

# Annual Report

2021-22







**A leading public policy  
think tank**

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**Conducting research in  
multiple disciplines**

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**Contributing to a more  
robust public discourse**

# Foreword

It is a privilege to present the Centre for Policy Research's (CPR) annual report for 2021-22. This year has seen significant disruptions both in India as well as globally. From the Russia-Ukraine war to the climate crisis, from the continued socio-economic ramifications of the pandemic to debates on federalism and India's polity, I am proud that scholars at CPR remained at the forefront, enriching the public discourse and interpreting the impact of these developments.

Like every year, we kept the tradition of publishing scholarly, field-defining books alive. We published four important books including *Development of Environmental Laws in India* by Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli; *Broke to Breakthrough: The Rise of India's Largest Private Dairy Company* by Harish Damodaran; *Colossus: The Anatomy of Delhi* by Neelanjan Sircar and Sanjoy Chakravorty; and *Competing Nationalisms: The Sacred and Political Life of Jagat Narain Lal* by Rajshree Chandra. Our scholarly contributions were complemented by as many as 565 articles and opinion pieces in the mainstream press and non-academic journals, as CPR scholars valiantly sought to infuse evidence and nuance in an increasingly polarised public sphere.

Even as we continued to produce field-defining scholarship, CPR has remained actively engaged

in the everyday life of policymaking in the country, offering technical expertise to resolve complex policy challenges. Our national level policy contributions ranged from engagements with the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Ministry of Rural Development, the NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, amongst others. We also continued to deepen our engagements at the sub-national level through direct ground-level partnerships. The Accountability Initiative for instance, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on strengthening fiscal processes, expenditure optimisation and revenue augmentation. The initiative continued to work with the Government of Meghalaya to support the finance and planning departments. CPR's State Capacity Initiative also worked with governments of Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh to strengthen public sector capabilities and enhance state capacity. The Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) Initiative continues to work closely with the governments of Punjab and Odisha, providing technical support in key areas of land planning, housing and sanitation.

With the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow and the release of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III report, this has

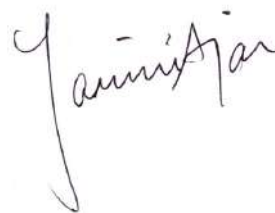
been an important time for climate action. Home to the leading voices on this issue in the country, CPR's Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment played a pivotal role on the global stage, shaping debates on climate change. Navroz K Dubash was Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 13 of the IPCC report (National and sub-national policies and institutions) and co-author of the *Summary for Policymakers*; Lavanya Rajamani was Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 14 (*International Cooperation*) and co-author of the *Summary for Policymakers*; and Parth Bhatia was Contributing Author and Chapter Scientist for Chapter 13. This formidable team has remained at the forefront of debates on climate governance, net-zero, energy transitions and air pollution.

None of this would have been possible without our talented scholars who have stayed true to our fiercely independent spirit and commitment to democratic dialogue. I feel proud to have the privilege of leading this wonderful community of scholars, committed to rigorous and evidence-based research.

I am as always, grateful to the CPR governing board, under the leadership of Dr Meenakshi Gopinath, who have held us to the highest

standards of integrity and whose guidance and commitment to our scholarship has been a source of constant encouragement. Our finance and administration team led by Anup Roy, who ensure that scholars can stay focused on research, unfettered by the daily demands of administration and paperwork. Our communications team led by Hemali Sodhi, who push us to reach new audiences towards greater public engagement. Finally, I would like to thank all of you, our friends, collaborators and funders. This report offers but a glimpse into the variety, scale and rigour of work that we do at CPR, all of which has been made possible because of you. Thank you for your continued engagement and unflinching support. We remain deeply grateful.

With warmest thanks,



**Yamini Aiyar**

President and Chief Executive  
Centre for Policy Research

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# CPR's **CPR's** **Initiatives** Initiatives

## The Accountability Initiative

Works on strengthening transparency and accountability in governance through evidence-based research on state capabilities and factors affecting efficient public services delivery in India. With a vision to enable Responsive Governance, the initiative works on increasing citizen engagement in policymaking and implementation.

**Research areas featuring the initiative's work:** Economy; Education; Governance, Accountability and State Capacity; Health and Nutrition



## The India Infrastructures and Ecologies Program

seeks to advance multidisciplinary and applied research in the political ecology of large infrastructure projects. The initiative conducts research at the intersections of infrastructure development, natural resource management and legal governance frameworks at transnational, national and state levels.

**Research areas featuring the initiative's work:** Environmental Law and Justice

## The Initiative on Cities, Economy and Society

engages with the process of urban transition in India, tracking its evolution in spatial, economic and social terms. In particular, the initiative focuses on how urbanisation is managed and how it affects people's engagement with the State.

**Research areas featuring the initiative's work:** Urbanisation

## The Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment

aims to stimulate an informed debate on the laws, policies and institutions shaping climate, energy and environmental governance in India. It focuses on climate policy and institutions; the political economy of electricity in India; low-carbon energy demand patterns in urban areas; and air quality governance.

**Research areas featuring the initiative's work:** Air Pollution; Climate Change; Environmental Law and Justice; Energy and Electricity

## The Land Rights Initiative

aims to build systematic knowledge on land rights issues in the country. The initiative's research focuses on the constitutional right to property, land acquisition, land rights in the Scheduled Areas and mapping land legislation in India.

**Research areas featuring the initiative's work:** Land Rights; Water



## The Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) Initiative

aims to better understand 'governance scale' in Indian cities in tandem with 'sector specific socio-economic scales'. It's research focuses on two key areas- land, housing and planning and water and sanitation.

**Research areas featuring the initiative's work:** Land Rights; Sanitation; Urbanisation; Water





## The State Capacity Initiative

is an interdisciplinary research and practice program focused on addressing the challenges of the 21st-century Indian state. It focuses on the changing roles of the Indian state; institutional design, implementation and administrative capacity; the challenges of regulatory and fiscal capacity; and the changing relations between society, politics and state capacity in India.

### Research areas featuring the initiative's

**work:** Agriculture; Economy; Education; Governance, Accountability and State Capacity; Indian Politics; Sanitation; Water



## The Jobs Initiative

features research aimed at finding solutions to employment challenges related to informality, technology's restructuring of labour markets, migration and differentiated impacts of these forces based on gender and age. A partnership with The JustJobs Network, this initiative provides insights on how government policies can create jobs and support workers.

### Research areas featuring the initiative's

**work:** Economy

## The Politics Initiative

provides high quality research to understand the rapid changes in India's political economy landscape. It studies the changing competitive political party system; political and legislative institutions; ideological worldview and preferences of political actors; electoral behavior; and incentive structures and choices that shape policy decisions.

### Research areas featuring the initiative's

**work:** Economy; Indian Politics; Urbanisation

## The Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies and Development Studies (TREADS)

initiative is a cluster of research projects pursuing research on transboundary river water governance issues. The initiative also engages with research themes of federalism and politics of infrastructure development such as dams, roads and smart cities.

### Research areas featuring the initiative's

**work:** Water



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# Agriculture



Image Source: teriin.org

*Using a multidisciplinary lens, CPR scholars have sought to understand the dynamics of India's rural economy with a specific focus on agriculture. Against the backdrop of the debate on farm laws in India, this year, our work focused on bringing empirical evidence to the discourse on the functioning and challenges of agriculture markets.*

Shoumitro Chatterjee and Mekhala Krishnamurthy of CPR's State Capacity Initiative co-authored an article titled, *Farm Laws Versus Field Realities: Understanding India's Agricultural Markets* published in the *Sikh Research Journal*. The paper evaluated the actual state of agricultural markets and existing agricultural market regulation in India and discussed the need for several kinds of public investment and attention to the broader economic context within which agricultural marketing reforms occur.

Krishnamurthy along with Barbara Harris-White published an article titled, *Agro-Food Systems and Public Policy for Food and Agricultural Markets: A Discussion*, in the *Economic and Political Weekly*. The article discussed how agricultural

markets are integrated in food systems and the contradictory principles at work in policies for their regulation. She also authored an essay for *Seminar's* annual issue for 2021 titled, *Indian Agriculture and its Contradictions*. In this essay, she analysed the deep structural conditions and relationships that give rise to the predicaments that agriculture in India confronts today and the dilemmas that must be addressed going forward.

Additionally, Chatterjee authored an article titled, *Why Are Indian Farmers Protesting the Liberalization of Indian Agriculture?* published in *Agricultural and Resource Economics Update*. The article analysed reasons behind the farmers' agitation.

## Select Public Engagements

- Mekhala Krishnamurthy was invited to give a talk in the *Mapping Sustainable Agriculture series on Agricultural Market Diversity and Integration: Implications for Policy*.
- Harish Damodaran and Krishnamurthy were panelists at a public webinar on *Indian Agriculture After the Revolt* hosted by the Center for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University.
- Krishnamurthy was the Session Chair/Rapporteur for the thematic session on *Agricultural Reforms and Farmers' Protests at the 81st Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics* held at Sri Ma Vaishno Devi University, Katra, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Krishnamurthy was invited to *The Conversation Series* at the Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University to reflect on *The Framing of Farming: An Interdisciplinary Exploration into Agriculture, Farmers, Markets and Reforms*.



➔ Webinar on Indian Agriculture After the Revolt

Webinar on The Framing of Farming: An Interdisciplinary Exploration into Agriculture, Farmers, Markets and Reforms



Mapping Sustainable Agriculture series on Agricultural Market Diversity and Integration: Implications for Policy.

# Air Pollution



Image Source: firstaidforlife.org.uk

*Five years ago, CPR faculty launched a new research program, following a series of seminars titled, *Clearing the Air*, to promote sustained and informed public discourse around the data, impacts, sources and policy challenges involved in clearing India's air. This year, the research program's work focussed on understanding the health impact of pollution, identifying appropriate cross-sectoral strategies for mitigation and constructively engaging with the governments' efforts to reduce pollution.*

Bhargav Krishna of CPR's Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE) co-authored an article titled, *The Bad Science Choking India* in *The India Forum* alongwith experts from AIIMS Delhi, IIT Delhi and others. The article argued that there is a fundamental need to embed science in air quality policymaking in India.

ICEE's Santosh Harish authored an article in *Economic and Political Weekly* titled, *Air Quality Management in India at the Crossroads*. The article called

for a "regulation-plus" approach to air pollution in India and highlighted gaps in institutional capacity that threaten progress. Harish also authored a paper titled, *Renewing India's Air Quality Management Strategy in the Shadow of COVID-19*. The paper provided an overview of the current state of knowledge and the governance framework on air quality management in India. In another article titled, *Multi-criteria decision approaches for prioritizing air-quality-management policies*, Harish outlined a multi-criteria framework

for air quality management in India and discussed opportunities to apply this in the country's National Clean Air Program.

