



CR
CENTRE FOR
POLICY
RESEARCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



A leading public policy
think tank

Conducting research in
multiple disciplines

Contributing to a more
robust public discourse

It is a real privilege for me to present CPR's annual report for 2017-18. This has been a wonderfully productive year as CPR faculty continued to make important, award-winning contributions to the policy research landscape through field-defining books and a steady stream of peer-reviewed journal articles. These contributions are now the starting point of policy and public debate on issues as wide ranging as international relations, climate change and energy, domestic politics and public service delivery. This year we are especially proud of Lavanya Rajamani whose co-authored book titled, *International Climate Change Law* received the 2018 American Society of International Law Certificate of Merit in a Specialised Area of International Law.

CPR has a long tradition of drawing on its research to engage in the everyday life of policy making in India, shaping ideas, offering expertise and seeking to find answers to difficult policy conundrums in partnership with policymakers. In fulfilling this role, CPR faculty have, over this year, served on as many as 20 different government committees, task forces, and technical support units. These include the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's (MoEFCC) advisory committee on a Long Term Strategy for Low Carbon Development; the expert committee on Renewable Energy Act under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE); the NITI Aayog's Committee for national strategy on Rare Earths; the curriculum advisory committee at the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) to develop the curriculum for programmes on education; and the Working Group for the National Sample Survey 76th Round on Disability, Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Condition by the National Statistical Commission.

As academics and policy practitioners we also seek to bring some nuance and evidence in to an increasingly polarised public sphere through writings in newspapers and opinion pages. In 2017-18, CPR researchers and faculty wrote as many as 432 articles and op-eds in the mainstream media. In addition, we organised a number of seminars and public lectures on critical policy issues from the Doklam crisis and India-China relations to domestic concerns like air pollution, party politics and elections. This annual report offers but a glimpse in to the wide range of work that we do at CPR and I hope that as you read these contents, you will share in our intellectual curiosity and excitement as we seek to better understand and enrich policy debates in India.

2017-18 has been an important year in CPR's institutional trajectory. We undertook a critical leadership transition and I have been given the honour and privilege of leading this wonderful institution. This transition was made easy thanks, in no small measure, to the unflinching support of our board, funders, and academic and policy partners. We are extremely grateful for the trust they have reposed in us. As we enter a new phase in our institutional life, CPR remains steadfastly committed to our core values of fierce independence, a commitment to ideas and argument, a willingness to ask difficult questions and objectively assess evidence. And we will be counting on your support as we hold on to these values and scale new heights.

I am, also personally grateful to CPR faculty whose commitment to the pursuit of excellence and courage to ask difficult questions is a source of motivation and inspiration. I am particularly grateful to our young research associates whose energy, excitement and curiosity ensures that we remain a vibrant, cutting edge institution. Our communications team led by Richa Bansal that constantly pushes us out of our ivory towers to use our research as a tool to engage with the world and our dedicated administrative staff admirably led by Mr. Ravi, are the backbone of our institution. The Chair of the CPR Board, Mr Eric Gonsalves, Executive Committee Members, Meenakshi Gopinath and Shyam Saran, have, as always been a source of strength but especially more so this year as the institution underwent a transition. I would also like to thank all the organisations and individuals that fund us. They have been exemplary in their support.

Before signing off, I would like to remember Dr Ajit Mozoomdar, Honorary Research Professor at CPR, who passed away in early 2018. Dr Mozoomdar's life's work, his passion and commitment to academic excellence and above all his sense of humour inspired many generations of CPR faculty. We miss him deeply.

With warmest thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yamini Aiyar', written in a cursive style.

Yamini Aiyar

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE 5

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

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY 11

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

LAW, REGULATION, AND THE STATE 17

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

URBANISATION 29

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

ECONOMIC POLICY 37

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



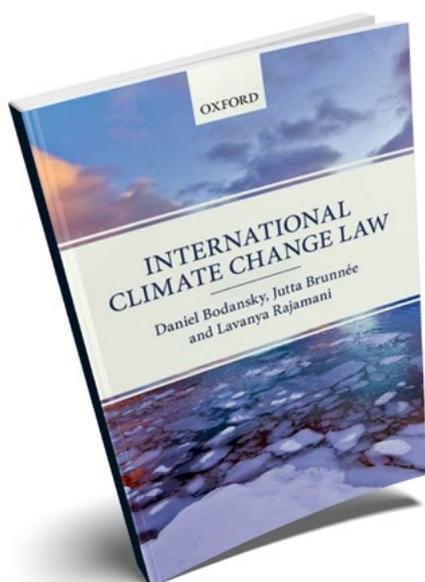
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE

photo: Mark Danielson

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

During the year, the *Initiative on Climate Energy and Environment (ICEE)* significantly broadened the scope of its work. In addition to its work on climate change, ICEE launched a new area of work on energy demand patterns, a relatively neglected area in Indian energy policy. It also initiated work on the subject of state-level electricity distribution, with a focus on governance and political economy. Furthermore, ICEE deepened its work on local environmental regulatory institutions and initiated a public communication series on air pollution.

In the past year ICEE continued its engagement on the **international climate change negotiations and debate** as well as its participation in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):



» Lavanya Rajamani published a co-authored book titled, *International Climate Change Law* (Oxford University Press, 2017) that received the 2018 American Society of International Law Certificate of Merit in a Specialised Area of International Law, and features on numerous reading lists across the world. Rajamani continued to publish in legal journals including in the *Journal of Environmental Law* on the legal implications of the announced withdrawal of the United States of America from the Paris Agreement. She also continued her close engagement in the multilateral climate negotiations, acting as an academic expert in high-level dialogues between heads of delegations, offering legal advice, preparing background notes, and identifying ‘issues and options’ in relation to the ongoing Paris Rulebook negotiations.

» Navroz Dubash was appointed as the Coordinating Lead Author by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the chapter on *National and Sub-National Policies and Institutions* as part of their Sixth Assessment Report. In this role, he will have the responsibility of co-leading synthesis of the global experience with climate policy at national and sub-national levels. This appointment followed his participation in the Scoping Meeting, setting the terms for the report. Additionally, during the year, he co-authored a review of his experience with the IPCC in the widely read journal, *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*.

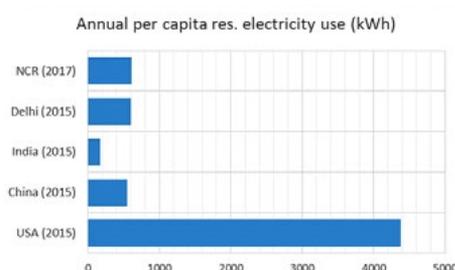
In addition to the above, ICEE’s **energy focused work** concentrated on characterising India’s transition in energy-demand:

» A week-long series of events sought to bring the demand-side of the energy policy to the centre stage, organised around CPR Visiting Fellow, Prof Arnulf Grubler from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Prof Grubler held a three-day long workshop for a group of fourteen early scholars, delivered three public lectures, and participated in a high-level roundtable that concluded with an agenda-setting note on the importance of and role for energy-demand focused work in India.

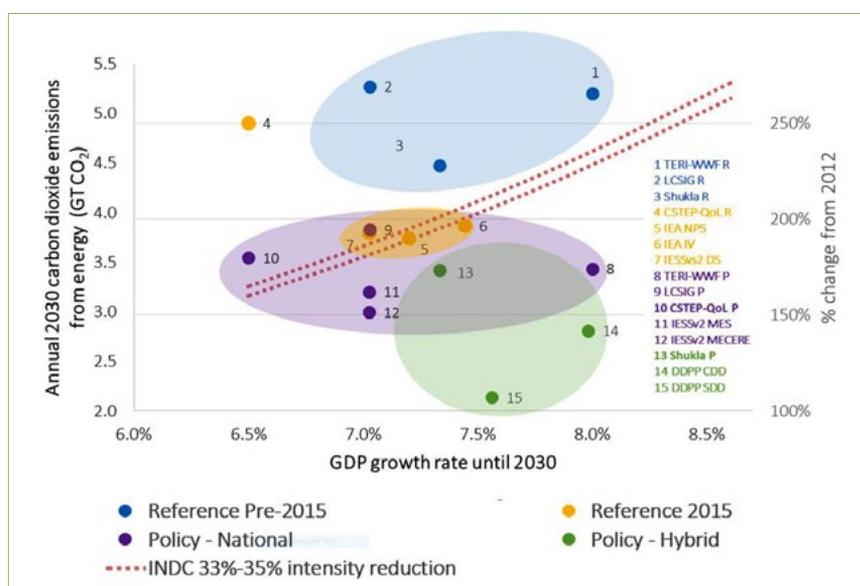
The authors bring ‘their many collective decades of experience to bear in developing a remarkably clear and cohesive overview of the field. Indeed, the authors develop the parameters of the field as they review it... We were particularly struck by the authors’ capacity to weave both authoritative analysis of legal rules and a nuanced understanding of practical and political factors into a comprehensive and eminently accessible account. The elements add up to a timely and extraordinarily useful guide that will be relevant for scholars, practitioners, students, and legal architects alike.’

Citation from the American Society of International Law’s Book Awards Committee

- » Radhika Khosla and Ankit Bhardwaj conducted a survey in Rajkot to benchmark residential energy consumption, and understand appliance purchase and use in affordable housing. Initial findings and a broader survey on India's residential energy transition were reported in the 'Plugging In' blog series with Prayas (Energy Group). Khosla also co-authored an article on building energy transitions in the journal, *Environmental Policy and Governance*.
- » Both of them also continued their work on urban climate action in India, exploring how decision makers can integrate multiple development and climate objectives in their city actions and planning. Their work was based on sustained engagement with decision makers and actors in the cities of Coimbatore and Rajkot. Khosla's case of finding synergies between climate and development actions was reported in a policy brief and shared at conferences. An extensive review of the academic literature documenting the response of Indian cities to climate change was also conducted.



Radhika Khosla, *Plugging In: Energy Demand in Indian Residences* (Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, 2018). In per capita terms, the US's per capita residential electricity use is about 25 times that of India's, and China's is about three times that of India.



2030 annual carbon dioxide emission from energy projections for India. Navroz K Dubash, Radhika Khosla, Narsimha Rao & Ankit Bhardwaj., *India's Energy and Emissions Future: A Synthesis of Recent Scenarios* (CPR, 2017).

Faculty members also engaged with policy makers in advisory roles. Navroz Dubash served on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's (MoEFCC) advisory committee on a Long Term Strategy for Low Carbon Development, drawing on recent work reviewing studies of India's energy and emissions future. He, along with Shibani Ghosh, also contributed to a committee of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to draft a Renewable Energy law for the country, particularly focusing on the institutional and governance requirements.



Dr Sarath Guttikunda at the inaugural event of the *Clearing the Air? Seminar Series* on 4 December, 2018 talking about knowledge gaps in air quality.

CLEARING THE AIR? SEMINAR SERIES

Since December 2017, a group of CPR faculty and researchers from different focus areas, convened by Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE), has been working on air pollution in the country and issues related to it. The inter-disciplinarity of the group reflects CPR's understanding that air pollution is not just an environmental problem, but one with cross-sectoral linkages involving diverse constituencies. One of the key activities of the group has been to organise the Clearing the Air? Seminar Series to promote sustained and informed public understanding around the data, impacts, sources and policy challenges involved in cleaning the air. Experts from a range of areas have participated in this Series, and some of the events in the Series were:

- » A talk by Dr Sarath Guttikunda on Filling the Knowledge Gap on Air quality in Indian Cities
- » A panel co-organised and moderated by the Public Health Foundation of India on Health Effects of Exposure to Air Pollution with Professor D. Prabhakaran, Dr Raj Kumar, and Dr Preet K. Dhillon
- » A conversation with Professor Kalpana Balakrishnan on Air pollution as a preventable cause of adverse birth outcomes in India
- » A panel on the Role of the transport sector in Delhi's air quality: key drivers and opportunities for intervention with Amit Bhatt, Parthaa Bosu, and Sumit Sharma, moderated by Mukta Naik
- » A panel on Crop Burning as a source of Air Pollution in National Capital Region with Dr M.L Jat, Pritam Singh Hanjra, and Dr Rajbir Yadav, moderated by Harish Damodaran
- » A panel on Municipal Solid Waste as a cause of Air Pollution with Ravi Agarwal, Nalini Shekhar and Dr Seema Awasthi, moderated by Arkaja Singh.

These events witnessed informative discussions on different aspects of air pollution, and highlighted the importance of policy interventions. During his talk, Dr Guttikunda discussed gaps in data on air quality, and emphasised the need to view air pollution as an around-the-year crisis rather than a short-term episodic event. Professor Balakrishnan, a well-known expert in exposure assessment and environmental epidemiology, noted in her presentation that for any reduction in the associated burden of disease, PM 2.5 levels would need to decrease drastically from current levels.

The CPR website now hosts video recordings of all the events in the Series, accompanied by accessible background material on key issues prepared by the group in consultation with experts.

SELECTED PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

Multi-criteria decision analysis in policy-making for climate mitigation and development, Brett Cohen, Hernán Blanco, Navroz K. Dubash, Srihari Dukkipati, Radhika Khosla, Serban Scricciu, Theodor Stewart Marta Torres-Gunfaus, *Climate and Development* 1-11.

Dubash, Navroz K. 2017. *Trump's Toxic Announcement on Climate Change*, Navroz K. Dubash, *Economic & Political Weekly*.

