

Test Run

A sample of thousands of flowers that bloom

Edited by Viren Lobo

An Especioza Trust Production



Shyam Benegal

Foreword

Two poems by me marking the close of 2024 and the dawn of 2025

End of a marriage of convenience ?

Does the closing of the curtains on 2024 mark an end to a marriage of convenience

A glorious past with a present that is tainted

The Bhopa feinted

This was not his cup of tea

Communities sold out for a fee

There were some who disagree

Development has a price

There are some who pay and others who reap

Is Dedollarisation a way the difference to keep ?

Invest in Bitcoin came a cry

100 % duty came the response

A end to WTO in sight

No that will be a long wait better to sit tight

Tears for India's former PM fell

As for Shyam Benegal it just added to the swell

The ashes across the country have been strewn

What comes forth still to be hewn.

Viren Lobo

The tiny shoot sprouting in the Desert

Surabhi struggled to get on her spindly legs
Recently born her mother watched tenderly
As Surabhi took her first steps.
In the distance, among oceans of desert a tiny blade of grass could be seen
Shanti the mother wondered where fodder would come
Enough to feed the both of them
As she wondered dark clouds gathered
Thunder and lightning ensued
As rain came pouring down creating rivulets in the cracked desert soils
Not long later a carpet of green could be seen
The frog croacked nearby
As insects buzzed around the flowers
Shanti grazed among the meadows
Content at the plenty she found
As she grazed more than seventy varieties she counted
Useful in different ways
Milk flowed from her udder as Surabhi suckled hungrily
Far away wolves looked on
There would be plenty for them too
How long would this last
Not sure
But for now it will do
Happy New Year
This transient life leaves its stamp,
on a society we will revamp
Unity in diversity and Diversity in unity
The many hues of the rainbow we shall find
As the future slowly unwinds

Viren Lobo

Background

The Proposal in Pipe Line for a Central Co-operative University keeping IRMA as Pivot AS "INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE" is WEL COME

Dear All,

I felt there should be no harm to discuss certain Structural Back Bone and Conceptual Details among the Alumni of IRMA regarding the Proposal in Pipe line for a Central Co-operative University keeping IRMA as Pivot as "Institution of National Importance" hence writing and placing this note for everyone's understanding rightly.

At National Level, the Constitution of India deals with the "Education" as a dual subject, a National Subject as well as a State-Subject. Therefore Both the Central Government and the State Governments have established various institutions related to Education over the time line of history known well.

In Central Government domain (that is the Government of India or Union of India), the Ministry of Education is the Nodal Ministry for the subject of "Education " and the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry is the Nodal Department for the purpose of "Institutions of National Importance" frame work which are named as Central Universities or Stand alone Institutions of Education variously named. However, in India so far, for Administrative purpose, some Institutions of National Importance come under the Department of Higher Education in the Union Education Ministry and some Institutions of National Importance have been under various Other Union Ministries of the Government of India depending on the specific purpose they were established from time to time.

Over the time and till date, there have been 165 "Institutions of National Importance" listed in India. All Institutions of National Importance are Governed by an Act (Law) enacted by Hon'ble Parliament of India. In very brief it is like this till date:

I am giving some Examples as Structural Frame Work for giving clear idea on the matter, you can also find and read in your own way.

Under Administrative Ambit of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India:

- 1. The 3-Universities namely BHU, AMU and Delhi University;** existed at the time of Independence of India in 1947 ..Under Entry No. 63, Union list - The 7th schedule under Article 246 of the Constitution of India.
- 2. All IITs ...**under Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 and its subsequent amendments
- 3. All IIMs ...**under Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017
- 4, All NITs ...**under National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 and its subsequent amendments
- 5. All II Sc & ER ...**under National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 and its subsequent amendments
- 6. All IIITs (information technology area) ..** some are under The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 and some are under The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2017
- 7. All Schools of Planning and Architecture....**under School of Planning and Architecture Act, 2014
- 8. University of Allahabad, Allahabad,**under University of Allahabad Act, 2005
- 9. Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan...** under Visva-Bharti Act, 1951
- 10. Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Chennai**under Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha Act, 1964
- 11. Academy Scientific and Innovative Research, Ghaziabad**Academy Scientific and Innovative Research Act, 2011 subsequent amendments

