



 CENTRE FOR
POLICY
RESEARCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2017





A leading public policy
think tank

Conducting research in
multiple disciplines

Contributing to a more
robust public discourse

Once again, I have the not so easy task of summarising the outstanding achievements of my colleagues in the preface to this year's annual report. 2016-17 has been another highly productive year for CPR. The range and quality of scholarship on offer was truly outstanding. Just to give a few examples. This year has witnessed one of the best rated non-fiction books of the year, *India's War* by my colleague Srinath Raghavan, which narrates India's role in World War II and how it shaped the future. The book received glowing reviews both nationally and internationally. We published other significant books as well that were collaborative efforts: *Higher Education in India* and *Rethinking Public Institutions* examined important topics indicated in the titles.

The contents of the Report will give a fuller picture, but just to give you a random sampling of the kind of work that was carried out, here are a few more examples. The climate, energy and environment team continued its agenda-defining work in the year following COP 21, with Navroz Dubash and Lavanya Rajamani actively involved in post-Paris discussions in India, and providing inputs to India's submissions for consideration. Thanks to their impeccable efforts, CPR continued to be ranked as the top climate think tank in India for the third year in a row. Researchers working on environmental justice continued to monitor and analyse governmental environmental compliance with unwavering commitment, coming out with a first-ever research study examining efforts made by affected parties to address issues of non-compliance. In the vein of first-ers, the land rights team, headed by Namita Wahi, produced a pioneering analysis of Supreme Court cases between 1950 and 2016 of land acquisition disputes in India, contributing to the existing discourse and policy narrative.

The Accountability Initiative, headed by Yamini Aiyar, broke new ground. Researchers tracking government accountability produced the annual budgetary analysis of social sector schemes and their expenditure. For the first time, however, they took the findings of this analysis to frontline bureaucracy through field staff by organising a series of 40 dialogues with over a 1000 sector-specific administrators to find solutions collaboratively – a partnership in the best sense, where research was put into practice to empower stakeholders. The team also conducted an extensive ground analysis of the efficacy of the *Swachh Bharat* (rural) *Mission* across five states – the findings of which received considerable media coverage and were shared with concerned ministry officials.

The year saw the defining state election in Uttar Pradesh alongside Punjab. The team led by Neelanjan Sircar conducted deep, qualitative field research in the months prior to the elections, analysing voting behavior in India, and producing a series of weekly news articles. The collective analyses of all state elections over the past two years carried out by the researchers is now being turned into the manuscript for a book, which holds the promise of being a valuable contribution to the field of psephology. Shyam Babu continued to explore the intricacies of caste and development in India, while Shyalshri Shankar published on constitutionalism, amidst a detour into a fun book on food.

Urban researchers focused on emerging smaller towns, co-producing the book *Subaltern Urbanisation in India*, which analyses urban governance and political economy in non-metropolitan contexts, projecting trends for future. They also highlighted their work on small towns and informal settlements, along with international partners, at the mega *Habitat III Conference*, held in Quito to develop the 'New Urban Agenda' globally. Focusing on small towns from the perspective of delivery of basic services like sanitation and water, they released a comprehensive *sanitation matrix* at Quito. Partha Mukhopadhyay from the urban team chaired the

ministry's inter-ministerial Working Group on Migration, which released its report highlighting the complexity of migration in India. At the state level, the sanitation team drafted the Odisha government's *Urban Sanitation Policy and Strategy, 2017*, with a focus on open discharge free cities, disposal of different types of waste, safe management, and more.

As the world witnessed dramatic changes with what could be termed as 'tectonic' shifts in the international geopolitical landscape, which saw a global backlash against globalisation, CPR's immensely reputed and highly well-placed faculty in the field of international relations deconstructed this intense transformation through their research and engagements. From producing articles analysing India's nuclear doctrine and the impact of Donald Trump's foreign policies on Eurasia, to unpacking the future of Afghanistan post American withdrawal in a book chapter, as well as speaking and writing extensively on Indo-Russia relations, the changing Indo-China relations, and participating in closed-door consultations on the One Belt One Road project – the cohort of Amb. Shyam Saran, Bharat Karnad, Nimmi Kurian, new joinee Zorawar Daulet Singh, and Srinath Raghavan continued to add heft to the organisation's legacy in international relations.

Talking of dramatic changes – domestically this was the year, which saw demonetisation carried out in an unprecedented manner in November, 2016. CPR faculty weighed in through their analyses in the media, on the website, and through the newly launched podcast series by the communications team at the organisation. A series of three podcasts were produced on this subject, alongside various other topics – both analysing research produced and commenting on topical issues such as the victory of Donald Trump or the outcome of the Uttar Pradesh elections.

I am, always, personally grateful to every single person at CPR who always perform beyond the call of duty. The young research associates that infuse energy and cutting edge knowledge into the institution, the magnificent communication team led by Richa Bansal, the dedicated administrative staff admirably led by Mr Ravi, all the brilliant fellows and senior fellows, make CPR a vibrant place. The Chair of the CPR Board, Mr Gonsalves, Executive Committee Members, Meenakshi Gopinath and Shyam Saran, hold us to high standards of productivity and integrity. This year, we mourn the loss of R.K.P. Shankardass, an extraordinarily fine lawyer, who contributed so much to CPR through his membership of the Board. We welcome new members as well: Vinita Bali, Chandrashekhar Dasgupta and Rama Bijapurkar bring great distinction to a wonderful Board. The organisations that fund us have been exemplary in their support. Together you have all made CPR such a vibrant institution.

On a personal note, this is my last Annual Report as President of CPR. I am truly grateful for the intellectual excitement, integrity, friendships, sense of independence CPR has provided over the years. It is a unique organisation that will, doubtless, continue to remain a significant presence on India's intellectual and policy landscape.

With warmest thanks



Pratap Bhanu Mehta

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CPR engages around five broad themes, and faculty and their research often span several of these topics.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE 5

- » Environmental Standards, Climate Change, and Development » Water Policy » Energy Policy
- » Indian and International Environment Law and Jurisprudence

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- » India's Role in a Shifting Global Order » Foreign and Security Policy
- » Traditional and Non-traditional Challenges Facing the Indian State

LAW, REGULATION, AND THE STATE 17

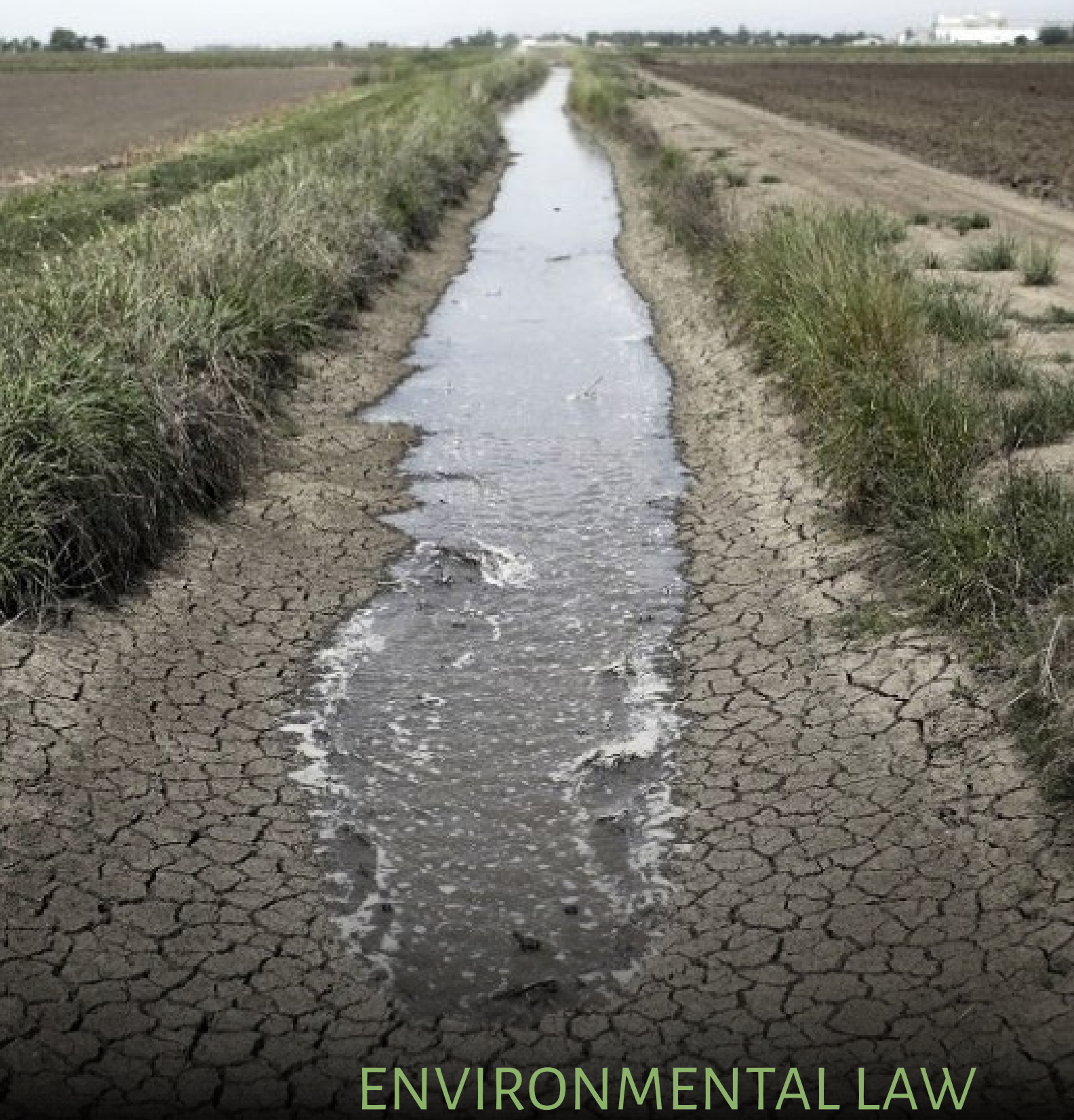
- » The Nature and Character of Constitutional Law » The Design and Performance of Public Institutions
- » The Economics and Politics of Regulation

URBANISATION 29

- » The Process of Urban Transition » Urban Governance and Citizenship
- » Urban Economies and Service Delivery

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- » Macroeconomic Dynamics » Service Delivery and Infrastructure Policy
- » The Intersection of Economics and Institutions



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE

photo: Charu Bahri

CPR is committed to fostering an evidence-based conversation about how to ensure a clean and sustainable environment for a growing India. The Centre's experts research topics ranging from environmental jurisprudence to the construction industry, and they engage directly with domestic and international environmental institutions.

Based on work in the Environmental Law and Governance focus area, CPR was ranked 15th globally by the International Centre for Climate Governance in its standardised (adjusting for size) ranking of global think tanks working on climate and energy, 3rd in the Rest of the World category (countries not in North America or Europe) and was, once again, the top ranked Indian think-tank. In 2016, the Climate Initiative at CPR was renamed the *Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE)*. While the intent and approach that informs the team's work remains unaltered, the re-naming reflects the growing breadth of its work in the thematic areas of energy, environment, and climate.

In the past year, ICEE continued both engagement with and commentary on the **international climate change debate and negotiation process**:

- » Lavanya Rajamani published an article in the *Journal of Environmental Law* explaining the Paris Agreement as the interplay between hard, soft and non-obligations. She also participated as an expert member at the Informal Meetings of climate negotiators held in Marrakesh and Tokyo. Navroz K Dubash published an article in *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews* on India's stakes in the Paris Agreement.
- » Both of them were also active in the post-Paris discussions in India, with Rajamani providing inputs and perspectives on India's submissions for consideration by the Government and Dubash appointed as a Member, Expert Committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on a Long Term Strategy for Low Carbon Development for India.
- » At the climate negotiations held in Marrakesh in November, 2016, Lavanya Rajamani presented at events organised by the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford and Centre for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), and Ankit Bhardwaj presented on multi-objective climate and energy policy at events organised by UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.

