

Talei-Logue

When was the last time that you heard an Economist in conversation with an Ecologist? Well, here is your opportunity: **AMIT BHADURI AND MADHAV GADGIL** will hold a public dialogue on ‘**Development and Environment**’ for the first time in Goa University, under the Visiting Research Professorship Programme.

This conversation between the two Research Chair Professors of Goa University is open to Students, Faculty and the general public.

This is a unique opportunity to engage in a multi-disciplinary dialogue with eminent scholars -- two of the finest minds in their fields.

LOGISTICS

Date & Time: The dialogue is scheduled for Friday, 31st January, 2014, from 11 am to 1pm on Goa University Campus.

Venue: Conference Hall, Administrative Building.

PROTOCOL for participation:

- a) **All those interested in participating must pre-register for the programme.**
- b) **There is no participation fee.**
- c) **All pre-registered participants will have to be in their seat by 10.40 am, otherwise their seat will be given to any person in the waitlist. Entry to the Hall will be closed at 10.50.**
- d) Pre-registration can be done at: <http://goo.gl/UmjcSw>
- e) Last date for pre-registration: **28TH JANUARY, 2014, 5.00 pm.**
- f) Please note that this programme will be a moderated discussion; all questions may be handed over in writing to the moderator during the session, which will be addressed by the two professors at their discretion.

Opening Statement

Amit Bhaduri

The relation between man and nature has been complex from pre-historic times, one of mutualism as well as conflict. As making and using more powerful tools increasingly gave advantage and, our reach over nature increased and somewhere the balance shifted. Man began to view nature as 'natural resources' and mutualism began to give way to conflict; indeed dominating rather than living in harmony with nature became the 'modern' way and civilization came to be defined largely as the march for conquering nature on an ever increasing scale, first via mastering sea routes (Portugal and Spain), then via manufacturing (Industrial Revolution) and finally, via mastering the sky and outer space (aeroplanes, rockets, radio waves to spectrum). Those who talk of harmony with nature were first brushed aside as barbarians who need to be civilized by the force of gun if necessary (Imperialism), and now a days as anti-development or obscurantists on a global or local scale.

And yet, the bounties of nature, even augmented by science and technology has given rise to several problems o which we need answers for a better future. First, what is the social system that will maintain some control and guide technology; would it be profit, bureaucratic planning or something else? Second, the complex interdependences in ecological and natural systems requires us to decide how we should deal with 'complexities' when we do not fully understand them. This is not to limit scientific enquiries but how to have a less arrogant approach in interfering with nature. Finally, how to use nature to benefit the largest number of people? This requires both rethinking both the nature of technological progress and socio- economic formations and the inter-relation between them.

Madhav Gadgil:

Humans are a remarkable product of evolution. With our rich symbolic language, we have created a resource that can be shared freely without being exhausted – objective knowledge, as well as myths. As a tool-using species we have coupled knowledge generation to tool production and use and have come to overwhelm the biosphere by artifacts. As a social animal our relationships of mutual aid go well beyond limits of kin groups, and the limits of closely interacting human groups have been continually expanding. All solitary animals are careful in fighting with other members of species; as a social animal we have abandoned all restraints and can be very cruel to each other. Like all social animals, we strive continually to rise in social hierarchy; we use our accumulation of material artifacts as a device in such a competition, and as a result have cultivated insatiable greed for material possessions- artifacts.

This is the evolutionary background of the “Environment – Development” challenge. Human societies have now become highly diversified with a small minority controlling much of knowledge and artifacts, a segment that may be termed as omnivores. A large proportion of humans still depend significantly on goods and services of nature, a segment that may be termed as ecosystem people. Increasingly omnivore demands are alienating ecosystem people from access to goods and services of nature, turning them into ecological refugees. The “Environment – Development” challenge is one of ensuring continuing availability of goods and services of nature to all people, even as they are provided more and more benefits from the production of knowledge and artifacts. This is becoming increasingly difficult as automation and robotics are reducing the demand for human labour. The only way forward seems to be through universal sharing of knowledge, coupled to moving towards more and more participatory forms of democracy.

About The Professors:

Prof. Amit Bhaduri: After his degrees in Economics from the Universities of Calcutta and Cambridge received Ph.D. from Cambridge University. He was awarded Stevenson Prize for the best piece of research in that University in 1966. He was extended Honorary Life Fellowship of the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, in 1974. He was given the ICSSR Prize in recognition of original work in Economics in 1983. He was nominated to Honorary Life Professorship of Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1986. He held teaching positions in the Presidency College, Kolkata; Pembroke College, Cambridge; Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi; Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum; Stanford University, USA; El College de Mexico, USA; Universities of Vienna and Linz, Austria; University of Bologna, Italy; Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata; University of Bremen, Germany; University of Trondheim, Norway; Wissenschafts Kolleg zu Berlin; Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim; Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Social Sciences; and Department of Political Economy, University of Paiva, Italy. Prof. Bhaduri acted as Research Consultant to ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, U.N., and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific Economic Commission for the Middle East; Vienna Institute of Comparative Economic Studies; and Development Bank of South Africa. Prof. Bhaduri has 5 books to his credit and has published more than 70 research articles in international journals of repute.



Prof. Madhav Gadgil obtained his M.Sc. in Zoology at Mumbai, and did his Ph.D. thesis on fish behaviour at Harvard University. He has been a Lecturer on Biology at Harvard, a Distinguished Indo - American Lecturer at UC Berkeley and a Visiting Professor at Stanford; on the faculty of Indian Institute of Science; a member of the Science Advisory Council to Prime Minister of India and Chaired the Science & Technology Advisory Panel of Global Environment Facility. His scientific interests focus on ecology and evolutionary biology, conservation biology, human ecology, natural resource management and ecological history, and he has published 225 scientific papers and written 6 books in English and 2 in Marathi. Madhav Gadgil has been largely responsible for introducing careful quantitative investigations



in ecology and animal behaviour as well as viewing humans as an integral component of ecosystems of India. He founded the Centre for Ecological Sciences, which has developed strong traditions of working with other researchers, teachers, policy makers as well as NGO workers, farmers and other citizens throughout the country. This has led to innovative experiments of involving High School and College teachers and students in inventorying and monitoring of biodiversity.