Shibani Ghosh, Sharon Mathew and Harish co-authored a policy brief titled, *The CAQM Act 2021: An Overview*. The brief provided an overview of the new CAQM Act 2021, its strengths and limitations, and the path ahead for enabling airshed level governance in the rest of the country.

## Policy Engagements

- As part of a public consultation process, CPR researchers submitted comments to guide the working of the recently constituted Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM). Shibani Ghosh spoke at a webinar organised by the Clean Air Collective to help the advocacy community understand the CAQM Act. CPR was also invited to government consultations on the CAQM and the National Clean Air Program.
- Bhargav Krishna spoke on air quality governance in an orientation programme for thirty new environmental engineers of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and twenty two Green Delhi Fellows assisting the Delhi Environment Department.

## Select Public Engagements

- CPR's Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE) organised a three-part webinar series on the political narrative on air quality management, strengthening the ongoing review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and strategically implementing regulatory reforms. The discussions were informed by the team's recent writing on the issues.



Roundtable on Strengthening India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)



Webinar on Reforming air quality governance in India – thinking strategically

# Climate Change



Image Source: theconversation.com

*CPR faculty have long been at the forefront of global and domestic debates on climate change. Home to some of India's leading voices on climate change, this year's highlights were the release of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, with several CPR researchers as lead authors, an important research paper on climate governance and crucial interventions at the Glasgow COP26.*

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Working Group III report, *Mitigation of Climate Change*, in 2022. Three researchers from CPR's Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE) were among 278 IPCC authors from 65 countries: Navroz K Dubash was Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 13 (*National and sub-national policies and institutions*) and co-author of the Summary for Policymakers; Lavanya Rajamani was Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 14 (*International Cooperation*) and co-author of the *Summary for Policymakers*; and Parth Bhatia was Contributing Author and Chapter Scientist for Chapter 13.

According to the report, while emissions in the last decade were the highest in human history, both development and emission reductions efforts can be realised by shifting development pathways. Dubash also collaborated with international climate, development, and energy modeling scholars and published articles in leading journals, including *Nature Climate Change*, *Climatic Change*, and *Climate Policy*.

Dubash and Aditya Valiathan Pillai also led agenda-setting work on climate institutions globally, drawing on 8 country studies, and leading to an article in *Science*.

A study of the evolution of Indian institutions over three decades by Pillai and Dubash led to two policy briefs laying out a new approach to Indian climate governance, titled, *Building a Climate-Ready Indian State: Institutions and Governance for Transformative Low-Carbon Development* and *Unlocking Climate Action in Indian Federalism* by Dubash, Pillai and Bhatia. The briefs shed light on how the roles and capacities of the Centre and states, and Indian federalism, should be reimagined in the age of the climate crisis. These arguments were fleshed out in detail in a publication titled, *Compensatory climate governance in Indian federalism*, by Pillai and Dubash, which presented a synthetic account of the constant forces shaping climate governance in India's federal architecture.

These interventions have led to a new area of work on climate adaptation that aims to identify and communicate governance solutions to India's adaptation challenges. Pillai published work on India's coastal erosion problems; Pillai, Mandakini Chandra and Sharon Mathew published commentary on the IPCC's adaptation report.

CPR is developing a new area of research work around climate legislation, and what it could look like in the Indian context. Anirudh Sridhar and Dubash organised a two-part webinar series with public policy scholars and legal experts to discuss the foundational principles, features, and forms of climate laws. The discussion was informed by two CPR draft discussion notes on the subject.

## Policy Engagements

- CPR engaged the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on approaches to producing a Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy. In addition, Navroz K Dubash was a member of the UNEP GAP report's advisory committee, and was involved in multiple Track 2 dialogues between India and the US, European Union and China.

## Select Public Engagements

- Navroz K Dubash informed the global discussion on the findings of the IPCC Working Group III report by speaking at various events including those hosted by South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission, the

National University of Singapore, Teachers Against the Climate Crisis in India and CPR. Dubash also wrote opinion pieces, and participated in podcasts and interviews with *Carbon Brief*, *Climate Home News*, *The Third Pole*, *Hindustan Times*, *Times of India*, *Indian Express*, *NDTV*, and several Hindi media outlets.

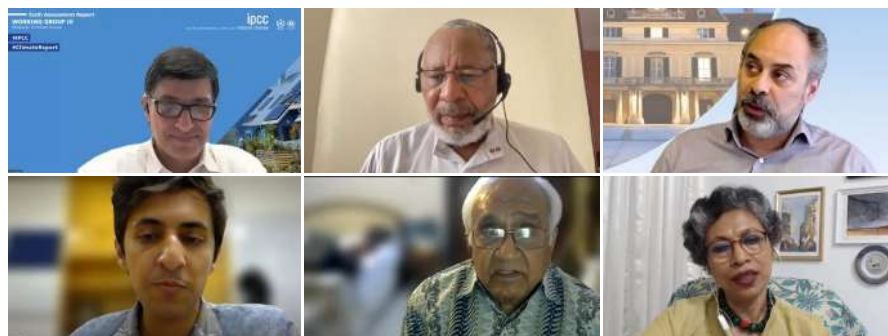
- Dubash presented research from the *Varieties of Climate Governance* project at a COP26 side-event in Glasgow titled, *From pledges to action: governance for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement*. The event was co-hosted by CPR, the London School of Economics and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- Dubash and Aditya Valiathan Pillai presented their work on transforming India's public institutions in the climate age at a CPR-hosted launch event.



Event on *From pledges to action: Governance for the effective implementation of the Paris agreement*



- CPR co-hosted a two-day research workshop on *Sub-national Climate Change Policy in India* with the Harvard Project on Climate Agreements. Pillai presented work on climate federalism in India and hosted a round-table with senior climate bureaucrats in India's states.



➔ Discussion on Unpacking the IPCC WGIII report on Mitigation of Climate Change: A Conversation with IPCC Authors

- Lavanya Rajamani and Dubash were speakers at a CPR-hosted discussion titled, *Unpacking the outcomes of the Glasgow COP*.
- Dubash and Parth Bhatia hosted a panel discussion with IPCC Coordinating Lead Authors, including IPCC Vice-Chair Youba Sokona, Keywan Riahi, and Joyashree Roy titled, *Unpacking the IPCC WGIII report on Mitigation of Climate Change: A Conversation with IPCC Authors*.



➔ Discussion on Unpacking the outcomes of the Glasgow COP

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- Navroz K Dubash and Aditya Valiathan Pillai completed a CPR-led comparative project on climate institutions in collaboration with nine leading political scientists around the world. The eight country cases were published in a special issue of the *Environmental Politics*, along with an introduction by Dubash and an India-focused article co-authored by Pillai and Dubash. This work was discussed at a side-event at COP26 hosted by CPR, LSE and

the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as in presentations at Harvard University, Princeton University, and the British High Commission. Insights from the India paper also informed two CPR policy briefs and several opinion articles recommending major reforms to India's climate institutions at the national and sub-national levels.

- Anirudh Sridhar and Dubash, along with experts from LSE and Climate Legal, South Africa co-authored and submitted a joint report to the UNFCCC on key climate governance functions and aspects of climate law.

- Dubash and Aman Srivastava are working towards developing a platform that demystifies and contextualises energy and climate modelling by transparently presenting the capabilities and weaknesses of prominent models, their underlying assumptions and creating a template for inter-model comparison. This work is in collaboration with IIT-Delhi.

# Economy



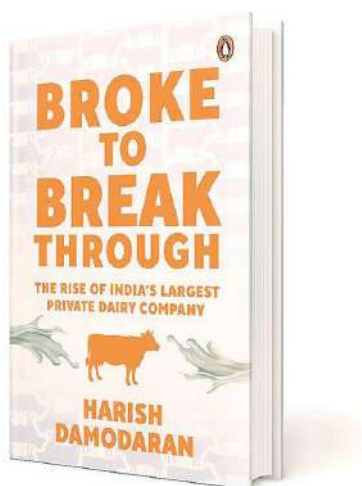
Image Source: reuters.com

*Beyond a specific focus on agriculture, CPR has applied a multisectoral lens through which it has sought to better understand the real economy. Our work has spanned areas of public finance, infrastructure, trade policy, jobs, social policy financing and the design of the welfare state. This year, we placed a spotlight on the rural economy through a new focus on understanding the structure and dynamics of the rural economy. Our work also focussed on strengthening key institutions for regulating the Indian economy, with the launch of a flagship series titled, Know Your Regulator.*

In an effort to reframe the debates on the economy, CPR launched a new series, beginning with a focus on understanding the structure and dynamics of the rural economy. CPR scholars offered new insights into different aspects of the rural economy and their critical interlinkages through a series of ten notes aimed at contributing to building a new imagination for economic recovery and growth in a post-COVID India. Yamini Aiyar, Harish Damodaran and Samridhi Agarwal presented analysis integrating a wide range of data sources on agricultural

resilience and disruption during the pandemic, food security and the public distribution system, rural wages and employment, farming income, changing production and consumption dynamics, food inflation, diverse crop complexes, and India's livestock economy.

CPR's Accountability Initiative continued to analyse the budgetary outlays of the government's flagship welfare schemes through the *Budget Briefs*. Avani Kapur contributed to a brief on *Union Budget 2022-23: A Journey Towards Economic*



*Recovery?* prepared by UNICEF India. In this brief, she provided an overview of budget priorities and allocations for children in India.

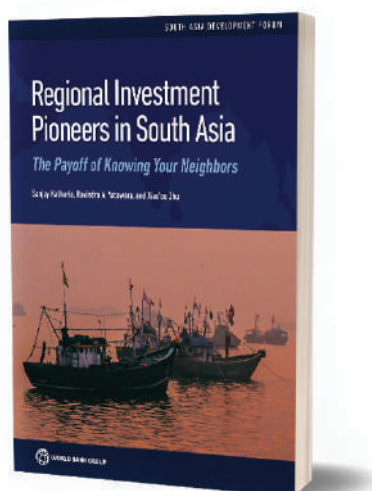
Damodaran authored a book titled, *Broke to Breakthrough: The Rise of India's Largest Private Dairy Company*. Published by Penguin, this book is a business biography of India's largest dairy products company – Hatsun Agro – and its founder RG Chandramogan.

The Jobs Initiative at CPR, in partnership with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Pakistan and the Centre for Poverty Analysis in Sri Lanka, started a new project titled, *Small Businesses, Big Impacts: Covid, Small and Micro Enterprises and Fair Recovery*. The project examines the impact of deepening inequalities as a result of the COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns on small and micro enterprises and the workers attached to them. The team will interview over sixty small and micro enterprises and conduct focus group discussions with forty workers in India as a part

of the primary research for the project. Another project anchored by the initiative titled, *Ecosystems of Engagement: Digital Platforms and Women's Work in India and Sri Lanka* continued its participation in the Women, Work, and the Gig Economy (WWGE) consortium coordinated by the JustJobs Network (JJN), as part of the Future of Work in the Global South (FoWiGS) initiative. This initiative studies how digital platforms can enhance women's economic empowerment and build gender-inclusive labour markets in South and Southeast Asia.

