw Memorial Trust and established Fullinfaws College in 1997. He continues to inspire the younger generation of Teachers and Students with his wisdom, knowledge and experience.

“Value based education can inspire the youth with high ideals, invoke the spirit of patriotism and mold them into citizens with Integrity, Courage and Honesty”

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### **Late. Prof. M.I. Madni (Fullinfaw)**

A Post-graduate from Madurai Kamaraj University was a Professor in French who taught in Baldwin Girls High School, Bangalore and Headed the High School. She also served there as a Counselor for over 20 years. She taught in various reputed institutions in Bangalore and also in St. Joseph’s Pre-University College and Fullinfaws College. She was a prominent and most sought-after French Professor in Bangalore.

“If Education can Transform a person, then it has the capacity to spread peace and love around the world”

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### **Late. Cecil Joseph Fullinfaw**

A graduate from St. Joseph’s College, Bangalore was an athlete who represented India in the Asian Games for 100m, 200m and 400m. in the 1950s alongside Milkha Singh. He occupies a place in the prestigious St. Joseph’s College Hall of Fame along with sportsmen like Rahul Dravid and Ashish Balal for outstanding contribution and service to the nation.

“If you have a vision and you have the determination to work towards that vision and make sacrifices, You can become a Champion”

## **The War in Ukraine and its fallout: impact on children being the worst**

<https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/impact-war-ukraine-and-subsequent-economic-downturn-child-poverty-eastern-europe#:~:text=The%20Ukraine%20war%20and%20subsequent,childhood%20poverty%20lasts%20a%20lifetime.>

***Child poverty across Europe and Central Asia (ECA) has soared by 19 per cent, as Ukraine war and rising inflation drive four million children into poverty.***

Data from 22 countries across the region featured in the study shows children are bearing the heaviest burden of the economic crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. While children make up 25 per cent of the population, they account for nearly 40 per cent of the additional 10.4 million people experiencing poverty this year.

The Russian Federation has experienced the most significant increase in the number of children living in poverty, with an additional 2.8 million children now living in households below the poverty line, accounting for nearly three-quarters of the total increase across the region. Ukraine is home to half a million additional children living in poverty, the second largest share. It is important to note that this is a conservative estimate which uses a GDP drop of 10 per cent.

The consequences of child poverty stretch far beyond families living in financial distress. The sharp increase could result in an additional 4,500 children dying before their first birthday, and learning losses could be equivalent to an additional 117,000 children dropping out of school this year.

The poorer a family is, the greater the proportion of their income that is committed to necessities such as food and fuel. When the costs of basic goods soar, the money available to meet other needs such as health care and education falls. The Ukraine war and subsequent cost-of-living crisis means that the poorest children are even less likely to access essential services and are more at risk of child marriage, violence, exploitation and abuse.

For many, childhood poverty lasts a lifetime. One in three children born and raised in poverty will live their adult lives in poverty, leading to an intergenerational cycle of hardship and deprivation.

The challenges faced by families living in or on the brink of poverty deepen when governments reduce public expenditure, increase consumption taxes or put in place austerity measures in a limiting effort to boost their economies in the short-term, as this diminishes the reach and quality of support services that families depend on.

The study sets out a framework to help reduce the number of children living in poverty and prevent more families from falling into financial distress:

- Provide universal cash benefits for children and ensure minimum income security.
- Expand social assistance benefits to all families with children in need, including refugees.
- Protect social spending, especially for vulnerable children and families.

- Protect and support the delivery of health, nutrition, and social care services to pregnant mothers, infants, and pre-schoolers.
- Introduce price regulations on basic food items for families.

UNICEF has recently partnered with the EU Commission and several EU countries to pilot the EU Child Guarantee initiative to mitigate the impact of poverty on children and provide them with opportunities to thrive in adulthood. With more children and families now being pushed into poverty, a robust response is warranted across the region.

UNICEF is calling for continued and expanded support to strengthen social protection systems in high- and middle-income countries across Europe and Central Asia; and the prioritization of funding for social protection programmes, including cash assistance programmes for vulnerable children and families.

[https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/03/01/britain-allow-200000-ukrainian-refugees-come-uk/?WT.mc\\_id=tmgoff\\_psc\\_ppc\\_dsa\\_world&gclid=Cj0KCQiA-oqdBhDfARIsAO0TrGGFo5LaoqliJ47f6wSdb7RA4d5MTSaSA9C5AJhKtSsFWT5\\_comELf0aAgVmEALw\\_wcB](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/03/01/britain-allow-200000-ukrainian-refugees-come-uk/?WT.mc_id=tmgoff_psc_ppc_dsa_world&gclid=Cj0KCQiA-oqdBhDfARIsAO0TrGGFo5LaoqliJ47f6wSdb7RA4d5MTSaSA9C5AJhKtSsFWT5_comELf0aAgVmEALw_wcB)

[https://www.theweek.co.uk/news/society/958365/the-growing-ukraine-refugee-crisis?ppcddm=true&gclid=Cj0KCQiA-oqdBhDfARIsAO0TrGGCR3UmgaupZi6PzZadWJ7TH05B0XaK9osvgo-oHeyhSyfjCiyjKHkaAv22EALw\\_wcB](https://www.theweek.co.uk/news/society/958365/the-growing-ukraine-refugee-crisis?ppcddm=true&gclid=Cj0KCQiA-oqdBhDfARIsAO0TrGGCR3UmgaupZi6PzZadWJ7TH05B0XaK9osvgo-oHeyhSyfjCiyjKHkaAv22EALw_wcB)





## **Pele Obituary: From Humble Beginnings As Waiter In Tea Shop To Immortal Status As Football Icon**

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Brazilian football legend Pele, who died at 82, had a humble upbringing but his extraordinary talent and unmatched achievements made him a global icon.