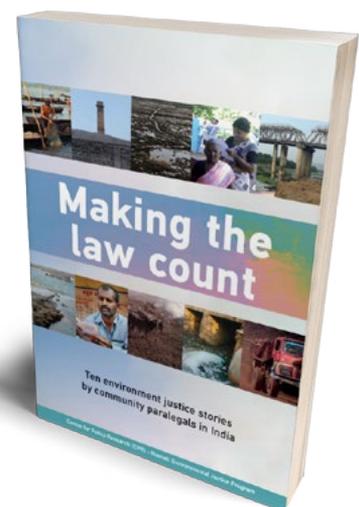
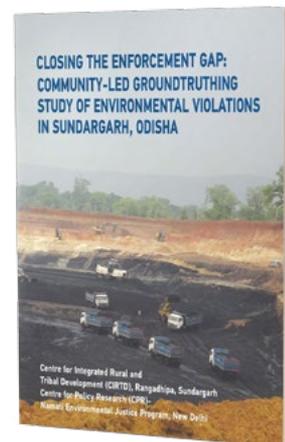
The Legality of Downgrading Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement: Lessons from the US Disengagement, Lavanya Rajamani, Jutta Brunnée, *Journal of Environmental Law*

Mainstreaming Climate Actions in Indian Cities: Case Study of Rajkot, Ankit Bharadwaj, Radhika Khosla, CPR policy brief.

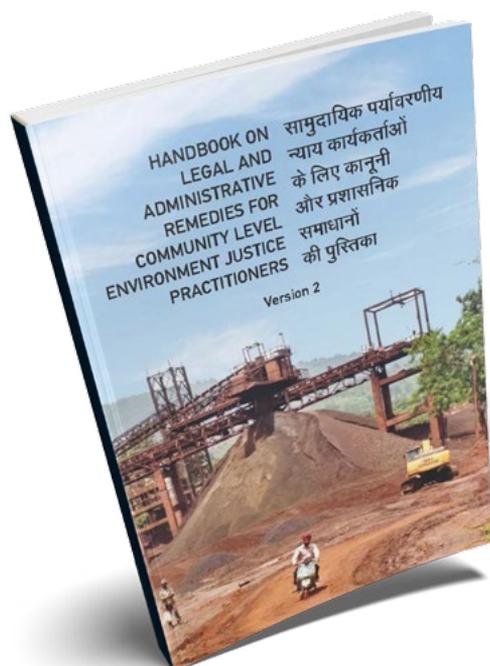
Deploying Low carbon Technologies in Developing Countries: A view from India's buildings sector, Radhika Khosla, Ambuj Sagar, Ajay Mathur, *Environmental Policy and Governance*.

RESEARCH AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL NON-COMPLIANCE

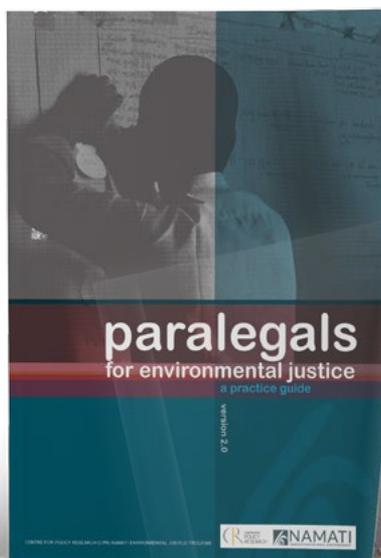
- » Trained paralegals of the CPR-Namati Environment Justice Program undertook two community-led 'groundtruthing' exercises to record the impacts felt by communities due to non-compliance of environmental safeguards by landfill sites in Uttara Kannada and Kulda mines in Sundargarh, Odisha. The reports are an evidence-based tool to engage government authorities for remedial action.
- » The paralegals of the Program worked alongside communities to generate evidence of environmental non-compliance (water and air pollution, dumping of waste, restricted public access to common spaces) and engaged with local institutions, achieving joint site inspections in twenty-one cases. Through these joint inspections, the affected communities were able to show the impacts of the violations and invoke effective actions from institutions such as pollution control boards, irrigation departments and the district collector. Case studies in both English and regional languages were compiled by the paralegals in a curated publication – *Making the law count*.
- » Further the paralegals and affected communities made specific submissions to state governments and other authorities, including, i) State Level Guidelines for handling and transportation of minerals in Gujarat; ii) a suggested set of changes to the Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Authority; iii) suggestions on the guidelines put together by the Central Ground Water Authority for issuance of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for groundwater withdrawal.



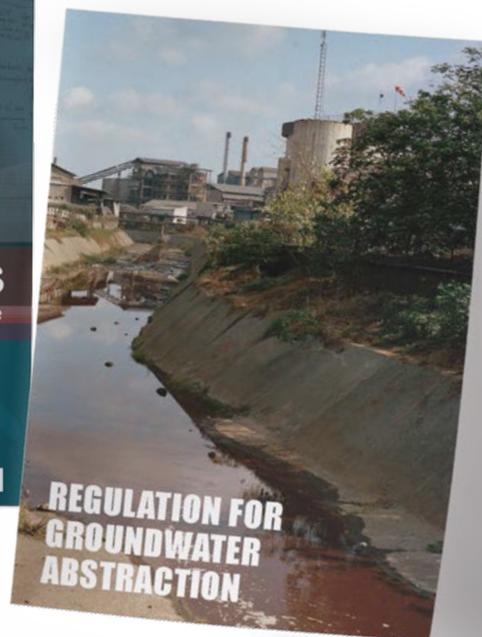
EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PRACTITIONERS



The Program updated its *Handbook on Legal and Administrative Remedies for Community Level Environment Justice Practitioners*, releasing a second version. It pairs four different Indian languages (*Hindi, Kannada, Odiya and Gujarati*) with English.



The *Paralegal Practice Guide* provides a step-by-step procedure for obtaining remedies from the administration within the existing regulatory framework. It is available in *Hindi, Kannada, Odiya, Gujarati, Bahasa-Indonesia* and English.



Simple awareness material on regulations for groundwater abstraction and the use of surface water to remedy impacts of water pollution within the existing regulatory setup was created – drawing on the experiences of the communities and paralegals. It is available in English, *Hindi, Odiya, Kannada and Gujarati*.

Findings of the paper were picked up by mainstream dailies and media portals such as DNA, DailyO, The Hindu, Counterview, Wire.in, Reuters. This helped in informing public engagement on the implications of the alterations being made to the EIA Notification, 2006.

The paper was made available by India Environment Portal on its website. Counterview, Wire.in and DNA ran stories sharing findings of the paper and created awareness among the public about the debate around the land-acquisition law in the country.

MEDIA & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON PROCESSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES, LAND ACQUISITION, COASTAL REGULATION

- » In response to a Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's (MoEFCC) proposed amendment to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, which allowed for post-facto clearances, the Program prepared a working paper analysing the applications received by the Ministry.
- » Over the past two years, many states have introduced legislations through individual Acts and Rules concerning the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013, which dilute processes of public participation, fair compensation and better resettlement entitlements. The Program put together a working paper on such dilutions by the various states, highlighting the bypassing of certain progressive provisions of the central law in the process.

» In the beginning of 2017, in an exclusionary manner, the MoEFCC initiated a process of drafting a fresh Notification to supersede the 2011 Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, which governs development on the Indian coastline, and was developed through citizen engagement acknowledging traditional uses of the coast. In response, drawing on its historical work in this area, the Program ran a series of ten blogs pertaining to these proposed changes on the CPR website between April to August 2017, covering – the history of the law, analysis of previous changes, the court's perspective, and views of the fisher communities. The Program, through a Right to Information (RTI) Application, was able to obtain the proposed revisions in the new law, which were disclosed through one of the blogs.

RESEARCH ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER CONFLICTS

Srinivas Chokkakula's research on transboundary water sharing focuses, in particular, on interstate river water disputes, which continues to receive attention from stakeholders within the government as well as outside of it. He was invited to present his research at important events, including the India Water Week, organised by the Central Water Commission, and at other non-governmental fora such as the Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in Pune.

Chokkakula's continued engagement with the issue received attention and visibility at the national level, most notably on the Cauvery dispute, which has escalated again with the intervention of the Supreme Court. He was invited to write for *The Indian Express*, *The Hindu*, *The Economic Times* and participated in a *Rajya Sabha* TV panel on the subject.

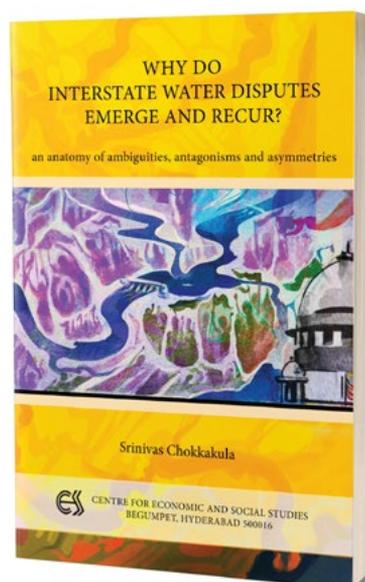
During the year, Chokkakula's team also completed CIMS (Conflict Incidence Monitoring Systems), a pilot research project funded by The Asia Foundation, which monitored, documented, and synthesised conflict incidences over natural resources such as land, water and environmental issues in the Amaravati region of the Krishna river basin. The project tracked conflict incidences over interstate river water sharing of Krishna and Godavari rivers, land pooling mechanisms for building the new capital of Amaravati city for Andhra Pradesh, and environmental issues such as forest denotification in the Amaravati region.

Importantly, Chokkakula published his monograph, *Why do Interstate Water Disputes Emerge and Recur? An anatomy of ambiguities, antagonisms and asymmetries*. The monograph presents a political ecology analysis of interstate water disputes in India to explain why the disputes emerge and recur. A distinct departure from the conventional territorialist and legalist narratives, it offers a functional and relational account of its case study, the Krishna river water dispute. It describes how inequities and asymmetries are historically and geographically produced, which in turn form the basis

Taking cues from the blog series, the media did detailed and in-depth reportage on alterations to the CRZ. Media stories by *The Hindu*, *DNA*, *Deccan Herald* and *Hindustan Times* contextualised the information provided in the series for states such as Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka. The series garnered interest from fisher groups, coastal communities and citizens, environmentalists, urban planners, etc., many of whom, subsequently wrote to the Ministry about the implications of the proposed revisions.

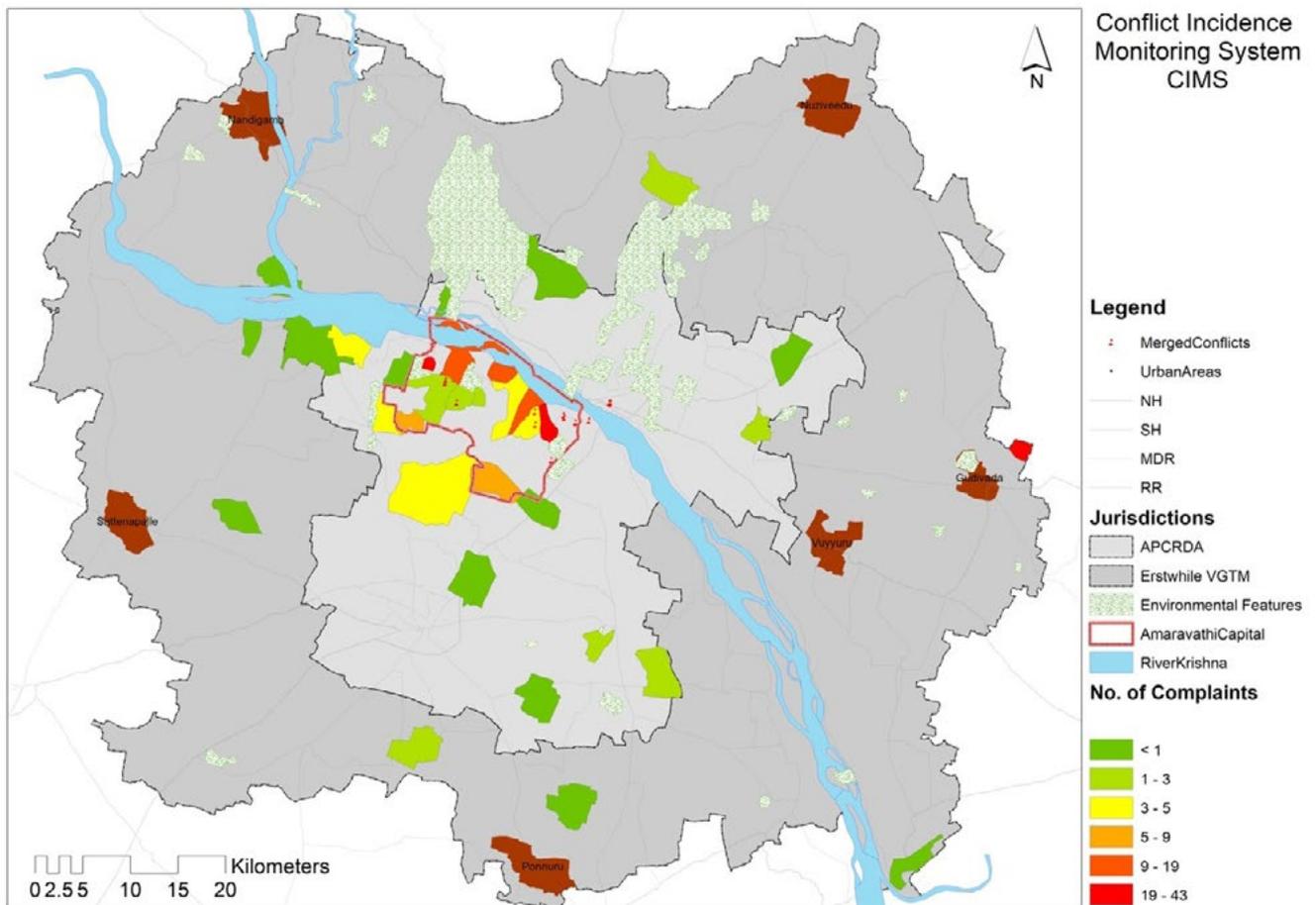


Srinivas Chokkakula speaking on the Cauvery dispute on Rajya Sabha TV.



for disputes to emerge and escalate. Additionally, he also published a peer-reviewed journal article on the politics of interstate river water cooperation *Regional Environmental Change* journal.

Chokkakula was approached by the National Law University and Judicial Academy (NLUJA), Guwahati, to help set up the Centre for National Resources Research. This led to an arrangement where CPR acted as a mentor to NLUJA for the initiative. Under this relationship, he attended a workshop organised by NLUJA for preparing a draft legislation to develop and regulate inland water ways over Brahmaputra for the Assam government.