Neelanjan Sircar and Deepaboli Chatterji authored an article titled, *Why Is Female Labour Force Participation So Low in India?* published by Sage. The article analysed the reasons for low female labour force participation across approximately 14,000 households in the Indian urban clusters of Dhanbad, Indore, Patna and Varanasi.

Sanjay Kathuria, Ravindra Yatawara and Xiao'ou A Zhu published a new report in the World Bank's



South Asia Development Forum series, entitled, *Regional Investment Pioneers in South Asia: the Payoff of Knowing Your Neighbors*. The report analysed hitherto under-explored barriers to regional investment, and is a complement to the World Bank team's earlier report on intraregional trade in South Asia. Kathuria, TG Srinivasan, and Prachi Agarwal, wrote a working paper titled, *Playing Catch-Up: Looming Trade Questions for India and South Asia*. The paper discussed how India and other South Asian countries can respond to the rapid changes in the global trading environment. Additionally, Kathuria and Nadeem Rizwan wrote a policy brief for the World Bank on *The Enclave Approach Has Outlived Its Usefulness for Bangladesh*. The article shed light to reform the current trade policy stance in Bangladesh.

## Policy Engagements

- Sabina Dewan participated in various engagements with the NITI Aayog, Ministry of Labour, VV Giri Labour Institute and other government, employer and workers' organisations to provide inputs on social security, emerging new forms of work and the future of work, issues related to employment and labour for crafting Vision India@2047, Government of India's vision plan for the 100th year of Independence.

## Select Public Engagements

- CPR's State Capacity Initiative organised a new series titled, *Know Your Regulator* in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR). This series consisted of conversations with chairpersons, current and former, of Indian statutory regulatory authorities, covering organisational design, purpose and sector challenges of regulation. The series was launched with an inaugural conversation with the chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), in his capacity as chairperson FOIR. Subsequent conversations included chairpersons of the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Punjab, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), the Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA).

- Sanjay Kathuria moderated a session on *Celebrating Every Woman* at the TalentNomics India conference on *Universe to Equiverse: Start the Ripple*. The conference focused on the criticality women's economic inclusion. He also made the opening presentation at a USAID- SANEM Conference on *Bay of Bengal Connectivity*, on *Global Trends and Bay of Bengal Integration*.

- Kathuria presented the findings of the World Bank report on



▼  
The Know Your Regulator series

*Regional Investment Pioneers in South Asia: the Payoff of Knowing Your Neighbours*, at the *One South Asia Conversations* workshop on the report. Speakers included policymakers and practitioners from South Asian countries and the World Bank Group's senior management team on the region.

- Sabina Dewan spoke at a panel discussion on *India Employability Report* organised by TeamLease. She also moderated a panel for the BRICS Academic Forum organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) on *Building a post-pandemic workforce: An agenda for jobs*.

- Dewan spoke on *Building Education and Skills in a Time of*

*Demographic Change* at a discussion organised by the JustJobs Network. She also moderated a session on *Defining Informality in a Continuously Changing Labour Market: Future of Work in the Global South* organised by the JustJobs Network in partnership with the Center for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), Argentina. Partha Mukhopadhyay was a panellist in this discussion.

- Dewan participated in a narrative-building workshop of the Future of Work in the Global South, a network of think tanks working on the issue. The workshop was organised by the International Development Research Centre, Canada, JustJobs Network and CIPPEC.

# Education



Image Source: aif.org

*CPR's work on education focused primarily on school education documenting and contributing to the debates on education reform. Our body of work this year includes a detailed analysis of reform dynamics in government school systems, the role of regulation and of citizens in monitoring and holding the government system accountable.*

Yamini Aiyar along with Gokulnath Govindan of CPR's State Capacity Initiative, Vincy Davis and Taanya Kapoor of CPR's Accountability Initiative co-authored a publication titled, *Rewriting the Grammar of the Education System: Delhi's Education Reform (A Tale of Creative Resistance and Creative Disruption)*, published by *The Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme*. The publication illuminated the multifaceted challenges of introducing change and transition in low-capacity settings and documented the process of implementing an education reform in Delhi.

Kiran Bhatta along with Avani Kapur and Mridusmita Bordoloi of CPR's Accountability Initiative contributed to the annual *Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM)*

by UNESCO on the role of the non-state in school education.

Bhatta also authored a report titled, *Open Government in Education: Learning from Social Audits in India*. The report studied the first social audit of education undertaken in India, under the aegis of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

## Policy Engagements

- Priyadarshini Singh of CPR's State Capacity Initiative and Yamini Aiyar co-authored a note on strengthening administrative architecture for school education for the Chhattisgarh Government.

# Environmental Law and Justice

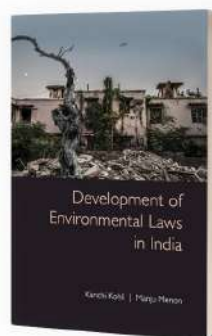


Image Source: medium.com

*CPR has been committed to fostering an evidence-based discussion on the environment. In particular, CPR scholars have worked at the intersections of environmental law and practice. This year, CPR scholars produced important books that make a definitive contribution towards scholarship on the trajectory of environmental law in India.*

Kanchi Kohli and Manju Menon of CPR's India Infrastructures and Ecologies Program co-authored the book titled, *Development of Environment Laws in India*, published by Cambridge University Press. The book highlighted the dynamic nature of environmental law-making in India between the judiciary, the executive and the parliament.

Shibani Ghosh of CPR's Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment



(ICEE) authored a book chapter titled, *Climate Litigation in India*, in *Comparative Climate Change Litigation: Beyond the Usual Suspects* edited by Francesco Sindico and Makane Moise Mbengue. She explored how Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani courts engaged with principles of international environmental law in a chapter for *The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law: Second Edition* edited by Lavanya Rajamani and Jacqueline Peel.

Philippe Cullet authored a chapter titled, *Common but Differentiated Responsibilities*, in the book, *Research Handbook on International Environmental Law* edited by Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Marcel Brus and Panos Merkouris. He also authored a chapter titled, *Differentiation*, in the *Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law* edited by Lavanya Rajamani and Jacqueline Peel. Further, Cullet authored a paper titled, *Confronting Inequality Beyond Sustainable Development – The Case for Eco-human Rights and Differentiation*, published in the *Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law*. The paper argued for moving towards forms of differentiation that better reflect inequality in environmental and social terms.

Menon and Kohli co-authored a paper titled, *The Judicial Fix for Forest Loss: The Godavarman Case and the Financialization of India's Forests*, in the peer-reviewed *Journal of South Asian Development*. The paper analysed judicial decisions of the Supreme Court from 1996 to 2006 that transformed the political ecology of forests in India. They published another paper titled, *Narratives of Natural Resource Corruption and Environmental Regulatory Reforms in India*, in the *Economic and Political Weekly's Review of Environment and Development*. The paper analysed the shifting discourses on the purposes, objectives, and forms of India's environment regulations within India's political and economic context.

Mahabaleshwar Hedge along with research faculty at the University of Winnipeg co-authored a paper titled, *Environmental clearance conditions in impact assessment in India: moving beyond greenwash*, published in the journal *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*. The paper examined the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and its effectiveness in addressing the impacts of a national highway project along the Karnataka coast.

## Policy Engagements

- The Environment Justice Program at CPR submitted detailed comments on the Draft Fly Ash Notification 2021 put out for public comments by the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change. The comments emphasised the need to reassess the approach, design and content of the fly ash related regulations. The submission drew from case study documentation in Odisha and Chhattisgarh and a policy

brief titled, *Fly Ash Management in India: A Critique of existing and proposed framework*, published by Vidya Viswanathan, Debayan Gupta, Bipasha Paul, Kanchi Kohli and Manju Menon.

## Select Public Engagements

- Manju Menon of CPR's India Infrastructures and Ecologies Program engaged with residents, civil society organisations and state institutions to understand and analyse the history of land use regulations and claims of land ownership of Khori Gaon, an informal settlement on the Delhi-Haryana border. Menon along with urban and legal researchers authored a series of articles to detangle the land and forest related issues involved in this case. She was also a panelist on a webinar hosted by the National Alliance of People's Movements on these evictions and its impact on the Right to Life of the people of Khori Gaon.



Event on Khori Gaon Evictions



Event on Futures Lab: Looking at the Law - Window of Opportunity

Event on Experience of grassroots environmental justice around the world



- Kanchi Kohli analysed and presented ongoing research and analyses related to laws and policies on forest and biodiversity conservation, legal amendments to these laws and their implications for Adivasi and other forest dependent communities, ecologies and development projects. These presentations were made

through public lectures and talks at civil society and academic forums, through media publications and interviews.

- CPR researchers participated in international panels on legal empowerment and grassroots environmental justice. Kohli spoke at *Future Labs: COP26 - Looking at the Law: A window of*

*opportunity* and Vidya Viswanathan shared the Environmental Justice Program's learnings in the panel on *Experience of grassroots environmental justice around the world* at the *7th Annual UMD Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Symposium* organised by the School of Public Health, University of Maryland.



# Energy and Electricity



Image Source: reuters.com

*India is in the unique position of having to build growth strategies in a warming world. As a growing economy, India's energy needs will expand manifold over the next decade. The energy choices India makes today will lock us on to particular pathways that will also shape our environmental trajectory in the future. The challenge for India is to identify appropriate energy transition paths that are both sustainable as well as responsive to our economic needs. CPR's experts on energy and electricity have long focused on this question. This year too, India's energy transitions and power sector reform challenges were in focus.*

## Policy Engagements

- Navroz K Dubash, Ashwini K Swain, Parth Bhatia, Sarada Das, and Abhinav Sharma of CPR's Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE) submitted comments on the Draft National Electricity Policy. Swain also submitted comments on the budget proposal for electricity reforms.

## Select Public Engagements

- The Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE) at CPR organised the *India Energy Transition Dialogues* – an eight-part webinar series covering different aspects of India's transition to renewable energy. Each webinar

### The India Energy Transition Dialogues



featured the work of a different research organisation, including Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, Prayas (Energy Group), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, Vasudha Foundation, the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy, LBNL and the World Resources Institute – India.

- CPR, in collaboration with Prayas (Energy Group) and WRI-India, has started a multi-year, trans-sectoral initiative to assess energy transition preparedness and progress in Indian states – Energy Transition Preparedness Initiative (ETPI), a state-level framework to assess plans, actions, and governance processes

towards an energy transition. ETPI aims to build evidence around critical governance aspects of the transition as a necessary complement to the techno-economic discourse.

