

PULL TO **PUSH** TO SHOVE

THE CHANGING FACE OF DELHI
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HAZARDS CENTRE, AUGUST 2004

If you want to:

- understand what is happening in the city
- volunteer your time and energy to help
- participate in research that helps the poor
- train people in technical, legal, social skills
- expand the debate on what the city should be like
- assist the forces of resistance and renewal

Contact us:

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HAZARDS CENTRE was set up by Sanchal Foundation in 1999 to provide professional support to social action groups and organisations on “anything that is dangerous to the survival of a community”. The Centre has a small full time staff but its main strength lies in the range of professionals from many different disciplines who volunteer their time and skills for specific activities.

The Centre’s main work has been in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, although from time to time it has provided consultancy services to community organisations in other states.

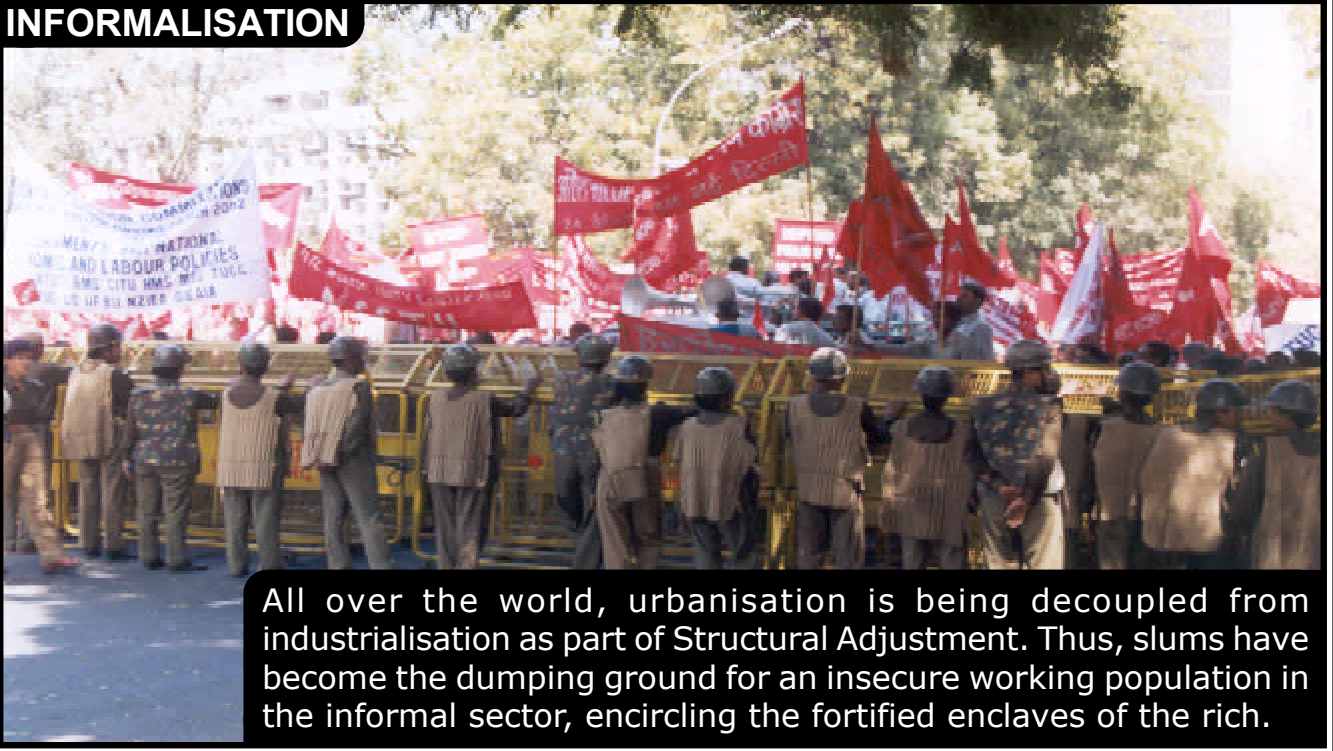
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In the era of globalisation how is the city changing? A recent UN survey shows that rapid urbanisation is taking place everywhere. There are as many people today in the cities as in the villages, and three-fourth of the urban population is in the smaller towns where there are no planned services.



