



ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

APRIL '2025
EDITION

RIO SUMMIT 1992
21 KEY AGENDAS

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Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!

After a successful series on Sustainable Development Goals, I am very happy to learn that for the next EcoBuzz series we explore the five basic elements of nature –the *panchamahabhutas* – which inhere the properties of earth (prithvi), water (jala), fire (tejas), wind (vayu) and space (akasha).

Reconnecting to the nature outside of us can help us reconnect to our true, inner nature. When we spend more time outside in the elements, we start to rebalance ourselves physically, mentally and energetically.

The current edition of EcoBuzz shall focus on the element “Prithvi” – the Earth. It’s surprising just how easily we can lose connection to the earth. Spending long periods indoors, driving cars and fixating on screens all creates a disconnection between ourselves and the earth. The longer we’re disconnected from the earth and the outside world, the more we forget our interconnected role within nature. Thus, the more we tend to focus on ‘I, me, my’ – the ego.

Our Mother Earth is currently dealing with a wide range of issues, despite efforts in recent decades to address environmental challenges. Due to the terrifying pace at which the Environment is being exploited the legal framework for addressing environmental issues at the global and domestic levels seems inadequate without the collective effort of the human-kind.

I feel happy that the students have decided the ‘MOTHER EARTH’ as the theme for this month's EcoBuzz and our constant efforts towards a green and clean Earth, will continue to raise awareness on the alarming issues that the mother Earth is facing.

Let’s come together for organised actions with the sole objective of saving mother earth while thriving to keep it alive, green, and clean.

Regards,
Dr. Mayuri H. Pandya
Dean, Faculty of Law, GLS University

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National Updates

Mission parivar vikas:

Launched in 2017, is a program that targets seven high-fertility states—Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Assam—along with six North-Eastern states. The main objectives of the program are to increase access to contraceptives and family planning services, reduce the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1 (replacement level), and strengthen supply chain management for family planning commodities.

Urban Climate Initiatives:

It provides financial compensation to men and women who undergo sterilization, helping to offset wage losses resulting from the procedure. Additionally, compensation is extended to healthcare workers to encourage greater participation in sterilization programs. The Indian government also offers free sterilization services at public health facilities. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided specifically to individuals who undergo the procedure.

Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS) :

It is a digital platform developed to track and manage the availability and distribution of family planning commodities across healthcare facilities in India. It ensures the continuous supply of contraceptives at all levels and tracks inventory movement from national warehouses to district health centers. The system helps prevent stockouts and wastage of contraceptives and is used by health officials and ASHA workers to improve supply chain management.

State Updates

Public Awareness Campaigns

The Gujarat government has been involved in initiatives aimed at raising awareness about population control and the importance of family planning. These campaigns focus on educating the public about the socio-economic benefits of smaller families and the availability of contraceptive methods. These measures reflect Gujarat's commitment to promoting sustainable population growth through policy interventions and public engagement.

Two-Child Policy for Local Body Elections

Individuals with more than two children are barred from contesting panchayat (village council) elections in Gujarat. This policy aims to encourage family planning and responsible parenthood among community leaders.

- Restricts individuals with more than two children from contesting local body elections (Panchayats, Municipalities, Municipal Corporations).
- Aims to control population growth and promote family planning.

urban reproductive and child health program

Recognizing the rapid urbanization in Gujarat, with urban population reaching 42.6% as per the 2011 census, the government launched the Urban RCH program. This initiative aims to address the reproductive and child health needs of urban populations, especially in slum settlements and among Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. By providing accessible healthcare services, the program seeks to improve maternal and child health outcomes, indirectly contributing to population

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GREEN JUSTICE

➤ **Ajmer Vikas Samiti v. State of Rajasthan**

The Supreme Court came down on the Rajasthan government for unauthorized constructions in Ajmer's "Seven Wonders" Park, including food courts and monument replicas built without environmental clearance. The Court called it a blatant violation of urban green norms and ordered the demolition of illegal structures. It asked the state to submit a compliance plan within four weeks.

➤ **Environmental Foundation of India v. State of Tamil Nadu**

The Madras High Court imposed a strict ban on 28 single-use plastic items in eco-sensitive zones of the Western Ghats, including Nilgiris and Kodaikanal. The court emphasized the fragility of these regions and held the state accountable for unchecked plastic waste. It also nudged a shift toward circular economy practices in local governance.

➤ **Residents of Kulgam v. J&K Pollution Control Committee**

This case before the NGT addressed illegal riverbed mining in the Vishaw River, which was causing ecological imbalance and the disappearance of trout populations. Of the 19 mining blocks examined, 11 lacked proper clearance. The Tribunal ordered urgent inspections and environmental assessments to regulate unscientific extraction.

➤ **Tribunal on its Own Motion v. State of Jharkhand (OA No. 50/2022)**

The NGT pulled up the Jharkhand government over rampant illegal coal mining in Dhanbad, noting administrative failure to act despite repeated accidents and environmental harm. Authorities hadn't submitted required affidavits on illegal coal seizures and FIRs. The Tribunal demanded accountability and warned of strict action for future delays.

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युक्तस्वप्नावबोधस्य योगो भवति दुःखहा ||

One who practices moderation in diet, rest, actions, and sleep, whose activities are balanced, experiences less suffering and lives a life aligned with sustainability and well-being.