# Governance, Accountability and State Capacity



Image Source: thewire.in

*The capacity constraints of the Indian state have long been its Achilles heel. How do we build capacity to ensure it responds to 21st-century challenges – like climate, regulation, technology – while completing the unfinished task of governance of the 20th-century, such as providing basic public services like health and education? How do we ensure the government is responsive to citizens' needs and democracy is deepened by creating spaces for citizens to hold the state accountable? These are some of the questions that CPR's work on governance, accountability and state capacity has focused on. This year, our work on these issues took us in close partnership with state governments of Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.*

The 14th volume of Accountability Initiative's flagship publication — the *Budget Briefs* — was published this year. These contained the status and progress of ten major Centrally Sponsored Schemes and prominently featured the pandemic's impact on financing for social welfare programmes and the union government's mitigation measures.

Mridusmita Bordoloi, Mohammad Hamza Farooqui and Avani Kapur of Accountability Initiative authored a brief titled, *Union Government Financing for Child Protection through Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme*. The brief studied the status of implementation of the CPS scheme prior to the pandemic with a focus on the possible impact of COVID-19 on child protection and welfare.

Kapur contributed to a brief on *Union Budget 2022-23: A Journey Towards Economic Recovery?* prepared by UNICEF India. The brief provided an overview of budget priorities and allocations for children in India. Additionally, Dyuti Saunik, Kapur, Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Jessica Mayberry authored a journal article titled, *State-Society Synergy at COVID-19's Invisible Front Lines*, published in the *Economic and Political Weekly*. The paper was a methodical inquiry into the potential "synergy" between local government officials and societal actors during the pandemic. It included the experiences of government frontline workers from Accountability Initiative's *Inside Districts series*, and separate interviews of citizen journalists conducted by Video Volunteers.

CPR's State Capacity Initiative continued to deepen its research focus on the people of the Indian state, spanning the higher civil services, state civil servants, field administrators, and frontline functionaries. Karnamadakala Rahul Sharma, Aditya Unnikrishnan, Sonakshi Sharma, Archana Sivasubramanian and Akila Ranganathan published a working paper series on *Debates on Administrative Reform in India*. The first set of papers focused on five critical themes given their relevance to the current reform discourse: 1. Examinations and Recruitment; 2. Training and Capacity Building; 3. Performance Management; 4. Expertise; and 5. Transfers.

Mekhala Krishnamurthy and Karnamadakala Rahul Sharma co-authored a chapter on *Valuing Evaluation: Building Capacities for Evaluative Thinking and Learning in Indian States* for a compendium of

essays brought out by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog on *M&E @ 70: Strengthening India's Evidence Systems for Accelerated Reforms and Inclusive Growth*. The chapter discussed the values and norms that underpin current approaches to evaluation within government programs and shed light on how these can be shifted towards evaluative thinking and learning.

As part of the State Capacity Initiative's work on regulatory design and capacity, Archana Sivasubramanian authored a working paper titled, *Regulating Algorithms in India: Key Findings and Recommendations*. The paper decoded the nature of India's digital economy, consolidated scholarly examinations on algorithmic harms, and examined the suitability of India's competition landscape to regulate its digital economy.

Contributing to an understanding of the relationship between taxation, philanthropy and state capacity, Priyadarshini Singh co-authored a chapter in the *Routledge Handbook of Philanthropy and Taxation* titled, *Analysing the role of tax incentives for donations to non-profit organisations in India*. The chapter is based on a study of tax incentives for philanthropy across twelve countries including India.

## Policy Engagements

■ CPR's Accountability Initiative signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. As part of

this, the initiative will study the ministry's existing management information systems and conduct data analysis on local-level data collected by the ministry to bolster data-led development of rural areas.

- The Accountability Initiative signed another MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on strengthening fiscal processes, expenditure optimisation and revenue augmentation.
- In addition, the initiative continued to work with the Government of Meghalaya as part of a three-year MoU to support the finance and planning departments. This year, the initiative's work included supporting the state in preparation of gender and youth budget statements and strengthening their financial management systems.
- Avani Kapur of the Accountability Initiative was invited to be an external expert to review the NITI Aayog DMEO's *Thematic Report: Accountability and Transparency in Governance*.
- Officials at the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI) were trained by Mridusmita Bordoloi and Neeha Jacob on *Management and Analysis of Administrative Data*. Avani Kapur and Rajjika Seth conducted a session titled, *Accounting for Accountability or Accountability for Accounting* as part of this training.
- Bordoloi led another session on *Fund-flows to North-Eastern States through Central Schemes* as part of a policy workshop

organised by PRS Legislative Research for Members of the Legislative Assembly from the north-eastern states of India.

- In July 2021, CPR's State Capacity Initiative signed an MoU with the Government of Meghalaya's State Capacity Enhancement Project as a knowledge partner on adaptive leadership and systemic change.
- In October 2021, the Government of Meghalaya in partnership with CPR launched the Meghalaya State Capability Forum, a new initiative for building state capability through bringing together senior state leadership, public officials, thought leaders, practitioners and civil society groups to engage in dialogue on the most important challenges and opportunities facing the state. The first event was attended by the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Hon'ble Shri Conrad Sangma and state ministers and featured Lant Pritchett on the key role of organisational purpose in building state capability.
- The State Capacity Initiative was invited to work in close partnership with the Meghalaya Admin-

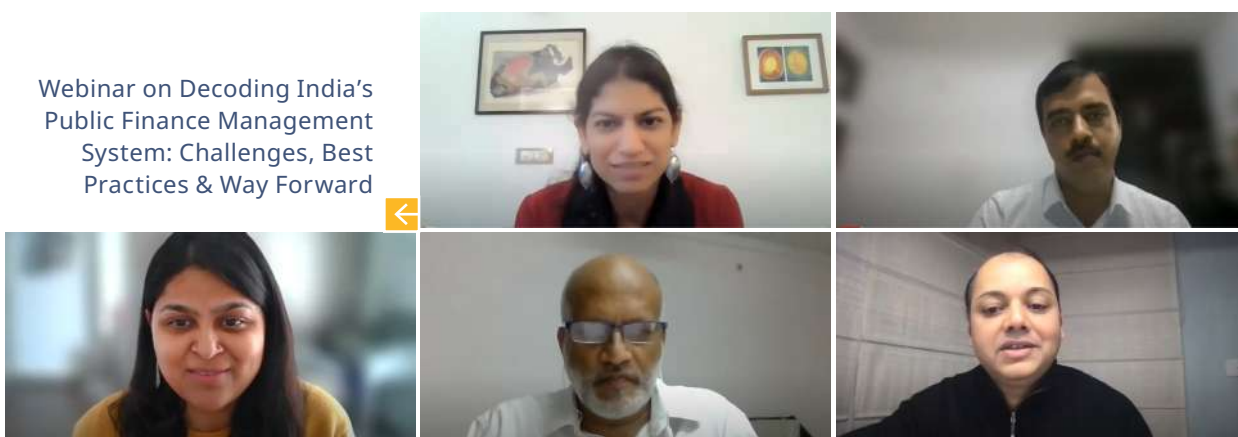
istrative Training Institute (MATI) to run two major courses as part of a new training program for the 2021 batch of the Meghalaya Civil Service (MCS). Both courses, which were run in August and November 2021, respectively *Essential Knowledge for Field Administrators and Values and Skills for the 21st Century Civil Servant* provided new perspectives and approaches to administrative training and brought some of the best global and national resource persons and materials to MATI, Shillong. The course design, pedagogy, and delivery were anchored by Mekhala Krishnamurthy, Deepak Sanan and Karnamadakala Rahul Sharma.

- In November 2021, CPR in partnership with eGov Foundation signed an MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh's Grama-Ward Sachivalayam (GSWS) Department. The partnership aims to strengthen public sector capabilities in the architectural design of administrative data systems and in administrative data analysis to address critical inclusion and exclusion errors and improve delivery of high quality, inclusive and transparent public services in the state.

## Select Public Engagements

- CPR's Accountability Initiative and MicroSave Consulting brought together a panel for a discussion titled, *Decoding India's Public Finance Management System: Challenges, Best Practices & Way Forward*. The discussion focused on ensuring the efficiency of spending in the face of strained resources through strengthening fund flow and data management practices.
- Accountability Initiative launched *Mapping Governance*, an interactive, visual and dynamic learning tool that gives a holistic view of how social sector programmes in India are governed from the union government down to the last mile. An eminent panel comprising leaders in the development space and government discussed the challenges of governance, what kind of information is needed in order to create better strategies for government engagement and how a tool like this can support the work of development practitioners.

Webinar on Decoding India's Public Finance Management System: Challenges, Best Practices & Way Forward



- Three separate roundtable discussions comprising government officials, leaders from civil society organisations and academics were hosted to understand how *Mapping Governance* can aid different stakeholders in understanding and engaging with bureaucratic structures.
- Avani Kapur of the Accountability Initiative was selected to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Development Policy and Practice*, Sage Publications. She also joined as a member of the National Council of Ethics, Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI).
- Kapur was invited to speak on India's public finance and budgets on the *Puliyabaazi* podcast.
- Avantika Shrivastava of the Accountability Initiative was selected as a participant of the *Swedish Institute Leader Lab 2022*, a program for civil society leaders in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa region who are working for a more just, peaceful and inclusive society.
- Sidharth Santhosh of the Accountability Initiative completed the Young Curator's Fellowship at the *World Innovation Summit for Education 2021* in Qatar, where they curated and hosted parts of the summit that represented youth perspectives on pressing global challenges.
- Mekhala Krishnamurthy of CPR's State Capacity Initiative was nominated to Apolitical's 100 Most Influential Academics in Government for her work on social policy and state capacity. The list highlighted work that has influenced the policymaking process by providing insights into policy problems, contributing innovative ideas and solutions, or adding relevant and informative data. For this, it invited public servants to nominate the academics who are the most influential to the work of government.
- Priyadarshini Singh of the State Capacity Initiative was featured on the *All Indians Matter* podcast on where she discussed tax incentives for philanthropic giving.
- capsules on decentralisation and understanding the Indian bureaucracy were taught to students of FLAME University.
- The Accountability Initiative piloted a learning course meant for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) with Ajeevika Bureau, Rajasthan, and the Centre for Catalysing Change, Bihar. The course aims to strengthen the knowledge of PRI members on local governance systems.
- The Accountability Initiative's learning course meant for students and community-based leaders – *Hum Aur Humaari Sarkaar* – was taken by students of three state-based universities. These were: the Udaipur School of Social Work; Department of Sociology, University of Rajasthan; and Magadh University in Bihar.
- The Platform to Understand, Learn, Share and Exchange (PULSE) for Development is a community of practice anchored by the Accountability Initiative at CPR. The initiative organised semi-formal discussions on a range of welfare-oriented challenges, and brought together government officials and civil society organisations to learn from each other and exchange best practices.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- The Accountability Initiative organised a version of the *Understanding State Capabilities* course for the International Innovation Corps (IIC) Fellows, University of Chicago. A separate session was held for Mantra4Change. The initiative was also invited to teach the course at the Indian School of Development Management for the fifth consecutive year.
- In another avatar of the Understanding State Capabilities course two

# Health and Nutrition



Image Source: unicef.org

*CPR has focussed on research and policy engagement aimed at strengthening health systems in India. This resulted in key interventions made by CPR faculty amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. More recently, CPR scholars have begun to focus on social determinants of health with a particular emphasis on nutrition. This work is largely led by the Accountability Initiative and brings a governance and systems lens to ongoing policy debates on nutrition.*

Ritwik Shukla and Avani Kapur of CPR's Accountability Initiative authored a journal article titled, *Methods and Lessons From Costing a Large mHealth Intervention at Scale in India*, published in *Frontiers in Public Health*. The article presented a detailed protocol on determining the costs of a large national mHealth intervention in India and captured lessons for policymakers on how to ensure financial planning for scaling such interventions. They also authored a journal article titled, *Public Finance Management and Data Availability for Nutrition Financing in India*, published in *BMJ Global Health*. The paper sought to determine whether the current Public Finance Management system in India allowed for capturing required nutrition data.

