

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





# A leading public policy think tank

Conducting research in multiple disciplines

Contributing to a more robust public discourse

am delighted to present the Centre for Policy Research's (CPR) annual report for the financial year 2018-19. This has been an exciting year for us as we deepened our engagement in fields of research that CPR has long specialised in but also explored new research areas, critical to policy making today. As always, my colleagues have been extraordinarily prolific, making important contributions to public policy research and practice in India. It is difficult for an annual report to do justice to the wide-range of policy engagements at CPR. But I do hope that this report will give you a glimpse of CPR's fiercely independent spirit, our commitment to democratic dialogue and the sense of intellectual excitement we feel as we try to better understand this increasingly complex world and enrich public policy debates in India.

Keeping alive CPR's long tradition of publishing important scholarly, field-defining books, this year too, CPR faculty published books in fields as diverse as international relations, environmental law, electricity regulation, socioeconomic rights and politics. I particularly want to mention two CPR faculty who published their first books to wide acclaim. Zorawar Daulet Singh, a scholar in international relations, made an important contribution through original archival work to understand India's foreign policy in the Nehru and Indira Gandhi years and through this prism understand contemporary foreign policy challenges. Another important publication was Shibani Ghosh's edited volume on Indian environmental law. Drawing on contributions from several leading thinkers and lawyers in the field, this book is the first serious, scholarly engagement with the emerging environmental legal framework in India. CPR faculty also made regular contributions in non-academic journals, newspapers and seminars and in the process, enriched the public discourse, infusing much needed evidence and sobriety. This year, CPR faculty published 452 articles in major national and international dailies and popular journals.

CPR faculty remains committed to drawing on its academic work 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 policy makers. This year was particularly special as we received a research chair from the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) to pursue research and support the Ministry in its work on trans-boundary water governance with a special focus on inter-state river water sharing. CPR faculty, Srinivas Chokkakula has been appointed the research chair. This is an important partnership and is a testament to how much the policy making community values research input. CPR faculty also continued to serve on several government committees, partnering with government at the state and national levels, and providing research inputs and advice to a range of policy makers from parliamentarians to civil servants and grassroots administrators. These included the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's committee on Environmental Pollution (prevention and control) of which Navroz Dubash is a member, and the Authority and the XIV group of the National Capital Region planning board of which Partha Mukhopadhyay is a member. CPR continued to make its presence felt on the global stage. Specifically in the area of climate change, Navroz Dubash and Lavanya Rajamani have been appointed as coordinating lead authors for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report, writing chapters on national and sub-national policies and international co-operation, respectively.

In pursuit of its mission to remain at the cutting edge of policy debates, this year, CPR expanded its research horizons to new areas. An important new research programme we launched focuses on the specific challenge of building state capacity in India. Drawing on CPR's long-term engagement in policy, this initiative is premised on the understanding that the Indian state needs to urgently deepen its capabilities in ways that enable greater agility, strategic capacity and grassroots implementation capacity. Building these capabilities requires a much deeper understanding of the normative framework of the Indian state, its institutional capabilities and every day functioning. This research initiative will aim to build a new, multi-disciplinary knowledge base on understanding the Indian state and through this generate a renewed debate on institutional and administrative reforms needed to build a 21st-century state. Embedded in this research agenda is a dynamic practice-based model of policy engagement. The initiative, in collaboration with CPR researchers, will build new spaces to debate the nuts and bolts of administrative reforms and directly partner with government to problem solve collaboratively.

India's changing political economy landscape – shifts in voter behavior, the changing competitive political party system – is fundamentally altering the dynamics of policymaking and policy implementation. As a policy research institute, understanding these shifts is critical. To this end, in early 2019, we launched a new research programme on Indian politics. This programme will study party politics, elections and voter behavior. Another important policy research area that expanded its footprint is CPR's work on climate change, energy and the environment. Led by Navroz Dubash, CPR's initiative on climate change, energy and the environment – with its long and distinguished engagement on climate change in the national and international arena – expanded to new areas, including air pollution, India's energy transitions, electricity and environmental regulation. This formidable team is truly at the cutting edge of one of the most pressing issues of our time.

As academics and policy practitioners we also seek to bring some nuance and rigour into an increasingly polarised public sphere. This year, we made a concerted effort to enhance our public engagement through seminars, conferences and curated discussion series. In May 2018, we launched 'Metamorphoses', a nine part dialogue series in partnership with the NITI Aayog and the India International Centre to better understand the complex world of technology and its impact on society. As the 2019 general election approached, and party politics took over public debate, we felt it important to infuse much needed evidence into debates on politics. To do this we collaborated with the Ashoka University's Trivedi Center for Political Data to launch a dialogue series on Indian politics. We also launched a new conference, 'CPR Dialogues', that brings CPR research in direct dialogue with policy makers and stakeholders. We hope to make this an annual dialogue series.

None of this would have been possible without CPR's wonderful community of faculty and researchers. Their commitment to excellence, intellectual curiosity, courage to ask difficult questions, and above all, love of a good argument is what makes CPR such a special place. I am, as always, personally grateful to the CPR board for their unflinching support and for holding us to high standards of independence and integrity. But none of this would have been possible without the support of our funders and friends. The trust they have reposed in us has enabled us to stay committed to our research and independence. And finally, our communications and administration teams, especially Mr Ravi, who remain the backbone of our institution and the only reason why CPR's faculty and researchers can do what they do best, unencumbered by the daily administrative institutional demands.

Before signing off, I would like to make special mention of CPR Chairperson, Mr Eric Gonsalves, who retired on March 31, 2019. One of India's finest diplomats, Mr Gonsalves' integrity, commitment to CPR, deep institutional experience and wonderful sense of humour were a source of tremendous strength and motivation for us. He remains our mentor and guide and we hope that we can do him proud in the years to come by staying committed to our core values of fierce independence, a commitment to ideas and argument, and a willingness to objectively assess evidence as we seek answers to complex problems. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr Meenakshi Gopinath as CPR's Chairperson from April 2019. It is a true honour for CPR to have someone as distinguished and awe inspiring as Dr Gopinath lead us. We are confident that under her guidance, CPR will grow from strength to strength.

With warmest thanks

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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

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

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY 15

» 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

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

ECONOMIC POLICY

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

URBANISATION

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

**CPR DIALOGUES** 

60

### 35

45

21

5

photo: dbimages / Alamy Stock Photo

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# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE

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.

#### RESEARCH ON CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

In 2018, the Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE) continued to engage with the international climate regime while addressing key elements of India's energy and climate transitions. ICEE launched two new areas of research: the political economy of electricity in India's states and air quality governance. These new areas complemented existing work on demand-side energy policy, sub-national climate action and domestic environmental regulation.

#### Engaging with the International Climate Regime

- » Lavanya Rajamani's work during the year focused on the 2018 Paris Rulebook, in particular, its implications for India. Following the conclusion of the Paris Rulebook in Katowice in December 2018, Rajamani convened a high-level panel on the future of the international climate regime at the inaugural CPR Dialogues. Her research on the international climate regime was published in various edited volumes and journals including the *Carbon and Climate Law Review* and the *Indian Journal of International Law*. In recognition of her work, she was invited to deliver a prestigious Hague Academy of International Law Special Course on the International Climate Change Regime, to be published in *Receuil des Cours* in 2019. She also serves as Coordinating Lead Author of the chapter on international cooperation in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) upcoming Sixth Assessment Report.
- » Navroz K Dubash examined the global equity considerations of the climate regime in co-authored articles in *Nature Climate Change* and *Climatic Change*. He co-authored a global update on national climate legislation, strategy, and targets in the journal *Climate Policy*, which informed the 2018 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report and will continue to inform his work as Coordinating Lead Author of the chapter on national and sub-national policies and institutions in the IPCC's upcoming Sixth Assessment Report. In collaboration with colleagues at ICEE, Dubash published articles on multi-criteria decision approaches to integrate energy, climate, and development objectives in *Energy Research and Social Science*.

#### Exploring India's Climate and Energy Future

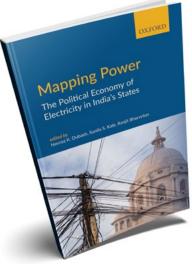
» Navroz K Dubash edited a comprehensive volume on India and climate change entitled *India in a Warming World: Integrating Climate and Development* (to be published by Oxford University Press in 2019). In recognition of his work on climate change, Dubash was invited to co-author a synthesis article on India's evolving engagement with climate change in the journal Annual Review of Environment and Resources.

» ICEE continued to frame debates on India's energy future. Dubash, Radhika Khosla and Ankit Bhardwaj, in collaboration with researchers from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), published a review paper on India's long-term emissions and energy future in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, and wrote about their findings in blogs in *Carbon Brief and Ideas for India*. This work informed the approach of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in commissioning new modelling studies on India's energy future. To share this work with the wider research community, ICEE cohosted a workshop with World Resources Institute (WRI) in partnership with the MoEF&CC on sustainable development linkages, demand-side modelling, sub-national modelling, and conceptual challenges in India's energy future.

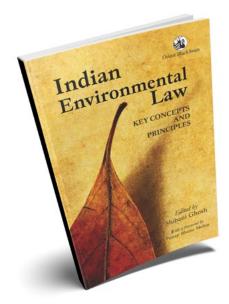
#### Uncovering the Political Economy of Electricity in Indian States



- » Navroz K Dubash published an edited volume entitled *Mapping Power*: The *Political Economy of Electricity in India's States* (Oxford University Press, 2018).
- » A curated series of opinion pieces in the *Hindustan Times* introduced the book and highlighted the politics of electricity reform in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka as presented in the book.
- » With the aim of building a community of scholars and practitioners in the field of electricity policy and regulation, ICEE co-hosted the first in a series of agenda-setting roundtables with Prayas (Energy Group) and the Regulatory Assistance Project to discuss India's electricity transition, and reflect on the challenges and opportunities of renewable energy in the power sector.



The book was launched by Suresh Prabhu, then Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation; Jairam Ramesh, Member of Parliament; Narendra Taneja, National Spokesperson, BJP; and Dr Pramod Deo, former Chairman, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. The launch event was followed by a technical panel discussion with Professor D V Ramana, Professor, Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneshwar; Aditi Phadnis, Business Standard; and Shantanu Dixit, Prayas (Energy Group).



Shibani Ghosh published an edited volume titled Indian Environmental Law: Key Concepts and Principles (Orient BlackSwan, 2019). The volume examines the role of the Indian judiciary in the evolution and implementation of the legal framework of environmental rights and principles.

'These essays collectively do a fine job of not only explaining what the prevailing law is, and how the law is enforced in practice, but, they also, as Pratap Bhanu Mehta writes in the book's foreword, serve as a "reminder that converting concern for the environment into legal doctrine still remains the most pressing challenge of our time."'

– Suhrith Parthasarathy in *The Hindu*, 26 May 2019

#### Addressing Air Quality Governance and Regulation in India

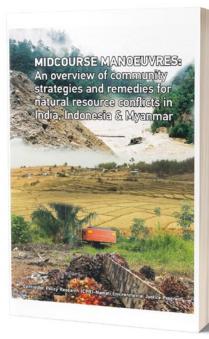
- » In collaboration with experts, Navroz K Dubash, Shibani Ghosh, and Santosh Harish published a four-part op-ed series in the *Hindustan Times* outlining an approach to addressing India's air pollution crisis. A group of CPR faculty and researchers from different focus areas, convened by ICEE, sent comments to the MoEF&CC on its draft National Clean Air Programme. Ghosh also co-authored a paper on appellate authorities under pollution control laws in the journal *Law, Environment and Development*, and examined India's pollution regulation in her chapter in *Regulation in India: Design, Capacity, Performance*. Harish regularly commented on developments in the policy landscape in mainstream media outlets, including *The Wire, Hindustan Times and Economic Times*.
- » ICEE's work on environmental regulation in the context of air quality has led to an invitation to engage more directly with the public response to the crisis. Dubash has been appointed to the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, a statutory body tasked with regulating pollution in the National Capital Region. ICEE has been invited to participate in several civil society processes and deliberations on air quality, notably on the National Clean Air Action Programme (NCAP). Dubash has been invited to write a monthly column in the *Hindustan Times* titled 'Clearing the Air' on issues of environmental governance, including air pollution.

#### Analysing Urban Climate Governance in India

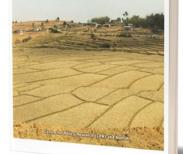
» While Radhika Khosla and Ankit Bhardwaj continued to engage in research on demand-side energy policy, in 2018 they explored the conceptual challenges of India's immense urbanisation in the context of climate change. In an article in the journal *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, they analysed the political motivations and governance forms of urban climate action in India. ICEE also hosted a roundtable on urban India and climate change, in which scholars discussed integrating climate and development planning in cities.

# RESEARCH AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND NON-COMPLIANCE

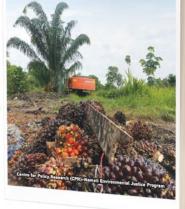
The CPR-Namati Environmental Justice Program is an applied research program which has created a network of grassroots legal professionals who research questions regarding environmental law implementation and community empowerment, by participating in the process of resolving environmental non-compliance and related socio-environmental impacts lived by the communities. Through this active engagement with the environmental regulatory systems, the Program works towards generating evidence on efforts and policy changes required to make it more effective and democratic.



MIDCOURSE MANOEUVRES: Community strategies and remedies for natural resource conflicts in Myanmar



MIDCOURSE MANOEUVRES: Community strategies and remedies for natural resource conflicts in Indonesia

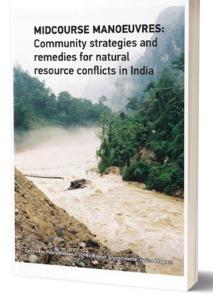


#### Research on Development-induced Land Use Change

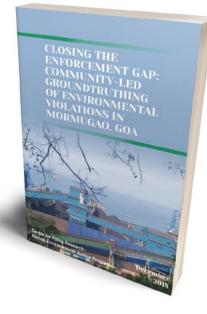
This year, the Program concluded a three-year long study on conflicts over land and natural resources in India, Indonesia and Myanmar. The findings of the study were published in four parts:

- » Overview- Midcourse Manoeuvres: Community Strategies and Remedies for Natural Resource Conflicts in India, Indonesia and Myanmar
- » Country Report-Midcourse Manoeuvres: Community Strategies and Remedies for Natural Resource Conflicts in Myanmar
- » Country Report-Midcourse Manoeuvres: Community Strategies and Remedies for Natural Resource Conflicts in Indonesia
- » Country Report-Midcourse Manoeuvres: Community Strategies and Remedies for Natural Resource Conflicts in India

The report, besides drawing on already carried out research in the field, relies on – i) analyses of permissions granted for land transformations in the three countries over the last few decades, ii) analysis of a database created on conflicts as reported in the media, and iii) in-depth case studies based on field visits and interviews. The distilled learnings from these reports were also shared via a series of blogs on the CPR website and short articles on various web portals.







