

# **The World in Flames**

War, Inflation, Pandemic and Forest Fires engulf whole continents

Edited by Viren Lobo

**An Especioza Trust Production**



A resident holds an empty water hose during an attempt to extinguish forest fires approaching the village of Pefki in Evia, Greece's second largest island, on Aug. 8. ANGELOS TZORTZINIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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# Foreword

## A Discussion on Forest Politics on the Forest Rights group<sup>1</sup>

### 1. The political and economic factors influencing forest governance and forest rights discourse and policy shifts

The global restructuring of finance, production, marketing and related institutions for strengthening free-market capitalism through deregulation has been progressing rapidly. Laying claims to hitherto uncharted resources, ensuring tenurial rights for assimilation with the global market, and defining resources and resource use in market terms and their monetization whether for extraction or conservation, are the defining agenda for growth. The rapid expansion of information and communication through an expanding global web improving efficiency of the market to harvest profits is restructuring the market evolving large global monopolies / empires, and consolidating enterprises / corporations. In all these, the governments have become the instruments of the market and capital.

The market expansion is proportional to the expanding consumer class, especially the affluent, even as the income differential within the society is expanding rapidly spawning disaffection and anger. The rights discourse has been fine tuned to market - in economic terms - rather than justice, equity and equality. Electoral democracy has further retreated from its stated goal of enhancing democracy. In the Indian context, the colonial administration that the country inherited got strengthened and increasingly come under the sway of the capitalist classes with feudal characteristics. There has been a rapid expansion and intensification of the existing pro-market policies rather than a policy shift, weakening the elements of rights to resources, livelihood, civil, political, social, economic and environmental.

### 2. Potential spaces for advancement of forest /resource rights initiatives, policy and institutional spaces, forest rights collectives etc

*Three approaches* are widely discernible in practice with reference to resource rights, whether land or forests.

The *first* is the pragmatic approach of mapping, titling, improved use / production, value addition, market linkages, credit, etc in response to the existential reality of peoples' needs through economic empowerment, at least in the short term. This is widely promoted by the government and non-government sectors. This is the predominant approach with which FRA is interpreted, communicated and implemented. This is carried forward to the post-rights recognition phase. At the same time, these also come into conflict with competing market forces that seeks to secure the forest resources for non-forestry development projects, whether extractive or infrastructure; conservation and ecotourism; prospecting, accessing and collection of forest resources (minor forest produce) that have a booming global demand for the cosmetic, health and food industries; the carbon market that is expected to take off in the future etc. Inconvenient laws are ignored if not subverted or violated, amended or new laws enacted. This expands to dominate the political discourse, the institutions of democracy, the administration, the media and judiciary, in effect, pushing the pro-people laws and institutions to the way side while strengthening the market promoting regulatory agencies and institutions. Cooption into the market progressively at the lower economic and social rung goes along with displacement by the market. Both the government and non-government

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<sup>1</sup> C R Bijoy: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

sector acquiesce to these competing market forces if not actively partnering through acts of commission and omission.

The second is based on the above with a significant difference – of enhancing the bargaining power of the rights holders, the marginalized, through creation of self help groups or federation of Gram Sabhas or cooperatives accessing credit, value addition, scaling up, and building up institutional ties for market integration for a better share. This is attempted to be secured by partnering financial institutions (both state and non-state), business houses (domestic and foreign) and in few instances producer companies for enhanced market reach through creation of tie ups and branding etc. These are unlikely to progressively dominate the market or compete with market oligarchies in the mid-term. Nor will the model of State backed milk cooperatives of the yester years are likely to be launched in the present when the State is busy divesting public sector and getting out of productive enterprises.