Avi Saini, Shukla, William Joe and Kapur authored a journal article titled, *Improving Nutrition Budgeting in Health Sector Plans: Evidence from India's Anaemia Control Strategy*, published in *Wiley*. It presented a new method developed by the authors to track nutrition budgets within health sector plans.

Jishnu Das wrote a working paper titled, *Lessons from the Covid Care Centers in West*

*Bengal*. The paper described the project of establishing COVID-19 Care Centers in rural West Bengal, summarised their performance and discussed the challenges faced during the project.

## Select Public Engagements

- Avani Kapur of the Accountability Initiative was a panelist in a discussion on *Community Health Workers* hosted by Oxford Policy Management and Women in Global Health India.
- Kapur spoke on *The Hindu's* podcast on the affordability of healthcare and what the Union budget 2022 held for health.
- Arkaja Singh of CPR's State Capacity Initiative made a presentation at the annual conference of the National Law School of India Review in which she spoke about the prospects and challenges of formulating healthcare as a socio-economic right.

# Indian Politics



Image Source: telegraphindia.com

*Policy choices are deeply political choices. CPR's work on policy has long traversed the arena of the political economy with a view to better understand the underlying political economy constraints that shape policymaking in India. This year, our scholars continued to engage with these questions through the production of important books, scholarly journals and studying voter behavior.*

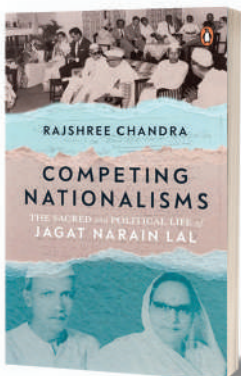
Rajshree Chandra authored a book titled, *Competing Nationalisms: The Sacred and Political Life of Jagat Narain Lal*, published by Penguin. The book traced the life of Jagat Narain Lal, an influential member of the freedom movement in Bihar and presents a personal biography of Indian nationalism.

Priyadarshini Singh of CPR's State Capacity Initiative published an article with *Nations and Nationalism* journal titled, *India and its nationhood: Grassroots Nationhood as Conceptual Frames*. In this article, she examined the meanings of the idea of nation to ordinary Indians and argued that nationhood is best conceptualised as a set of inter-related conceptual frames, of territory, community and political leadership,

which are defined by both cultural and civic attributes.

An edited volume by Sudha Pai, D Shyam Babu and Rahul Verma of CPR's Politics Initiative titled, *Dalits in the New Millennium* was finalised during the year. The publication is currently under production with *Cambridge University Press*, New Delhi.

Verma along with Asim Ali published a paper in the *Economic and Political Weekly* titled, *The Central Force Behind India's Fourth Party System*. They argued that a long-term political realignment was perhaps made inevitable by the ideological shift along with the structural make-





up of the Indian society. Ankita Barthwal and Ali published a paper titled, *Bypassing the Patronage Trap: Evidence from Delhi Assembly Election 2020*. In this paper, they showed how programmatic policies of welfare by the Aam Aadmi Party can help parties avoid targeted patronage networks. Additionally, The Politics Initiative published two working papers this year. The papers presented an analysis of parliamentary debates and questions and state-level parties in India respectively.

Neelanjan Sircar authored an article titled, *Corporate-controlled capitalism in India*, published in *Seminar*. The piece chronicled the extraordinary level of economic centralisation and corporate consolidation taking place in India.

The Politics Initiative at CPR in collaboration with YouGov and Mint conducted the sixth and seventh rounds of the CPR-Mint-YouGov Millennial Survey in 20-21.

The initiative is expanding its research activities. It will conduct a survey with experts of state politics to develop a deeper understanding of the role and function of political parties in the Indian context. Scholars are also analysing election-related panchayat laws across states in India and the role and responsibilities of panchayat secretaries, to shed light on the various facets of panchayat elections. Further, the initiative along with C-Voter, is working on a three-country survey in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh to mark the 75th year of the partition.

## Select Public Engagements

- The Politics Initiative at CPR organised a panel discussion on *Elections amidst a Pandemic: Decoding Verdict of Assembly Polls 2021*. Scholars at the event presented a data driven analysis of the verdict in five states – Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- Two panel discussions on *Decoding the Assembly Elections 2022 Results* were organised to analyse the results of elections in Punjab, Uttrakhand, Goa, Manipur and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Politics Initiative organised discussions on the following books this year- *Makers of Modern Dalit History* by Sudarshan Ramabadrnan and Guru Prakash Paswan; *Republic of Hindutva* by



Discussion on Elections amidst a Pandemic: Decoding Verdict of Assembly Polls 2021



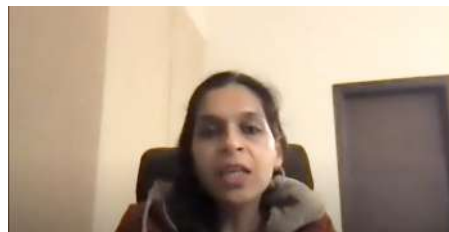
Discussion on The Politics of Crime in Uttar Pradesh



➔ Discussion on Makers of Modern Dalit History



Discussion on Republic of Hindutva ←



➔ Discussion on Political Consultants and Datafication of India's Election Campaigns

Badri Narayan; and *What Millennials Want: Decoding the World's Largest Generation* by Vivan Marwaha.

- A panel discussion titled, *Political Consultants and Datafication of India's Election Campaigns* was organised. The panel consisted

of Amogh Dhar Sharma, Shivam Shankar Singh, Ruchi Gupta and Neelanjan Sircar.

- A discussion on *The Politics of Crime in Uttar Pradesh* with Anurabh Saikia, Beatrice Jauregui, Laurent Gayer and Gilles Verniers was also held by the initiative.

- The State Capacity Initiative at CPR organised a discussion on Ravinder Kaur's book titled, *A Brand New Nation*. The discussion shed light on the concepts of nation and nationalism in post-liberalisation India.

# International Relations and Security



Image Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com

*From nuclear strategy and military history to trans-boundary water sharing and social narratives of India's borderlands, CPR's experts have long explored international relations from both traditional and alternative perspectives. This has been a year of significant disruptions in the global world order- from critical developments in the South Asian region, including the US retreat from Afghanistan to an increasingly aggressive China to the Russia-Ukraine war. CPR experts have been at the forefront of understanding and interpreting these key shifts. We also launched two important conversations- a podcast series with a spotlight on India and China and a lecture series as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations titled, India and the World.*

Nimmi Kurian authored an article titled, *Victorious Outliers: India's Border Regions and the Contested Memory Politics of the Burma Campaign* published in *India Review*. The article looked at British India's Burma campaign of 1941–45 and asks why the decisive battles of Imphal and Kohima appear to be virtually invisible from India's national imagination today. She also authored a policy brief titled, *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Ukraine's Refugee Crisis and the (B)ordering of Europe*. The brief looked at

how institutionalised biases within EU's decision-making process are changing the notion of the border in fundamental ways with enormous consequences for the rights of the vulnerable.

Suman Bery authored an article titled, *India's G20 Challenge*, published in *Seminar*. The article examined the effectiveness of the G20 over the long haul, since the first meeting of the G20 Leaders in Washington in late 2008, and more recently in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gautam Mukhopadhyaya authored an article titled, *Afghanistan: The Taliban Takeover and its Strategic Fallout* published in the journal, *National Security*. The article analysed the impact of the takeover by the Taliban in Afghanistan. He also contributed a chapter titled, *Engaging ASEAN: India's strategic and policy options* to the book, *ASEAN and India-ASEAN Relations* edited by M. Mayilvaganan. The chapter looked at strategic and policy options available for India in East and Southeast Asia to engage ASEAN.

## Select Public Engagements

- Sushant Singh hosted a series on India-China relations as part of *India Speak: The CPR Podcast*. The series deep-dived into the military, historical, socio-cultural aspects of the ties between the two countries and featured leading experts and academics.
- As part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, a special celebration organised by the Government of India to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence, CPR launched a flagship lecture series titled, *India and the World*. Chaired by Shyam Saran, the series brought together distinguished speakers who have a long and deep engagement with India.
- Saran was a lead speaker at several national and international conferences. Additionally, he served as a member of the governing board of the Institute of Chinese Studies, India's



➤ Discussion on India and the World



➤ Discussion on Developments in Myanmar: Implications for India and the Region

- premier think tank for the study of China; Life Trustee at the India International Centre; member of the editorial advisory board of *Business Standard*; and member of the governing board of Welham's School, Dehradun.
- CPR along with Bruegel organised a closed-door discussion on *EU-India relations in a post-COVID world*. The event aimed to stimulate discussion among a diverse, senior group of invited participants knowledgeable about both Indian and European perspectives.
- CPR organised a discussion on *Developments in Myanmar: Implications for India and the Region*. Nimmi Kurian and Gautam Mukhopadhyaya were speakers at the event.
- Kurian was a panelist at the seminar on *Reimagining Border Studies in South Asia*, organised by the South Asian University.
- Kurian was invited to serve on the fellowship committee of the China Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, Centre for China Studies, Ashoka University. Further, she was invited to be a reviewer for the Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships, United States-India Educational Foundation, Fulbright Commission in India.
- Sanjay Kathuria was awarded the 2021-22 Fellowship by the Woodrow Wilson Centre for International Scholars, Washington, D.C., to work on his new book on *The Future of South Asia*. Additionally, he taught a course on South Asia to Ashoka University's Young India Fellowship Class of 2022.