**By Michael Place**

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 29 (Xinhua) -- Pele was three months shy of his 10th birthday when he made a promise to his father Dondinho. The pair had just listened to a radio broadcast of Uruguay's 2-1 victory over Brazil in the decisive match of the 1950 World Cup at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium, a result that later came to be known as the Maracanazo.

Little could Dondinho have imagined that, only eight years later, his son would be carried off Stockholm's Rasunda stadium on his teammates' shoulders as the youngest-ever World Cup champion.

Pele's father was now crying tears of joy as Brazil celebrated their first World Cup trophy and the world hailed the birth of a global phenomenon.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento was born in Tres Coracoes, a farming town in the southeastern Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, the son of former Fluminense striker Dondinho and Celeste Arantes.

He is said to have earned the nickname Pele because of his mispronunciation of Vasco de Gama goalkeeper Bile, which was the subject of mirth among his peers.

He had a humble upbringing and earned his first salary by working as a waiter in a tea shop. Pele showed an interest in football at a young age and practised with paper-filled socks because his parents were unable to afford a football.

His talent quickly became evident and by the age of 15, he earned his first contract with Brazilian giants Santos. Within a year he was the leading forward in Santos' first team and in



July 1957, 10 months after making his professional debut, the promising attacker was called up to Brazil's national team.

Pele's first international goal came on debut in Brazil's 2-1 loss to Argentina at the Maracana and to this day he remains the country's youngest scorer at 16 years and nine months.

At the age of 17, Pele entered the 1958 World Cup with a knee injury and missed Brazil's first two matches against Austria and England. He returned for the final group stage match against the Soviet Union, providing an assist in a 2-0 victory.

He then scored the winner in a 1-0 quarterfinal defeat of Wales before netting a hat-trick as Brazil routed France 3-0 in the semifinals. A brace in the final against Sweden - which Brazil won 5-2 - confirmed Pele's status as a new giant of the game.

"When Pele scored the fifth goal in that final, I have to be honest and say I felt like applauding," Sweden midfielder Sigvard Parling later said.

By the time the 1962 World Cup started in Chile, 21-year-old Pele was already widely considered the best player in the world. He scored one goal and set up another in his team's opening 2-0 win over Mexico but was injured in the next game against Czechoslovakia and missed the rest of the tournament.

In his absence, Mane Garrincha assumed the role of playmaker-in-chief to lead Brazil to another World Cup triumph as they overcame Czechoslovakia 3-1 in the final.

Football fans were again denied the chance to see Pele in full flight four years later. The tournament in England should have bore witness to Pele at his prime, but the then 25-year-old was the target of unsporting behaviour from opponents, who fouled him at every opportunity to limit his impact. He was injured against Bulgaria and Portugal as the reigning champions were eliminated in the first round.

A despondent Pele vowed to never play in the World Cup again but he changed his mind ahead of the 1970 tournament in Mexico. The rest is part of football folklore. Pele participated in 53% of his team's goals, scoring four times and providing six assists en route to winning the Golden Ball award for the competition's best player as Brazil clinched another title.

Pele ended his international career in 1971 but he continued to play for Santos - with whom he won every trophy possible until 1974 when he announced his retirement from all football at the age of 34.

Having resisted moves to join Europe's biggest clubs throughout his career, Pele was coaxed out of retirement less than a year later when he accepted a lucrative offer to play for the New York Cosmos.

He scored 37 times in 64 appearances for the Cosmos and led the club to the North American Soccer League title in 1977, his final season.

Pele ended his 21-year professional career with 732 goals in 792 games for club and country - an extraordinary record for a player who was mainly deployed as an attacking midfielder, not a striker.

His tally of 77 international goals in 92 matches stood alone as a national record before Neymar equalled the mark in Brazil's World Cup quarterfinal defeat to Croatia in early December.

He is the only player to have won the FIFA World Cup three times and in 2000 he shared the FIFA player of the century award with Diego Maradona. In the same year, Pele was elected the athlete of the century by the International Olympic Committee and he was included in Time magazine's list of the 100 most important people of the 1900s.

Pele's fame extended far beyond the sporting arena and in 1969, the antagonists of Nigeria's civil war struck a 48-hour ceasefire to watch the Brazilian play an exhibition match in Lagos. The Santos No. 10 scored twice in a 2-2 draw with local side Stationery Stores FC. Pele remained in the public spotlight after retiring. In 1994, he was named a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. The following year, Brazil's then-President Fernando Henrique Cardoso appointed Pele as the country's minister for sport and he is credited for introducing anti-corruption legislation that brought greater transparency and accountability to Brazil's notoriously opaque football institutions.