Under Administrative Ambit of Departments of Other Specific Ministries of Government of India (purpose based):

- 1. All AIIMS (Medical Science Area) ...**All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956' and its subsequent amendments ..**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- 2. JIPMER, Pondichery.....**under Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research Act, 2008 **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- 3. PGIMER, Chandigarh ...**Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act 1966 **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- 4. NIMHANS, Bangalore...** National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore Act, 2012**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

- 5. All National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research...**under National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act. 1998 and subsequent amendment ,,.....**Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**
- 6. All Campuses of Footwear Design and Development Institute ..**under Footwear Design and Development Institute Act, 2017. **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- 7. All National Institute of Design**under National Institute of Design Act, 2014 and subsequent amendment.....**Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- 8. Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University,Jhansi ...**under Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Act, 2014... **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**
- 9. Rajendra Central Agricultural University,Samastipur, Bihar ..**under Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University Act, 2016 ...**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**
- 10. National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat...**under National Forensic Sciences University Act, 2020...**Ministry of Home Affairs**
- 11. Rashtriya Raksha University Gandhinagar, Gujarat....**under Rashtriya Raksha University Act, 2020**Ministry of Home Affairs**
- 12. Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy, Visakhapatnam, A.P. ..**under Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy Act, 2017 ...**Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**
- 13. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Jais Raebareli, U.P. ...**under Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Act, 2007...**Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**
- 14. Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, Tamilnadu ...**under Kalakshetra Foundation Act, 1993**Ministry of Culture**
- 15. National Library, Kolkata, WB ...**existed at the time of Independence of India in 1947.....under Entry 62, List I of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India...**Ministry of Culture**
- 16. All National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management**under National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Act, 2021**Ministry of Food Processing Industries**
- 17. Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala**under Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Act, 1980**Ministry of Science & Technology**
- 18. Regional Centre for BiotechnologyFaridabad Haryana**under Regional Centre for Biotechnology Act, 2016 ... **Ministry of Science & Technology**

19. Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Jamnagar Gujarat....under Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Act, 2020...Ministry of Ayush

20. New Delhi International Arbitration Centre, New Delhi, Delhiunder New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 ...Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice

21. Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Kanchipuram, Tamil Naduunder Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development Act, 2012...Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

22. Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, West Bengalunder India Statistical Institute Act, 1959 ... Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation

23. Nalanda University, Rajgir, BiharNalanda University Act, 2010Ministry of External Affairs

Let me make it clear to everyone, I can not guarantee that I have exhausted everything above regarding the Conceptual and Structural Frame-Work that exists in India as on date regarding the "Institutions of National Importance", may be I might have left anyone existing anywhere, as I have said I am placing the details as examples, and these are enough examples of realtiites. However, I have made maximum effort by picking up right data and information from public domain to give a comprehensive picture to all of you.

As all of you see above, there are a Host of Institutions of National Importance or Central Universities under the Ministry of Education and there are also a lot of Institutions of National Importance/Central Universities under other Various MInistries of Government of India as purpose based.

Thus the Proposal for Establishing a Central Co-operative University in the Management, Teaching and Research direction is a justified area, and using IRMA as a pivot for the purpose is also justified, need not be explained too much, however in few words that would be enough to say is; "The Founding Purpose of IRMA and the Purpose of Government of India, Ministry of Co-operation, Government of India, have Congruence as well as Convergence".

It is obvious and corollary fact to reconcile that; the Central Co-operative University as Institution of National Importance with IRMA as the pivot and wherein IRMA will Constitute of a School affiliated of the planned Central Cooperative University as planned,

may be established by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Co-operation, presently held by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Home and Co-operation, Shri Amit Shah ji.

When an Institution such as an Institution of National Importance is established, at the beginning of it a Holding Institution or a Group of Holding Institutions act like a Promoter or Promoters. While IRMA was established, it was, Government of India, State Government of Gujarat, NDDDB along with GCMMF (including its Major Member Unions then) were the four majors working as promoters while NDDDB acted as the leading and co-ordinating institution among the major promoters and for legal purposes as Society, IRMA was legally floated by IRMA Society.