The third is the establishment of countervailing power through control over resources, self-governance and political autonomy at multiple levels challenging the current hegemonic structure. FRA, in this perspective, is seen as a political instrument to decolonize and democratize forest governance through a transfer of power from the forest department to the community at the Gram Sabha level. In the forest areas, predominantly being also Adivasi dominated areas, FRA is seen in conjunction with other autonomy promoting laws as the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 – popularly called the village self-rule, the Sixth Schedule which envisages the autonomy at the District level and the various state enacted autonomy laws. This stream has seen, for instance, the Pathalgadi movement that raged in Jharkhand in 2018-19 to reclaim collective rights over their land, territories and resources as enshrined in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. This threatened to envelop central India despite huge state repression invoking sedition laws. It continues to reverberate even now. A large number of Adivasi mass organisations are involved in these struggles across central Indian tribal belt, often falsely conflated with the Maoist movement.

Of course there is then yet another one more – the fourth type - which is played out in the political arena seeking to overthrow of capitalism through a democratic process and in some instances, adopting violent means, to establish a socialist state. Though they form a disparate stream, they form a formidable threat to the state. These forces too overlap or occupy part of the same geographical space as the forest dwellers turning large parts into conflict zones. The State, in this context, on the one hand avoids FRA implementation to prevent FRA strengthening these anti-national forces. On the other and at the same time, FRA is also seen as a law that could potentially wean away the forest dwellers from the evil clutches of the Maoist. Both these counter insurgency measures are deployed differentially in time and space. In stark contrast, the mainstream political formations eagerly embrace the growth agenda of the market adding sops and handouts to the marginalized. And they constitute the popular mainstream political discourse and imagination.

### **3. Challenges before us**

The above constitute the contours that drive the outcomes. The State response to resource related rights are largely determined by the prevailing balance of interests / power as reflected by the processes that adopt the above mentioned approaches. For instance, the amendment to

Forest Conservation Rules in 2022, the Forest (conservation) Amendment Act 2023, the 2023 amendment to Biodiversity Act, 2002, the 2023 amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 1957, the dilution of the directives on Community Forest Resources issued by the Tribal Affairs Ministry in 2023, the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment ) Act, 2023 etc, in no uncertain terms, constitutes a declaration of the negation of resource rights of natural resource dependent communities. These indicate which interests now have a solid upper hand.

Given this reality, the question before us is which of the above four approaches has within them the potential to counter this seemingly final assault on resource rights?

Which of these four approaches actually aids this assault through acts of commission and omission? Which approach/s do we predominantly contribute to?

What track changes are required, if any, in our work?

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## A reply<sup>2</sup>

Thanks for this. It successfully integrates the points raised by me and takes them to a new level.

Have said this, I advocate a two pronged struggle

- a. The one outlined by you below and its link to the struggles being done by others (outside forestry sector).
- b. A struggle to establish decentralised governance principles in pockets where the same is possible to whatever extent it can. This also implies a different type of economics ( and related political economy) from the Corporate driven one.

Have been making progress on my study of devaluation of the Indian currency and its relation to degradation of nature and devaluation of human beings as well. Will share when the issues are clearer. For now I would like to say the decentralised governance principles I talk of, indicate a different value given to labour than the cash payment for labour power provided by the Capitalist. It also by necessity relates to a non cash market ( one not dictated by the World bank, IMF and the Federal/ country reserve bank; driven as they are primarily by Corporate logic and concerns).

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<sup>2</sup> Viren Lobo on behalf og ABMKSS

Some of the values indicated below

- a. Production for direct consumption and in particular addressing issues related to nutrition, health, education and overall well being keeping issues related to Gender discrimination in mind. This in essence makes the programme woman and child centric.
- b. Empowered women and children organisations at Gram Sabha and federation of gram sabhas as a precondition for engaging meaningfully on issues related to local self governance.
- c. Exploring the relevance of nature's cycles and its relation to the traditional knowledge embedded in local communities ( of the ecosystem and ecosystem services) : **An updated version of science: people interface in relation to livelihood and conservation issues, relevance of renewable energy for decentralised governance.** This will help us understand where the laws of the Capitalist Market system differ from nature's laws and how a society that works closely with nature (understanding nature's laws can bring down the cost of production without destruction of nature and its resultant devaluation of human beings as well.

