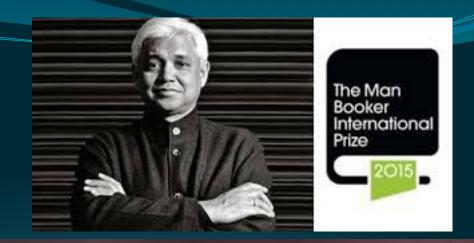


What would it be like if I had something to defend - a home, a country, a family - and I found myself attacked by these ghostly men, these trusting boys? How do you fight an enemy who fights with neither enmity nor anger but in submission to orders from superiors, without protest and without conscience?

— Amitav Ghosh —

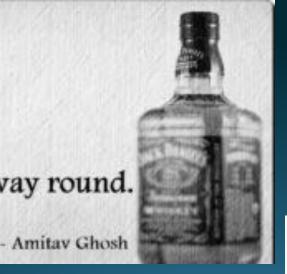
AZ QUOTES

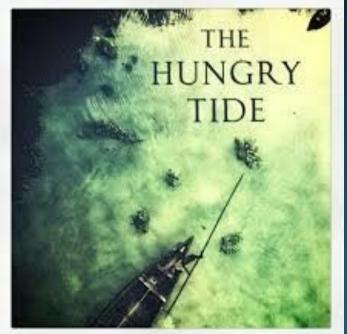


"Climate change is like death, no one wants to talk about it.

Amitav Ghosh

"Hold a bottle by the neck and a woman by the waist. Never the other way round.





### Amitav Ghosh - July 11, 1956, Calcutta

novels use complex narrative strategies to probe the nature of

national and personal identity

particularly of the people of India and Southeast Asia.

father was a diplomat

lived in India, Bangladesh, <u>Sri Lanka,</u> and Iran

B.A. (1976) and an M.A. (1978) from the University of Delh

worked as a newspaper reporter and editor

attended the **University of Oxford** 

where he received Ph.D. (1982) - social anthropology.

the <u>University of Delhi</u>

the American University in Cairo

Columbia University in New York City

Queens College of the City University of New York

Harvard University

## Bibliography

2016

The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable

2015

Flood of Fire

2011

River of Smoke

2008

Sea of Poppies

#### 2005

Incendiary Circumstances: A Chronicle of the Turmoil of Our Times

2004

The Hungry Tide

2002

The Imam and the Indian

2000

The Glass Palace

1999

Countdown

1998

Dancing in Cambodia and At Large in Burm

1996

The Calcutta Chromosome

1992

In an Antique Land

1988

The Shadow Lines

1986

The Circle of Reason

Blue Metropolis International Literary Grand Prix (Canada)

2011

Man Asia Literary Prize

2010

Dan David Prize (Israel)

2007

Grinzane Cavour International Prize (Italy)

2007

Padma Shri (Indian)

/ wwai as

2004

Hutch Crossword Book Award

2001

International e-book Award Grand Prize for Fiction (Germany)

1999

Pushcart Prize

1997

Arthur C Clarke Award for Best Science Fiction

## Awards

1990

Ananda Puraskar (India)

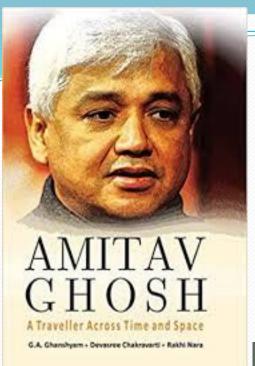
1990

Prix Médicis Étranger (France)

1989

Sahitya Academi Award

- *Smile O voluptuous cool-breath'd earth!*
- Earth of the slumbering and liquid trees!
- Earth of departed sunset—earth of the mountains misty-topt!
- Earth of the vitreous pour of the full moon just tinged with blue!
- Earth of shine and dark mottling the tide of the river!
- Earth of the limpid gray of clouds brighter and clearer for my sake!
- Far-swooping elbow'd earth—rich apple-blossom'd earth!
- Smile, for your lover comes.
- -Walt Whitman Song of Myself







# The space- The Hungry Tide -

 The indeterminate, fluid space of the Sundarbans in southern Bangladesh –

• land and sea constantly yield to each other in a daily, elemental cycle

 river delta, consisting of innumerable islands which appear and disappear according to the whims of tides • a landscape in which the sea, the river, the

land, humans and animals all co-exist –

sometimes in harmony, but often in

competition

• "a terrain where the boundaries between

land and water are always mutating,

always unpredictable" (HT 18)