ICEE's **energy focused work** operated at two levels – strategic and sectoral:

- » Researchers submitted ideas for consideration to the government on India's strategic energy priorities as part of an inter-ministerial process. Radhika Khosla and Madhura Joshi produced a chapter on Indian energy trends as part of a collaborative project on G20 countries and a global transition towards sustainable energy. The team also wrote opinion pieces for the broader media.



India has pledged to cut the intensity of its carbon emissions by 33-35 per cent and boost the renewable energy capacity to 40 per cent by 2030 in the target submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) on Climate Change for a global climate pact.

photo: Reuters

» Sectorally, Khosla's work focused on the buildings sector, where she is undertaking surveys on energy consumption, appliance use and energy behaviour in households. This work is informed by a larger perspective on the important role of energy demand-side analysis in achieving development and climate change objectives, as exemplified by a co-authored article in the *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*. Radhika Khosla and Ankit Bhardwaj are also pilot testing an innovative methodology to integrate decision-making across multiple objectives to inform urban development and climate planning in the city of Rajkot. During the year, Navroz K Dubash, along with external collaborators, initiated a research project on India's state-level electricity governance, which examines the political economy of distribution reform across 15 states.

On **domestic environmental governance**, Rajamani and Shibani Ghosh co-authored a chapter on public participation in environmental decision-making. Ghosh also wrote on various contemporary environmental issues including the MoEFCC's proposed notification on environmental violations, and its committee's decision to curtail public participation.

Faculty members were also invited to present their work at various academic and professional institutions, including the Victoria University of Wellington, University of Oxford, Ashoka University, Foreign Services Institute, Administrative Staff College, and Indian Law Institute.

WATER LEGISLATION

Philippe Cullet was a member (one of only two lawyers on the committees) of two government committees set up by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to draft water legislations for India. These were the:

- » Committee to Draft National Water Framework Law , and
- » Committee to Re-draft the Draft Model Bill for Conservation Protection and Regulation of Ground Water, 2011.

The committees met regularly in the first half of 2016 and completed their work in July. The outcome of the first committee was the Draft National Framework Water Bill, 2016 meant to provide an overall national-level set of principles for the water sector and guidance for inter-state matters. The outcome of the second committee was the Groundwater (Sustainable Management) Bill, 2016 – a model legislation meant for states to adopt to address the growing groundwater crisis, ensure equity in use of groundwater, and guarantee aquifer-level protection measures.



Devotees bathe in Ganga river near Sangam in Allahabad.

More than three-quarters of India's rural population depends on groundwater for drinking, but the country's aquifers are not only under tremendous stress, the quality of water they provide is also deteriorating.

photo: AFP

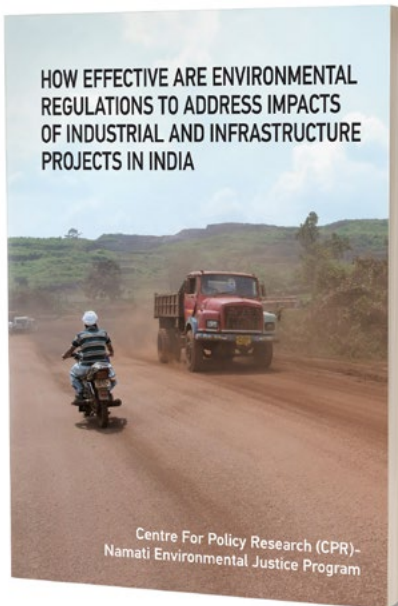
STUDYING IMPLEMENTATION OF SWACHH BHARAT (GRAMIN)

Philippe Cullet also contributed to a WSSCC (Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council) study to understand the functioning of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in rural India. This led to two state-level learning events with government representatives and other stakeholders in Thiruvananthapuram (July, 2016) and Lucknow (August, 2016) and a national workshop held at CPR in September, 2016.

RESEARCH AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OF INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The CPR-Namati Environment Justice Program undertook extensive research to understand the system of conditional environmental approvals and compliance of projects, institutional monitoring, and enforcement of environmental regulations. These are crucial to address the environmental and social impacts of industrial and infrastructure projects.

The research was published in a report titled '*How Effective are Environmental Regulations to Address Impacts of Industrial and Infrastructure Projects in India*'. This is the first study on environment regulation that examines efforts made by affected parties to engage with government institutions on the issue of compliance and monitoring.



The intent of the research was to highlight the necessary conditions for effective environment regulation and better outcomes through compliance. The study provides lessons that could be translated into concrete policy on environmental monitoring and compliance to address the widening chasm between enforcement of regulations and the ever-growing difficulties posed by environmental challenges. The report received media attention, was disseminated to state and central government monitoring agencies, as well as to the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General engaged in environmental audits.

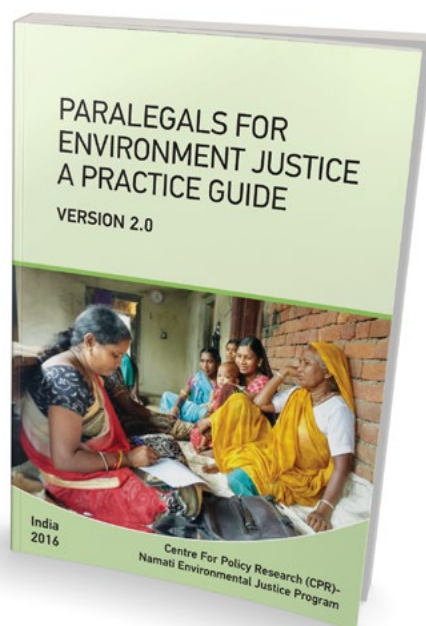
In translating the research from the study into deeper engagement with the regulatory system, a community-led 'ground truthing' process was undertaken to record the impacts felt by communities from mining operations in Sarguja, Chhattisgarh. The report of the process was used as a tool to engage government authorities and institutions for remedial action. This resulted in an interim yet substantive impact. The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of MoEFCC acknowledged the submission made by the communities and paralegals on violations committed by a coal mine, and deferred the expansion of the mining project pending a site inspection and point wise clarification by the project authority on the instances of non-compliance. Refer to news report [here](#).

A HANDBOOK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PRACTITIONERS

The Program distilled the methodological lessons drawn from the experience of its field teams to develop a *Handbook on Legal and Administrative Remedies for Community Level Environment Justice Practitioners*.

The Handbook provides methodologies that can be used by affected communities to engage with administrative institutions within the framework of existing laws. It has a compilation of applicable legal clauses and information about which institutions are mandated and best suited to solve environmental and social impacts of polluting projects.

The learning from this process have been shared through workshops organised by national groups, as well as internationally, such as at the Asia Pro Bono Conference in August, 2016.



ACTIVATING LOCAL INSTITUTIONS TO CHECK REGULATORY VIOLATIONS

State Pollution Control Boards are a nodal institution for regulating and monitoring polluting industries and to ensure that they comply with laws and regulations. In all the field areas of the Program, the teams collaborated with affected communities and the State Pollution Control Boards to devise mechanisms to respond to harms such as contamination of surface water and farm lands at specific sites.

As testified by those affected, the pollution visibly reduced in certain impact areas. Further, installation of CCTVs to monitor compliance and community participation during site visits conducted by the pollution control boards has been achieved in several cases.

Even with other institutions such as Ground Water Authorities, local regulatory bodies have been activated due to informed citizen engagement, as a result of the Program's field efforts.

RESEARCH ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER CONFLICTS

Srinivas Chokkakula's research focuses on interstate water disputes in India. During the year, he submitted two journal articles on the Ravi-Beas and the Krishna river water disputes for review. He also presented papers at conferences and universities on the disputes that escalated in 2016: the Ravi-Beas, Krishna, Mahanadi and Cauvery disputes. He participated in Rajya Sabha TV discussions on the Indus and Cauvery disputes, and his opinion pieces appeared in mainstream media such as *The Indian Express*, *The Wire*, and *Economic Times*. He also contributed to *Down to Earth's* annual State of Environment Report.



Landfill site cleaned up and managed by Municipal Authorities as per Solid Waste Management guidelines due to efforts of Program's field team in Karnataka

Chokkakula's research received the attention of national policy makers. He was invited as a Special Invitee to the Brahmaputra Board meeting in March, 2016. He was also invited to be a member of the Technical Committee of the India Water Week 2017. He has been requested to comment on two draft policy documents: i) for restructuring the Brahmaputra Board, and, ii) for constituting the National Ganga River Basin Authority. His inputs are often sought by key government agencies such as the Central Water Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources, as well as by parliamentarians across parties. This year, particularly, in the background of the Cabinet's approval to constitute a permanent tribunal for adjudicating interstate water disputes, he has given talks at important fora on the subject, which included a Distinguished Lecture at the Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, and a key note address at the annual India Water Resources Society workshop.



photo: Shayon Ghosh

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY

From nuclear strategy and military history to trans-boundary water sharing and social narratives of India's borderlands, CPR's experts explore international relations from both traditional and alternative perspectives.

BOOKS

The book received several glowing reviews – highlights below:

'The history he (Raghavan) writes is inspired by the search for a wider horizon for India as a superpower beyond the confining frame bequeathed by World War II and the ragged end of British Empire in Asia. It is all the more important and urgent for that.'

—Adam Tooze, *The Wall Street Journal*

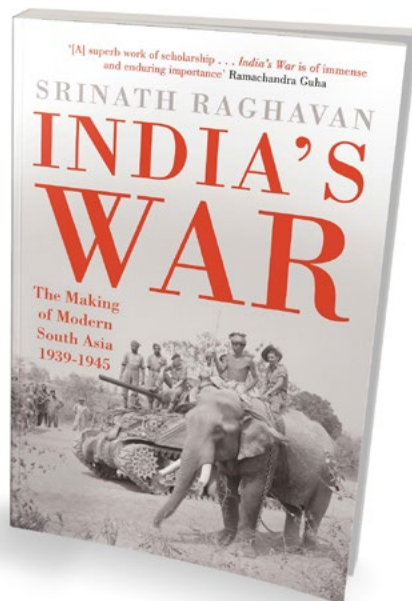
'Srinath Raghavan... gives thorough, fascinating and revealing accounts of the economic transformations generated by the war, and of the debates and decision-making in wartime politics.'

—In the *Economist*

'A panoramic work... Raghavan's splendid history is a reminder not just of India's historic contribution to the defeat of fascism, but also its geo-political potential throughout the Indo-Pacific.'

—In the *Financial Times*

India's War was also chosen as a Book of the Year by the *Financial Times*.

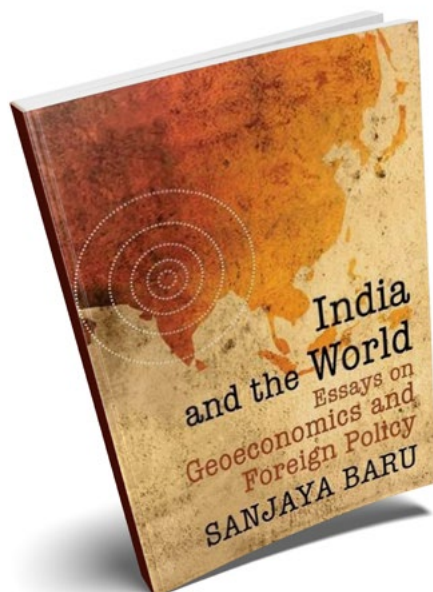


India's War: The Making of Modern South Asia, 1939-1945 is written by Srinath Raghavan and was published by Penguin Random House. Between 1939 and 1945 India underwent extraordinary and irreversible change. Hundreds of thousands of Indians suddenly found themselves in uniform, fighting in the Middle East, North and East Africa, Europe and – something simply never imagined – against a Japanese army poised to invade eastern India. By the war's end, the Indian Army had become the largest volunteer force in the

conflict, consisting of 2.5 million men, while many millions more had offered their industrial, agricultural and military labour.

From Gandhi's early support of Britain's war efforts to the crucial Burma Campaign, Srinath Raghavan's authoritative and vivid account shows how India's economy, politics and people were forever transformed, laying the groundwork for the emergence of modern South Asia.

