

Livelihoods, Equity and Sustainability



Ashish Kothari
Kalpavriksh

Dominant vision of 'development'

All over the world, nature's mighty barriers separate oil, gas, minerals and water from their destinations. Only a handful of international giants can bridge these gaps. One of them is Indian, Dodsal. Ripping through jungles in Indonesia... Moving the earth in India... Laying pipelines.

The Indonesian oil/gas pipeline (X-52) apex
 Diameter: 900 cm.
 A section of this 36 kilometre oil/gas pipeline was laid across 14 kilometres of high swampy terrain.
 Because of its proximity to the ocean, the swamps were not governed by the tides - rising and falling as much as 3 metres.
 Equipment mounted on barges dug the pipe trench below the swamp level.
 As the barges rose and fell with the varying tides, continuous changes were made to adjust to the varying levels of swamp water.
 Pipe sections were even floated across the swamp, sunk, and buried below the swamp bed.
 Dodsal had to bend the pipes to follow the sharp contours of swampland.
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International force in cross-country pipelines
 58 projects in Europe, West Africa, South East Asia and the Middle East, including turnkey projects.
 10,000 kilometres of pipelines - more than halfway round the earth.
 Equipment bases in Singapore, Brunei and Muscat.
 Training schools in Dortmund (Germany) and Brunei.
 A mobile task force of 500 engineers and 3,500 highly trained technicians.
The back record
 60 pipelines through the most taxing natural obstacles (Persian Desert, Peru, Amazon and swamps).
 Every project completed on or ahead of schedule.
In 1979, Dodsal built India's first-ever swamp pipeline for the Kattomutt project in Karnataka. This pipeline was just the first of its kind in the world.
 Dodsal is one of the very few companies with in-house capabilities for erasing rivers and draining through land.
 Dodsal's rock-stacking engineers have been trained at Nitro Nobel, Sweden.

Activities in water supply systems
 Dodsal undertakes the water and waste treatment backlogs in a variety of cities.
 One such project has just been completed in Kazan.
 This project involved drawing water from the (Don) at Avul and then getting it into Kazan. It also involved erecting and building pipelines for transportation.
 Dodsal's involvement in this area includes high engineering and study in building water treatment, purification plants and pumping.
Other divisions:
 Operation and Maintenance, Transmission towers, Civil engineering, Offshore services, Plant.

Dodsal
 The Indian hand... worldwide

Violence against nature, communities, and cultures ... growth as cancer

Ministry of Rural Development
 Government of India

Nation's Development
 through Village Development
 ... this is our dream.

Block Rotarians run the Ministry of Rural Development

1. Rotarian Ganga Mahila
2. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh
3. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh
4. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh
5. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh
6. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh
7. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh
8. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh
9. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh
10. Rotarian Nand Lal Mahesh

For more information, please call us toll-free 1800-120-1200.