Within this space- Ghosh –

 presents an environmental issue which has come to be recognised as one of the fundamental problems -

conservationism –

 an issue Robert Cribb calls the "acute conflict" between conservation and human rights.  In this conflict, a battle line has come to be been drawn between environmentally conscious groups fighting on the side of non-human nature  and human-rights groups on the side of the poor, the dispossessed and underdeveloped peoples of the world• The Hungry Tide, with its complex mixture of people and landscape, steps into this conflict with an implied plea for moderation to both sides –

 a plea for the acknowledgement and understanding of the plight of the poor

and that of animals and nature

Ghosh's literary concerns were all with margins-

 marginal peoples, histories, episodes, knowledge, systems and beliefs.

• The figure of the **'refugee'** - prominently throughout his works





written extensively on various topical issues:

 terrorism, religious fundamentalism, displacement, and the many postcolonial realities... Economic migrants, travellers, students,
 researchers on field trips-

populate his fictional and non-fictional

work –

constitute his central characters

His parents were diplomats -

postings in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Iran-

 attuned his sensibilities to the rewards of travel and its possibilities for a writer keen to examine the world from the perspective of the unsettled, or uprooted-

 Travelling is always in some way connected with my fictional work" –

 'Movement' - something fundamental to human experience

Not necessarily physical journey-

• Calcutta- his native city exerts a powerful influence on Ghosh's imagination – intellectual and cultural centre

Historical importance of Calcutta-

 established by the British as a trading outpost for their operations quickly became the richest city in Asia and British
 India's capital

the second most important city in the British empire













- The circle of Reason (1986) and The Calcutta Chromosome (1996) –
- the city is both a metaphor for the knowledge /
   power relations initiated by colonialism

- The Circle of Reason (1986)
- *Shadow Lines* (1990)
- In an Antique Land (1994)
- *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1996)
- The Glass Palace (2000)
- The Hungry Tide (2004)
- The Gun Island (2019)

 Postcolonial societies like India in their quest for development - often create vast numbers of dispossessed and displaced. Modernization –

• 1950s in the form of dams, industrial projects and economic planning-

 shifted large numbers of people from their habitat, professions and cultural roots The Narmada dam alone has affected

• 120, 000 people

• while the arrival of multinational industries has resulted in a water famine affecting 300,000 people in Karnataka