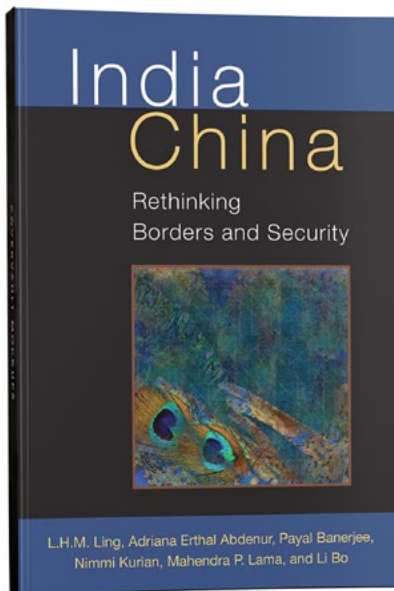
—taken from the book description



In **India and the World: Essays on Geoeconomics and Foreign Policy**, published by Academic Foundation, Sanjaya Baru explores India's evolving geoeconomic relations with the West and with Asia, particularly China, in the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2008-09. In 2016, India became the world's fastest growing large economy, overtaking China. India's resurgence has renewed global interest in the geopolitical implications of India's economic rise. These essays analyse the influence of business and trade

on foreign policy, India's approach to multilateralism and the relevance of regional trade integration for the Indian economy and South Asia.

—taken from the book description



In *India China: Rethinking Borders and Security (Configurations: Critical Studies of World Politics)*, published by the University of Michigan Press, Nimmi Kurian and her co-authors ‘reconceive borders as capillaries, which recognises the simultaneous flow of power and resources from inside out, bottom-up, and periphery-center, thereby contextualising – and consequently decentering – Westphalia World’.

—taken from the introduction of the book

CONTRIBUTING TO A CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

In a period of dramatic changes in the international geopolitical landscape, which is witnessing a world-wide backlash against globalisation and a pervasive yearning for a past with familiar political, social and cultural anchors, CPR faculty's research and engagement on national and international fora is critical in understanding this intense transformation. Particularly, from the standpoint of India's interaction with and contribution to this transition. Key outputs and engagements include:

- » An article by Zorawar Daulet Singh in the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses's *Journal of Defence Studies*, which explores ongoing contestations around the credibility of India's nuclear doctrine.
- » Another article by Singh in the *Economic & Political Weekly*, where he writes on the possible impact of Donald Trump's ascent on the foreign policies of the three Eurasian powers – India, China and Russia.
- » A book chapter, titled, *The Verities of Afghanistan and India's Options* by Bharat Karnad in the *American Withdrawal from Afghanistan*, published by Gyan Books. In this chapter, Karnad writes on the options for India's policy in Afghanistan bereft of a large US military presence.
- » Articles by Karnad on: i) coping with China's rise in the special issue on *Rise of China & Asia-Pacific Stability* in *New Approach*, Vol. 21, No. 4 & Vol 22, No. 1, and ii) on a disruptive nuclear China and India's imperatives in *Global Dialogue Review*, Vol. 5, No. 1.
- » A book chapter, titled, *Subregionalising IR: Bringing the Borderlands Back In* by Nimmi Kurian in *India and China: Rethinking Borders and Security*, published by Michigan University Press. This chapter explores the prescriptive and epistemic implications of India-China interactions.

The book received great reviews, captured below:

‘Ling and the Border Studies Group present a unique perspective on an important but understudied border: India and China. A landmark book in border studies, critical international relations theory, and the India/China border.’

—Mark Salter, University of Ottawa

‘Emerging from a genuinely interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collaboration, this book offers both theoretical and practical insights into one of the most salient issues in global politics: the rapid rise of China and India.’

—Roland Bleiker, University of Queensland

‘Ling and her collaborators have ambitions that are not merely explanatory but also transformative: they seek not merely to make sense of an existing conflict, but by diagnosing it in terms of blocked flows and interrupted balances, they seek to envision ways to resolve (or, better, to dis-solve) it. If the more typical IR explanatory social-scientific question would be ‘why is this India-China conflict as virulent as it is?’, their question is instead ‘what does the present state of the conflict reveal about how to change things?’ The transformative question encompasses the explanatory question and presses it onto novel terrain; call the results ‘explanation-plus.’

—Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, Editor, Configurations Series, University of Michigan Press and Professor, School of International Service, American University



Amb. Shyam Saran in conversation with the Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong

It argues that the subregional discourse on rethinking territoriality has the potential to raise interesting questions about the politics of space and place while situating India and China's international relations within a larger historical template of social, economic, and cultural flows that have little, if any, relevance to territory.

- » A wide range of articles in the media by Shyam Saran on foreign policy, including the India-US relations; Indo-Russia relations and Chinese influence; the changing India-China relations; the geopolitical impact of the Trump presidency, and the need for more internationalism to address the backlash against globalisation. Amb. Saran also spoke, both nationally and internationally, on the decline of internationalism and on China in the world in the next decade, as well as participated in a televised dialogue with the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong at the South Asia Diaspora Convention on topics spanning globalisation; ecological challenge; India's potential; and China's tensions over the South China Sea.
- » Nimmi Kurian was invited by the India China Institute, The New School, New York in 2016 to be Faculty Advisor for a four-year international research project that seeks to deepen intellectual engagement on issues related to *Prosperity and Inequality in India and China*.
- » Nimmi Kurian was invited by the Guangdong Institute of Indo-Pacific Peace and Development Studies and the International Public Relations Research Centre, Hainan University, Haikou, Hainan, China to give a talk on *A Glass Half Full? Designing Subregional Benefit Sharing on the Brahmaputra* in January, 2017. Kurian also gave a public talk on *Flows and Flaws: What's Wrong with the India-China Conversation on the Brahmaputra?* at the Centre for the Study of Geopolitics, Department of Political Science, Panjab University in March, 2017.
- » Kurian participated in closed-door consultations organised by the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the One Belt One Road project in Fujian, Ningxia, Beijing, Shanghai, and Kunming, in December, 2016.



Chinese map marking out the important routes and cities involved in the Belt-Road Initiative.

source: *The Wire*

- » Nimmi Kurian delivered the annual public lecture at the Calcutta Research Group on *The Periphery as Hub? Competing Constructions in India's Act East Policy*, and published four policy briefs as well as recorded a CPR podcast spanning a range of topics. These included India's development diplomacy in South Asia; trans-Himalayan trade; China's One Belt One Road Initiative; cooperative federalism; and navigating the India-China conversation on the Brahmaputra.
- » Shyam Saran, along with Srinath Raghavan, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, and Partha Mukhopadhyay participated in the India-China-US trilateral dialogue, where CPR is the lead think tank, discussing issues such as international terrorism, cyber security, maritime security etc. He is also heading the Indian delegation for an India-China track II dialogue sponsored by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore, and was part of a meeting on India-China climate change in Beijing sponsored by the Indian Council for International Economic Relations.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Over the past year, the Indian Development Cooperation Research (IDCR) project analysed the current government's approach to development commitments abroad through building an online database and carrying out budgetary analysis. IDCR researchers also analysed India's position as a recipient of foreign development assistance. They produced policy briefs and opinion pieces on India's development cooperation extended toward the African continent and countries such as Bangladesh, as well as on the role of Japanese financing, especially through Official Development Assistance

based loans in supporting India's future growth. Further, Shyam Saran launched a publication on India's overseas development cooperation in Geneva and London, as well as attended a meeting on the subject organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

ONGOING RESEARCH

Zorawar Daulet Singh commenced work on his book on India's regional statecraft during the Cold War, which examines the continuity and change in Indian strategic thought and geopolitical practices.

Nimmi Kurian commenced work on her book on the social history of India-Burma relations, which examines the historical and contemporary dynamics of border creation and its role in shaping the course of their relations as well as between South Asia and Southeast Asia.

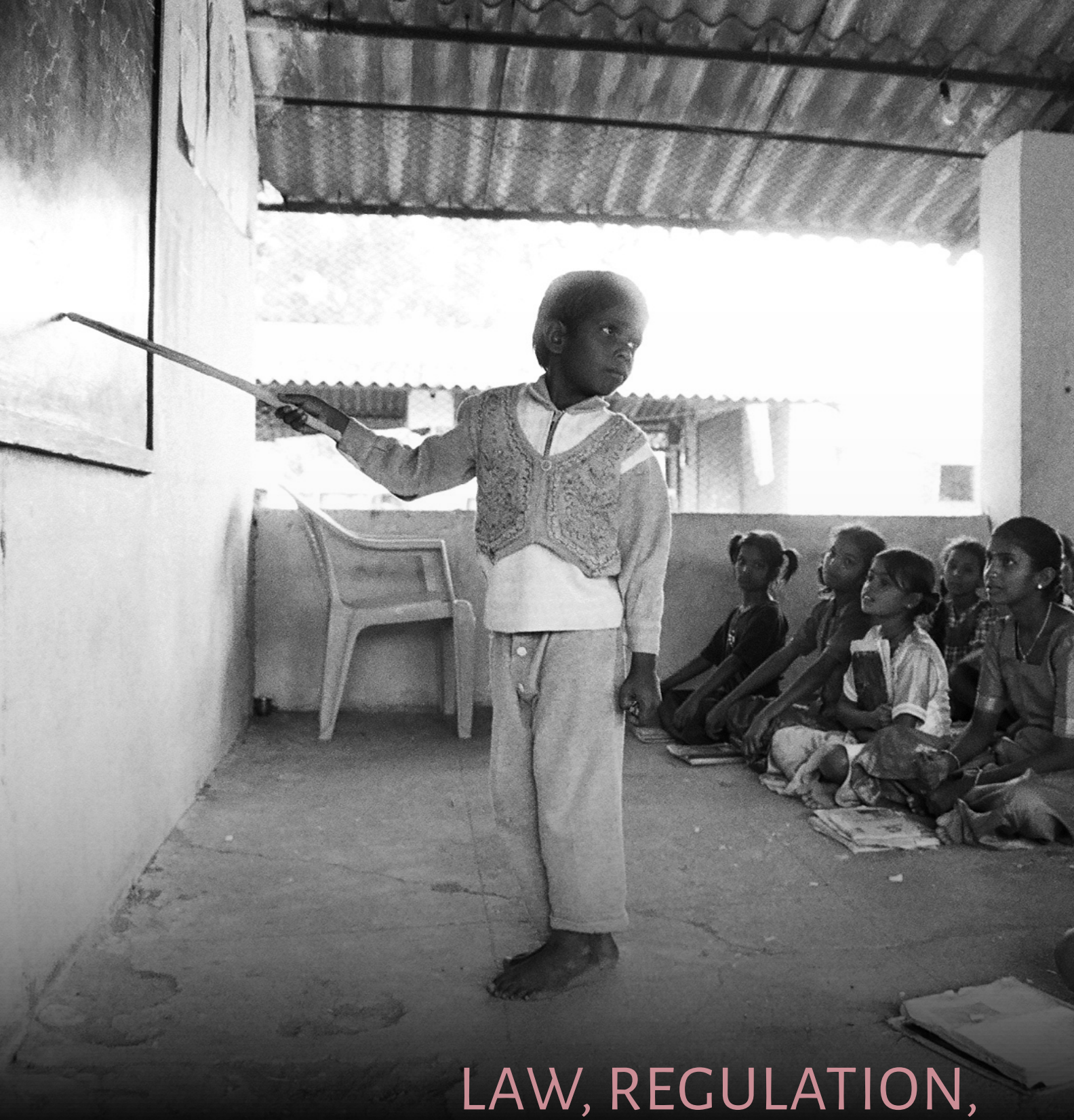
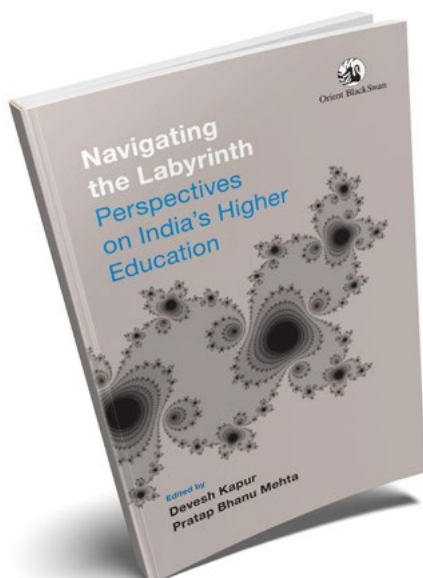


photo: ILO/Jeffrey Leventhal

LAW, REGULATION, AND THE STATE

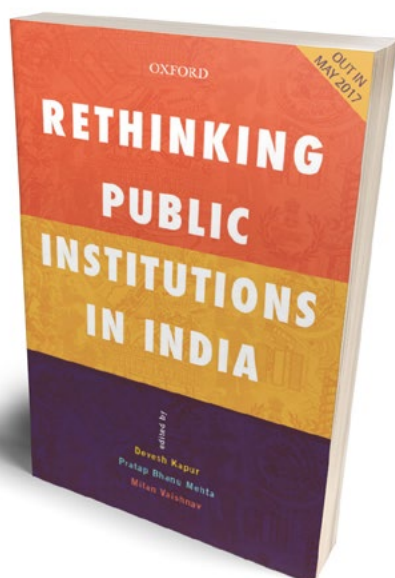
The Centre's experts examine how laws, institutions, and the Constitution shape the lives of Indians, and what they mean for rights ranging from human and religious to intellectual property and land.