# Background

## Between the Devil and the Deep Sea: Tribal Women's Inheritance rights in India



<https://research.jgu.edu.in/between-the-devil-and-the-deep-sea-tribal-womens-inheritance-rights-in-india/>

This article critiques law's lack of imagination and inability to capture the complex dynamics of social relationships in tribal communities, in a context of their massive dispossession from tribal lands.

### Author

[Saumya Uma](#), Professor, Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana, India.

### Abstract

In recognition of their distinct culture and identity, tribal communities in India enjoy constitutionally guaranteed autonomy and self-governance, which extend to customary laws for marriage, matrimonial rights and inheritance. In contexts where the tribal customary law has denied women inheritance rights, some women have approached the courts of law. The Hindu law on inheritance specifically excludes tribal communities from its application; yet, courts have found a way to apply it by reasoning that the parties to the case were 'sufficiently Hinduised'. This article examines Indian judicial responses to this issue,

and the ramifications for the inheritance rights of tribal women. The article critiques law's lack of imagination and inability to capture the complex dynamics of social relationships in tribal communities, in a context of their massive dispossession from tribal lands. While highlighting the distinct relationship of property, community and family in tribal communities, it examines how law could ensure that tribal women retain their tribal identity and yet secure equal inheritance rights, rather than force a trade-off between tribal identity and securing inheritance rights on grounds of 'sufficient Hinduisation'.

## Dedication



Beevi was appointed as a judge of the Kerala High Court in 1983 and was elevated to a judge of the Supreme Court in 1989. (amritmahotsav.in)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/indias-first-woman-supreme-court-justice-fathima-beevi-passes-away-at-96-9039141/>

Justice Fathima Beevi, whose appointment as the first Muslim woman judge of the Supreme Court had inspired women to pursue the legal profession, died at a private hospital in Kerala's Kollam on Thursday. She was 96.

Considered a role model for gender justice, she had been an icon of women's empowerment as she blazed a trail in the legal profession and otherwise.

In his condolence message, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the life of Justice Beevi was one of the remarkable chapters of women's empowerment in Kerala. Through Justice Beevi, Kerala had won recognition as the state which contributed the first woman judge to the country, he said.

As a judge, Justice Beevi stood for equality in crucial verdicts. She was part of the bench which heard a case pertaining to certain provisions of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and



Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Appointments) Act in 1991. She also highlighted the constitutional provision that safeguards every citizen against the arbitrary exercise of authority by the state or its officers.

After retiring from the apex court, she served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission and also as the governor of Tamil Nadu.

As governor of Tamil Nadu, she had hit headlines after rejecting the mercy pleas of those convicted in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. After the Supreme Court reconfirmed the death sentences awarded to Nalini, Murugan, Santhan, and Perarivalan in 1999, Bevi as Governor of Tamil Nadu commuted the death sentence awarded to Nalini the next year, on the grounds that she was a woman and had a daughter. However, she rejected the clemency petitions of the other three accused.

Her tenure as the governor of Tamil Nadu was eventful on another ground. In the 2001 Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK led by J Jayalithaa had obtained a majority, but she was then debarred from contesting elections for six years after she was convicted in a corruption case. But Bevi invited Jayalalithaa to form the government and was ready to administer the oath of office to her as the chief minister.

## Part I

### **A Peep into the history of Mewar with a difference**

*(Reconstructing the past and co-relating this with traditional knowledge and culture is now possible as never before. One such attempt to reconstruct the biodiversity heritage of Mewar was done by Dr Sunil Dubey and Raza Tehsin)*



Zavar Retort

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/History-of-Wildlife-in-Mewar-by-Dubey-S.-and-Tehsin-R.H.-NPs-TRs-WLSs-and-Biodiversity-of-India-Vol.2-2023.pdf><sup>3</sup>

This chapter was prepared in follow-up of the international webinar entitled ‘socio-cultural, archaeological, natural, geo heritage sites, monuments and museums: identification, conservation, management’, with focus on south and south-east Asian countries. The webinar was organised by department of Botany, government Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar college, Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), Bharat during 22 to 28 February 2023. The chapter is published in the book entitled ‘National Parks, Tiger Reserves, WLS and Biodiversity of India: Identification, Conservation and Management’, (Ed. Skand Kumar Mishra), ISBN: 978-81-928063, published by Govt. M.S. Golwalkar college, Rewa, (Madhya Pradesh), Bharat.