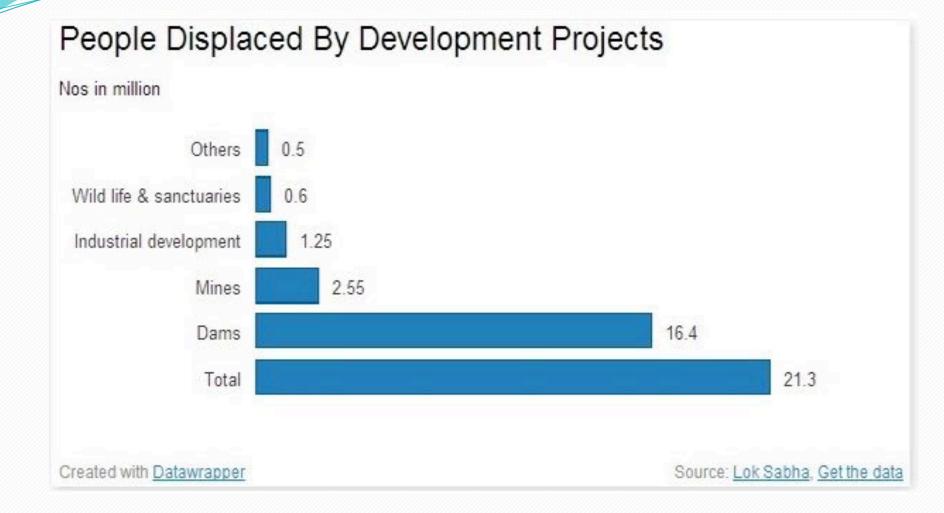


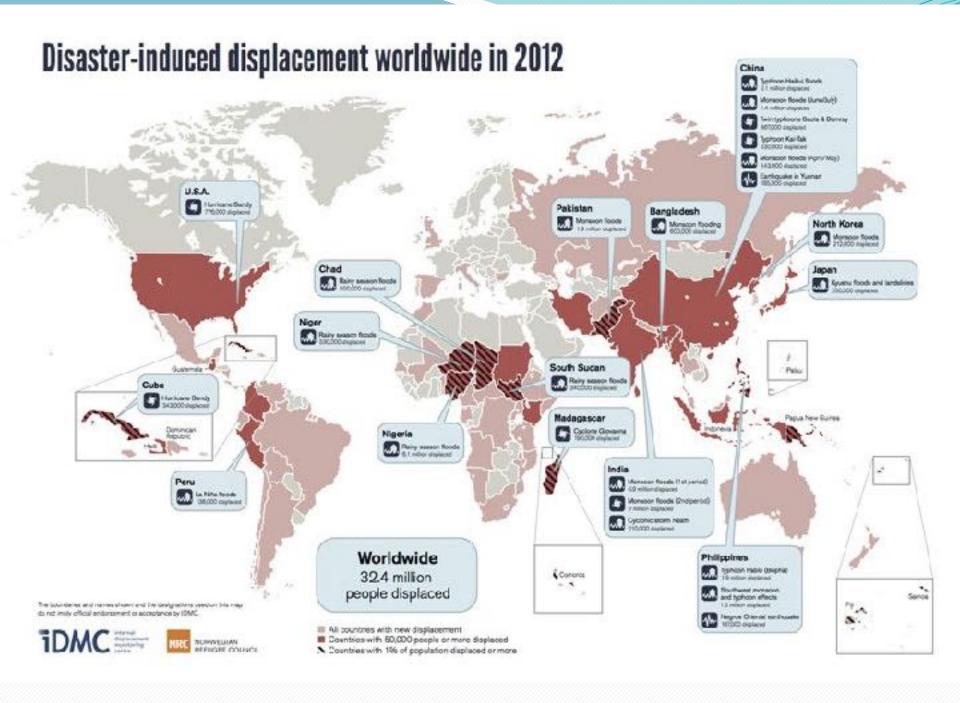




Arundhati Roy –

 "the millions of displaced people in India are nothing but refugees in an unacknowledged war"







Total no. of people who have been displaced within their country

26 million

Total no. of people who are **refugees** 

15-16 million **HOMELESS** 

PEOPLE

Number of people forced to leave their homes

43 million

People who are asylum-seekers

1 million

Total no. of people in India who have been displaced within the country due to development projects

60-65 million

India has the highest number of people displaced for development projects





India has millions of internally displaced people. And now, they are putting their bodies on the line and fighting back. They are being killed and imprisoned in their thousands. Theirs is a battle of the imagination, a battle for the redefinition of the meaning of civilisation, of the meaning of happiness, of the meaning of fulfilment.

— Arundhati Roy —

AZ QUOTES

















 Postcolonial modernisation thus results in the loss of home and homelands

 India does not have a national rehabilitation policy Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide* (2004) offers a humanist critique of dispossession in the postcolonial world

• It deals with people who are "out of place" and seeking a "home".

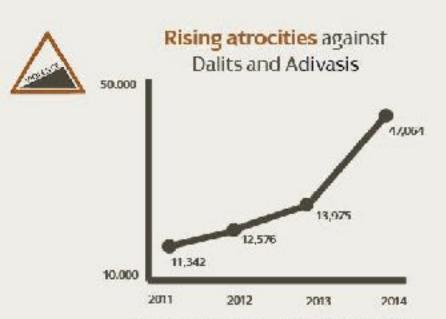
 brilliant, a prophetic tale of people, issues and environment  Dalits, minorities and other marginalised occupy an "unhomely" space in the postcolonial nation

 many of the refugees in the Sunderbans are Dalits





## Rising atrocities against Dalits



The graph allows the amount of cases registered under the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tables Prevention of Atroches act



The graph shows the capes of rape of Dalit women registered in 2003 and the capes of tape of Dalit women regetered in 2003. A 475% increase



 They are "unhomely" not only in the sense that they are "out of place," without a place on the land or in history

• but that the land itself is "unhomely," by virtue of being inhospitable.

 about relationships - configured around metaphors of 'home' and 'homelessness'. • subaltern and a narrativization of the subaltern experience.

