

## Rethinking Indian Environmentalism: Industrial Pollution in Delhi and Fisheries in Kerala, India

### Acronyms, Foreign Words, Timeline

#### Acronyms

BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
CETP	common effluent treatment plant
CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
CNG	compressed natural gas
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
CSE	Centre for Science and Environment
DDA	Delhi Development Authority
DJAM	<i>Delhi Janwadi Adhikar Manch</i> - Delhi Socialist Rights Movement
DPCC	Delhi Pollution Control Committee
DSIDC	Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation
DTC	Delhi Transport Corporation
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
ESI	India's Social Security System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
GRT	gross registered tonnage
INP	Indo-Norwegian Project
KMFRA	Kerala Marine Fisheries Regulation Act
KMSTF	Kerala Independent Fish Workers Federation
NFACAJV	National Fisheries Action Committee Against Joint Ventures
NFF	National Fishworkers Forum
PCO	Trivandrum Program for Community Organization
SIFFS	South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Societies
TDFD	Trivandrum District Fishermen Federation
TED	turtle excluding devices
TSSS	Trivandrum Social Service Society
WFF	World Forum of fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## **Foreign Words**

*Badli* – casual worker

*Bandh* – collective protest or shut-down

*Delhi Janwadi Adhikar Manch* – Delhi Socialist Rights Movement

*Kadalamma* – mother sea

*Nyaya yuddha* – battle for justice

*Satyagraha* – Gandhian method on non-violent selfdenial

## **Timeline of Relevant Policies, Laws and Regulations**

### **Delhi**

- 1962 Delhi Master Plan designates functionally segregated zones for residential, commercial, institutional and industrial purposes.
- 1981 Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.
- 1985 M. C. Mehta files a public interest petition with the Supreme Court requesting the closure of stone crushing units in Delhi.
- 1990 New Master Plan designates 28 Industrial Areas in Delhi and categorizes various industries in terms of the pollution they engender to identify which ones are suitable for an urban environment. The legal status of the Master Plan is ambiguous, although it is often invoked in public interest litigation.
- 1992 Court grants Mehta's petition.
- 1996 Supreme Court orders Delhi state government to construct common effluent treatment plants. Factories that fail to install effluent treatment plants by January 1, 1997 are to close.
- 1996 Supreme Court order on relocation of units in violation of the Master Plan.
- 1996 Supreme Court issues four orders targeting a total of 991 industrial units, classified as "noxious and hazardous," to be closed or relocated. All were closed down by 1997.
- 1996 The Delhi Janwadi Adhikar Manch (DJAM), a federation of trade unions and human rights organizations, formed as a response to the Supreme Court orders to represent workers' interests.
- 1999 Supreme Court orders Delhi administration to take action against water-polluting industries that have failed to conform to the 1996 order on effluent management.
- 2000 Supreme Court orders all polluting industries of whatever category operating in residential areas to be shut down.
- 2000 Second phase of factory closures. Delhi government orders the immediate closure of all non-conforming units, (whether polluting or non-polluting), a total of 97,000. The order sparks riots across the city.
- 2001 Delhi Government announces its plan to approach the Ministry of Urban Development to "regularize" (redesignate as industrial) 24 areas classified as residential in the Master Plan. This step would prevent the closure or

- displacement of 20,000 industrial units. Government allows non-conforming and non-polluting industries to operate in their current location for the time being.
- 2002 Delhi Development Agency accepts the Delhi government proposal to re-designate as industrial 24 areas classified as residential in the Master Plan. The decision prevents the closure or displacement of an estimated 20,000 industrial units.

## **Kerala**

- 1953 The Indo-Norwegian Project (INP) for Fisheries Community Development in the States of Travancore-Cochin signed by the UN, India and Norway. The INP is the world's first bilateral development assistance project to focus on technology.
- 1950s Shrimp export boom in Kerala. INP introduces bottom trawling-techniques to increase productivity and opens large-scale freezing plants.
- 1970s Competition between traditional and mechanized fishing gives rise to the fishermen's movement.
- 1976 The Majumdar Committee appointed to study the conflict between traditional and mechanized fishers.
- 1978 The leaders of the fishers' movements in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa form the National Fishermen's Forum to press for the rights of traditional fishermen and for the conservation of marine wealth.
- 1980 The Kerala Independent Fish Workers Federation (KMSTF) formed.
- 1980 Kerala Marine Fisheries Regulation Act passed based on the recommendations of the Majumdar Committee. The Act sets out rules on trawlers' access to inshore waters, provides for seasonal closure of fisheries for the sake of resource conservation, and entrusts protection of the exclusive fishing zone to the police and coastguard.
- 1988 After many years of protests by the fishermen movement, the Kerala government announces a partial ban on monsoon trawling throughout the state.
- 1989 Based on the report of the Balakrishanan Nair Committee Kerala government imposes total monsoon trawling ban, initially for a period of three years. The length of the ban becomes the object of new struggles between artisanal and mechanized fishers in the following years.
- 1991 Congress Party returns to power. India's new economic policies focus on liberalization, deregulation and privatization.
- 1991 New Deep Sea Fishing Policy (NDSP) grants permits for deep-sea fishing to foreign vessels. Artisanal fishers, trawler owners, and fish merchants form the National Fisheries Action Committee Against Joint Ventures and stage nationwide protests against the new policy.
- 1994 Kerala formulates a fishing policy focusing on resource sustainability, economic viability of the industry, the provision of a decent level of living to the workers, and a good supply of fish for local consumption and export. Implementation, however, remains imperceptible in the years following the report.
- 1995 Central government appoints the Murari Committee to study the NDSP and the opposition to it. The committee's recommendations include a cancellation of the joint-venture policies, and a ban on future licenses.

- 1997 Central Cabinet accepts all the recommendations of the Murari Committee, although they remain unimplemented.
- 2002 Biological Diversity Act aims to promote conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of the profits of India's biodiversity resources.
- 2004 Draft New Environmental Policy (NEP) released by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. NEP does not contain any direct discussion on fisheries management.
- 2004 [Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy](#) announced. This is the first national fishing policy to cover both coastal and deep-sea water fishing. The policy aims to 1) increase fish production 2) ensure the socio-economic security of artisanal fishermen 3) ensure the sustainable development of marine fisheries with due concern for ecological integrity and bio-diversity. The new policy proposes a review of the existing legal framework on fishing, and the introduction of new fishing legislation in areas such as resource conservation, limited access fishery, fishery harbor management etc.