The chapter describes the evidences of evolutionary history of wildlife that occurred in Mewar region (Southern Rajasthan, Bharat) with description of five stages, dating from Precambrian era to the recent history. The first stage described is the evolutionary history of the Aravali ranges, their emergence around 2 billion years back, development and later on determinant of ecological features and distribution and occurrence of wildlife in Rajasthan (including Mewar region). The second stage refers to evolution of Stromatolites in this region as evidences of development of life and its early evolutionary stages (Blue-green Algae and Bacteria Communities) that took place in early Precambrian era. The third stage refers to the discovery of the occurrence of the Schizothoracine Fish (Snow Trout) in Mewar region during 1987 that was first live biological evidence of connection of subterranean rivers/streams in Mewar with Himalayan Cold Water, that was well connected through surface flow of the Saraswati river and its tributaries up to 12000 years before present. The fourth stage refers to the Ahar Civilization (The Ahar Culture) that flourished in Mewar region from 5000 to 3500 years before present (i.e. from 3000 to 1500 BCE). The Ahar culture is one of the chalcolithic (the age between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, the Copper Age) cultures that have been found in different part of India. The terracotta and other animal origin articles excavated from the Ahar culture, Udaipur suggest occurrence of rich biodiversity in the region. The fifth stage refers to the recent history dating back to more than 500 year that has been described in various records and describes the occurrence of forests and wildlife with mention of species from fishes to large mammals.

It is explicitly clear that the history of wildlife in Mewar has been always rich from the early stages of life till the recent past. The peculiar tectonic developments, topography and landscape morphology rendered it of global importance in terms of ecology, phytogeography, zoogeography, geology and the distribution and occurrence of species. Currently many species have become locally extinct due to anthropogenic causes, many of them are hard to rejuvenate because of irreversible disturbances and alterations in the natural

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<sup>3</sup> Chapter Title – **History of Wildlife in Mewar (Southern Rajasthan, India), From Early Stages of Life in Precambrian Era to Recent History**

Authors: Dr. Sunil Dubey and Dr. Raza H. Tehsin

habitats whereas remaining are also under immense pressure and needs to be protected with efficient measures.

## **Part II**

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



Wheat Production in Saskatchewan

## **The Canada - Punjab linkage some shades**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/this-canadian-indian-is-working-to-save-the-farmer-8386102/>

<https://thewire.in/communalism/india-canada-khalistan-punjab-sikh>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/amritsar/in-canadas-mini-punjab-city-council-votes-against-farm-laws/articleshow/78691267.cms>

<https://thewfy.com/punjabi-being-the-2nd-largest-official-language-of-canadian-farmers/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/punjab-sikhs-fear-canada-india-row-threatens-them-home-abroad-2023-09-25/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/how-to/heres-why-the-sikh-population-in-canada-surged-to-over-7-71-lakh-after-1991/articleshow/103798499.cms>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/express-sunday-eye/brampton-grooming-ground-punjabi-rap-pop-stars-sidhu-moosewala-deep-jandu-7952309/>

## **Ajay Banga, President World Bank on the Perfect Storm of Crises**

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

The point related to credit ratings in the Ajay Banga interview throws light on a discussion on the downgrading of the credit rating of America by Moody.

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1191724823>

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/view-moodys-changes-us-ratings-outlook-negative-affirms-aaa-2023-11-10/>

<https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/MORGAN-STANLEY-13654/news/Wall-Street-gets-creative-as-regulators-demand-more-capital-45441443/>

How will this affect incentives for financing Climate Change initiatives, outlined by World Bank ?