#### Generating Evidence of Environmental Non-Compliance

This year, the team undertook two 'groundtruthing' exercises to understand the environmental impacts on local communities arising out of noncompliance of environmental safeguards by a mining site in Chhattisgarh and a port in Goa. These exercises culminated in two research reports:

- » Closing the Enforcement Gap: Community-led Groundtruthing of Environmental Violations in Mormugao, Goa
- » Closing the Enforcement Gap: Groundtruthing of Environmental Violations in Bodai-Daldali, Chhattisgarh

Additionally, in partnership with OXFAM, the Program trained numerous grassroots organisations across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha on environmental laws, legal non-compliance and evidence building techniques using 'groundtruthing' methodology. The training was designed specifically for participants living near protected areas or development projects and placed great emphasis on institutional mapping, finding legal hooks, evidence collection, documentation and research-based methods. The Program trained around 100 participants across the three states.

## Improving Local Communities' Engagement with Environmental Regulatory Systems

In association with Duleep Muthai Trust, the Program published three handouts on the legal mechanisms and frameworks around protected areas and common lands, using state-specific laws across Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Odisha and Karnataka. These handouts provide information on legal provisions, institutional spaces for communities to engage, and monitoring mechanisms for proper implementation of the law. The handouts are available in regional languages including Hindi, Odiya, Gujarati and Kannada:

- » Legal Mechanisms Available in Human Wildlife Conflict Chattisgarh/ Odisha/ Karnataka/Gujarat
- » Legal Framework for Protecting Common Lands Chhattisgarh/ Odisha/ Karnataka/ Gujarat
- » Legal Framework for Conservation and Protection Areas

#### Media and Public Engagement on Processes of Environmental Clearances, Air Pollution and Coastal Regulation

» In the comments sent to MoEF&CC on the draft National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), the team drew heavily from grassroots experiences of paralegals and community partners impacted by air pollution from industrial non-compliance across Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Odisha. This submission included comments and recommendations from the affected communities on how to make NCAP more effective in curbing air pollution in industrial areas.

- » On September 10, 2018, the MoEF&CC issued a draft amendment to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, and proposed to include a randomised third party monitoring system to address the issue of environmental non-compliance by projects and industrial units. In response to this draft amendment, the Program's submission suggested including affected people in the third-party monitoring mechanism, thus enabling them to collaborate with regulators for better monitoring of and compliance with environmental safeguards..
- » A submission was made on the draft Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018. The submission was based on a comparative analysis of the earlier CRZ Notification in 2011, the Shailesh Nayak Committee Report, and the draft CRZ Notification, 2018. It also drew on information from cases of CRZ violations across field sites, highlighting the issues and concerns of coastal communities in Gujarat and Uttara Kannada in Karnataka, in particular.
- » As a follow-up to the submission on the draft CRZ Notification, 2018, the CPR-Namati Environmental Justice team produced a three-part blog series on the CRZ law to stir a larger debate on this notification and its ever-changing focus. This series also covered the popular mandate of the coastal communities and various other stakeholders regarding the new CRZ Notification, 2018. The blog series was picked up by popular dailies such as *Hindustan Times, Scroll.in, Mongabay India and Mint* in their coverage on the issue. The series also garnered interest from various fisher groups, collectives, movements, organisations and individuals working for the rights of coastal communities.

# RESEARCH ON NATIONAL WATER POLICY AND TRANSBOUNDARY WATER CONFLICTS

The year 2018 marked a significant milestone for CPR in engaging with the national water policy. The Central Water Commission (CWC) invited — back in 2015 — Srinivas Chokkakula to submit a proposal for a Research Chair on water conflicts. The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR), Government of India, approved the proposal in August 2018 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CPR for establishing the 'MoWR Research Chair – Water Conflicts and Governance' at CPR.

Chokkakula took over as the MoWR Research Chair from 1 October 2018. The Chair is mandated to pursue policy-relevant research on transboundary river water sharing, with particular focus on interstate river



Srinivas Chokkakula being appointed as MoWR Research Chair – Water Conflicts and Governance at CPR.

water governance. As part of its research activities, the Chair will initially study the Supreme Court's historical engagement with interstate river water disputes resolution. Additionally, the Chair will examine India's track record of interstate cooperation in collaboration with CWC and nurture a CPR-CWC Dialogue Forum to debate critical challenges of water governance in the country.

As part of the inception process of the Research Chair, CPR in collaboration with the MoWR and the CWC, organised a 'Roundtable of States' in March, 2019. More than 60 high-level functionaries from water resource departments from all states and Union Territories, and central institutions of India participated in the roundtable. Moderated by the Secretary, MoWR, and the Chairman, CWC, the roundtable brainstormed an agenda for the Research Chair and discussed the challenges of interstate river water cooperation.

This relationship with the MoWR and CWC has opened opportunities for CPR to engage and collaborate with key institutions of importance such as the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), and the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). Chokkakula gave talks at several events and fora of these institutions, including the training sessions for the Central Water Engineering Services (CWES) officers at the National Water Academy (NWA), Pune.

Chokkakula has been invited as an Expert Member of a Task Team on Transboundary Water Management constituted by ICID. This Task Team is chaired by Karlene Maywald, the Chair of the International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM), and South Australia's former Minister for Water Security and the River Murray.



Roundtable of States organised by CPR in collaboration with the MoWR and the CWC

Around the Research Chair's activities, a Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies and Development Studies (TREADS) group is evolving to pursue research the broader spectrum of water governance in India. As part of the CPR-CWC Dialogue Forum, four TREAD Talks have been organised on related topics. The TREADS group is currently engaged in the following research projects:

- » The Asia Foundation supported, 'Scale, Institutions and Networks', to study the 'multiscalarity' of transboundary water relationships of India with its neighbours from the perspective of its internal drivers governing interstate river water disputes.
- » The World Bank supported, 'Water and Federalism', to understand the leverage of the Centre to influence and incentivise states' approaches to water resource management for better outcomes.

#### **RESEARCH ON THE RIGHT TO SANITATION**

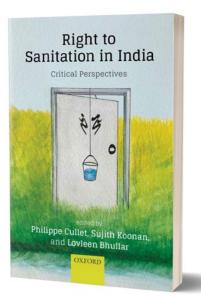
» Right to Sanitation in India: Critical Perspectives, co-edited by Philippe Cullet, Sujith Koonan and Lovleen Bhullar, was published by Oxford University Press. The book represents the first effort to conceptually engage with the right to sanitation and its multiple dimensions in India, as well as its broader international and comparative setting. The right to sanitation has been recognised in India for more than two decades, and progressively integrated into the international human rights law framework since the beginning of the century. Courts in India have derived the right from the constitutional right to life and repeatedly affirmed its existence. However, key issues persist concerning the realisation of the right to sanitation for all, the scope of the right, its links with other rights such as health, gender equality and environment, as well as issues of specific relevance in the Indian context, such as manual scavenging. The book critically analyses the contributions of the law and policy framework to the realisation of the right in India, including the role of the Swachh Bharat Mission, institutional aspects, initiatives to foster community participation, infrastructure dimensions, wastewater treatment and re-use, manual scavenging and rights of sanitation workers, and gender dimensions.

-taken from book description

» Philippe Cullet authored an article, *Policy as Law: Lessons from Sanitation* Interventions in Rural India, published in Stanford Journal of International Law.

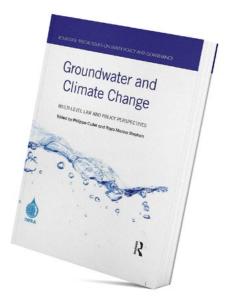
#### **RESEARCH ON GROUNDWATER CRISIS**

» Groundwater and Climate Change – Multi-Level Law and Policy Perspectives, co-edited by Philippe Cullet and Raya Marina Stephan, was published by Routledge. The book undertakes a scholarly assessment of the state of the art of law and policy perspectives on groundwater and climate change at the international, regional and national levels. A particular



'The book's strength lies in its providing a legal and sociological framework to understand 'sanitation rights' and those excluded in this framework... Its critique of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) cannot be brushed aside.'

– A Srinivas, in The Hindu Business Line



focus is given to India, which is the largest user of groundwater in the world, and where groundwater is the primary source of water for domestic and agricultural uses. The extremely rapid rise in groundwater use in many Indian states has led to a growing groundwater crisis that they must address. The existing regulatory framework has not adapted to the challenges and fails to address any environmental concerns. On climate change, India has adopted a policy framework that makes the link with water, but no legislation has been followed through to make the link operational. The subject matter of this book has been widely debated with regard to each of its main two components separately. Bringing these two domains together is what makes this book unique. The link between climate change and groundwater has been acknowledged to some extent, and there is growing interest in studying the impacts of climate change on (ground)water. Similarly, in water and environmental law and policy, increasing attention has been given to the study of climate change and groundwater legal and policy frameworks but generally separately.

The book contributes to filling this knowledge gap by drawing on contributions from leading experts in the field of environmental and water law and policy who have been involved in climate change and/or groundwater research.

- taken from book description

- » Philippe Cullet published an article Model Groundwater (Sustainable Management) Bill, 2017: A New Paradigm for Groundwater Regulation in the Indian Law Review.
- » Philippe Cullet authored a chapter titled Governing Groundwater Fostering Participatory and Aquifer-Based Regulation in the book Water Governance: Challenges and Prospects (Singapore: Springer, 2019), edited by Amarjit Singh, Dipankar Saha and Avinash C Tyagi.
- » Philippe Cullet authored a chapter titled *Innovation and Trends in Water Law in the Oxford Handbook of Water Politics and Policy* (Oxford University Press, 2018), edited by Ken Conca and Erika Weinthal.

# Photo: League Foreign Affairs Desk + Photo Cell, Rashtrapati Bhavan AND SECURITY

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

#### BOOKS

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

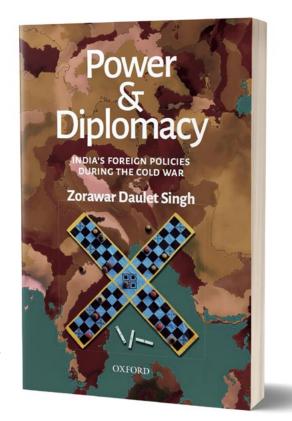
'This work would be valuable to strategic analysts for studying the contours of India's foreign policy choices in the Cold War period. It would be a useful input for practitioners and experts grappling with India's possible response to the Cold War-II emerging between USA and China right on India's periphery.' – Ambassador Skand Ranjan Tayal in The Indian Foreign Affairs Journal

'Power and Diplomacy is a piece of outstanding historical and evidencebased scholarship that makes a timely contribution to today's policy debates on the direction and degree of India's multiple alignments.'

- Constantino Xavier in The Seminar

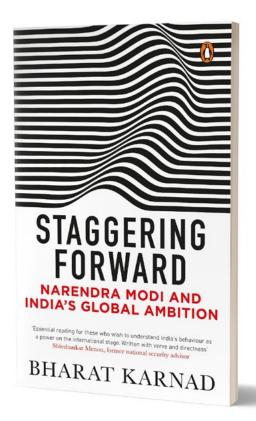
'The book throws new light on India's foreign policy, including a full account of the internal debates on policy options within the foreign policy establishment.'

– Ambassador Chandrashekhar Dasgupta in *India Today*  **Power and Diplomacy: India's Foreign Policies During the Cold War**, written by Zorawar Daulet Singh, was published by Oxford University Press. The notion that a monolithic idea of 'non-alignment' shaped India's foreign policy since its inception is a popular view. The book challenges conventional wisdom by unveiling another layer of India's strategic culture. In a richly detailed narrative using new archival material, Daulet Singh not only reconstructs the worldviews and strategies that underlay geopolitics during the Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi years, he also illuminates the significant transformation in Indian statecraft as policymakers redefined some of their fundamental precepts on India's role in the subcontinent and beyond. His contention is that those exertions of Indian policymakers are equally apposite and relevant today.



All the crises examined in this book resonate with the present because they each also speak to contemporary questions regarding a specific facet of India's foreign policy. Whether it is about crafting a sustainable set of equations with competing great powers, formulating an intelligent policy towards Pakistan, finding the appropriate approach in managing India's special ties with its smaller neighbours, dealing with China's rise and the attendant power flux in Asia, responding to a Sino-American crisis, or developing a sustainable Indian role in Asia, this book aims to strike at the heart of today's policy conversations.

-taken from book description



Staggering Forward: Narendra Modi and India's Global Ambition, written by Bharat Karnad, was published by Penguin India. The book delves into India's foreign and national security policies since 2014. There is a paradigm shift in India's politics. With his clean reputation, proven track record as chief minister of Gujarat and formidable leadership qualities on display, Narendra Modi seemed the right fit for the prime minister's job, and just the man to turn the country around after the decade-long UPA rule by the modest and tongue-tied Manmohan Singh. Prime Minister Modi's first term, however, raises troubling questions. How has his strongman persona and social background impacted policymaking? Has Modi delivered on the high expectations to advance India's national interest and security? Has the country's role in the region, in Asia and the world changed, become more meaningful? What has been the effect of Modi's India First foreign policy on neighbours, and with respect to raising India's stock in the world and showing the Indian military has teeth? Especially with regard to the US, Russia and China.

Karnad analyses Prime Minister Modi's foreign and military policies in the context of India's evolving socio-political and economic milieu, global power politics featuring other strongmen-alpha male leaders (Trump, Putin, Xi, Erdogan, Shinzo Abe), and of Modi's persona and style of governance, and offers a critical perspective that helps explain why India has not progressed much towards becoming a consequential power.

— taken from book description

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

'If Bharat Karnad didn't exist we would have to invent him. He is the one person who consistently and intellectually challenges every government on strategic issues, who says what needs to be said... His book is a useful reminder of what we could be, and a prod to consider what the next government should do.' – Shivshankar Menon in The Wire

'The book is intense reading, with the prose clearly flowing from the angry pen of an author upset with every aspect of the direction India has 'staggered forward' in. If it upsets the PM and his admirers, they can take comfort from the fact that it judges his predecessors even more harshly.' – Suhasini Haidar in The Hindu The book received several glowing reviews, some which are highlighted below:

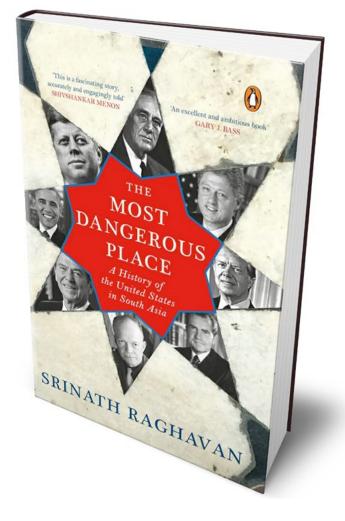
'Srinath Raghavan's treatment is sure footed and his narrative animates the interplay of personalities, interests and power, as US presidencies rub up against Indian and Pakistan leaders.' – TCA Raghavan in Open the Magazine

... it is a wonder that Raghavan has been able to encompass so much history across the expanse of the subcontinent in under 400 pages and few details miss his archive-trained eves.'

- Suhasini Haidar in The Hindu

'Raghavan is to be commended for the rich temporal tapestry he has woven and it is a complex yet rewarding trapeze. His nimble pen points to stimulating linkages.' – C Uday Bhaskar in Financial

Express



#### The Most Dangerous Place: A History of the United States in South Asia,

written by Srinath Raghavan, was published by Penguin India. The book presents a gripping account of America's political and strategic, economic and cultural presence in South Asia since 1776. South Asia looms large in American foreign policy. Over the past two decades, the United States has invested billions of dollars and thousands of human lives in the region, to seemingly little effect. As Raghavan reveals in his book, this should not surprise us. Although the region is often regarded as peripheral to America's rise to global ascendancy, the United States has long been enmeshed in South Asia. For 230 years, America's engagement with India, Afghanistan and Pakistan has been characterised by short-term thinking and unintended consequences. Beginning with American traders in India in the eighteenth century, the region has become a locus for American efforts-secular and religious-to remake the world in its image. Even as South Asia has undergone tumultuous and tremendous changes from colonialism to the world wars, the Cold War and globalisation, the United States has been a crucial player in regional affairs.

