

# **The Confluence**

Deltas, Ideas, Politics, Economics and implications for Governance

Edited by Viren Lobo

**An Especioza Trust Production**



After the cyclone in the Sunderabns

# Foreword

## The year gone by

With Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat holding India's head high  
The train tragedy at Balasore and life for an eye at Gaza  
This year has seen turmoil  
What is to be human makes everyone boil  
Will concerns for one's dignity continue to spoil  
As with sweat we continue to toil  
And with religion, human values embroil  
Hope lies not far away  
Yet for many just out of grasp  
As to 'values' we stand fast  
Do institutions not decay ?  
Yet for the opposite we keep on praying  
A grain of seed must die  
The fruit for us to see  
To this year we bid goodbye  
As the embers slowly die  
For the morning hue we cry.

Viren Lobo

## Happy New Year

A thin light shimmered through  
Glistening in the darkness  
On drops of water a glow could be seen  
As if to ask  
Where have you been  
Awaiting the dawn  
The child stayed awake  
A thought flitted through  
New friends to make  
With old friends  
Bonds were sealed  
As deep wounds slowly healed  
There were people standing tall  
The world grew small  
Minds engaged  
AI - data guaged  
Knowledge did not overawe  
Even as employment it did gore  
A wounded humanity struggled back  
As death/ disaster behind them was packed  
The watery sun through the clouds broke through  
Colours floated in the sky  
A long gasp for breath  
No this is not Meth

Viren Lobo

# Background

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted during the recent 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) following a four-year consultation and negotiation process. This historic Framework, which supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and builds on the Convention's previous Strategic Plans, sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Among the Framework's key elements are 4 goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030. India has signed this and now has to adopt it in India. therefore,

NBA, Govt of India has invited me<sup>1</sup> for the first regional consultation meeting on the Updation of NBSAP and adoption of National Biodiversity targets in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework scheduled on 9-10 January 2024 at Hyderabad. i was part of the team when the first NBSAP of India in 2002 was made. I worked for Kachchh sus-state of Gujarat Chapter.

Among the following 23 Targets, HABITAT will effectively contribute in 21 Targets.

## Reducing threats to biodiversity

Target – 1 : Biodiversity inclusive integrated land / sea use planning

Target – 2 : Ecosystems restoration

Target – 3 : Protect and conserve land and sea areas

Target – 4 : Management of species and genetic diversity

Target – 5 : Harvest, trade, and use of wild species

Target – 6 : Invasive alien species

Target – 7 : Reduce pollution risks and negative impact

Target – 8 : Minimize the impact of climate change

## Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

Target – 9 : Sustainable use for multiple benefits

Target – 10 : Sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry

Target – 11 : Regulation of air, water, hazards and extreme events

Target – 12 : Increase access to green and blues spaces

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<sup>1</sup> Dr Leena Gupta: CEO Habitat Ecological Trust, Visnagar, Gujarat

Target – 13 : Access and benefit sharing

Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

Target – 14 : Mainstreaming biodiversity

Target – 15 : Sustainable production, supply chains and disclosure of risks

Target – 16 : Eliminate unsustainable consumption

Target – 17 : Strengthen biosafety regulatory capacity

Target – 18 : Repurpose harmful incentives

Target – 19 : Resource mobilization

Target – 20 : Capacity development, technology and scientific cooperation

Target – 21 : Communication, awareness, and knowledge management

Target – 22 : Equitable and effective participation in decision making

Target – 23 : Gender equality in decision making and implementation

Points regarding the windmill case discussed informally by Dr Leena Gupta on 10<sup>th</sup> January at National Biodiversity Consultation. The Government representatives were not prepared to listen properly arguing that if people want electricity, roads etc etc where this will come from ?