# Land Rights



*CPR's work on land has focused on the intersections of property rights, land administration and urbanisation. This year marked the launch of a first of its kind database titled, Mapping Indian Land Laws.*

Land Rights Initiative (LRI) launched a first of its kind database of land laws in India, *landlawsofindia.org* as part of a project titled, *Mapping Indian Land Laws* (MILL). This website is an interactive, exploratory, online archive of land laws in India and includes officially authenticated copies of all originally enacted central and state laws for a geographically representative sample of eight states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, and Punjab. Led by Namita Wahi, the MILL research team consisted of Aakansha Jain, Ankit Bhatia, Soumya Jha, Sanjana Sethi, Vrinda Bhardwaj, Trisha Pande, Kuldeep Lakwal and Kriti Sharma. The website was designed by Kaustuv DeBiswas. The website was launched through a panel discussion featuring comments from Yamini Aiyar, President and Chief Executive, CPR; Siri Gloppen, Director, Centre on Law & Social Transformation, and Professor of

Politics, University of Bergen; KP Krishnan, IEPF Chair Professor, NCAER; Shilpa Kumar, Partner, Omidyar Network India; Ramesh Sharma, National Coordinator, Ekta Parishad; and Rashmi Katyayan, Land Rights Advocate, High Court of Jharkhand.

Namita Wahi authored a working paper titled, *The Evolution of the Right to Property in India before the Drafting of the Constitution*. The paper traced the intellectual currents and political and social movements that framed the contours of the contentious debates surrounding the adoption of the fundamental right to property and restrictions on this right during the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. She authored another working paper on *The Constituent Assembly Debates on Property: Unravelling the Property Paradox*. It outlined key debates on the inclusion, content and judicial enforcement of the right to property within the Constituent Assembly.

Launch of the Mapping Indian Land Laws database



Trisha Pande and Vrinda Bhardwaj co-authored a policy brief on *Land Rights and The Digital Revolution in India: Potential and Pitfalls*. The brief explored the intersection of land rights and technology by analysing four government schemes, namely, Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA), AgriStack, and JAGA Mission (Odisha). Pande and Bhardwaj also coauthored a blog post on *The Digitisation of Agriculture in India: How AgriStack Infringes Informational Privacy*.

Several of Wahi's papers including *The Evolution of the Right to Property in India before the Drafting of the Constitution*, *The Constituent Assembly Debates on Property: Unravel-*

*ling the Property Paradox* and *The Evolution of the Right to Water in India* were recognised by the Social Science Research Network in several categories.

## Policy Engagements

- Namita Wahi participated in a post-budget video conference titled, *No Citizen Left Behind*, organised by the Prime Minister's Office as part of the India@75 celebrations. At the Conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a series of schemes to bring rural India on par with urban India by March 2024. In the breakout session on *Easing Land Governance through end-to-end Digitization*, organised by

the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Wahi commented on the launch of the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number and the National Generic Document Registration System.

- Wahi and Kaustav DeBiswas advised the NITI Aayog on the Supreme Court's e-courts project.
- Wahi advised parties on the legal requirements of adverse possession under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation in the ongoing legal case pertaining to the constitutional validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, and the National Register for Citizens.
- Wahi advised the Delhi Government with respect to the constitutional invalidity of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amend-

➔ Post-budget conference titled, No Citizen Left Behind organised by the Prime Minister's Office



ment) Act, 2021 with respect to principles of federalism and representative democracy.

- CPR's Scaling City Institution for India (SCI-FI) Initiative, through its Land, Planning and Housing vertical continued to provide implementation and policy support to the Government of Punjab and Government of Odisha in implementing their land titling initiatives namely, BASERA and JAGA Mission, respectively. The initiative supported the development of new liveable habitats and the upgradation of slums in Odisha. Additionally, it supported in piloting the diversion of forest land for providing basic civic and social infrastructure to slum dwellers and in the framing of the regulatory framework to grant land and property rights to slum dwellers in municipal corporation areas.
- The SCI-FI Initiative launched a series of knowledge products as part of its partnership with the Government of Odisha. These products addressed subjects like slum-free planning, the urban wage employment initiative and developing new habitats in the state.

## Select Public Engagements

- CPR's Land Rights Initiative (LRI) co-organised the *Fifth India Land and Development Conference*, which is India's largest platform for researchers, government officials, and civil society groups working on land laws. At the conference, LRI hosted a panel on *Land and the Digital Revolution in India: Problem or Panacea?* The panel featured presentations by Anindita Mukherjee of the SCI-FI Initiative, Trisha Pande, and Vrinda Bhardwaj of LRI and was moderated by Namita Wahi.

- Wahi was a guest speaker at *The Quint's Land of A Billion* podcast on the importance of disseminating and decoding land rights in India. She was also featured in The Takshashila Institution's podcast, *All Things Policy*, to discuss the Mapping Indian Land Laws project.

- Wahi lectured on *The Right to Property in India* and *The Administration of Land Acquisition in India* at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad, National Law University, Jodhpur, the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, and the University of Wisconsin Madison.

- Wahi participated in a National Consultation for Universal Periodic Review organised by the United Nations' Working Group on Human Rights in India.

- Wahi participated in two consultations, the first on *Women's Inheritance Rights Under the Amendment to Hindu Succession Act 1956*, and the second on *Laws Governing Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace*, organised by the World Bank, and the Samāna Centre for Gender, Policy and Law.

- Wahi spoke at a webinar on *Farmers' and Land Rights* organised by EU-India People's Summit.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- Land Rights Initiative (LRI) is part of a four-institution research consortium, Property Rights Research Consortium (PRRC), which also includes the

Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), the National Institute for Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and the National Council for Applied Economic Research's (NCAER) Land Policy Initiative. Wahi has served on the Advisory Committee of NCAER's Land Policy Initiative since 2018. She advised the NCAER research team on the *NCAER Land Records and Services Index (NLRSI) and Prindex India* study being done jointly by NCAER and the Overseas Development Institute. Wahi has also peer reviewed several papers by researchers working in these institutions and served as a discussant on panel discussions involving several other papers.

- LRI is also part of International Partnerships for Excellence in Research and Education (INTPART), a multi-country collaboration to facilitate scholarly exchange between the University of Bergen and institutions in India, Africa, North and South America. As part of this, Wahi lectured on *Land Rights in plural legal context* at the PhD course on *Effects of Lawfare: Courts and Law as battlegrounds for social change* organised by the University of Bergen in collaboration with Law-Transform for the *2021 Bergen Exchanges*. Isha Khurana of the SCI-FI Initiative, Kuldeep Lakwal, and Kriti Sharma of LRI attended the PhD Course. Isha Khurana submitted a paper titled, *Legal Personhood for Mentally Disabled in India* and Kuldeep Lakwal submitted a paper titled, *The Law on Containing the Spread of Epidemic Diseases in India and the Response of the Government – The Need for an Overhaul?* in fulfillment of their requirements for the course.

# Sanitation



*CPR experts have been at the forefront of the debate on sanitation, particularly on designing appropriate sanitation solutions for India's rapid and chaotic urban transition. The focus this year was on partnering with governments and identifying appropriate design solutions for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management.*

Shubhagato Dasgupta of CPR's Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) Initiative along with SR Ramanujam and Yogesh Upadhyaya authored a series of policy briefs titled, *Private Sector Participation in Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM)*. The series summarised characteristics and the gamut of private participation in the collection, conveyance and treatment part of the FSSM sector. Dasgupta, Anindita Mukherjee, Arushi Gupta, Kshitij Jaiswal and Prashant Arya authored a report titled, *Small to Beautiful: Doing FSSM Business in India*. The report laid down a tool for urban local bodies to evaluate their 'Doing Business' score for small scale FSSM businesses engaged in the collection, conveyance, and treatment of faecal sludge. Mukherjee, Dasgupta, Jaiswal and Gupta authored a report titled, *Pump Up: Towards Achieving Financial and Environ-*

*mental Sustainability Among Privately Operated Desludging Businesses in India*. The report aimed to enable the market of desludging services to work better and more efficiently by optimally regularising the informal sector.

Further, Dasgupta, Mukherjee, Neha Agarwal and Hrudanand Mohanty authored a report titled, *Towards District-wide Safely Managed Sanitation: Template for District-level Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Planning*. The report laid down a template for conducting district-wide and cluster-based rural sanitation planning. Dasgupta and Agarwal also authored a chapter in InTech Open's *Environmental Magazine* titled, *Managing Non-Sewered Sanitation for Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 in India*. The chapter reviewed approaches to the governance of on-site sanitation systems.



Aastha Jain and Amaresh Belagal authored a report titled, *Sanitation Situational Assessment Report: Angul*. The report evaluated the existing sanitation situation in the rural areas of Angul district to understand the prevailing gaps towards achieving safely-managed sanitation.

Mukherjee, Pooja Gupta, Jain and Deepti Raj authored a report titled, *Connect – The new entertainment paradigm for the urban poor*. The report dwelled on how over-the-top (OTT) is an emerging media among the urban poor population across cities and has the potential to be used as a tool for implementing strategies of behaviour change communication.

## Policy Engagements

- In September 2021, a Letter of Understanding (LoU) was signed between the departments of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD), Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW), UNICEF and CPR. The initiative aims at strengthening the efforts of H&UD and PR&DW to ensure district-wide faecal sludge and septage management through urban-rural convergence in seven districts of Odisha.

- The Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) Initiative launched a Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Digital Platform in collaboration with the eGovernments Foundation. The platform aims at assisting states and urban local bodies (ULBs) in managing, monitoring, and streamlining FSM service delivery. Version 1 of the platform is currently in its testing phase in Odisha.

- In November 2021, the Dhenkanal Municipality received the award for Best Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) Model at the ISC-FICCI Sanitation Awards 2021. The SCI-FI Initiative in partnership with UNICEF has been supporting this model.
- Leveraging urban FSM infrastructure for managing rural wastewater requires vertical and horizontal cooperation across governance structures. One such model, piloted by Dhenkanal and Angul districts of Odisha with support from the SCI-FI Initiative, has received significant traction from the Ministry of Jal Shakti as well as state governments including Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar, Tamil Nadu.
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the Angul Municipality, Gram Panchayats of Angul District and the Dhenkanal Municipality and neighbouring Gram Panchayats of Dhenkanal District for FSM service delivery. This was facilitated by the SCI-FI Initiative.

## Select Public Engagements

- The Scaling City Institution for India (SCI-FI) Initiative at CPR held two webinars as part of its *South Asia Dialogue Series on SDG 6 by 2030*. Addressing the topics of *Municipal Financing for Sanitation in Small Towns* and *Fostering Robust Local Data Ecosystems for Sustainable Sanitation Service Delivery in Cities of South Asia*, these webinars brought together partners from governments, non-profits and developmental agencies.
- Arkaja Singh of CPR's State Capacity Initiative spoke to citizens groups and activists in Dehradun on *Waste Management in the Pandemic Era* organised by the Nature Science Institute. She was also invited to participate in a *Socio-Legal Water and Sanitation Dialogue* jointly organised by the South Asia Sanitation Labour Network, RRI India and the National Law School of India University, Bangalore.