By illuminating the patterns of the past, this sweeping history also throws light on the challenges of the future.

-taken from book description

#### **UNDERSTANDING CHINA**

- » Nimmi Kurian was a panellist at the International Conference on *Prosperity and Inequality in India and China* organised by the India China Institute, The New School, New York in May 2018.
- » Kurian was invited to present a paper titled, *Leveraging Location: Border Regions in Chinese IR* at the International Conference on *Economic Development and Social Change in Yunnan* organised by the Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University in September 2018.
- » Kurian organised a talk by Marina Kaneti, Fellow, China India Scholar-Leaders Initiative, India China Institute, The New School, New York titled *Re(b)* ordering the World: Visual Politics of the (New) Silk Road at CPR in April 2018.
- » Kurian was interviewed by the *Times of India* on the Brahmaputra issue in India-China Relations in March 2019.
- » Kurian's research paper, Leveraging Location: Repositioning the Borderlands in Chinese International Relations was published in a Special Issue on China in the Calcutta Journal of Global Affairs (refereed) in January 2019.
- » Bharat Karnad wrote a chapter, *Shifting the Nuclear Security Focus to China* in the book, *Military Strategy for India in the 21st Century* edited by Lt Gen AK Singh and Lt Gen BS Nagal.
- » Shyam Saran served as a member of the Governing Board of the Institute of Chinese Studies, India's premier think tank for the study of China.
- » Saran led the Indian delegation to the annual India-China dialogue at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at Singapore. He was also a member of the Indian delegation at the annual Manipal India-China dialogue.
- » Zorawar Daulet Singh participated in Track-II dialogues held at Fudan University and at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.

#### UNPACKING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

- » Nimmi Kurian was invited by the University of New South Wales, Sydney and the Jindal School of International Affairs to be a panellist in a Roundtable on (*When*) *Are migrants/ refugees (not) a 'national security' threat?* in March 2019.
- » Kurian delivered a public lecture titled *Footnotes of a Forgotten Text: The Idea of Myanmar and the Rohingya Question* at the Department of International Relations, South Asian University in October 2018.
- » Kurian was invited by the Heinrich Bolle Foundation and the Institute of Social Sciences to give a presentation titled *Between Opportunity And Opportunism: Designing An Effective Refugee Policy* in April 2018.
- » Kurian was invited by the South Asia Forum for Human Rights, Development and Justice Initiative to make a presentation on *Why the 'Good' Refugee is a Bad Idea: Holding the State to Account* at the India International Centre in May 2018.
- » Kurian was consulted by the Canadian High Commission, New Delhi on India's narrative on the Rohingya issue in May 2018.
- » Kurian organised and conducted the conversation with Khin Zaw Win on The Inside Story of the Rohingya Crisis: The Road Ahead for Myanmar's Democracy at CPR in May 2018.
- » Kurian also published a commentary on Why the 'Good' Refugee is a Bad Idea in Open Democracy.



Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar flee to Bangladesh after facing brutal persecution photo: © UNHCR/ Roger Arnold

#### **RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT ON SOUTH ASIA**

- » Nimmi Kurian was invited by the University of New South Wales, Sydney and the Jindal School of International Affairs to speak on *South Asia's Water Crises* for the Emerging Security Challenges in South Asia Program in March 2019.
- » Kurian presented a paper titled, Challenging Consensus: When Radical Democracy Meets Hydro-Diplomacy, at the Authors Workshop organised by the South Asian University in November 2018.
- » Kurian was invited to speak on *Border studies in South Asia* at the Young Scholars Symposium on Borders and Regionalism in South Asia, organised by the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University in August 2018.
- » Shyam Saran is associated with a World Bank sponsored Champions' Process on South Asia Economic Integration and also its South Asia Ecological Integrity initiative.
- » Kurian and Zorawar Daulet Singh were panellists at the session on *Geopolitics and Geo-Economics in a Changing South Asia* at the inaugural edition of CPR Dialogues in December 2018, initiating a conversation on the nature of power transition in world politics.

#### INDIA AND THE WORLD

- » Nimmi Kurian delivered the Valedictory Address, *Crisis to Opportunity:* What Can We Learn (and Unlearn) from the International Experience on Floods? at the Achuta Menon Foundation, Thiruvananthapuram in October 2018.
- » Kurian was a panellist at the *Women in Foreign Policy* discussion series titled *Reconnecting the Subcontinent* co-organised by CPR and the British High Commission in February 2019.
- » Kurian's research paper, Of Flows and Flawed Frames: What Can We Learn (and unlearn) from the International Experience on Floods? was published in the journal Social Science in Perspective, January-March 2019.
- » Kurian published a CPR Policy Brief on The Cubbyhole of Area Studies: Why Indian IR is at an Analytical Cul-de-Sac.
- » Kurian was a panellist at a Round Table on Northeast India organised by the World Bank in April 2018.
- » Kurian delivered the Third North East Water Lecture on *Flows and Flaws: Diverting the Debate on the Brahmaputra* organised by Aaranyak and the Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India, in Guwahati in March 2019.
- » In an article titled *India's role during the 1956 Suez Crisis: Between peacemaking and postcolonial solidarity*, published in *India Review*, Zorawar Daulet Singh revisited India's forgotten role in the 1956 Suez crisis and offered fresh insights into the events that transpired during that fateful year.
- » Shyam Saran continued to serve as a Life Trustee at the India International Centre, and a Trustee at the World Wildlife Fund (India). He is also an independent director on the board of the Press Trust of India.
- » Saran continued to serve as the Co-Chair of the India-Bhutan Eminent Persons' Group.
- » Saran also served on the board of the Welham's School in Dehradun and on the board of Sahapedia, a web based portal on India's cultural heritage.

photo: HT Photo

# 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.

#### TRACKING SOCIAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Accountability Initiative (AI) marked 10 years of its founding in 2018. The year witnessed several milestones on evidence-building, grassroots training and public engagement.

Al expanded its flagship Planning, Allocations and Expenditures, Institutions Studies in Accountability (PAISA) methodology to include two new areas – nutrition and water – to understand public service delivery and its challenges down to the last mile.

An extensive research study was launched to track the planning, budgeting, fund-flow, and governance structures of publicly funded direct nutrition interventions such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and delivery of Vitamin A and Iron and Folic Acid to women and children in twelve districts across six states. The aim is to draw lessons from across states on how to improve efficiency in design and delivery of nutrition interventions. Further, a new collaborative study with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is currently underway to estimate the costs of delivering nutrition interventions at scale in India at the national and sub-national level. The costing work aims to help policy makers, administrators, and researchers make informed decisions in their planning and budget analysis to scale up nationally mandated nutrition interventions at the national, state, and district levels. A separate costing study for the Common Application Platform for ICDS, known as ICDS-CAS, is also underway in collaboration with UC-San Francisco, Neerman, UC-Berkley, and IFPRI.

In collaboration with Srinivas Chokkakula and Arkaja Singh, an appraisal of the current status of water resource management was carried out by the AI team. The study seeks to understand the current incentives and instruments between the Union and State Governments concerning water resources, and identify opportunities for more sustainable water resource management. An inception workshop for the study, held in October 2018, brought together water experts and policy makers from the Union and State Governments.

Al also published its own research study on sanitation, conducted on the request of the local administration in Udaipur, in August 2018. The study aimed to understand the processes involved in declaring Gram Panchayats as Open Defecation Free (ODF) and challenges in implementation of the rural arm of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). Two sanitation conferences were held to share lessons and increase dialogue between the government and research groups working in the sanitation sector.

The year marked the 10th edition of AI's flagship Budget Brief series analysing allocations, expenditures, outputs, and outcomes of the Union Government's key social welfare programmes.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE EVOLVING NATURE OF FISCAL FEDERALISM

Building on analytical work done on understanding India's efforts to restructure centre-state relations following the implementation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC), Avani Kapur and Yamini Aiyar co-authored a paper published in a special volume of the <u>Journal of Regional</u> and <u>Federal Studies</u>, in September 2018.

On the request of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, AI built on its previous work on Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) or panchayats by conducting two studies to understand the impact of increased devolution to Panchayats by the FFC. The first study was submitted to the Commission in March 2019 and focused on whether the processes and financial flows from the Union Government's Ministry of Finance for the 13th and 14th Finance Commission period had complied in letter and spirit with the recommendations. The second study undertook a sample survey across Gram Panchayats, similar to the PAISA for Panchayats study in Karnataka, to understand if money reached the Panchayats, the implications of these grants on Gram Panchayat finances, and how they were spent.

Al contributed to the understanding of sub-national spending by undertaking a detailed study of district-level treasury spending in two states. The work is part of a larger project by the World Bank – Estimating Benefit Incidence at the Sub-National Level in Health and Education.

#### IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION



Al conducted a study that maps the time spent by government and municipal school teachers in Delhi on various school activities. Commissioned by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), the study unpacks a teacher's role and work-related perceptions, and is an attempt to improve the quality of learning in classrooms.

Another study parsed school-level data and analysed how it can be used by different stakeholders as an accountability tool. The study found that while data is actively used by government for annual financial planning for education, it is rarely used by citizens to demand accountability in public service delivery, and an absence of a formal grievance redressal mechanism further adds to limited usage of such information. Study findings were presented to relevant stakeholders at the international, national and subnational levels for increasing uptake of Open School Data, and was published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation-International Institute for Educational Planning (UNESCO-IIEP).

#### **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM AI:**

- » 2018 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AI's flagship Budget Brief series, which analysed the Union Budget and its monetary impact on India's welfare programmes. Expenditures on and progress of nine major social sector schemes were covered, including the Samagrah Shiksha Abhiyan, National Health Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin, Integrated Child Development Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana and National Rural Drinking Water Scheme (NRDWS).
- For the second year, senior AI experts held sessions for the next generation of development leaders at the Indian School of Development Management (ISDM) on understanding state capability.
- Two guest lectures were conducted with a class of 60 Vedica Scholars on Evidence Based Decision Making and Communicating Research.
- » A panel discussion on Training India's Civil Services was livestreamed on Civil Services Day. The discussion covered the realities of bureaucratic life and why there is a need to look at challenges that the country's civil services face, including training needs.
- » Podcasts on India's education policy were released in collaboration with TeacherApp, a technology platform that caters to the knowledge needs of government school teachers.

# SENSITISING ADMINISTRATORS AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUBLIC POLICY PRACTITIONERS

Evidence-based knowledge sharing among changemakers for systemic reforms is one mandate of the research group. For this purpose, AI created a special learning programme for government functionaries, known as *Hum Sarkaari Adhikari*, drawing on AI's research learnings on decentralised governance, and facilitating a reflection on the current reality of local governments. At least 50 Panchayat Secretaries from Himachal Pradesh participated in the course.

During the year, AI conducted a number of sessions as part of trainings for members of the administrative services. These included:

- » Guest lectures on Flagship Course on Health System Strengthening and Sustainable Financing for Senior Health Officials in India, organised by Harvard School of Public Health and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Administrative Academy (LBSNAA).
- » Session on Public Expenditure Accountability and Social Audits as part of probationer training for the Indian Civil Accounts Service, organised by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP). The engagement with probationers has sustained momentum for the past 3 years.
- » Session on *Monitoring and Evaluation* for Indian Economic Service (IES) Probationary Officers.



A key step identified for AI in 2018 was a movement towards the ideal of *Responsive Governance*, which facilitates the creation of a public system that is accountable to citizens in spirit and practice. The research group's public engagement approach was thus streamlined to align with this ideal and sought to increase citizen engagement. The year saw the launch of a revamped AI website and the launch of a new *Policy-in Depth* discussion series seeking to connect public policy scholars with young development practitioners and concerned citizens for evidence-based informal dialogues. Three sessions were also held across flagship schemes

in education, health, and livelihood. Avani Kapur and Yamini Aiyar also contributed to a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) by the Centre for Civil Society on Education Policy in India.

Finally, an experiential learning programme for frontline civil society organisation staff, *Hum Aur Humaari Sarkaar*, was opened for applications for the first time. The course was held in Rajasthan and saw engaged participation from students, who were able to take back learnings to their workspaces and initiate change at the grassroots. Al also launched a unique governance website in <u>Hindi</u> to provide a sustained chance to upskill.

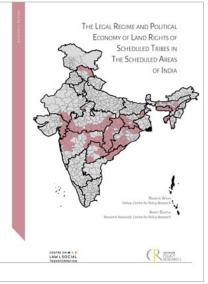
### CONTRIBUTING TO EDUCATION POLICY DEBATES

- » Kiran Bhatty authored a chapter *School Education: Denials and Delusions* in the book, *A Quantum Leap in the Wrong Direction?* edited by Rohit Azad, Shouvik Chakraborty, Srinivasan Ramani and Dipa Sinha (Orient BlackSwan, 2019).
- » Bhatty authored an article The Numbers Game How Well Has It Served the Cause of Education? in the Economic and Political Weekly.
- » Bhatty continued to write opinion pieces in newspapers, including *The Indian Express* and *The Wire*, commenting on education policy. She also wrote A review of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1986 in The Indian Police Journal.

### LAND RIGHTS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN SCHEDULED AREAS OF INDIA



The Land Rights Initiative (LRI) team co-organised a National Seminar on Understanding Displacement and Landlessness of, and Atrocities against, Scheduled Tribes with the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST). The Seminar showcased findings from LRI's report on The Legal Regime and Political Economy of Land Rights of Scheduled Tribes in Scheduled Areas of India (LRI Report), and ongoing LRI research on Atrocities against Scheduled Tribes. Co-authored by Namita Wahi and Ankit Bhatia, with research contributions from Soumya Jha and Aakansha Jain, and former research associates, Pallav Shukla, Spandana Battula, and Pooja Pal, the LRI Report was the outcome of a five year long research collaboration with LawTransform, Norway, led by Professor Siri Gloppen.



The LRI team widely disseminated the findings of the Report to stakeholders in the government and civil society, at workshops and meetings organised nationally in New Delhi, Raipur, Jaipur, Bangalore, Guwahati, Shillong, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Patna, and Indore; and internationally at Harvard University, Cambridge, and Washington DC. The LRI Report delineated conflicting policy narratives and political, legal, and administrative frameworks responsible for the displacement and landlessness of Scheduled Tribes. The Report also contained extensive primary data on the current geographical mapping of Scheduled areas and the distribution of dams, forests, and mining activity in these areas. Distinguished panelists – including Dr Nand Kumar Sai (Chairperson, NCST), Raghav Chandra (Secretary, NCST), Yamini Aiyar (President and Chief Executive, CPR), Shyam Babu (Senior Fellow, CPR), Professor Walter Fernandes (Senior Fellow, North Eastern Social Research Centre), Dr Virginius Xaxa (Professor of Eminence, Tezpur University), Ravi Rebbapragada (Executive Director, Samata), Ambrish Mehta (Trustee and Full-time executive, Action Research in Community Health and Development (ARCH-Vahini)) – deliberated upon the LRI findings and made recommendations for tribal empowerment. The NCST officially adopted recommendations from LRI's Report and the NCST-LRI Seminar as part of its Annual Report, 2018, under Article 338 A (5) (e) of the Constitution.

