Ethics and Sustainability

Challenges of a Changing World

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Roots

Ethics Ethos

(Greek)

Definitions

Dharma = Religion

Meanings

Dharma



That which Sustains the Universe

Motifs

Thus, our concerns for Environment and Sustainability are inbuilt in the two terms:

Ethics and Dharma

Challenges

Ethics issue:

Bigger than that of moral good and bad

Sustainability issue:

Larger than the problem of sustaining the high growth rates

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INDIA: Some Pluses

- Large Middle Class: and Growing
- Entrepreneurial Class + Managerial Skills
- Technically Trained Manpower
- Democratic System that Works Despite Inequities

INDIA: Some Minuses

- Dismal Performance in Human Development
- Poverty Problem
- Child Health and Malnutrition
- Regional Imbalances

Two Indias

 One of Unmatched Drive and Opportunities

Another of Present and Potential Problems

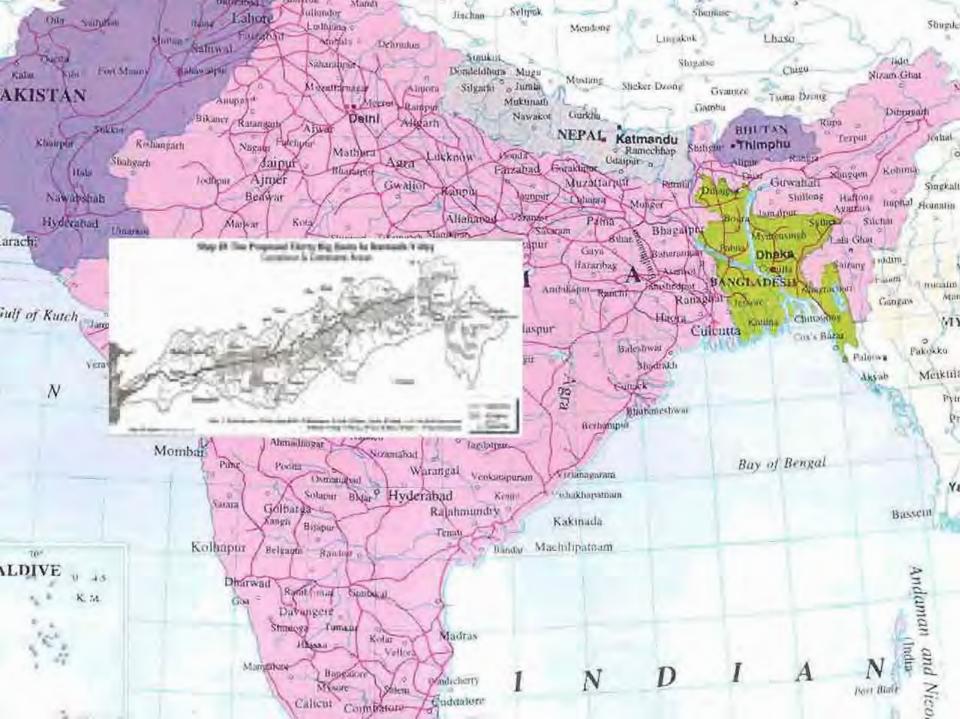
Two Indian Narratives

One is about a River; and,
Another is about Land

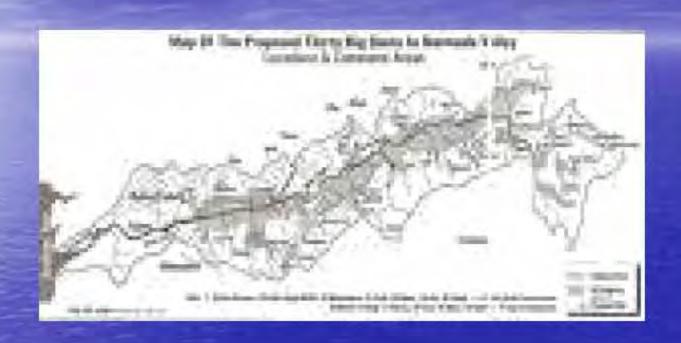
- Narmada
- Nandigram

Narmada

- The biggest damming project undertaken in independent India
- Faced with Civil Society Protests
- The protests to begin with where about the wisdom of large dams
- Ethics and Sustainability issues were at the core of the argument















Issues

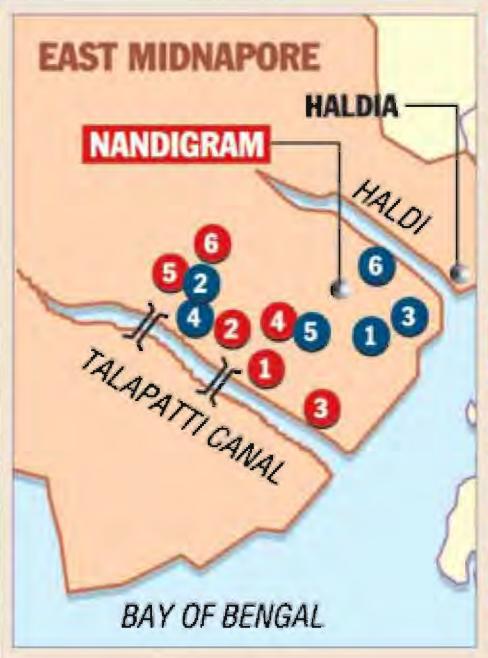
- World Debate about Big Dams
- Environmental Vulnerability
- Economic consequences for the poor
- World Bank pulls out
- Government mobilizes of funds & public support
- Displacement, compensation & resettlement

