

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, EXAMPLES OF THREATS TO SD & PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS FOR SD

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# Focus of the presentation

- The presentation is divided into 3 parts
- The first part is based on the understanding of Sustainable Development (SD) and issues of Education for SD (ESD)
- The second part deals with issues related to recent Uttarakhand devastation and threats from Narmada dams
- The third part deals with people's movements for right developmental efforts

# Meaning of Development

- a **comprehensive** economic, educational, social, cultural and political process, which **aims at the constant improvement of the well being of the entire population** and of all individuals **on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation** in society and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting there from

# What ails the development

- ◎ Development has been **ill conceived** by countries across the globe and **mad race** is going for it at any cost.
- ◎ Development has become inadequate , indeed, unsatisfactory because development, as often practiced, has been process of lopsided economic growth and distribution as well as redistribution of goods and services to enable poorer people to get a fairer share of society's wealth and to participate fully in economy.  
Contd.....

# What ails.....

- It is increasingly becoming insensitive towards environmental protection and ecological impact of industrialization and commercialization and failing to ensure participation of the common and marginal people in educational, social and cultural activities.

# Sustainable Development (SD)

Sustainable development is a humane response to insensitive and lopsided development at the cost of most vulnerable marginal people of the society.

*“Sustainable development is that which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the possibilities of future generations to satisfy their own needs.”*

# Ban Ki-moon on SD

- **Climate change is destroying** our path to **sustainability**. Ours is a world of looming challenges and increasingly limited resources. Sustainable development offers the best chance to adjust our course.
- **Sustainable development is the pathway to the future** we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance.

# Genesis for SD

- Term 'emphasized the need for sustainable development' first spelt out in the UN Earth Summit, the conference on Environment Development (UNCED), held in June 1992 at Rio de Janeiro
- The Earth Summit to **ensure human life with dignity** and human life in **harmony with nature**.

# Agenda 21

- The Rio Declaration established 27 principles called Agenda 21 or Rio Declaration , intended to guide sustainable development around the world.
- Agenda 21 sought to provide a comprehensive blueprint of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the UN, governments, and major groups.

## AGENDA 21 contd...

- ◎ 'Agenda 21' or 'Rio Declaration' **emphasizes** that the **social and educational concern underlies the effort to protect and develop left out masses** of the society. cover social, political, economic, environmental and peaceful concerns of human existence as a whole
- ◎ **Agenda 21 was blueprint for sustainable development**, which focused on a long term common vision for growth, equity and conservation.

# Agenda 21 contd...

- Agenda 21 grouped into 4 sections:
- *Section I: Social and Economic Dimensions* is directed toward combating poverty, especially in [developing countries](#).
- *Section II: Conservation and Management of Resources for Development* includes atmospheric protection, combating [deforestation](#), protecting fragile environments, conservation of biological diversity ([biodiversity](#)), [control of pollution](#) and the management of [biotechnology](#), and [radioactive wastes](#).

- *Section III: Strengthening the Role of Major Groups* includes the roles of children and youth, women, [NGOs](#), local authorities, business and industry, and workers; and strengthening the role of [indigenous peoples](#), their communities, and farmers.
- *Section IV: Means of Implementation* includes science, [technology transfer](#), [education](#), [international institutions](#) and financial mechanisms.

# Declaration of Leaders, Scientists and Development Practitioners

- Venue & Date-held at the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences, Casino Pio, Vatican (Rome) on 28 April 2015
- Issue undertaken- address the challenges of human-induced climate change, extreme poverty, and social marginalization, including human trafficking, in the context of sustainable development.

- All religious traditions affirm the inherent dignity of every individual linked to the common good of all humanity. They affirm the inherent goodness of the natural world, and appreciate this precious gift entrusted to our common care, making it our moral duty to respect rather than ravage the garden that is our home;
- The poor and excluded face dire threats from climate disruptions, including the increased frequency of droughts, extreme storms, heat waves, and rising sea levels;
- The world has within its technological grasp, financial means, and know-how the means to mitigate climate change while also ending extreme poverty, through the application of sustainable development solution
- The financing of sustainable development, including climate mitigation, should be bolstered through new incentives for the transition towards low-carbon energy, and through the relentless pursuit of peace, which also will enable the shift of public financing from military spending to urgent investments for sustainable development

# Johannesburg declaration at World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002

- Expressed the commitment of World Leaders to “Build a humane, equitable and caring global society cognizant of the need for human dignity to all.”

