



# ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

JANUARY'2025 EDITION

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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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Dr. Mayuri Pandya

### Concept:

Dr. Parna Mukherjee

### Editors:

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# National Updates

## Expansion of MGNREGA in Rural India

The government has allocated additional funding to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), aiming to boost rural employment. This expansion includes increasing daily wages, offering skill development programs, and ensuring transparent payment systems to improve rural workers' livelihoods and reduce poverty.

## Launch of 'One Nation, One Ration Card'

This initiative seeks to eliminate food insecurity among migrant workers and low-income families by allowing beneficiaries to access subsidized food grains from any part of the country. The portability feature ensures that those who relocate for work do not face disruptions in their ration supplies, helping improve nutritional security.

## New Financial Inclusion Measures

The Reserve Bank of India has introduced new microfinance regulations that enhance credit access for small businesses and self-employed individuals. These measures focus on providing collateral-free loans, encouraging digital banking services, and ensuring financial literacy programs, ultimately helping economically weaker sections gain financial independence.

# State Updates

## Gujarat's Smart Villages Initiative

The state government has launched the Smart Villages Initiative to improve rural infrastructure and sustainability. This includes implementing solar-powered irrigation systems, advanced waste management techniques, and eco-friendly housing projects. These developments aim to bridge the urban-rural divide while promoting self-sufficient communities.

## Gujarat Ganga Swarupa Yojana

The state govt's earlier "Vidhva Sahay Yojna" was renamed as "Ganga Swarupa Yojna" to lend respectability to the beneficiaries. The Gujarat govt. had raised the monthly pension amount from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,250 since April 2019. The Ganga Swarupa Yojana will ensure the amount deposited in the 1st week of every month.

Only widows women can apply for this scheme.

Every month a pension of Rs 1250 will be provided to all the beneficiary women.

## Subedar Ramji Grant-in-Aid to Backward class hostel (Poverty Alleviation Program)

"Subedar Ramji Grant-in-Aid to Backward Class Hostel" refers to a financial assistance program provided by the Gujarat government in India, specifically designed to support the maintenance and operation of hostels meant for students belonging to Backward Classes (BCs), named after Subedar Ramji Ambedkar, a prominent figure from the community; essentially, it's a grant given to hostels to help cover expenses like maintenance, staff salaries, and other essential needs for backward class students residing in the hostel.

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In times of plenty or distress, one must live moderately, balancing desires and consumption in accordance with the natural laws.

# GREEN JUSTICE

## Olga Tellis & Ors v. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985)

The case revolved around the forced eviction of slum dwellers in Mumbai, questioning whether their right to livelihood was being violated under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court held that the right to livelihood is a fundamental part of the right to life under Article 21. The court ruled that evictions without providing alternative accommodation would deprive people of their means of survival, violating their fundamental rights.

## Chameli Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh (1996)

This case focused on the government's obligation to provide adequate housing for economically weaker sections and whether the right to shelter was encompassed under Article 21. The Supreme Court emphasized that housing is not just about having a roof over one's head but also includes access to basic necessities like water, sanitation, and electricity. The court ruled that the government must ensure adequate housing for the poor and marginalized, as deprivation of shelter leads to deprivation of dignity and fundamental rights.

## PUCL v. Union of India (2001) – Right to Food Case

The case highlighted the failure of government agencies in ensuring food security despite surplus food stocks, questioning whether the right to food was included under the right to life. The Supreme Court ruled that the right to food is part of the right to life under Article 21. It directed the government to properly implement welfare schemes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and Antyodaya Anna Yojana, ensuring that no person suffers from starvation. The judgment established that the state has a duty to prevent hunger and malnutrition.

## Francis Coralie Mullin v. The Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi (1981)

This case questioned whether the right to life extended beyond mere existence to include dignity, food, shelter, and healthcare. The Supreme Court expanded the interpretation of Article 21, stating that the right to life is not just about survival but also about living with dignity. The court ruled that access to food, shelter, and basic healthcare is essential for a dignified life. The judgment played a crucial role in shaping future decisions regarding socio-economic rights and poverty alleviation.

## Municipal Corporation of Delhi v. Gurnam Kaur (1989)

The case dealt with the rights of street vendors and hawkers, who were facing eviction without any alternatives. The Supreme Court ruled that such vendors have a right to earn a livelihood and cannot be arbitrarily removed from public spaces without being provided designated vending areas. This case reinforced the idea that informal workers contribute to the economy and should be protected under the law.

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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

## **National Food Security Act, 2013**

This Act ensures food security for millions of Indians by providing subsidized food grains to eligible households under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Key provisions include Section 3, which guarantees 5 kg of food grains per person per month, and Section 8, which mandates accountability and transparency in distribution to prevent leakages and corruption.

## **Right to Education Act, 2009**

This legislation makes free and compulsory education a fundamental right for children aged 6 to 14 years. Section 3 ensures no child is denied access to education, while Section 12 mandates private schools to reserve 25% of seats for underprivileged children. The Act also provides for infrastructure development, teacher training, and curriculum enhancements.