Nandigram

- The Issue is Land and Right to Livelihood
- Major Companies need vast tracts of land to set up SEZs (Special Economic Zones)
- Government was helping them get control of the Land in several parts of the country
- Then, March 2007, Nandigram erupted







IN POLICE CONTROL

- Sonachura
- 2 Gangra
- 3 Jalpai
- Mandalpara
- Adhikarypara
- Maheshpur

STILL OUT OF BOUNDS

- Kalicharanpur
- 2 Garupara
- Garchakraberia
- Mansadua

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- Gourangapur
- Basulichak

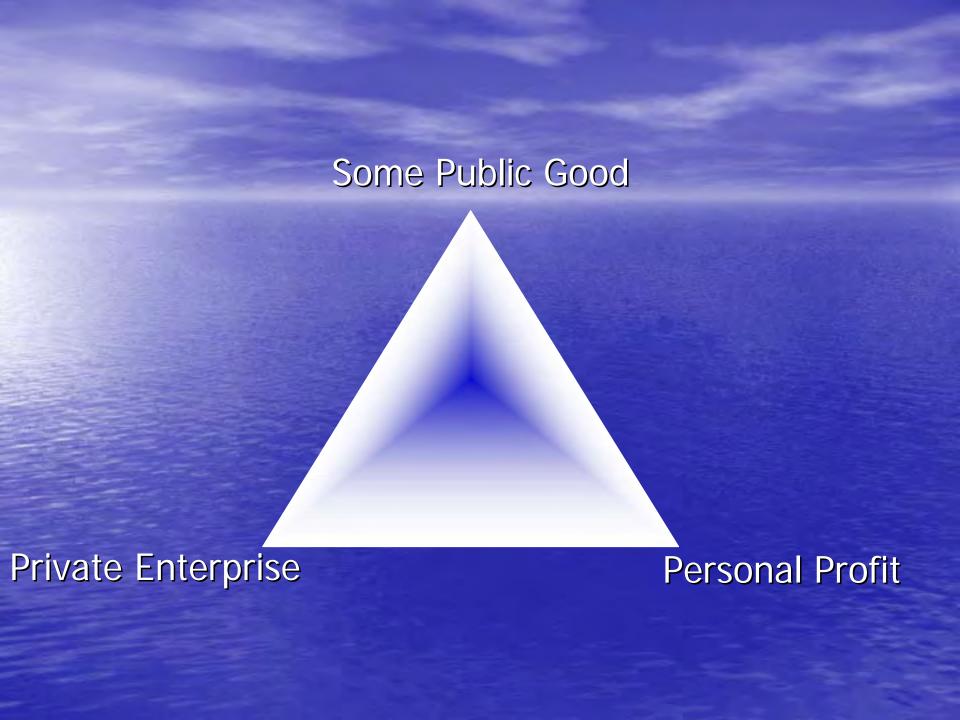
Plus another 12 villages

Government Backed Down

- Land Restored
- New Policy set down
- Villagers to get due compensation and livelihood protection
- Villagers as Stake holders in the enterprise when their land is acquired

Different resolutions

- Narmada: Government has its way
- Nandigram : Government backs out
- Jury still out: Development versus Equity and Sustainability Debate stays



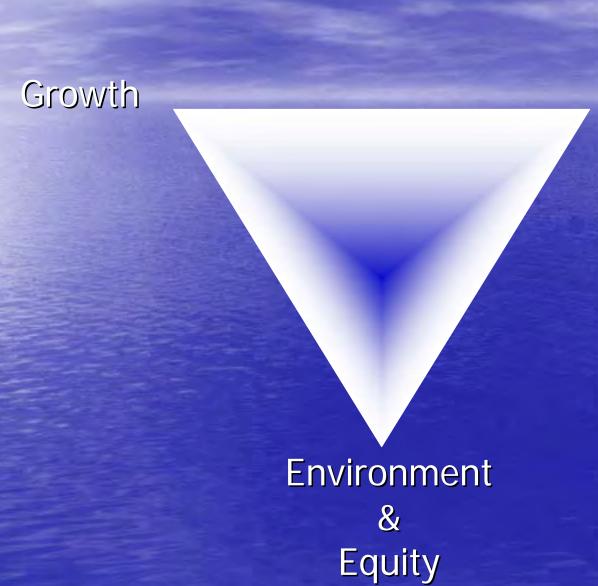
Adam Smithian Paradigm

- Simple
- Stable
- Limited Ethical Concerns
- Leaves out Environmental Issues

New Challenge

To devise a Paradigm that combines the Demands of Growth with the Need for Sustainability.

To achieve this, we may invert the triangular paradigm.



Sustainability

Hard Choices

- Need for Critical Balance between the three angles in the New Paradigm
- Environment and Equity play pivotal role
- Requires greater sense of Purpose on the part of the politicians and planners
- Involves massive Social engineering
- These Issues & Choices critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals

MDGs: The Laggards

- Recent studies have indicated that almost all the developing countries are lagging in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals
- They, on present showing, are unlikely to reach the 2015 targets set by the UN

MDGs: Unfinished Story

- Even India is lagging
- I am saying even because while many countries complain of shortage of resources, India does not have any such disability
- It has the resources, and yet is falling behind
- The reason in view of the above is that it has yet to invert the triangle

Some Public Good From this Private Enterprise Personal Profit

Growth To this **Environment**

Sustainability

Equity