URBANISATION

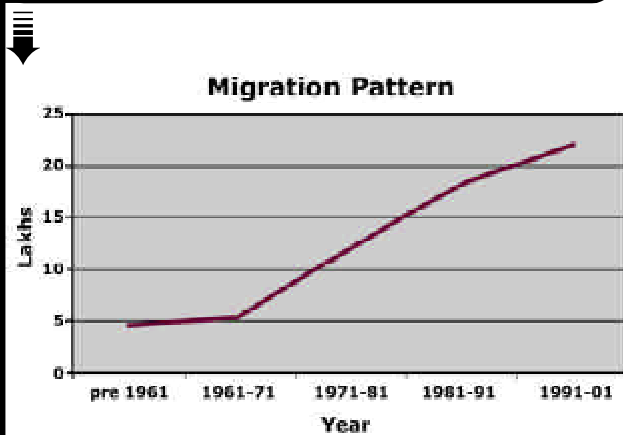
INFORMALISATION



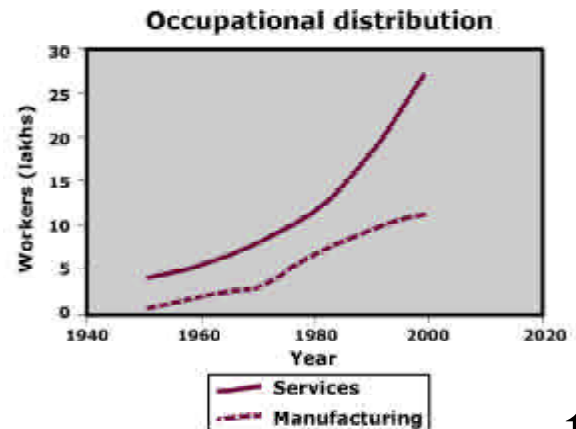
All over the world, urbanisation is being decoupled from industrialisation as part of Structural Adjustment. Thus, slums have become the dumping ground for an insecure working population in the informal sector, encircling the fortified enclaves of the rich.

2

Historically, people have been "pushed" out of rural areas and "pulled" into the cities. But, in Delhi, the "pull" has been slowing down.



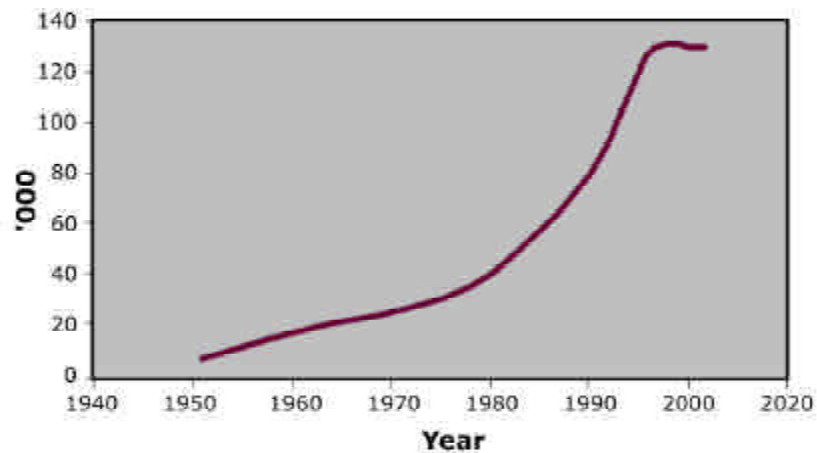
PULL TO PUSH



Those who were earlier being "pulled" into the manufacturing sector are now being "pushed" into the services sector, with increasing insecurity in employment.

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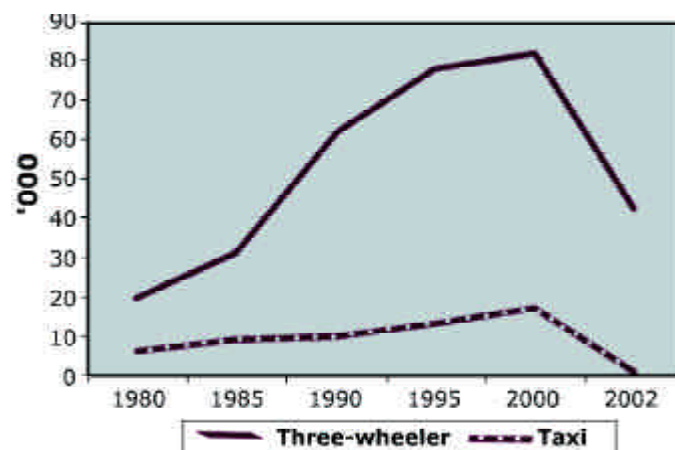
DE-INDUSTRIALISATION



The growth in industries has stopped because of the action of the courts in "stopping" pollution. But this also reduces the value addition in production, as well as regular employment.