BOOKS



Navigating the Labyrinth: Perspectives on India's Higher Education, co-edited by Pratap Bhanu Mehta was published by Orient Blackswan. In India, few things open faster than colleges, but few sectors reform more slowly than higher education. Demographic changes, economic growth and integration into the global economy, the rising demand for higher education, and the increase in the number of private colleges have led to a massive expansion in Indian higher education. While challenges of access and cost have been long-standing, much of this expansion has been of dubious quality, the result of sustained and deep regulatory and governance failures. This book analyses these and other complex challenges facing higher education in India, and suggests possible solutions to some of them. The book combines diverse methodologies: ethnography of institutions, case studies and data-based work, to present a complex landscape.

—taken from book description



Rethinking Public Institutions in India, co-edited by by Pratap Bhanu Mehta was published by Oxford University Press. This book analyses the challenges of governance faced by contemporary India. It argues that while the expansion and growth of India's private sector and a vibrant civil society can fill in for some of the shortcomings of the public sector in the foreseeable future, there is a wide range of core functions from regulation to security, from social inclusion to public goods provision, where the State is – and will be – indispensable. The integrity and responsiveness of the Indian state to the multiple challenges facing the country, both internal and external, will fundamentally determine India's future. The editors of the volume demonstrate that fundamental state reform will be a necessary condition for India to realise its potential and fulfill its people's aspirations in the twenty-first century.

—taken from book description

BUDGETARY ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR EXPENDITURE AT NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS

In 2016, Accountability Initiative (AI) continued to unpack India's on-going efforts at restructuring centre-state relations through its analysis of state budgets. The focus of this analysis was to understand the extent to which the Fourteenth Finance Commission's (FFC) recommendations restructured state government finances with respect to social sector spending in particular. To this end, in June, 2016, AI released the country's first-ever comprehensive analysis of the effects of the FFC recommendations on social sector spending through an analysis of budgets across 19 states in its *State of the Social Sector in India* report. The report was released at a seminar in New Delhi, where the Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of

India Dr Arvind Subramaniam was the keynote speaker, followed by a panel discussion comprising eminent public finance economists such as Dr Pinaki Chakraborty and Dr Indira Rajaraman.

In the run up to the 2017-18 Government of India budget presentation, AI published its annual series of *Budget Briefs* analysing budgetary allocations and expenditures in key social sector programmes at the national level. The briefs covered the following schemes: *Direct Benefit Transfers*, *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme*, *National Health Mission*, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, *Swacch Bharat Mission (Gramin and Urban)* and the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. AI contributed widely to the public debate on the budget through a series of opinion pieces in mainstream media. AI also engaged closely with the government sharing its budget analysis. AI's Yamini Aiyar participated in the Ministry of Finance's pre-budget consultation on social sector expenditure. Additionally, AI's public finance research lead, Avani Kapur engaged with the Niti Aayog and the Finance and Planning Departments in a number of states sharing their analysis. Further, Kapur and Ambrish Dongre published a detailed analysis of expenditure on elementary education in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, titled *Trends in Public Expenditure on Elementary Education in India*.



Screen grab from an animated video by AI explaining the process of fund flows. Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVBhSHRX2xI>

TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECTOR SCHEMES THROUGH GROUND SURVEYS

AI's flagship programme PAISA (Planning, Allocations and Expenditures, Institutions Studies in Accountability) conducts the country's largest expenditure tracking surveys. In 2016-17, AI released two important PAISA studies. The first of these was a study on social sector spending in the state of Chhattisgarh conducted on behalf of the Chhattisgarh government, in partnership with UNICEF. The study tracked budgets, fund flows and key output related indicators such as enrolment and attendance, uptake of in-kind transfers including hot-cooked meals, and availability of basic facilities – for programmes related to school education and nutrition. This study is an important contribution to understanding the challenges of public service delivery in the state.



PAISA field associates conducting a PAISA survey

In October 2016, Accountability Initiative released findings from a PAISA study of Swachh Bharat Mission, Gramin (SBM - rural) – the second study. Covering 7,500 households across 10 districts in five states of the country, this study offered the first-ever, ground level analysis of the implementation of SBM since its launch in 2014. The study findings were widely shared in the media and with government stakeholders, thus contributing to strengthening the government's efforts at meeting the sanitation challenge. Subsequently, following a request from the district administration, AI has now launched a similar study on the implementation of SBM in Udaipur in the state of Rajasthan. Study findings will be released in August, 2017.

UNPACKING DECENTRALISATION: PAISA FOR PANCHAYATS (LOCAL GOVERNMENTS) STUDY

In its efforts to deepen the evidence base on decentralisation in India, AI released a study based on a PAISA survey of rural local governments or Gram Panchayats in Karnataka in June, 2016. The study tracked trends in allocations and expenditures at the Panchayat level in the state. Importantly, the report developed an estimate of funds spent within the jurisdiction of a Gram Panchayat, and through this identified the degree of fiscal decentralisation to Panchayats. The study findings were widely circulated to various stakeholders, including key government officials.

In July 2016, based on a request from the government of Kerala, AI launched a similar study on tracking rural local government finances in the state. Study findings will be released in early 2018. Further, in 2017, AI extended its analysis of local government finances to urban areas. A fund tracking survey is currently underway in the Tumkur district of Karnataka, and this study will be completed in October, 2018.

Yamini Aiyar and Amrish Dongre also co-authored a book chapter titled *Do Gram Panchayats Get their Money: An Analysis of the State of Fiscal Devolution in Birbhum, West Bengal* in *Decentralisation, Governance and Development: An Indian Perspective*, published by Orient BlackSwan

RESEARCH ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

In May 2016, AI launched a new study in collaboration with the Delhi government to document and analyse the government's efforts at improving learning outcomes in schools. The study focuses on capturing stakeholder perceptions of the reforms; the mechanisms through which reforms are supported and resisted; and the effects of these reforms on classroom practice. The study will be completed in 2018. In September 2016, AI researchers began a year-long exercise to track implementation at the Block Development Office level in five blocks. Researchers spend three days a month recording activities undertaken by frontline bureaucracy at the block level. The objective of this study is to understand the challenges of service delivery from the ground up and it will be completed in 2018.

SHARING FINDINGS ON SOCIAL EXPENDITURE AND FISCAL DEVOLUTION TO EMPOWER STAKEHOLDERS

- » In 2016, AI launched a new effort to engage district and block level administrators with its research on social expenditure. Known as 'PAISA Dialogues', AI's field researchers provided administrators on the ground with relevant data to encourage a deeper debate on 'how to' overcome challenges of service delivery. In the course of the year, AI organised 40 dialogues and spoke to over a 1,000 administrators. These dialogues were very well received and AI plans to institutionalise this within its work. A detailed description of the dialogues and their impact can be accessed here: <http://cprindia.org/news/6235>.
- » Additionally, AI experimented with building new methods of engaging community groups in the process of planning and monitoring of social sector funds. In Rajasthan, field researchers worked in close collaboration with six School Management Committees (SMC) to develop School Development Plans (SDP). Through this exercise, AI developed a set of recommendations on how to improve state government's efforts at training SMCs. Recommendations related to improved awareness of budgets and planning processes made their way into the Rajasthan government's training manual. AI also collaborated with Nidan, an education NGO in Bihar, to train over 25 master trainers of SMCs on education budgets and how to create effective SDPs.
- » AI's research on Gram Panchayats in Karnataka was shared widely with Panchayat members through the state's network of elected Panchayat representatives. This served to facilitate a dialogue amongst Panchayat members on how to demand for greater fiscal decentralisation to the state. One important outcome of this engagement was the submission of a formal request by the Panchayat Parishad, to improve transparency in Panchayat level budgeting processes, directly to the Chief Minister of the state.
- » Finally, AI actively engaged with the policy-making community through regular seminars, discussions, and participation in meetings and dialogues with key policy makers – throughout the year. These discussions spanned broad issues related to governance and accountability to sector specific debates on education, nutrition and sanitation. An important contribution made by AI researchers in this regard was on nutrition financing, particularly through Avani Kapur's membership of a consortium on nutrition. This consortium developed a set of recommendations that were shared with a range of policy makers, including the NITI Aayog. AI also contributed to the process of the Niti Ayog's Vision Document by providing written inputs, on request.



(top down):

- 1 A PAISA dialogue on the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Purnia, Bihar
- 2 Finding solutions with education administrators in Solan, Himachal Pradesh
- 3 Working with School Management Committees to strengthen their functioning

National and International Engagements

- Bhatti participated as a commentator at the release of a comparative study titled, *Strategic litigation impact for equal access to quality education*, in Brazil, organised by the Open Society Foundation. She had been an advisor on the study, which focused on India, Brazil and South Africa.
- Bhatti participated in several panel discussions, round tables and seminars along with senior bureaucrats and other stakeholders working on education and public policy. She appeared on televised debates on NDTV and Lok Sabha TV on related topics, and gave lectures at TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) and Delhi University.



(above) Kiran Bhatti in Brazil at the release of a comparative study *Strategic litigation impact for equal access to quality education*

CONTRIBUTING TO EDUCATION POLICY DEBATES

Kiran Bhatti, along with Ambrish Dongre, was asked by the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity to prepare one of the background papers that contributed to the analysis and recommendations put forth in the Learning Generation report that forms the base document informing the work of the Commission in the next couple of years. The Commission is a newly established international body set up to reinvigorate the case for investing in education. Their paper *India's Education Policy and Its Development Over Time: How has Social Inequality been addressed?* is available on the Commission's website.

Kiran Bhatti was asked to provide inputs to the Niti Aayog for formulating the blueprint for the Vision Document for School and Higher Education in India. This involved contributing to the vision and strategies for three-year-long, seven-year-long, and 15-year-long plans.

At the behest of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, Bhatti prepared a Right to Education (RTE) manual for State Commissioners mandated to monitor RTE across the country. It included details of setting up RTE monitoring divisions in each of the State Commissions along with a suggested set of activities, including social audits and community monitoring mechanisms.

She is currently working on a book on Himachal Pradesh's success in education and a monograph on elementary education in India. Over the year, she published a number of opinion pieces in national dailies as well as reviewed articles and books, including a systematic review of education effectiveness. This review examined the impact of 216 education programmes in 52 low- and middle-income countries.