# EDUCATION FOR SD

Education for sustainable development at U.N. General Assembly in December 2002 proclaimed the “*Decade of Education for Sustainable Development for the period 2005 – 2014*”.

# Education the First Initiative

- Launching the *Education First Initiative* in Sept. 2012, the UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon said ‘Our internationally agreed development goals are a complex tapestry and education is the indispensable thread’.
- This initiative recognizes **education as a major driver of change** to achieve environmental sustainability, sustainable living, gender equality, economic opportunity, health and inculcating a sense of being responsible global citizen.

# Fundamental Objectives of ESD

- Bring change in perspective of development
- Provide Transformative Sustainability Learning (TSL) (Mezirow, 2000)
- Initiative to integrate heads, hands, & heart (HHH) learning while facilitating a change in outlook and ultimately behaviour.
- ESD not only supports quality education at schools and higher education levels, but also supports nations in implementing their SD strategies and plans as well while contributing to achieving the goals of the climate change, biodiversity and desertification etc.

# CHANGES AFTER RIO 1992

- Rise in status of and greater opportunities for ESD across the world after Rio summit 1992 (first global report for SD, UNESCO 2009)
- Notable presence of ESD in national policy documents, international collaboration & aid, numerous opportunities to learn about, & interpret SD within specific contexts (preliminary data for 2012 global ESD report, UNESCO )

# Question of ground practice in SD

- Questions remain, how to translate rise in status and greater opportunities for ESD into ground practice.
- Policy and decision makers are beginning to respond to sustainability imperatives
- Evidence compiled for the Rio Summit 2012 suggested that as a global community we have **not learned much to change so far.**

# 20 years After Rio(Rio+23)

- Today more than **7 billion** are using precious resources, some of them are not renewable or are generated at a pace slower than the rate at which they are used.
- Use of these resources creates byproducts that are harmful to planet's ecosystems, if not in short run, then certainly in long run
- Issues of **inequality, marginalization, loss of diversity, poverty etc. are more sever now than in 1992** ( Jickling, Bob& Wales, Arjen E. J., 2012)

# U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN PARIS (Nov 30-Dec 12, 2015)

- The governments of more than 190 nations [gathered in Paris to discuss a possible new global agreement on climate change](#), aimed at reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and thus avoiding the threat of dangerous climate change.

# Issue of the Conference-Global Warming on Alarming stage

Scientists have warned that if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, we will pass the threshold beyond which global warming becomes catastrophic and irreversible. That threshold is estimated as a temperature rise of 2C above pre-industrial levels, and on current emissions trajectories [we are heading for a rise of about 5C.](#) That may not sound like much, but the temperature difference between today's world and the last ice age was about 5C, so seemingly small changes in temperature can mean big differences for the Earth.

# **OUTCOMES OF THE U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN PARIS (COP21)**

- Reaffirm the goal of limiting global temperature increase well below 2 degrees Celsius, while urging efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees;
- Establish binding commitments by all parties to make “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs), and to pursue domestic measures aimed at achieving them;
- Commit all countries to report regularly on their emissions and “progress made in implementing and achieving” their NDCs, and to undergo international review;

# Contd...

- **Commit all countries to submit new NDCs every five years, with the clear expectation that they will “represent a progression” beyond previous ones;**
- **Reaffirm the binding obligations of developed countries under the UNFCCC to support the efforts of developing countries, while for the first time encouraging voluntary contributions by developing countries too;**
- **Extend the current goal of mobilizing \$100 billion a year in support by 2020 through 2025, with a new, higher goal to be set for the period after 2025;**
- **Extend a mechanism to address “loss and damage” resulting from climate change, which explicitly will not “involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation;”**
- **Require parties engaging in international emissions trading to avoid “double counting;” and**
- **Call for a new mechanism, similar to the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol, enabling emission reductions in one country to be counted toward another country’s NDC.**

# 2015 UN Climate Change Conference contd...

- An agreement to set a goal of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (°C) compared to pre-industrial levels.
- zero net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions to be reached during the second half of the 21st century. In the adopted version of the Paris Agreement, the parties will also "pursue efforts to" limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C. will require zero emissions sometime between 2030 and 2050.
- Prior to the conference, 146 national climate panels suggested commitments to limit global warming to 2.7 degrees Celsius by 2100.