•to voice the subaltern experience –

 the force of a political pamphlet which made the world take stock of efforts to corporatise parts of the Sundarbans
 National Park  The novel raises national and global awareness about the history of violence inscribed on the Sundarbans

• shows - continuing exploitation of the place.

- Ghosh's novel reveals the interactions between -
- The State
- the poor
- the fauna and flora
- and the physical environment –

 work highlights both the tragedy and the hypocrisy that were inherent in the conservation efforts in the

Sundarbans.

• In *The Hungry Tide Ghosh* problematises the tensions between and within human communities-

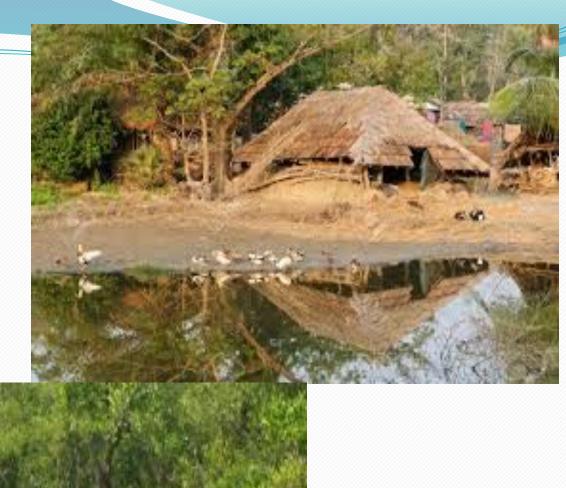
 Human communities respective relations with the natural world• Ghosh sets his novel in the Sundarbans –

 the tide country where the contours of land constantly change with the ebb and flow of water











He uses water as the agent

rewrites the social matrix of the

Sundarbans

Water is both motif and agent

• Shapes not only the story but also the **geography** and **history of the land**.

## The **unusual agency of water** is highlighted

potential to act as well as to move from object/ other position to that of the subject

During the process reverse the object/subject status of the characters





Unusual agency of water



Unusual agency of water









Unusual agency of water





Ghosh uses water as the agent to resolve the chief conflict fictionalised in the novel

Thakazhi Sivashankara Pillai

short story Vellapokkathil (In the Flood)

two conceptual plots

• First, it **explores the plight of displaced people** (a familiar Ghosh theme)

 specifically a group of refugees from Bangladesh who found themselves in a confrontation with the Indian state in 1979

- Second conceptual question-
- how humans share a complex and dangerous ecosystem with animals (dolphins and tigers).

The dolphins are being studied by Piyali Roy -

a marine biologist of Bengali descent

 discovers some strange behavioural quirks amongst Irawaddy Dolphins (32)

• tide pool while visiting the islands on a grant.

Bay of Bengal is one of the only habitats where
 Bengal Tigers continue to live in the world

 They are zealously protected by various international environmental groups

 (who apply economic pressure on the Indian and Bangladeshi governments to maintain the tiger habitats by military force).  But in the name of tiger preservation (or "reservation,")

• human lives are threatened: the tigers routinely maul and often kill islanders.

 There are modern devices that might be used to protect the islanders

• But the state allows the deaths to continue.

In the Sunderbans -

• Ghosh argues - human lives are valued somewhat lower than those of Tigers.

• It's a place where tigers kill hundreds of people a year

• Issue -

• they're a protected species, killing tiger is a punishable offence

Even though this has been preying on village

• In an environment where life is fragile, the

essence of any person is broken down to its core



- Book is about -
- ordinary people bound together in an exotic
   place that can consume them all

It's the basest of human emotions, love,
 jealousy, pride, and trust, that will make the difference.

 The Hungry Tide is a very contemporary story of adventure and unlikely love, identity and history

 set in one of the most fascinating regions on the earth

## Sundarbans

 Off the eastern coast of India, in the Bay of Bengal

labyrinth of tiny islands

## SUNDARBANS











For settlers here - life is extremely precarious

Attacks by deadly tigers are common

Unrest and eviction are constant threats.





• Without warning, at any time, tidal floods rise and surge over the land, leaving devastation in their wake.

• In this place of vengeful beauty, the lives of three people from different worlds collide.

- Piyali Roy or Piya young marine biologist, of Indian descent but stubbornly American -
- in search of a rare, endangered river dolphin

- Kanai Dutt
- Nilima