## **Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008**

Designed to provide social security benefits to workers in the informal sector, this Act includes provisions for health insurance, maternity benefits, and pension schemes. Section 3 empowers the central government to formulate welfare schemes, while Section 10 mandates state-level boards to oversee implementation and grievance redressal.

## **Minimum Wages Act, 1948**

This Act safeguards workers from exploitation by ensuring fair wages in different industries. Section 3 authorizes the government to set minimum wages for different sectors, while Section 12 mandates employers to comply with wage rates without discrimination. Section 22 prescribes penalties for violations, ensuring the law's effectiveness in protecting workers' rights.

## **Environment Protection Act, 1986**

Enacted to address environmental degradation, this Act grants the government sweeping powers to regulate industrial pollution and environmental hazards. Section 3 provides the authority to set environmental standards, while Section 7 prohibits discharges of harmful pollutants beyond permissible limits. Section 15 prescribes penalties, including imprisonment and fines, for non-compliance.

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## "Poverty and Sustainability: Can Economic Growth Be Inclusive?"

Economic growth has long been seen as a solution to poverty, yet its benefits do not always reach the most vulnerable sections of society. Sustainable development calls for an integrated approach that ensures economic prosperity while preserving natural resources and fostering social equity. The challenge lies in balancing industrialization and environmental conservation without deepening economic disparities.

One of the primary concerns is the exploitation of natural resources for economic gain. Industries often contribute to deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss, disproportionately affecting low-income communities that rely on natural ecosystems for their livelihoods. Sustainable economic policies must incorporate eco-friendly practices, ensuring that resource use does not compromise future generations' well-being.

Employment generation plays a crucial role in inclusive economic growth. Green jobs—those that contribute to preserving or restoring environmental quality—offer a viable solution. Investing in sectors such as renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture can create employment opportunities while promoting environmental stewardship. For example, solar panel manufacturing and organic farming initiatives not only provide income but also reduce carbon footprints and dependency on fossil fuels.

Another critical factor is access to education and skills training. Without adequate knowledge and technical expertise, marginalized communities struggle to integrate into evolving job markets. Government initiatives should focus on vocational training programs tailored to sustainability sectors, empowering individuals to participate in economic growth while promoting environmental conservation. Policies that incentivize businesses to adopt green technologies and hire trained professionals can bridge the gap between economic development and sustainability. Financial inclusion is also vital in tackling poverty sustainably. Microfinance institutions, cooperative banks, and digital banking solutions can offer low-income groups access to credit, enabling them to invest in sustainable enterprises. Small-scale farmers, for instance, can benefit from climate-resilient agricultural practices if provided with necessary financial and technological support.

In addition to economic and environmental considerations, legal frameworks must reinforce sustainability efforts. Governments and international organizations should enforce strict regulations against industries that exploit natural resources irresponsibly. Strengthening land rights and recognizing indigenous communities' contributions to conservation can further support sustainable economic growth.

Ultimately, poverty eradication and sustainability are interconnected. Economic growth must be inclusive, ensuring that all social groups benefit without depleting the planet's resources. By fostering green employment, improving financial accessibility, and implementing robust environmental laws, nations can work toward a future where prosperity and sustainability coexist harmoniously.

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

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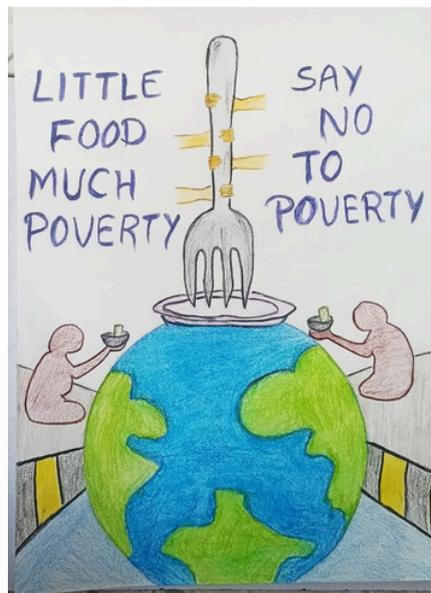
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NATIONAL EVENTS

- **India Energy Week 2025 Scheduled for February 2025**, this conference will convene global energy leaders to discuss strategies for overcoming critical challenges in the energy sector, with a focus on sustainable development and poverty reduction.
- **Union Budget 2025-2026**  
On February 1, 2025, the Indian government presented its annual budget, unveiling long-term programs, these measures will also talk about poverty eradication.

### INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- **63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD63):** Held from February 10 to 14, 2025, this session focused on addressing systemic challenges related to poverty eradication, it involved discussions pertinent to India's poverty alleviation strategies.
- **World Day of Social Justice 2025:** Observed annually on February 20, urging efforts to combat unemployment and poverty.
- **The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** The UN holds a series of events and discussions throughout the year, In February, various meetings and webinars to be held, often addressing global poverty and inequality.



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

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