Therefore, in this case of the Proposed Co-operative University while the Ministry of Co-operation is leading the move to Establish the Central Co-operative University as Institution of National Importance, there is no need for anywhere to worry who will be the Promoter/Promoters of it, it will get decided I am sure, appropriately and appropriate time.

I am writing as may be anywhere anyones holding some positions that may be acting as barriers for them to say a bit Loudly Appreciating this Move of Government of India through its Ministry of Co-operation and there should be no dearth of efforts in appreciating this move.

We all IRMA Alumni and also from All Members IRMA Alumni Association (IAA) welcome it whole heartedly, it goes without saying.

With Best regards,

Dr. Nimain Charan Biswal,

PRM-5 (1984-86),

Mumbai, India

My reply

Dear All,

Thanks Nimain, I however have the following

- a. The cooperative approach to development has proved to have limitations due to the need for taking on many aspects not covered by the business angle.
- b. The commons include many aspects that are not covered by legal jurisdiction and where they are, a number of issues exist as de facto users are very often at variance with the de jure ones.
- c. More structural and systemic issues, in particular those related to women and children, sustainability do not come under economic modules but relate a lot to social and cultural restructuring/ adjustments.

Nevertheless, this is one framework under which currently a large number of activities can be integrated and hence a useful starting point for the larger agenda we seek. In 2017, I had integrated this aspect into the deliberations we were having at Udaipur trying to develop a framework which linked farmers, fishers, pastoralists, tribals and wage labour originating from the village on one platform. 38 people from 14 States attended the meeting, this has been the basis for the issues we are now taking up on the platform of ecosystems stewardship advocating for the relevance of renewable energy for decentralised governance linking conservation issues with sustainability and life support systems for human beings and biodiversity.

Our work will definitely plug in at various levels as we go along.

regards

Viren

Dedication

Red Salute Comrade Chitta Behera



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf2u6qU9djY>

Comrade Chitta Behera the father of the RTI movement in Odisha passed away on 11th December. A keen reader abreast of various aspects related to the economic, social and cultural developments in this country, he played a key role in providing a Marxist perspective to the discourse related to the interpretation of the educational and legal policies in this country. ABMKSS is indebted to him for his perspective on Forest Conservation Act guidelines which pinpointed how it was a violation of the very act it sought to protect and give shape to. It marked a fundamental shift in the principles of law making guided as it was by the Capitalist need for ease of business undermining all democratic principles which govern law.

ABMKSS has also taken note of his understanding related to the need for a strategy related to indigenous growth and development of this country and consequently the need to look at the diversity of the livelihoods and lifestyles that relate to community engagement with the natural resources of this country and how these have been impacted differentially by Capitalism.

Red Salute Comrade Chitta Behera, may your thoughts guide us to establish the proper historical connections and cultural roots necessary to give shape to the democratic content of struggles against the demands being made to prop up moribund and long decadent Capitalism.

Tarun Kanti Bose

Viren Lobo

On behalf of ABMKSS

Shyam Benegal and Manthan: Connecting to the life of every Irman.

Shyam Benegal, the pioneer of the parallel cinema movement in Indian cinema in the 1970s and 1980s, died on December 23 at a hospital here due to chronic kidney disease. He was 90. Shyam Benegal was born on December 14, 1934 in Trimulgherry, Hyderabad, British India [now Tirumalagiri, Hyderabad, Telangana, India]. He was a director and producer, known for [Ankur \(1974\)](#), [Trikal \(Past, Present, Future\) \(1985\)](#) and [Bhumika \(1977\)](#). He was married to Nira Benegal. He died on December 23, 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

"To pay tribute to the late Shyam Benegal, Doordarshan began the new year with a screening of 'Manthan' (1976) restored by FHF with support from the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (Amul) on Jan 1, 2025 at 8 p.m. on Doordarshan, ...Manthan" was inspired by the groundbreaking milk cooperative movement by Dr Verghese Kurien that transformed India into one of the largest milk producers in the world.