# ONE THOUSAND LAND LAWS: MAPPING THE MAZE OF LAND LAWS IN INDIA



LRI partnered with thirty academic and civil society organisations to help organise the third India Land and Development Conference (ILDC). The LRI team — composed of Namita Wahi, Ankit Bhatia, Soumya Jha, and Aakansha Jain — conducted a panel and master-class to showcase findings based on the analysis of over a thousand land laws for a geographically representative sample of eight states — namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Punjab, and Telangana. Chaired by Dr T Haque, Former Chairperson, Special Land Cell, NITI Aayog, the panel featured comments on LRI's findings by Raghav Chandra (Secretary, NCST), Ramesh Sharma (National Coordinator, Ekta Parishad), and Arkaja Singh (Fellow,CPR). LRI's research was covered extensively by national and international print media, including *Foreign Policy, Thomson Reuters Foundation, Morning Standard, The New Indian Express, CNBCTV*18, and *Devdiscourse*.

Wahi also delivered the opening lecture at the ILDC and Thomson Reuters' Journalism Training Workshop, and chaired a panel on *Status of Women Food Producers' and Policy Recommendations for Recognition of their Identity,* organised as part of the Conference. Bhatia and Jain also participated in the ILDC Land Information Ecosystem Workshop.

#### RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Wahi taught a specialised course on *Social and Economic Rights and Distributive Justice in India: Land and Healthcare* at the Academy of European Law, Human Rights Summer Course, European University Institute, Florence. Wahi presented a paper on the subject at Melbourne Institute for Comparative Constitutional Law, Melbourne Law School.

Wahi wrote an op-ed titled *The Constitution is a leap of faith* for the *Hindustan Times* on the occasion of India's Republic Day. She also wrote a review of Rohit De's book, *A People's Constitution: The Everyday life of the law in the Indian Republic*, titled, *A People's Constitution: Always of the People?* for the Indian Constitutional Law blog.

Wahi lectured on *The Fundamental Right to Property in the Indian Constitution* for *Lex Policy*, a certificate course organised by the Centre for Civil Society. Wahi participated in a roundtable on *Mapping continuities and changes in Indian Democracy* at the inaugural edition of CPR Dialogues.

#### REALISING HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

Arkaja Singh and Namita Wahi presented research findings on *Right to Water in Indian cities* and *Litigating the Right to Water in India*, respectively, at the Bergen Exchanges at LawTransform, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Bergen.

Soumya Jha was a panelist at a discussion on *Elevating water rights to human rights: Has it strengthened marginalized peoples' claim for water?* 

#### CAPACITY BUILDING



- » Wahi conducted trainings at the National Institute for Defence Estates Management for civilian and defence officials on the evolution and implementation of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013.
- » Wahi participated in two workshops on land disputes and land acquisition organised by the Centre for Rural Studies at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy, Mussoorie.
- » Wahi also wrote an op-ed on How central and state governments have diluted the historic land legislation of 2013 in the Economic Times.
- » Wahi contributed to manifestos of various political parties on land policy, particularly with respect to expeditious resolution of land conflict in India.

#### LRI SPEAKER SERIES

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 policy makers. Speakers for this year included Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs at Harvard University; Raghav Chandra, former Member of Parliament; Sai Balakrishnan, Assistant Professor, Urban Planning, Harvard Graduate School of Design; and Mou Banerjee, Assistant Professor of History, Clemson University. The speakers covered a diverse range of topics, including Indian nationalism, land and forest rights of Scheduled Tribes, land acquisition, and the historical land interface of the gau raksha movement.

#### **RECOGNITION OF RESEARCH ON LAND RIGHTS**

- » Namita Wahi was awarded the New India Fellowship for her book project titled A History of the Constitutional Right to Property in India.
- » Wahi was awarded the Kathleen Fitzpatrick Post-Doctoral Visiting Fellowship in the Laureate Programme in Comparative Constitutional Law at Melbourne Law School. Wahi also renewed her appointment as a Visiting Fellow at CMI, Bergen.
- » Along with partner institutions in Brazil, Norway, South Africa, and the USA, LRI was awarded a grant under the *International Partnerships for Excellent Education, Research and Innovation* by the Norwegian Research Council.
- » Soumya Jha was selected to participate in the PhD Course and the Bergen Exchanges at the Centre on Law and Social Transformation (Law-Transform), CMI, Bergen, Norway, under the INTPART programme.
- » LRI was awarded a core research grant by the Centre for Ethics in Action.
- » Namita Wahi was interviewed by Land Portal on LRI's work.

#### SENSITISING POLICY MAKERS

The Governance and Public Policy Initiative (GPPI) continued its overseas academic training programmes for Indian parliamentarians and organised domestic roundtable discussions on issues such as reproductive and sexual health rights, personal data protection, and digital rights.

#### Domestic Roundtable Discussions

» GPPI-CPR and Global Health Strategies (GHS), as part of their collaborative series of roundtables, organised an interactive discussion with parliamentarians on *Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health* on 24 July 2018. They discussed key issues related to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) and proposed amendments to the MTP Act, 1971. Three renowned speakers – Dr C N Purandare, President, International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO); Dr Jaydeep Tank, Deputy Secretary General, The Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI); and Dr Nozer Sheriar, Former Secretary General, FOGSI deliberated on current challenges and need for revising the 46-year-old law. It was followed by a signature campaign by the participating MPs addressed to the Prime Minister requesting for proposed MTP amendments to be introduced on an urgent basis.





 As the Personal Data Protection Bill is going to be tabled in the Parliament soon, GPPI, in collaboration with Ananth Padmanabhan of CPR's newly launched Technology and Society Initiative and the Omidyar Network, organised a roundtable discussion on *Personal Data in the Digital Economy: Rights & Safeguards* on 13 Dec 2018. It featured detailed presentations focusing on the fundamental principles of data privacy, which has at its root – personal data; User Protections & Regulatory Design for Data Protection in India; and Exceptions and Limitations in the Draft Bill. These were discussed by three specialists – Rahul Matthan, Partner, Trilegal; Malavika Raghavan, Project Head, Future of Finance Initiative at Dvara Research; and Ananth Padmanabhan, Fellow, CPR. The discussion was chaired and moderated by Professor Rajeev Gowda, MP, Rajya Sabha, and attended by a multi-party group of Members of Parliament from both Houses as well as political leaders.

#### International Academic Programmes

» The 2018 Princeton-GPPI-CPR Strategic Affairs Program, which is in its seventh year, was held from 22–25 April 2018. This year the final session of the programme was conducted at the Deepak and Neera Raj Centre on Indian Economic Policies, School of International & Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University, on 26 April 2018.

Round Table 1 Right to Sexual & Reproductive Health

Round Table 2 Personal Data in the Digital Economy: Rights & Safeguards



2018 Group of MPs and political leaders at Princeton | L to R: Omar Abdullah (JKNC), Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP), Sudhanshu Trivedi (BJP), Ramesh Chandran (GPPI-CPR), Priya Dutt (INC), Nawin Sinha (BJP)

#### LAUNCH OF THE TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY (TECHSOC) INITIATIVE



Launch of the TechSoc Initiative at the CPR Dialogues

India has witnessed an increasing reliance on technological solutions to drive governance and public policy, and expanding regulatory attention from the State towards emerging technologies and their promises and perils. With this as the backdrop, CPR launched the Technology and Society (TechSoc) Initiative, to inform policy making in this realm, and research on technology's societal impact. Formally launched as part of the inaugural edition of CPR Dialogues, the panel discussions provided a platform for leaders from India's technology policy ecosystem to express their views on the transformative potential of responsible innovation, and the exigent steps India ought to take to actualise this potential. Under the leadership of Ananth Padmanabhan, legal scholar and technology policy researcher, who joined CPR this year as a Fellow, this Initiative researched a range of exciting themes.

#### **Regulating E-Commerce**

The Government of India has come out with multiple draft versions of a national e-commerce policy. Responding to these regulatory forays, Ananth Padmanabhan co-authored a white paper with Arjun Sinha, Partner, Cantor Associates, to outline principles central to the regulation of this sector. This white paper takes note of fundamental flaws in the proposed policy approach, including regulatory over-reach and the absence of data-driven policy resolutions. It advances a range of reformative principles such as a close fit between the definition of 'e-commerce' and harms that demand immediate redressal; assessment and application of regulatory proportionality when addressing data protection and storage concerns; and effective enforcement of non-negotiable rules and prescriptions. The white paper emerged from a multi-stakeholder conversation that the TechSoc Initiative had organised in September 2018.

#### **Protecting Personal Data**

With generous support from the Omidyar Network, the TechSoc Initiative organised a half-day workshop in November, 2018 for the benefit of senior officials from various embassies. This workshop hosted several experts who addressed the gathering on various aspects of the personal data protection bill. Ananth Padmanabhan has also co-authored a pioneering chapter on regulating big data in an important new volume, *Regulation in India: Design, Capacity and Performance* (Hart Publishing, 2019).

#### India's Digital Future

The TechSoc Initiative formally responded to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's consultation paper on regulation of over-the-top digital platforms. It also collaborated with the British Embassy to organise a panel on regulation of data at the FutureTech Festival in December 2018. Earlier this year, Ananth Padmanabhan spent two months in Washington DC as part of the inaugural cohort of US-India Public Interest Technology Fellows supported by New America, conducting research on privacy in drone systems. He has also contributed prolifically on diverse technology policy issues for *ThePrint*.

### RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT ON INDIA'S POLITICAL ECONOMY

CPR is deeply invested in understanding the continuities and changes that mark the Indian democracy at this critical juncture in our history. The Centre has started curating a research programme on elections and democratic politics with Rahul Verma joining CPR as a Fellow this year. In December 2018, a round table was organised at the inaugural edition of CPR Dialogues with eminent social scientists to draw a road map of the politics programme at CPR.

In the run up to the Lok Sabha Elections 2019, Rahul Verma and Neelanjan Sircar wrote various opinion pieces in several newspapers such as *Hindustan Times, ThePrint,* and *Firstpost.* They also appeared on television to discuss elections on a number of channels, including *Bloomberg, Economic Times Now, India Today,* and *NDTV.* 

#### Book

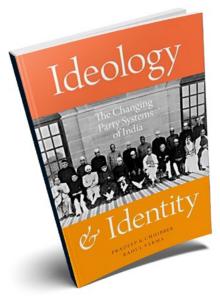
Rahul Verma, along with Pradeep Chhibber, in their book *Ideology and Identity: The Changing Party Systems of India* (Oxford University Press: New York, 2018) challenged the dominant notion that Indian politics is nonideological in nature. Using survey data from the Indian National Election Studies and evidence from the Constituent Assembly debates, they argued that the Western European paradigm of 'ideology' is not applicable to many contemporary multi-ethnic countries such as India.

#### **Other Selected Publications**

- » Rahul Verma authored a chapter on *The Emergence, Stagnation, and Ascendance of the BJP* in the compilation, *The BJP in Power: Indian Democracy and Religious Nationalism*, edited by Milan Vaishnav, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2019.
- » Rahul Verma authored a chapter on *Elections, Exit Polls and the Electronic Media* in the book, *The Great March of Democracy: Seven Decades of India's Elections,* edited by S Y Quraishi, Penguin, 2019.

#### ANALYSING SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Over the course of the year, Neelanjan Sircar, Senior Visiting Fellow at CPR, split time between the institution and his duties as an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Ashoka University, and a Visiting Scholar at Centre



The book received rave reviews from scholars:

'In a thought-provoking counterview, Chhibber and Verma argue that Indian party politics involves genuine contests of ideas, policies and visions. [..] Overall, they base their findings on complex analysis and novel arguments, and should be complimented for producing a wellresearched and a substantial piece of work stressing the importance of ideology in Indian politics, which should be of interest to a wide audience of scholars and commentators.'

– Rekha Diwakar in The Book Review

'At the end of this masterful demonstration, no reader will be left believing that ideology deserves to be overlooked in the study of Indian elections .[..]. At the same time, as any ground breaking work does, the book raises new questions that future contributions will need to tackle.'

- Simon Chauchard in Perspectives on Politics

Siddharth Singh, Editor-at-Large, rated the book as among the best books of 2018.

for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at the University of Pennsylvania. Sircar's work spanned academic texts and workshops, as well as writings and appearances in print and television media.

Sircar completed a multi-year project analysing social behavior in the National Capital Region (NCR). This project included a survey of 5,500 households in the region along with a series of complementary analyses. As a part of the project, two workshops were held at the University of Pennsylvania, and a large seminar with approximately 100 attendees was organised at CPR for the larger Delhi community. This project culminated in an edited volume (currently under review with an academic publisher in the United States), edited by Sircar and Sanjoy Chakravorty.

A major current project incorporating four full-time researchers at CPR with funding from the Ford Foundation – and fellow principal investigators, Devesh Kapur (School of Advanced International Studies [SAIS], Johns Hopkins) and Milan Vaishnav (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace) – studies female labour force participation (FLFP) in India. India continues to lag behind world standards in terms of incorporating women into the labour force. The project studies this phenomenon in four urban clusters in India: Dhanbad, Patna, Indore, and Varanasi.

In addition to these projects, Sircar was invited to give academic lectures at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Washington DC), Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University during a sabbatical in the United States.

#### EVENTS

CPR institutionalised three platforms to increase public engagement with research on India's electoral politics and democratic health:

» CPR-Trivedi Centre for Political Data (Ashoka University) Dialogues on Indian Politics

Neelanjan Sircar, Senior Visiting Fellow, organised panel discussions on making sense of assembly election results in 2018, understanding the rise of farmers movement, and the role of money and muscle in elections.





#### » CPR-Lokniti (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies) Conversations on Indian Democracy

Rahul Verma moderated two panels on Opening the Black Box of Election Polling and Forecasting with pollsters and and journalists. The panels discussed the intricacies involved behind the consumption of poll numbers on their platforms, and their dissemination.



#### » Election Adda at CPR

In the run up to the Lok Sabha Elections of 2019, CPR launched Election Adda in March 2019 as a space for debate and analysis on key issues that have dominated the election. From forecasting and evaluating pollster perspectives to dissecting trends and debating the big themes, this series streamed live on CPR's Facebook page and offered important insights into the 2019 campaign.

#### RESEARCH ON INDIA'S POLITICAL LEGACY

In November 2018, Rajshree Chandra was awarded the New India Fellowship for writing a political biography of her grandfather, Sri Jagat Narain Lal. Every freedom movement has a hidden history of unsung heroes, their sacrifices and their contributions. One such leader was Jagat Narain Lal who was a writer, poet, scholar of Indic texts, political leader, freedom fighter, member of the Constituent Assembly, Professor of Economics at Bihar Vidyapith, practising lawyer, editor of the journal, *Mahavir*, and a very religious and spiritual person – his religiosity marked his place to the ideological right within the Indian National Congress. The project aimed to make a smaller story relevant to our understanding of our collective political and intellectual legacy. Chandra also wrote several opinion pieces in newspapers like *TheWire*, *Indian Express*, and *Open Magazine*, commenting on a host of contemparary social issues such as the Forest Rights Act, Bhima Koregaon violence and Indian politics.