- a. The forest land where NPV was given was outside of the area where the windmills were.
- b. The land where windmills were had been regenerated so had same vegetation as the forest land.
- c. The regeneration of the land was not considered while granting permission which was not the prerogative of MoEF CC but the Collector for which he should have considered the work and awards got by Timbaktu Collective.
- d. After our study the Company tried to argue that they had only taken one hectare each, e. Our point was, it was on the top, roads had to be built to reach the top. Company had told the people that 8 m wide roads would be built but they were more than 30 m. Impact was presumed on the basis of 20 m lattice structure but these were 74m.
- f. In addition to the lack of access by the goats, sheep and cattle other studies showed
  - impact on birds and bats
  - The dull continuous noise which impacted health

- amount of water being used, impact on ground water
- impact on underground life due to vibration
- being a corridor and hence impacting flow of wildlife
- pollution caused by plastic and animal deaths.

g. On EIA and SIA, this was highlighted by CSE .

This relates to a windmill project in Mushtikovilla a village in Anantpur District where due to third highest windspeed, windmill project was cleared for Enercon. Timbaktu Collective had worked there for 25 years and with the local community had restored the ecosystem of 8 villages and covering 7000 acres. Enercon acquired 53 acres of land on top of the hill and flattened them to provide the foundation for the 470 T windmill structures on top of the hill requiring 13 lorries to transport the material up. For this they had to cut 30 m wide roads making it impossible for cattle to access the terrain. The plastic in which the windmills were wrapped were strewn about carelessly. Cattle ate this and died. One such was cut up to show the plastic in its stomach.

To cool the router (the size of a bus) water was pumped up from underground which potentially would dry up the streams that had been made perennial by the eco-restoration.

A detailed study on the impacts were made by my colleague Dr Leena Gupta. To fight the case, I studied the impacts of windmills across the world and in short came to the conclusion that if was not for the subsidy and concessions given to windmill companies the same would not have come up. The issues are all post 2000 since these big structures are post 2000 and a response to phasing out coal.

NGT had a soft spot for windmills due to this reason ☺ .

Viren Lobo

## Dedication

*In Loving Memory*



ARNOLD COLLACO

19th Sept. 1966 –  
1st Jan. 2024

"It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Arnold. Arnold touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him, leaving behind a legacy of love, joy, and resilience that will forever echo in our hearts.

May we find solace in the memories we shared, the lessons he imparted, and the love that continues to surround us. Rest peacefully, dear Arnold, you're with mum and dad now. Your legacy of love and light will live on in our hearts forever."

Arnold was a gentle, kind and caring soul. He loved music and dance and had an extreme fondness for cake. Arnold had a genetic condition called Down's Syndrome but that never stopped him from enjoying life to the fullest. He greeted everyone he met, friends and strangers alike, with the warmest smile and the biggest handshake. While the family he left behind will miss him greatly, they find comfort knowing he's been reunited with his parents whom he missed so much. Rest in peace, Arnold. We hope you know how much love we held in our hearts for you and how deeply you are missed. May heaven have all the cake you could ever want.

My brother Arnold was a very special child with a very special smile he was loving caring toward nephews and neices Especially Eric who stayed and looked after him along with a care taker.



## Part I

# The Question of Outsourcing of Education

*The Original Privatization of Education*

ITPI | IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



Outsourcing Education

America's new outsourced jobs: Public School teachers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eit4PzABDoI>

This youtube story was a source of an interesting discussion on school education in the US, Canada and India on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The extreme scarcity of teachers in the US led to this as a temporary solution. Will it become a permanent feature ?

[https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/product-files/A\\_Coming\\_Crisis\\_in\\_Teaching\\_REPORT.pdf](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/product-files/A_Coming_Crisis_in_Teaching_REPORT.pdf)

In 2018, the US had a shortage of 112,000 teachers. There were serious difficulties in finding qualified teachers for mathematics, science, special education, bilingual Education/ English language development.

[https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/body/Teacher\\_Shortages\\_Causes\\_Impacts\\_2018\\_MEMO.pdf](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/body/Teacher_Shortages_Causes_Impacts_2018_MEMO.pdf)

Since the recession, to balance budgets, low teacher salaries, lack of adequate teacher preparation, lack of administrative support and challenging working conditions especially in schools serving large numbers of low income families have driven many teachers out of the profession and dissuaded many from joining.