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY

photo: League Foreign Affairs Desk

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

The book received several glowing reviews, some of which are highlighted below:

'Saran's perspective of the practitioner is leavened by his strong belief in India's exceptionalism and international destiny. His discussion on engaging the neighbourhood and major powers as well as the wider multilateral world walks us from the particular and local to the general and universal dimensions of India's statecraft.'

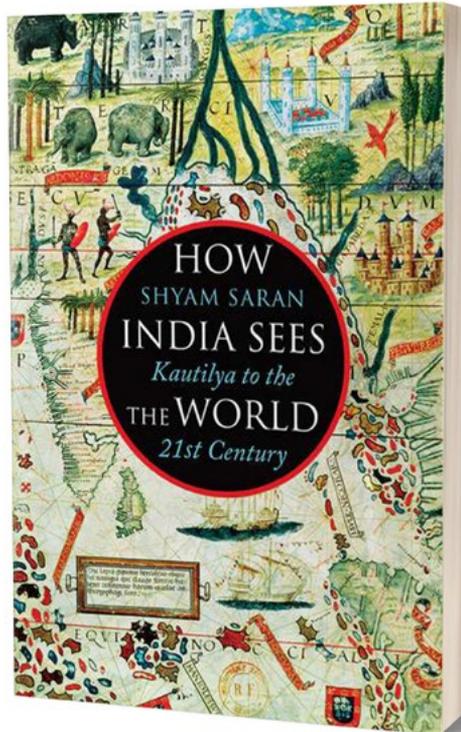
—C. Raja Mohan, Carnegie India, in the *Indian Express*

'The book offers a synoptic view, from the start of foreign policymaking soon after Independence to recent events. He (Saran) was closely involved in many events described in the volume – from preparatory work around the 2005 India-US civil nuclear agreement to the Copenhagen summit on climate change negotiations in 2009. The chapters dealing with these topics, and those that detail India's neighbours, are some of the best in this book. They offer a view that is different from the diffident view that India needs to handle countries like Pakistan and China with kid gloves.'

—Siddharth Singh, in the *Open Magazine*

'In our world today, where networking and not hegemony provides the power to influence global trends he (Saran) shows how this outlook holds promise. A must read for those interested in an authentic yet quick reference on contemporary trends in India's foreign policy.'

—The Hindu



How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century is written by Shyam Saran and was published by Juggernaut. As a former India Foreign Secretary Saran has had a ringside view of the most critical events and shifts in Indian foreign policy in the new millennium, including the epochal India-US nuclear deal. In this magisterial book, Saran discerns the threads that tie together his experiences as a diplomat.

Using the prism of Kautilya's Arthashastra and other ancient treatises on statecraft, Saran shows the historical sources of India's worldview. He looks at India's neighbourhood and the changing wider world through this lens and arrives at fascinating conclusions – the claims that the world is hurtling towards Chinese unipolarity are overblown; international borders are becoming irrelevant as climate change and cyber terror bypass them; and India shouldn't hold its breath for a resolution to its border disputes with China and Pakistan in the foreseeable future.

This book also takes the reader behind the closed doors of the most nail-biting negotiations and top-level interactions - from Barack Obama popping by a tense developing country strategy meeting at the Copenhagen climate change summit to the private celebratory dinner thrown by then US President George W. Bush for then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the success of the nuclear deal.

—taken from book description

UNDERSTANDING CHINA

Research publications

- » Nimmi Kurian's paper, *An Uneven Flow? Navigating Downstream Concerns Over China's Water Policy*, which examines conflict resolution in trans-boundary waters with reference to the Brahmaputra was published in a Routledge compendium of water conflicts in Northeast India. Kurian also published a commentary *Addressing the Drought of Ideas on the Brahmaputra* for the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.
- » Bharat Karnad worked on a book chapter titled *How best to use Nuclear Weapons against China* to be published in the book, *India's Military Strategy for the 21st Century*.
- » Zorawar Daulet Singh published three journal articles – *India and China Can Coexist in the Indo–Pacific*; *India and China: A Stubborn Relationship*; and *Locating the Belt and Road in China's Broader Policy Shifts* in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, bringing out the contradictory factors that shape the relationship between the two countries and the need to engage in a more purposeful dialogue on issues that have generated an adversarial rivalry.

Conferences, presentations & lectures

- » Shyam Saran joined the Governing Board of the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), India's premier think tank for the study of China. He made the inaugural speech at the ICS Distinguished Lecture Series on *Is a China-Centric World Inevitable?*.
- » A book, Nimmi Kurian co-authored earlier, titled *India and China: Rethinking Borders and Security* (University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 2016), part of the series on *Configurations: Critical Studies of World Politics* was launched at a public event organised by the India China Institute, The New School, New York.
- » Nimmi Kurian was invited by the India China Institute, The New School, New York to join as an Academic Advisor for a four-year international research project – *China India Scholar-Leaders Initiative* – that seeks to deepen intellectual engagement on issues related to prosperity and inequality in India and China.
- » Nimmi Kurian was invited to give guest lectures on *Development and Inequality in India and China* at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.



India and China hold special border personnel meeting after Modi-Xi Jin Ping meet.

- » Zorawar Daulet Singh made a presentation on *India and China in the Indian Ocean: Learning to Co-exist* at a conference at the Research Institute of Indian Ocean Economies (RIIO), Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Kunming, China.
- » He also participated in the session titled *Demystifying the Dragon: Understanding China* at a seminar at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and presented on *The India-China Boundary Dispute*. Daulet Singh further presented on *Recent Developments in China-US Relations and their Impact* at a conference organised by the Institute of Chinese Studies and India International Centre (IIC).
- » Nimmi Kurian presented a paper entitled *Institutions Around the River: The India-China Engagement on Brahmaputra*, at the international conference on *Flowing Borders: Learning between Brahmaputra and the Mekong*, organised by the Asian Confluence and the Heinrich Bolle Foundation India, Shillong Meghalaya.



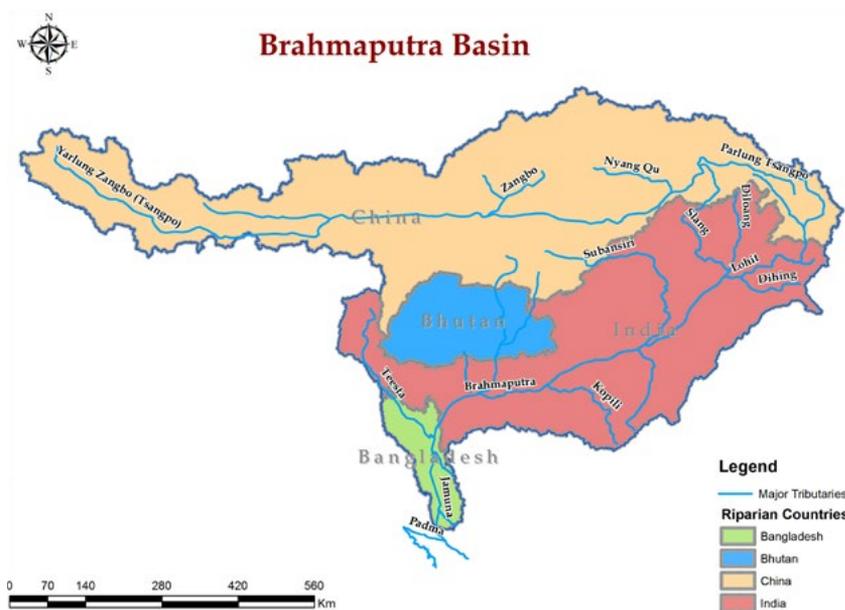
source: KSAT.com

Interpreting the Doklam crisis

- » Shyam Saran led a delegation of scholars and former diplomats to a major India-China Dialogue held in Chengdu, China, in the aftermath of the Doklam incident on the India-Bhutan-China border in November, 2017.
- » Besides the faculty commenting widely in the media, CPR hosted a panel discussion on '*Unpacking India-China Relations*' in the wake of the Doklam stand-off with Shyam Saran, Srinath Raghavan and Zorawar Daulet Singh. The panel unpacked the implications for the two countries and Asia from geopolitical, strategic and economic perspectives. *Hindustan Times* featured a special Facebook Live interview with Saran and Daulet Singh post the discussion.
- » Nimmi Kurian was interviewed on the India-China standoff at Doklam by Luke Vargas for the *Wake*, a United Nations-based radio programme on foreign affairs, New York.

RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT ON SOUTH ASIA

- » Srinath Raghavan completed his book, *The Most Dangerous Place: A History of the United States in South Asia*, published by Penguin India, which is set to be released in July, 2018. The book 'presents a gripping account of America's political and strategic, economic and cultural presence in the region'. In the run-up to the book launch, Raghavan gave a lecture titled *Fierce Enigmas: The United States and South Asia in the Long Twentieth Century* at the Yale International History Seminar. He delivered another lecture on the book at Princeton University.
- » Nimmi Kurian's research paper *Re-engaging the International: A Social History of the Trans-Himalayan Borderlands* presented at the *International Conference on Borders and Border Studies: The South Asian Perspective* was selected for a forthcoming Special Issue on South Asian borderlands in the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, Joensuu, Finland.



source: *Transnational Policy Dialogue for Improved Water Governance of Brahmaputra River*

- » Nimmi Kurian gave a presentation on *Framing Water Pedagogies* at the International Workshop on Shared Waterscapes of South Asia co-organised by the South Asian University, Indian Environment Law Organization (IELO) and Dhaka University.
- » Zorawar Daulet Singh participated in an event on *Democracy in Asia: Models, Experiences and Challenges* at the Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI), Paris, France and presented on *Indian democracy and legacy for the region*.
- » Shyam Saran spoke on crisis management in India at a Stimson International Conference on crisis management in South Asia, and contributed a lead chapter on the subject in a book launched at the conference. He also delivered the 2017 Chavan Memorial Lecture on the *Decline of Internationalism*.

Rohingya refugees wait to receive aid in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, September 21, 2017.

photo: Reuters / Cathal McNaughton



UNPACKING THE ROHINGYA CRISIS

- » Given the topicality of the Rohingya crisis and its relevance for India, CPR hosted a discussion on *Unpacking the Rohingya Refugee Crisis* featuring Nimmi Kurian, Shyam Saran and Srinath Raghavan. This discussion delved deeper into the historical narrative, the complexities of the issue, the challenges it poses, and the possible solutions going forward.
- » Nimmi Kurian was consulted by the Bangladesh High Commission, New Delhi, on India's narrative on the Rohingya crisis. Kurian also published nine policy briefs and opinion pieces, including a commentary on *How Suu Kyi Can Change the Rohingya Narrative*. Other policy briefs focused on the politics of water governance in the Brahmaputra; the Doklam issue; borderlands tourism in Northeast India; prospects of a bottom-up Act East policy; and the Northeast Assembly elections of 2018.



PM Modi at BRICS & SCO summits in Russia.

source: narendramodi.in

RESEARCH ON INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

- » Zorawar Daulet Singh's upcoming book *Power and Diplomacy: India's Foreign Policies during the Cold War* went into production at the Oxford University Press, slated for release in November 2018. 'The book questions the notion that there was a monolithic idea of 'nonalignment' at the heart of India's engagement with the world by explicating the more complex worldviews and strategies that underlay India's regional statecraft during the Nehru and Indira Gandhi years'.

- » Nimmi Kurian delivered a public talk *Aiming Low, Hitting Lower? The Subregional Turn in India's Foreign Policy* at the Department of International Relations and Resource Governance, Shiv Nadar University.
- » Daulet Singh also published a journal article titled *Foreign Policy and Sea Power: India's Maritime Role Flux* in the *Journal of Defence Studies*, detailing how India's ever-changing maritime worldview and role conceptions have been closely related to the way policymakers viewed India's regional identity, and the ability of the state to release economic resources towards sea power. Further, he participated in a conference on *India-US Relations after Modi-Trump Summit* at the India Habitat Centre organised by the Indo-American Friendship Association.
- » Bharat Karnad worked on his upcoming book, *Staggering Forward: Narendra Modi and India's Global Ambition*, published by Penguin India, and set to be released in August, 2018. 'The book analyses Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign and military policies in the context of India's evolving sociopolitical and economic milieu'.



Indian delegation at Bretton Woods.

source: IMF

INDIA AND THE WORLD

- » Srinath Raghavan co-authored a journal article titled, *Present at the Creation: India, the Global Economy and the Bretton Woods Conference* published in the *Journal of World History*. The article highlights how India's participation at the Bretton Woods conference paved the way for the evolution of the country's relationship with international economic institutions.
- » Raghavan also published a journal article titled *Military Technological Innovation in India: A Tale of Three Projects* in the *India Review*. The article examines Indian strategy through the lens of military innovation by comparing three major indigenous defence projects.
- » Raghavan co-authored a book chapter titled, *Strategic Coercion*, in *Security Studies* edited by Paul Williams. He also authored the chapter titled, *The Transformation of India in the Twentieth Century*, in *A Global History of the Twentieth Century: Legacies and Lessons from Six National Perspectives* edited by Michael Green & Nicolas Szechenyi.

- » Further, Raghavan delivered a lecture titled, *India in the Long 1970s*, at Deakin University. He also presented his paper, *Military Technological Innovation in India*, at Center for Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania. He participated in a symposium on *India's Crisis Decade: the 1970s and Contemporary Analogies* at Princeton University.
- » Zorawar Daulet Singh authored a journal article titled, *Russia's Comeback in the Middle East*, published in the *Economic and Political Weekly*.
- » Bharat Karnad worked on a journal article titled *Walking Back Delusional Nuclear Policies*, forthcoming in the journal, *Strategic Analysis*. The article will explore India's 'dual-use' nuclear policy and the importance of nuclear testing for national security.
- » Shyam Saran became Life Trustee of the India International Centre and now heads its Programme Advisory Committee. He is also Chairman of the NITI Aayog's Committee on drawing up a national strategy on Rare Earths, and heads the Confederation of Indian Industry's Jury Committee on Sustainability Awards.