#### **RELIGION, COURTS AND THE SOCIETY**

Shylashri Shankar wrote about the Sabrimala judgment of the Supreme Court in *Open Magazine*, questioning whether it was the business of the state to be involved in issues of religious freedom.

She wrote a chapter on religious conversion judgments and political discourse in India; another the moral economy of the marginalised — focusing on how stories told by Dalits and Scheduled Tribes play out in courts.

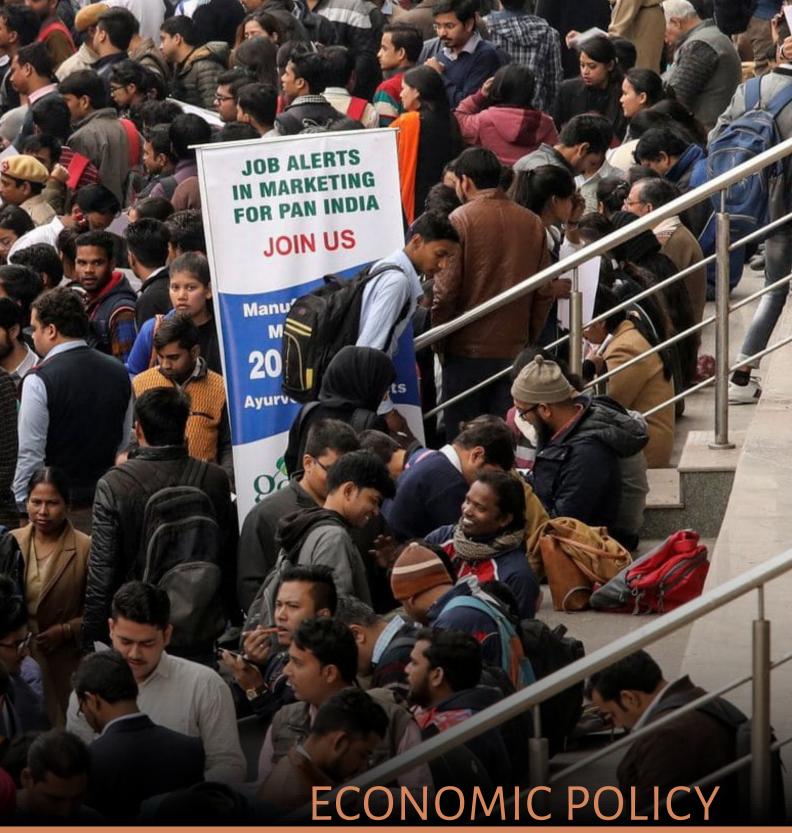


photo: Reuters

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.

#### LAUNCH OF THE JOBS INITIATIVE

#### CPR and JJN Publications and Media

#### PRINT

#### More than formalising informal jobs, we need to create productive ones, by Sabina Dewan and Partha Mukhopadhyay, Hindustan Times.

The spectrum of employment is a continuum based on graduating levels of productivity, associated wages, social protection and tax compliance. Tidy binaries of informality and formality don't speak to this reality.

Instead of these false dichotomies, it is time to think of the quality of work as a matrix where one axis reflects various forms of social protection and the other indicates types of employment — from uncertain daily labour to permanent employment.

Given changes in forms of employment, policymakers and other stakeholders must focus on removing barriers to productivity with aligned wages, but also to enabling a voice for workers in the face of changing employment relationships, and instituting a social protection framework for a labour market in which such security is de-linked from employment.

#### Is the unemployment crisis for real? It's complicated, by Sabina Dewan, The Hindu.

The article shifts the focus from unemployment to the challenge of pervasive underemployment in India.

Key strategies should include: improving the quality of jobs by raising productivity, aligning skills training with labour market demand, and investing in education and social protections. Recognising that the availability of good jobs on the scale that India requires is one of the biggest challenges confronting the nation, CPR partnered with the JustJobs Network (JJN) to launch the *Jobs Initiative* on October 31st, 2018. This program aims to generate fresh and innovative ideas to help tackle the nation's employment crisis. Sabina Dewan, Founder & Executive Director of JJN, who also joined CPR this year as Senior Visiting Fellow, and Partha Mukhopadhyay will lead the initiative.

This Initiative will include cutting-edge, applied research to find solutions to specific employment challenges in areas such as technology, migration and informality, and differentiated impacts based on gender and age. As rapid transformations in these areas coupled with urbanisation and climate change alter the way Indians live and work, this initiative will provide insights on how government policies can adapt to create jobs and support workers.

To shape research and action on jobs in India, the Jobs Initiative draws from CPR's vast expertise in economic policy and urbanisation, and JJN's specialised focus on issues pertaining to employment such as strategies for job creation, education and skills. The Initiative will also engage with the government, private sector, academia, and grassroots organisations to harvest good ideas, promote collaboration, and find solutions to enable government policies to create more and better jobs.

#### Place-based Approaches to Job Creation

In the first few months of the Jobs Initiative's inception, CPR and JJN hosted three events that honed in on finding solutions to specific labour market challenges. First, based on the understanding that top-down strategies with little attention to the specific needs, assets, and problems of individual places prevents job creation policies from translating effectively on the ground, the Jobs Initiative brought together local and international experts to discuss forging a place-based approach to job creation.



CPR, JJN, and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Conference on Building Jobs Ground Up — Forging Place-based Solution to the Job Crisis

#### Informality and New Forms of Work

Second, as part of the inaugural edition of the CPR Dialogues, JJN and CPR hosted a roundtable titled – *India's Jobs Crisis: Wages, Productivity and Notions of Informality.* This roundtable launched the Jobs Initiative's research agenda. The discussion included exploring the nexus of technological change, informality and gender. Participants delved deeper into new forms of work driven by technology, including the platform economy, and implications for emerging forms of employment — including job uncertainty, changing employment relationships, and increasing self-employment. Participants discussed moving beyond the binary of formality and informality of work in light of these changes, and approaches to improving social protection, earnings, productivity and working conditions against the backdrop of a rapidly changing labour market.

#### Women in the Workforce

Third, as part of the Jobs Initiative, CPR and JJN hosted a public discussion on women in the workforce. The discussion featured a panel of experts from academia, research and non-governmental organisations. Panellists and participants explored key trends related to women's falling labour force participation, constraints and enabling factors for women to work, and potential policy solutions.

While trends vary across socioeconomic status and regions, emerging consensus for additional research included the following: gender-based discrimination and the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work that falls on women continue to be barriers for most women entering the labour force. Efforts to support women's career aspirations entail the creation of good jobs, but must also pay due attention to factors such as creating safer cities, normative social change, and gender sensitive workplaces.

#### HEALTHCARE

This year, Jishnu Das' work further developed the use of standardised patients (SPs) in the measurement of quality of healthcare. Das provided the first estimates of quality of care for Tuberculosis in China (published in *PLoS Medicine*) and followed this up with new estimates of quality of care for Tuberculosis in Mumbai and Patna (*PLoS Medicine*), as well as results from a new methodology for detecting differences in quality of care for men versus women (*Lancet Global Health*). These papers highlight both the deficits in care as well as the massive variation within each setting. Of great interest for India is that there is little differences in the quality of care across Mumbai and Patna, but massive differences within each city. Finally, there is no evidence to suggest that men and women are treated differently when presented with the same condition and symptoms to doctors in these settings.

#### VIDEOS

#### <u>CPR Dialogues: Key Takeaways</u> <u>on the Jobs Initiative</u>, by Partha Mukhopadhyay and Sabina Dewan.

The Jobs Initiative was launched in a roundtable discussion during the CPR Dialogues. The video presents the goals and major themes of the Initiative, and key takeaways from the discussion.



Small City Dreaming, by CPR and JJN, directed by Amit Mahanti. The documentary features stories of hope, risk, and youth in small cities in India and Indonesia, and draws from research by CPR and JJN on the <u>role of smaller cities in</u> shaping employment outcomes of youth in India and Indonesia. The documentary was filmed in Delhi, Mangalore and Gurgaon to a variety of audiences including students, artists, activists and policy experts.

#### PREVIOUS RESEARCH

CPR and JJN have previously collaborated on research on migration and jobs, and published <u>Migration Junctions in India and</u> <u>Indonesia: Reimagining Places,</u> <u>Reorienting Policy</u>, by Mukta Naik and Gregory Randolph. Simultaneously, Das completed three papers documenting the SP method that are currently in the submission process. This series completes his investigation into the use of the SP method for measuring quality of care and sets the stage for meshing SP methodology with quality improvement attempts.

Owing to Das' work, the use of SPs has increased, with studies emerging from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, McGill University, Duke University, University of North Carolina, London School of Economics and Sun-Yat Sen University. The scale-up in China has been particularly impressive with 7 provinces signing up to the use of SPs as a quality measurement tool.

Das' work on patient safety in Kenya has scaled-up with the country adopting the technology and tools for all counties. This is a \$100 million scale-up.

#### **EDUCATION**



HRD's NISHTHA programme to train over 42 lakh teachers across India. photo: *The indian Wire* 

Jishnu Das continued his work on investigating education markets – conglomerates of schools within villages and how to improve them. He completed the first paper on Teacher Value Added (TVA) in low-income countries (forthcoming, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy), demonstrating the importance of teachers for learning as well as the variation between teachers in their 'value-added.' Important results include the inability of using observed variation to explain TVA; a correlation between teacher test scores and TVA suggesting that higher teacher test scores may help students learn better and the absence of any correlation between public school salaries and TVA. Despite the importance of teachers, the research shows that systems for detecting and hiring/ retaining better teachers are difficult to implement with uncertain payoffs. In particular, Das examined a proposal made by Lant Pritchett, Rinku Murgai and Karthik Muralidharan, whereby teachers are hired en masse on a contractual basis and only the best are retained after two-three years. The research shows that this policy has, at most, a 0.08 standard-deviation increase in steady-state test scores of children, and the 15-year effect of this policy is, at most, 0.035 standard deviations. In the absence of better screening technology for hiring teachers, there is no clear path yet towards improving the quality of the workforce.

In addition, Das is working towards re-submitting a paper on how to finance private schools (under revision for *American Economic Review*) in low-income countries. His research shows that providing unconditional cash grants to private schools always increases school revenues and profits at imputed rates of return that are above the market interest rate, and much higher than the typical returns in education projects. This suggests that including private schools within the ambit of Small and Mediumsized Enterprises may viably unlock financial products for this sector. Das's research further shows that the structure of financing matters – when a limited number of schools receive grants, they choose to increase enrollment, but when all schools receive grants equally, test-scores increase as well. This suggests that any policy towards private schools should strive to alleviate constraints for all schools equally rather than focus on a single school or chain of schools.

Das's work on financing has led to a number of groups working actively towards developing new financing products in partnership with Micro Finance Institutions.

#### SOCIAL CHANGE AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

- » D Shyam Babu continued to serve as a Member of the National Taskforce on Affirmative Action convened by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). His role included helping the Taskforce formulate policies for CII member companies to integrate Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ ST) entrepreneurs as employees, suppliers and dealers under the rubric of Entrepreneurship, Education, Employability and Employment.
- » Continuing his involvement in promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ ST communities, D Shyam Babu became a Member of the Governing Board of a non-profit, Centre for the Study of Caste and Capitalism (CSCC), whose twin mandates are to study how an open society (both as a prerequisite and a consequence of capitalism) helps bring down the walls that separate one group from another within a society, and to encourage SC/ST communities to take up entrepreneurship.
- » D Shyam Babu joined the Editorial Board of a new monthly magazine, Dalit Enterprise, which seeks to provide a forum for news, views and policy debates on entrepreneurship among SC/STs.
- » Initiating public dialogue through about a dozen articles in newspapers, including *The Hindu, The Times of India, The Print* and *Down to Earth*, D Shyam Babu commented on matters related to the interests of SC/STs (the Supreme Court's controversial judgment which allegedly diluted the SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act, 1989, quota politics and creamy layer); on Administrative Reforms/ Federalism (lateral entry in bureaucracy at higher levels and the functioning of CBI); and on entrepreneurship among Dalits (how first generation Dalit doctors setup their own hospitals and were thriving).

#### SOCIAL PROTECTION



Government to pay Rs 11,000 crore for MGNREGA in drought-hit states. photo: downtoearth.org.in

Shylashri Shankar conducted two political economy studies for a World Bank report on social protection in Asia. The first study, *The Political Economy of Social Protection in India*, assessed the state of social protection with a focus on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The second, a more comparative report focused on two comparisons: a) comparing conditional cash transfers in Bangladesh and Pakistan, and b) a rural employment guarantee scheme in India and Bangladesh.

The political economy approach asked three questions:

- » What are political, economic, and social triggers for social protections?
- » What are the preferences or beliefs of government and non-government actors regarding social protections?
- » What are the incentives for supporting social protections?

The case studies illustrated three characteristics that can open up policy spaces for marginalised groups:

- » First, power asymmetries are not necessarily debilitating to the interests of the poor if, for instance, deals are made between activist groups championing rural labour's rights and a political party in search of an election issue.
- » Second, making social protection justiciable takes care of the breakdown of commitment on the part of the implementers; non-implementation would attract legal penalties (but for that to occur, challenges have to be taken to court).
- » Third, the politics underlying the creation of social assistance programmes underscores the delicate balancing act required from social protection schemes to bolster local level decision-making without reinforcing power inequalities.

#### METAMORPHOSES – TALKING TECHNOLOGY SERIES

CPR, in partnership with the India International Centre (IIC) and the NITI Aayog launched *Metamorphoses – Talking Technology*, a series of nine interactions covering different aspects of the digital revolution aimed at bridging the gap between technological advancements and popular understanding of the ways in which these are transforming our lives. The series was developed by Richa Bansal and Dhruv Arora from CPR with the support and guidance of Shyam Saran, and was financed by the NITI Aayog.

The series assembled acknowledged thought leaders from India and abroad to inform society about the power of new technologies to change our lives for the better, but also to alert ourselves to the risks attached to them.

The series received regular media coverage and was attended by a wide audience. Videos of all sessions can be found here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLP--AcVZ7s56UMajCz\_TRGR3kfRv6FyQw</u> Information about the series can also be found on the microsite: <u>https://metamorphoses.in/</u>. All talks were completed during this year.

The following discussions were organised as part of this series:

» Keynote address by Professor Yochai Benkler (Berkman Professor of Entrepreneurial Legal Studies at Harvard Law School) to launch the Series.



» Future of Governance featuring Justice BN Srikrishna (Chairman, Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission), Dr J Satyanarayana (Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)), Ananth Padmanabhan (former Fellow, Carnegie India, current Fellow, CPR), Chinmayi Arun (Assistant Professor, Law, National Law University), and Vrinda Bhandari (Advocate).





- » *Vocabulary of the Digital* featuring Professor K Vijay Raghavan (Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India), Abhishek Pitti (Co-founder & CEO, Nucleus Vision), Dhruv Arora (former Manager, Digital and Strategic Communications, CPR), Mahima Kaul (Head, Public Policy & Government Partnerships, India, Twitter), and Professor Gagandeep Kang (Executive Director, Translational Health Science Technology Institute).
- » Technology, Social Divides and Diversity featuring Ambassador Shyam Saran (Life Trustee, IIC), Osama Manzar (Founder & Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation), Dr Sunil Abraham (Vice-President, Mozilla Foundation), and Yamini Aiyar (President and Chief Executive, CPR).