In addition to politics, Pele also dabbled in acting, appearing in films such as Escape to Victory (1981), Mike Bassett: England Manager (2001) and the Brazilian television series Os Estranhos (1969).

His public appearances gradually diminished in the 2000s as he grappled with ill health, including problems related to his spine, hip, knee and kidneys. In September 2021, Pele underwent surgery to remove a tumour from his colon.

Pele was admitted to the Albert Einstein hospital in late November for treatment of a respiratory infection. He remained in the hospital throughout December after doctors said he required "more extensive care".

Pele is survived by six children. Another, Sandra Arantes do Nascimento, who sued him to prove she was his daughter, died of breast cancer in 2006.

**(Apart from the headline, no editing has been done in the report by ABP Live.)**

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<https://news.abplive.com/sports/football/pele-obituary-from-humble-beginnings-as-waiter-in-tea-shop-to-immortal-status-as-football-icon-1572637>

## Part I

### Adi Shikshan Vidyapeeth

*An initiative by Adivasi Jan Utthan Trust, Bhekadiya. We have pointed out that without a clear perspective on indigenous process of change, this effort will get sucked into current mainstream activity, one which has been responsible for decimation and marginalisation of Adivasis in the first place. As of now two basic world views to development exist. One based on Corporate power and technology. The other rooted in nature and in sync with the historical development of the Human race is response to the challenges posed by nature. What remains is to eliminate the exploitation of (wo)man by (wo)man and exploitation of nature as a consequence. Can the traditional adivasi fear of nature be replaced by 'science' ? Where recognition of the unknown exists, that the unknown can be known and that there will always be an unknown for (wo)man to delve further into its secrets ?*



Fenai Mata Revkhand model at Bhekadiya

# Nature Philosophy Fair at Bhekadiya

19<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023

This was organised by Adivasi Jan Utthan Trust at Bhekadiya on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The idea is to develop a nature perspective on life. The model being developed is Fenai Mata hill from where the name of the region has been taken. The Federation - Fenai Mata Revakhand Jaiv Shristi Mandal is developed based on this perspective. Now the idea is to take it at mass level for which the children of the Ashram are being trained to expose children from other regions to the Natural resource perspective.



Kudrati Darshan Mela at Bhekadiya



Clay models of various facets of Fenai Mata



Children from different regions participating at the Kudrati Mela



## Farmer's Producer Organisations and Natural Farming



Shanna Bhai explaining about the benefits of Natural farming at a meeting of farmer's at Bhekadiya on FPOs organisations

While overall awareness of the relevance of the biodiversity and traditional knowledge exists, day to day economic and livelihood concerns force farmers to adopt sub optimal cropping patterns keeping market forces in mind. With the development and deepening of the understanding of the leadership in Fenai Mata Revakhand Jaiv Shristi Mandal, it is now possible to have deeper discussion with farmers on questions related to land use, options provided by natural farming, market potential of organic farming and the potential for substantial reduction of costs through collective efforts, recycling and proper treatment of organic waste like the Jeev Amrut process. How this will result in an alternate support and management structure and the new issues that need to be taken care of is now the subject of concern. Various discussions at Munglavat, Sodvad , Uchela, Dandaniya and Padvani covered some of the concerns. The issue of Forest fires, seed banks and other related issues will be taken up again after Holi.



Programme for saving the forests from fires

## **Part II**

### **A Perspective on Expressways**



Yamuna Expressway

## Concept Note on Greening of Expressways

Considering the need for quick transportation, modern India is putting in place infrastructure that reduces time taken in transportation quickly. However this infrastructure comes with a cost . A cost to rural communities and a cost to the environment. Keeping this in mind, Environment Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment have been undertaken. Considering all of this, fast track clearance has been given to roads and railways due to the limited displacement that occurs at a particular point because of the linear nature of the infrastructure. However experience shows that the following Environment and Social Impacts need mitigation.

- a. Noise and Air pollution from vehicular traffic : These two impacts are the direct result of the once silent countryside being faced with a constant stream of vehicular traffic crossing the village. Despite the limited space it occupies, the impact is widely spread as both types of pollution have a radiating effect. Earlier roads were lined with shade giving trees to protect the traveller from the heat. While this may not be required today due to A/C cars, the impact is felt by the neighbouring countryside. In the given conditions there is a need to find the appropriate local species that can absorb the noise, noxious gases and heat generated from the vehicular traffic so as to minimise the impact on the neighbouring countryside.
- b. Production of Carcinogenic GreenHouse gases (GHGs:) It has been proven that the noxious CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, Lead and other emissions from vehicular traffic contribute to GHGs and are carcinogenic in nature as well. This is one of the reasons for the massive increase in cancer patients across the country. Since other reasons for the increase in cancer patients are also due to the Productivity thrust, use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture the causes are interrelated. As part of Corporate Social Responsibility it is therefore necessary to find ways to reduce these impacts in collaboration with local communities. The introduction of local medicinal plants, proper diet by appropriate climate, adapted local foods and enhanced immunity are part of the objectives of integrating improved Primary Health Care Practises along with development projects. If this is integrated with the school curriculum, the reasons for all round development and proper Environment and Social Impact Assessments go together. It is not by accident that CSR has the goals of Environment, Education and Health as primary to the objectives to be fulfilled by the use and allocation of that money.
- c. Potential Income Generation from Road side tree and shrub plantations: While this may appear a laudable goal, there is a need to minimise the potential impact of disturbance to roads and vehicular traffic by birds, root spread and human disturbances too. The potential species to be planted while taking into account income generation as a goal also need to look at these possible side effects while screening. Active community participation would help to provide the wide range of options on the table for proper screening, assessment and later proper management of the resources as well.
- d. Potential for Carbon Sequestration, Soil health, fodder, renewable energy, reduction in water usage and drainage : These are potential ecosystem benefits that can accrue as a result of proper selection of local species, appropriate management practices and proper phasing of