### ➔ Webinar as part of the South Asia Dialogue Series on SDG 6 by 2030



# Urbanisation



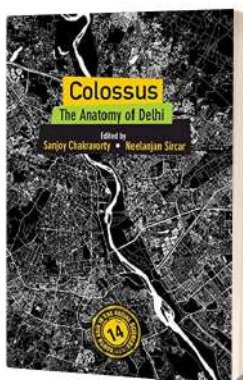
Image Source: csis.org

*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. The highlights of this year included the launch of a book on Delhi that brought together different strands of CPR’s work on understanding the different cities of Delhi and its social and economic transition. In addition, we continued our focus on building an enabling environment for mobility and migration for work.*

Neelanjan Sircar along with Sanjoy Chakravorty co-edited the book, *Colossus: The Anatomy of Delhi*, published by Cambridge University Press. Based on empirical primary data, the book addressed the spatial, economic, social and political complexities of the National Capital Region in a multi-disciplinary way. The book contained several chapters by CPR scholars- Sircar authored a chapter on *Assets and Spatial Inequality*; Partha Mukhopadhyay along with Patrick Heller, Shahana Sheikh and Subhadra Banda contributed a chapter on *Housing and Settlements: Invisible Planning, Visible Exclusions*; and Shamindra Nath Roy

contributed a chapter on *Services: Spatial Inequality of Basic Infrastructure*.

Marie-Hélène Zérah of CPR’s Initiative on Cities, Economy and Society published a chapter titled *Dharuhera and theoretical imaginations from an overlooked town* in the book, *Theorising from the Overlooked City: Generating a research agenda & network on small/secondary cities* edited by Susana Neve Alves and Hanna A. Ruszczyk. The chapter suggested an examination of processes at the micro-scale as a potential methodologic tactic to study overlooked cities and bottom-up urbanisation.



Véronique Dupont along with Shankare Gowda published a chapter titled, *Slum redevelopment, differentiated resettlement, and transit camp: The Kathputli Colony rehabilitation project in Delhi*, in the book *Urban Resettlements in the Global South* edited by Raffael Beier, Amandine Spire and Marie Bridonneau. The chapter highlighted the differentiated nature of the resettlement process of Delhi's Kathputli Colony and examined the impact of the displacement. Dupont and Gowda also co-authored a chapter titled, *Covid-19 responses of displaced slum dwellers in Delhi: Whom to trust and to rely on in times of sanitary and economic crisis?* forthcoming in the book, *Responses of local communities to Covid-19: Exploring issues of trust in context of risks and fear* edited by G Guilheux, KE Kuah and F Lim.

A special issue of *The Economic and Political Weekly's Review of Urban Affairs* on the topic *Pandemic and the City* was co-edited by Partha Mukhopadhyay along with Karen Coelho, Vinay Gidwani and Anant Maringanti. Their lead editorial highlighted the paradigms of social reproduction that aided the marginalised during the pandemic and addressed the regimes of exception practised by the state. The issue also contained a paper by Gaurav Mittal titled, *COVID-19 and the State of Exception Urban Mobility under the Epidemic State*. The paper examined the legal and governance processes that result in the precarity experienced by transport operators and users during the pandemic.

Mukta Naik along with Swastik Harish and Shweta Tambe, co-au-

thored a report titled, *Workers' housing needs and the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes scheme*. Based on primary research conducted in collaboration Working People's Coalition, the report analysed the Government of India's policy on affordable rental housing from the perspective of unorganised workers. Naik, Kanhu Charan Pradhan, Manish, Shamindra Nath Roy, Sharonnee Dasgupta, Asaf Ali Lone, Sunil Kumar Singh and Harshita Sinha published a report titled, *Assessing the portability of social protection and services for children affected by migration: A study across five Indian states*. The report captured the findings of a five-state study that examined states' responses towards migrants, especially children and women, and examined avenues for inclusion and portability of social protection.

Scholars of CPR's Initiative on Cities, Economy and Society released a set of five policy briefs that focused on state-level initiatives for the social protection of migrant women and children. These briefs covered the states of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh and Gujarat.

Additionally, this year, the India Housing Report website, which was launched in mid 2020, gained momentum in its efforts to collate meaningful commentary and data on housing issues in the context of urban India. The website featured curated commentary, data-driven pieces and publications on issues like rental housing, housing finance, property rights.

CPR's Scaling City Institution for India (SCI-FI) Initiative launched a

report titled, *Policy Lab Series on Affordable Rental Housing: Summary of Discussions* at the 8th Asia Pacific Housing Forum in December 2021. The report discussed different aspects of affordable rental housing with case studies.

## Policy Engagements

- Mukta Naik of CPR's Initiative on Cities, Economy and Society delivered a lecture on India's internal migration landscape and policy to bureaucrats enrolled in the post-graduate program on Public Policy and Management supported by the Department of Personnel and Training, Management Development Institute, Gurugram.
- Naik participated in an Open House Discussion of the North India chapter of the Institute of Town Planners to formulate suggestions for the Draft Master Plan of Delhi 2041. She was a part of a delegation that met with the Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi to discuss aspects of the Draft Master Plan of Delhi 2041 and develop suggestions to improve the same.
- Partha Mukhopadhyay of CPR's Initiative on Cities, Economy and Society moderated a consultation on *Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments* organised by the National Institute of Urban Affairs and Praja Foundation and attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- Mukhopadhyay, Naik along with Arkaja Singh of CPR's State Capacity Initiative presented at the Policy Dialogue for *Beyond PMAY-U* organised by Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to solicit feedback on the scheme's implementation and garner ideas for next steps.
- In October 2021, the Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company won the SDG Innovation Action Awards 2021 in the government category for the Chief Minister's slum development programme, BASERA. CPR's Scaling City Institution for India (SCI-FI) Initiative is the knowledge partner for this programme. In November 2021, the Dhenkanal Municipality received the award for Best Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Model at the ISC-FICCI Sanitation Awards 2021. The SCI-FI Initiative in partnership with UNICEF has been supporting this model in Odisha. Further, in December 2021, Odisha's JAGA Mission won the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum Innovation Award. The SCI-FI Initiative is the knowledge partner for the Mission.
- The SCI-FI Initiative supported the Government of Odisha to draft the guidelines titled,

Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA). The MUKTA scheme aims to alleviate the problem of unemployment, inequality and poverty in urban areas of the state and build community resilience through an integrated urban public works programme.

## Select Public Engagements

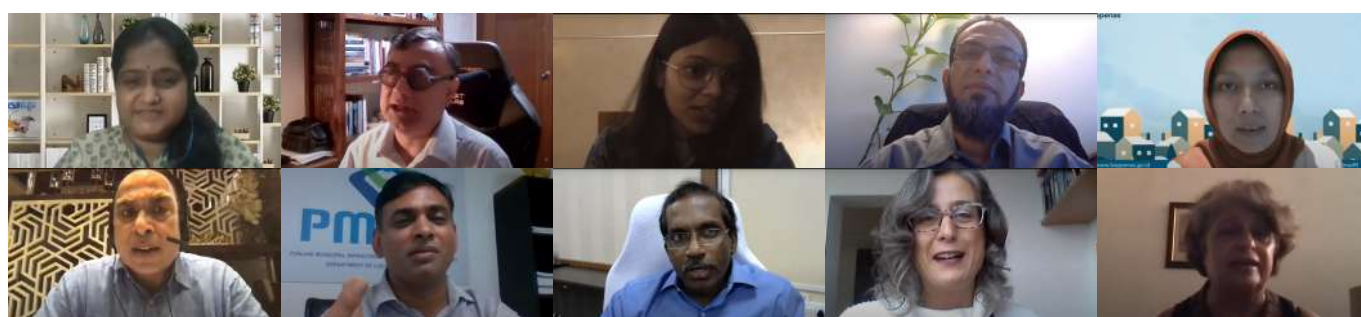
- Mukta Naik and Kanhu Charan Pradhan of CPR's Initiative on Cities, Economy and Society participated in a consultation workshop organised by the United National Development Fund (UNDP) to garner feedback as it prepares its next Country Program Document.
- Naik made a presentation to UNICEF India's Country Management Team on *How to build a stronger response for migrant women and children 'on the move'*. The session was held to raise awareness on issues of internal migration across programmes, departments and state units of UNICEF India and to build consensus for future work on the migration of children and women.

- Naik presented a paper titled, *From shock to planned mobilities: How India's internal migrants leveraged mobilities to survive the pandemic* at the 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 12) organised by the International Institute for Asian Studies.
- Pushpa Pathak of CPR's Initiative on Cities, Economy and Society taught masters-level courses on *Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Development Induced Displaced Persons and Visioning Future Regions* at the Department of Regional Planning at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi from August to December 2021.
- CPR collaborated with UNICEF India and NITI Aayog to organise a two-part webinar on *Delivering services to circular migrants in urban India: Spotlight on women and children*. Speakers at the event represented multilateral organisations, government, academic institutions and civil society groups.
- The longstanding monthly CPR-Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH) Urban Workshop series continued online this year, featuring speakers studying the 'urban' from across disciplines.



Webinar on Delivering services to circular migrants in urban India: Spotlight on women and children

National Workshop on Learnings from Odisha's Efforts of Building Resilient Cities



International symposium on Reimagining Inclusive Cities in the COVID-19 era

- CPR's Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) Initiative, in partnership with the British High Commission in India and the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Government of Odisha organised a national workshop on *Learnings from Odisha's Efforts of Building Resilient Cities*. The workshop disseminated learnings from Odisha's efforts and deliberated on the interventions undertaken by the national and other state governments towards building resilient cities.
- The SCI-FI Initiative organised a three-day international symposium on *Reimagining Inclusive Cities in the Covid-19 era*. The symposium brought together policymakers, practitioners,

researchers and civil society members to deliberate on urban housing strategies and land policies while keeping the urban poor at the forefront.

- The SCI-FI Initiative co-hosted a session at the *8th Asia-Pacific Housing Forum under the track, Innovative Housing Solutions and Technologies*. Shubhagato Dasgupta and Anindita Mukherjee spoke at a session on *Addressing housing vulnerabilities through rental housing*.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- CPR's membership in the global *Cities and Human Mobility Collective* facilitated the dissemination

of outputs and planning of new projects related to migration and cities with leading researchers from universities across the world.

