



Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Public Policy Special Lecture Series

Lecture by



Dr. Sharachchandra Lele

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Centre for Environment & Development
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE),
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on

Exploring the Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Environmental Public Policy

Date: 18-02-2022 (Friday)

Time: 3.00 PM IST

Venue: Virtual Platform (Zoom)

All are invited

Please register yourself via link prior to the meeting: <https://forms.gle/Sq5hBJhnAsf5naFM7>
Zoom details to join this special lecture will be communicated to the email ID provided during registration

Brief-Bio of the Speaker:

Dr. Sharachchandra Lele

Sharachchandra (Sharad) Lele got a B.Tech.in Electrical Engineering from IIT Bombay (1984) but then decided that environmental studies was more exciting and socially relevant. So he did an M.S. on the environmental impacts of large dams at IISc, Bangalore (1987) and then a Ph.D. in Energy and Resources from UC Berkeley (1993), focusing on forest use in the Western Ghats of India. Following that, he worked at the Pacific Institute, Harvard University, and Institute for Social & Economic Change. He co-founded the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Environment & Development in 2001, and led it till 2009, when it merged with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE). He is now the Distinguished Fellow in Environmental Policy & Governance at ATREE as well as Adjunct Faculty at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune. Sharad is an interdisciplinary environmental researcher, bridging the natural sciences, economics, and political science to understand the concepts of and pathways to environmentally sustainable and socially just development. He has worked on sustainable forest management and forest governance, forest hydrology and farmer linkages, landuse change, watershed development, water governance, urban water management and pollution regulation. This research has been published in a variety of interdisciplinary journals, including Conservation Biology, Journal of Environmental Management, Bioscience, Current Science, Water Resources Research, Hydrology and Earth System Science, Water International, Ecological Economics, World Development, Conservation & Society, Journal of Peasant Studies, Environmental Conservation and Nature Sustainability. Sharadhas also co-authored a book on “Community-based Natural Resource Management in South Asia”, (Sage:2007), and edited “Democratising Forest Governance in India” (OUP: 2014) and “Rethinking Environmentalism: Linking Justice, Sustainability and Diversity” (MIT Press: 2018). Sharad also write frequently for English, Kannada and Marathi newspapers in India. He teaches courses in Interdisciplinary Research Approaches and Environmental Policy and Governance in ATREE’s PhD programme in Sustainability Studies and MSc programme in Conservation Practice. Sharad has worked extensively to promote interdisciplinary and socially relevant environmental research at the national and international level. He has been a Board Member of the International Society for Ecological Economics, is an Associate Editor of Ecological Economics, a Founder-Member and past President of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics, and serves or has served on the editorial boards of several other journals (Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, Journal of Peasant Studies, Sustainability Science, Conservation & Society, and Journal of Land Use Science). He is currently a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Global Land Programme, the Mentoring Initiative of the International Water Resources Association, and the Academic Council of Tata Institute for Social Sciences. He is also a Lead Author in the IPBES Values Assessment. Being committed to translating knowledge into change, Sharad is also highly engaged in policy-related work in India, including serving on the Ministry of Environment & Forests-Ministry of Tribal Affairs’ Joint Committee on the Forest Rights Act, the Karnataka High Court’s Elephant Task Force, the Bellandur Lake Monitoring Committee in Bengaluru, and the MoEF’s Expert Appraisal Committee for Thermal Power Plants and Coal Mining. Currently, he is serving on a series of committees set up by the National Green Tribunal to look into environmental violations in coal mining areas of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Abstract:

India has committed to net-zero in Glasgow, but do we really understand what it means to be an environmentalist? Or what it means to craft a pro-environment policy? Even though Indian activists and scholars has contributed much to environmental understanding globally, our own thinking remains rather narrow and largely shaped by global trends such as wildlife-ism and climate-ism. In this talk, I will explore the multi-dimensional normative/ethical bases of environmental concern, and the theoretical breadth that we also require to understand why (net-zero type commitments notwithstanding) environmental problems are spreading and growing. Environmental policy then becomes not just one governmental activity but rather cuts across all societal activities and spheres. Teaching of environmental policy and governance, if based on this broader perspective, can help build the foundation for a genuine socio-environmental transition.