<https://www.epi.org/publication/the-teacher-shortage-is-real-large-and-growing-and-worse-than-we-thought-the-first-report-in-the-perfect-storm-in-the-teacher-labor-market-series/>

This report provides a more detailed account of the shortage.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/nyc-puts-spanner-in-education-outsourcing-to-india/articleshow/193442.cms>

This explains the barriers to distance learning which was sought to be provided by India.

<https://www.coursehero.com/file/195246110/Article-Reviewdocx/>

This article lists the reasons why the Phillipines has stepped up to fill the teacher breach in the US. Among the reasons are that they teach in a system similar to that of the US with a 1:10 differential in the salaries. However while the necessity to study to get out of the poverty trap was considered a necessity in the Phillipines, in the US stories of teenagers getting rich of the internet overnight, fill the imagination. Whether real or just a bubble, the result has been that large numbers think that education is not the way to get rich.

<https://www.inc.com/john-boitnott/40-young-people-who-became-millionaires-before-they-were-20.html>

This cultural difference has certainly posed an issue for teachers from the Phillipines but focus on education has been the way out. What the future will bring is however not clear.

## **Part II**

### **A Perspective on Ecology and Livelihood**



Shepard in Rajasthan

## Inputs to the task force on grazing land ecology in Rajasthan<sup>2</sup>

### Background:

In September 2022, IELA along with SPWD and Prayatana Samiti organised a two day workshop on the “ *Relevance of the Ecosystems approach to Sustainable Development: Case studies of Mahi River Basin, Aravallis and other ecosystems of India*”

[http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Workshop-Report\\_Final\\_SPWD\\_IELA\\_PS.pdf](http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Workshop-Report_Final_SPWD_IELA_PS.pdf)

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Summary-Way-forward.pdf>

The workshop highlighted the relevance of taking the ecosystem as the smallest unit of climate change and the gram sabha as the smallest unit of governance. In order to merge the two aspects, the need for federating gram sabhas at the ecosystem level was also highlighted.

[http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Relevance\\_of\\_Ecosystems\\_Approach\\_to\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_12-13Sept2022\\_PPT.pdf](http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Relevance_of_Ecosystems_Approach_to_Sustainable_Development_12-13Sept2022_PPT.pdf)

This presentation of which IELA was a part, pointed out how the Aravallis separated the desert elements from the rest and also showed the significance of animal husbandry in the livelihood system of the region.

[http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Ecological\\_Aspects\\_of\\_the\\_Aravallis\\_and\\_Mahi\\_River\\_Basin\\_PPT.pdf](http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Ecological_Aspects_of_the_Aravallis_and_Mahi_River_Basin_PPT.pdf)

Specific ecological aspects related to the Aravallis and Mahi river basin as a case study are highlighted in this presentation by Dr Satish Sharma.

Not only animal husbandry, the herbivores on which the carnivores depend are dependant on the grasslands of the region.

Given the above, IELA, SPWD and Prayatana Samiti highlighted more details related to the land use of Rajasthan and the significance of animal husbandry in this regard

[http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Land-Use-in-Rajasthan\\_-A-Perspective-on-Animal-Husbandry-and-its-centrality-to-the-ecology-of-Rajasthan.pdf](http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Land-Use-in-Rajasthan_-A-Perspective-on-Animal-Husbandry-and-its-centrality-to-the-ecology-of-Rajasthan.pdf)

With 10% of the land area but only 1.7% of India’s rainfall the fact that the landscape of Rajasthan could support 5.6% of India’s human population is explained by the fact that animal husbandry population of Rajasthan is 10% that of India. In addition, the presentation by Dr Satish Sharma referred to earlier gave detailed historical references highlighted the reason why there is comparatively more biodiversity in the region than can be explained by

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the ecological niches that Rajasthan has. The number of rare, endangered and endemic species are also relatively higher than one would expect.