# Ethical assumptions of SD and Speciesism

- Ethical assumptions underlying SD condemn practices of child labour, gender, class, ethnic and racial discrimination, daily mechanized slaughter of farm animals for human consumption or medical experimentation is rarely disputed.
- While combating social problems is acknowledged in all SD objectives, **speciesism (discrimination against other species)** tends to be under-valued.

# An Example of Experiential Learning

- This is an example from Kazakhstan.
- transition from a totalitarian regime to democracy took place in the state.
- A Project aimed at 'development of cooperation & trust bet regional administrators and non-profit organizations in Kazhakstan.'
- To achieve the goal five 3 day workshops organized in different regions. Contd.....

- Group of 15-20 people from govt. bodies, NGOs, local universities, business participated.
- Outcome of the project- skill development for teamwork such as trust, partnership, decision making or planning
- Expected long term impact- facilitate public participation process at local level; change in attitudes of participants from NGOs towards cooperation with the govt. & municipalities; enrich the spectrum of educational approaches used in local SD/ Env. Edu. Programmes. (Cincera, 2013))

# Focus of presentation ahead

- The next part of the presentation focuses on **causes of recent devastation in Uttarakhand**
- It is designed to introduce you to the **effects of hydro power dams in Uttarakhand.**
- It analyzes the social, economic and environmental impacts caused due to **big dams constructed under Narmada Dam Project.**
- It focuses on **social movements** raising issues affecting common people and environment for sustainable lifestyle.

# Uttarakhand Catastrophe

- It will take years to roll back the physical, psychological, social, economic and ecological damage wrought by the terrible floods in Uttarakhand, which killed more than 1,0000 people.
- The deeper causes of this epic tragedy were not natural, but manmade. They ensured that cloudbursts and heavy rainfall, which routinely occur in Uttarakhand's upper hills, turned into a catastrophe.

# Army men rescuing pilgrims at flood-hit Hemkund in Uttarakhand



# CAUSES OF DESTRUCTION

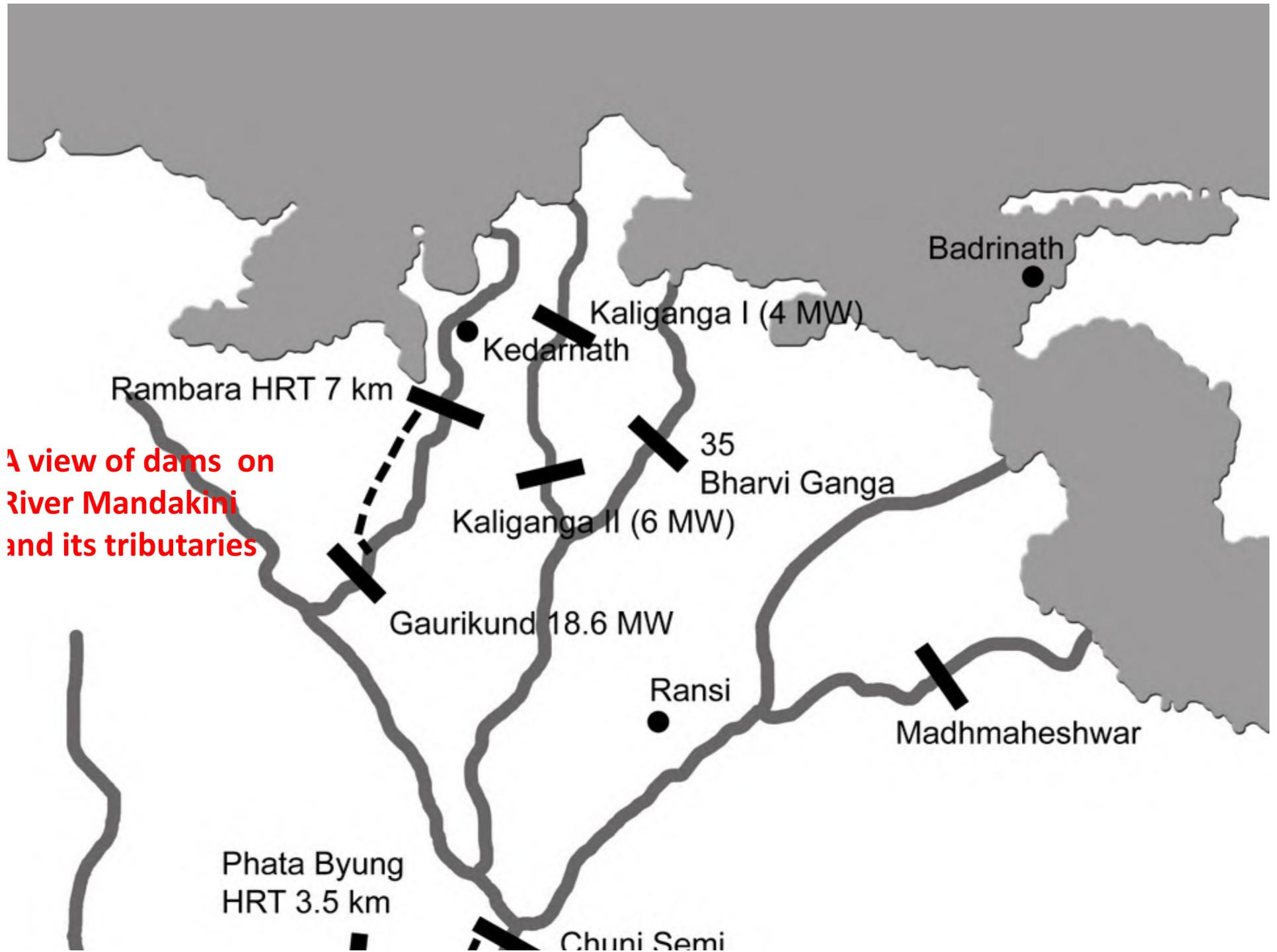
- The causes include official policies and governance failures: aggressive promotion and runaway growth of tourism; unchecked, unplanned development of roads, hotels, shops, mines and multi-storeyed housing in ecologically fragile areas; and above all, the planned development of scores of environmentally destructive hydroelectricity dams