» Unpacking Media – Digital & Traditional featuring Richa Bansal (Director of Communications, CPR), Ashish Malhotra (India Correspondent, Deutsche Welle and Freelance Multimedia Journalist), Pankaj Mishra (Editor in Chief, Co-Founder and CEO, Factor Daily), Rama Lakshmi (Editor, Opinion, ThePrint), and Zakka Jacob (Deputy Executive Editor, CNN-News18).



 » Automation, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Jobs featuring Dr R Chidambaram (former Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India), Anna Roy (Advisor, NITI Aayog), Rajat Gupta (Senior Director, McKinsey & Company), Sanjeev Bikhchandani (Founder and Executive Vice-Chairman, Info Edge (India) Limited – Naukri.com), and Dr A Didar Singh (Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group and Member ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work).



- » Solutions to Technology Pessimism featuring Ambassador Shyam Saran (Life Trustee, IIC), Amba Kak (Public Policy Advisor, Mozilla Corporation), Dr Avdesh Sharma (Senior Psychiatrist), and Dr Nand Kumar (Professor, Department of Psychiatry, AIIMS).
- » Cyber Security featuring V Latha Reddy (former Deputy National Security Advisor, Government of India), Dr Gulshan Rai (National Cyber Security Coordinator, Government of India), Ajay Prakash Sawhney (Secretary (Electronics & Information Technology), Government of India), and Tobby Simon (Founder President, Synergia Foundation).
- » Keynote address by Arogyaswami Paulraj (Professor Emeritus, Stanford University, USA) on Information Technologies – Computing, Communications and Machine Intelligence: The Next Twenty-Five Years.



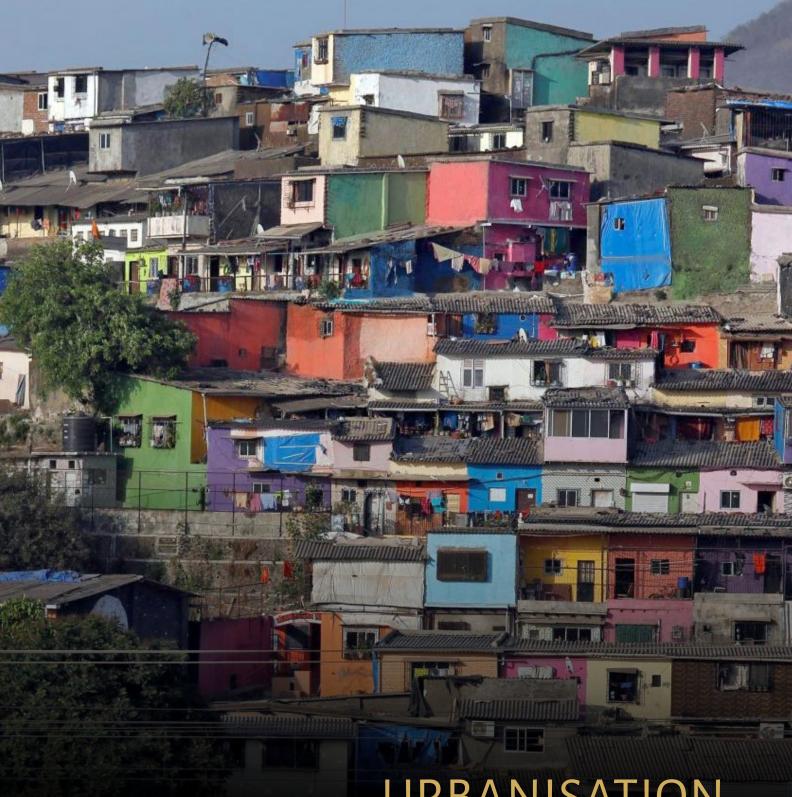


In addition, 3 special talks were organised as part of the Series:

- » Leading Digital Transformation and Innovation featuring Professor Soumitra Dutta (Professor of Management, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business and Chair, Board of Directors Global Business School Network, Washington DC), and Professor Ambuj Sagar (Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies, IIT Delhi).
- » Beyond Techno-Narcissism: Self and Other in the Internet Public Realm featuring Ambassador Vijay K Nambiar (former UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on Myanmar), and Professor Langdon Winner (Thomas Phelan Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York).
- » Blending Music with Technology featuring Nirali Kartik (Hindustani Classical Vocalist), Shankar Barua (Trustee, The Academy of Electronic Arts), and Chintan Kalra (Founder-Member, Parikrama).

#### SELECTED PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

- » Teacher Value Added in a Low-Income Country. (Jishnu Das and Natalie Bau), AEJ: Economic Policy, Forthcoming.
- » Gender Differences in Quality of Tuberculosis Care in Urban India: A two-city, cross-sectional study. 2019. (Jishnu Das, Benjamin Daniels, Ada Kwan, Srinath Satyanarayana, Ramnath Subbaraman, Ranendra K. Das, Veena Das and Madhukar Pai), Lancet Global Health (7): e633-43.
- » Variations in the quality of tuberculosis care in urban India: A cross-sectional, standardised patient study in two cities. 2018. (Jishnu Das, Ada Kwan, Ben Daniels, Andrew McDowell, Vaibhav Saria, Srinath Satyanarayana, Ramnath Subbaraman, Sofi Bergkvist, Ranendra K. Das, Veena Das and Madukar Pai). PLoS Medicine, September 25th, 2018.
- » Jishnu Das, Commentary on Fair Progress: Economic Mobility Across Generations around the World. CFEE Annual Research Digest, September 2018.



## URBANISATION

photo: Reuters/ Francis Mascarenhas

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.

#### **URBAN GOVERNANCE**

#### **Op-eds**

Gurgaon must resist the communal narrative for the sake of its economy, Mukta Naik, The Wire, 22nd May 2018

Few cities are liveably smart, Partha Mukhopadhyay and Mukta Naik, Hindustan Times, 14th August 2018

High petrol prices can fund public transport, Manish, Mint, 18th September 2018

Urban Only in Name, Sama Khan, The Indian Express, 21st November 2018

For equitable growth, India must unthink the urban, Partha Mukhopadhyay and Mukta Naik, Hindustan Times, 17th December 2018

#### Smart cities: Papers and briefs

Demystifying the Indian smart city: An Empirical reading of the smart cities mission, Persis Taraporevala, CPR Working Paper, August 2018

An overview of the Smart Cities Mission in India, Ashwathy Anand, Ajai Sreevatsan, and Persis Taraporevala, CPR Policy Brief, August 2018

#### Workshops: Tacit Urban Research Network (TURN)

29th November 2018: CPR, Delhi

23–24th December 2018: HUL, Hyderabad

11–13th January 2019: IIHS, Bangalore

In Hyderabad, a gathering of students, activists, practitioners and academics convened to exploe issues of identity and belonging in the city, under the umbrella of 'Do Din' CPR works on governance issues at various scales, viz. metropolitan, small towns and urban neighbourhoods. Deepening our work on subaltern urbanisation, CPR researchers estimated and identified the census towns (CTs) that will be identified in 2019 in preparation for the 2021 Census. The research reveals that CTs will continue to be important in India's urban structure and a significant share of the urban population will continue to grow beyond municipal limits. While large towns will influence the growth of CTs, a more localised form of urbanisation will also be evident. This work was done as part of the *India–Urban Rural Boundaries and Basic Services (IND–URBBS)* project.

CPR researchers, continuing with the tradition of reviewing central government urban schemes, conducted an empirical analysis of the Smart Cities Mission based on government documentation and reviewed process, types of interventions, and governance impacts of the Mission.

As a part of the research on state-citizen relationships and boundary spanning, CPR researchers presented their work on intermediation and urban regeneration in Delhi's unauthorised colonies in a panel on the National Capital Region (NCR) at the AAS-in-Asia international conference.

Under the *Digital Urban Observatory* project, CPR researchers in collaboration with field partners and researchers from Brown University and Georgetown University, mapped key public amenities like water taps, community toilets, and *anganwadis* (government-run day care centres) within select informal settlements in Delhi through iterative interactions with community members.





As part of the *Tacit Urban Research Network* (*TURN*) project, CPR researchers worked with peers from the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru (IIHS), Hyderabad Urban Labs (HUL), and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (TISS), on several comparative enquiries through workshops focused on understanding informality and exploring research methods suited to exploring tacit phenomena. A CPR team spent a week in Mumbai visiting sites and conducting interviews with TISS researchers.

CPR researchers continued work on questions of access, equity, inclusion and sustainability in public spaces, especially for children; and urban transport, especially public transport systems and their regulation and funding.

CPR researchers, led by Eesha Kunduri, organised a roundtable in Delhi on *RTI in Urban India* with civil society activists, in December 2018. Its focus was on the use of the Right to Information Act, 2005, in urban activism and practice.

#### **URBAN ECONOMY**

CPR researchers deepened their study on the links between migration and urbanisation, with a focus on employment and social protection. Researchers examined rural and urban wage differentials for varying levels of education to make a case for the portability of social protection to help migrants gain a foothold in Indian cities. Researchers also contributed to research and debates on right to food and food security in India.

In collaboration with JustJobs Network (JJN), CPR brought out a report highlighting the role of small cities as 'migration junctions', and advocated for locating interventions in workforce development, housing and governance in non-metropolitan urban locations.

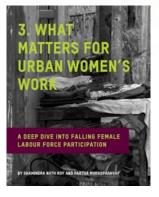
Eesha Kunduri and Dr Pragna Rugunanan, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Johannesburg, continued their collaboration on migrant experiences via an opinion piece on India-South Africa relations.

In a contribution to OXFAM's annual inequality report, CPR researchers investigated the structural deficiencies behind low female labour force participation in urban India through a variety of perspectives, ranging from measuring the complexity of women's work to the implications of caste, location, and family structure. On field with the researchers from TISS, CPR researchers investigated the changing landscapes and land uses in Vasai Virar, a municipality north of Mumbai

#### Op-eds

South Africa's new Indian migrants, Eesha Kunduri and Pragna Rugunan, The Hindu, 24th January 2019

What matters for urban women's work? A deep dive into falling female labour force participation, Shamindra Nath Roy and Partha Mukhopadhyay, in Mind the Gap: The State of Employment in India, OXFAM Research Report, March 2019



#### **URBAN SERVICES**

#### Sanitation

Op-eds

Emerging infectious diseases in India: the scourge that could boost urban development, Olivier Telle, The Conversation, 17th April 2018

Can the Use of Machines Destigmatise Sanitation Work?, Sweta Celine Xess, The Wire, 30th May 2018

Idealism Won't Plug the Gaps in Urban Sanitation, Prashant Arya, Anindita Mukherjee, and Shubhagato Dasgupta, The Wire, 4th July 2018

What Would Urban Sanitation Look Like Without Caste? Ranjita Mohanty and Anju Dwivedi, The Wire, 10th July 2018



Mobilising Community Institutions for Inclusive and Sustainable Sanitation in Angul and Dhenkanal, Odisha

The Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI): Sanitation initiative over the past year focused attention on emerging questions and policy challenges in the sanitation sector and significantly scaled up its outreach and network building activities. These include: understanding enabling options for systematic private sector participation in Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), enabling legal and regulatory framework for FSM operations, review of variations in existing FSM technical systems, retrofitting possibilities and reuse policy, mapping of non-government ecosystem to strengthen FSM in the State of Odisha, strengthening capacities of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on developing O&M models and sustaining FSM services and Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) bye-laws specific to the city of Udaipur.

CPR researchers carried out a study, based on field research in 3 districts of Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Odisha, on the legal and regulatory frameworks governing FSM in the states. They found an urgent need for institutional reforms, capacity building, and convergence between various departments engaged in FSM at the local government level. Researchers also studied the regulation of on-site sanitation systems in select states and highlighted regulatory gaps within building bye-laws and regulations.

To map the non-government ecosystem, CPR conducted a 4-city study of private sector participation in FSM and found that thriving FSM markets depend largely on 'bulk' customers rather than individual households, a learning that will have significant implications as FSM service delivery becomes increasingly centralised and state-driven. The SCI-FI team also conducted a study to develop a ground level understanding of sanitation related community-based institutions formed by *Project Nirmal* in Angul and Dhenkanal, Odisha, and recognised the leadership role played by women.

CPR commissioned a study covering South Africa, England, USA, Malaysia, and India to identify, comprehend, and analyse the legal frameworks and structures governing water and sanitation. CPR researchers continued their work on the link between caste and sanitation, with a focus on manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. They engaged with the regulatory and liability issues around private sector participation in these activities, as well as efforts by state agencies to mechanise these activities. CPR also continued its work on tracking infectious diseases in cities, as well as the linkages between health and urbanisation.

#### Housing and Homelessness

CPR's work on urban homelessness intensified this year, with a focus on examining the role of homeless shelters and labour markets in the experience of homelessness in Delhi. Besides ethnographic and quantitative documentation, CPR research engaged with litigation on housing and court orders on beggary and vagrancy.

In March 2019, the Delhi High Court passed a judgment upholding slum dwellers' right to due process before eviction. The Court, in its judgment, cited a CPR policy brief — *Categories of Settlement in Delhi*.

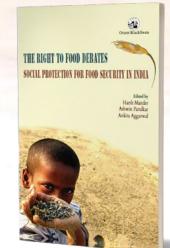
CPR continued to explore issues of residential segregation in urban India, focusing on caste, and deepened work on informal rental housing in urban villages in the Delhi NCR.

#### **POLICY ENGAGEMENTS**

- » Partha Mukhopadhyay moderated a panel on *Purpose & Prosperity, Vibrant and Innovative Economies* at the *Happy Cities Summit* in Amravati organised by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Confederation of Indian Industry on 12th April 2018. He also spoke at the *Praja Roundtable* in Mumbai on 13th April 2018.
- » On 31st May 1 June, 2018 Partha Mukhopadhyay spoke at a workshop in Chennai organised by the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) and GIZ India for a discussion on the State Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (SUHHP) of the State.
- » Anindita Mukherjee continues to be a member of the urban sub-group for support in formulating a rural sanitation policy and strategy under the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS).
- » CPR is a member of the Gender Task Force on Sanitation formed by the National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Alliance.
- » Mukta Naik made a presentation on CPR's engagements in urban housing to the World Bank in New Delhi in May 2018.
- » Ashwin Parulkar serves on the Advisory Committee to the Institute of Global Homelessness and attended an advisory meeting in Chicago, USA in May 2018.
- » Shubhagato Dasgupta served as a sub-group Member on the National Urban Sanitation Policy Group from June 2018.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay is a member of the Group XIV of the National Capital Region Planning Board. He attended a meeting of the group on 6th August 2018.