The case for looking at the unique ecosystems prevalent in Rajasthan and its interface with grazing lands is therefore crystal clear. It is not accidental that the Orans (sacred groves) of Rajasthan and repositories of the biodiversity of the region are predominantly grazing lands as well.

### **Suggestions for the task force on grazing ecology**

The grazing lands in Rajasthan can be broadly divided as follows

- a. Large grazing tracts mostly prevalent in Western Rajasthan.
- b. Specific ecosystem based grazing regions mostly in the Eastern part of Rajasthan which for convenience can be divided in North ( Bharatpur, Alwar, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur Chambal region), Central ( Ajmer, Tonk, Bhilwara) and Southern region ( Udaipur ) . These include the pockets within protected areas and sanctuaries within these regions.
- c. Village based grazing lands

There are overlaps between all three categories as well as issues related to privatisation and destruction of these grazing lands which take different shapes in different regions, protected Orans provide a clue as to original biodiversity in the specific ecosystem and can be the base to examine the grasslands ecology of that region.

Given the above it would be helpful to select some key ecosystems across the State to understand the ecological interlinkages within each region. The existing documentation related to each ecoregion can be pooled together to see the broader picture for each ecoregion. The State perspective necessarily has to keep the centrality of the Aravallis so that the distribution of the ecosystems and their relation to each other can be understood.

## **Part III**

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



Great Indian Bustard

## **Ecosystem approach to land use, ecology and livelihood in Rajasthan<sup>3</sup>**

### **A policy brief**

#### **Background:**

IELA paper on grazing land ecology highlighted the relevance of animal husbandry to the ecology and livelihoods of Rajasthan.

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/IELA-recommendations-to-the-task-force-on-grazing-ecology.pdf>

Superimposing the drainage systems of Rajasthan onto this tapestry we find a distinct difference between the drainage systems West and East of the Aravallis. In the West barring the Mahi and Sabarmati which flow into the Arabian Sea from the South West corner, the rest of the Western region is marked by a drainage system that does not flow into the sea. On the East most of the river systems form a part of Gangetic river basin. However since the slope of the Western Region, makes it a part of the Indus river basin, Rajasthan has been the beneficiary of the Indus river waters. Prior to Independence the King of Bikaner, Raja Ganga Singh, constructed the Gang canal to bring Indus waters to his kingdom. However since the subjects in his kingdom were not agriculturalists, farmers from Punjab were encouraged to come and settle down in Bikaner. Post Independence the water allocation to Rajasthan was decided based on its share in the catchment area of the Indus. The way this water has been used however is not based on any appreciation of the traditional livestock economy of the region and the soil morphology. Using the region to settle Pong Dam oustees and others needing land, disputes on water allocation, flooding due to underground gypsum layer have pock marked the drive to enhance the agricultural productivity of Rajasthan on one hand and a massive depletion of ground water resulting in more than 75% of the blocks of Rajasthan falling into the dark zone on the other. Various studies done, show that privatisation of the commons has also resulted in a severe depletion of the wool production from the sheep and a more or less failed cross breeding programme as well. On the other hand, a study of the climate pattern over hundred years shows a cooling effect of irrigation in the North Western corner of the State. Given the way, the hot thar desert stimulates the wind currents flowing from Australia to India and its subsequent impact on the monsoons of this country, it is clear that the land use pattern in Rajasthan plays a pivotal role in defining the climate of this country. <https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/drynet.pdf>

#### **The role of Aravallis as a barrier:**

The IELA paper and the drainage system of Rajasthan referred to above bring this out quite sharply so not going into those aspects again. To understand how this works at the local level would like to refer to the SPWD study on the biodiversity of Ajmer where the twin hills of Nagpahad and Nand Tillora were studied. The study showed how the Nandtillora range protected Nagpahad allowing Indo Malayan diversity to come up on its Western side which

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has been protected due to it being a sacred grove. It also shows how the passes in the Aravallis compounded by deforestation have allowed Western desertic (Indo Iranian) elements to encroach in the Eastern part. The study also describes in detail the destruction due to mining in Kharva region on the Eastern side, once a very rich grassland and home to the leopard as well.