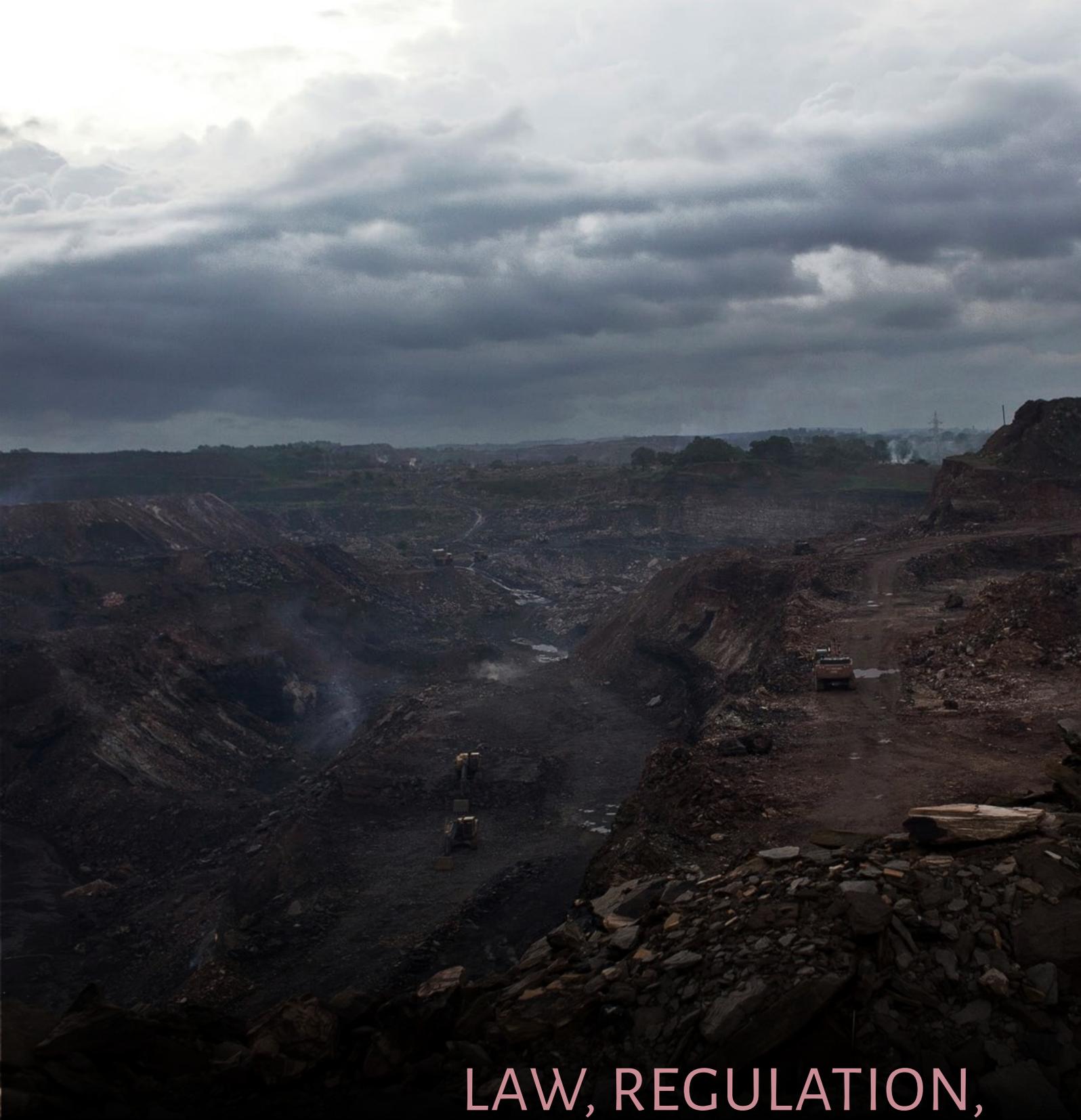


photo: Coal fields in Bokapahardi, Jharkhand | Allison Sarah Joyce

LAW, REGULATION, AND THE STATE

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

BUDGETARY ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR EXPENDITURE AT NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS

Budget analysis in the media

- In the run up to the budget, AI contributed widely to the public debate by publishing a series of articles in mainstream media, including *Live Mint*, *Business Standard*, *Deccan Herald*, *the Wire*, *IndiaSpends*, and the vernacular newspaper *Hindustan*. AI researchers also participated in two live *Newslandry* discussions on Budget 2018.
- Further, in order to demystify complex budgetary information and enable increased access, AI created a micro-site on budget day to disseminate information and visualisations related to the budget. The site is accessible at <https://socialmedia490.wixsite.com/accountabilityindia>.
- AI and the Centre for Global Development's collaborative paper in understanding lessons from past approaches to fiscal transfers for health schemes titled *Fiscal transfers based on inputs or outcomes? Lessons from the Twelfth and Thirteenth Finance Commission in India* was published by the *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*.

- » The Accountability Initiative (AI), now headed by Avani Kapur, who earlier led AI's research on public finance, published its annual Budget Brief series analysing budgetary allocations, expenditures, outputs, and outcomes of key social sector programmes ahead of the Union Budget. This year, given it was the last full budget before elections in May 2019, AI expanded the breadth of its briefs to cover nine key schemes, including: *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)*, *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)*, *National Health Mission (NHM)*, *Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)*, *Swachh Bharat (Urban and Rural)*, *the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)*, *Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY)*, and *the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)*.



TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION OF & FACILITATING DIALOGUE ON INDIA'S SANITATION SCHEMES

- » In 2017, AI's flagship programme PAISA (Planning, Allocations and Expenditures, Institutions Studies in Accountability), on the request of the local administration in Udaipur, conducted an on-ground survey to understand the processes involved in declaring Gram Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF) under the rural arm of *Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)*. The three-month-long study yielded insights on the functioning of the SBM machinery and these were shared with the administration. A report of the study findings is available on the website.

A wall painted in Udaipur encouraging people to use toilets.



- » AI and Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) teams at CPR organised a conference, bringing together prominent policy researchers and practitioners in the sanitation sphere. The conference deliberated on sanitation policy implementation, shared learnings and provided recommendations on the issue of safe sanitation, including but not limited to, the role of SBM.
- » As part of the third-year anniversary celebrations of the launch of SBM, Avani Kapur participated in an NDTV discussion on challenges faced by the Mission.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH FOR GOVERNMENT TO INFORM POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION

- » Since January 2018, AI has been working closely with the National Health Mission (NHM) Mission Director and the Technical Support Unit (TSU) working with the government in Uttar Pradesh to understand reasons for low utilisation of funds and diagnose bottlenecks in implementation of health interventions. Findings from the research have regularly been shared with the Mission Director and the TSU to determine key action areas. The study will be completed by July, 2018.
- » On the request of the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), since November 2017, AI has been conducting a study to understand how teachers' time is distributed across different activities. This includes time spent on administrative tasks during school hours and school-related work done outside of official hours. The study further provides insights on teachers' perceptions of their jobs and are regularly being shared with the DCPCR.
- » On the request of the Bihar Education Mission, AI conducted a field survey on record maintenance by School Management Committees (SMCs) in Purnia and Nalanda districts of the state. The study recorded difficulties in maintenance of cashbooks/passbooks with respect to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) grants. Moreover, given the government's expansion of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs) as the mode of fiscal transfers, a study covering 590 households and 1000 students was undertaken to understand the gaps in the process of direct transfer of funds to beneficiaries for scholarship and uniform grants. The findings were shared with top SSA officials and were well received.
- » In January 2018, AI was invited by the Chief Economic Advisor, to contribute a section on gaps in Panchayat finances as part of the chapter titled, *Reconciling Fiscal Federalism and Accountability: Is There a Low Equilibrium Trap*, in the Economic Survey of India. Findings from AI's research on Gram Panchayats in Karnataka were disseminated widely to the state's network of panchayat representatives. This led to a formal request by the Panchayat Parishad to the Chief Minister of the State to improve transparency in Panchayat level budgeting.



AI survey volunteers taking stock of the research tool to survey School Management Committee finances in Bihar.

MAKING DATA WORK FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION

- » In 2017, AI was invited by UNESCO to participate in a 7-country study on understanding the role of open school data in improving transparency and accountability. The Indian case study conducted by AI is being converted into a book to be published by UNESCO in 2018.
- » AI participated in a workshop organised by the National Council of Educational Research And Training (NCERT) on developing a communication strategy for the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2017 district report cards. The intervention framework developed and suggested by AI was adopted by NCERT in their published guidelines manual.
- » AI also contributed to new understanding on the provision of 25 per cent seats for children from economically weaker and disadvantaged sections of society in private unaided schools under the Right to Education Act. The report, titled the *State of the Nation: RTE Section 12(1)(c)*, is a collaborative effort between Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad, Centre for Policy Research and Central Square Foundation.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STAFF AND ENGAGING WITH POLICY MAKERS

AI conducted a number of sessions as part of its larger set of trainings for members of the administrative services, including:

- » Avani Kapur took a session as part of a training on Monitoring and Evaluation for Indian Economic Service (IES) Probationary Officers.
- » Rajika Seth took a session for Madhya Pradesh State Cadre officials at the Centre of Good Governance at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA).
- » Avani Kapur took a session as part of the in-service training on Fiscal Policy and Macroeconomic Management for All India Services (IAS – Indian Administrative Service, IPS – Indian Police Service and IFS – Indian Forest Service) officers organised by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).
- » Avani Kapur and Rajika Seth took a session on Public Expenditure Accountability and Social Audits as part of the probationer training for ICAS (Indian Civil Accounts Service) organised by NIPFP.



Accountability Initiative Director Avani Kapur and Learning and Development lead Rajika Seth during the training at NIPFP.

In addition to engaging with the policy-making community regularly through meetings, seminars, focused interactions, in March, 2018, AI participated and presented findings from its education research in the CIES (Comparative and International Education Society) Conference – an annual academic conference bringing together researchers, students, practitioners and policy-makers working on comparative international education. Organised in Mexico, the conference themed, *Re-mapping Global Education*, was attended by 3,200 participants from 117 countries.

TRAINING GRASSROOT PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS ON STATE CAPABILITY

To bridge the gap between research and practice, AI launched a new avatar of its PAISA course called *Hum aur Hamaari Sarkaar*. Available for the first time in *Hindi* and conducted by AI's field associates, the course offers a critical analysis of state capability, and caters to grassroots-level development sector professionals working towards improving the quality of public services. Two pilots were conducted in December:

- » The first was conducted with district-level coordinators of the NGO Pratham in Bihar who work to implement Pratham's programmes on education at the field-level.



- » The second, was conducted with block-level coordinators of the Nehru Yuva Kendra in Rajasthan – a youth organisation working to create awareness and reach of government schemes to intended beneficiaries.

In 2018, the course will be taken to other interested organisations and an online module for individuals will also be designed.

AI researchers also conducted a four-day module with students at the Indian School of Development Management (ISDM) on understanding state capability and how to use research in evidence-based policy-making.

CONTRIBUTING TO EDUCATION POLICY DEBATES

The Public Accountability and Governance in Education (PAGE) project worked on two research projects this year. The first one was an all-India study on the salaries of teachers in government elementary schools, and the second on analysing the responses of high courts and the Supreme Court to cases related to the Right to Education. The first research involved filing RTIs in all state education departments and with the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), as detailed information on teachers' salaries is not readily available. The responses, which required follow up through the appeal process at the Information Commissions, are currently under analysis and the study is expected to be completed in another six months.

'After doing the course, my views on governance and bureaucracy changed considerably. We learnt about the complications in the current system that the bureaucracy has to encounter to efficiently do their work, how lack of specific accountability at every level of the system impacts service delivery and how if we as citizens become aware and raise our voice, collaborate with the government, we can improve the quality of services.'

—Deepak Saini, Block Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra

(top left)

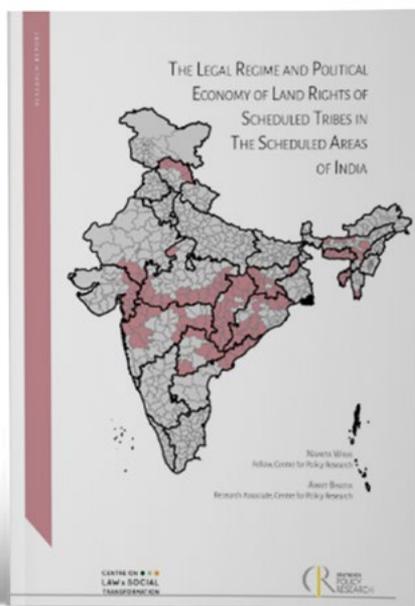
Training conducted with district-level coordinators of Pratham in Bihar as part of *Hum aur Hamaari Sarkaar*.

Kiran Bhatta, who leads the PAGE project, was appointed to the advisory committee at the National Institute of Education Research and Training to formulate the research strategy for the Institute. She has also been made a member of the curriculum advisory committee at the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) that has been mandated under the *Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching* (Government of India) to develop the curriculum for programmes on education. Additionally, she lectured at the National Defence Council, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and at Delhi University, among other places, and published in the mainstream media as well as in academic journals such as *Economic and Political Weekly*.

UNDERSTANDING LAND RIGHTS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN SCHEDULED AREAS OF INDIA

The Land Rights Initiative (LRI) team launched its report on *The Legal Regime and Political Economy of Land Rights of Scheduled Tribes in the Scheduled Areas of India* at its Fourth Annual Conference on *Land Laws, Land Acquisition, and Scheduled Areas in India*. Co-authored by Namita Wahi and Ankit Bhatia, the report included research contributions by Soumya Jha, as well as former research associates, Pallav Shukla, Spandana Battula, Upasana Chauhan and Pooja Pal. The report was the outcome of a five-year long research collaboration between the Land Rights Initiative and the Centre on Law and Social Transformation at Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Norway, led by Professor Siri Gloppen, and was also supported by funding from the Indian Council for Social Science Research.

