



Environment, Development and Alternatives Towards Sustainability

A lecture delivered by Mr. Ashish Kothari

As part of the lecture series titled 'Dialogues on Development', the Baha'i Chair for Studies in Development at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore is pleased to announce a lecture delivered online by environmentalist, author and co-founder of *Kalpavriksh*, Ashish Kothari on Wednesday November 23, 2022 from 3 pm to 4 pm on the theme 'Environment, Development and Alternatives Towards Sustainability'. Those interested in participating in the lecture may register at <https://forms.gle/KgcTiuw6qd9wC4w5A>

The world is going through unprecedented crises, including ecological collapse, climate change, growing inequality, war and conflict. There is an urgent search for ways to resolve these crises. Meanwhile, areas and groups that have so far been 'safe' from these crises, such as Adivasis or island areas in India, are now being opened up to forms of 'development' that may bring the crises to them within the next few years.

How can development and ecological concerns be reconciled? There is much talk about sustainability, but how can it be achieved? How do ecological sustainability and socio-economic issues like inequality and conflicts, relate to each other? What kind of political systems can help resolve these crises? Are there already 'alternative' pathways available to meet human needs and aspirations while protecting the earth's essential ecological functions? Can human rights and the rights of nature be reconciled?

This lecture will seek to explore the above issues, and the question of how youth can contribute in the search for sustainability and justice.

About the speaker

Ashish Kothari is a co-founder of Kalpavriksh, an Indian environmental NGO. He coordinates Kalpavriksh's programme on Alternatives. He is the author and editor of over 30 books (including *Churning the Earth: Making of Global India*; *Alternative Futures: India Unshackled*; and *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary*), and over 400 articles.

A graduate in Sociology, Ashish has taught environment studies at the Indian Institute of Public Administration in the 1990s, and been guest faculty at several universities, institutes, and colleges. He has been Co-Chair of the IUCN Inter-commission Strategic Direction on Governance, Equity, and Livelihoods in Relation to Protected Areas (TILCEPA) (1999-2008), and in the same period a member of the Steering Committees of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP). He has served on the

Board of Directors of Greenpeace International and Greenpeace India. He has also been on the steering group of the CBD Alliance and the ICCA Consortium.

Ashish has served on the Indian Government's Environmental Appraisal Committee on River Valley Projects, and Expert Committees to formulate India's Biological Diversity Act and National Wildlife Action Plan. He coordinated India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan process, and was co-coordinator of the Activist-Academic Co-Generation of Knowledge on Environmental Justice (www.acknowledgej.org) global project.

Ashish has been active with a number of people's movements, including Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement) and Beej Bachao Andolan (Save the Seeds Movement). He helps coordinate the Vikalp Sangam (Alternatives Confluence, www.vikalpsangam.org) process in India and the Global Tapestry of Alternatives globally (<https://globaltapestryofalternatives.org>). He helps run the website and associated list of Radical Ecological Democracy (www.radicalecologicaldemocracy.org).