Heartiest Greetings to all fellow Indians on Republic Day of India

Ecological context: Destruction of India's environment

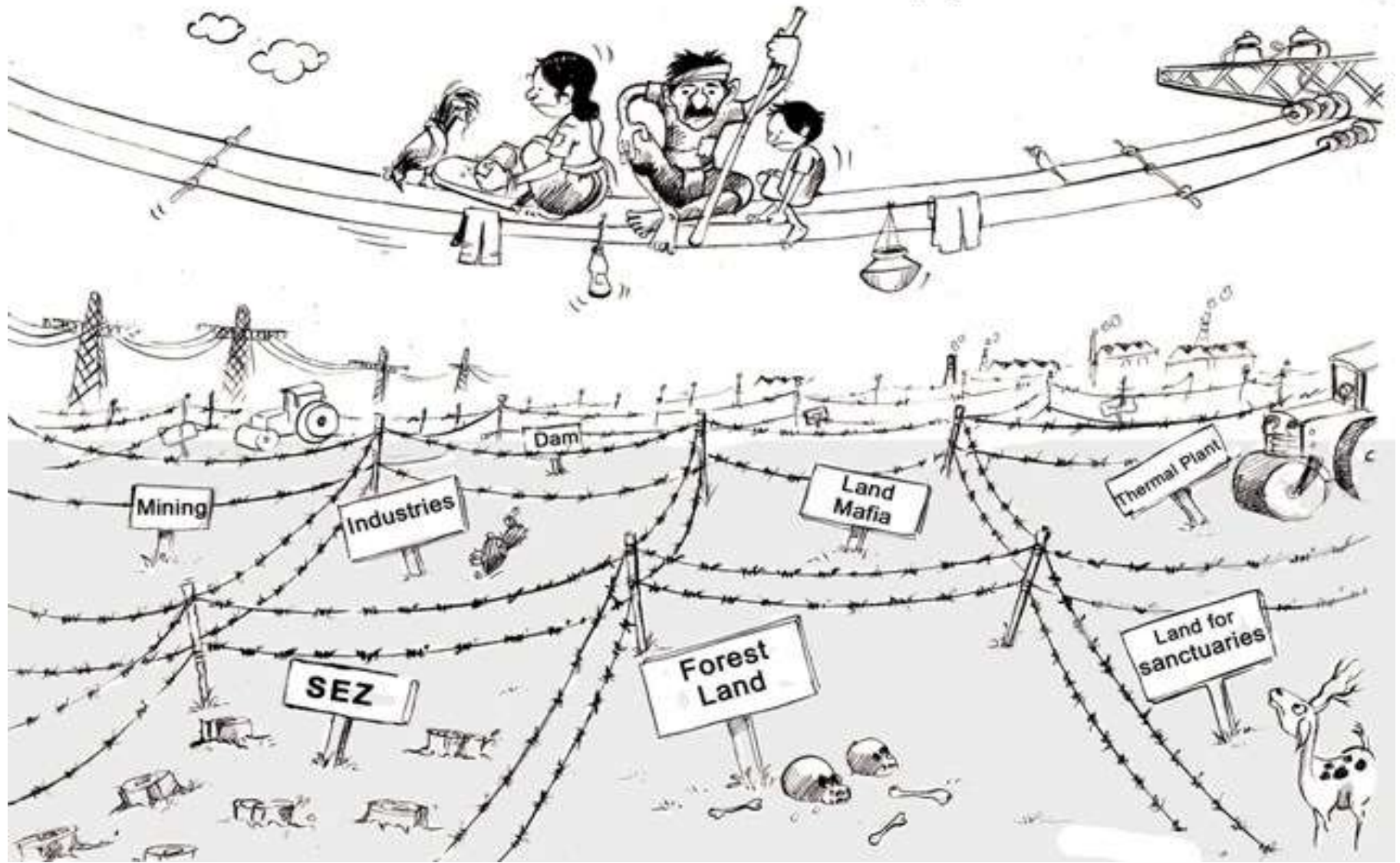
- 50% forest disappeared in last 200 years
- 70% waterbodies polluted or drained out
- 40% mangroves destroyed
- Some of the world's most polluted cities and coasts
- Nearly 10% wildlife threatened with extinction



The social context

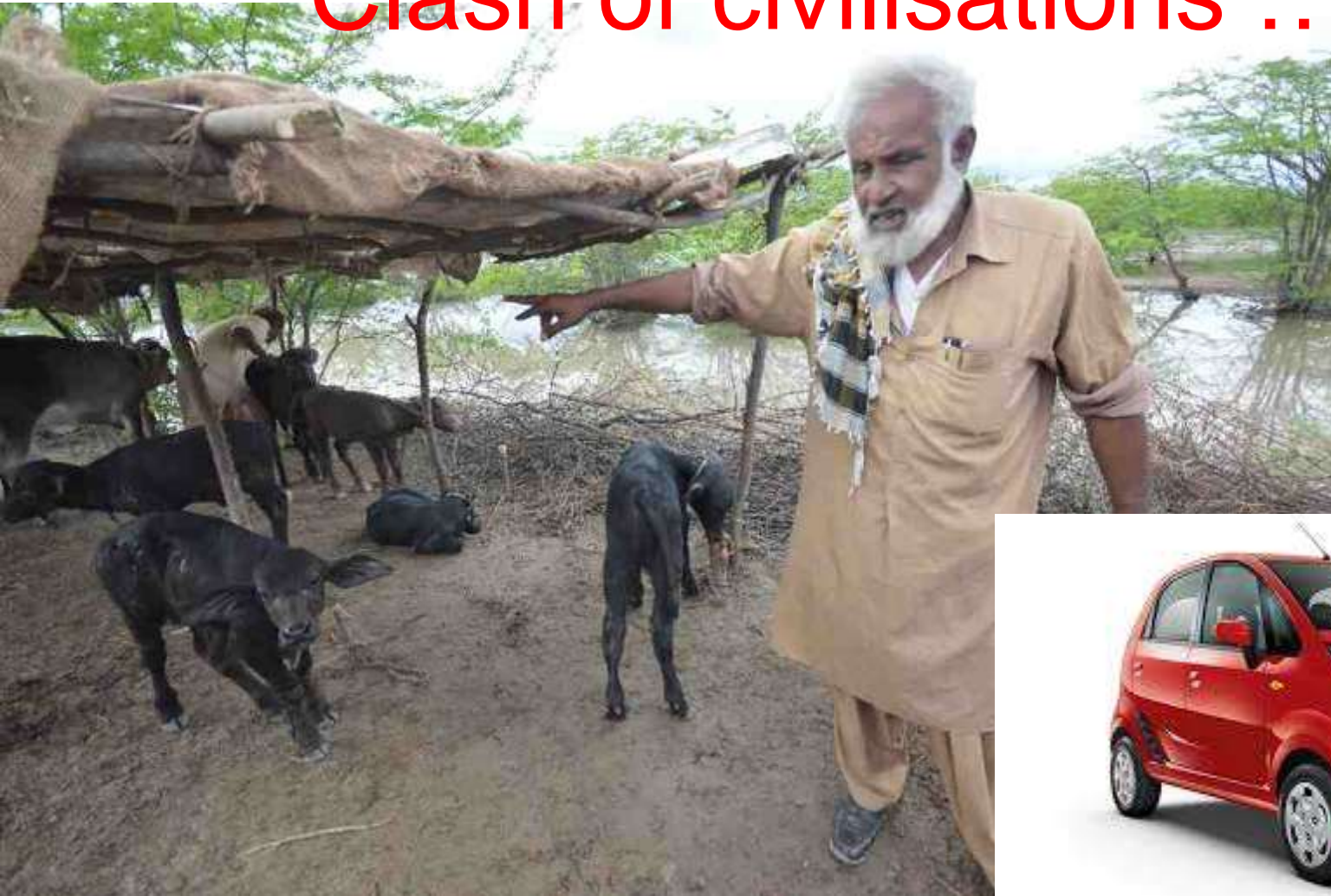
- **Ecosystem-dependent people (60-70% of India's population):** food, medicine, livelihoods, fuel, shelter, clothing, culture
- **Environmental destruction** = livelihood, cultural, and physical displacement...for tens of millions of people





