

Rights of Nature: A new paradigm for ecological justice in India?

March 18-23, 2024

Introduction

Articulations by indigenous and nature dependent communities in India and other parts of the world challenge the fundamental tenets of Western thinking—that humans alone are possessed of rights and all the rest of the living world exists for human use. Many communities have lived with reciprocity, interdependence and harmony with the rest of nature for centuries.

Rights of Nature calls for a radical shift in our way of thinking and relating with nature. It calls for understanding what this discourse would mean in the Indian context for protection and conservation of our ecosystems.

What will you learn?

- History of the Rights of Nature discourse in India and the rest of the world
- Indigenous worldviews and more-than human governance
- Overview and analysis of some critical cases emerging from the framework of the Alternative Transformation Format
- Apply ethical and philosophical insights to Rights of Nature environmental decision-making contexts

Pedagogy

The course will start with preparatory exercises to explore our relationship with our immediate surroundings. Each day will be based on a class discussion about the overarching ideas of that theme. 3-4 specific examples will be discussed in detail through a combination of documentaries/film clips, readings, and in a few instances, guest lectures.

All sessions are planned for in-person participation, so incorporating a hybrid format is not feasible.





Who should attend?

Undergraduate research scholars, postgraduates and early career researchers (above 18) with interest in science, human-nature relationships, and environmental policy and law.

Selection process

All interested participants need to fill out the application form. All participants are required to submit a short description of their specific motivation to join the certificate programme.

Course content

Date and Time	Session
March 18, 2024 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Crisis of environmental governance
March 19, 2024 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Worldviews and history of environmental ethics (Indigenous Worldviews)
March 20, 2024 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Earth jurisprudence, wild law, customary governance systems (More-than Human governance from India)
March 21, 2024 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	<p>Field activity: Spending a morning at Kaikondrahalli lake observing and immersing in nature. Trying to understand what's around us as well as finding our connection with nature. In relation to it, understanding the social & environmental justice struggles and their relevance in policy changes.</p> <p>Rights of Nature: A contemporary overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights approach • Human rights and rights of nature • Individual and collective rights
March 22, 2024 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Policies, regulations, new approaches of thinking
March 23, 2024 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	<p>Radical alternatives and transformations</p> <p>Assessment: Participants will be asked to submit a reflective essay by the end of the course to share their insights, learnings, reflections, and future actions.</p>

Course Instructors



Seema Mundoli, Azim Premji University

What role does nature have to play in making cities more sustainable? How can we contribute to making the cities we live in more equitable? These are the questions that drive her current research interests. She enjoys exploring different aspects of urban sustainability along with students from the University and from other institutions as they bring with them interesting questions and lenses through which to explore cityscapes. She is especially interested in making research accessible to a wider audience.



Harini Nagendra, Azim Premji University

Harini Nagendra is Director of Research Centre at the University and leads the University's Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability. Over the past 25 years, Harini has been at the leading edge of research - examining conservation in forests and cities of South Asia from the perspective of both landscape ecology and social justice.



Kunal Sharma, Azim Premji University

Kunal has worked on issues of conservation and sustainability in the past. His primary learnings have revolved around interdisciplinary research on traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous people, mitigating negative human wildlife interaction, practical sustainability action, small scale restoration and impacts of tourism formerly with Keystone Foundation, Jungle Lodges and Resorts, GIZ and Wildlife Trust of India.



Shrishtee Bajpai, Member, Kalpavriksh - Environmental Action Group

Shrishtee is a researcher, writer, and activist working at the intersections of environmental justice, social justice, more-than human governance, worldviews and systemic transformations. She is a member of Kalpavriksh, an environmental action group in India. She helps in coordinating the Vikalp Sangam (Alternatives Confluence) process where her work revolves around research, documentation, networking around alternatives.

Important dates

Last date to apply: Jan 20, 2024

Announcement of results: Jan 31, 2024

Last date for the fee payment: Feb 15, 2024

The decision of the evaluation committee will be final.

Fee structure

- General: Rs. 5,900/-rse in India and the rest of the world
- Field Practice Organization (FPO) associated with Azim Premji Foundation, including Azim Premji University: Rs. 1,180/-

Partial fee waivers are available for deserving research scholars.

Accommodation and other logistics

The course fee does not include accommodation. The university can arrange accommodation for 6 days at an additional cost.

- For non-shared rooms – Rs. 826/- per day
- For shared rooms – Rs. 413/- per day

Requests for accommodation must be made at the time of application. Alternatively, participants can make their own arrangements. All other costs, such as travel to and from Bangalore, local travel, stay and meals must be borne by participants.

All rates are inclusive of GST and relevant taxes.

Certificate of participation

The participants will be awarded a certificate of participation after successful completion of the 6-day training.

Contact us

For any queries, please write to environment.workshop@apu.edu.in

About Azim Premji University

Azim Premji University was established as a not for-profit, private university under the Azim Premji University Act 2010. The University has a clear social purpose of working towards a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society. Azim Premji University plays a critical role in developing new talent, building capacity in existing functionaries and creating domain knowledge in the fields of education and in development. The Azim Premji Foundation is the sponsor of the University. The roots of Azim Premji University lie in the learning and experience of a decade of work in elementary education by Azim Premji Foundation. The University is one of the Foundation's key responses to the challenges confronting the education and development sectors in India. The University offers bachelor's degrees in Physics, Biology, Maths, Economics and Humanities and Masters' degrees in Education, Development, Public Policy and Governance and LLM (Law and Development).

Apply now

Registration link:

<https://forms.gle/4X2svti2nYTfAL299>

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