## **AUKUS and the Australian take**

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/03/27/aukus-submarine-deal-highlights-tectonic-shift-in-u.s.-australia-alliance-pub-89383>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/red-alert-report-urges-australia-to-prepare-for-war-with-china-in-3-years/articleshow/98575908.cms>

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2023/04/why-china-should-worry-about-asias-reaction-to-aukus.html>

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/09/why-new-us-uk-australia-partnership-so-significant>

[https://www.lowyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/pubfiles/Larum,\\_Chinese\\_perspectives\\_web\\_1.pdf](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/pubfiles/Larum,_Chinese_perspectives_web_1.pdf)

<https://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/insights/china-and-australia-economic-decoupling>

Despite Australia preparing for war, it is not in their interest to actually wage war. The same is the case with India, Japan and South Korea the other countries to be roped in support of AUKUS. Let us see ?

[https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/risks-us-china-military-war-have-declined-new-type-has-ray-dalio-dck8e?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios&utm\\_campaign=share\\_via](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/risks-us-china-military-war-have-declined-new-type-has-ray-dalio-dck8e?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&utm_campaign=share_via)

## Part III

### Spiritual/Ecological Connections & Our Common Home



Nuh Violence scant regard for the law and democratic rights



## **Harayana Study**

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Haryana-Chapter-1.pdf>

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/HARYANA-CHAPTER-2.pdf>

The first two chapters provide a contextual background and relevance to the study on Haryana as it tries to contextually place the relevance of the 1857 sepoy mutiny as the first war of Independence. This war is characteristically different from those preceding which have a feudal contextual background. The foiled mutiny of the soldiers at Ambala and the later participation of the masses in the revolt, indicate the deeper transformation that the British had made to Indian society. Subsequent steps taken by the British to build railways and compromise with the feudal also indicate that they understood the significance of this struggle as well.

The Chapter on Dalits in Haryana is still being completed by Tarun Kanti Bose so there will be more on this shortly. This chapter points to the punishment meted out to the Dalits for their participation in the sepoy mutiny. So in contrast to the defeat of the Peshwas by the Mahar regiment in 1818 whose commemoration 200 years later by the Dalits quite a stir and reprisals from the State, the Dalits of Haryana still face discrimination. The dichotomy between the two incidents of 1818 and 1857, indicate that the progressive nature of Capitalism in terms of progress of Humanist values were already compromised even then.

## **Value and its different manifestations**

[https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Value-in-the-age-of-Imperialism\\_engaging-with-the-labour-theory-of-value-by-Marx.pdf](https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Value-in-the-age-of-Imperialism_engaging-with-the-labour-theory-of-value-by-Marx.pdf)

The discussion on this article centres around the devaluation of currency and its relation to devaluation of human beings. Distinct from the feudal approach to devaluation of currency at times of need by the monarch, the devaluation of currency is one of the most potent tool that Capitalism/ Imperialism have in its bargaining with labour (both Nationally and Internationally) . The recent downgrade of the American Dollar by Moody is an indication of the Imperialist bargain with the American labour class going bust.

<https://www.ft.com/content/40d7e543-dc96-47f8-b673-4ce4bbc60f26>

Discussion with some sections in US and Canada pointed to the working class being disavowed with the promise of Capitalism after Corporations started shifting production overseas. This reflected in two trends. One xenophobic in the form of Trump and the other Socialist in the form of Bernie Sanders. The surrender of Bernie Sanders to Joe Biden is indicative that the working class in America have not yet found the impetus to defeat Fascist tendencies on their own.

## **Khalistan Incorporated**

The previous chapter indicated that though the demand for Khalistan did not have much traction with the people of India or Canada, political forces find it a convenient scapegoat to divert questions related to real questions facing farming in India. Now even America has joined in the chorus.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/explosive-us-indictment-pannun-murder-9048730>

Is there a deeper conspiracy behind the Khalistan Story ?