# Worst Culprit of Devastation

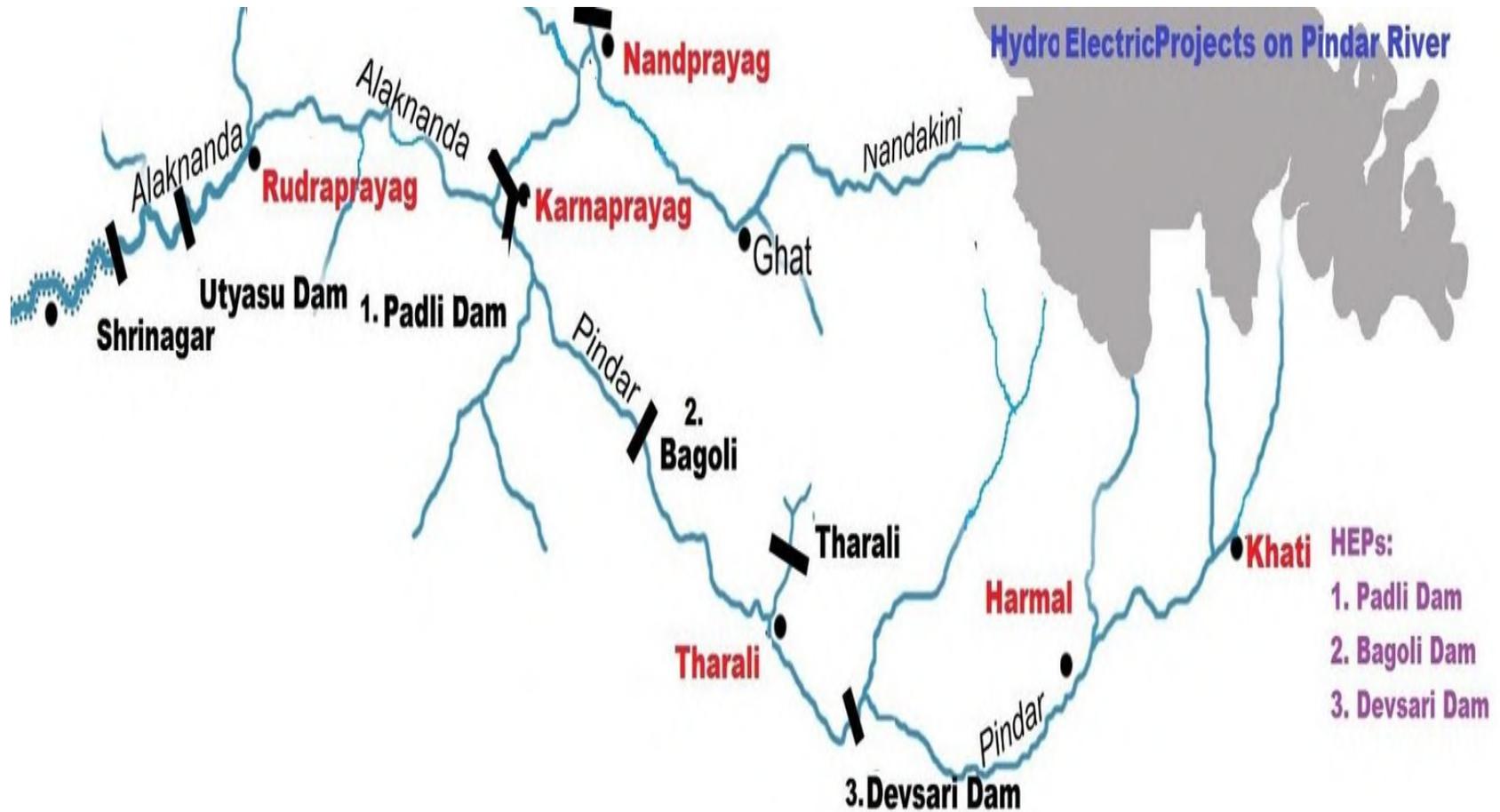
- the worst culprits are the large numbers of hydroelectric dams, which have spread like a rash in the basins of the Alakananda, Mandakini and Bhagirathi, and their tributaries.
- Already **70 dams have been built**, including 23 mega-projects generating 1000 MW or more.
- According to the NGO People's Science Institute, another **680 dams are in various stages of commissioning, construction or planning.**