60 million displaced by 'development' projects

Clash of civilisations ...



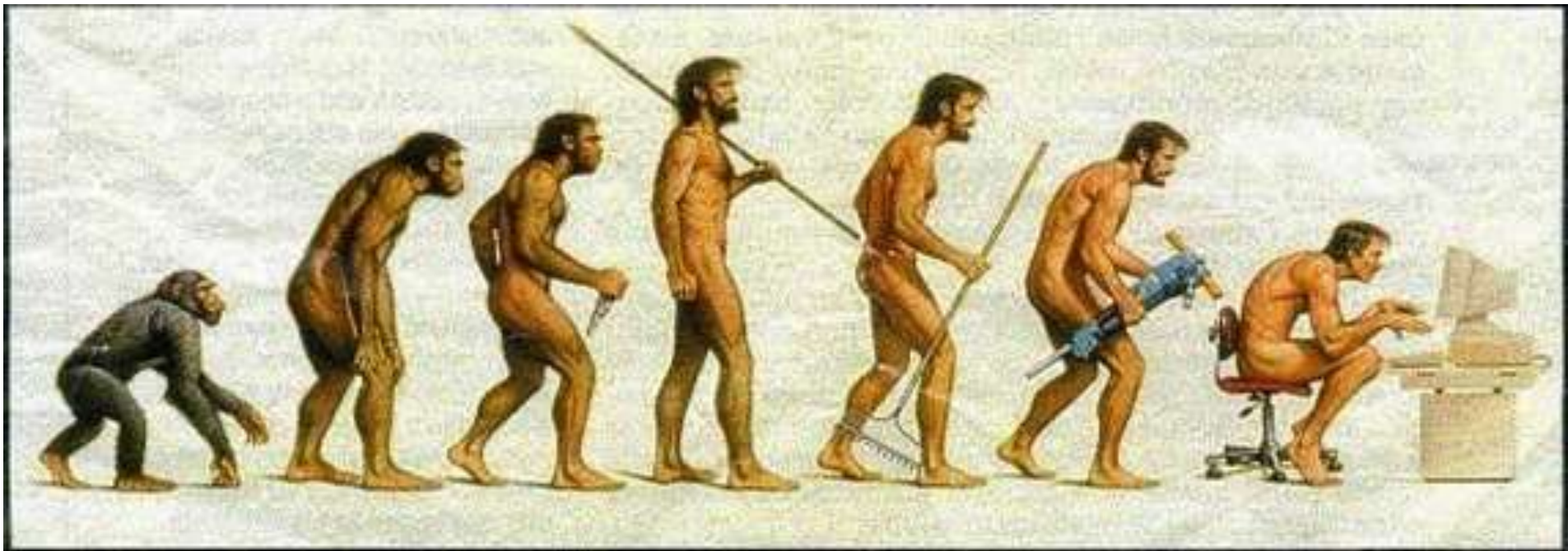
From livelihoods as ways of life ...

... to livelihoods as jobs, divorced from rest of life:

Violence against each of us: our identity, our health, our well-being!