[Girish Karnad and Smita Patil the other two who etched Manthan i every Irman's brain](#)

Shyam Benegal, the veteran film director passed away recently. A recipient of several National Film Awards, Benegal was widely considered one of the greatest Indian filmmakers. For IRMAAns, he will forever hold a special place in their hearts as the Director of Manthan (1976), which was based on the cooperative movement which laid the foundation for the White Revolution. "Mero Gaam Katha Paarey", the iconic song from the movie is played at the IRMA Convocation procession every year. Here's a tribute to Benegal from IRMA participants. Interspersed with the visuals of life at IRMA and the PGDM(RM) journey, the video has participants from the 44th and 45th batches of the PGDM(RM) performing the iconic song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVX7WipsO7o>



Om Shanti, Late Shri Ganesh Prabhu 🙏
Very well described by IRMA (86-88) alumnus Prof. Vidyanand Jha:

“Devastated by the utterly shocking, sudden and totally untimely passing of Ganesh N. Prabhu, a friend of four decades.

Geeps, as I called him, was a Jamshedpur boy and later studied at Elphinston College in the then Bombay. In 1987, he joined Institute of Rural Management where I had started studying in 1986. He worked with National Dairy Development Board during 1989-1991, same organisation where I worked from 1988-91. And then both of us joined the Ph D Programme at IIM Ahmedabad in 1991.

From Ahmedabad, Geeps joined as a faculty member at IIM Bangalore and he remains one of my very few professional contacts who while being in India, published in Academy of Management Review. He was also a great evangelist for the women entrepreneurs’ programme at IIMB that was initially run in a pro bono/highly subsidised manner. Later, as the IIMs became more neo liberal, trying to practice the user pays principle, he valiantly tried to save the programme with many creative solutions.

He was a very generous friend. Once he roped me into a course on Qualitative Reserach Method for the Ph D programme at IIM Shillong that we co taught for few edition.

My defining memories of him are related to music. Even before I knew him closely, I used to be awed by his aura of genius. Those days I used to think that people who are interested in sciences and music, like Bhabha, are kind of geniuses. Geeps was interested in astronomy and he was into Hindustani classical music.

While we were students at IIMA, I have very vivid memories of attending the annual concert of Saptak in Vastrapur. There may have been more than one concerts or my memory is playing tricks. But in the one that I remember, we landed up at the concert without any passes and started listening to it from absolutely the last row. As the night progressed and people thinned, we kept on going ahead and by the time morning came, we were among the handful of people still listening to the concert. And then we walked back to the campus. He once recorded many live concerts from his collections on a storage device and gave it to me.

I couldn’t sleep after listening about his passing. And listened to Kishori Tai singing Kabir

poem about us being flimsy like water which would dissolve even if we come into contact with a drop of water: बूंद पड़े घुल जाना है।

Lastly to Geeps

*What was the hurry to go
The night is not yet finished my friend
We still had to hear so many recitals
Advance gradually to the front of the crowd
Listen to morning ragas, Lalits and Todis
Listen to the Bhairavis
See the dawn, hear the morning birds chirp
What was the hurry to go.”* 🙏🙏🙏

Joseph John Bosco Cardozo

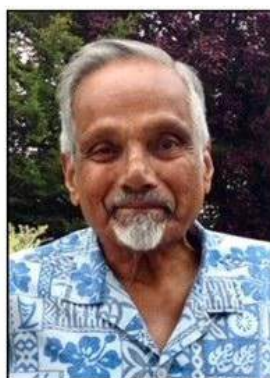
AMHERST, MA — (formerly of Claremont, NH)

Bosco passed peacefully in Amherst on Saturday Feb 1 after a brief hospitalization and exemplary care from medical staff at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. He was 88 years old. By his side were his wife and “security blanket” Hazel, who cared for him faithfully for 60 years, all six children, and many grandchildren. The room was filled with music, pride and laughter as his accomplishments and adventures were recalled. Bosco was fearless, funny, and singular—often referred to as “a character.”

Bosco was born in Zanzibar to Timothy and Beatrice Cardozo of Goa, India, the only brother among one younger and three older sisters. A proud graduate of University College Cork, Ireland for undergraduate and medical degrees, he was first in his medical school class and won the Charles Gold Medal for mastery of human anatomy. He trained as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist in England before practicing in Kenya, the birthplace of his four oldest children, and for 25 years afterwards in his own practice, Valley Ob/Gyn in Claremont, NH, where his two youngest sons were born. His professional skills were deeply admired, while his quirkiness—and signature bright red socks—endeared him to his many colleagues, patients and friends. After his retirement, the family relocated to Amherst in 1997.