# No impact of CAG Warning

The state and centre governments indiscriminately green lighted hydro-projects without proper environmental clearance, despite [a CAG audit](#) that warned of flash floods, uncontrolled construction and deforestation



# Hydroelectric projects on Pinder River





Tehri Dam

[binscorner.com](http://binscorner.com)

# About Tehri dam

- Tehri Dam, 260.5 M high was commissioned in 2006-07 and all four machines of Tehri Power Station are under commercial operation. It is one of the highest dams in the world harnessing the waters of two important Himalayan rivers - Bhagirathi and Bhilangana.
- Besides providing much needed power to the Northern Grid, the command area is availing irrigation benefits from the Project and drinking water is being supplied to Delhi and UP.
- The reservoir is expected to irrigate 2,70,000 hectares of land and generate 346 mw of hydel power.

# Aftermath of Tehri Hydro Power Project: Sunderlal Bahuguna

- Over 22 villages have been submerged, along with 42 sq km of land holdings.
- More than one lakh people have been rendered destitute.
- Despite our protest for 15 years and the killing of 16 of our people, the dam was allowed to come up. The efforts for not letting the dam waters go beyond Hardwar also failed.
- As Delhi had already killed the Yamuna, now the Ganga and Bhagirathi will join the Yamuna to make three dead rivers.

# The Narmada river



- It is the largest westward flowing river in India.
- Home to over a million people (total pop. of India is above 1 billion, nearly 15% of world population)

# NARMADA DAM PROJECT

- Plan to build 3200 dams- 30 large, 135 medium and 3035 smaller
- Of the 30 big dams proposed along the Narmada, Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) and Narmada Sagar Project (NSP) are the megadams. The Maheshwar and Omkareshwar dams along with SSP and NSP, are to form a complex which would ultimately cater to the needs of SSP.
- Two biggest dams- Sardar Sarovar in M.P and Narmada Sagar in Gujrat

# The Narmada Dam Project

The **first of the dams to be built is the Sardar Sarovar**. It is considered to be one of the **most important dams in the project and the biggest water development project in India**

According to the government, the **Sardar Sarovar Dam will do the following:**

- Provide safe drinking water to 30 million people
- Irrigate 4.8 million hectares of land
- Produce 550 megawatts of power
- Provide 1,300 cubic-meters of water per yr.for municipal and industrial purposes
- Provide a drainage system to carry away floodwaters
- It will also take the land of 320,000 people

# The Sardar Sarovar Dam

It will affect 2.5 crore people.

