

PRESENTER: It's colossal. I knew it's the biggest city in India, but it just seems to go on and on and on, like the size of a small country.

VIKAS: Yeah.

PRESENTER: Mumbai has become a great symbol of India's economic growth in recent years. It has some of the most expensive property in the world, as well as some of the largest slums. Like many people in Mumbai, Vikas is not a local. Why did you move here?

VIKAS: Work, man. This is where the action is.

PRESENTER: Was it a good decision?

VIKAS: I love the city. At the same time, I hate it. It's the richest city in India. At the same time, it also has the most poor people. It has the largest slum in India. So, it's just full of contradictions.

PRESENTER: Of course, in India this is seen as the sort of pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, isn't it? This is the place to come to, to make your fortune?

VIKAS: Definitely is. This has the biggest pot of gold and the biggest sewer.

PRESENTER: The biggest pot of gold and the biggest sewer. I need to remember that. India's population has more than doubled in the last 40 years. There are now at least 1.2 billion people in this country. This population explosion is having profound consequences. In just a short time, Mumbai has gone from being a small port to a megacity. One of the original fishing communities here were the Kolis. This is incredible. I wondered how India's rapid changes were affecting them and the ocean that sustained them for generations. So, we're walking into near total darkness. They live down by the sea in a small fishing village that's become an urban warren. Are you sure this isn't into somebody's house? This is absolutely unbelievable. It's really overwhelming here actually. Overwhelmed by the sights and senses. Bloody hell. Look at this. The Koli have been fishermen for centuries, making their living from the Indian Ocean. Now they live down here on the beach, surrounded by pollution, muck, and the tower blocks of the big city.

FISHERMAN: [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

INTERPRETER: The Koli are the original inhabitants of Mumbai. We're the fisher folk.

PRESENTER: What's the fishing like off here? This is a huge city. I'm imagining that with all the ships and the pollution, the fish stocks must be declining. But is that the case?

FISHERMAN: [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

INTERPRETER: It's difficult for us. Before, we earned good money and our kids ate well. But because of the lack of fish in the sea, our life has become difficult.

PRESENTER: More people means more stomachs to feed. It means overfishing and more pollution. And lack of fish is just one of the problems faced by the Koli. Property developers are now after their patch of seafront. You live on what looks to me like prime real estate right next to high rises and in a city of billionaires.

FISHERMAN: [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

INTERPRETER: There are no toilets or running water here. The high rises have all the facilities. All their needs are met, but no one listens to us.

PRESENTER: The Koli people believe they're being deliberately denied basic amenities, so they'll have no choice but to move away from the seafront. It does feel a little bit to me as though your whole way of life is being threatened, because the fish stocks on which you rely are dwindling and you're being squeezed out by the developers who want your land. Does the community here feel under threat?

FISHERMAN: [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

INTERPRETER: You know, everybody wants a piece of this seafront location, but the sea is our god. We make a living from the sea. It feeds our children. So, whatever happens, we're not leaving. We'll stay here come what may.

PRESENTER: It's perhaps inevitable a fishing community like the Kolis will struggle to survive in the polluted waters off a growing megacity. But as this extraordinary country continues to develop and industrialize, the impact of India's increasing population is being felt all around the Indian Ocean.