Livelihoods to Deadlihoods

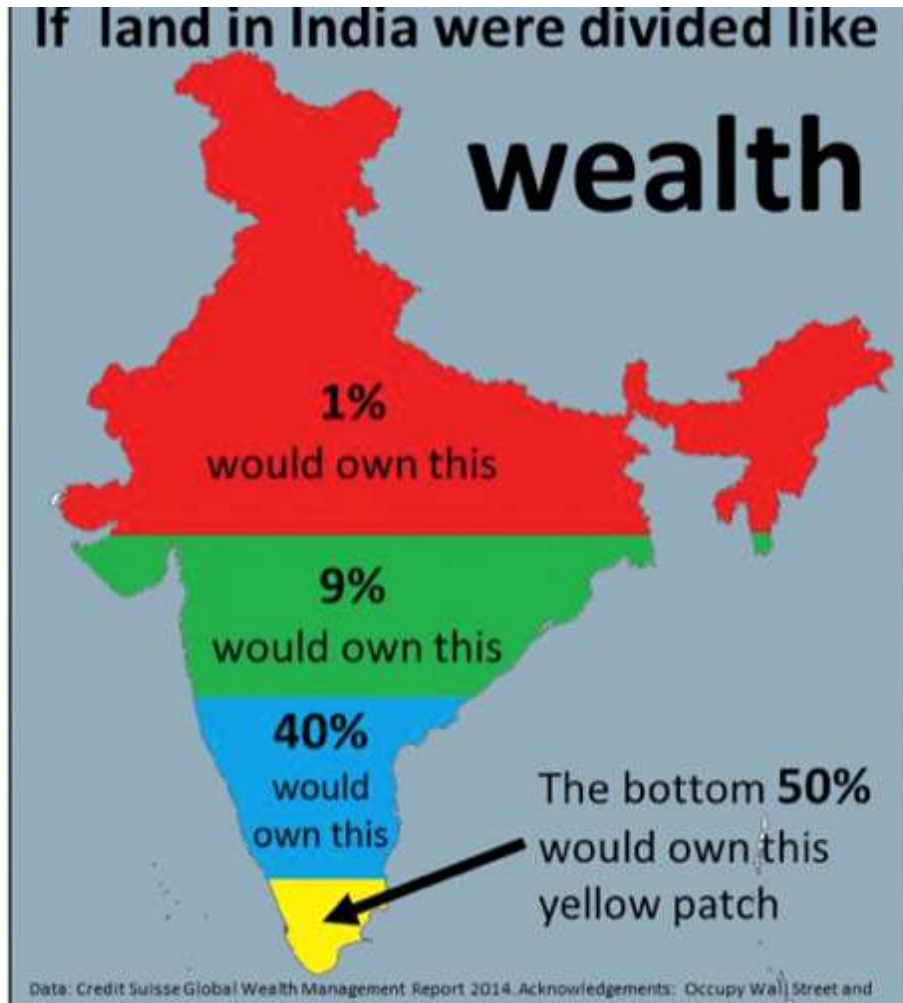
Illustrator unknown



Somewhere, something went terribly wrong

Growing inequities, deprivation

1% richest own 50% wealth!!!!



'UP AND AWAY'

Are there alternatives?



Alternatives to what?

Structural roots of unsustainability & inequity

- Concentration of power
- Capitalism
- State-dominated regimes
- Patriarchy
- Caste / race / ethnicity
-



Resistance ...

satyagraha

... is part of
the alternative

“Civil society responsible
for 2-3% GDP loss” Ministry
of Home Affairs



Assertion of self-determination & ancient ways of life, recognition of the unrecognised



Dongria Kondh
indigenous people vs.
Vedanta corporation &
Indian state



India: alternative initiatives for well-being





Livelihood security



Deccan Development Society (Andhra Pradesh)

- Reviving traditional agr diversity, community grain banks
- Empowering women/dalit farmers, securing land rights
- Creating consumer-producer links (Zaheerabad org. food restaurant)
- Linking to Public Distribution System
- Community media (films, radio)





Dharani farmer producer company, Andhra Pradesh (facilitated by Timbaktu Collective)





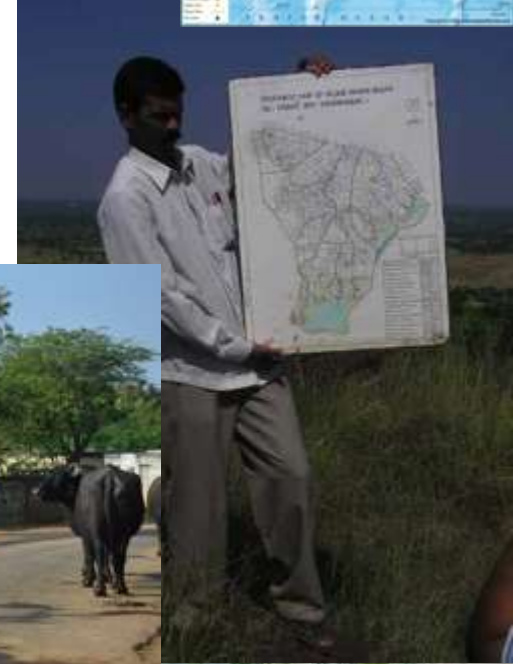
Maati Sangathan, Uttarakhand

Women's empowerment through local resource-based livelihoods



Rural revitalisation: outmigration is *not* inevitable

Ralegan Siddhi & Hivare Bazaar
(Maharashtra), **Kuthambakkam** (TN)
Kudumbashree (Kerala)