Bosco lived fully, reveling in good company, spirits, and food (especially Hazel’s excellent cooking). He was an avid world traveler and denizen of local pubs in dozens of countries on six continents. He especially loved visiting family in England and now reunites eternally with beloved sisters Theresa Moniz and Sr. Zita Cardozo, as well as brother-in-law and lifelong friend Joseph De Lord.

He also enjoyed music, classic movies, and reading, especially mysteries. Bosco had a lovely baritone and often sang around the house and at Sunday mass. He loved gardening, a daily soak in his hot tub, and the occasional cigar. He was a tennis lover who bicycled around well into his ‘70s (not without mishaps, but you couldn’t stop Bosco from hitting the road).



Most of all, he loved his family and never stopped smiling good naturedly in their presence. He especially lit up around his grandchildren, who dubbed him “Boppa”: Tom Kane and Kelsey Moniz Kane, Jonah Kane and Noeli Vasquez, Lila, Ruby and Jude Cardozo, Sadhana, Keshini and Leo Cardozo, Asha, Milo and Mira Cardozo and Nica Cardozo.

Bosco is survived by his wife Hazel (Pinto) Cardozo and families of their six children: Karen Cardozo and Jonathan Kane (Amherst, MA); Timothy Cardozo and Jennifer Fuller (New York, NY), Raymond Cardozo and Latika Malkani (Orinda, CA) Kevin Cardozo and Reba Saldhana (Andover, MA), Joseph Cardozo (Los Angeles, CA), and Michael Cardozo and Rebecca Ossorio (Northampton, MA). He also leaves behind beloved sisters, Genevieve (Genny) De Lord and Eulalia (Lally) McDermott (widow of Peter McDermott), along with many nieces and nephews in the U.K. and in-law families of Elaine and Cleto Dos Remedios as well as Joe and Villa Pinto of Vancouver, Canada, with whom he also shared fond memories.

There will be a funeral mass at 10AM on Saturday February 8th at St. Brigid’s Church in Amherst, followed by a reception. A subsequent burial and memorial service will take place for extended family and friends, tentatively March 29, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to The Hazel and Bosco Cardozo International Students Endowment Fund at the Newman Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Donations may be made online or sent c/o the Newman Center, 111 Thatcher Road, Amherst, MA 01003.

Part I

Facets of an Ecosystem Approach to Sustainable Development



Bhokar Gaathan plan

To understand what it takes to develop a model plan, it was decided to start with Bhokar Gaothan where Ashankur had its base for the following reasons.

- a. The woman sarpanch influenced by Ashankur had already initiated a programme in the school and an attempt at promoting ecological development in the village. A concerted initiative by Ashankur would help to keep up the momentum.
- b. The children of the school had taken a keen interest in the ecological exposure they got at Bhokar campus, their attendance at the programme was greatly facilitated by the women of the SHGs who saw the significance of environment/ science education for their children.
- c. Some of the Ashankur staff were from the village and understood the psyche of the community well, so would be able to steer the programme in the appropriate direction due to their exposure.

To start with the team prepared a model template on the information to be collected for the base line. When this was discussed, it was suggested that they focus on the following

- Ashankur perspective to model village development centred around, women, marginalised communities and children. This would help to initiate a programme in the short run as it would be based on the preparations/ discussions that had already been taken up.
- Given that Ashankur celebrates Women's day every year, the plan prepared could be unfolded as part of the preparations for women's day.