The report illuminates why despite the existence of special constitutional guarantees for *adivasis* or Scheduled Tribes, (including, in particular, with respect to their right to land), they continue to be one of the most vulnerable, displaced and impoverished of all groups in India. Through a review of constitutional provisions, laws, and policies governing the rights of Scheduled Tribes and the administration of Scheduled Areas, and the financial and administrative structures that effectuate these protections, the report delineates a conflicting regime of protective and displacing laws, as well as conflicting policy narratives underlying these laws, which facilitate the displacement of Scheduled Tribes and their corresponding landlessness. The report also contains extensive primary data on the current geographical mapping of Scheduled Areas along with the current distribution of dams, forests, and mining activities there.



The Land Rights Initiative and CMI research collaboration, funded by the Norwegian Research Council, was recognised as an example of outstanding research collaboration at the India Norway Research Conference in Oslo.

LRI's Fourth Annual Conference on *Land Laws, Land Acquisition, and Scheduled Areas in India*.



The fourth LRI Conference featured commentaries on the report by various stakeholders from the government, academia, and civil society organisations. The panelists included eminent experts from across sectors, including Dr T Haque, Chairman, Special Cell on Land Policy, NITI Aayog, Mr Raghav Chandra, Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Dr VNVK Sastry, former Director, Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute, Government of Andhra Pradesh, among others.

The report was covered extensively in print and television media, including *The Wire*, the *Sunday Guardian*, and *Go News*.

UNDERSTANDING LAND ACQUISITION LITIGATION IN INDIA

At the LRI Conference, the team also showcased ongoing research on Supreme Court litigation from 2014 to 2018 pursuant to the enactment of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013. This research builds on LRI's 2017 report titled, *Land Acquisition in India: A Review of Supreme Court Cases from 1950 to 2016*. Shortly before the conference, Namita Wahi was interviewed by *LiveLaw* on the implications of conflicting Supreme Court decisions on the retrospective operation of the law.

Wahi has also explained the findings of the 2017 report in a CPR podcast on *Understanding Land Conflict in India*. The YouTube video of a 2016 seminar on the study is now one of the most watched research videos on the CPR website with an unprecedented viewership of almost 10,000 views. Wahi gave lectures on this subject in two batches of training programmes for government officials organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

BUILDING A LAND LAWS DATABASE

The LRI team compiled a comprehensive database of all land laws for the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Telangana, and Meghalaya. The team presented research findings on the making of such a database and preliminary analysis of the laws at the fourth LRI Conference and at a seminar organised by the Central Information Commission, New Delhi.

(below) Protests at Rajbhawan, Ranchi against the Land Acquisition Amendment Act 2017.
source: cpim.org



Key Media appearances, national & international engagements

- Namita Wahi was interviewed for a *Lok Sabha* Television show called अस्तित्व: देश का बढ़ता भू संघर्ष, on reasons for extensive and growing land conflict in India, and by *Go News* and *Land Portal*, on the work of the Land Rights Initiative.
- Namita Wahi was a member of the Technical Committee reviewing the Pilot Study led by a consortium of research organisations on the Digital Land Records Modernisation Programme of the Department of Land Resources.
- Namita Wahi and Ankit Bhatia presented research findings on *The legal and political economy of Land Rights of Scheduled Tribes in Scheduled Areas*, at the Bergen Exchanges on Law and Social Transformation, Norway, and the Second India Land and Development Conference in New Delhi. Wahi also lectured on these findings at the University of Tromsø, and participated in the India Norway Research Conference in Oslo.
- Wahi also presented research on *Property rights and social and economic rights, the post-colonial state and the rule of law in India*, at the iSERP Workshop, EAFIT University, Medellin, Colombia.
- Wahi participated in panels on *The 33rd anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Disaster at Rafto House*, and *Business Related Human Rights Violations: State or Corporate Responsibility?* at CMI, Bergen.

Key engagements continued:

- Wahi presented findings on Understanding Land Acquisition Disputes in India at a workshop organised by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla, and at the CPR-Namati workshop on Comparative Research on land use change conflicts in Myanmar, Indonesia, and India, in New Delhi.

The LRI Speaker Series launched in 2015, continues to showcase perspectives on land rights issues by diverse stakeholders, including academics, civil society organisations, journalists, and policymakers. Topics covered this year included land grabs and displacement, data journalism efforts pertaining to land conflicts, and equitable and efficient intergenerational and intragenerational allocation of mineral revenues.

REALISING HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

LRI was awarded a research grant by the Norwegian Research Council as part of a multi-country research collaboration on *Realising the Human Right to Water* in Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Peru, and South Africa.

RESEARCH ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE STRUCTURES

Rajshree Chandra was appointed co-director at an Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) project titled, *Re-working the 'Knowledge Structures' in International Relations: Some Indian Contributions*. The project self-consciously seeks to step outside the 'box' of Western theoretical frameworks and evolve a fundamentally different way of theorising International Relations (IR) by thinking through alternative vantage points and forging multiple sites of knowledge creation that draw insights from Indian histories, experiences and ways of thinking, and understanding social realities in a way that holds the promise of transforming our understanding of the discipline of IR.

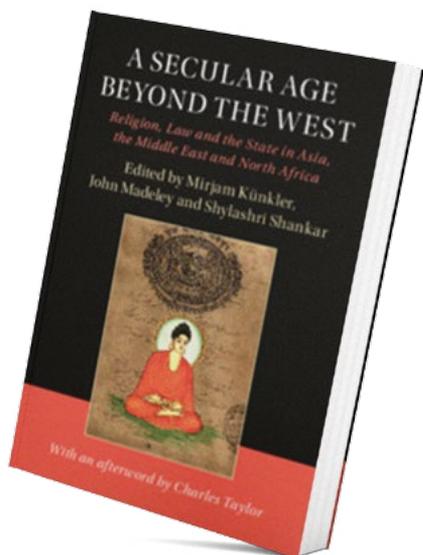
The proposed project seeks to underline and document the presence of plural intellectual traditions, drawn from different contexts within India, which have so far largely remained absent or peripheral in mainstream IR. There are several themes being explored that have their roots in the Indian history or contemporary *sui generis* traditions, such as statecraft, war, peace, state, political authority, civilization, power and ethics; territoriality, nation, identity, among others.

Further, for the project, Chandra wrote a chapter titled, *Occupy law: Locating Indigeniety in Rights*, which is an exploration of community property rights that have infiltrated the vocabulary of an Indian law in the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The project is at an advanced stage of submissions.

RESEARCH ON FUNCTIONING OF THE JUDICIARY

Shylashri Shankar's co-edited book, *A Secular Age beyond the West: Religion, Law and the State in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa* (Cambridge University Press), came out in the summer of 2018. This book traces religion and secularity in eleven countries not shaped by Western Christianity (Japan, China, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, and Morocco), and how they parallel or diverge from Charles Taylor's grand narrative of the North Atlantic world, *A Secular Age* (2007).

The book has been nominated for the *Religion and International Relations Book Award*. It was also discussed at the Author meets Critics panel at the *World Congress of the International Sociological Association*, and was very well received. More such panel discussions will be organised later in the year and through early next year at the *Social Science History Association (SSHA)*, and at the *Association for Asian Studies (AAS)*.



SENSITISING POLICY MAKERS

The Governance and Public Policy Initiative (GPPI) continued its overseas academic training programmes for Indian parliamentarians and also organised domestic roundtable discussions on issues such as Aadhaar privacy concerns and database security, health commitments made in the Union Budget 2018, and prioritising child health and nutrition in India.

DOMESTIC ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS



» GPPI organised a roundtable discussion on *Technology and Governance: Aadhaar Privacy Concerns and Database Security*, focusing on the pros and cons of the Aadhaar platform, which was in debate due to the several concerns it raised related to fundamental issues of privacy and political rights. The discussion aimed to create a focused discourse to help parliamentarians gain a well-rounded perspective on the risks and benefits of the platform through discussions with experts such as Pavan Duggal, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Cyber Law expert; Gautam Bhatia, Advocate, Supreme Court; and Subhashish Bhadra, Associate, Digital Identity at Omidyar Network.

(L to R above)

Roundtable discussion on *Technology and Governance: Aadhaar Privacy Concerns and Database Security*.

Roundtable discussion on *Health Commitments Made in the Union Budget 2018*.

» GPPI and Global Health Strategies (GHS) jointly organised a discussion on *Health Commitments Made in the Union Budget 2018*, focusing on the announcement of the National Health Protection Scheme and the allocation of Rs 1,200 crores to the Ayushman Bharat Programme, among other issues. GPPI and GHS also organised a discussion on *Prioritising Child Health and Nutrition in India* to deliberate on the role of political leaders in putting major public health issues such as child health and nutrition on the political agenda.

ACADEMIC OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

» GPPI took a multi-party group of political leaders for the sixth leg of the *Princeton-GPPI-CPR Strategic Affairs Program* held at the Princeton University.



- » A delegation of five Indian Members of Parliament participated in interactive discussions at the Australia National University's China Centre and Crawford School of Public Policy, as part of a programme organised in partnership with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- » A group of seven multi-party Members of Parliament attended the week-long 2017 *Chevening—CPR Parliamentarians Fellowship Programme* at the London School of Economics (LSE).

DECONSTRUCTING STATE ELECTIONS IN INDIA



Field work in Gujarat.

Over the past year, Neelanjana Sircar conducted significant qualitative fieldwork in two major state elections—Gujarat and Karnataka. This work yielded two working papers and a series of articles in the *Hindustan Times*. In addition, Sircar has started writing a regular column in *Hindustan Times* that makes use of publicly available political and social data. He has used his column to analyse, among other things, the performance of Members of Parliament, political financing, and the recently concluded West Bengal *panchayat* elections.

LAUNCH OF THE CPR – TCPD DIALOGUES ON INDIAN POLITICS

Drawing on his election related research, and the success of the discussion on the results of the Gujarat elections, which featured Gilles Verniers, Co-Director of Trivedi Centre for Political Data (TCPD), Ashoka University, Sircar helped launch and organise the TCPD-CPR Dialogues on Indian Politics.

The dialogues are a monthly event series that bring together academicians, policy and political practitioners, and civil society actors to grapple with important social and political issues in India. Especially in current polarised times, when debates on politics in India have tended to become increasingly noisy, blurring the lines between critical engagement and partisan endorsement, the series is envisaged as a platform for rigorous non-partisan commentary.

Thus far, four discussions have been organised on the Karnataka elections, the state of democracy in India, political financing, and crony populism.



CPR-TCPD Dialogue on *Unpacking the Karnataka Election Result*.



URBANISATION

photo: Logan King

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.

Les petites villes, l'autre visage de l'urbanisation en Inde (The small town, another aspect of urbanisation in India), Marie-Hélène Zérah, *The Conversation*, 8 March 2018, <https://theconversation.com/les-petites-villes-lautre-visage-de-lurbanisation-en-inde-93036>

Documents on Kathputli Colony <http://citiesofdelhi.cprindia.org/reports/kathputli-colony-documents/>

CPR PRESENTATIONS

Emergent Forms of Densification: Shared Perspectives

13-16 November 2017 Hanoi

Organised by Centre Population et Développement (CEPED) and IRD, with Hanoi Architectural University

Increasing fragmentation of outbreaks management and policies according to type of towns and actors in India and Vietnam, Olivier Telle (CNRS/CSH/CPR) with Marc Choisy (IRD/MIVEGEC) and Le Viet Thanh (Pasteur Institute, Vietnam)

Beyond the sanitary networked city: understanding co-production drivers in India and Vietnam, Shubhagato Dasgupta and Prashant Arya (CPR) with Luisa Moretto, Frederica Natalia Rosati, Teller Jacques (Université la Cambre Horta Bruxelles and Université de Liège)

Slum redevelopment projects under public-private partnerships in Indian metropolises and social housing redevelopment projects in HCMC, a comparative study, Veronique Dupont (IRD/CESSMA and CPR) with Du Phuoc Tan (Ho Chi Minh City Institute of Development Studies)

Rental housing as coping strategy in urban villages transformation: A comparative study of Phu Dien Village, Vietnam and Sikandarpur Ghosi village, Gurgaon, India, Mukta Naik and Kimberly M Noronha (CPR) with Nguyễn Văn Suu (University of Social Sciences of Vietnam, Hanoi)

CPR works on governance issues at various scales, viz. metropolitan, small towns and urban neighbourhoods. This year, the focus was on the importance of smaller urban settlements and on issues of regional governance.

CPR, in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania, conducted a survey of nearly 5500 households across the National Capital Region (NCR). Coordinated by Neelanjan Sircar, with components on education, occupation, politics, crime and safety, gender, marriage, commuting, residential histories and personal networks, this survey allows a careful investigation of the role of urbanisation on social and economic behaviour.

As part of the India – Urban Rural Boundaries and Basic Services (IND-URBBS), a project which is part of the JEA1 (Young Teams) program of the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), researchers explored how State-citizen relationships impacts outcomes like occupational structure, delivery of basic services and broader aspects of citizenship in informal urban settlements, at the urban periphery and in newly emerging urban areas. CPR researchers also collaborated with other IRD researchers to present comparative papers at a conference in Hanoi.

In the year of its demolition after a decade of negotiations between residents and the Delhi Development (DDA), Veronique Dupont and Shankare Gowda continued tracking the Kathputli Colony slum redevelopment project being built through public-private partnership. Persis Taraporevala and Manish curated a public archive of documentation relating to the colony and its redevelopment.

Taking forward CPR's research on Delhi's settlements, CPR started two new projects. *Boundary Spanning and Intermediation for Urban Regeneration* examines the role of actors and institutions that help communities engage with the State in informal settlements. This project was undertaken in partnership with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai) and Madras Institute of Development Studies (Chennai) and is funded by the Indian Council for Social Sciences Research. *Digital Urban Observatory* seeks to develop a methodology, in collaboration with field partners and researchers from Brown University and Georgetown University, to comprehensively map the provision of civic services in select informal settlements in Delhi using satellite imaging and field enquiry with a view to enabling citizens to do it on their own.