<https://www.amazon.in/Khalistan-Conspiracy-Former-Officer-Unravels/dp/9356292132>

A path to 1984. From jab ped girta hai to dharti hiltai hai to the three laws of motion by Newton. Yet Newton's proposition of prime mover has long been superseded by Einstein's theory of relativity and special theory of relativity. So why is society still stuck in Newtonian material mechanical thought ??

## Part IV

### Politics of different kinds



The Ben Gurion Canal project

## **The Battle for Gaza**

The Hamas attack on innocent Israelis has led to a furious counter attack by the Israelis. Claiming that they want to wipe Israel out of the map of the middle east, has lent fuel to Zionist anger to finish the Hamas. Yet 25 days later having pushed almost the entire Palestinian population from North Gaza, only 1000 out of the 30,000 Hamas have been killed with severe casualties to civilians, women and children included. Options for total eradication seem remote to say the least. The failure of the two State talks is cited as the main reason for this impasse. With a hardening of stances on both sides, what end can we see ?

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/ben-gurion-canal-suez-israel-9021520/>

<https://mearsheimer.substack.com/p/most-recent-interview-with-the-judge>

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2023/11/20/inside-hamass-sprawling-financial-empire>

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/06/08/china-s-rising-influence-in-middle-east-event-8107>

The webs to an International connection behind the conflict in Gaza are clearly unfolding. A web that does not have peace in mind. What is the way out ?

## **Manipur a disturbed peace**

Significant developments post the violence as predicted will not leave the North East the same for quite some time.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kuki-zo-grouping-announces-self-rule-in-a-few-manipur-districts/article67537204.ece>

<https://www.thequint.com/news/india/manipur-violence-not-self-rule-a-local-governing-body-for-kukis-clarifies-itlf-tribal-body#read-more>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/manipur-govt-to-take-legal-action-against-tribal-body-for-self-rule-ultimatum/article67543356.ece>

## **Forest Conservation Act 2023**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/screfrains-from-staying-amendments-to-forest-conservation-act-101701337562226.html>

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/11/can-indias-forest-rights-act-deliver-odisha-state-is-trying-to-find-out/>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/list-deemed-forest-areas-identified-by-expert-committees-in-a-year-say-new-rules-101701432438722.html>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/list-deemed-forest-areas-identified-by-expert-committees-in-a-year-say-new-rules-101701432438722.html>

## **Tribals in despair, tribals bring hope: Different dimensions of the tribal conflict in India**

Gadchiroli mining standoff , adivasi protest continues despite crackdown

<https://behanbox.com/2023/11/27/why-the-adviasi-protest-against-mining-in-gadchiroli-shows-no-sign-of-flagging/#:~:text=On%20the%20Surjagarh%20Hill%20in,to%20magisterial%20custody%20in%20Chandrapur.>

<https://thewire.in/rights/gadchiroli-maharashtra-mining-protest>

Odisha in turmoil

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/tribals-restive-in-rourkela-as-long-drawn-battles-to-reclaim-our-land-seem-to-have-no-end-in-sight/article67597945.ece>

<https://article-14.com/post/how-new-land-acquisition-procedure-by-odisha-government-will-dilute-rights-of-nearly-half-a-million-tribals-6567f90c9f85e>

Other States

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/ntca-recommends-declaring-nugu-as-a-core-critical-area-of-bandipur/article67562019.ece>

<https://www.reporters-collective.in/trc/baba-ramdevs-real-estate>

A ray of hope ?