4

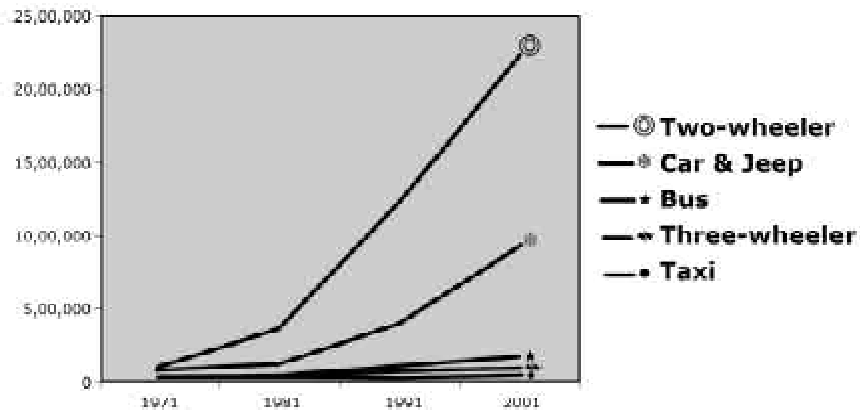
PUBLIC SERVICES



In the name of "controlling" pollution, CNG has not only replaced diesel but petrol also. Thus there has been a sharp drop in taxis and autos, both of which are important elements in public transport.

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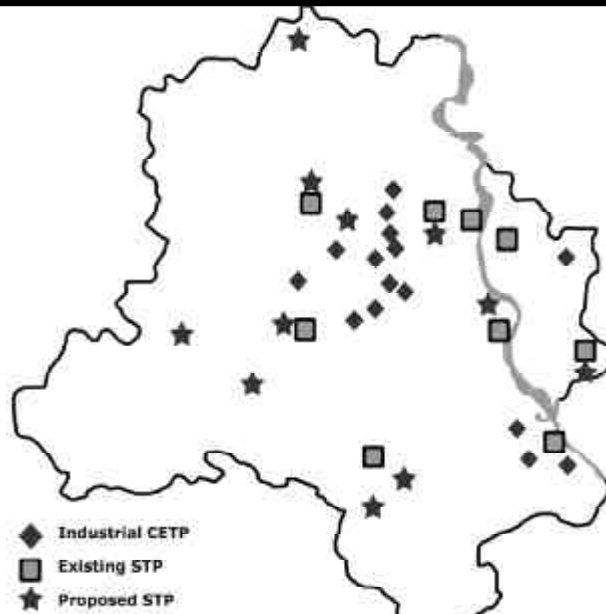
PRIVATISATION



While the growth in buses - the major part of public transport - has also been drastically checked, private transport continues to grow unabated.

6

DEGRADATION



The other part of "cleaning up" the city has been through setting up sewage treatment plants at the periphery of the city, and new effluent plants in some of the industrial areas.

