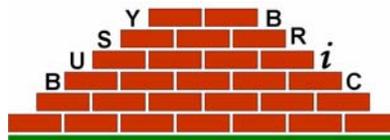


Wildlife Reserves Within Indian SEZ's



Concept & Design Document



A BusyBric Scheme

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Wildlife Reserves within Indian SEZ's

New Concept for Urban Life

The latest land rush in India involving SEZ's has reached a speed breaker with most political parties hollering about how farmers are being displaced from their land and are getting a pittance while state governments and companies make billions of dollars. While there is a genuine case for more compensation being given to farmers, its also true that the country is losing even more land to concrete jungles. While development is necessary , there is also a need for harmony with nature. Inclusive development requires not only all sections of society and all the people of India to benefit but also that animals and birds be provided for. This concept paper is about a project that could be considered for implementation in all India's SEZ's.

The basic concept behind this opportunity is derived from the fact that as per government regulations , 25 % of the land in any SEZ must be reserved for open spaces. So if a developer acquires say 30,000 acres of land for an SEZ , then a good 7,500 acres of this land must not be used in any way and must be reserved for open spaces.

This regulation actually is a big opportunity to set up a wildlife reserve and a nature park within the SEZ and to derive revenue from forest activities . Some 2,000 acres of this reserve can then be used to plant valuable trees like Sandal wood or teak and can be harvested which could yield a handsome revenue. The balance 5,000 acres could be used for a wildlife reserve . This will not only restore a natural balance but also give a very nice ambience to the whole area making Indian SEZ's unlike any others around the world. There is a need to have professional forest management companies develop these reserves.

In our SEZ's we have a real chance to make a new beginning. In the first instance developers should be given the absolute right to plan the layouts according to professional townplanning principles as long as they strictly adhere to well laid out norms. There is also a clear need to keep the area free from state municipal control as we don't want these agencies reducing even the SEZ's to the sad state our cities are in.

But just keeping an SEZ free from local government control isn't enough. This concept paper argues that while very well planned and clean roads, handsome buildings and swanky offices are welcome , would it not be even better if there are lots of open spaces and trees ... with squirrels and birds in them. What ever I have read about India's SEZ's till now leads me to believe that our planners have left this wildlife dimension completely unexplored. We might in future see the occasional crow or a sparrow ... but that's not going to

be much fun at all. There may therefore be a case to introduce some very unique pets, animals and birds into the environment in a controlled manner which will make the working environment so much more joyous for inhabitants of the new SEZ's and a visit by an outsider a very memorable experience for him or her.

Some of what is suggested is doable but its necessary to examine the pros and cons and then implement only what we would be comfortable with. But ... first let me introduce you to some of the creatures that we have in mind.

Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi used to have a very cute breed of horse called the Shetland Pony. These are very loveable pets and they are native to the Shetland Islands in the British Isles. The horses are short, just around 3 1/2 feet tall, with short limbs, a short neck and small ears. The life span of these animals is approximately 15-20 years and they cost upwards of \$ 1000 per pony. They are also extremely intelligent and very playful. At Rashtrapati Bhavan they were used to draw the Presidents Buggy and it's a wonderful sight. In a corporate environment they can be used to take visiting dignitaries on a tour of the campus . It does not really matter if you are not a dignitary being taken around ... just the sight of the little fellows is reward enough. The picture below is illustrative of how cute these chaps really are.



Shetland Ponies

Then there is the Peacock, our National bird Indian law forbids the capture of this bird or its rearing in captivity but it might be possible to convince the government to allow forest companies managing the forest reserves within the Sez's to monitor blue peacocks on an experimental basis. The White peacock is beautiful too so we can have some of these as well. Peacocks can fly so you may find them perched on buildings which is a very nice sight. They are wild birds, so ... it's important to get them used to feeding at one place so they will always come back. Given that the SEZ is a commercial area and therefore better than its surroundings ... it is doubtful if the birds would fly off elsewhere . Regular feeding is all that is required to secure their loyalty.



Blue Peacock : Male Blue Peacock (Female) The Albino Male Peacock

We could invite some 20 Peacocks on campus, some blue and some white . The males are very handsome but its necessary to acquire them in pairs as otherwise they might fly away.

The SEZ's could also have a few lakes incorporated into the design . These lakes could be populated with ornamental fish like goldfish and the mahseer , , India's largest freshwater fish and an amazing creature . The lakes environs could be populated with ducks. Then there are Geese too which look really cute when they waddle around the place. An SEZ can have hundreds of geese waddling all over the place ... in fountains and small ponds.



A Goose



A Duck

Each SEZ could have a large bird park like Jurong in Singapore where a huge almost invisible net high up above the trees prevents the birds from flying away. We could for instance introduce the Scarlet Macaw from the South American rain forest . It's a big and very handsome bird. A very large enclosure made of steel netting and covering several dozen trees would see these birds comfortable housed.

Then there is the Red squirrel too which is a native of the Americas, we could import a few hundred pairs pairs.





The Red Squirrel

The Scarlet Macaw

The protected reserve within an SEZ with some 3000 acres of forest cover can easily accommodate 200 – 300 spotted deer and antelope and also a few dozen Sambar. The sambar are big and powerful deer, and is a majestic site to behold.



Spotted Deer



Sambar

There is also place for a few elephants and a few giraffe but maybe not any tigers.

The above is a good estimate of what 3000 acres of forest cover can sustain . It is important to maintain a proper balance so that security and administration people can effectively manage without the animals getting out of their protected areas and coming in the way of traffic.

Staffing Requirements :

The afore mentioned animals need to be looked after and cared for. It will be essential to have the necessary staff to take care of them. An SEZ will need a proper veterinary staff ... a few consulting Vets could be on hand whenever needed. and The dozens of malis catering to the SEZ's gardens could double as syces or horse grooms who could look after the animals so ... that is taken care of too.

Implementation

Animals like deer can be kept in Pens with a 4 feet high boundary ... in the several gardens that the SEZ will have ... or they can be let loose depending on circumstances.

Its necessary to ensure that the animals do not stray out of the gardens / protected areas or on the roads and create a problem for people in the surrounding community. To this end it might be necessary to install low range (25 metres max), high frequency transmitters at certain kep places within the SEZ . Animals do not like these frequencies so they will stay away from the interfaces . When a habit is formed the animals will stay away from the human population areas and will remain reasonably deep within the reserves.

A proper study however needs to be done to examine feasibility at each SEZ Location. The flora and fauna choice will actually be very location specific depending on the natural habitat of these animals. Animals also need to be looked after properly so the individual SEZ's might implement only as much as can be cared for properly and with minimum disruption to their main function of doing business profitably.

Why ?

Schemes like this might help build an SEZ's corporate image. Its very difficult for instance to quantify the P / L impact of implementing such a scheme as indeed an advertising budget. But what advertising does do is ... when the money is spent ... the SEZ ends up owning a place in the customers mind. It's a small component of " differentiation " and it goes a long way.

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