[https://www.spwd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Biodiversity-Livelihoods-prosopis\\_DrLeena.pdf](https://www.spwd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Biodiversity-Livelihoods-prosopis_DrLeena.pdf)

### **The massive invasion of *Prosopis juliflora*:**

The study above documents how *Prosopis juliflora* destroyed not just the grasslands but also the agricultural lands of the region. A more detailed study on this aspect done by SPWD shows how *Prosopis juliflora* increased from 4.5% of the land area to 9% in a ten year period prior to the study.

<https://www.spwd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Biodiversity-Livelihoods-prosopis-Stage2.pdf>

A similar study done in Kutch by GUIDE showed how *Prosopis juliflora* increased from 16 to 32% in the ten year period prior to that study. The role of the goat and the drainage system in spreading the species can be seen in the pattern of expansion. On the other hand, the case study of Nagpahad and other studies done on Orans show how the local species can contain such invasion if the area is properly protected and conditions suitable for their growth and propagation are maintained.

### **The dilemma facing local breeds of Rajasthan:**

During the course of engagement with different organisations in Rajasthan, the authors and their respective organisations came across the dilemma facing local indigenous breeds in the region in the misguided promotion of cross breeds for enhancing milk production alone. This issue has been particularly stark for the Rathi (found near Jodhpur), Thaparkar (found in Barmer and Jaisalmer - though here the impact of the loss of grazing grounds due to creation of Pakistan can be clearly seen) and the Nagauri (found in Nagaur District). Germ plasm of the Rathi and Nagauri have been imported by Brazil, along with that of the Ongole bull (from Andhra) and Gir Cow (from Saurashtra). While the Gir is being bred for milk in Brazil, the major value of the other three is heat tolerance. Recent reports of India importing germ plasm from Brazil of some of the local breeds native to India to shore up the declining state of health of the native germplasm raises strong questions as not just the animal husbandry policy of this country but also its related land use policies and recognition of the unique role played by the biodiversity of this country as well.



## **Wild Life in grassland dominated areas and related issues:**

The strong presence of the Leopard in this region which is dominated by scrub forests, grasslands and rainfed agriculture points to the relevance of ecosystems not having forests (which are not dominated by tree cover). This phenomenon can be seen in other regions of the country as well. The Tal Chhapar wildlife sanctuary host to the Black Buck, the presence of Chinkara in Jodhpur and other arid and semi arid areas, the State bird Great Indian Bustard (Godavan) in Barmer and Lesser Florican (Khandmor) in Ajmer also point to the significance and relevance of grasslands and scrub forests of the State for which proper policies have not been in place. Efforts to document the Jhunjhunu Beed Reserve Forest were done by Dr Sunil Dubey and his team of M. Sc. Environmental Science students along with help of print & electronic media from 2006 onward resulted in its declaration as Conservation Reserve in March 2012.

<https://forest.rajasthan.gov.in/content/dam/raj/forest/rajasthan-wild-life/pdf/activities/PA%20Notifications/Beed%20Junjhunu%20Conservation%20reserve.pdf>

The document 'Baseline Survey of Orans (Survey and Assessment of Biodiversity) in Jawai Bandh C.R. (Sumerpur)' prepared for the forest department by IELA also reflects the importance of CCA sites that are considered as sacred, also serve as important refuge to the threatened & scheduled species of plants (including *Commiphora wightii*) and animals (including Leopard & Crocodiles) apart from serving as grazing ground for the livestock.

## **Energy policy of Rajasthan:**

The energy policy of Rajasthan focuses mainly on industrialisation and urbanisation as a way to promote growth in the State, largely ignoring the significance and relevance of the aspects mentioned above. This lopsided approach to development in the State is resulting in a major anti nature, pro mining thrust and consequent costs reflected in the large debt accrued by the State.