GREEN LAWS

1. National Population Policy (NPP), 2000

It Aims for stable population growth by 2045. It Provides access to contraceptives, maternal healthcare and family planning services. It also encourages delayed marriage and increased awareness about reproductive health.

2. Family Planning Program (1952 – Present)

India was the first country in the world to launch a government-backed family planning program. It Promotes contraceptive methods, sterilization, and birth control awareness. Implemented through National Health Mission (NHM) and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Program.

3. Incentives and Disincentives for Population Control

Some states (Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, MP) have proposed or implemented two-child policies, offering incentives such as Government job benefits for small families, higher wages, subsidies, and tax benefits for those with only two children. whereas disincentives includes denial of government jobs, subsidies, or election eligibility for those with more than two children.

4. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended in 2017)

It provides paid maternity leave to encourage working women to have children without financial strain and helps maintain a stable birth rate while ensuring workforce participation. a woman is also entitled to a medical bonus of rupees 3500 if the employer does not provide free pre-natal and post-natal care.

5. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 (Amended in 2021)

It allows safe abortions up to 24 weeks for certain categories of women and helps prevent unwanted pregnancies and maternal deaths. this gives women more control over their reproductive choices and bodily autonomy. It protects victims of sexual violence as they can get easier and extended access to abortion.

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देवाभाग्यथापूर्वसंजानानाउपासते॥

Move together, speak together, let your minds be in harmony — just as the ancient gods shared their portion in harmony.

"People and the planet: Striking the Right Balance"

Sustainable population growth refers to the increase in population at a rate that does not exceed the Earth's capacity to provide resources like food, water, shelter and energy. When population growth is unplanned and rapid it can lead to major challenges such as poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, lack of clean water, poor healthcare and environmental degradation. Therefore, managing population growth in a responsible and balanced manner is essential for a healthy society and planet

One of the most effective ways to manage population growth is by promoting education, especially for girls and women. Studies have shown that educated women tend to marry later, have fewer children, and are more likely to understand the importance of healthcare and family planning. Access to affordable contraceptives, reproductive health services and proper medical guidance can greatly reduce unintended pregnancies.

Empowering women with equal rights, employment opportunities, and reproductive autonomy is another crucial step. When women are given choices and support, they can make informed decisions about when and how many children to have.

Government policies also play a key role. Providing financial incentives for small families, conducting awareness campaigns, and investing in maternal and child healthcare are important strategies. At the same time it's important to respect human rights and ensure that population control measures are not coercive.

Managing population growth sustainably helps improve quality of life, reduces pressure on natural resources, and ensures that future generations can also enjoy a clean, healthy environment. It is not just a government responsibility but a shared duty of individuals, families and communities.

In conclusion, sustainable population growth is not about restricting life—it is about enabling every life to thrive. By educating communities, empowering women, ensuring access to healthcare, and adopting inclusive policies, we can create a future where people live with dignity and in harmony with nature. Managing population growth responsibly ensures that our planet remains livable, our resources are preserved, and every child born has the opportunity to grow in a healthy, just, and sustainable world. It is a collective responsibility—one that we must act on today, for a better tomorrow.

Source:<https://www.isric.org/discover/about-soils/why-are-soils-important>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL EVENTS

- **National Conference on Sustainable Population Growth and Resource Management**

Dates: May 10–12, 2025 | Location: New Delhi, India Focuses on managing population growth in India through resource management, family planning, and sustainable development strategies.

- **India's Population Policy Summit**

Dates: May 18–20, 2025 | Location: Bengaluru, India. Discusses India's population policies, family planning, women's health, and alignment with sustainable development goals.

- **Lecture of Prof. Santosh Mehrotra:**

Scheduled for May 19, 2025, Prof. Mehrotra will deliver a lecture in lucknow, highlighting the shrinking demographic dividend in India.

- **Virtual event: Biodiversity Trivia (population Connection)**

On may 22, 2025 population connection will host a virtual trivial event aligning with International Day for Biological Diversity, covering themes such as reproductive health, population milestones and biodiversity.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- **Global Population and Sustainability Conference**

Dates: May 5–7, 2025 | Location: Geneva, Switzerland. Focuses on global population trends, population control measures, and sustainability, with an emphasis on gender equality and global cooperation.

- **International Forum on Family Planning and Population Management**

Dates: May 10–12, 2025 | Location: Virtual & Nairobi, Kenya. Discusses family planning, healthcare access, and innovative approaches to population control while achieving SDGs.

- **The 30th International Population Conference:**

It will be held in Melbourne, Australia, in May 2025. it is organized by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. The conference is a major event for researchers, scientists and professionals in the field of population and development.

- **The International Conference on Population and Development :**

It will be held in Malaga, Spain on May 30, 2025, organized by Biofora. This one-day event will focus on population control and development policies, providing a platform for researcher and scholars to discuss related issues.

Source : <https://stock.adobe.com/search/images?k=%22life+on+land%22>

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CREATIVE CORNER



THIS PICTURE DEMONSTRATES HOW POLLUTION AND IMBALANCE RESULT WHEN POPULATION GROWTH OUTPACES AVAILABLE RESOURCES. IT EMPHASIZES HOW RESPONSIBLE GROWTH IS NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD A SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY FUTURE.

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