Jharcraft (Jharkhand)

Employment for >3 lakh families...
reviving crafts, reducing outmigration



Dignified livelihoods for urban poor



Kagaj Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat

&

Swachh
(Pune)



‘Modern’ sectors

- Civil society groups
- Alternative media
- Activist research
- Appropriate technology development and use
- Non-profit social enterprises
- Responsible governance

Self-governance & livelihoods: Mendha-Lekha (Maharashtra)



All decisions by consensus in *gram sabha* (village assembly)



Informed decisions through monitoring, and regular study circles (*abhyas gat*)

Conservation of 1800 ha forests, now with full rights under Forest Rights Act

Earnings from sustainable forest use (over Rs. 20 million in last few years), and use of govt schemes towards:

- Full employment, energy security, new livelihoods (barefoot engineers, GIS mapping)

“Our government in Mumbai and Delhi, we are the government in our village”

2013: all agricultural land donated to village, collective ownership

Learning / education: re-locating it in community, ecological roots, creativity, inquisitiveness ...

- Adharshila, MP
- Jeevanshala, Narmada
- SECMOL, Ladakh
- Imli-Mahua, Chhattisgarh
- Marudam, Tamil Nadu
- Adivasi Academy, Guj
- Swaraj University, Rajasthan
- Beeja Vidyapeeth, Uttarakhand
- Bhoomi College, Karnataka



Skhole = leisure!



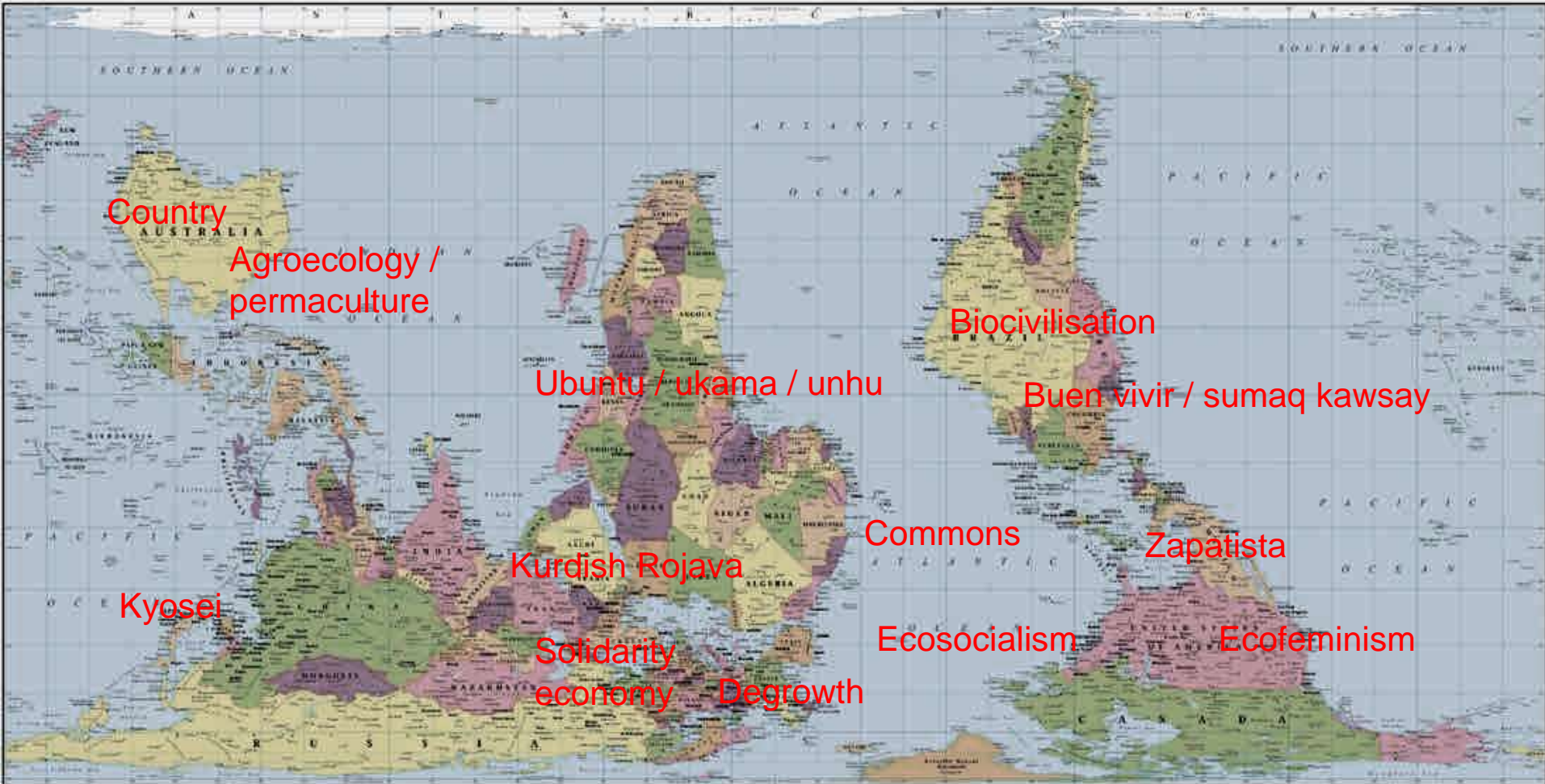
Intergenerational transmission of knowledge