UNDERSTANDING RESERVATION UNDER SECTION 12(1)(C) IN THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT

Ambrish Dongre, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, completed field surveys of more than 1600 households and children in Ahmedabad as part of a large study to understand: i) school choice; ii) implementation of section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act (which provides 25% reservation to children from socially and economically disadvantaged households); iii) experiences of parents and children who obtained admission through section 12(1)(c); and iv) the impact of obtaining admission through section 12(1)(c) on learning outcomes. The data is currently being analysed and working papers will be published during 2017. The study fills an important gap since despite receiving considerable media attention, systematic and rigorous evidence on the implementation of section 12(1)(c) is largely missing.

A paper comprising a comprehensive overview of the status of implementation of section 12(1)(c) of the RTE by Dongre and co-authors was

accepted for publication in the *Economic and Political Weekly* in October, 2016. This paper draws on earlier research, which analysed all publicly available data sources as well as the legal and financial aspects of the section.

He is currently leading another overview of the status of section 12(1)(c) (third in a series of such reports), in partnership with IIM, Ahmedabad, focusing on online centralised admission procedures – now common in states implementing 12(1)(c). Previous reports had focused on enrolments through 12(1)(c), as well as the rules and regulations framed by states to implement 12(1)(c). Dongre also served as a visiting faculty at IIM, Ahmedabad during the past year.

DEMYSTIFYING LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS IN INDIA

The work of the Land Rights Initiative (LRI), largely funded by the Norwegian Research Council, was recognised by the Council for the second year in a row as an ‘ideal’ research project in terms of policy contributions and donor engagement.

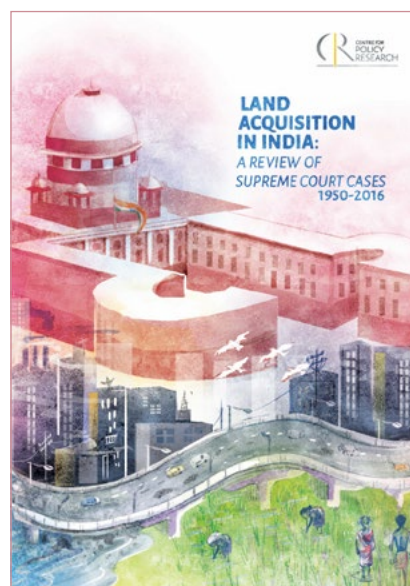


Land Rights Initiative conference launching the report on land acquisition cases

UNDERSTANDING LAND ACQUISITION LITIGATION IN INDIA

The Land Rights Initiative launched a report titled *Land Acquisition in India: A Review of Supreme Court cases from 1950 to 2016*, which is the first-ever systematic, representative, and comprehensive study of land acquisition disputes in India – both in terms of its geographical scope and the nature of the legal issues litigated. The report was launched at a conference, which included commentaries on the report by various stakeholders from government and civil society organisations, as well as lawyers, economists, political and social scientists. Co-authored by Namita Wahi, Ankit Bhatia, Pallav Shukla, and Upasana Chauhan, along with interns Dhruva Gandhi and Shubham Jain, the report findings were covered extensively by major newspapers and news agencies, including *Reuters*, *Hindustan Times*, *Economic Times*, *Business Standard*, *Livelaw*, the *Daily Mail*, and also disseminated through a CPR podcast.

The LRI team engaged actively with various stakeholders on the *Land Acquisition* study by making presentations to officials in the Department of Land Resources, the World Bank, and the NITI Aayog. The LRI team also held meetings and communicated over email with various political party representatives, civil society organisations, individual litigants, lawyers and social scientists, in Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Delhi and Orissa.



National and International Engagements

- Namita Wahani presented research on land acquisition at workshops held at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla, the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, and the Law and Social Sciences Network conference, New Delhi.
- Wahani presented research on land rights in the Scheduled Areas at the Bergen Exchanges, Norway and at the *National Conference on Governance of Fifth Schedule Areas* in New Delhi.
- Wahani also presented her book proposal on *The Right to Property and Economic Development in India*, and spoke at a *Land Governance Workshop* at Humboldt University, Berlin.
- Wahani gave a lecture on *The Constitutional Right to Property* at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay as part of the University's Constitutional law guest lecture series.

Further, Namita Wahani published opinion pieces in the *Hindustan Times* and *The Wire* on the legal ramifications of the Supreme Court decision on the acquisition of land in the Singur case. She is also a member of the Technical Committee reviewing the Pilot Study led by a consortium of research organisations on the *Digital Land Records Modernisation Programme* of the Department of Land Resources.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF LAND RIGHTS IN THE SCHEDULED AREAS

- » The LRI team compiled geographic and demographic data on scheduled areas and scheduled tribes population to unpack legal and policy initiatives with respect to scheduled areas. Through extensive use of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the LRI team obtained and made publicly available a series of Governors' reports from the states of Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for administration of the scheduled areas.
- » In an interview with *Livelaw*, Namita Wahani highlighted the unique and common challenges of Fifth and Sixth Schedule areas in different states.
- » Rajshree Chandra published an article *Understanding change with(in) law: The Niyamgiri case* in the journal *Contribution to Indian Sociology*, which sought to understand the contrarian impulses embedded in the historic Supreme Court judgement in the 'battle for Niyamgiri'. The judgement resulted in tribal *gram sabhas* rejecting the bauxite mining proposal of the Odisha state government and transnational corporation, Vedanta. The article highlights that the importance of the Niyamgiri case lies in the legal representation of indigeneity that emerges as a counterpoint to automatic assumptions of developmentalism and cultural homogeneity.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO PROPERTY

Through a blog piece for the website and a CPR podcast, two op-eds in the *Economic Times*, and an interview with *Livelaw*, Namita Wahani contributed to the public discourse on the legality of demonetisation in so far as it impacted individuals' constitutional right to liberty, equality and property. Wahani's blog was a pioneering piece on the question of legality of demonetisation and remains one of the most widely read pieces on the website.

ROLE OF DEMOCRACY IN ACHIEVING RIGHTS BASED OUTCOMES IN URBAN SPACES

Shylashri Shankar produced two papers on the subject, titled: i) *Is Democracy Necessary to Achieve a Rights Based Outcome? Subjects, Citizens and the State in Hyderabad, India*, and ii) *Contentious Politics and the Struggle for the City: The promises and perils of inclusionary infrastructure for vulnerable groups in India and South Africa* (co-authored). The first paper explored the question of whether democracy was a necessary and sufficient condition for successful claim

making by a vulnerable group. While the second engaged with the debate on the role of contentious politics in creating an influence for urban inhabitants in democracies on the distribution of resources in the city. Shankar presented these papers at a July, 2016 conference of the International Political Science Association in Poznan, Poland, and at a conference on *Creating Inclusive and Resilient Cities* held in Bellagio, Italy, in March, 2017.

RESEARCH ON FUNCTIONING OF THE JUDICIARY

Shankar also wrote two papers on this topic, titled: i) *Judicial Independence in Latin America: A view from Asia*, and ii) *The State of Emergency in India: A Test of Böckenförde's Model*. The first one was written for an Oxford Handbook of Constitutional Law in Latin America (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2017) – in this essay, Shankar explored and compared the nature and extent of judicial independence (*de jure* and *de facto*) in Asia and Latin America. The second paper, slated to appear in a German law journal, was produced for a conference on a German jurist Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde, organised in Munich. In this paper, Shankar empirically tests Böckenförde's model structure, which distinguishes between the authorising agency (political wing) and the implementation agency, on whether its safeguards can indeed function within a federal and democratic structure.

Additionally, Shylashri Shankar completed a manuscript titled *Food Biography of India* (under contract with Speaking Tiger Publications), and submitted the manuscript of a co-edited book, *A Secular Age beyond the West: Religion, Law and the State in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa*, to Cambridge University Press (forthcoming in September, 2017).

UNDERSTANDING FARMERS' RIGHTS IN INDIA

Rajshree Chandra wrote an article *Farmers' Rights in India: 'Globally Sui Generis'* in the journal *South Asia Chronicle*. The article draws attention to the deep interconnections that farmers' rights retain with global regimes of intellectual property (IP). It argues that juridifying farmers' rights as IP rights actually diminishes conventional property rights that farmers have over their seed and land. Chandra also writes regularly in the media on genetically modified foods and their social ramifications as well as impact on food safety.



Cotton harvest, Rangpurda village, Gujarat, October, 2015.

Since Monsanto's entry into India in 1998, the price of cotton seeds has increased by about 71,000%.

photo: Reuters

SENSITISING POLICY MAKERS

The Governance and Public Policy Initiative (GPPI) continued with its ongoing annual overseas academic outreach programmes for Indian parliamentarians and also organised domestic discussions on issues such as malnutrition in women and children; women's empowerment and obstacles in achieving social equality; moving from MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) to SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals); and budget allocation for health in India.

DOMESTIC DISCUSSIONS

- » GPPI and Global Health Strategies (GHS) jointly organised an interactive discussion on *Investing in Women & Children in India: Addressing Malnutrition*, focusing on the key roles political leaders can play in raising the discourse around nutrition in India.
- » A roundtable by GPPI on *Women's Empowerment and Obstacles in Achieving Social Equality* engaged parliamentarians on making government policies and programmes more effective and successful.
- » GPPI and GHS jointly organised another roundtable on *Putting India at the Centre of the SDG Narrative*, which focused on India's role in realising the SDGs; explored key opportunities for parliamentarians; and discussed the broader sustainability agenda examining the root causes of poverty. Secretary and Mission Director of the National Health Mission (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) C K Mishra led this discussion.



MPs participating in discussion on progress in 'Putting India at the Centre of the SDG Narrative'

- » GPPI, in partnership with the Parliamentarians' Group for Children (PGC), and with technical support from UNICEF, India, organised a two-day-long parliamentarians' international conference on *Sustainable Development Goals for Children (SDGs)*. Members of Parliament (MP) from Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan, European Union and Bangladesh attended the conference. Conference sessions addressed key components on nutrition and reproductive health; education; children and young people's participation; child protection etc.
- » GPPI and GHS also organised a roundtable on *Budgetary Allocation for Health in India* to highlight key issues in the budgetary allocation for healthcare; discuss possible solutions; and identify ways in which parliamentarians can effect change.

ACADEMIC OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

- » GPPI took a multi-party group of political leaders for the fifth leg of the *Princeton-GPPI-CPR Strategic Affairs Programme* at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs.



MPs and political leaders at the Princeton-GPPI-CPR Strategic Affairs Programme at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs

- » A delegation of five Indian political leaders participated in a week long programme at some of Australia's leading think tanks and institutions, such as the Australian Centre on China in the World, and Crawford School of Public Policy, Australia National University. The programme was organised in partnership with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



MPs & political leaders at the Australia Centre on China In the World with the Director, Dr Benjamin Penny

- » A multi-party group of eight parliamentarians attended the week-long *2016 Chevening-CPR Parliamentarians Fellowship Programme* at the Department of War Studies and the India Institute at King's College London.
- » In partnership with the Shanghai Institute of International Studies (SIIS), GPPI organised a visit of select political delegation to China, which included interactions with specialists at SIIS; at the Center for India Studies in Chengdu; and at the Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences. The delegation also met with officials from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Shanghai Urban Planning Group.

DECONSTRUCTING STATE ELECTIONS IN INDIA



Punjab voted for 117 seats in a single phase polling recording 67% overall voter turn out.

March 2017 | photo: IANS

From January to March, 2017, Neelanjan Sircar conducted deep qualitative field research in the states of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh just before the legislative election, continuing his research on voting behavior in India. This work, conducted with researchers Bhanu Joshi and Ashish Ranjan, yielded nine newspaper articles – on a weekly basis – in *The Hindu* and *Hindu Business Line*. Presentations related to this fieldwork were given at the Centre for Policy Research, the Centre for Multilevel Federalism, and Ashoka University. The material generated from this research is currently being used to write a series of academic articles and a book manuscript.