the multi tier plantation programme. It has been flagged separately so as to highlight the need for a proper ecosystem assessment incorporating the larger more intangible long term factors and incorporating them in a collective planning process with local communities as multiple resources currently available with local communities will now have to be differently used to incorporate these elements in the design.

e. Development of road side parks, eating houses, recreation, hotels: These are some of the side benefits of road infrastructure which can be taken into account by proper planning and involvement of local communities in a way that the maximum potential income generation options is achieved. In such a case this can be dovetailed with the process of micorlanning by gram sabhas (Federated appropriately).

Leena Gupta  
(CEO HABITAT)

## **Part III**

### **Spiritual/Ecological Connections & Our Common Home**



Jharia Coal Fields in Jharkhand <https://www.mindat.org/photo-791346.html>

## **The coal paradox**

**Need to phase it out yet coal the reason for not granting Community Forest Right Titles on one hand and need for sanctuaries, wildlife corridors on the other**

### **Coal mining thrashing Tiger-land**

<https://www.greenpeace.org/india/en/publication/984/how-coal-mining-is-trashing-tigerland/>

This report by greenpeace makes the case that the biggest threat to the long term survival of the Royal Bengal Tiger in its largest contiguous landscape- Central India- has been overlooked by the Indian government and its administrative machinery. That threat is coal mining and its related infrastructure.

Coal mining threatens over 1.1 million hectares of forest in 13 coalfields alone in Central India. The GIS analysis, conducted by the Geo-informatics Lab at ATREE (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment) overlaid maps of the 13 coalfields (2) with forest cover, Protected Area boundaries and the latest government data on tiger, elephant and leopard presence.

Almost all the coalfields overlap with endangered species habitat – of the 1.1 million hectares of forest at risk, over 185,000 ha. are inhabited by tiger, over 270,000 ha. by leopard and over 55,000 ha. by elephant.

### **Promise and potential of FRA: Jharkhand**

As per the promise and Potential report brought out in 2016, the area under traditional village boundaries where FRA should automatically be applicable is 21,19,095.9 hectares. However till March 2022, only 1,04,066.86 hectares were recognised under FRA ie only 4.91% of the potential area has been recognised. The details given on the official site regarding FRA indicate little or no claims rejected and none pending. The situation on the ground is however different as details available with JMKU show. JMKU case studies presented to the Tribal Minister indicate that non recognition of claims relates to criminalisation of the local population for alleged violations under Forest Act 1927 and Forest Conservation Act 1980. In short it means that people have no rights under FRA in these regions.

### **Electricity and coal; Jharkhand**

In 2022 Jharkhand had a total installed power generation capacity of 2.735 MW most of it from coal. Despite being the second largest producer of coal, there is a shortfall in electricity production in Jharkhand as most of the coal is exported out of the State. The State experiences constant power cuts as coal companies refuse supply to the State Electricity Board until all dues are paid up. In terms of renewable energy production as well, Jharkhand is lagging behind even the targets it has set for itself. There are major concerns with the policy of phasing out thermal electricity production due to a large section of the population being dependent on it for employment and ancillary forms of livelihood.

# **CNDP<sup>1</sup> Statement on Joshimath**

**Not natural but development policy-induced disasters in the Himalaya!**

**Solidarity with the ongoing struggle for  
justice and accountability  
in Joshimath!**

**A call for a campaign to defend nature and people  
from destructive development!**

**Towards an ecosystem-based human rights approach to development!**

**We as representatives of diverse social and environmental groups from across the country express grief and concern for the people of Joshimath, facing forced displacement from their homes in the midst of winter. It is indeed the gravest tragedy, not a mere 'disaster' – to witness the collapse of one's home and land. It's a tragedy that will go down in contemporary Himalayan history, its trauma reverberating not just with the people of the entire region but across generations.**

## **A long history of invitation to disaster**

The tragedy unfolding in Joshimath has once again forced us to accept and believe that the spate of disasters we are witnessing in the Himalaya are certainly not 'natural' but constructed in the era of modern capitalist development. It is time that we stop fooling ourselves with legends of nature's wrath and blame the fury of the gods and start facing the demons that exist in the form of our economic and political systems of governance that have brought upon us these losses. **How can we turn away from the following facts that have emerged from the Joshimath situation?**

- 1.** That close to 50 years ago the commissioner of Garhwal, M.C Mishra, in an official report had warned of the geological conditions of Joshimath and recommended regulation of construction activity as well as protective measures in the region.
- 2.** Ignoring such warnings, in the last few years, a series of development projects including rampant tourism-related multi-storied buildings, highway widening and other construction for the Char Dham Project, and a 520 MW mega hydropower dam were undertaken in and around the town. The Tapovan Vishnugad project of NTPC involves the construction of a several kilometres-long underground tunnel in the wake of which severe damage to local geology, hydrology and landscape has been put on record.
- 3.** The Himalayan belt has seen drastic climatic changes. But more importantly the changes in land use, deforestation, the construction of dams and roads leading to slope instability, dumping of muck, deforestation and related erosion has multiplied the human and environmental impacts of these climatic events.