According to SC and ST commission 60 percent displaced are tribals.

Submerge 4000 square kilometres natural forest

The biggest Sardar Sarovar dam will displace people of M.P and Maharashtra and people of Gujrat will be benefitted.

# The Sardar Sarovar Dam

- According to the Govt. Sardar Sarovar project prepared after detailed study
- Main aims of the project-irrigation for agriculture, 1450 mega watt electricity generation, and flood control
- All the three aims are contradictory

# Archaeological and environmental Aspect of Narmada Project

- 50,000 hectares of land will submerge between Narmada Sagar and sardar Sarovar dams
- Centuries old habitats of fauna and biodiversity will be lost
- Archaeological evidences of human development will also be lost
- Shul Paneshwar sanctuary will be of no help to drawing fauna

# India's History with Dams

- **Bargi dam;** Govt. projected displacement-70,000 Actual displacement-1,14,000
- **AP irrigation ProjectII;** Govt. projected displacement-63000 Actual displacement-1.5 lakh
- **Gujrat Medium Irrigation Project;** Govt. projected displacement-63,000 Actual displacement-1,40,000

# India's History with Dams

According to the World Commission on dams:

Over the last 60 years, India has built more than 1500 large dams. 70% of the irrigation projects are still incomplete

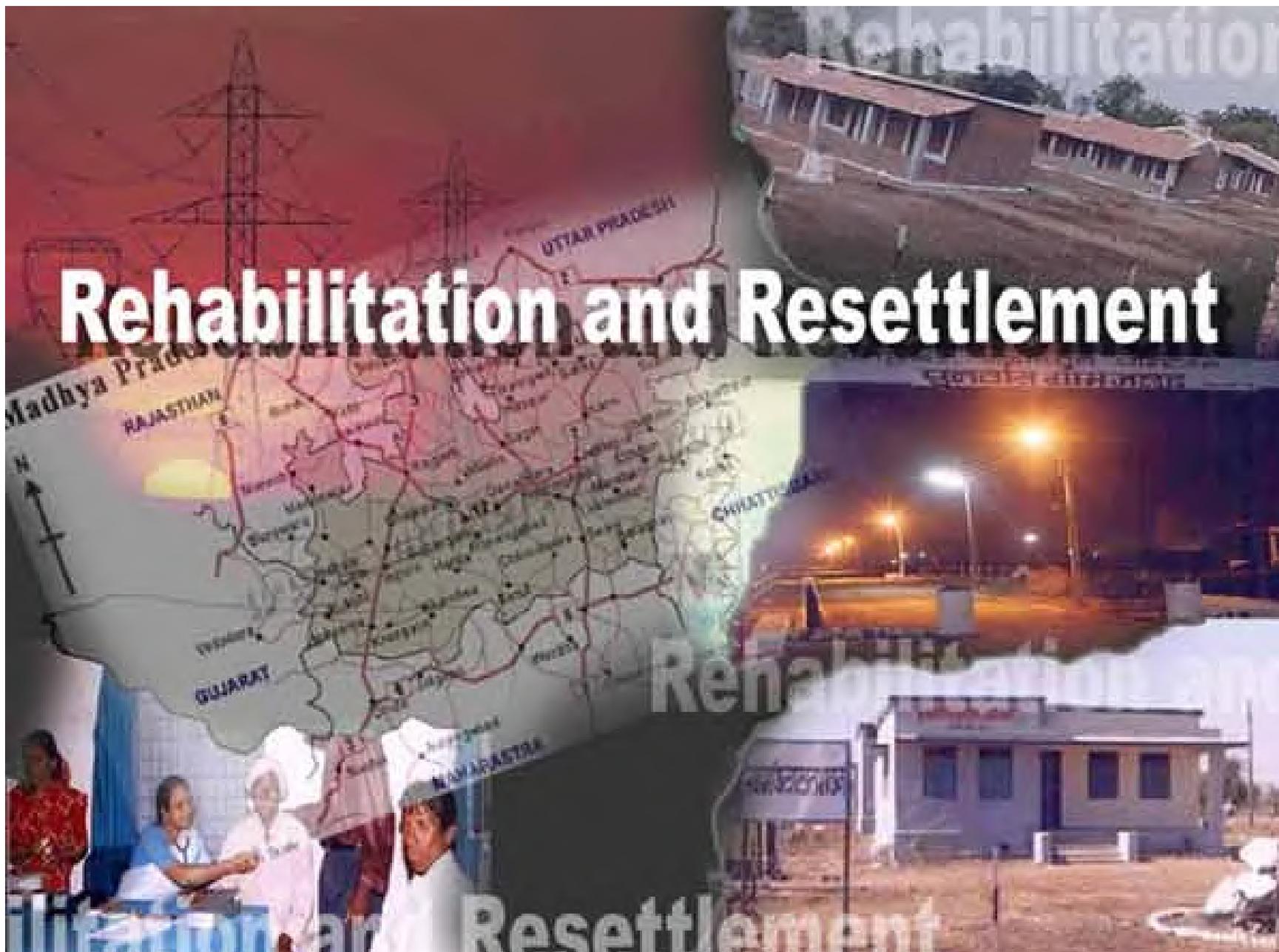
16 million Indian people have been forced from their homes because of these dams.