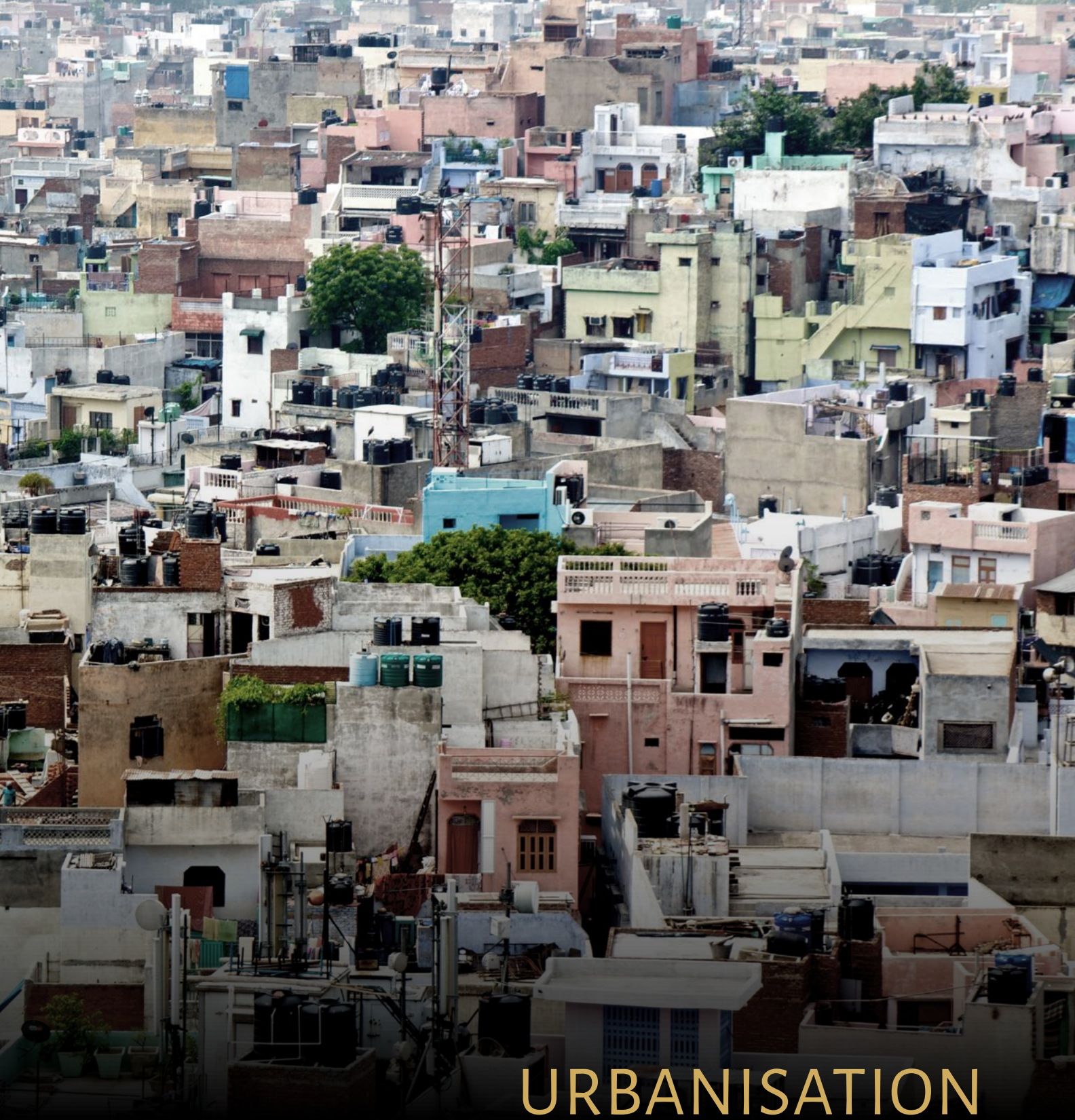
In November, 2016, Sircar authored two articles in *The Hindu* on American politics and Donald Trump, which culminated in an academic presentation at the Indian Institute of Technology in Powai (IIT-Bombay). The work on Indian elections and on American elections were summarised in two podcasts produced by the Centre for Policy Research.

In joint work with Sanjoy Chakravorty (Temple University, USA), Devesh Kapur (University of Pennsylvania, USA), and Milan Vaishnav (Carnegie Endowment), Neelanjan Sircar conducted a large scale social science survey in the National Capital Region (NCR), including all portions of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, of nearly 5,500 households. Sircar is currently working on producing an edited volume based on articles written from this data, as well as a number of academic articles based on the dataset. A presentation based on the work was given at the University of Pennsylvania.

In joint work with Simon Chauchard (Dartmouth College, USA), Sircar collected a dataset of local leaders and voters in nearly 180 villages and approximately 3,500 voters in the state of Bihar. Currently, the work is being presented at academic institutions around the world and a series of academic articles are being produced based on this data.

In the August, 2016 issue of *Seminar*, Sircar published a co-authored piece with Milan Vaishnav on using political survey data in India. He has also written other academic articles, currently under review, for major journals in political science, including: i) kinship networks and voting behavior in West Bengal; ii) economic preferences of panchayat leaders in Rajasthan; and iii) local village trust and relations in Africa.

In November 2016, Sircar taught probationers in Indian civil service about voting behavior in India at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie. He also taught an undergraduate course on statistical methods in political science at Ashoka University from January to May 2017.

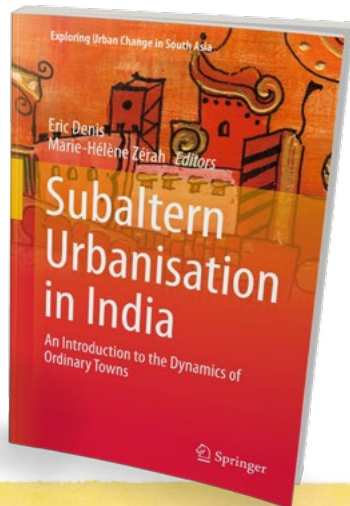


URBANISATION

photo: José Morcillo Valenciano

CPR engages with urban transition in India from a range of perspectives – analysing governance structures, reviewing the delivery of public services, and exploring processes of economic transition across different spatial scales.

GOVERNANCE



Subaltern Urbanisation in India

edited by Eric Denis and Marie-Hélène Zérah
Springer
February 2017

The book offers original analyses and new perspectives on the nature of Indian urbanisation based on research in many smaller towns.

Chapters

The Other Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission: What Does It Mean for Small Town India?
Sama Khan, CPR

Does Administrative Status Matter for Small Towns in India?
Partha Mukhopadhyay, CPR

Unacknowledged Urbanisation: The New Census Towns in India
Kanhu Charan Pradhan, CPR

Shedding Light on Social and Economic Changes in Small Towns Through the Prism of Local Governance: A Case Study of Haryana
Marie-Hélène Zérah, partnering with CPR

Outputs on 'Demonetisation'

Coping with Notebandi: Voices from the Field
Mukta Naik, Eesha Kunduri, Ashwin Parulkar and Manish
CPR Podcast | 21 December 2016
For a compilation of CPR views on demonetisation see <http://cprindia.org/news/5668>

CPR's work on governance this year focused on smaller towns, even as it continued its work on governance of megacity regions and the new urban schemes. A major milestone was the publication of the results of the multi-year, multi-location research programme, SUBURBIN, as a book – *Subaltern Urbanisation in India* – which involved many researchers from CPR. The project is led by the French Institute of Pondicherry (IPF) and Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH) in collaboration with CPR. It refocuses the view of urbanisation in India from large agglomerations towards smaller urban settlements, focusing on urban governance and political economy in non-metropolitan contexts.

In continuation of CPR's substantial body of work on citizenship in Delhi's informal settlements, CPR embarked on a new project in collaboration with Netherlands-based Institute for Housing Studies, Erasmus University. This project examines informal settlements with a focus on understanding the role of 'boundary spanners', understood as those actors that link citizens and the state, in the context of urban regeneration. A second new project, along with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai takes this concept to the two other metropolitan cities.

As a number of redesigned centrally funded schemes, including the much discussed Smart Cities Mission, start being implemented in the urban sector, CPR is assessing: i) how they play on the ground, ii) how they tackle the lack of agency of local governments in India and challenges of participation, iii) the extent to which they differ from earlier schemes, and iv) the extent to which they can support other important objectives like urban heritage.

ECONOMY

As part of the Strengthen and Harmonize Research and Action on Migration (SHRAMIC) project, CPR continued to engage with NGOs, policymakers and researchers this year to delve deeper into problems faced by internal migrants.

The lived experience of urban workers, particularly those outside formal structures of protection, has long been area of research in CPR and this year, the urban team investigated the effect of Government of India's move to demonetise high value currency notes on workers in the informal sector in Delhi, recording a podcast on the findings and writing in the media.

CPR, in collaboration with Just Jobs Network, launched a new project titled 'Role of small cities in shaping youth employment outcomes in India and Indonesia'. Initial research indicates that in both countries, a range of spaces, including small cities and peripheral regions are experiencing high levels of in and out migration, making them highly migrant intensive. Mukta Naik and Gregory F Randolph wrote a piece in *The Wire*, titled *India, Indonesia Should Craft Bilateral Partnership around Urbanisation, Job Creation* on this research.

SERVICES

Sanitation

Over the past year, the Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI): Sanitation programme at CPR was involved in deep public engagement at different national, state, cities and rural districts. They used a range of instruments – from the creation of community groups to engage with sanitation in small cities to national level policy workshops, as well as public sanitation sector flagship reports and opinion pieces. Other areas at CPR, such as the Accountability Initiative also joined this research agenda – primarily tracking government fund flows in the Swachh Bharat Mission (Government of India's flagship sanitation programme).

CPR's work contributed to the National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) policy and to the incorporation of FSSM in the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). Its research on sanitation in large and dense settlements has led to the recognition of the importance of alternative environmental infrastructure in such urbanising villages in international and national policy discussions. An ethnographic study in Angul and Dhenkanal in Odisha, exploring ways in which socio-cultural norms, behaviour and practices influence sanitation in small towns was also initiated.

CPR also engaged actively with the private and community sectors. One of the major collaborative events was a National Workshop on Social Innovation for Urban Sanitation. Internationally, CPR engaged with the once-in-twenty-year Habitat to discuss sanitation services at different scales of urbanisation.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE: SOCIAL INNOVATIONS FOR IMPROVING URBAN SANITATION: LESSONS FOR SCALING-UP

14 December, 2016 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

This conference was held against the backdrop of increasing policy demand for community-based organisations to act as intermediaries for social sector programme delivery. The conference was anchored by research collaboration between CPR, the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and 12 NGOs. The primary question binding 'social innovation' and 'scaling-up' is: *how can on-ground solutions that seek to include and address the specific sanitation needs of marginalised local communities (social innovation) translate into national-level policy-making (scaling-up)?* The conference brought together over 100 participants from government, NGOs, social entrepreneurs and community-based practitioners to explore this.

Accountability Initiative's Research

*Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban
GOI, 2017-18. Budget Brief
Devashish Deshpande and Avani
Kapur (2017)*

*Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin
GOI, 2017-18. Budget Brief
Avani Kapur (2017)*

These Budget Briefs reported on the following at the central and state levels:

- (a) Allocations and releases of funds
- (b) Progress towards ending Open defecation (OD)
- (c) Physical progress of toilets built and progress towards Solid Waste Management (SWM)
- (d) Funds released for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities



National Conference: Social Innovations for Improving Urban Sanitation: Lessons for Scaling-up



People and organisations at the *Think Small Go Big* event: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the i-geopolis project of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Habitat for Humanity, Southern Voice, the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), Slum Dwellers International, and UN-HABITAT.

HABITAT III

The *HABITAT III conference* was held in Quito, Ecuador. This was the third such event, after HABITAT-I in Vancouver in 1976 and HABITAT-II in Istanbul in 1996. Habitat-III focused on the development of the **New Urban Agenda** (NUA), with a number of preparatory events held at multiple locations worldwide.

On July 26, 2016 at Surabaya, Indonesia, CPR in partnership with Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), France, organized a side event at Habitat III PrepCom3, on '**Small Towns and Informal Settlements: Can they Learn from Each Other?**' Through case studies, the event focused on alternative sanitation solutions and experiences of ecological transition in the context of climate and environmental resilience.

