



CEiBa team welcomes you all to our first issue of 2021. The year is action-packed with the repeated surge of virus attacks and our war footing response to restrict the growth of the virus empire. Vaccination drive is in full swing and the researchers are in an all-out race to find out how to tame the virus. Nevertheless, this pandemic is an eye-opener for many of us to be aware of the fact that uncontrolled alteration of natural dynamics eventually backfires the human race. The exposure to the yet-unknown pathogens will shoot up unless we put a check on our business as usual approach towards nature and natural resources. The practice of sustainability never felt so urgent for the survival of our race.

We'll be confronted with the multiple aspects of sustainability as we forage through this issue. The first article talks about the importance of rural settlement for ecological integrity and sustainability. A part of the traditional landscape, a picturesque leisure adobe for many urban dwellers, an active social-political-economical unit for countless rural peasants, and at the heart of modern India, village or rural settlement offers many explanations to us. This article narrates how a typical village with its homestead, scattered vegetation, public places, daily lifestyle and, community practices support local ecological functions and biodiversity in the rural landscape. It also takes into account challenges like homogenization, environmental degradation, changing lifestyle practices, and possible measures to improve it.

The sustainability issue echoes at the core of the second article but in the context of economics. The author tears apart the intricate link between neoliberal economics and its active role in consumerism which ultimately settles into unsustainable, uncontrolled natural resource exploitation. Starting from the history of economics, the author narrates how industrial and technological advancement replaced the old limited growth-ethical distribution economic model with all encompassed unlimited growth model. And, in what form neo-liberal economics promotes inequality within the society and its toll on the environment.

Wild food section holds its permanent place with the new entrants, *Portulaca*, *Pyrus*, *Rhus*, and *Rhyncotechum* - they are well-known for medicinal value but less appreciated in culinary use. A curated body of texts on their role as food seems to revitalize our dietary diversity with pleasure. In the end, glimpses of nature present a mixed bag of incidents and practices like hydro-hegemony, a plant with two leaves, amphibian camels, and fermented food.

Wish you a happy reading.

Rajasri Ray

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