$\frac{3}{4}$  of these people were not 'rehabilitated'



Picture of a village, now an island

# Rehabilitation and Resettlement



# Question of Rehabilitation

- No clear cut rehab & resettlement policy of govt.
- No benefit except compensation in cash
- To claim compensation one must have land patta
- Poor, dalit and tribes generally fail to make claim for compensation
- Gradually affected mass and concerned people formed many associations and collectively form NBA

# NADI BACHAO ANDOLAN IN UTTARAKHAND

- Environmentalist **Sunder Lal Bahuguna**, who had **held 72 day fast against the mega Tehri dam**, said the construction of all these projects would create **death-knell of the rich biodiversity of the state**. A group of activists belonging to “**Nadi Bachao Andolan**” have also opposed the construction of big projects on the Ganga river.

# Campaign against building dams

***Suresh Bhai** ,a social and environment activist, is the founder and chairperson of Himalya Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Uttarkashi. He is involved with various campaigns that demand a reconsideration of the plan to build over 300 hydel projects in Uttarakhand*

# Movement by Jal Sanskriti

- People involved in the protection of trees movement called Raksha Sutra and preparing a protective water policy for the newly created state.
- We had a forum called Jal Sanskriti Manch and teams of street theatre groups performed in various parts of the state to highlight the need to protect water. Projects like Tehri and Maneri Bhali had caused great damage in our vicinity. We noticed that at the time of the earthquake most people perished in those villages where land had been destabilised by explosions done for dam construction. So when dam construction work escalated, the issue became a priority for people and, therefore, for us.

# protests against dams on the river Mandakini - the MATU Jan Sangathan

- The Kedarghati Bachao Sangharsh Samiti has been opposing these projects and we support them fully
- **Fake cases are being registered against protesters** and intimidation using goons and power.
- In a new move, the administration is trying to suppress the anti-dam movement by **intimidating the leaders and putting them in jail.**
- The manner in which **Ms Sushila Bhandari and Mr Jagmohan Jhingvan of the KBSS were arrested on January 30, 2011 was completely illegal and in infringement of their rights.**
- **The dam company is using money power to serve its vested interests.** They were picked up from their dharna 14 days ago, where they were peacefully protesting against the construction of these dams. To allow the arrest of the activists who are protesting in a non-violent manner for a better future for Uttarakhand amounts to selling Uttarakhand to the dam companies.

# LEGAL BATTLE FOR DISPLACED OF TEHRI

- The Tehri Dam case, which Supreme Court is monitoring came up for hearing on 14 Jan 2010.
- The SC is considering rehabilitation of affected persons and other issues after the Nainital High Court allowed closing of the diversion tunnels on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2005 causing submergence of Tehri town and villages around.
- The SC noted that the State Government/THDC has not complied with the orders dated 25.9.08 and 30.4.09. They were directed to file status report on all the issues pertaining to rehabilitation.