## **What is to be done ?**

There is a need for placing upfront the relevance of decentralised governance of ecosystems in order to capture the complex ecosystem parameters and their relation to livelihoods and ecology. This also has the advantage that various studies within the ecosystem can be clubbed together to understand the interplay between different factors and their consequent impact on livelihood and ecology.

The IELA paper on grassland ecology culls out the important aspects to be considered with respect to the different typologies of grasslands available in Rajasthan, the issues above point to the factors that need to be looked at within different ecosystems of the region. The relevance of Orans as a gene pool reserve has been established in various studies done on the same. There is a need to examine the impact on these gene pools due to the factors outlined above.

The above points to a four pronged approach to engagement with ecology, livelihood and governance from the level of gram sabha to the State. This includes gram sabha, federation of gram sabhas at the ecosystem level and federation of federations at the State level. A cross cutting thematic based federation to deal with specific aspects provides the interplay between the local issues and thematic ones. It is obvious that facilitation of the above would require a multidisciplinary team that combines aspects related to decentralisation and coordination (centralisation ?) along with thematic specialities.

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Report-of-the-BRP-Training-Programme-conducted-at-Bambora.pdf>

The report referred to above provides a road map related to one typology of pasturelands found in Jaisamand region of South Rajasthan, the approach can be replicated with suitable modifications for other typologies and thematic areas.

### **Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) – Charnot / Orans:**

Community Conserved Areas are natural or modified ecosystems having immense biodiversity values and ecological services being conserved and protected by indigenous and local communities through customary laws and practices. The CCAs includes pasture lands, sacred groves, wetlands, river systems, panchayat and community forests. ‘Orans’ (Sacred Groves) of Rajasthan are considered community conserved areas (CCAs) that act as a storehouse of biological wild gene pool, enable effective water management and serve as a community based regeneration system.

Orans/ CCAs legally fall under five main categories:

1. Revenue land ‘Padath’ (Culturable waste’ and ‘Unculturable or uncultivable waste land) ownership is of State Revenue department
2. Forest land controlled by State forests and Protected areas managed by Forest Department
3. Groves and Gaucher (village grazing lands) supposed to be managed by Village Panchayat
4. Devsthan land- ownership is of State Devsthan department
5. Private lands- ownership is of privately owned
6. In brief, *Orans*, serve chiefly as grazing ground for livestock, supporting biodiversity and having the capacity to reduce impacts of the climate change, apart from other ecosystem services like protecting watersheds and water sources, repositories of rich bio-genetic diversity, having significant ethno-botanical, ethno-zoological and social codes of relation and regulation vis-à-vis nature.

If in addition to village commons and community forests, grazing and unculturable lands referred to as "wastelands" in revenue categories are also regarded as community accessed lands then the proportion of ‘common lands’ becomes very large indeed. Of the various types of community lands, perhaps the most significant are the Orans. It is quite surprising that despite their critical importance with regard to local livelihoods as well as biodiversity

conservation there is considerable ambiguity regarding their legal status and ownership. As a result the fate of these CCAs has been decided by everyone other than the local community.

It is estimated that there are about 25,000 Orans and other sanctified ecosystems in the state. In most of the parts of Rajasthan (particularly to the west of the Aravali and north-eastern and eastern parts) the grazing lands are associated with the concept of sacred groves (Orans) or vice versa. Orans are protected by local communities through customs and sanctions, as well as through festivals and rituals. Hence development of the management strategy considering the status of the physical resources, existing management regime along with the social and cultural linkages, is an urgent necessity.

