### ECOJAN 2025

Invitation

#### "Without community, there is no liberation." -Audre Lorde

### Hidden Oasis, Pune April 2nd - 8th, 2025

We warmly invite you to join us for this year's **EcoJam 2025, at <u>The Hidden</u>** <u>Oasis</u> from April 2nd, 10 am - April 8th, 10 am Apply here: <u>https://tinyurl.com/EcoJam2025App</u>

The EcoJam brings together 30 people from diverse backgrounds who are deeply interested or concerned about the environment for six days of transformative experiences.

We gather to know ourselves more deeply, build a community together, reconnect with Nature in a profound way, and find renewed vision, purpose, and support in our work in the world.

In a field that is often filled with burnout and division, the EcoJam is a space for us to be real and share all of ourselves - our struggles, frustrations, and joys alike. It is a space to learn from each other, especially across differences including gender, class, caste, geography, and religion. It is a space to connect the dots between personal change and our work to create a sustainable and just world.

We welcome people from many fields connected to the environment: social entrepreneurs, environmental activists, environmental defenders,organic farmers, teachers, conservationists, high-tech wizards, food advocates, those affected by environmental problems, and anyone passionate about Nature and sustainable living.

You need not be an expert-- there will be some with more experience and others new in their journey. We invite you to join us on this fertile ground and link your roots with others to co-create an ecosystem of love and strength that can help shape a world where all beings thrive.

# WHO'S THE JAM FOR?

Essentially everyone; however this is a safe and brave space. We do ask questions of ourselves, each other, and the system. There is laughter, song, spirit, dialogue, play, nature, connection, and a lot of realness. The Jam can be equal parts challenging and rewarding, and those who take risks often get the most out of it..

#### Here are some questions to ask yourself:

- Am I interested in having deep conversations?
- Do I want to make meaningful connections with others?
- Am I in a place in my life where I can share my truth with others?
- Am I looking to make change in my life or in the current systems around ecological issues?
- Do I want a community that will support me and hold me accountable equally?
- Am I in a place in life where I can deeply listen to others?



# WHYTHE ECOJAM?

While countries and governments are negotiating who should take the responsibility for the climate crisis, while blatantly denying climate change, or continuing business as usual, India has been experiencing extreme climate events, sea levels rise, and biodiversity loss more frequently than ever. Indigenous lands being taken away for mining, and cities filling to the brim. Yet, sometimes it feels like little action is taken.

This is a time when many people are realising and experiencing that we are interconnected with each other and all life. The time is ripe for change. And yet by ourselves, working for change can be frustrating. Even changing ourselves or those who are closest to us can be hard.

The EcoJam is a space to **slow-down** together with others on a similar path, and to work on our own inner sustainability as we work towards building a sustainable world. It is a space to **celebrate the Earth** and remember our sacred ecology.

## WHAT TO EXPECT?

The EcoJam aims to address three interconnected levels of transformation: the personal, the interpersonal, and the social/systemic.

It is NOT a typical environmental conference. We do not have panels. We do not have expert speakers. We are *all* participants.

We will be looking within at our own healing and growth, as well as our interpersonal relationships, in addition to healing our relationship to Nature at the systemic level.

Through activities like facilitated dialogues, shared tools and frameworks, sharing circles, artistic expression, games, movement, participant-led workshops, outdoor adventure, and lots of free time for spontaneous interactions amongst the participants, we will together explore our own experiences, questions and dynamics.

Through conversations, exchanges and just plain hanging out together, we get a chance to see things from new perspectives. To activate our imaginations, creativity and curiosity. To align our vision and values. To face our fears and overcome our blocks. We get to heal and to find new friends and partners in our journey.

## WHAT'S A JAM?

In music, a jam is a creative, live gathering of musicians who together, spontaneously create a new sound, where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Similarly, Jams are places where diverse leaders and visionaries bring together their passion, openness, and unique perspectives. In spontaneous connection, we weave layers of experience, wisdom, heart and spirit to create some real magic. To date, more than 200 Jams have been held on six continents, bringing together young and intergenerational leaders from more than 85 countries. The EcoJam is being co-organised by a diverse group of leaders, with the support of YES! based in the U.S. (see <u>www.yesworld.org</u>).



The actual cost of the EcoJam per participant is Rs 27,000 for the duration of 6 days (including food, accommodation, materials & modest stipends for organizers and facilitators). However, we recognize that not everyone can afford this, and so we have done some fundraising to be able to offer a sliding scale. If you are also in a position to raise funds for yourself and for your travels, that will help us provide more scholarship opportunities. If you would like us to share a fundraising template with you, let us know.

The sliding scale is **Rs 9,000 to Rs 27,000**. This means that you can contribute anywhere between these amounts, according to your capacity. We appreciate your efforts to find the money even if it is a little difficult (we can help you in asking for support from family, friends, your organization, etc). **If you can, we urge you to pay in full or pay what is possible** for you, so that we can offer scholarships to people who need it the most.

If you believe the Jam is the right place for you and that there is a calling for you to attend, please do not let money stand in the way of your participation. If you cannot pay the minimum Rs 9,000, write to us and we will figure out what we can do. **We do ask that everyone take a stretch** to give a little more than what may be comfortable, but without creating hardships for you. In the end, this is about creating the diverse community we wish to see and that means recognizing that each of us has different capacities to contribute.

#### Arrival: April 2nd, 10am Departure: April 8th, 10am

This year we will be at **The Hidden Oasis**, outside of Pune. "The Hidden Oasis, Pune is a living example of environmental conservation: electricity generated from solar panels, rainwater harvesting, water-shedding, biogas plant, solar cookers, organic farming and a natural forest. Since their inception in 2002, they have been guided by the philosophy of ecological sustainability." For more: https://thehiddenoasis.com/

## ACCOMODATION

We have shared rooms with three people per room with an attached bathroom. We usually divide people along CIS-gender lines, but if you identify as non-binary or Transgender and want to speak to us about accommodation, please let us know.

The venue will serve vegetarian food ( with milk). Please let us know well in advance if you are allergic to anything and have any special dietary needs.





"I have become a jammer for the rest of my life. You taught me not only the EcoJam tools but also showed me hope of how we as a community of likehearted beings can nurture each other.."

-Reva Almeida

"A revolutionary space that I will look back on with deep appreciation for the rest of my life." -Ashdeep Seth

"I have langhed and cried and felt a shift within me and this is absolutely one of the best decisions I've taken and totally worth the time investment"

-Shubhashree

### APPLY HERE https://tinyurl.com/EcoJam2025App

#### Deadline to apply: January 27, 2025

For participants to receive the best prices and travel options, we encourage applications by the deadline. For any reason that isn't possible, please get in touch with us.

### **CONTACT** INFO

Vishal Singh: 9982843152 | Pranav: 9167597487 ecojamindia@gmail.com | Instagram: jamsinindia https://yesworld.org/