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<sup>1</sup> Campaign to defend Nature and People: An ICAN initiative

4. The scientists and environmental experts who studied the region presented research to establish that the unbridled construction, development footprint and the cascade of dams multiplied the impact of the flooding.
5. The most significant report that made these linkages post the floods was the Ravi Chopra Committee report tabled in front of the Supreme Court and amongst all the other recommendations it recommended a review of the proposed hydropower dams in both the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river valleys. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests refused to accept these recommendations.
6. The ambitious Char Dham highway expansion project for which a bypass was being built through Joshimath also received unfavorable views from local residents, activists and environmentalists not just for the extent of erosion being caused but also because of the series of brazen violations of environmental norms especially related to muck dumping.
7. It is shocking to note that these projects were given repeated clean chits. From the Geological Survey of India to the Ministry of Environment to the disaster management authorities and the regional pollution control boards and forest departments – it seems that every authority had failed to execute their duties when dealing with these developments.
8. In 2021, in the Chamoli disaster in the Rishiganga valley upstream of Joshimath the under-construction Tapovan Vishnugad dam acted as a hurdle for the roaring flood which also swept away many workers at the site of the project. These floods also probably contributed to cutting at the toe of the mountain on which Joshimath is perched.
9. Financial institutions like the Asian Development Bank that have funded the NTPC project also failed to take account of the possible risk from these constructions not just prior to implementation but even after the 2021 tragedy.
10. For the residents of Joshimath, an added shocker was the dismissal of a Public Interest Litigation that was filed in the Nainital High Court bringing to light the threats posed by the NTPC project. Not only did the court dismiss the petition in the very first hearing but also imposed costs on the five petitioners questioning their motivations and credibility.

These past developments indicate how Joshimath was set up for the current crisis.

### **The façade of ‘natural disaster’ and ‘All is well’**

After all this, when the issue of widening cracks in the homes of Joshimath residents was brought to the notice of the administration a couple of months ago, the authorities turned a blind eye. In the last month or so 850 homes have been marked with the red cross and close to 3000 people have been evacuated. Alternative arrangements have been made for shelters in hotels with temporary relief for those who have nowhere to go. As per reports, close to 30% of the town stands affected and virtually displaced and there seems to be a growing trend of cracks in the affected area.

Within days of the disaster’s unfolding, there was a gag order by the NDMA – banning scientists associated with government institutions from releasing information around the disaster.

Further, when people under the banner of Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti raised slogans of 'NTPC GO BACK', the government came out to support the company and deny NTPC’s role in contributing to the disaster. The Uttarakhand Chief Minister has also given a statement that ‘development cannot be stopped’.

*In this hour of grave crisis, we stand in solidarity with the Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti and support the demand for rehabilitation and compensation of all the affected people. We support the Samiti's demand for immediate temporary shelter structures while permanent arrangements are still pending. What is happening in Joshimath is an indicator for what is in store for the entire Himalayan region, as "development" policies are promoting hydropower, highways and mass tourism, bringing in their wake deforestation, floods, landslides, unplanned urbanisation, water shortage and waste disposal problems. The impact of climate change is being compounded by maldevelopment and misgovernance.*

In the light of the unfolding Joshimath tragedy, there is a need to take a broader look at "development"-induced disasters all over the country. There has been an all-out attack on nature which accelerated from the second term of the UPA government and further since 2014. It is characterized by resource-grab by the state and corporates to build infrastructure- from the Golden Quadrilateral to Char Dham roads in the Himalayas, forest diversion for roads, rail lines, power lines, mining and industry, Industrial Corridor through farmlands, hydroelectric projects in the Himalayas, Sagarmala project all along the coast, tourism infrastructure in the islands and the Inland Waterways project in rivers. The idea seems to be to develop infrastructure in order to attract private capital investment and build capitalism further. Even if the latter does not materialize, infrastructure building is seen as an end in itself. The result is severe erosion of biodiversity, loss of valuable climate buffers and loss of livelihoods for nature-dependent communities. The economic activities of the communities which are largely for subsistence and small income are getting increasingly unviable due to the economic policies that support corporates and big business.

The Joshimath tragedy illustrates what happens when people are deprived of voice in choosing their own path of development and managing their local natural resources by themselves, but it is not the only tragedy. Nature-dependent communities everywhere are resisting the attack on their livelihoods, but alone, as place-based and issue-based struggles. The adversary however is common- a system that greedily pursues profit while laying waste both nature and people. The struggles against the system need to be united. There are many initiatives to demonstrate alternative ways of communities using natural resources sustainably.

The overarching principle that may serve as the common guideline for the protection of nature and address issues of both inter- and intra-sector justice and equity is an *Ecosystem-based Human Rights Approach*.