In another major project launched this year, CPR, along with Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru (IIHS), Hyderabad Urban Labs (HUL), Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (TISS) initiated the Tacit Urban Research Network (TURN), that aims to make tacit knowledge relevant and inform inclusive policy frameworks.

With a view to contributing to comparative studies under the framework of the BRICS+ City Lab, CPR researchers presented the perspective of youth in India focusing on institutional structures, governance frameworks, employment-unemployment and politics.

Persis Taraporevala, assisted by Ashwathy Anand and Ajai Sreevatsan, analysed publicly available information on India's Smart Cities Mission to facilitate a debate on the nature of smart cities in India. The analysis suggested that 'smart' features were not a prominent aspect of projects under the mission and brought attention to aspects of citizen participation, as well as pointed out how municipalities could adopt practices related to governance mechanisms and funding patterns from the smart city special purpose vehicles.

CPR's researchers continued work on questions of access, equity, inclusion and sustainability with respect to public spaces, especially for children, as well as urban transport.



photo: Reuters

ECONOMY

Following on from the presentation of the report of the inter-ministerial Working Group on Migration of the Government of India, under the Chairmanship of Partha Mukhopadhyay, migration remained a key focus area this year, with particular attention to social welfare and protection for internal migrants. Researchers looked closely at the current implementation levels of the Building and Other Construction Workers framework, and its potential to improve the lives of construction workers.

In collaboration with JustJobs Network, CPR conducted surveys and qualitative fieldwork in Kishangarh, Rajasthan and Mangalore, Karnataka in India, and in Kabupaten Semarang, Central Java and Kupang, Nusa Tenggara Timor in Indonesia to understand the role of small cities in the migration pathways and employment outcomes of young men and women. The project leverages local knowledge and insights of academic and civil society partners in these cities.

Under a BRICS Mobility Grant, Eesha Kunduri and Dr Pragna Rugunanan, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Johannesburg have been collaborating on exploring interconnections among migration, urbanisation and informal employment in New Delhi and Johannesburg. Under this project, Eesha Kunduri visited Johannesburg and Dr Rugunanan visited Delhi and presented her work at CPR.

Debating the relationships between density and governance and basic services: Contradicting views from two case studies in India and Indonesia, Sweta Xess (CPR), Marie-Helene Zerah (IRD/CPR) with Rahayu Paramita (Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta)

'Despite RERA, Centre and states not doing enough to protect home buyers'
Manish Hindustan Times, 23 August 2017

Youth in India: Prospects and Challenges, Bhanu Joshi and Eesha Kunduri, CPR Policy Brief, July 2017

Media Pieces by Persis Taraporevala

Many of India's proposed smart city projects are actually 'unsmart', Hindustan Times, 19 July 2017

Why Smart Cities Mission must allow real-time project feedback, Hindustan Times, 31 July 2017

India's municipalities can learn from the funding pattern of smart cities, Hindustan Times, 11 August 2017

How Smart Cities Mission can help municipalities to improve governance, Hindustan Times, 8 September 2017

CPR-CSH Workshop: 'What does an Indian smart city look like?'
Ashwathy Anand, Ajai Sreevatsan, and Persis Taraporevala <http://www.cprindia.org/events/6255>

ThoughtSpace Episode 19: Unpacking the Smart Cities Mission in India
Persis Taraporevala and Ankit Bhardwaj <http://www.cprindia.org/news/6443>

CPR-CSH Workshop: Building Solidarities in the (Re)Construction of Migrant Communities in Johannesburg, Pragna Rugunanan <http://www.cprindia.org/events/6575>

Evaluating the Welfare Framework for Building and Other Construction Workers in India, Shamindra Nath Roy, Manish and Mukta Naik, CPR Policy Brief, April 2017

SERVICES

Sanitation

The SCI FI (Scaling City Institutions for India: Sanitation) project ran two programmes focused on 'urban sanitation – beyond networks' i.e., sanitation in areas that are not covered by piped sewerage infrastructure. The team's research and outreach activities, in partnership with a network of other organisations, has resulted in formal policy recognition of the need for Faecal Sludge Management (or FSM) for inclusive sanitation at the national level and in several states.

In the past year, SCI FI research focused on (1) the sanitation situation in small towns and large high-density settlements that are not formally classified as urban; (2) scaling up the provision of FSM services; (3) developing discourse around the place of FSM in relation to caste, social exclusion and manual scavenging; (4) deepening research into government efforts to address India's sanitation challenge and (5) action research on governance approaches in small towns of Odisha to streamline FSM. SCI FI significantly scaled up its outreach and dissemination efforts in this period, focusing on building networks and collaborations with other institutions whose work is related to the field of sanitation. This was carried out through CORP talks, a seminar series on sanitation hosted at CPR, a CPR-hosted conference and workshop, as well as through more opportunistic meetings and discussions with other institutions.

Continuing SCI FI's engagement with sanitation in small towns, CPR's research analysed the preference for improved on-site sanitation facilities in selected villages, which were also found to be proximate to urban areas and national highways, and highlighted several state-wise variations in the picture, which underscored the need for decentralised and region-specific strategies.

SCI FI research sought to address the policy gap in the regulation of septic tank emptying businesses through a series of case studies of septic tank emptying businesses in Dehradun, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Delhi. These studies collate data on financial models of these small small-scale and fragmented businesses that operate in extremely competitive environments without any formal policy recognition or support. The studies also throw light on the relationship between caste and sanitation and the persistence of the stigma attached to activities related to sanitation. SCI FI's efforts have also contributed to an improved understanding of the need to address manual scavenging through sanitation policy and interventions, identifying FSM as a key strategy to support a transition to safe and dignified sanitation work and to this end, working to strengthen the engagement between activists, policy-makers and implementing agencies.

Sewer workers deaths: Instead of blaming contractors, probe role of DJB officials, Arkaja Singh, Hindustan Times, 11 August 2017

Why Government Is Reminded Of Sanitation Workers Only After They Die, Mahima Malik Daily O, 18 September 2017

For Swachh India, focus on solid waste management, Sama Khan, Hindustan Times, 4 October 2017

Horizontal and Vertical Inequalities Explaining Disparities in Access to Urban Sanitation, Anju Dwivedi, Amandeep Singh CPR Policy Brief April 2017

Improving Urban Sanitation in India: Lessons from Malaysia, Anju Dwivedi, Amandeep Singh, CPR Policy Brief June 2017

Manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, Manish, Tripti Singh, CPR Policy Brief September 2017

Towards a New Research and Policy Paradigm: An Analysis of the Sanitation Situation in Large Dense Villages, Shubhagato Dasgupta, Shamindra Nath Roy, Aditya Bhol, Deepti Raj, CPR Research Report November 2017

Institutional and Technological Reforms in Urban Wastewater Management: Story of Malaysia, Ambarish Karunanithi, CPR Research Report November 2017

Capacity Building Need Assessment of Cities (Angul and Dhenkanal) and State Government on Sanitation: A Case Study of Odisha, Padmaja Nair, Anju Dwivedi, CPR Research Report, January 2018

SCI FI also carried out action research on governance approaches in small towns of Odisha. This included research and support for the development of treatment facilities and FSM services, as well as to develop a research-based strategy for strengthening community partnerships in Angul and Dhenkanal. Addressing some of the critical technical needs for sanitation in the state, the programme developed a Training Manual for Non-Sewered Sanitation and a Guidance Note on the Reuse of Treated Faecal Sludge. Building on previous work in developing the State Sanitation Strategy (now notified and being implemented), the programme advised the government on municipal bye-laws to support the rollout of FSM services in urban areas of the state. In continuation of its city and state-level focus, SCI FI developed partnerships with the Vidyabhawan Society in Udaipur, Rajasthan and the Kalinga Institute for Technology in Bhubaneswar, Odisha to carry out collaborative research work on urban sanitation.

Research on the national government's flagship Swachh Bharat Mission was carried out in collaboration with the Accountability Initiative at CPR, and Budget Briefs on the Swachh Bharat Mission, urban and rural, and the national government's scheme for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers prepared in time for the national budget session. An in-depth field study in Udaipur district was undertaken at the request of the district administration to understand better the process and challenges of a district being declared 'open-defecation free'.



photo: Adam Cohn

Housing and Homelessness

CPR conducted extensive field studies chronicling the lives of homeless persons in Delhi, in collaboration with research partner Koshish-TISS. Using ethnographic and life history methods, CPR's project team collected audio-interviews of cases in Delhi to capture (a) *entry into homelessness* (b) *vulnerabilities experienced during homelessness* focusing on work conditions, health burdens, and the lack of physical safety and security due to the lack of housing and c) *exit from homelessness*, to document sustainable pathways out of this situation.

CPR continued its engagement with issues of housing in urban spaces with research and engagement on informal rental housing, residential segregation in cities, and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Capacity Building Strategy for Urban Local Bodies And State Government On Sanitation: Odisha, Padmaja Nair, Anju Dwivedi, CPR Policy Brief, January 2018

Beyond 2019: Why Sanitation Policy Needs to Look Past Toilets, Shubhagato Dasgupta and Prashant Arya, CPR Policy Brief March, 2018

Working In Tandem: The Informal Septic Tank Emptying Market In Aya Nagar, Delhi, Sweta Celine Xess, Marie-Hélène Zérah, CPR Research Report, March 2018

Manual Scavenging in India: A Literature Review & Annotated Bibliography, Kimberly M Noronha, Tript Singh and Mahima Malik, March 2018

Budget Brief 2018-19: Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin (SBM-G), Avani Kapur, Devashish Deshpande, February 2018

Budget Brief 2018-19: Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban (SBM-U), Devashish Deshpande, Avani Kapur, February 2018

Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), Devashish Deshpande, Avani Kapur February, 2018

Becoming Homeless Surviving Homelessness: The lives of six working homeless men in Yamuna Pushta, Delhi. Ashwin Parulkar, CPR Working Paper, April 2017

(image above) SCI FI also carried out action research on governance approaches in small towns of Odisha. This included research and support for the development of treatment facilities and FSM services, as well as to develop a research-based strategy for strengthening community partnerships in Angul and Dhenkanal.

POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

- » SCI-FI continues to engage with the Government of Odisha in developing the regulatory framework for regulation of FSM. In September 2017, CPR prepared a technical note on the role and responsibilities of stakeholders in the Odisha Urban Sanitation Strategy and Urban Sanitation Policy. Also, along with other partners, CPR organised an exposure visit to the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant in Devanhalli, Karnataka in September 2017.
- » CPR is a part of a Technical Support Unit (TSU) to the Odisha Government that is facilitating cross-learning between nine AMRUT cities and two Project Nirmal cities – Angul and Dhenkanal. CPR has participated in drafting the Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Regulations, 2018, and has supported an ODF strategy document and a survey of manual scavengers in Angul and Dhenkanal.
- » SCI FI has been involved in developing a city sanitation plan for Balasore Municipality, Odisha. In Udaipur, Rajasthan, it has engaged CEO, Zilla Parishad on the status of SBM and methods to improve implementation. It has also engaged with the District Magistrate and the Municipal Commissioner in Karnal, Haryana to understand the implementation of SBM and the efforts towards open defecation free (ODF) status in the rural and urban parts of the district.
- » A training programme for Master Trainers on Non-sewered urban sanitation in Odisha was organised under Project Nirmal for the officials of the 9 AMRUT cities and Project Nirmal towns in Odisha, with SBM (Swachh Bharat Mission) PMU (Project Management Unit), TSU (Technical Support Unit) and PN (Project Nirmal) staff. About 40 participants attended the event. The next step identified as a follow up was to train the next level of officials and create a conducive environment on FSM by organising district level triggering workshops with support of the TSU.
- » SCI FI presented ongoing research on sanitation preferences in large dense villages to the Ministry Of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India in various meetings over December 2017 to February 2018.
- » SCI FI researchers met with the Minister of Water, Government of Delhi on solutions related to manual scavenging in the aftermath of the death of sewer workers in the capital city.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay was a member of the NITI Aayog Working Group to deliberate on issues pertaining to City Governance & Smart Cities as part of Development Agenda for New India@75.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay participated in a panel on Own Revenue Enhancement in Urban Local Bodies in a NITI Aayog National workshop on Municipal Finance & Effective and Accelerated implementation of Smart Cities in January, 2018.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay has been appointed as a member of the Study Group-XIV (Implementation Strategies, Management Structure & Resource Mobilization) for the Review of the Regional Plan-2021 for National Capital Region.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

- » CPR is collaborating with Safai Karamchari Andolan (SKA) to support documentation and public awareness around manual scavenging issues. CPR researchers also engaged with Delhi Housing Rights Task Force.
- » Aditya Bhol presented a paper Horizontal and Vertical Inequalities Explaining Disparities in Access to Urban Sanitation at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting at Chicago, Illinois in April 2017.
- » Olivier Telle and Arkaja Singh presented on Small-Scale Governance of diseases in Delhi at an International Workshop titled Urb-Endemic: How to improve diseases control in the urban area of Delhi in Paris in June 2017.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay was part of the guest faculty for the Phase IV training of IAS officers at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, in June 2017.
- » Mukta Naik and Manish participated in a roundtable on Gender and Urban Transport organised by the Institute of Transportation Development and Policy in New Delhi, in June 2017.
- » Eesha Kunduri participated in a symposium on Migration and Informality organised by the Centre for Migration and Labour Solutions, Aajeevika Bureau in July 2017.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay was a speaker at the Oxford University Press South Asia Conclave, in Delhi in July 2017.
- » Manish presented on seasonal migrant workers' housing at a workshop organised by Prayas Centre for Labour Research and Action and the Centre for Urban Equity, September 2017.
- » Mukta Naik presented on: Destruction and remaking of commons in Gurgaon: The casualties of a rural to urban transition at CESSMA (Centre d'études en sciences sociales sur les mondes africains, américains et asiatiques), Paris, in October 2017.
- » CPR participated in a special meeting on manual scavenging with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in Delhi in October 2017.
- » Shubhagato Dasgupta was a jury member for the India Today Safagiri Awards 2017 to recognise and award governments, firms and individuals who have made exceptional contributions to sanitation, in October 2017.
- » Eesha Kunduri presented on Caste, gender and the (re)shaping of migrant identities: Insights from two Indian cities, at the Wednesday Seminar of Sociology, Anthropology and Development Studies, University of Johannesburg in November 2017.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay presented on Invisible Planning, Visible Exclusions: Places, People, Policies at the CASI Workshop on Delhi and the NCR at University of Pennsylvania in November 2017.