7

YAMUNA CLEAN UP

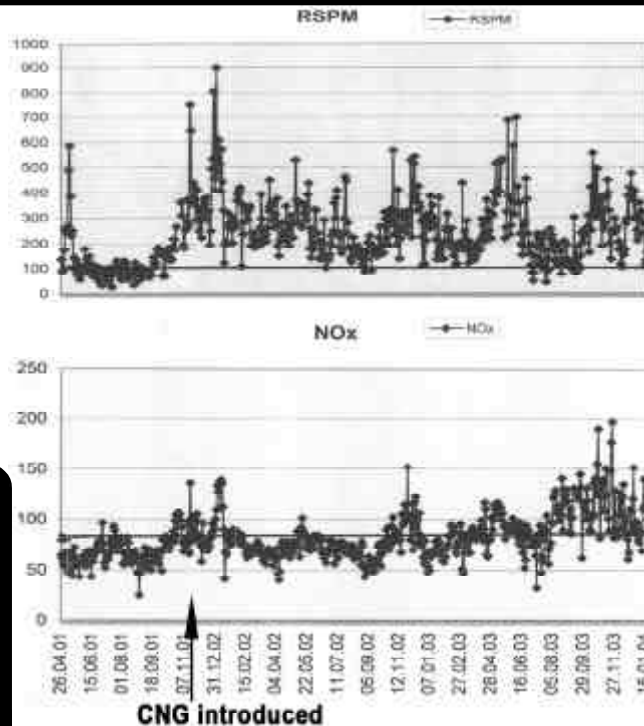


Rs 196 crores since 2000
 Rs 166 crores more approved
 Rs 150 crores spent on 1146 CTCs in slums
 63% seats in CTCs have no water or electricity
 33% turned over to private agencies and NGOs
 2 out of 6 mini STPs constructed
 Yet bacteria at Okhla = 53,000,000/100ml!

So has this "cleanup" worked? The trends in "beautification" are seen in the Yamuna Action Plan, where the focus has been on constructing toilet complexes in the slums - which contribute less than 0.01% of total sewage.

8

AIR POLLUTION



Similarly, as Pollution Board data shows, the levels of fine dust and Nitrogen oxides have gone up after CNG.

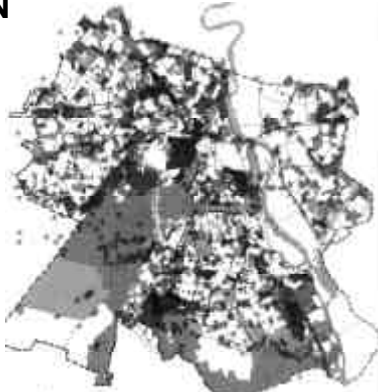
permissible limit

permissible limit

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SUB STANDARD SHELTER

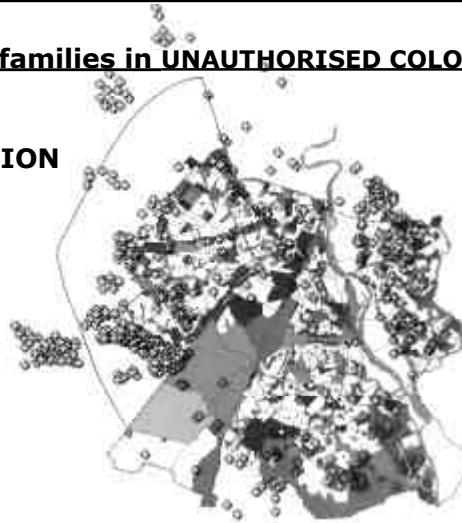
**URBAN
AREA**



6 lakh families in SLUMS

7 lakh families in UNAUTHORISED COLONIES

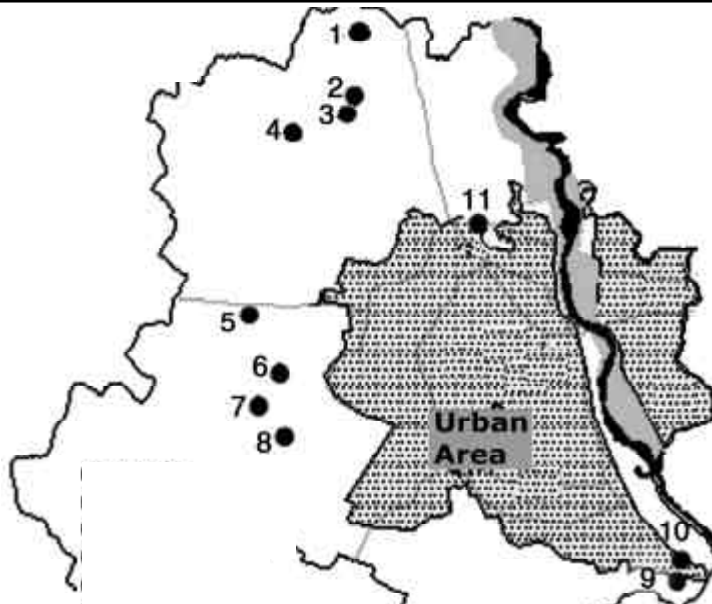
**URBAN
EXTENSION**



These 13 lakh families, providing cheap labour to the city, are forced to live in sub-standard housing because the government did not build the promised 11 lakh houses.