- Surshala (music)
- Karigarshala (construction)
- Sagarshala (coastal communities)
- Kala Vidyapeeth (crafts)
- Parageohydrologists

Traditional & new skills for livelihoods



Alternatives across the world



ni NEW INTERNATIONALIST

CONGRESS: 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100

The New Internationalist magazine reports on issues of world poverty and inequality. It belongs to the people, the ideas and the actions in the fight for global justice.



The Middle East Project Area

All projects are led by local activists in the region and are of the people. They are not a top-down plan imposed on the region, but are based on the needs and desires of the people. The project is a process of learning and growing, not a goal to be achieved. It is a process of learning and growing, not a goal to be achieved. It is a process of learning and growing, not a goal to be achieved.

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Eco-swaraj:

Radical ecological democracy

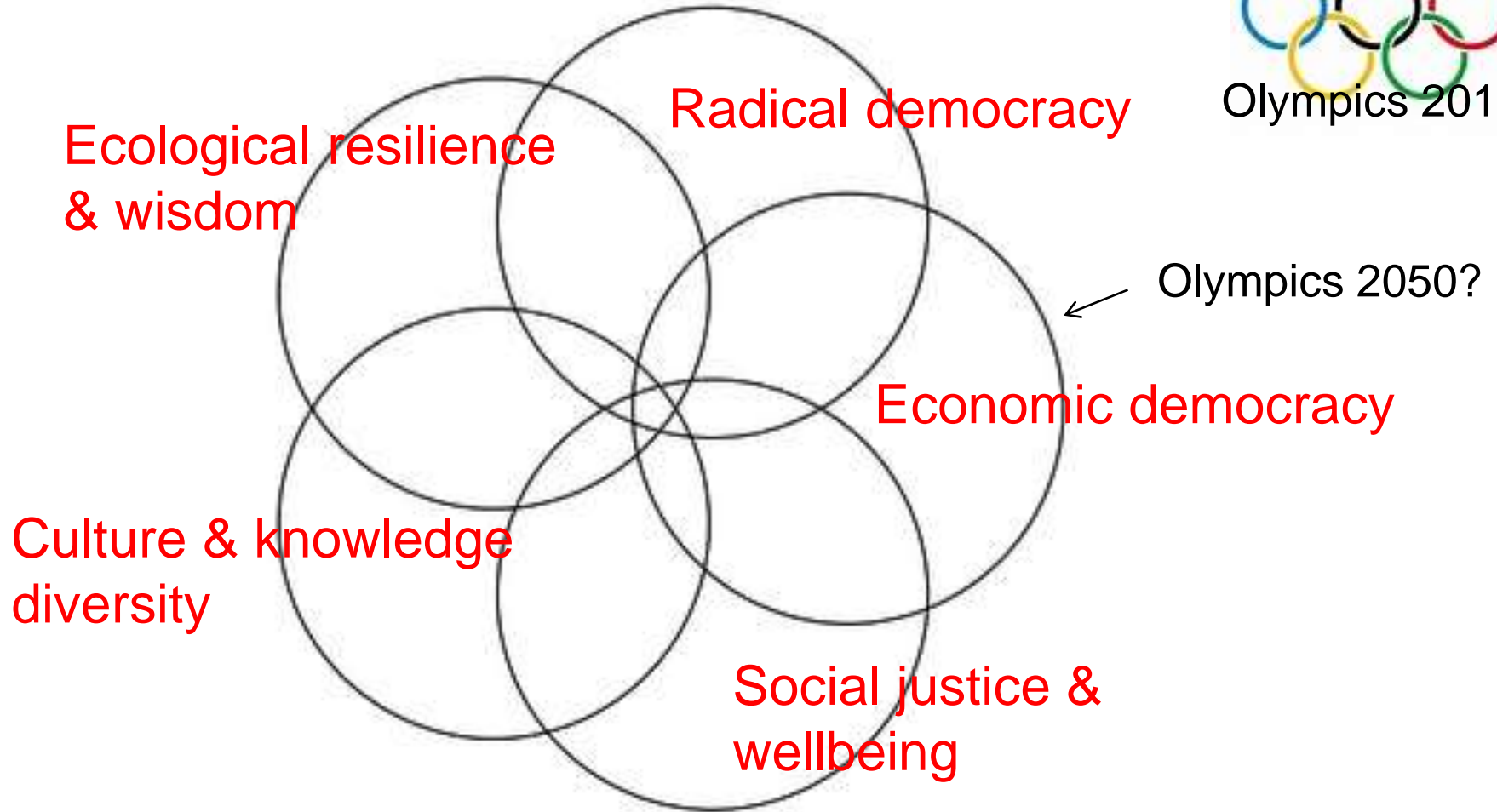
(**Radical** = going to the roots, challenging the conventional)