- » Partha Mukhopadhyay participated in the CIFAR Workshop on Governance, Crisis and Disorder in the 21st Century Metropolis in Paris, December, 2017.
- » Manish participated in a roundtable on Smart Mobility for a Clean Delhi organised by Ashden India in New Delhi, in December 2017.
- » Shamindra Nath Roy and Manish participated in a stakeholder consultation on Entrepreneurship on the Road: Adopting Shared mobility models in India organised by NITI Aayog, Government of India in December 2017.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay spoke on Migration: Key Issues and Policy Perspectives in the Lecture Series on Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development organised by UNFPA in collaboration with UNESCO in December 2017.
- » Anju Dwivedi and Uzra Sultana (Arghyam) presented the case of Odisha on Scaling up FSM through partnership in the 3rd National Summit on Sustainable Water and Sanitation held at Bengaluru organised by CDD Society in January, 2018.
- » Arkaja Singh presented on legal and policy issues at the National Consultation of Solid and Liquid Resource Management convened by Ministry of Drinking Water Supply in February 2018.
- » Anju Dwivedi presented the key areas of successful partnership with Odisha government in embedding FSM in government policy and programmes at the Dasra Collaborative Action Forum in February 2018.
- » Manish participated in a stakeholder consultation on RERA organised by the Indian Institute of Human Settlements in New Delhi, in February 2018.
- » Mukta Naik participated in a panel titled: The urban housing conundrum - People without houses and houses without people at the Krithi Litfest at Kochi organised by the Government of Kerala in March 2018.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay and Mukta Naik presented at the Housing in the Emerging India conference, organised by Urban Design Research Institute and the Architecture Foundation in Mumbai, 15-17 March 2018.
- » SCI-FI organised a study visit to Warangal, Narsapur and Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh to study Faecal Sludge Treatment Technologies and Service Delivery Models and dialogue around FSM technologies and service provider models at the state and ULB level in March 2018.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay participated in a UN Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) Expert Group Meeting and Roundtable on Selected Topics on Economics and Sustainable Development in Washington DC in March 2018.

WUF9

Big Gains in Small Towns: Helping Advance NUA and SDG Goals

Kuala Lumpur, February 2018

CPR organised a side event at the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 11 February 2018. Building on earlier side events during Prepcom3 at Surabaya in July 2016 and at Habitat III in Quito in October 2016, this panel discussion sought to widen the inclusion of smaller settlements in policy documents and broader discourse, especially as part of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Partha Mukhopadhyay moderated the discussion between panelists Gregory F Randolph of JustJobs Network (USA/India), Hamento Kusuma Widjaja of RUJAK Center for Urban Studies (Indonesia), Valerie Clerc, L'Institut de recherche pour le développement- IRD (France) and Anant Maringanti, Hyderabad Urban Labs (India). The panel highlighted the myriad and thriving economies of small towns, their role in migration and issues of environmental resilience and service provision and cross-learning for informal settlements.



WUF9
Event

BIG GAINS IN SMALL TOWNS

Helping Advance NUA and SDG Goals

A lot of the global population lives in smaller towns, which also play a key role in urban-rural linkages and the ongoing process of urbanisation. There is a lot of heed paid to big city issues, but similar focused attention to the needs of small towns and early intervention can make a big difference to achieving SDG and NUA goals.

CRP POLICY RESEARCH | HYDERABAD URBAN LAB | IRD
JustJobs NETWORK | RUJAK CENTER FOR URBAN STUDIES

Informal Plans, Planned Informality: Shenzhen as Model and Field,
Shenzhen, January 2018

Mukta Naik of CPR along with Mary Ann O'Donnell of Handshake 302, Shenzhen and Jonathan Bach of The New School, New York, organised a workshop, supported by the India China Institute, The New School, New York, as part of the Hong Kong/Shenzhen Architecture and Urbanism Biennale (UABB).

It focused on informality and Shenzhen's success, featuring multi-disciplinary presentations by young scholars, anthropologist Kim Do Dom, from University of Chicago, geographer, Cai Yifan, from Clark University and political scientist, Fu Na, from the New School. On the second day, Indian scholars viewed Shenzhen 'from' India, reacting to *Learning from Shenzhen* edited by Jonathan Bach, Mary Ann O'Donnell and Winnie Wong. Vamsi Valukabharanam of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Rohit Negi of Ambedkar University, Delhi, and Du Juan of Hong Kong University then spoke on inequality, ecology and housing. The final day featured a writing workshop on the city.



National Conference on Sustainable Sanitation: Evidence and Practice

New Delhi, December 2017

In the context of Swachh Bharat Mission and the policy focus on sustainable sanitation in the National Policy on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management, the conference aimed to create an understanding of challenges in the current policy, implementation and monitoring framework, and to share lessons geared towards community-centric approaches to sustainable sanitation. Wateraid India, RICE Institute (Research Institute for Compassionate Economics) and CPR presented their recent research on the implementation of SBM-Gramin, which was followed by a panel discussion on the themes and issues raised by the researchers. It concluded with a session on urban sanitation, featuring the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, CPR and PRIA.



WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

The CPR-CSH Urban Workshop series continued uninterrupted, completing its 98th workshop in March 2018. The talks covered a diverse range, including heritage, climate change, urban politics, planning, gender and prominent debates in urban theory including planetary urbanisation. See <http://www.cprindia.org/projects/cpr-csh-urban-workshop>

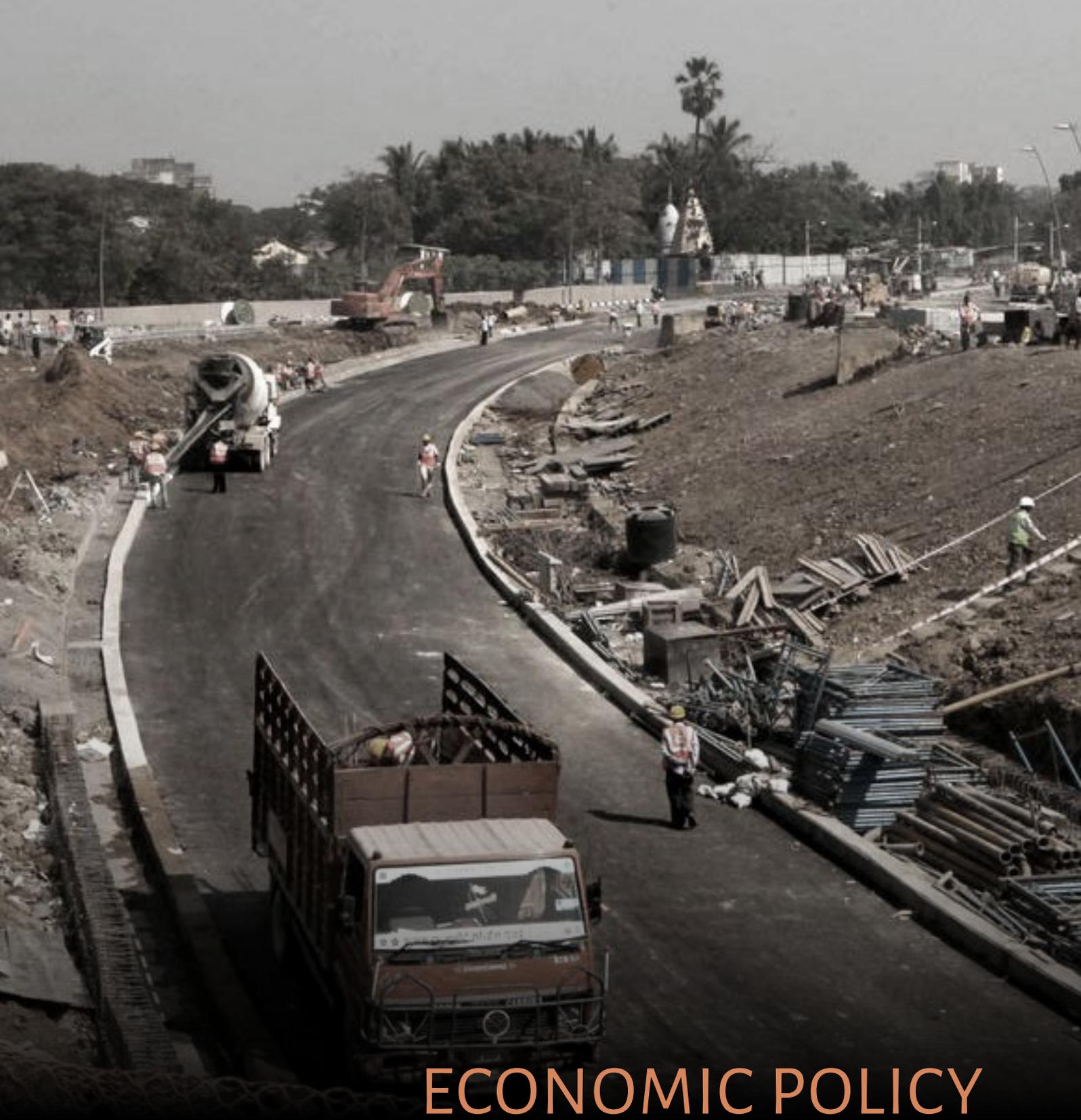
The Community of Researchers and Practitioners (CORP) in Sanitation organised seminars to disseminate research on various topics relating to access to safe sanitation and issues around sanitation work and businesses, which can be accessed at <http://www.cprindia.org/corp>.

A workshop on *Community Approaches to Sanitation: Experiences from Implementation* was organised in December 2017 with officials and local representatives from state governments and local authorities in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha on learnings from their experience of implementing SBM in urban and rural areas. It focused on the challenges of sustainability, and its impact on marginalised and vulnerable communities.

In December 2017, SCI FI also collaborated with Pondicherry University and the French Institute of Pondicherry to support the Social Sciences Winter School in Pondicherry. Presentations included a plenary talk on *Urban Sanitation from a River Pollution Perspective*, a lecture on understanding sanitation engineering for social science researchers as well as presentations on community approaches to sanitation, manual scavenging, the theory and practice of non-network sanitation ('beyond networks') and the use of mapping and big data for research on urban sanitation.

SELECTED PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

- » Giving Migrants Their Due, Partha Mukhopadhyay and Mukta Naik, Shelter (HUDCO-HSMI).
- » On the Importance of Triangulating Data Sets to Examine Indians on the Move, S Chandrasekhar, Mukta Naik, Shamindra Nath Roy, Economic and Political Weekly.
- » Of Agency, Participation and Design: Two Contrasting Play Scenarios in Indian Cities Mukta Naik, in Katherine Masiulonis, and Elizabeth Cummins (edited) *How to Grow a Playspace*, Routledge 2017 London.

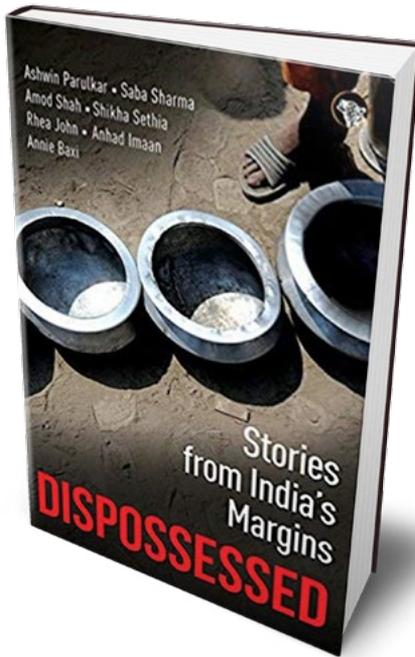


ECONOMIC POLICY

photo: Getty Images | Mahendra Parikh

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

BOOK



Dispossessed: Stories from India's Margins by Ashwin Parulkar, Saba Sharma, Amod Shah, Shikha Sethia, Rhea John, Anhad Imaan, and Annie Baxi, *Speaking Tiger*.

Chapters by Ashwin Parulkar

Born Busy Dying: Government Responses to Starvation Deaths in Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh
This Land is Their Land
A Tale of Two Villages

Dispossessed: Stories from India's Margins by Ashwin Parulkar, Saba Sharma, Amod Shah, Shikha Sethia, Rhea John, Anhad Imaan, and Annie Baxi was published by Speaking Tiger. Drawing on Gandhi's talisman, it looks at the 'poorest and the weakest' in our society. Drawn from field studies on starvation deaths and destitution, it takes a sobering view of extreme poverty, displacement and marginalisation in contemporary India.

Ashwin Parulkar explores the aftermath of starvation deaths in Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh that occurred between 2005 and 2010. He chronicles the lives of victims and family members left behind as well as the implementation of policies such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), deemed a 'right to food' by the Supreme Court. In a different context, he examines the lives of Muslims in an informal settlement in Jaipur who had moved to Rajasthan from West Bengal in the 1970s and were summarily declared Bangladeshi terrorists in the aftermath of the 2008 Jaipur bomb blasts.

Other authors present how members of an erstwhile 'Criminal Tribe' in Bihar grapple with the remnants of shame and dispossession; how disabled migrants in a Jaipur charity access health care; how men in New Delhi's Yamuna Pushta survive homelessness; and how some Muslims face discrimination in the Delhi rental housing market. Other stories speak to rural women with mental and physical disabilities, residents of a leprosy colony in rural Chhattisgarh and extremely backward communities in Bihar.