10

RESETTLEMENT



While concealing its failure to provide authorised housing, the state demolishes homes and pushes one-third of the people out into resettlement colonies, most of which are far away from the city, from work, from services.

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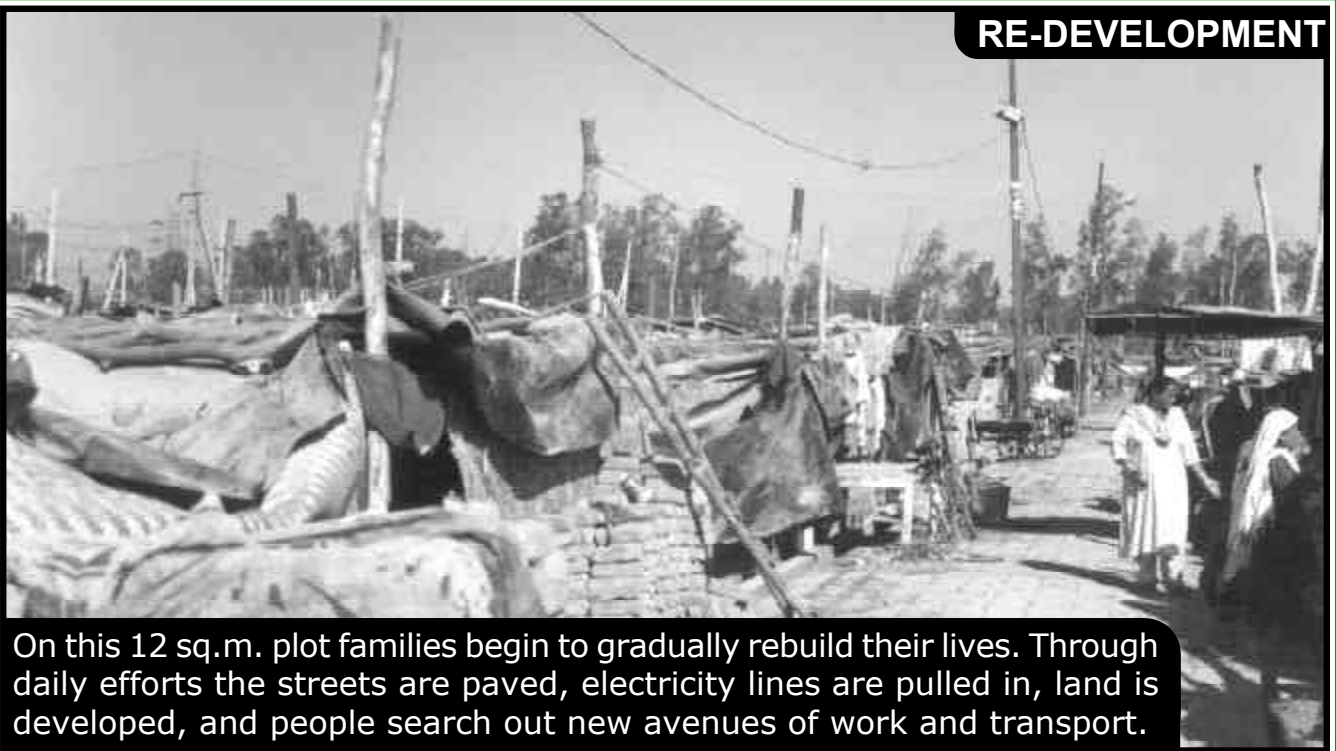
NEW HOMES



There are few urban facilities in these resettlement colonies. People are just dumped on to empty plots of land, for which they are expected to pay Rs 7,000. The size of the plots has steadily reduced from 66 to to 12 sq.m.

12

RE-DEVELOPMENT



On this 12 sq.m. plot families begin to gradually rebuild their lives. Through daily efforts the streets are paved, electricity lines are pulled in, land is developed, and people search out new avenues of work and transport.

13

BASIC SEARCH

As they search for basic facilities and struggle to cope with new insecurities, the dream remains in the background - of a permanent home. But 5 year licenses ensure that they may get shoved out again.



14

INTEGRAL VISION

The tragedy is that they were pushed out of spaces which they had developed over many years of hard labour. The Pushta may not have been a 'modern' settlement but it had a cultural integrity of work, home and life.