#### **Op-eds**

To give beggars dignity, the State and civil society must come together, Ashwin Parulkar and Manish, Hindustan Times, 20th August 2018



#### Book

The Right to Food Debates: Social Protection for Food Security in India, published by Orient Blackswan, June 2018

Harsh Mander, Ashwin Parulkar, Ankita Aggarwal (eds)

Contributions in the volume: Introduction - The Right to Food Debates, Harsh Mander and Ashwin Parulkar, Debate: Scope of the National Food

Security Act, Ashwin Parulkar Debate: Starvation, Ashwin Parulkar Debate: Cash Transfers, Ashwin Parulkar

*Debate: Malnutrition,* Ankita Aggarwal, Harsh Mander and Ashwin Parulkar

- » Researchers from CPR made a presentation on understanding informal models of septic tank emptying services before the Program Management Unit of Swachh Bharat Mission at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India in July 2018.
- » Anju Dwivedi and Tripti Singh met with members of various United Nations agencies for Sustainable Development Goals and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) related discussions on gender indicators at NITI Aayog in July 2018.
- » Neha Agarwal and Anindita Mukherjee met the Deputy Director, Urban Development and Housing Department, Madhya Pradesh, in September 2018, to introduce a CPR research study tentatively titled, *Documenting and Assessing On-site Sanitation Systems in Smaller Cities of India*.
- » Shubhagato Dasgupta, Anju Dwivedi and Ambarish Karunanithi met the Secretary and other officials of the Housing and Urban Development Department, Odisha, in October 2018, to discuss strategies to scale up FSSM across the state and provide handholding support in Jaga Mission.
- » On 27 October 2018, Arkaja Singh initiated a thematic discussion on the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance Network on reviewing building regulations from Indian States in relation to FSM.
- » Researchers from CPR briefed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on the recommendations put together from a daylong National Convention on *Redefining Universal Sanitation: A Gender Perspective,* organised by the Gender Taskforce on Sanitation in October 2018.
- Partha Mukhopadhyay conducted a session at the Perspective Building Session for Fellows from the Chief Minister's Urban Leadership Fellowship of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 14th January 2019.
- » Researchers from CPR made a presentation to the MoDWS about their research on the early findings of the sanitation situation in large dense villages in February 2019.
- » CPR researchers presented their documentation and assessment of onsite sanitation systems in smaller cities to the Deputy Director, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, on 5th September 2018.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay was a part of the Expert Review Committee of the Bengaluru Innovation Challenge between May to October 2018 organised by the Tata Development Centre at the University of Chicago and the Urban Development Department of the Government of Karnataka.



Inauguration of Dhenkanal Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant under Project Nirmal by Chief Minister, Odisha

- » A National Conference was held in Bhubaneshwar by the Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, with the support of Ernst & Young and National Fecal Sludge and Septage Management Alliance (NFSSM) from 26-28 October 2018. CPR researchers supported the Government of Odisha in bringing out a booklet titled Odisha's Journey of Faecal Sludge and Septage Management towards Sustainable Sanitation Goals. In the same event, the Dhenkanal Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) under Project Nirmal was commissioned, along with 5 other FSTPs in the state built under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
- » A number of civil society organisations and educational institutes partnered with CPR on sanitation-related research, including Vidya Bhawan Society (Udaipur), Kalinga School of Rural Management, and KIIT University (Bhubaneswar). Two research studies were undertaken via these partnerships.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay moderated a one-day *Regional Level Consultation on Urban Governance* organised by Praja on 14th February 2019.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay attended the UN Habitat Expert Group Meeting in Nanjing on 27th February 2019.

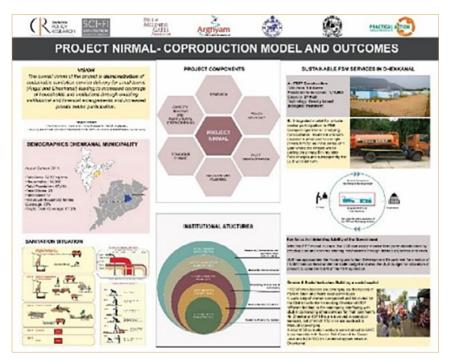
#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS**

- » CPR researchers engaged with Delhi Housing Rights Task Force, a collective of institutions and individuals working on housing rights in Delhi.
- » CPR researchers provided research and strategic input to the *Main Bhi Dilli* campaign, a coalition of civil society engagements around the upcoming Delhi Masterplan 2041. As part of this, they also attended the international conference, *Reinventing Delhi*, organised by the Delhi Development Authority and the National Institute of Urban Affairs in New Delhi in February 2019.

- » Manish participated in a roundtable discussion on *Smart and Connected Mobility in Indian Cities: Role of NMT* organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi in April 2018. He also made a presentation on *Beyond IPT: Deconstructing Kolkata's auto-rickshaw system* at a workshop on *Switching to Sustainable Public Transport* organised by The Energy and Resources Institute in Bangalore.
- » Mukta Naik presented a paper titled *The City Means Work, the Village Means Home* at a workshop on *Rural Urban Entanglements in India* organised by the University of Washington and Ambedkar University in New Delhi on 27th April 2018.
- » Shamindra Nath Roy and Manish presented on *How do people travel to work in India*? at a seminar on *Travel to Work in India* organised by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on 14th May 2018.
- » Shubhagato Dasgupta participated as a panelist in a book launch organised by Institute for South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore in May 2018.
- » Mukta Naik and Gregory F Randolph of JJN presented their work on Migration Junctions in India and Indonesia at a roundtable discussion organised by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) India Office in New Delhi on 18th July 2018.
- » On 3rd August 2018, Olivier Telle presented on *Geography and health*, how to link the two perspectives? in an event titled *Dengue control in Asia:* challenges, opportunities organised by the National Environment Agency's Environmental Health Institute in Singapore.
- » Eesha Kunduri and Mukta Naik, with support from Manish, taught a module on *Informality and Negotiated Citizenship in Delhi*, as a part of the summer exchange course on *Mega Cities: The many lives of Delhi* to students of Ashoka University, Sonepat, on 7 August 2019.
- » Mukta Naik made a presentation on *Women in Migration Data* at a national consultation on *Feminist Urban Futures: Cities for Women and Girls* organised by Jagori in New Delhi On 30th August 2018.
- » Kanhu Charan Pradhan attended a workshop on *Massive Spatial Data: Challenges in Acquisition, Treatment and Use for Territories* in Florence, Italy, held from 24-28 September 2018.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay chaired a session at the National Workshop on Unpacking multiple dimensions of Migration, Livelihoods and Climate Nexus organised by IIHS on 28 September 2018 in New Delhi. Mukta Naik was a panelist at the same event.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay was a panelist at a discussion on *River and Economy the Urban Cafe a Policy Dialogue on River for Habitat* organised by the National Mission on Clean Ganga on 31st October 2018.
- » On 7 November 2018, Mukta Naik presented on migration and diversity in small cities at a conference titled *Empowering Cities and Citizens* organised by Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Erasmus University, Rotterdam, to celebrate 60 years of the institute.
- » Manish participated in a national-level roundtable discussion on *Looking back at 25 years: a review of the 74th Amendment* organised by Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) and CIVIC in Bangalore in November 2018.



- Shubhagato Dasgupta co-chaired two sessions on housing and infrastructure finance, where innovative housing financing models from Africa and their relevance to India were discussed during the International Symposium on Reimagining inclusive cities: Strengthening linkages between land, housing, and spatial planning in Chennai.
- » At a conference on Reimagining inclusive cities: Strengthening linkages between land, housing, and spatial planning organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, and GIZ on 15th November 2018, Shubhagato Dasgupta co-presented on Evolution of Housing Policies in India with Tanja Feldmann of GIZ Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development (SUID). Anindita Mukherje co-presented on Prevailing rental housing practices among urban poor: Cases from Odisha and Tamil Nadu and Demystifying urban land tenure issues in India with Aparna Das of GIZ Sustainable Urban Development-Smart Cities (SUD-SC) at the same conference.
- » Mukta Naik made a presentation on *Migration in non-metropolitan cities* at a conference on *Life in India's Slums* organised by the University of Chicago Centre in Delhi in December 2018.



» Members of the SCI-FI team participated in the City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Convening in Manila from 9-14 December 2018, organised by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and designed and delivered by its Urban Sanitation Markets Initiative. CPR and Practical Action had prepared a poster on *Project Nirmal* titled, *Project NIRMAL- Co production Model and Outcomes*, which was presented at the convening that was attended by 132 participants from 31 countries. Poster presentation on Project Nirmal – Co production Model and Outcomes in City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Convening by CPR Researchers in Manila

- Olivier Telle gave a talk on the topic Infectious diseases rise: When and where socio economic disparities matter at an event titled Research Challenging: One Health at the Faculty of Veterinary Technology, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, held from 11–13 December 2018.
- » Olivier Telle presented work on Dengue and urbanisation at the Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2019, at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, held from 12–14 December 2018.
- » Olivier Telle spoke on Diffusion of emerging diseases in cities: does heterogeneous socioeconomic environment matter? in a workshop titled Spread and control of vector-borne diseases in heterogeneous environments at IMERA, Marseille, France, on 19th December, 2018.
- » Mukta Naik, Eesha Kunduri and Pranav Kuttaiah presented a paper on Networks, mobilities and segmentation in small city labour markets at the Urban Arc research conference at IIHS on 12th January 2019.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay delivered the keynote address on Contemporary Issues in Urban Economics with special reference to India at the Annual Seminar of the Centre for Urban Equity Studies at University of Calcutta on 1st February 2019.
- » Anindita Mukherjee, Ambarish Karunanithi, Prashant Arya and Neha Agarwal attended the 5th International Faecal Sludge Management Conference from 18–22 February 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa. The platform provided the opportunity for participants to coordinate, develop and share learnings to provide affordable and workable solutions at scale.
- » The Regional Sanitation Centre (RSC) for the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN), an independent institution established by the Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with regional partners, organised a conference from 21-23 February 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Shubhagato Dasgupta and Tanvi Tomar from CPR co-presented outputs with consultants and engineers from Udaipur Municipal Corporation at the event.
- » Ashwin Parulkar presented on *Survival in Jama Masjid* at the *Oral History Association of India conference* at Ambedkar University, Delhi, in February 2019.
- » In February 2019, Mukta Naik visited IHS in Rotterdam where she taught one module on migrant housing and a special class on small city labour markets.
- » In March 2019, Ashwin Parulkar presented on the Working Lives of Homeless Men at a conference on Tackling the Challenges of Urban air pollution, organised by the University of Birmingham and IIT Delhi.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay was a panelist at Housing and Land Rights Network's (HLRN) panel on Land Rights of the Urban Poor in the Context of Forced Evictions and 'Smart City' Development at the India Land Development Conference 2019 on 13th March 2019.
- » Partha Mukhopadhyay spoke on *Infrastructure, Cities, India, Metabolism* at the IIT Bombay Diamond Jubilee Policy Colloquium on 29th March 2019.



CPR Researchers presented Udaipur case outputs at SACOSAN Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka

#### **EVENTS**

## National level convening on Redefining Universal Sanitation: A gender perspective | 30 May 2018

The event, organised by CPR and Water Aid as part of the Gender Task Force, was attended by Joint Secretary, MoDWS, MoHUA representatives, Delhi Jal Board (DJB), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) officials, NITI Aayog advisory members, donor agencies like United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), US AID, World bank, civil society groups, grassroots agencies and individuals like transgender-groups, women masons, differently-abled members and NFSSM Alliance. Based on rich discussions, CPR and Water Aid put together about 60 recommendations for gender inclusion in sanitation for policy makers.

## Interrogating Urbanisation in India, Panel at AAS-in-Asia internal conference | 6 July 2018

CPR organised a two-part panel series, *Interrogating Urbanisation in India*, aimed at fostering a dialogue on urbanisation in India between qualitative and quantitative scholars across a number of disciplines, at the annual <u>AAS-in-Asia conference</u>. The conference, held in New Delhi in 2018, was organised by the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), which has a membership of over 10,000 scholars studying Asia through various disciplinary lenses across the humanities and social sciences.

The panels comprised of scholars engaged in a survey of approximately 5,500 households in Delhi-NCR, alongside scholars carrying out careful qualitative case-based or structural analyses of urban processes in India. The first panel, *Structural Challenges and Transformations*, discussed larger structural challenges and transformations in Indian urbanisation, while the second panel, *Life in the City*, discussed aspects of daily urban life in India. The panels were co-chaired by Partha Mukhopadhyay and Neelanjan Sircar. In addition, CPR researchers, Mukta Naik, Eesha Kunduri, and Ashwin Parulkar also presented papers as part of the panels.

#### Exposure trip to Warangal | 10 July 2018

An FSM exposure visit to Warangal was organised by CPR's SCI-FI initiative. Officials from Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Vidya Bhawan Society, and Hindustan Zinc Limited participated in the exposure visit. This exposure visit was conducted with support from the Administrative Staff College of India. The visit provided an opportunity to all the participants to witness and gain in-depth knowledge of the best practices in managing the Sanitation Value in Warangal.

#### Awareness Program for Sanitation Workers, Udaipur | 24 September 2018

As part of the MEWAR project in Udaipur, CPR's SCI-FI team conducted an awareness session for sanitation workers focusing on safety. The workshop included a demonstration of the use of safety gear and was chaired by the Commissioner of the Udaipur Municipal Corporation.



Panel discussions with MoHUA, MoDWS, NDMC, DJB during National Level Convention on 'Redefining Universal Sanitation: A Gender Perspective'



Faecal Sludge Management Exposure visit to Warangal with officials from Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Vidya Bhawan Society and Hindustan Zinc Limited

#### Study visit to South Africa on FSM and septage management 13-20 October 2018

A study visit to Pretoria, Capetown, and Durban in South Africa was conducted as a part of the SCI-FI initiative with support from the Pollution Research Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Durban, South Africa. This study trip provided an opportunity to SCI-FI researchers and Odisha Housing and Urban Development Department officials to witness and gain in-depth knowledge of the best practices in faecal sludge and septage management in South Africa.

## South-South Collaborations in Urban Theory and Practice: Case presentations from Latin America | 16 October 2018

CPR and BURO-DAP, a Bogota-based design practice, organised a workshop on *South-South Collaborations in Urban Theory and Practice: Case presentations from Latin America* in New Delhi in October 2018. The workshop included presentations by Elkin Vargas, Marwin Victoria and Javier Miranda, and was moderated by CPR Fellow, Mukta Naik. The experts presented Latin American case studies to showcase how cities have approached the design of public space, keeping in mind heritage and the historic fabric as well as concerns of sustainability and social equity.

#### **Dialogues on Sanitation: Legal perspectives on Sanitation in Urban India** 23 October 2018

The workshop brought together sanitation experts, lawyers and activists to discuss legal and regulatory issues associated with urban sanitation in the Indian context and challenges related to non-sewered sanitation, or FSM. A policy note was synthesised from the deliberations.

## Dialogues on Sanitation: Assembling Private Sector Participation for a Safe and Sustainable Urban Sanitation Future | 14 March 2019

The Dialogue connected the dots between various practitioners and experts in the field, collecting their experience in states, in implementing and initiating a broader discussion on the potential for alternative private sector participation in the sanitation value chain.





#### WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

The CPR-Centre de Sciences Humaine (CSH) Urban Workshop series continued uninterrupted, completing its 110th workshop in March 2019. The talks covered a diverse range of topics, including urban growth, urban politics, informal settlements, waste recycling, employment growth, public health, and debates around various forms of urban theory and practice.

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To commemorate the successful completion of 100 continuous workshops, CPR and CSH organised a panel of thought leaders from industry, civil society, academia and government to share their thoughts on the future of the urban and explore the implications for the urban research agenda. See <u>http://www.cprindia.org/projects/cprcsh-urban-workshop</u>.