The various contexts show how destitution in India is driven by what Barbara Harriss-White has characterised as a combination of social exclusion, political disenfranchisement and economic insecurity and which, as this volume shows, is often multi-generational. It is not uncommon to hear of a history of denial of state services such as health care, food and nutrition programmes to marginalised families that often attract attention only in events of death and violence. But, the picture is not all bleak. Civil society organisations and monitoring agencies are key stakeholders in potentially addressing this governance failure in contemporary India. As the book shows, local social workers are often 'first responders' to calamities as well as agents for people to access the state. They advocate for the rights of the dispossessed by filing petitions in the courts, sensitising local development officials, and reaching out to provide services to people who have been left behind in a rapidly developing, yet unequal India.

INFRASTRUCTURE

More than half a million kilometres of rural all-weather roads have been built under PMGSY – Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana – the rural roads building programme of the Government of India. Srinivas



Chokkakula continued his research project on *Roads and the politics of thought: Ethnographic approaches* in association with SOAS (The School of Oriental and African Studies), London. With a view to understanding the rationalities and motivations of various actors and agencies participating in the PMGSY, he conducted field research in Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh.

Partha Mukhopadhyay worked with the Ministry of Finance on assessing the effectiveness of their schemes to support public private partnership in infrastructure and on evolving mechanisms to extract best value from existing infrastructure assets.

HEALTH CARE

In published research Jishnu Das, drawing on research in multiple countries, including India, argued that in order to improve health, one should go beyond simply providing more resources for universal coverage – ‘without quality, access may be irrelevant’. His research shows that availability of health advisers is not the main problem in most countries – the problem is that large gaps exist between what doctors know and what they actually do. The links between medical qualifications, medical knowledge and quality of care are weak, leading to situations where providers without any formal medical training may at times provide higher quality care than fully trained doctors. This points to the need for additional research and policy work, as well as new methods in order to achieve the goals of universal health coverage. These approaches need to particularly tackle systems that produce medical professionals who are poorly trained, under-motivated, and often assigned to clinics with no peers or mentors and insufficient patient volume to hone skills.

In another publication, Jishnu Das examines how, given their vast number and consequent high accessibility, pharmacies in India, manage patients with suspected or known TB. The research finds that while antibiotics were frequently dispensed to patients over the counter (OTC), pharmacies follow guidelines and do not dispense first-line anti-TB drugs. It highlights the need for engaging pharmacists for a variety of TB-services across the spectrum of care, and building a supportive and effective regulatory environment to curb OTC sale of unnecessary antibiotics, and decrease diagnostic delays for patients.

- Chokkakula presented his research at the Roadology Workshop organised by the Advanced Institute for Social Sciences, Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), Shenzhen, China.
- *Smoothing Bharatmala's bumps*
Partha Mukhopadhyay *Mint*
November 1, 2017.



In urban public health, Olivier Telle has been studying the spread of vector borne diseases and how this is related to the socio-economic and spatial dynamics of Delhi, Vientiane and Bangkok. This year, CPR started a new inter-disciplinary research project in collaboration with CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifique), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), municipal corporations of Delhi and Institut Pasteur. The project focuses on better control of emerging infectious diseases in urban areas with innovative on-site tools for mosquito control, which is the main vector for Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika viruses. CPR also signed a MoU with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and National Institute of Malaria Research on research for innovative responses to epidemics of vector borne diseases.

In related work, Olivier Telle collaborated with the University of Chicago and Institut Pasteur on the FACCTS project *Harnessing space and time in the transmission dynamics of vector-transmitted infections*, and with the University of Pittsburgh's Public Health Dynamic Laboratory and Computational Genomic Centre of AIIMS (ICMR) on the WHO SEARO project *Anti-Microbial Resistance surveillance system with Integrative Technologies (AMRIT)*.

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

In order to reach out to identify existing tribal entrepreneurs and explore ways and means to assist them, and popularise entrepreneurship among tribal youth, D Shyam Babu carried out preliminary investigations and assessments, held several meetings, and visited Ranchi and Jamshedpur. A medium term goal is to create a resource centre that will not only serve as a knowledge-base on the subject but also become an enabler for tribal entrepreneurs. D Shyam Babu is also working on methods to integrate SC/ST (Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes) entrepreneurs as suppliers and dealers into mainstream value chains.



Members of SEWA in Ganeshpura village, Gujarat with the Director General of ICRISAT.

source: dgblog.icrisat.org

In his research on enterprise activity of women Michael Walton explores a classic development problem – the ‘Missing Middle’ between top-down action by formal government and private sectors and the activities of grassroots organisations, which focus on the challenges faced by grassroots and community-based organisations – and how this affects scaling up. The research is based on four years of work with several remarkable grassroots organisations that form part of India’s long tradition of organising and mobilising disadvantaged groups, with specific focus on the Self-Employed Women Association (SEWA), a 45-year old labour union, owned by its two million members. Michael Walton finds that the very nature of the challenges – involving both adaptive challenges of a deeply values-based organisation seeking to scale and the business and economic issues they face – requires an approach that is genuinely collaborative in exploring problems, and is essentially integrative of the adaptive organisational and business organisational challenges.



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates the Smart Net Portal and Smart City Projects of Pune on 25 June 2016.

GROWTH AND URBANISATION

CPR has begun to engage with the idea of cities as engines of economic growth and the extent to which the current urban conditions make such a role feasible. It is now almost axiomatic that cities are the engines of growth. This vision is most clearly evident in India’s Smart City Mission, with its focus on area based development – like an engine within the city. Yet, even in the mainstream economics literature, while there is evidence for cities as places of higher productivity, there is less evidence for cities as drivers of growth – with learning and innovation being the primary driver and urban primacy being an important obstacle. The primary questions are whether cities are places of learning and innovation, whether there are identifiable mechanisms for such activity and the kind of city institutions – economic, social and political – to facilitate it. This research will interrogate the empirical characteristics of such urban institutions in India in the context of the theoretical literature and learning mechanisms that emerge from international evidence.

Launch of Metamorphoses – Talking Technology series

The Centre for Policy Research, in partnership with India International Centre (IIC) and the NITI Aayog launched, *Metamorphoses – Talking Technology*, a series of nine interactions covering different aspects of the digital revolution with the aim of bridging the gap between technological advancements and popular understanding of the ways in which these are transforming our lives. The series, which will unfold over a year, was designed and led by Richa Bansal and Dhruv Arora from CPR along with Shyam Saran from IIC, and the NITI Aayog.

The different sessions under the series aim to explore various aspects – the big picture on technological changes and its interplay with individual and social attitudes; the evolution of media in the digital age; demystification of the unique jargon through which new technology is projected on to our lives; data privacy; cyber security; legal regulations; scope of machine learning and artificial intelligence and moral and ethical dilemmas associated with these, among other topics.

The series was launched by Professor Yochai Benkler, Berkman Professor of Entrepreneurial Legal Studies at Harvard Law School & faculty co-director of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, whose keynote on *Technology and Society* set the tone for the following panels. Author of the epoch-setting book *The Wealth of Networks*, Prof Benkler is a leading voice for understanding how digital technologies transform individual and social interactions. Subsequent discussions have explored issues of data privacy, digital terminologies, social divides and diversity that technology has to straddle, and how digital and traditional media play out in today's context.

The series has a wide and growing audience, receives regular media coverage, runs a blog and has an active social media presence – it is fully archived at the microsite <https://metamorphoses.in/>.



Professor Yochai Benkler delivering the keynote at Metamorphoses on *Technology and Society*.

Globalisation in Question – a lecture series

Historically, economic globalisation has witnessed cycles of stability and capital accumulation followed by deep contestations that disrupted the prevailing order. The periods of instability were often accompanied by a power transition where the dominant powers were unable to organise or govern the economic system. New economic and geopolitical centres rose to wrest authority away from the declining powers over global economic governance.

In recent years, we appear to be confronting another inflexion point. Emerging economies, particularly the rising powers in the east, are increasing their geoeconomic and institutional footprints even as the previous proponents of globalisation seem to be taking a step back. This flux is not only reshaping the global North-South relationship, it is reviving older modes of economic order like regionalism and economic nationalism. Against this context, Srinath Raghavan, Zorwawar Daulet Singh and Sandeep Bhardwaj at CPR launched the Globalisation in Question lecture series to closely examine these trends and their implications for India and the world. So far, the following talks have been organised under the series:

- » Lecture on *Is Dollar Hegemony Inevitable? Possibilities for Reform in the Global Reserve System* by Anush Kapadia, who teaches sociology in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
- » Discussion on *Hyperglobalisation is Dead. Long Live Globalisation* by Arvind Subramanian, former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India.
- » Talk on *Indian Growth: Prospects for the Future* by Jahangir Aziz, the head of EM Asia Economic Research at J.P. Morgan.
- » Book Discussion on *The Price of Aid: The Economic Cold War in India* by Professor David C Engerman who is the Otilie Springer Professor of History at Brandeis University.



Arvind Subramanian talking on *Hyperglobalisation is Dead. Long Live Globalisation*.

POLICY & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

- » Partha Mukhopadhyay has been appointed Chair of the Working Group for the National Sample Survey 76th Round on Disability, Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Condition.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay participated in a United Nations Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) Expert Group Meeting and Roundtable on Selected Topics on Economics and Sustainable Development in Washington DC in March 2018.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay participated in the Finance Minister's pre-budget consultation with Economists in December 2017.
- » Olivier Telle presented on 'New opportunities in controlling vector-borne diseases: Big data, new insecticides and governance in urban India' Workshop at Centre de Sciences Humaines, Delhi <http://www.cprindia.org/events/6672>.
- » Olivier Telle presented on Emerging Infectious Diseases in a City: Dengue and Chikungunya in Delhi, at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi <http://www.cprindia.org/news/6424>.
- » Michael Walton presented Values and Value Chains: the Intersection of Grassroots Mobilisation and Enterprise Development in India at the inaugural research conference of The Social Innovation and Change Initiative titled Rethinking Cross-Sector Social Innovation at the Kennedy School, Harvard University, in the US.
- » D Shyam Babu continues to be a member of the National Taskforce on Affirmative Action convened by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

SELECTED PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

- » Michael Das, J, Woskie, L, Rajbhandari, R, Abbasi, K, & Jha, A. (2018) Rethinking assumptions about delivery of healthcare: implications for universal health coverage BMJ, 361, k1716. <https://www.bmj.com/content/361/bmj.k1716>
- » Miller, Rosalind, Jishnu Das, and Madhukar Pai Quality of tuberculosis care by Indian pharmacies: Mystery clients offer new insight in the Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases v. 10, January 2018 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405579417300669>
- » Mukhopadhyay, P Engines without Drivers: Cities in India's Growth Story, a CPR Working Paper, March 2018 <http://cprindia.org/research/papers/engines-without-drivers-cities-india%E2%80%99s-growth-story>

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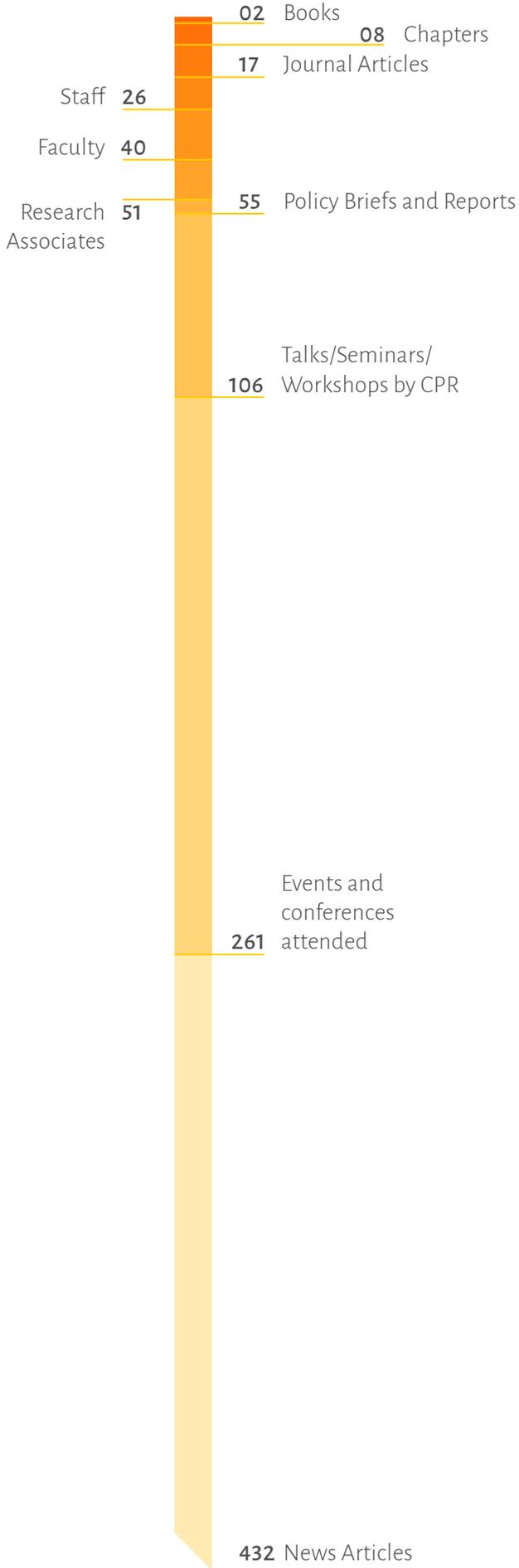
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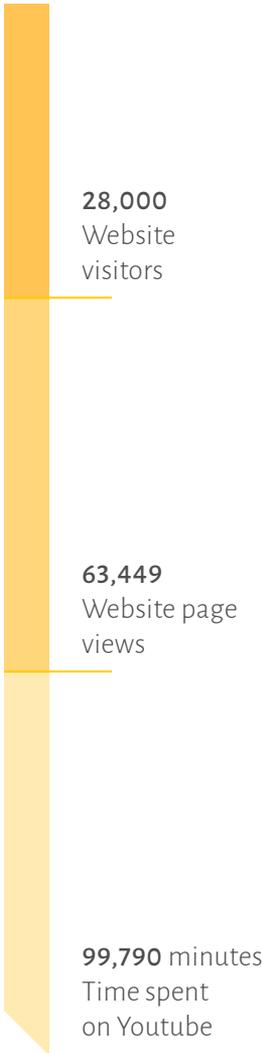
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