Ecosystem-Based Human Rights Approach stands for access, distribution and consumption of natural resources abiding by the principles of human rights without violating or transgressing the norms for sustainability of the ecosystem. This over-arching approach, in its turn, is constituted of the following principles – **sustainable livelihood practice, workers' welfare, participatory governance by the community, subsidiarity in area and scale, inter-sectoral equity, climate justice, inter-generational equity and precautionary principle.**

While it is necessary to demonstrate that alternatives to the present destructive model of development are possible, in order to bring about a systemic change to an economic model that protects nature and nature-based livelihoods, a political initiative is required. The Campaign to Defend Nature and People has been initiated with this broad objective. The communities themselves, activists who work with communities, and scholars need to work together to create a strong campaign. Farmers, fishers and fish workers, forest workers, pastoralists and other nature-dependent communities together are more than 60 crore people in our population of 140 crore. An economic and political alternative can be built only on the basis of the communities struggling against the capitalist onslaught.



## Part IV

### Politics of different kinds



Nagaur: RMKU meeting of 200 Union members from four blocks Deana, Didwana, Makrana, Jayal

## Uniting struggles of natural resources based communities<sup>2</sup>

**“To say man’s physical and mental life is linked to nature simply means that nature is linked to itself, for man is a part of nature”**

**-Karl Marx**

*“Jal, Jungle, Zameen, Khaneej Humara Hai” continues to be the slogan of the communities that stands protecting natural resources from corporate loot. While the slogan itself dates back to the early 1900s, the spirit of the slogan comes from the lived histories of the natural resource based communities, goes back centuries – before corporates, company, capitalism or even the idea of capital ever existed! But centuries later the growth of capitalism, despite its inventions and reinventions, still relies on appropriation of natural resources through dispossession and thereby continues to be in direct conflict with natural resource based communities. This conflict is not just a struggle of adivasis, forest dwellers, fishing communities, pastoralists etc against the big corporations, but a struggle between two historical forces that has control over forces of production. One side, the might of capital, political power and greed and on the other an assertion based on traditional and sovereign right over resources. Traditional natural resources based communities’ lives have been in relation to their resources which have been commonly and collectively owned and used by the communities. Forest based communities, adivasis, agriculture based communities, peasantry and most of the coastal communities had complete or partial access to their own productive systems. Colonial rule in India disrupted the sovereign existence of natural resource based communities. Through direct expropriation, strengthening feudal relations and creating intermediaries (middle men) – absentee landlords, contractors and moneylenders, the colonial rule built systems of exploitation. The laws governing resources aimed at maintaining control over resources to fill the colonial coffers and thus creating inevitable numbers of conflicts between two forces, through-out the colonial era.*

The post-colonial rule in India was a political dichotomy. On the one hand there was the growth of Public Sector Units (PSUs) for economic and social development, investments and advancements in domains of science, technology and innovation, industry, arts and literature and communication, abolition of Zamindari Act, development options and forms of government etc. But on the other hand from the early years of nation building, the people of Damodar Valley (West Bengal-Jharkhand), Hirakund (Odisha) and Bhakra Nangal (Punjab) and of many resources rich areas were asked to sacrifice for nation-building. The economic theoreticians schemed it as part of the collateral damage, for building a powerful country and a strong economy. Many other colonial laws and institutions like the forest department thrived and still exist till today. This colonial legacy of capturing resources continued in the resource rich states paying for the ‘development and nation building’. The result of this unequal growth resulted in internal displacement of people from these states, who eventually became part of the informal labour force. Before the nation state could completely shed its colonial yoke, it surrendered to a neo- liberal one.

The privatisation regime that has become the order of the day has its roots in the LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation) era that started with the 1990s. The global enslavement paradigm, led by the Bretton Wood institutions, powered by the GATT and WTO, made sure that the spineless Indian government of the day was taken for a ride at the

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<sup>2</sup> All India Union Forest Working People (AIUFP)

cost of the immense efforts thus far made to make sure India's path towards a welfare state. It was the people's movements and struggles against the British Raj, patriarchy, feudalism, caste and class exploitation, hunger, Brahmanical hegemony, land & forest alienation, loot of natural resources, and so on that constantly forced the new political elite to adhere to an inclusive social compact. But the gains of a progressive social compact ensured by socio-political movements across India were fast eroding. From protection of agriculture, labour, environment, traditional livelihoods, to safeguarding of natural resources, the opening up of the economy to 'reforms', fatally compromised many of the principles of the Indian constitution.

Today, the very communities who had to make those sacrifices for building a new India, are being brutally forced to surrender everything they hold dear – for mining, dams, industrial corridors and projects, real estate, thermal power projects, nuclear projects, highways and road infrastructure, ports – all that which will apparently make India a 'superpower'. This unaccountable and unsustainable greed of one-sided 'Development' has also led to rising economic disparity, social unrest, unemployment and human suffering. Unlike the previous era, where the narrative was for 'nation-building' and 'for the people' today, the sacrifice is for the sake of private profit at the cost of the country and its people. It is a blatant surrender by the government to big corporations and crony capitalism that profiteers even during a pandemic.