The following components have been incorporated into the plan to start with

- a. The need to uproot invasive species from Bhokar tank and plant medicinal and other useful species on the river banks. This would make the tank a healthier place and also aid in beautification of the region. There are some migratory birds that come to the tank in winter season. This in addition to local birds of the region. The resultant interface of wetland and terrestrial habitats would help create other interlinkages as well. This would require involvement of the Panchayat and women from the SHGs of Bhokar.
- b. Promotion of medicinal and other useful species in the Gaothan along with the uprooting of invasive species from the road sides and other locations. Involvement of the school children in this programme is expected. The programme would address health issues, environment aesthetics and facilitate greater involvement and interest of the community in the programme.
- c. Ecological planning for the tank which would include improvement of fish quality and diversity, possibility of cultivation of lotus plants which would help control mosquitoes and provide limited employment as well. Since the pond is small it has been recommended not to go for commercial exploitation of fish, rather use them to attract birds to the region.
- d. Development of nursery of 4000 plants at Ashankur for income generation and plantation of medicinal and nutritional plants. Promotion of honey collection based on the fact that plantation of host plants of the honey bee have restored their presence in Ashankur Campus.

e. Creation of awareness among the children of the remedial classes in Bhokar about the biodiversity in their region and in particular about medicinal and other useful plants and the impact of invasive species as well.

f. Since the initial planning involves the Gaathan (village habitation), it will provide a road map to engage with urban habitats as well. A suggested programme is to involve college students and urban communities in the plan that unfolds in Bhokar in some way. Ashankur has links with communities in Srirampur town and womens groups and children in other regions as well so the sharing process during women's day may unfold other possibilities as well.

One strong possibility is the potential to study Man animal conflict and its specific manifestation in the presence of leopards in the sugar cane fields. The comprehensive study of the biodiversity of the six villages indicate that the habitat includes ginny grass and maize fields as well, basically the presence of tall grass and dense vegetation that can hide its presence. Given awareness it is possible to mark spots where recent attacks by the leopard have been made. There was one attack on a human being driving a motor cycle. The leopard ran off due to this vehicle being followed by another close by. Other attacks have mainly been on dogs. Ashankur does not tie its cows as this would make the calves easy prey for the leopard.

The analysis of the biodiversity data is still continuing. This will indicate the following

a. Mapping the spread of invasive species and immediate action points. At the local level this is generally known so some activity can be initiated without the map as well.

b. Providing a perspective of the spread of medicinal and other useful plants and what needs to be done to ensure their conservation spread and survival.

c. The Biodiversity list includes rare, endangered and threatened species as well. Their locations are in the process of being highlighted so that a road map for their conservation and preservation can take place.

The above also indicates the potential to create a biodiversity register for the six villages and facilitate them to create Village Biodiversity Protection Committees.

How the programme will unfold will depend on the nature of participatory interaction with the village communities in the seven villages (including Mandve) over the next six months. Monitoring indicators for each activity/ thematic area will be defined as the base line data and engagement with the communities are consolidated.

Part II

A Perspective on Ecology and Livelihood



Moonshadow just a fond memory now



Moonshadow what's left now

Will the people of California be compensated under FEMA ?

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-01-13/Los-Angeles-fires-point-up-government-dysfunction-1A8e9Rh7IKg/p.html>

What can the California fires teach us ?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qXHkme6tdE&t=8s>

Part III

Spiritual/Ecological Connections & Our Common Home



Mahakumbh once in 144 years

Dear All,

Nimain is right. This Mahakumbh is going to be the first and last all those currently in the IAA will see. Seeped in the tradition of this holy land it showcases what modern technology can do as well. I look beyond the Mahakumbh too, can we use this technology to rejuvenate our water bodies and rivers to the pristine state they once were in. Can the wetlands of India provide the bounty that once graced this land (talked about in the holy scriptures). The history of the rich cultural heritage has been the prerogative of the rulers to narrate. Recognition of the wealth in Indigenous knowledge is on the rise as the advancement in science has been able to deal with multiple parameters, interlinkages and multilayered data. Given this the importance of community knowledge to deal with the dynamic issues they represent is also gaining ground.

So will wait and watch as the story unfolds but beyond the Mahakubh too and into the next 144 year cycle as well.

regards

Viren Lobo

PRM 83- 85

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On Mon, Jan 13, 2025 at 9:04 AM Dr Nimain Charan Biswal
<drnimaincharanbiswal@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear All,

The "**Mahakumbh**" 2025, starting today at Prayagraj (**formerly Allahabad**) in Uttar Pradesh starting today on 13-January-2025 for 45days , is a fair of Unheard of Magnitude, showcasing India's Cultural Heritage and Capability.