### **Current Legal Scenario of Orans/Charnots**

Legislative provisions specifically provide an important basis for identification, recognition and management procedures for the CCAs namely Biodiversity Heritage Sites (Section 37 (1) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002) and the Community and Conservation Reserves (notified under sections 18, 35, 36A and 36C of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002). The guidelines for declaring Biodiversity Heritage Sites have been issued by National Biodiversity Authority. In the context of Rajasthan, the RAJASTHAN STATE FOREST POLICY 2010 highlights the importance of CCAs (i.e. orans). in which section 5.10 exclusively deals with provisions for Orans / Dev Van, having provisions for financial & legal support, preparation of their district-wise inventory and database, demarcation of their areas on ground as well as on cadastral maps and constitution of Oran Management Committees. The sub- section 5.10.2 of the policy reads as “District wise inventory and database will be prepared for all such areas with the support of local NGOs and religious trusts. These areas declared as deemed forest as per the provision of Forest Conservation Act (1980). However, demarcation of such Orans / dev vans on the ground as well as on cadastral maps is an urgent necessity. “ Apart from that section 5.1 and 5.3.2, 5.4.2, 5.4.9 and 5.4.12, 5.11.3 includes provision for bringing community-owned wastelands, revenue wasteland and traditional grazing land (Gauchar) under afforestation and pasture development.

### **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) as Constitutionals Civic Bodies for Management of Local Biodiversity:**

The Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules of 2004: Section 41 of the BDA 2002 and Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 provides for constitution of BMCs for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biodiversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

Rajasthan Biological Diversity Rules 2010 – Section 23 provides for constitution of BMCs whose key mandate shall be to ensure conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing of benefits from the biodiversity. The BMC shall facilitate preparation of People’s

Biodiversity Register (PBR) to regulate the access of local biodiversity to outside agencies and individuals.

**Part IV**  
**Politics of different kinds**



Suchana Seth with her four year old child

[Suchana Seth case: Bengaluru CEO's estranged husband video-called son before the 4-yr old was murdered \(msn.com\)](#)

### **Family issues in public space**

[Start-up CEO kills 4-year-old son in Goa, caught while fleeing with the body to Bengaluru \(msn.com\)](#)

The CEO of a Bengaluru-based AI start-up was on Monday arrested while fleeing in a taxi after murdering her four-year-old son at a Goa hotel and stuffing his body in a bag. Suchana Seth, 39, was arrested by the Karnataka Police from Chitradurga.

The CEO along with her son had checked into the hotel on January 6 in North Goa's Siquerim.

### **Contradiction with leadership**

[https://thewire.in/communalism/not-in-our-name-over-3000-christians-dissociate-from-pm-modis-christmas-lunch](#)

"When these Christian representatives spoke at the reception, they were giving a tacit approval to the omission and commission of this government," the statement reads. "Hence, their acceptance of this invite was not in our name!"

### **Forestry and livelihood**

[https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/shocking-sc-on-absence-of-tiger-conservation-plan-for-rajaji-tiger-reserve-101704942780596.html](#)

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/tiger-population-in-uttarakhand-jumps-314-5-reasons-why/13-tiger-reserves/slideshow/106666171.cms?from=mdr](#)

[https://orissadiary.com/odisha-bureaucrat-who-takes-it-to-herself-to-protect-tribal-rights-over-forest-land-and-resources/amp/](#)

[https://theprint.in/india/from-forest-rights-to-skill-development-centres-soren-looks-to-woo-tribals-ahead-of-2024-polls/1906238/](#)

### **Industry - profit service contradictions**

[https://airlineweekly.skift.com/2023/09/airbus-a320neo-pratt-engine-issues-to-ground-650-planes-next-year/](#)

[https://www.ft.com/content/1d6aa5bb-b162-4217-912a-b698c84e5d00](#)