15

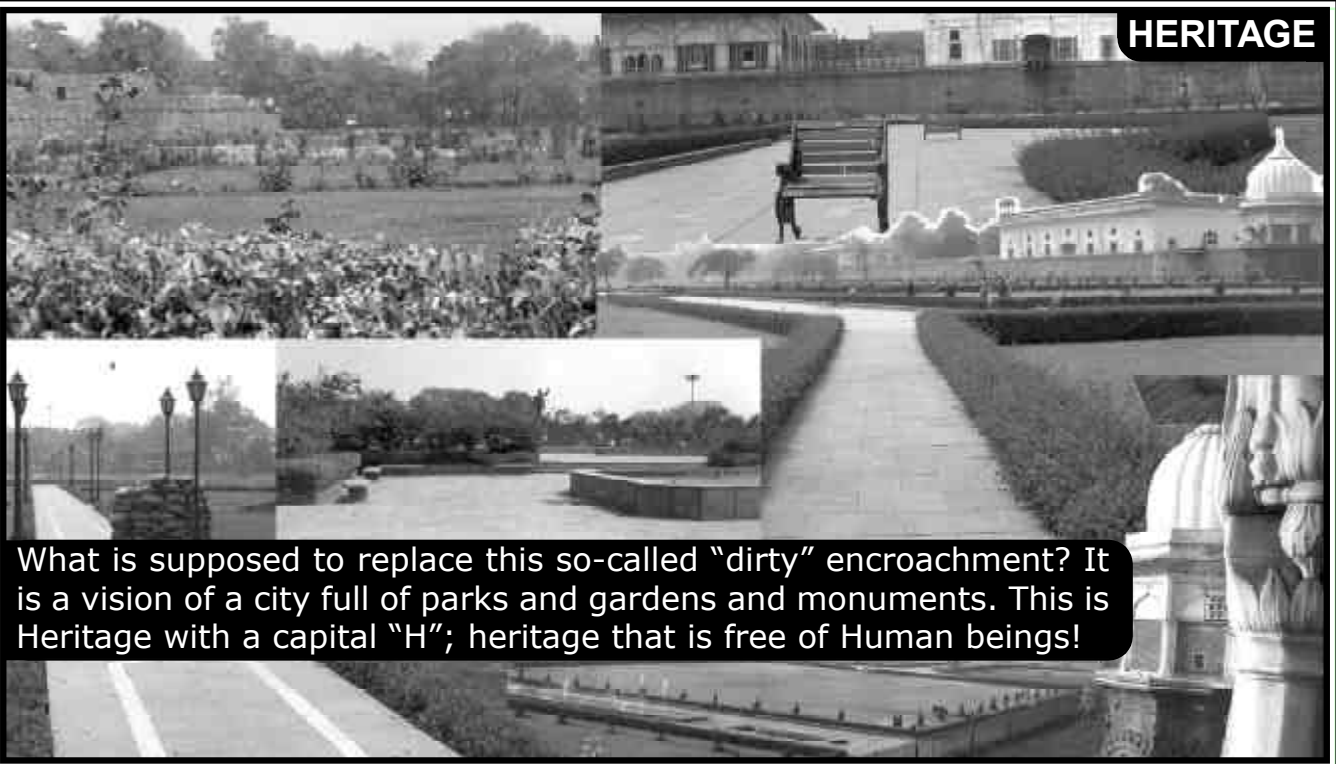
This cultural integrity was violently demolished in the early months of 2004, preceded by a barrage of propaganda about "pollution" and "encroachment." With one stroke of the pen, 25,000 families were rendered homeless.

DEMOLITION



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HERITAGE



What is supposed to replace this so-called "dirty" encroachment? It is a vision of a city full of parks and gardens and monuments. This is Heritage with a capital "H"; heritage that is free of Human beings!