Though the "Mahakumbh" is done in every 12years, and will be held at 4-Places of India, such as **Prayagraj(formerly Allahabad, UP)**, **Haridwar (Uttarakhand)**, **Nasik (Maharashtra)** and **Ujjain (MP)** what is organized at Prayagraj (Allahabad) at the

"Sangam" (Merging) of 3-Holy Rivers of India (Ganga, Jamuna and Saraswati) is the Biggest and of Unheard of Magnitude.

The NDTV is saying many facts of the "Mahakumbh" in a news report I am giving a link of it here below may be useful to read and know some facts of it. However you can read by your choice, there are many news about it giving various facts about it, [just amazing that it is humanly possible and it can be only done in India with this kind of Magnitude and no where](#). Here is the link:

Factbox: All About Maha Kumbh Mela, How It Started, Who All Will Attend

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/factbox-all-about-maha-kumbh-mela-how-it-started-who-all-will-attend-7454970>

While the above news report gives many facts, the fact that 45-Crore (450 Million) people are expected to attend the Mahakumbh at Prayagraj (Allahabad) is just mind boggling. [Even 45-Crores\(450 Million\) is much more than the Population of USA which is 34 Crores \(340 Million, in 2024\)](#). Hypothetically even if the entire population of USA travel to Mahakumbh it will not cross the expected 45 Crore(450 Million) and it will still be deficit by 11 Crore (110 Million) heads .

One will find everything, the Unimaginable Size (Magnitude) [\(spread over 10000 Acres of physical space\)](#) , use of State of the Art and Most Modern Technology([such as Under Water Drones and AI Cameras](#)) and Spirituality in all forms ([the Mind Game of all types](#)) and [45-Crore Visitors](#), connected by massive transportation network in India ([13000 Trains and 700-Buses](#)). The Economics of this Giant Fair will be more astonishing.

Those who can afford, may like to have a look at it, this year it is special, and [this particular type happening in 2025, happens once only in 144years](#), hence one human life may not be enough to see it more than once.

[For the Students of Management, it is a Great Opportunity](#) to Understand the Whole Gamut of Marketing, Event Management and Operational Management of large Public Systems, and it has such a spread, it can teach everything, that can not be taught in a 2-year MBA Course, if examined appropriately.

Let us see how it goes for the next 45days starting from today, I am sure there will be enough news reporting its affairs. I had some experience of seeing some large fairs internationally in other countries, however what is said about this Mahakumbh 2025 is just unheard of.

With Best regards,

Nimain Charan Biswal,

PRM-5 (1984-86),

Dr. Nimain Charan Biswal,

Mumbai, India



Model Harsha Richarya

मॉडल हर्षा ने छोड़ा महाकुंभ

महाकुंभ में ज्योतिष पीठ पीठाधीश्वर एवं शंकराचार्य अविमुक्तेश्वरनंद ने मॉडल हर्षा को लेकर टिप्पणी की थी। उन्होंने निंदा करते हुए इसे सनातन धर्म का अपमान बताया था। संतों के विरोध की वजह से मीडिया में भी मामले ने तूल पकड़ लिया था। इसके बाद गुरुवार रात इन बातों पर दुख जताते हुए हर्षा ने कुंभ नगरी को छोड़ने का एलान कर दिया। अब महाकुंभ को हर्षा ने छोड़ दिया है।

The story above points out that due to the criticism of Shankarayacharya Avimuktेश्वarnand that Model Harsha has insulted Santan Dharm and the subsequent chatter on twitter, Harsha left the Kumbh mela.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/mahakumbh-wife-steve-jobs-wants-to-join-sanatan-dharma-niranjani-akhara-laurene-powelle-jobs-101737165056535.html>



Philanthropist Laurene Powell Jobs, wife of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, receives spiritual initiation from her guru Niranjani Peethadheeshwar Swami Kailashanand Giri, at the Mahakumbh, in Prayagraj. (PTI)

Part IV

Politics of different kinds



Mamohan Singh

For thousands of years the narcissus weeps at its blindness

With difficulty does an eye-worthy flower bloom in the garden

That for me is Dr. Manmohan Singh

The news of his passing away has left me breathless and devastated.