#### **CORP** Workshops

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



Panelists deliberate the 'Future of Urban' at the centenary celebrations of the CPR-CSH workshop

 In its first 100 workshops, the CPR-CSH
 Urban Workshop series covered a wide range of subjects, as the world cloud indicates

#### **CORP Workshops**

Access, equity and sustainability in wastewater systems in Tier-2 cities in India | 14 August 2018 Dr Zachary Burt, Colombia University

#### Sustainable water resources and sanitation management 19 November 2018 Neelima Khetan, Vedanta Resources Plc;

Dr Anil Mehta, Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic, Udaipur; Ambarish Karunanithi, CPR; PK Singh, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur; Abhinav Kumar, CPR

#### Making do in a crowded city:

Infrastructure facing up to inmigration in Johannesburg's inner city 22 November, 2018 Dr Tanya Zack, Independent Urban Planner and Practitioner

## Towards furthering action research for sanitation workers' safety

4 December 2018 Ravikant Joshi, Urban Management Centre; Raj Bhushan Roy, WaterAid India; Nirat Bhatnagar, Dalberg Advisors; Tripti Singh, CPR; Manish, CPR; Devashish Deshpande, CPR; Ambarish Karunanithi, CPR

#### SELECTED PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

- » Migration Junctions: Reimagining Places, Reorienting Policy, CPR– JustJobs Network (JJN) Policy Brief, Gregory Randolph and Mukta Naik, April 2018
- » Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban): Need vs Planning, CPR Policy Brief, Sama Khan, June 2018
- » School Sanitation in Odisha, CPR Policy Brief, Shamindra Nath Roy and Sukriti Jhingta, June 2018
- » Ethnography of sanitation in small towns: A study of Angul and Dhenkanal, Odisha, CPR Report, Ranjita Mohanty, and Anju Dwivedi, September 2018
- » Training Manual on Non-Sewered Sanitation, Shubhagato Dasgupta, Anju Dwivedi, Ambarish Karunanithi, Swati Dhiman, Deepti Raj, and Neha Agarwal, September 2018
- » Moving from Principle to Practice, Partha Mukhopadhyay and Mukta Naik in People on the Move: Advancing the Discourse on Migration & Jobs, JustJobs Network Annual Publication, October 2018
- » Between Khet (Field) and Factory, Gaanv (Village) and Sheher (City): Caste, Gender and the (Re)shaping of Migrant Identities in Urban India, Eesha Kunduri, South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ), November 2018
- » Book review: Subaltern Urbanisation in India: An Introduction to the Dynamics of Ordinary Towns, Gregory F Randolph and Mukta Naik, SAGE Journals, December 2018
- » Predicting the Future of Census Towns, Shamindra Nath Roy and Kanhu Charan Pradhan, Economic and Political Weekly, December 2018
- » Mission Impossible: Defining Indian Smart Cities, Sama Khan, Persis Taraporevala, and Marie-Hélène Zérah, Economic and Political Weekly, December 2018
- » Building regulations for faecal sludge management: review of building regulations from Indian states, Arkaja Singh, CPR Research Report, December 2018
- » Study on household containment systems in selected states in India, CPR Report in collaboration with DevInsights, December 2018

- » Recasting inequality: residential segregation by caste over time in urban India, Trina Vithayathil, Gayatri Singh, and Kanhu Charan Pradhan, Environment and Urbanisation, January 2019
- » Synthesis Report on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management in Uttarakhand, Odisha and Rajasthan: Challenges and Opportunities, Sujith Koonan, Philippe Cullet, and Lovleen Bhullar, CPR Research Report, March 2019
- » 'Bridging the gap': Opportunities for private sector participation in faecal sludge and septage management, Anindita Mukherjee, Prashant Arya, Shubhagato Dasgupta, and Shikha Shukla Chhabra, CPR Research Report, March 2019
- » Synthesis report on state of water: A look at the legal and regulatory framework governing water services across jurisdictions, CPR Research Report, March 2019
- » Sanitation in large and dense villages in India: The last mile and beyond, CPR White Paper, Aditya Bhol, Shubhagato Dasgupta, Anindita Muherjee, and Aastha Jain, March 2019

# cpr dia ogues

NAVIGATING INDIA'S 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TRANSITIONS

17-18 DEC 2018

#### LAUNCH OF CPR DIALOGUES

In December 2018, CPR launched the inaugural edition of CPR Dialogues, titled *Navigating India's 21st Century Transitions*, a multi-disciplinary policy conference that brought together leading academics, policy practitioners and other stakeholders to engage in a robust, evidence-based dialogue on the most critical public policy questions of our time:

- » How can India meet its energy needs as a growing economy while shifting towards cleaner energy?
- » How can India manage its urban transformation so that it builds inclusive, sustainable, and green 21st-century cities?
- » How can India overcome the twin challenges of declining agricultural productivity and weak human capital to create productive jobs in a rapidly changing 21st-century economy?
- » How can India leverage its technology advantage and create an innovation eco-system, while protecting individual and community rights?
- » How should India respond to shifting geopolitical trends and re-position itself in a changing global order?

India today is at the cusp of significant developmental transitions. Choices made, as India negotiates these transitions, will fundamentally shape its future developmental trajectory. These choices are wide-ranging and require negotiating multiple and often conflicting socio-economic demands. The policy challenge today lies in identifying appropriate pathways and institutional mechanisms to negotiate these transitions and set India on a path toward a sustainable, inclusive future. India is not alone in confronting these challenges – many countries across the globe are facing similar challenges and India has much to learn from their experience.

To debate these issues and learn from global experience, CPR organised Dialogues 2018 bringing experts from diverse countries like the United Kingdom, Brazil, Russia, Egypt, and Nigeria to engage in conversation on the challenges and opportunities for India as it charts a new path toward a 21st century development future.

A dedicated website created for the Dialogues hosts blogs on and video recordings of the discussions that took place at the various panels – <u>www.cprdialogues.org</u>.

<u>ThePrint</u> was the digital partner for the Dialogues and <u>Hindustan Times</u> was the print partner.

#### **KEY SESSIONS INCLUDED:**

#### Opening panel: India's 21st-Century Transitions



The panel featured Jamshyd Godrej (Chairman and MD, Godrej and Boyce), T N Ninan (Chairman, Business Standard Ltd), Rajiv Kumar (Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog), Pratap Bhanu Mehta (Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University), and was chaired by Yamini Aiyar (President and Chief Executive, CPR). The panel discussed the main themes of the conference – urbanisation, environment, energy, jobs, technology, politics, foreign policy – exploring the multiple intersections between these and what it means for India's 21st-century transitions.

#### The International Climate Change Regime: Looking Back to Look Forward



This panel featured Lavanya Rajamani (Professor, CPR), Joanna Depledge (Editor of Climate Policy journal, and Senior Fellow at Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance at the University of Cambridge), Chandra Bhushan (Deputy Director General, Centre for Science and Environment), and was chaired by Ambassador Chandrashekhar Dasgupta (former Ambassador and Indian climate negotiator). The panel discussed three decades of rule-making in the international climate regime, contours of the Paris Agreement as fleshed out in the Katowice rulebook, challenges and potential gaps in implementation under the Agreement, and identified key focus areas for research, advocacy and policy influence as the regime shifts gears.

#### <u>Research for Policy Action on Air Pollution</u>, in collaboration with Centre for Research on Economics of Climate, Food, Energy, and Environment (CECFEE)

This panel featured Shibani Ghosh (Fellow, CPR), E Somanathan (Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, and Program Director, CECFEE), Ritesh Kumar Singh (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India), Nitin Sethi (Senior Associate Editor, Business Standard), Vinuta Gopal (Co-Founder and Director, Asar



Social Impact Advisors), and was chaired by Navroz K Dubash (Professor, CPR). The panel focused on how solving India's air pollution crises will require sustained action through clear and consistent messaging and sound research and analysis as key inputs to policy action. In addition to unpacking key messaging, the panel drew on five research projects by CECFEE related to major sources of air pollution to provide empirical support for sectoral action.

#### Launch of CPR's Technology and Society (TechSoc) Initiative



CPR announced the launch of its Technology and Society Initiative (TechSoc) at the Dialogues. This initiative aims to strengthen CPR's efforts towards research-driven conversations and policy thinking on emerging technologies, building an indigenous innovation ecosystem in India, and regulating the same.

The session featured Ashutosh Sharma (Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India), Venktesh Shukla (General Partner, Monta Vista Capital and Ex-Chair, TiE Global) and Ananth Padmanabhan (Fellow, CPR).

#### India's Technology Transition: The Present and the Possible

This panel featured Shweta Rajpal Kohli (Director of Public Policy & Government Affairs, Salesforce India & South Asia), Anu Acharya (Chief Executive Officer, Mapmygenome India), Shyam Divan (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India), Sanjeev Bikhchandani (Founder and Executive Vice-Chairman, Info Edge (India) Ltd) and was chaired by Ananth Padmanabhan (Fellow, CPR). The panel discussed the kind of innovation ecosystem India needs to motivate the development of emerging technologies in the country, and the regulation of such technologies while protecting individual and community rights.

#### CPR Youth Awards: A Youth-Driven Agenda for Change

This session featured Eric Gonsalves (former Chairperson, Governing Board, CPR), Pradeep Nair (Regional Director, Ford Foundation), Mukta Naik (Fellow, CPR) and Swati Janu (Awards Mentor). The Youth Awards were designed to interact, collaborate, and mentor young men and women across the country to understand their perceptions and concerns related to the environment and society, and to help them take steps towards addressing these problems. The best projects from among youth groups working in Delhi (a resettlement colony), Odisha (a tribal region), and Rajasthan (a per-urban area) were felicitated at the award ceremony.



**Understanding India's Energy Transition in Global Context** 

This panel featured Michael Grubb (Professor of Energy and Climate Change, Bartlett School Environment, Energy & Resources, Faculty of the Built Environment, University College London), Navroz K Dubash (Professor, CPR), Radhika Khosla (Research Director, Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Oxford and Visiting Fellow, CPR), Ashok Sreenivas (Senior Fellow, Prayas (Energy Group)), and was chaired by Ajay Mathur (Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)). The panel explored to what extent India's energy transition, in the context of global energy transition, provides opportunities versus throws up challenges, and what India can do to effectively negotiate this transition.



#### Is the Urban Future Metropolitan? Big Cities in Urban Systems

Moderated by Partha Mukhopadhyay (Senior Fellow, CPR), this panel featured Fedor Kudryavtsev (Moscow Institute of Architecture), Kazuo Nakano (Universidade Federal de São Paulo), Ivan Turok (Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria), and Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal (Research Fellow, Centre d'Études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud (CNRS-EHESS), Paris), who work in Moscow, Sao Paulo, Johannesburg, and Delhi respectively all large metropolises in countries at very different stages of urbanisation. The panel unpacked the different urbanisation trajectories and governance mechanisms in these cities and countries in order to inform India's unique urban transformation process.



#### Geopolitics and Geo-Economics in a Changing South Asia

This panel featured Nimmi Kurian (Professor, CPR), Zorawar Daulet Singh (Fellow, CPR), Ambassador Shivshankar Menon (Former National Security Advisor and Indian Foreign Secretary), and was chaired by Srinath Raghavan (former Senior Fellow, CPR, current Senior Fellow, Carnegie India and Professor, Ashoka University). The panel explored the shifting geopolitical trends globally and within Asia. It discussed the possible roles India could adopt to shape the ongoing power transition in a way that advances its domestic transformation and security along with a stable Asian and world order.

#### Closing panel: The Emerging World Order and India's Role

This panel featured Ibrahim Gambari (former Foreign Minister, Nigeria), Nabil Fahmy (former Foreign Minister, Egypt), and was chaired by Ambassador Shyam Saran (former Foreign Secretary, India). The panel explored the major shifts in inter-state relations in a changing world order; the growing wave of narrow nationalism and rejection of multilateral institutions and collaborative initiatives; and the role developing countries can play in shaping this new world order to best serve their own interests.



## TWO INVITE-ONLY ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO ORGANISED AS PART OF THE DIALOGUES:

#### Mapping continuities and changes in Indian Democracy

This round table session included presentations by Neelanjan Sircar (Assistant Professor, Ashoka University and Senior Visiting Fellow, CPR) and Rahul Verma (Fellow, CPR) and was chaired by Yamini Aiyar (President and Chief Executive, CPR). It shared research findings aimed at understanding the changing dynamics of the electoral environment in India, particularly with respect to the elections of 2014, which marked a critical phase in Indian democracy. The discussion attempted to generate a framework to understand recent transitions in Indian politics and explore possible trajectories for the 2019 elections.

## India's Jobs Challenge: Wages, Productivity and Notions of Informality, in collaboration with JustJobs Network (JJN)

This round table session featuring Sabina Dewan (President and Executive Director, JJN and Senior Visiting Fellow, CPR) and Partha Mukhopadhyay (Senior Fellow, CPR) was part of the newly launched 'Jobs Initiative' – a partnership between CPR and JJN. Against the backdrop of India's diversity, the discussion explored how to create more and better jobs. Industry leaders, academics, policy makers, labour activists, and civil society actors discussed how technological change, informality, and gender-related inequality affect employment opportunities and outcomes. The roundtable helped delineate areas for future research towards new and innovative ways to address the nation's jobs crisis.



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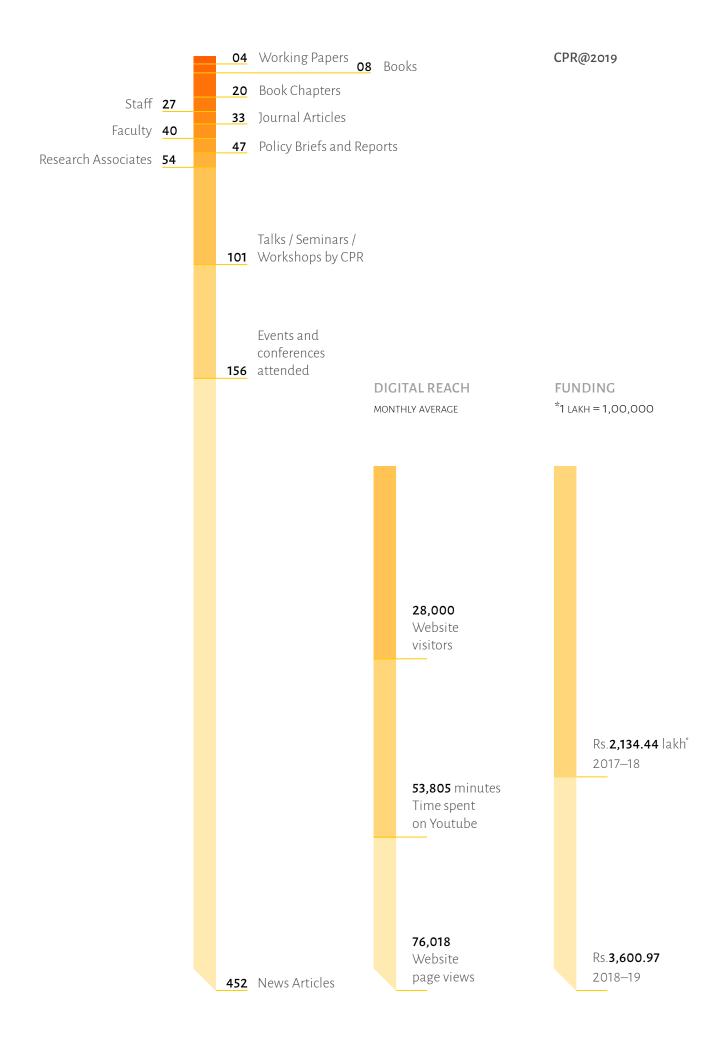
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