This was followed on 17 October, 2016, at the main Habitat III conference by a networking event titled '**Think Small, Go Big**'. In collaboration with a number of international partners, the event highlighted small towns and informal settlements, particularly from the perspective of the delivery of basic services like sanitation and water. CPR also released a report titled *Monitoring Open Discharge-Free India: A comprehensive sanitation matrix* at the event.

Separately, CPR also participated on a panel organised by All Indian Housing Development Association on 19 October, 2016

Housing and Homelessness

CPR is a member of the Indian Homeless Resource Network, a knowledge portal
<http://www.ihrn.org.in>

Grappling with our prejudices
 Persis Taraporevala and Rohit Negi
The Hindu | 31 May 2016

Grave gaps in Delhi Government's slum rehabilitation, relocation policy
 Mukta Naik and Manish
The Hindu | 29 August 2016

This year, CPR, in association with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, launched the *Understanding Metropolitan Homelessness* project. Through detailed fieldwork and ethnography, it focuses on understanding (a) entry into homelessness, (b) enhanced vulnerabilities experienced during homelessness – in particular relating to work, physical and mental health, and violence, and (c) exit – to document sustainable pathways that lead out of homelessness, and inform policy initiatives.

CPR researchers have also explored issues around housing through several different lenses this year, looking at residential segregation by caste, at spatial mobility of domestic workers, slum rehabilitation and rental housing (refer to media articles in the adjoining box).

Health

In sync with the work on urban sanitation, CPR research explored policies and institutional structures for basic services in India in the context of public health. The project 'Scaling Up Urban Health Services in India', the second in a series on urban healthcare undertaken with the World Health Organisation (WHO), completed a 4-state, 5-city study that explored challenges to governance and implementation of the National Urban Health Mission. It also analysed the capacities of public health professionals and their training needs in this context, with a special focus on administrative and managerial skills that often get overlooked. The findings were disseminated via reports shared with the WHO and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

The report of the inter-ministerial Working Group on Migration, established by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and chaired by Partha Mukhopadhyay of CPR was released this year.

The report highlighted the complexity of migration in India, such as under-recorded trends like commuting, as well as substantial growth in family related migration in recent data. The recommendations focused on the need for improved data and ways in which existing government schemes could be better implemented. The implementation could be made more effective through intra-government and inter-government coordination to deliver social services, relying on mechanisms of integration, portability (of social security schemes) and convergence of ministries.

The SCI-FI Project deepened its engagement with the Government of Odisha through the drafting of the Odisha Urban Sanitation Policy and Strategy 2017, notified in December 2016. These two documents focused on outcomes including open discharge free cities, the safe management, treatment, and disposal of solid and liquid waste, menstrual hygiene management, and river basin pollution.

Additionally, a legislative framework was developed by the SCI-FI Project covering the management, treatment and disposal of wastewater and faecal waste by households and other establishments in which the waste is generated, as well as its collection, treatment and disposal by local authorities. Based on this framework, the state government evolved a 'Wastewater and Faecal Waste Management and Disposal in Urban Areas of Odisha, Bill, 2016', which is currently under consideration.

Select Media Pieces on Sanitation

The many lessons from Swachh Bharat

Yamini Aiyar

The Mint | 25 January 2017

The Government Has Made a Welcome Shift in Sanitation Policy that Will Help Develop Indian Cities

Shubhagato Dasgupta

The Wire | 29 December 2016

Swachh Bharat Mission's Success Is Greatly Exaggerated

Yamini Aiyar and Avani Kapur

NDTV Blog | 5 October 2016

Using geospatial methods in estimating exposure to open defecation

Prashant Arya, Nikhil George and Amandeep Singh

Ideas For India | 3 August 2016

Urban sanitation in India: Lessons from Brazil

Anjali Chikersal and Aditya Bhol

India Water portal | 14 May 2016

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Sewage treatment plant in Delawas, Jaipur.
source: Asian Development Bank

- » At the 'National Conference on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management' organised by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, in October 2016, Shubhagato Dasgupta made the plenary presentation on 'Why is Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Important for Urban India'.
- » Dasgupta also presented at the South Asian Studies Association of Australia biennial conference in Canberra in August, 2016. His presentation was titled *From taboo to totem: continuing misadventures of sanitation policy in India*.
- » Shubhagato Dasgupta and Arkaja Singh spoke about the institutional and governance framework for urban sanitation in India at a workshop organised by Indah water in Kuala Lumpur in August, 2016.
- » Continuing engagement with current debates on urban processes in India and China, Partha Mukhopadhyay presented on *What would a Chindian City Be? Decoding the urban* at CEIAS, EHESS Paris in May, 2016.
- As part of an effort to establish a BRICS+ City Lab, starting with institutions in Johannesburg, Sao Paolo, Shanghai, Moscow and Delhi, CPR researchers presented at the BRICS+ City Lab II Colloquium on 'Adaptive and Transformative Governance for Large City Development' – held at the Moscow Metropolitan Governance University in December, 2016.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay and Mukta Naik presented on integrated planning, informal settlements and urban services at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Urban Development, organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India in December, 2016.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay spoke on *Unpacking the Smart City* at the National Convention of the Indian Institute of Architects on 'Imagining the Indian City' at Bengaluru in December, 2016.
- » Mukta Naik presented research on informal rental housing in Gurgaon's urban villages at a workshop organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Magic Bricks and GIZ in New Delhi in September, 2016.

Media Pieces on 'Smart Cities'

To succeed, citizens must have more say in the Smart Cities Mission
Persis Taraporevala and Bhanu Joshi
Hindustan Times | 21 August 2016

Smart Cities Mission: Flaws in a flagship programme
Bhanu Joshi
The Hindu | 29 June 2016

Unsmart cities
Partha Mukhopadhyay
Live Mint | 29 June 2016

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

The **CPR-CSH Urban Workshop Series** – organised in association with Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), New Delhi – completed an unbroken sequence of 86 monthly workshops in March 2017. These workshops seek to provoke public discussion on issues relating to the development of the city and try to address all its facets, including its administration, culture, economy, society, and politics. The proceedings are archived at <http://www.cprindia.org/projects/cpr-csh-urban-workshop>.

A workshop on **Labour Migration and Social Change** was organised in March 2017 in collaboration with CSH under the aegis of the SHRAMIC project to build capacities of young scholars and practitioners working on internal migration issues.

Four seminars were organised as part of the **Community of Researchers and Practitioners (CORP) Seminar Series** which can be accessed at: <http://www.cprindia.org/CORP>.

Additionally, two national workshops were organised. The first, in September, 2016 was organised in collaboration with Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Geneva (UNWSSC). It focused on the 'Right to Sanitation: From Implementation to Articulation'. The second, in March, 2017, on 'Sanitation for People: Accessing socio-cultural realities of sanitation practice in Indian cities', focused on ongoing SCI-FI research in the cities of Delhi, Angul and Dhenkanal (both in Odisha), as well as on learnings from other research in Mumbai's informal neighbourhoods.

SELECTED JOURNALS, PAPERS AND RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Cabal City: Regime Theory and Indian Urbanisation. Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs Research Paper No. 2016-32
Patrick Heller, Partha Mukhopadhyay, and Michael Walton.

Deconstructing Institutional Barriers to Basic Urban Services, book chapter in Sigamani Panneer, N U Khan, and Gurusurthy Ramachandran (edited) *India Public Health Infrastructure in Transition*, Bloomsbury, 2016 Anjali Chikersal.

Key Reports

Monitoring Open Discharge-Free India: A Comprehensive Sanitation Matrix: CPR research report
Kimberly M Noronha and Shubhagato Dasgupta (2016)

Governance of Urban Healthcare Services in India: research report submitted to the World Health Organisation (WHO)
Anjali Chikersal (2016)

Unaddressed Training Needs for Urban Health Services in India: research report submitted to the World Health Organisation (WHO)
Anjali Chikersal (2016)

Leveraging National Schemes to Support a Heritage Agenda in *CONTEXT: Special Issue on Asia and Urban Heritage Volume XII*, 2016 Mukta Naik and Kimberly M. Noronha.

Unpacking the 'Unauthorized Colony': Policy, Planning and Everyday Lives, in Surajit Chakravarty and Rohit Negi (edited) *Space, Planning and Everyday Contestations in Delhi*, Springer Link, 2016 Shahana Sheikh and Subhadra Banda.

Housing, Spatial-Mobility and Paid Domestic Work in Millennial Delhi: Narratives of Women Domestic Workers, in Surajit Chakravarty and Rohit Negi (edited) *Space, Planning and Everyday Contestations in Delhi*, Springer Link 2016 Sonal Sharma.

'Here, We Are Addicted To Loitering': Exploring Narratives of Work and Mobility Among Migrant Women in Delhi, in Bina Fernandez, Meena Gopal and Orlando Ruthven (edited) *Land, Labour and Livelihoods*, Springer International Publishing, 2016 Sonal Sharma and Eesha Kunduri.

Will AMRUT succeed where JNNURM could not? in *Business World Smart Cities World*, 15 May 2016, Sama Khan.

Understanding India's Urban Frontier: What Is behind the Emergence of Census Towns in India? World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, December 2016, Partha Mukhopadhyay, Marie-Hélène Zérah, Gopa Samanta and Augustin Maria.

Horizontal and vertical Inequalities explaining disparities in Access to Urban Sanitation: Evidence from the National Sample Survey of India. SCI-FI Working Paper, Aditya Bhol (2017).

Subaltern Urbanisation Revisited in *IIC Quarterly Journal*, Winter 2016-Spring 2017 issue, Volume 43, Numbers 3 & 4, 2017 Partha Mukhopadhyay, Marie-Hélène Zérah and Eric Denis.

Only 'Good People', Please: Residential Segregation in Urbanising India in *IIC Quarterly Journal*, Winter 2016-Spring 2017 issue, Volume 43, Numbers 3 & 4, 2017 Trina Vithayathil, Gayatri Singh and Kanhu Charan Pradhan.

An Analysis of 'Migrant-intensity' in India and Indonesia: Seeing Internal Migration Patterns through a Place-based Lens, in *Environment and Urbanisation Asia*, Vol 8, Issue 1, 2017 Gregory F Randolph and Mukta Naik.

How can we nuance our understanding of homelessness? IHS Case, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, 2017, Ashwin Parulkar.

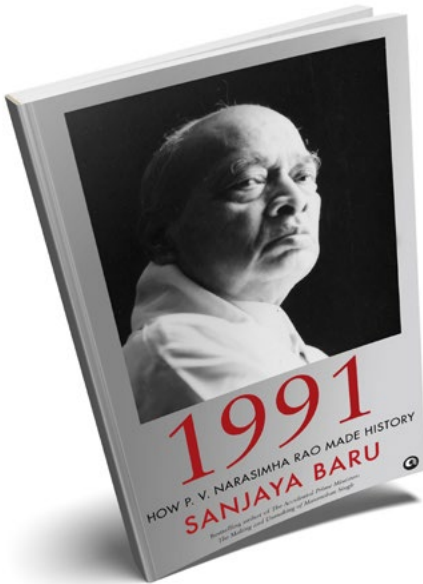


ECONOMIC POLICY

photo: PTI

CPR's faculty works on topics of the Indian economy ranging from macroeconomic dynamics and trade policy to the intellectual foundations of service delivery and the design of welfare schemes.

BOOKS

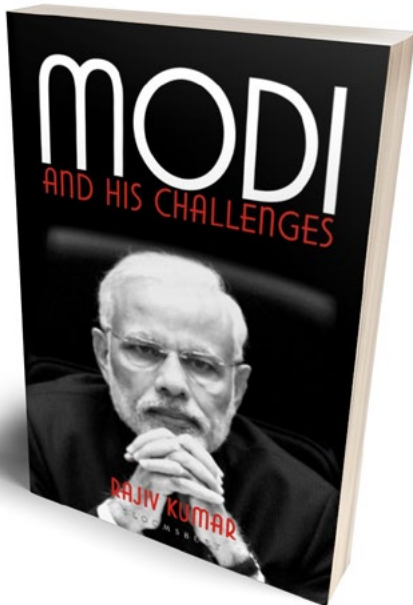


1991: How P.V. Narasimha Rao Made History is written by Sanjaya Baru and published by Aleph Book Company. P. V. Narasimha Rao (or PV as he was popularly known) has been widely praised for enabling the economic reforms that transformed the country in 1991. From the vantage point of his long personal and professional association with the former prime minister, Sanjaya Baru shows how PV's impact on the nation's fortunes went way beyond the economy.