I came within his orbit for the last two decades. In 2004 I stood before him as he administered my oath as Member Planning Commission. In 2024 I stood before him with my autobiography 'Drop in the Ocean' for which I had written beautiful lines on the cover. Two decades of proximity and suddenly a vacuum for me, for India and the world! Many people will recount what he meant for the country; I will write my personal experience through which I hope the reader can see the larger picture.

Surrounded by Members Planning Commission who were economists and administrators, I was overwhelmed by my own inadequacy. The best I had was some writing skill and some activism. For ten years I was the only woman Member in Yojana Bhavan. The person who extended a helping hand and listening ear to all this was the Chairperson of the country's apex planning body, Dr. Manmohan Singh. He saw some of my reports from the field which the Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia sent him. He spoke very little, a few measured words. His very first words etched my heart. 'You go out and explore the country. Then write what you have seen. Kusum Nair wrote blossoms in the Dust; that was in 1961. It's time for an update'. His words became my mission; going to the unseen and unwritten parts of the country to record my chashm deed gawahi (eye witness account) to place before the apex planning body. The result was my book Beautiful Country Stories from another India co-authored with Gunjan Veda in 2012.

Two of my reports out of a total forty five were my pride because they brought policy change. My Gadchiroli report 'Ordinary Women who did the Extraordinary' was sent to him by Montek. 'Though long it is recommended for reading in toto'. Ten days later came his handwritten reply 'There should be a discussion with the Health Ministry if village health workers under Rural Health Mission could be entrusted with the responsibilities of village health workers of this report'. My earlier report on Mewat brought it under MNREGA. Gadchiroli was factored under NRHM. All this happened because he listened and heeded.

For me Dr. Sahib epitomised the ganga-jamni (composite) culture of my country. In 2008 there was a new visitor to PM house. A man from village Gah in district Chakwal Pakistan crossed the border to meet his school friend 'Mohna'. He carried soil and water from the village in Punjab for the friend with whom he shared a bench in his school. Ali Raja Mohammad and Manmohan Singh had parted in 1947 and met in 2008. Not only this region but all of South Asia was Dr. Singh's very own. That became clear to me when his friend Madanjeet Singh, a refugee from Lahore (who rose to become UNESCO goodwill Ambassador) started South Asia Foundation in 2000. Dr. Sahib was the inspiration behind this Rainbow Coalition as I watched it grow as its founding member. Not only South Asia. Dr. Singh's vision encompassed the human race regardless of religion, caste, class ethnicity.

In his poem Mosque of Cordova, Iqbal describes the 'ideal man' which to me epitomises Dr Manmohan Singh

Narm dum e guftgu garm dam e justju

Razm ho ya bazm ho pak dil o pak baaz

Soft of speech but solid in struggle

Whether in fight or feast.. always pure hearted.

Syeda Hameed

Other facets of his personality

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/singh-and-his-legacy-of-major-rights-based-legislations-for-social-welfare-124122700910_1.html

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/when-manmohan-singh-wrote-a-cheque-for-gains-accruing-from-rupee-devaluation/articleshow/116717964.cms?from=mdr>

The accidental Prime Minister

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7JqAM8_Qeo

Strictly personal: Daman Singh

https://www.google.co.in/books/edition/Strictly_Personal/LUvVBAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover

Part V

Health, Happiness and the Hope Gene



Nora the basketball champ on the right







Ryan and the Grandmother he never met

One in spirit but not in the flesh

Though basketball the favourite sport for both

The ability to basket from the halfway mark

A combination that would set off sparks

Art to another passion, for Ryan it was poetry for Nora it was music

Taught her daughters the piano, her son tried his hand at the Violin and failed

Wishful thinking does not help you prevail

So Nora to her grandson lent a ear

And to his cross shed many a year

In heaven of course

So on earth it rained

And the subject of many a discourse

Climate change the name of the game

But for Ryan it was the gala

One which provided funds for path breaking research

A different type of tea party at Boston we will enjoy

Quite a big feat for a small boy ☺



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 117th birthday (25th 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 (6th 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