- achieving **human well-being**, through:
 - empowering all citizens & communities to participate in **decision-making**
 - ensuring socio-economic **equity & justice**
 - respecting the **limits of the earth**

Community (at various levels) as *basic unit of organisation*,
not state or private corporation

Towards a sustainable and equitable society

5 interconnected, integrated circles



A NEW POLITICS

Direct democracy (local): decentralised and nested decision-making

Direct democracy (state/national): referendums & deliberative processes

Delegated/representative democracy, with mechanisms of accountability (right to recall, public audit, reporting back...)

Ecoregional planning across states and countries ... political units aligned with ecological and cultural ones? Borderless world?

Conditions: Rights, Capacity, Forums, and Maturity

A NEW ECONOMICS

Mindful of **ecological / planetary limits**

Open localisation: self-sufficiency/sovereignty in basic needs, larger trade built on this

Production, consumption (*prosumption*) locally controlled; & *sustainable consumption line?*

Re-integrating work & leisure: *livelihoods*

Re-commoning private & state property

Demonetisation & decentralisation of currencies: Relations of caring/sharing, local exchange systems, restructuring the market (*haat*)

A JUST SOCIETY

Towards **equity** amongst
classes
castes (*eradication of*)
genders
ethnic groups
species
'able'ities



Towards universal **rights-based** approaches, infused with
responsibilities ... *sarvodaya*



CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE

Respecting non-divisive **diversity** of languages, cuisines, knowledges



Democratic R&D / S&T / knowledge / innovation: in public domain, participatory, transparent



Media and **arts** commons

Opportunities for **spiritual / ethical growth** (without falling into trap of communal religious institutions)



Alternative globalisation

- Global flow of ideas, cultures, materials (millennia old)

NOT

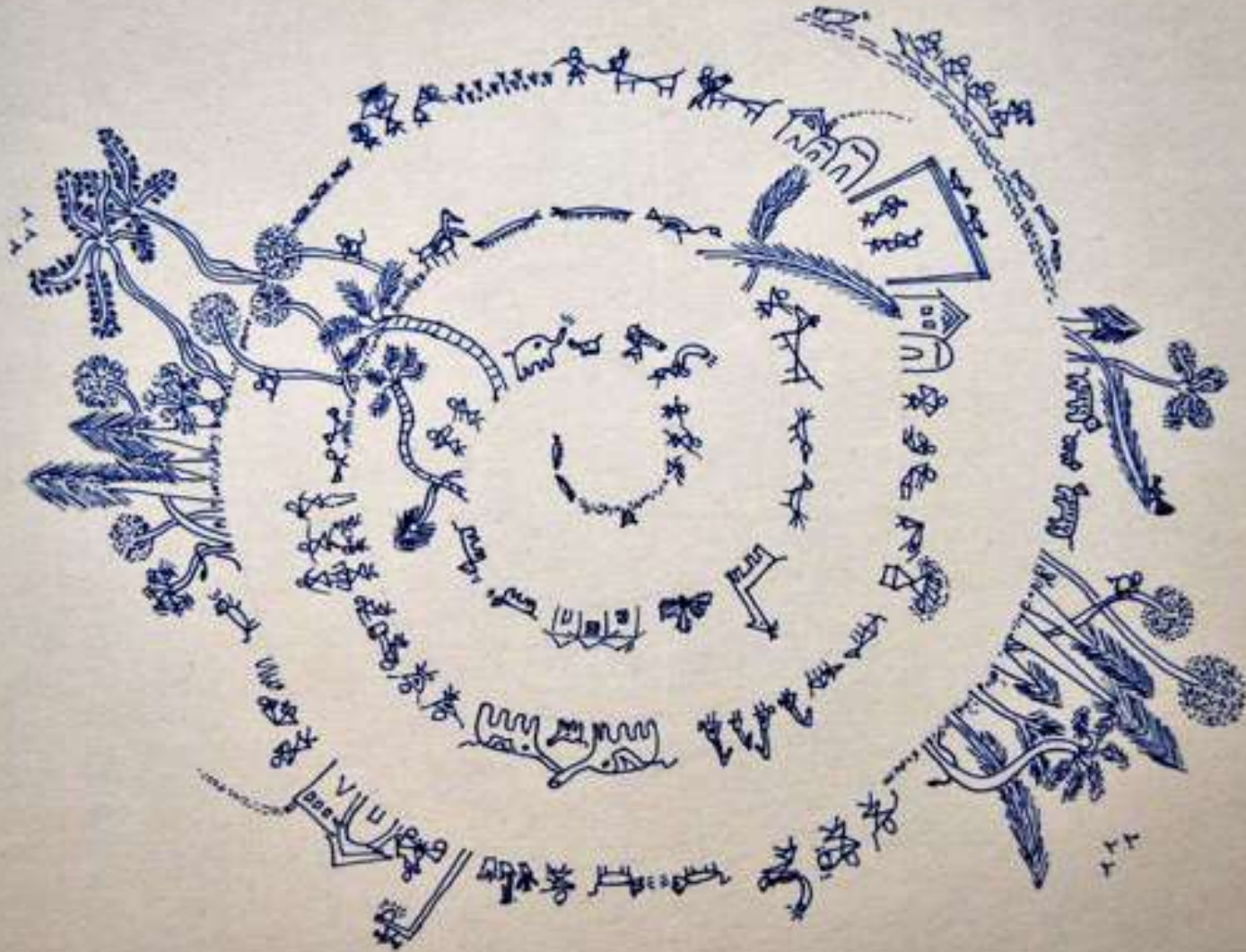
- Globalisation dominated by:



- unrestricted financial and economic flows
- imposition of one model of ‘development’ across the world

Ingredient 5.

RENEWED RELATIONSHIP WITH/IN NATURE



And the cooking medium?

Values & principles of transformative alternatives

- Diversity and pluralism (of ideas, knowledge, ecologies, economies, ideologies, politics, cultures...)
- Self-reliance for basic needs (*swavalamban*)
- Self-governance / autonomy (*swashasan / swaraj*)
- Cooperation, collectivity, solidarity, commons
- Rights with responsibilities of meaningful participation
- Dignity & creativity of labour (*shram*)
- Qualitative pursuit of happiness
- Equity / justice / inclusion (*sarvodaya*)
- Simplicity / sufficiency / enoughness (*aparigraha*)
- Rights of nature / respect for all life forms
- Non-violence, peace, harmony (*ahimsa*)
- Subsidiarity & ecoregionalism



Vikalp Sangams (Alternatives Confluences): practical collaborations, democratic visioning of futures



Vikalp Sangams (regional)

Andhra Pradesh, Oct 2014

Tamil Nadu, Feb 2015

Ladakh: July 2015

Maharashtra, October 2015

Kachchh, July 2016

W. Himalaya, Aug 2016

Kerala Apr 2017

(thematic)

Energy democracy: March 2016

Food sovereignty : 2016 & 2017

Youth: Feb 2017

Arts / media: 2018

Adivasi livelihoods: 2018



3rd draft for discussion in Vikalp Sangam process¹

THE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES: KEY ASPECTS AND PRINCIPLES

Notes for a dialogue

Can we collectively search for frameworks and visions that pose fundamental alternatives to today's dominant economic and political system, as part of the Vikalp Sangam process? How can such frameworks and visions build on an existing heritage of ideas and worldviews and cultures, and on past or new grassroots practice? This note attempts to lay out some thoughts towards such a process, and is offered as one means to stimulate dialogue and visioning.

The note does not contain a critique of the that we have some common understanding structural roots to the crises of ecological loss of life and livelihoods. Centralised and

Visioning the future,
grassroots-up



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www.vikalpsangam.org

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VIKALPsangam

STORIES PERSPECTIVES ADD EVENTS ABOUT

Search

Change Language

LEARNING AND EDUCATION

Where learning is fun, community-based, and meaningful for living a life in harmony with other humans and with the rest of nature.




CONSERVING SACRED SPACES: KANCHENZONGA CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, SIKKIM


Yuksom was the first village in Sikkim to ban the use of bags and bottles made of plastic in 1996. KCC's involvement has been a...

www.vikalpsangam.org
(www.alternativesindia.org)


STORIES BY CATEGORY


[SEE ALL CATEGORIES](#)

 ENERGY





MICRO-HYDRO POWER IN UDMAROO VILLAGE

 ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY



ಮರುಹಿನ್ನೆ ಪದೇದ ಶೇರೆಯ ಕಥೆ (IN KANNADA)

 FOOD AND WATER



A ONE-STOP STORE FOR MILLETS

 SOCIETY, CULTURE AND PEACE



DISCUSSIONS ON ALTERNATIVES OVER CUPS OF RAGI MALT

transformap.co

wiki.p2pfoundation.net

For continuing the dialogue ...

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