- This year saw a continuation of the long-term collaboration between the CPR and the French National Institute of Research for Sustainable Development (IRD) on *Urbanization, Citizenship and Services in India*.
- CPR is also participating in a new research project on smart cities in collaboration with the IRD, the National Institute of Urban Affairs and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

# Water



Image Source: scroll.in

*CPR's work on water sits at the intersection of law, institutions and policy. We are home to the Ministry of Jal Shakti research chair on water and several experts have studied both the right to water as well as the institutional design challenges of water sharing across states.*

Srinivas Chokkakula of CPR's Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies and Development Studies (TREADS) program edited a book titled, *Water and Federalism: New Perspectives for Public Policy*, published by Hans Siedel Foundation and Asian Confluence, New Delhi. The book contained chapters by several scholars at CPR- *Water and Federalism: Reconfigured Topologies* by Chokkakula; *Federalizing Waters: How are the Stakes Changing between the Centre and the States?* by Prakriti Prajapati and Chokkakula; and *Water Federalism: Encased in Environmental Lawmaking* by Rakshita Goyal, Chokkakula and Arkaja Singh of CPR's State Capacity Initiative.

Chokkakula, Singh and Avani Kapur of CPR's Accountability Initiative published a

paper titled, *Water and federalism: Working with states for water security*. The paper explored the range of policy, institutional, legal and financial instruments for improved water governance through water federalism in the country.

Singh authored a paper titled, *The Right to Water, Law and Municipal Practice: Case Studies from India*, published in the journal, *Water*. In this paper, she explored how the right to water claims of the urban poor fared in Indian courts and in the everyday reality of municipal administration. This paper is part of a special issue of *Water* journal titled, *Water and Sanitation as Human Rights: Have They Strengthened Marginalized Peoples' Claim for Access?*, which is co-edited by her along with Daniel Brinks

and Bruce Wilson. She is also a co-author of the lead paper of the special issue titled, *The Decentered Construction of Global Rights: Lessons from the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation*.

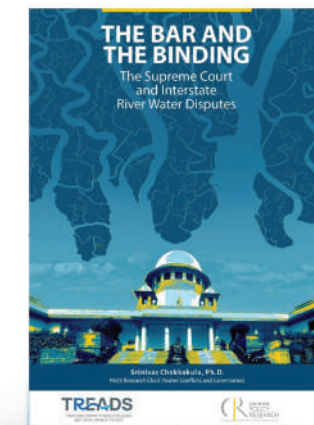
Namita Wahli of CPR's Land Rights Initiative authored a paper titled, *The Evolution of the Right to Water in India*, in the journal *Water*. In the paper, she reviewed the constitutional and legal framework underlying the right to water in India and undertook a comprehensive analysis of water laws and judicial decisions that have enforced this right. She also describes specific articulation of the right by two marginalised groups, namely Dalits and Adivasis.

Philippe Cullet co-authored an article titled, *Water Security and International Law*, published in *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*. The article addressed the relationship between water security and international law and the former's multi-scalar dimensions. He authored a chapter titled, *Water Law and Development*, in the book, *Water Law – Encyclopedia on Environmental Law*, edited by Joseph Dellapenna and Joyeeta Gupta. The chapter analysed water law in a South-North context. Additionally, he authored another chapter titled, *Groundwater Management – Towards a Legal Framework Ensuring Equity and Protection*, in the book, *Groundwater Law and Management in India – From an Elitist to an Egalitarian Paradigm*, edited by Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan, Tony George Puthucherril and Sanu Rani Paul. The chapter shed light on the urgent to rethink groundwater law to recognise the nature of ground-

water as a commons. Cullet also published an article titled, *Governing Water to Foster Equity and Conservation: Need for New Legal Instruments in the Economic & Political Weekly*. The article discussed how increasing water conflicts could be reduced by adopting appropriate governance frameworks.

## Policy Engagements

- In December 2021, the Trans-boundary Rivers, Ecologies and Development Studies (TREADS) program at CPR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India to collaborate in research and knowledge production activities towards the larger agenda of rejuvenating India's rivers. The collaboration includes carrying out research to inform policy think-



ing and institutional transformation for enduring outcomes of the Namami Gange Programme and its long-term impact.

- Srinivas Chokkakula authored a monograph, *The Bar and the Binding: The Supreme Court and Interstate Water Disputes* for the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. Chokkakula along with Debarshee Dasgupta, Rakshita Goyal and Prakriti Prajapati co-authored with the Central



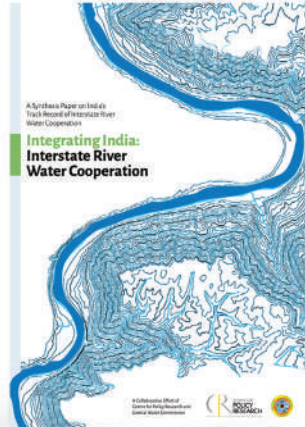
➔ CPR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India

Water Commission a synthesis paper, *Integrating India: Interstate River Water Cooperation*, for the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

- The TREADS program in collaboration with the Central Water Commission updated India's track record of interstate cooperation and produced a compilation of 192 interstate river water agreements. The program has also developed a pilot knowledge portal to track interstate river water conflicts and cooperation in India. The visually-interactive pilot mapping of conflicts of cooperation is available at <https://treads.cprindia.org/ccm-ap>

- Chokkakula was a member of the Scientific Committee for *India Water Week* organised by National Water Development Agency, Government of India.

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has invited CPR's Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) Initiative to co-develop the technical standards for packaged



household-level and community-level wastewater treatment systems that are capable of producing discharge-quality effluent.

## Select Public Engagements

- Srinivas Chokkakula served as a member of the Steering Committee of The Nature Conservancy's project on India's freshwater ecosystems. Chokkakula also delivered the keynote address for the national webinar on *Water Management Laws: Life, Livelihood and*

*Environment* organised by Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam.

- Chokkakula has been selected as the inaugural Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair in Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA.

- Arkaja Singh of CPR's State Capacity Initiative participated in a panel discussion titled, *World Water Day: Stories from Local Water Governance* at CMI, Bergen.

- Namita Wahi of the Land Rights Initiative spoke about *The Evolution of the Right to Water in India* at a webinar organised by CMI and LawTransform on *Elevating Water Rights to Human Rights: World Water Day*. The webinar was moderated by Singh.

- The Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) Initiative organised a talk on *Drink from Tap Mission in Puri: Implications for Future Urban Water Projects*. G Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), Government of Odisha delivered the talk.



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(As on 31st March 2022)

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Director, Women in Security Conflict Management & Peace (WISCOMP)

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Former Chairman, Tata Telecommunications Ltd.

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Former Foreign Secretary and Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research

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Independent Director and Strategy Adviser

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President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research

## CPR Executive Committee

(As on 31st March 2022)

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Director, Women in Security Conflict Management & Peace (WISCOMP)

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### **Shyam Saran- Member**

Former Foreign Secretary and Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research

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### **Subodh Bhargava- Member**

Former Chairman, Tata Telecommunications Ltd.

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### **Vinita Bali- Member**

Independent Director and Strategy Adviser

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### **Yamini Aiyar- Member**

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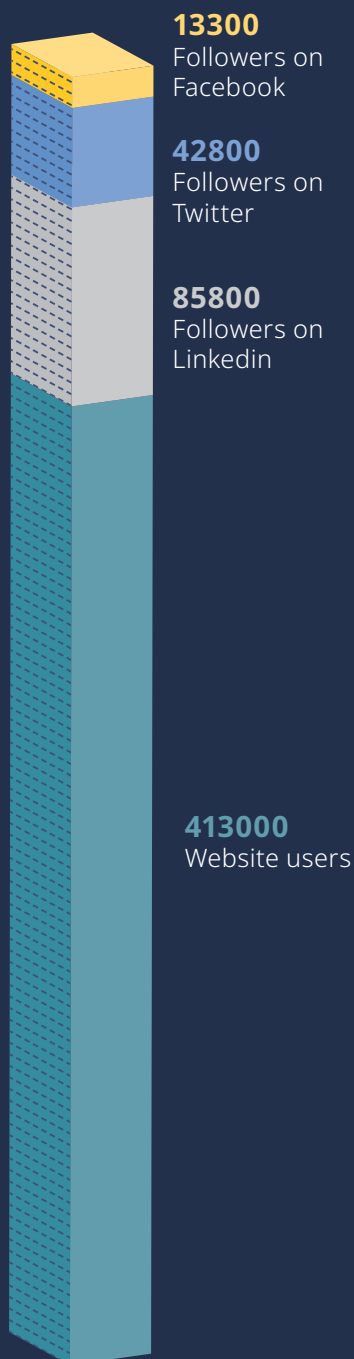
### **Chief Operating Officer**

Anup Roy

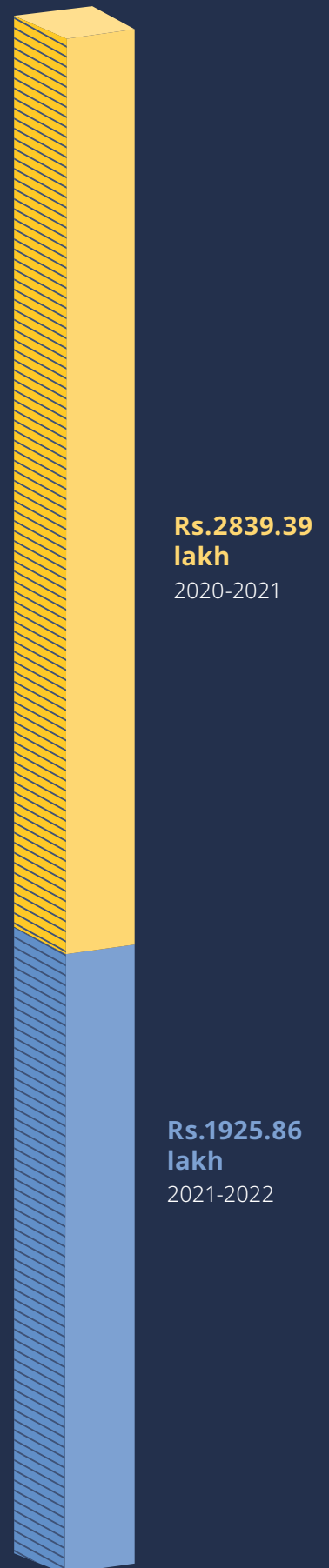
## CPR@2022



## Digital Reach



## Funding



## List of Major Granting Organisations

1. Indian Council Of Social Science Research, New Delhi

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2. Bill Melinda Gates Foundation, USA

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3. William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA

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4. MacArthur Foundation, USA

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5. Namati Inc, USA

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6. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

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7. Children Investment Fund Foundation, USA

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8. Lirnesia, Sri Lanka

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9. US Department of State Federal Assistance Award

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10. Oak Foundation, UK

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11. Ministry of Jal Shakti

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12. UNICEF

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13. Government Of Meghalaya

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14. Government Of Andhra Pradesh


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15. World Bank


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16. Rohini Nilekani

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