# Projects closure opposed by Uttarakhand CM

- A December 2012 Ministry of Environment notification banning all construction activity and ordering the shutdown of all hydro-projects along the Bhagirathi river was opposed by the CM of Uttarakhand
- He said *“If you take a decision, then stick to it and not scrap it because some activists raised uproar... We got nod for 53 of the river hydro projects and we have started the process for 36 of them. We will roll them out for bidding by December after getting all clearances. By 2016, Uttarakhand will be a power-surplus state. “*

# Save the Narmada Movement

- Established in 1989
- Sept 1989 - 60,000 people rally against destructive development
- Jan 1990 – 5,000 people marched on the Narmada Valley Development authority offices forcing them to close
- Sept 1990- rally in Badwani, M.P. and vowed to be drowned instead of vacating homes
- March 1990 – 10,000 protesters blocked the highway from Bombay for two days
- May 1990 – 2,000 people staged a sit-in outside the prime ministers house in Delhi



# Japan withdraws from Project

- NBA efforts led to the withdrawal financial help of 27 billion yen by Japan Govt.
- Pressure on world bank increases by environmentalists across the world supporting NBA

# Why did the World Bank withdraw the loan?

- NBA pressure led to the institution of a review committee in 1991
- Committee suggested World Bank to withdraw from the project
- World Bank instituted another committee which asked the Govt. of India to fulfill some conditions within 6 months.
- World Bank withdrew as conditions were not fulfilled.



# NBA Files writ in Supreme Court in 1994

- Pray for stopping construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- SC orders to stop construction till further order as displaced were not fully rehabilitated.
- In spite of SC order rehab problems not solved.
- Poor people deceived in the name of rehabilitation.

# Environmental Concern of NBA bet. 1995-99

- Dam construction stopped for 4 years
- NBA attention shifted to environmental loss and conservation
- NBA participated in first international conference against big dams in Brazil.
- NBA participated in World Conservation Union organized by World Bank. People's movements, governments and dam construction companies participated in it.

# Dramatic Change in SC's stand after 1997

- Instead of complete review SC removed ban on construction of the Dam.
- SC limited its role to rehab and replacement of the people.
- In 2000 SC ordered to complete construction soon but dam height should not exceed 90 m.

# Narmada Control Authority Violates SC Order

- Dam height raised 25 m more than limit fixed by SC
- NBA files fresh writ and raises issues of rehab again
- SC dismisses writ and asks NBA to keep their grievances before 'Independent Grievance Redressal Authority' of affected states.
- M.P. Authority gave verdict in favour of NBA but state govt. refuses to obey this order

- NBA again filed two writs in the SC
- SC determines two principles for Dam construction and asked M.P. Govt. to rehabilitate displaced soon
- Court again permits Narmada authority to raise dam height further and asked state governments to explain their position on rehab work done by them.

# LEADING NBA

- NBA was initially led by social activist Medha Patkar. She is the representative for the NBA movement
- Arundhati Roy; Booker Prize-winning author supporter of the Save the Narmada Movement; wrote a book about the Dams in India called 'The Greater Common Good'.
- Baba Amte; a social worker whose work with leprosy has earned him much respect in the country among the tribal people and government officials.

- *“Nobody builds Big Dams to provide drinking water to rural people. Nobody can afford to.”*
- *“There's a lot of money in poverty .”* Arundhati Roy

# SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Earth is only livable planet. Under the influence of corporate culture, reckless use Technology is making our life difficult. It is not that Technology alone is to blame. It is the new culture that is less concerned to the humane relations of human beings particularly standing on the margin of the nature. New culture believes in polluting the said relationship for the comfort of few at the cost of exploitation and miseries of millions of poor, downtrodden and marginals.

**To avert another Uttarakhand-type catastrophe, we must change course. We should stop pandering to the Indian elite's insatiable appetite for electricity, which is driving reckless dam construction, says Praful Bidwai**

# WHY ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE

**It is only symptom of a basic change in relationship-** from man's harmony with nature and survival on it to man's destruction of nature and survival on machines. Catastrophe is simply result of man's insatiable greed

**Earth is only livable planet. Under the influence of corporate culture, reckless use Technology is making our life difficult. It is not that Technology alone is to blame. It is the new culture that is less concerned to the humane relations of human beings particularly standing on the margin of the nature. New culture believes in polluting the said relationship and find solutions again in Technology. It is the height of ABSURDITY**

*THANK YOU*