This book is an insider's account of the politics, economics and geopolitics that combined to make 1991 a turning point for India. The period preceding that year was a difficult one for India – economically, politically and globally (with the fall of the Soviet Union, India's ally). It was in this period that the unheralded PV assumed leadership of the Indian National Congress, took charge of the central government, restored political stability, pushed through significant economic reforms and steered India through the uncharted waters of a post-Cold War world.

1991 marked the end of an era and the beginning of another. It was the year that made PV. And it was the year PV made history.

—taken from the book description



Modi and his Challenges is written by Rajiv Kumar and published by Bloomsbury. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been one of the most talked about figures all around the world. His enigmatic persona and his forceful leadership have created a polarised world where some idolise him, while others question his motives and methods. In an attempt to break the myths around who Narendra Modi really is, Kumar takes the reader through a journey of the leader's life, his political aspirations, his growth within the party, his remarkable stint in Gujarat and his performance over the last two years in Delhi.

Rajiv Kumar identifies the many formidable challenges Modi faces as the leader of the world's largest democracy that is in the midst of a complex transition and recommends measures that Modi must implement to deliver on his promises, thereby enabling India to realise its true potential.

—taken from the book description

RESEARCH ON QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

Jishnu Das published a co-authored article titled *Socioeconomic Status and Quality of Care in Rural India: New Evidence from Provider and Household Surveys* in a special issue of the journal *Health Affairs*. Assessing equity in healthcare and identifying disadvantaged populations is the first step towards improving health outcomes for those who need it most.

Yet, the lack of data on who provides healthcare in rural India or how rural populations use such providers hampers a systematic approach to the question. In this article, Das analysed primary data collected from the state of Madhya Pradesh to explore whether the poor in rural India can access quality health care or not? Das found that despite significant increases in budgetary allocations through the National Rural Health Mission, the vast majority of households surveyed relied on private sector providers without formal medical training for their primary care needs. The article thus recommended training informal sector providers who practiced in every village, and providing some kind of medical transport that allowed households from rural and scattered villages to visit providers in larger towns and cities.



Mahila Chikitsalaya Women's Hospital, Jaipur
source: Asian Development Bank

In a second co-authored paper titled *The impact of training informal health care providers in India: A randomised controlled trial* published in the journal *Science*, Das analysed whether post a training programme conducted by the Liver Foundation in West Bengal, the quality of care provided by informal providers improved or not. The research is especially important, given that healthcare providers without any formal training provide more than 70% of all primary care in rural India. The study demonstrated that training informal providers improved their ability to correctly diagnose and manage multiple conditions, even though it did not reduce their likelihood of providing unnecessary medicines or antibiotics. Further, the findings also showed that given the low costs of training, permanently hiring just 11 additional fully trained MBBS providers into the public sector would be as costly as training 360 informal providers every year.

Jishnu Das also recorded a CPR podcast on these research findings.



Bhagirathi, a midwife marks a house after her polio-vaccination visit in the village of Raftan Pur Kalam, Moradabad.

photo: Almudena Toral

DECONSTRUCTING DEMONETISATION

In an unprecedented move, on the night of November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the withdrawal of 500 and 1000 rupee notes from the market, with immediate effect, with the aim of curbing black money. CPR faculty and researchers commented widely in the media on this move writing in a range of mainstream dailies. Simultaneously to further unpack the impact of demonetisation on the country's economy, Rajiv Kumar, and the team of researchers, Mukta Naik, Manish, Ashwin Parulkar, Eesha Kunduri recorded two CPR podcasts – analysing the economic impact from different angles.

The podcasts explored the broad economic fallouts of the move and its scope of tackling corruption, as well as focused on how informal workers in Delhi coped with the impact of demonetisation drawing on two weeks of intensive field research.

RESEARCH ON THE PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

For a European Research Council (ERC) funded research project on *Roads and the politics of thought in South Asia* based out of SOAS (The School of Oriental and African Studies), London, Srinivas Chokkakula is studying the PMGSY – the rural roads building programme of the Government of India. This study aims to understand the rationalities and motivations of various actors and agencies participating in the road building programme. As part of this study, CPR and SOAS organised a *Roundtable on Rural Roads* in December, 2016 where representatives from different stakeholder groups, including scholars, policy thinkers, political leaders and activists, participated. The roundtable sought to survey expert opinion as well as gather different perspectives and premises of the PMGSY programme.

Roundtable on Rural Roads organised by CPR and SOAS, London



UNDERSTANDING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO FOOD TRADE IN INDIA

Rajiv Kumar and Hemant Shivakumar co-authored a research report, in collaboration with CUTS International, titled *Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) to Food Trade in India: A Case Study of Selected Ports*. Despite India climbing

nine positions in the Ease of Doing Business index, its ranking vis-a-vis facilitating border trade (133) remains unchanged since the last five years. Importantly, given suboptimal South Asian trade networks, trade in food products, which constitutes nearly 33 per cent of intra-regional trade, gets negatively impacted. The objective of this study was to identify and reduce NTMs to food trade (especially imports) into India, and is based on primary survey data collected from six Indian land and sea ports.

RESEARCH ON RENT SEEKING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Michael Walton co-authored a background paper, *Rent Creation and Rent Containment: The Political Economy of Telecommunications in Mexico, South Africa and Turkey*, as part of a World Development Report released by the World Bank. This paper explores the political economy of telecommunications in three middle income countries – Mexico, South Africa and Turkey. It undertakes an interpretation of the processes at work through the lens of these comparative cases. It is also intended as a case study of a set of broader questions about the development processes, which are shaped by the central nexus of relations between business and state actors.

SCALING POLICY INTERVENTIONS: 'TEACHING AT THE RIGHT LEVEL'

In collaboration with colleagues at the JPAL (the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab), Michael Walton co-authored a working paper *From Proof of Concept to Scalable Policies: Challenges and Solutions, with an Application*. This paper describes the journey from the original concept to the design and evaluation of scalable policy. The researchers did so by evaluating a series of strategies that aim to integrate the NGO Pratham's 'Teaching at the Right Level' methodology into elementary schools in India. Using evidence from randomised controlled trials (RCT), the research helped in developing two versions of the programme that successfully raised children's learning levels using scalable models in government schools.

Additionally, he co-authored another working paper on *Mainstreaming an Effective Intervention: Evidence from Randomised Evaluations of 'Teaching at the Right Level' in India*. Using quantitative and qualitative tools, researchers adapted the approach and designed large-scale experiments in the states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to test two new scale-up models. These models provided a blueprint that can be replicated by other governments.



The government-run primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh have seen a decline in the number of student enrolments, as revealed in a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

source: *Digital Learning from Elets Technomedia*

EXPLORING INDIA'S POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT

Michael Walton authored a paper for a forthcoming book volume for the 30th anniversary of Pranab Bardhan's book on the political economy of India, titled *An Indian Gilded Age? Continuity and Change in the Political Economy of India's Development*. In this essay, he examines the issue through two counterpoints – first, through drawing parallels between the super-wealth of the late nineteenth century US, such as Cornelius Vanderbilt and India's new wealthy individuals, such as Mukesh Ambani. Vanderbilt lived in a period famous for its 'robber barons', many of whom sought to preserve their fame through philanthropic ventures. The period is known as the US Gilded Age, and Walton examines whether this is India's Gilded Age. The second counterpoint is Bardhan's book which was published on the cusp of India's economic liberalisation and dismantling of License Raj.



Antilia – Mukesh and Nita Ambani's billion-dollar home in Mumbai.

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INDIA'S CITIES

Michael Walton co-authored two papers on the political economy of India's cities. The first, co-authored with Partha Mukhopadhyay and Patrick Heller, titled *Cabal City: India's Urban Regimes and Accumulation without Development* is for a forthcoming book volume. It explores the interaction of politics and business in Indian megacities through the prism of the concept of 'urban regimes', focusing on Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai. It argues that the fundamental problems of India's megacities flow from issues of governance that have precluded the possibility of business coalitions exerting cohesive influence over investment problems. Rather, the typical urban regime is one that they term a 'cabal' that delivers particular benefits and some infrastructure, but fails to effectively coordinate development for the city.

A second paper, co-authored with Shahana Chattaraj, titled *Functional-Dysfunction: Mumbai's Political Economy of Rent Sharing*, was published in the Oxford Review of Economic Policy. This views Mumbai's governance as essentially shaped by patterns of rent creation and rent-sharing – between political actors, bureaucrats, business interests (especially in relation to real estate) and social groups. The primary currency for this rent-sharing process is control over urban land space. While this allows the city to 'function', it is essentially dysfunctional with respect to either effective economic or social development of Mumbai.

WORKSHOP ON 'QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE: JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN INDIA'

CPR, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, organised a workshop on *Quality Infrastructure: Japanese Investment in India* in February, 2017 at New Delhi. The workshop featured a number of panelists from business and academia. It highlighted a key concern that while the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) consistently ranks India at the top in surveys of Japanese manufacturing companies, the number of Japanese companies actually operating in India is just one-seventh of those present in a smaller economy like Thailand. A key conclusion was that while India's growth ambitions required much more quality infrastructure, this needed not just cement and steel but also an increased focus on human resources, as well as balancing hard and soft infrastructure. The workshop and its proceedings can be accessed at: <http://qualityinfrastructure.cprindia.org/>.



Pratap Bhanu Mehta, President & CEO, CPR; H.E. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India; Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog; Koki Hirota, Chief Economist, JICA; and R C Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Suzuki India Limited at the workshop on *Quality Infrastructure: Japanese Investment in India*.

WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH FOR SCHOLARS FROM MARGINALISED BACKGROUND

Third in the series, D Shyam Babu organised a workshop on *Social Science Research* for research scholars and lecturers belonging to SC/ST (Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe) and Other Marginalised Groups during March – April, 2017. The workshop is based on the conviction that scholars from marginalised sections as well as female scholars suffer from not having been exposed to quality training in research methodologies, and thus such a workshop proves beneficial in their career. Around 20 scholars from different parts of India participated in the workshop and shared having benefitted immensely from it.



Protest against conviction of SC, ST, and OBC scholars from English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad. December 2016
photo: Dalit Camera

D Shyam Babu is a member of the *National Taskforce on Affirmative Action* convened by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) (2007 – till now). He supports the Taskforce in formulating policies for CII member companies to integrate SC/ST entrepreneurs as employees, suppliers and dealers under the rubric of *Entrepreneurship, Education, Employability and Employment*.

He is also a member of the governing board of a non-profit, Centre for the Study of Caste and Capitalism (CSCC), whose twin mandates are to study how an open society (both as a prerequisite and a consequence of capitalism) helps in bringing down walls that separate one group from another, and to encourage SC/ST communities to take up entrepreneurship opportunities.

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73 Talks/Seminars/
Workshops by CPR

DIGITAL REACH

MONTHLY AVERAGE

1,62,567 minutes

Time spent
on Youtube

267 Events and
conferences
attended

54,160

Website page
views

20,187

Website visitors

471 News Articles

FUNDING

*1 LAKH = 1,00,000

Rs. 2,537.44 lakh*

2016-17

Rs. 2,289.26 lakh

2015-16

LIST OF GRANTING ORGANISATIONS 2016-17

Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

IDRC, Canada

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA

William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA

Ford Foundation, USA

Oak Foundation

The Asia Foundation, USA

NAMATI Inc. USA

Omidyar Network Foundation, USA

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai

University of Manchester, UK

Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, British High Commission

Institute of Research and Development, France

UNOPS

World Bank

The composition of the cover image uses 'jalis' as an architectural metaphor for mediating, observing and relating across spaces and parallel realities.



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