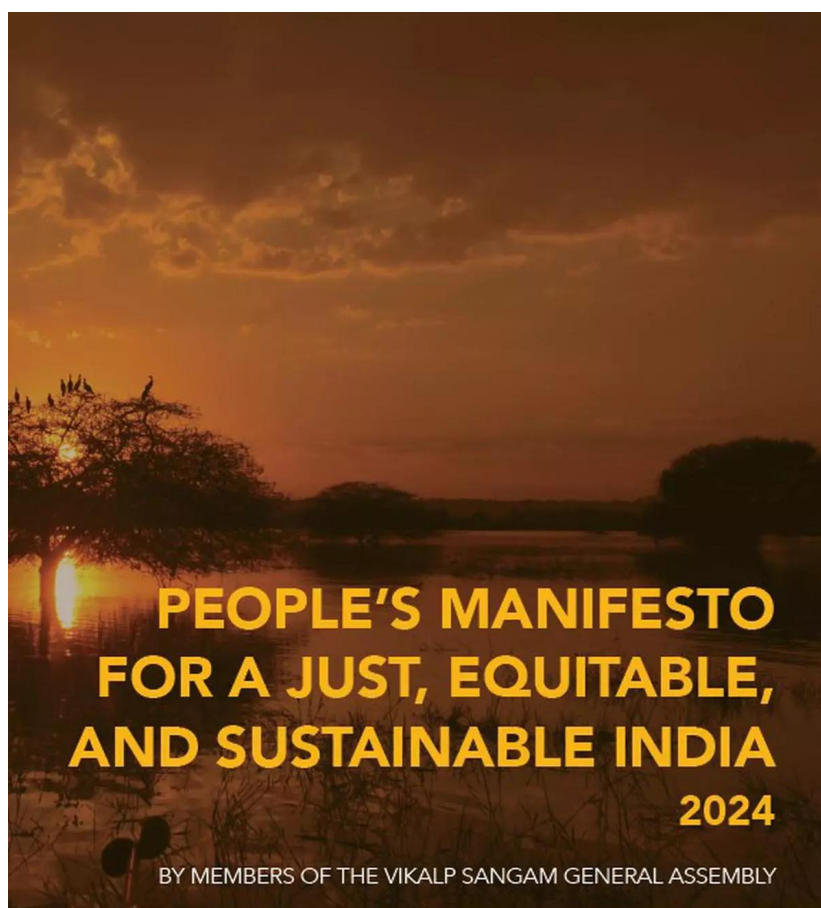
Boeing in trouble

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCL7zMqrz4c](#)

A former Boeing senior manager who flagged problems with Max series jets before fatal crashes in 2018 and 2019 wasn't surprised by the recent malfunction. Ed Pierson talks to The National's Adrienne Arsenault about how it could've happened and what needs to be done to prevent more problems.

## **Part V**

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





<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-manifesto-for-justice-that-has-sprung-from-crises/article67727814.ece>

<https://www.cenfa.org/where-peoples-money-should-be-spent-peoples-manifesto-by-vikalpsangam/>

Our country has a debt of \$21.23 trillion (Rs.155.77 lakh crores in March 2023) estimated to increase to Rs.172.50 lakh crores by March 2024. **IMF has projected** it to reach 100% of GDP by 2028 which the Union Government is disputing. In 2014, this debt was just Rs 53.11 lakh crore, which went up by **174% in the last 9 years**.

- Four percent tax on the wealth of 98 billionaires can take care of the Mid-Day- Meal programme of the country for 17 years or Samagra Sikshya Abhiyan for 6 years.
- One percent wealth tax on 98 richest billionaire families would finance Ayushman Bharat for more than seven years.
- One percent tax on the wealth of 98 billionaires in India can take care of the total expenditure for school education and literacy.
- Four percent tax on the wealth of 98 billionaires would be enough to fund the Mission POSHAN 2.0 (includes Anganwadi services, POSHAN Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and National Creche Scheme) for 10 years.
- India's 2021 budget allocation for the Ministry of Women and Child Development is less than half of the total accumulated wealth of the bottom ten of India's billionaire list. Just a 2 percent tax on individuals with an income of over 10 crores could increase the Ministry's budget by an astounding 121 percent.
- If the wealth of the first hundred billionaires is accumulated, they could fund the National Rural Livelihood Mission scheme, responsible for creating Self Help Groups for women, for the next 365 years.

(All data from Oxfam Report- Inequality kills)

<https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Peoples-Manifesto-2024.pdf>



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