17

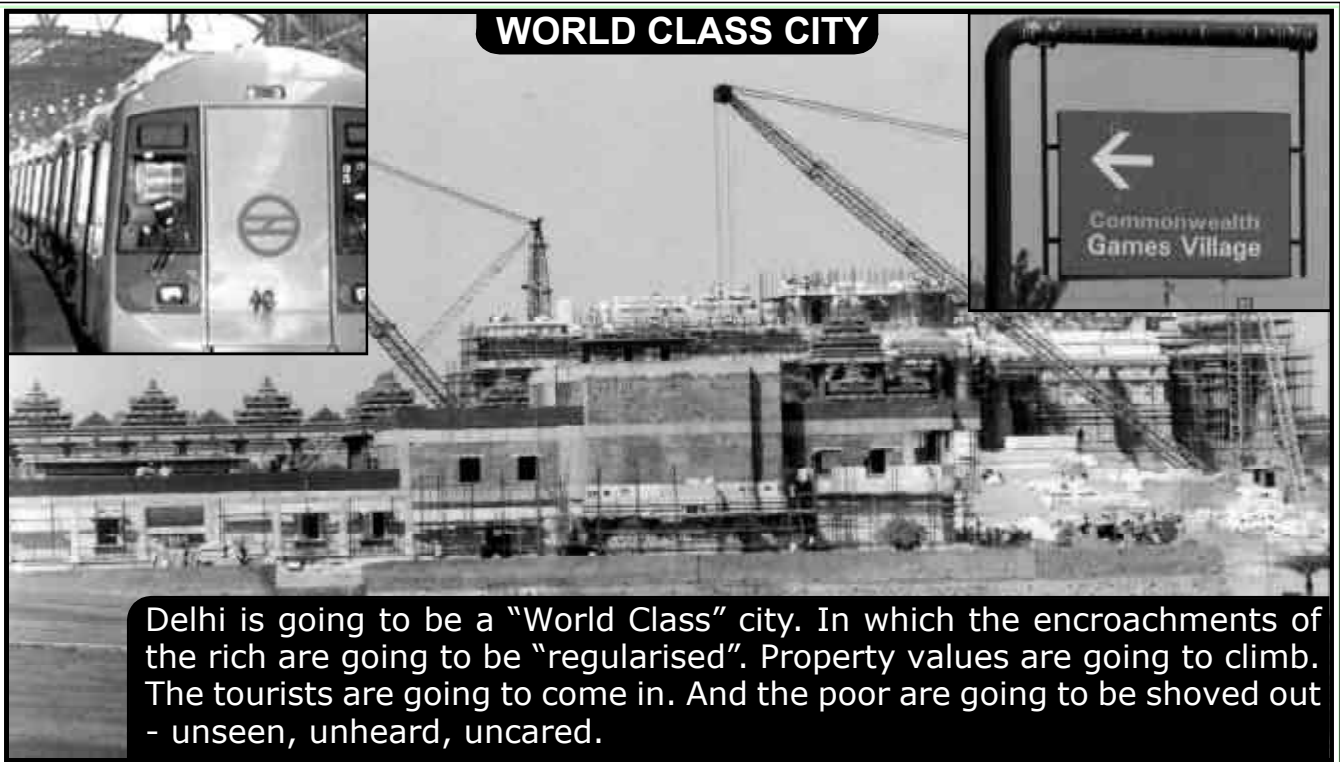
PROGRESS

But behind the vision of Heritage, there is also the dream of converting the Yamuna front into something like the South Bank of the Thames, with a promenade and high-rise corporate offices.



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WORLD CLASS CITY



Delhi is going to be a "World Class" city. In which the encroachments of the rich are going to be "regularised". Property values are going to climb. The tourists are going to come in. And the poor are going to be shoved out - unseen, unheard, uncared.

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Thus, in Delhi, "pull" has gone to "push", and "push" is moving into "shove". What is the option left for people? They can only resist and, in the process, call into question the ideas of **DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT** and **DIALOGUE**.



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List Of Publications

Globalisation and the Construction Industry, 2000
Dilli Kiski Hai? Yojna ki rajniti aur aniyojit ka hastkshep, 2003
A People's Housing Policy, Jan 2003
Andher Nagri Chaupat Raja
Political Economy of Sub-standard Settlements in Delhi, 1999
Gender & Urban Poverty -Web Enabled Gender Training Series, 2003
Holy Yamuna, New dawns and the tragedy of governance, 2004
Vishwa Vyapar Sangathan Banaam Dilli Ki Janata
People, Transport and Pollution, 1998
Safe Livelihoods in Delhi, 2000
Responsible Care in the Chemical Industry, 1999
Delhi Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2002
Minimum Wages, 1998
Grazing in the Great Himalayan National Park, 1997
Revival of Bharat Gold Mines Limited, 1998

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