Three decades into the neo-liberal agenda, today what we see is a communal, authoritarian, brahminical and patriarchal state that has comfortably blended into the neo-liberal framework to decimate any pro people, democratic, progressive model of development. Through capture of institutions – executive, judiciary and legislature – the government tries to suppress every force that could potentially pose a challenge. Students, workers, civil liberty activists, social movements, have been under constant attack and arrests. Through silencing anyone who questions the government plans through to push through its expropriation based development agenda.

The neo-colonial model of development that primarily relies on the extraction of resources for private profiteering is the principal contradiction. The principal contradiction between capital and labour is shifting from industrial labour to natural resource based communities. Today, global capital uses the language of environment and climate crisis. From the UN, WB, COP, nation states to corporate houses today all talk 'Green Growth' ESG framework and climate crisis mitigation. The discourse on climate change is being set by the global capital, thereby rendering the communities directly impacted as just victims of climate change. This discourse is set precisely to render the natural resource based communities powerless to resist the corporate plundering in the name of 'green investments', 'eco tourism' and 'conservation projects' that would forcefully displace the communities to loot the resources.

Hence, the political role of nation building for re-establishing welfare state falls more on the natural resource based communities. Only by an alliance of all traditionally natural resource based communities can they expose this false narrative. The need today is to assert that it is the communities' relation of co-existence with nature that has protected these natural resources for centuries! it is the lived experience and history of the historically oppressed that stands in the way of the new 'green plunder'. It is time, we realize that it is not just a fight against the corporates and their profiteering, but a fight for our lives, our history, culture, icons, identity. Only then can this renewed anti-colonial struggle can become one of our liberation.

This needs to be accompanied by an equally effective campaign to repeal the Indian Forest Act of 1927, the amendments made in 2015 and 2020 to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation Act), 1957, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, the National Waterways Act, 2016, the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, 2006 (EIA 2020) and now the Forest Conservation (Act) Rules of 2022, to name a few. All these parallel and devious attempts by the State have seriously thwarted attempts to re-claim lands and livelihood. Along with this the weaponizing of the criminal justice system by the State, to harass and punish those who dare to protest against the anti-people and anti-Constitutional policies and actions of the Government is manifest in the (mis) use of colonial inserts into Indian criminal law, ie the CRPC and IPC.

Compounded with this is the rampant use of the UAPA Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act of the 1960s, that since amendments in 2004, 2008 and 2019 has become a counter-terror law that is a permanent adjunct to existing criminal law and used to incarcerate and stifle dissent. Not that attempts on arresting democratic assertions had not happened earlier. But with the new majoritarian dispensation, the stifling of democratic freedoms is rampant and aggressive.

The All India Union of Forest Working People and other fraternal groups call to all natural resource based community organisations, progressive forces to unite and form alliance to plan ahead.

A few points of discussion are mentioned here:

1. Colonial legacy in model of development
2. Growth of capital in post-colonial India and displacement of rural labour to urban areas.
3. Erosion of welfare state to establish neo-liberal model
4. Accumulation of profit through appropriation of natural resources.
5. Change of the political role of natural resource based communities
6. Concrete alliance between industrial workers (formal and informal) with natural resource based communities.
7. Plans for political intervention

## **Part V**

### **Health, Happiness and the Hope Gene**



Sunil Dubey preparing for a lecture on Wildlife History of Mewar at Sai Agro Farm grape farm in Aravande, Sangli

## **A visit to Subhash Chauhan's farm at Aravande Sangli**

Subhash Chauhan is originally from Ajmer region of Rajasthan. Around 600 years back, his family came to Aravande village in Tasgaon Taluka of Sangli District of Maharashtra. Subhash Chauhan runs an organic grape farm. Around 12 years back, WIPRO under their CSR programme supported him in marketing his grapes in the cities of Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Other companies joined in. The lockdown proved to be pretty severe as he could only sell in for a little more than half the price in the nearby town of Tasgaon for the last three. He hopes to restart his business in Pune and elsewhere. Since my daughter Genevieve was one of the few online purchasers he had during lockdown, we took up his offer to visit his farm before all the grapes were harvested this year. My colleagues Sunil Dubey and Amit Daiman joined me with the purpose of getting a view of the country side and also explore aspects related to ecology and farming in this part of the country. There will be more on this aspect later. For now the spotlight on Subash Chauhan and his family.

Aravande boasts of a Kabbadi playing ground at the government school and a football ground as well. Training for the army and police is one of its objectives. His daughter Saryu currently in 4<sup>th</sup> Standard trains in Kabaddi while Subhash is one of the trainers. On the day we came, he had organised a blood donation drive as well. Since he had to attend to us he could only attend the opening and closing of the programme.

The village boasts of an ISKON temple where lakhs of devotees from across Sangli District attend every year. We went to visit the temple and pay our respects to Lord Krishna as well. While sugarcane, grape and orchard cultivation have taken over the countryside. This region was traditionally the home of pastoralists. Remnants of the savannah grasslands could still be found while under threat from American mint, Parthenium, Lantana and other invasive species. We will pick up these threads when we examine the ecological aspects of the region and the relevance of the struggles of Mukti Sangharsh Chalval in demanding Krishna waters for upstream farmers. As a result of this and other efforts, a lift irrigation scheme serving a 25 Km radius on either side is in place. How the efforts of Prayog Parivar in terms of scientific application and use of water and its manifestation in the demands of Mukti Sangharsh Chalval for minimum critical water, impact the region will be studied further.