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/sunderbans-mothers-built-forest-world-largest-delta-9041477/>

<https://www.himalmag.com/chhattisgarh-adviasis-technology-reclaim-maps-and-forest-rights/>

## **COP 28**

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/environment/cop28-unfcc-climate-conference-opens-in-dubai-uae-loss-and-damage-fund/article67593674.ece>

<https://www.indiaspend.com/indiaspend-interviews/why-india-could-not-commit-to-coal-phase-out-787235>

<https://india.mongabay.com/2022/11/many-nations-join-indias-call-to-phase-down-all-fossil-fuels/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/14/india-criticised-over-coal-at-cop26-but-real-villain-was-climate-injustice>

## Part V

### Health, Happiness and the Hope Gene



Participants of Prakriti Media Shala

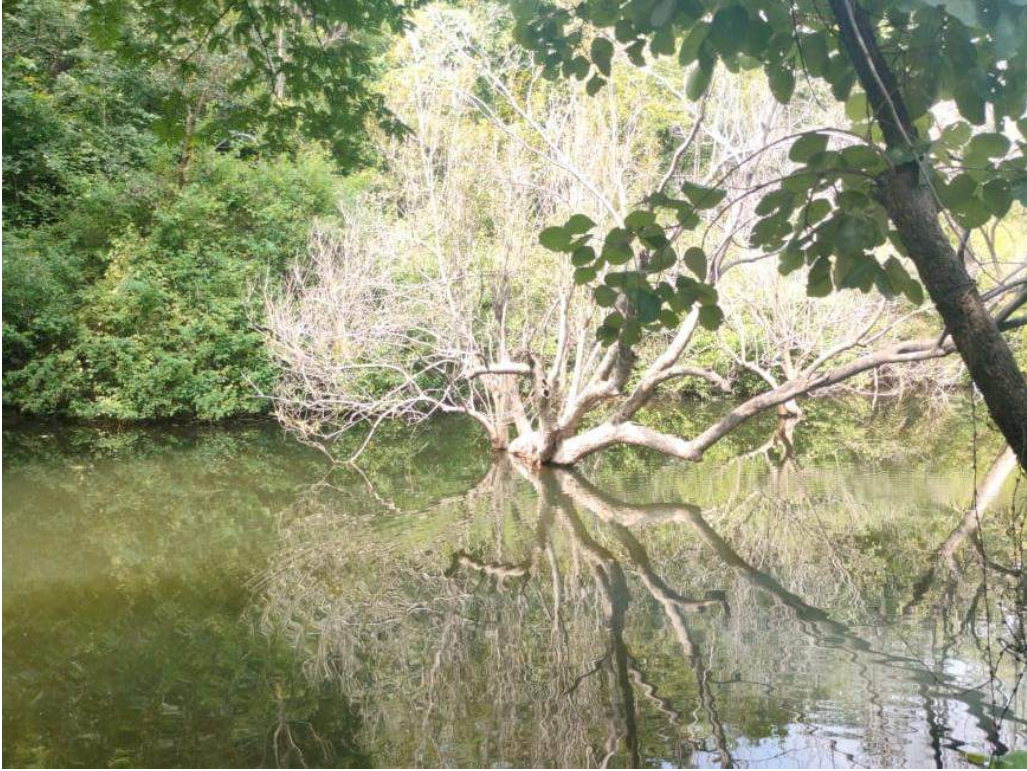
## Prakrati Media Shala

This workshop was to provide training to school teachers and those working with children on the Eco Eureka kit created by Science Centre Madhya Pradesh with support from NCSTC, Department of Science and Technology Government of India. IELA facilitated the training programme at Udaipur as Dr Sunil Dubey, Joint Managing Trustee IELA and Amit Daiman Scientific Advisor, IELA were part of team that helped create the kit. The training was for 25 participants across the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa and inclusive of the union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu. The five day training programme from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September covered aspects like biodiversity, soils, water, use of Geo spatial tools and astronomy.



Prakrati Media Shala Participants









**Prakrati Media Shala - Eco Eureka Kit Workshop**  
**RSCERT, Udaipur**  
**9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

**Organised by**



**Science Center (Gwalior) Madhya Pradesh**

**Hosted by**



**Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action, Udaipur**

**Supported by**



**NCSTC, Dept. of Science and Technogy, Govt. of India**



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