Since Sunil had to deliver a talk on the History of Wildlife in Mewar region

[http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Sunil\\_Dubey\\_Lecture\\_for\\_Heritage\\_Int.\\_Webi.\\_India\\_26Feb2023\\_compressed.pdf](http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Sunil_Dubey_Lecture_for_Heritage_Int._Webi._India_26Feb2023_compressed.pdf)

He used the ambience of the farm to give his talk. The url of the webinar is given below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vE5K42XHnGs>

His talk is from 4:01:22 to 4:48:10 on the fifth day - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023.





At Sri Sri Radha Gopal Iskon Temple, Aravande, Tasgaon Block, Sangli District, Maharashtra



Subash Chauhan having his lunch at Sai Farms, Aravande



Saryu and Suya at the farm



Saryu with her grandmother at the farm



Drying grapes through natural process



## **Amit Daiman: honorary Scientific Advisor to IELA**

Amit from Bandikui in Rajasthan has recently agreed to be IELA's honorary scientific advisor. Since his joining the IELA team has worked on a number of assignments with IELA. They will be covered separately. Here are some snippets from his sojourn in the Netherlands.

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Amit-Netherlands-Photos-Compressed.pdf>

### **IHE Delft Institute**

<https://www.un-ihe.org/>

Water poses a serious challenge to every part of the world. Too many people remain without access to water and sanitation. This makes their lives difficult: their health suffers, and prosperity remains out of reach. Increasingly frequent and severe droughts and floods - a result of climate change - add to the challenge. At the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, we work to change this. Our vision: a world free of poverty and injustice in which people manage their water and environmental resources sustainably and equitably.

### **Keukenhof gardens**



## National Park de Biesbosch

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/activities/nature/de-biesbosch-national-park.htm>

De Biesbosch National Park is a unique freshwater delta comprising about 8,000 hectares of small rivers and streams. This nature reserve offers great opportunities for walking, cycling and even canoeing. Discover De Biesbosch!

- Go sailing, cycling or walking to spot beavers, sea eagles and hundreds of types of birds.
- Various rivers meet here to form a freshwater delta of no fewer than 8,000 hectares.
- Book the Ecolodge and spend the night amidst gorgeous nature.

## Maesland Kering

[https://www.holland.com/upload\\_mm/d/f/e/73392\\_fullimage\\_maeslantkering-2---tjeerd-kruse\\_1600x1067.jpg](https://www.holland.com/upload_mm/d/f/e/73392_fullimage_maeslantkering-2---tjeerd-kruse_1600x1067.jpg)



## MunMun's wedding<sup>3</sup>



Viren and Sunil's father at Mun Mun's wedding



Team Sunil

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<sup>3</sup> Why this features here will be the subject of many pages., some will unfold as we go along. For now the story of Devender Mistry (to Sunil's right - in photo) will be captured in brief.

## Devendra Mistry the bird man

From what Devendra Mistry said to me at Mun Mun's wedding, I understood the following

- a. The common thread is conservation, the variation is the different tunes which make it happen. Those that constitute different forms of life. A call for breeding namely the recreation of life. The need to have the proper conditions for the recreation of life.
- b. Who are our natural allies and who are our enemies. How mutual association helps strengthen allies against our enemies.
- c. The building of safe havens where the harmful forces of nature cannot reach.

Some questions, can these different ecological niches be mapped out on the landscape ? How do they contribute to the totality of life on earth ? Where and how is the historical knowledge buried. You talked of codified form in religious texts, how can they be uncovered ?

This is first part which helps us develop the ecosystem modules.

Second part

How can this be taught to children ? How to get children associated ? Schools, forest department, ecocamps, treks, essay/ painting competition ??

How to get schools, forest department, district administration, academia, general public involved ??

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Devendra-Mistry-The-Communal-Roosting-site-of-House-Sparrow-And-Some-Interesting-Behaviour-Of-Other-Birds-compressed.pdf>

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Devendra-Mistry-A-short-note-on-Syke-lark-part-A-converted.pdf>

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Devendra-Mistry-Asian-palm-civet.pdf>

The three articles above indicate the following

- a. That Devendra Mistry is able to capture the essence of the bird, animal in the habitat in which it exists.
- b. In the article on the roosting habits of the sky lark shows that Devendra Mistry has added a personal dimension namely that of admiration for the sky lark better at mimicry than himself, he has also indicated the ecological significance of the mimicry in terms of the health of the habitat
- c. What struck me in the conversation I had was two aspects
  - The deep knowledge of the jungle helped him to co-relate certain religious texts with the observations made by him. This is in line with our understanding of the relationship between community knowledge and the scientific understanding we now have. There is therefore a way of uncovering societal knowledge when superimposed historically on the habitat that existed then. Sunil Dubey has done this partially in his talk on the history of wildlife in Mewar and hopes to do more systematic work on the same going into the future.
  - The personal involvement with the subject of research provides other insights which we will not go into here, rather it will be the basis for better understanding science-human interface. More on this later.





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