



CHRONICLE 21&22

Quarterly

Newsletter

2010

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The logo for CDS CHRONICLE, with 'CDS' in a stylized font above the word 'CHRONICLE'.

Volume 6. Issue 1 & 2. January - June, 2010

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The CDS, established in 1971, is now 40 years old. Visionary leader C. Achutha Menon, the then Chief Minister of Kerala, invited Prof. K. N. Raj to establish the Centre. Prof. Raj joined hands with other luminaries such as P. G. K. Panikar, I. S. Gulati, T. N. Krishnan, A. Vaidyanathan, N. Krishnaji and architect Laurie Baker to draw up a blueprint for the Centre and set it up.

The foundation laid for an advanced research centre by these stalwarts has brought the Centre international recognition and reputation as a hub of theory-based empirical research and learning. The focus of the Centre's research themes has always kept pace with national and regional development debates of the day.

Dedicated to undertaking advanced research in development studies and related disciplines, the first decade saw it concentrating on the broader aspects of development at the regional and national level, with a special emphasis on agriculture and the rural economy; employment and wages; public and international finance; and the overall development of Kerala. The Centre also designed MPhil and PhD programmes in Applied Economics and offered admission to them. The "Kerala Development Model", as it has now come to be known, was initially explored by scholars at the CDS during the mid-1970s.

In the second decade, research themes diversified into newer areas such as agriculture and natural resources; industry; social and economic history; and labour and population studies. The Centre's work on population studies drew the attention of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and with its financial support, a 13-month international diploma on population and

sustainable development was designed and offered, which attracted participants from all parts of the world.

Along with other initiatives in the third decade, the Centre undertook a large-scale networked research programme in support of decentralisation and local-level development in Kerala, with backing from the Dutch government. This helped create capacities for development-oriented research in colleges and civil society organisations.

In the last decade, the Centre has adopted a formal Vision for 2005-15 and is now reviewing the six thematic areas of research set forth in it. During this period, policy-oriented research has assumed fresh relevance and the CDS has undertaken a number of policy studies such as human development reports, an appraisal of the state.

Five-Year Plan and migration monitoring surveys. The scope for further policy studies has expanded with the Government of India setting up research units on migration studies and plantation development at the Centre.

During the latter half of this decade, the CDS community felt there was the need to step in to remedy deteriorating standards of post-graduate economics education in the country. As a part of this, a master's programme in Economics has been designed, and it will be launched soon. There are also plans to integrate it with the MPhil and PhD courses. The last five years has seen the Centre investing more in maintaining the high-quality learning environment that has become its hallmark.

The Centre has come a long way in the years that have gone by. And thanks to the dedication of the faculty, other staff, students, and generous support from the Government of Kerala,

Government of India, the Indian Council of Social Science Research and several national and international organisations, it is poised to grow in leaps and bounds in the future.

K.N. Nair

SEMINARS

K. C. Shashidhar

(Chief General Manager, NABARD)
Credit for Development:

Towards New Paradigms

15 January

(email: trivandrum@nabard.org)

Joysankar Bhattacharya

(University of Siena, Italy)

Group-Participation, Women Empowerment and Capability Enhancement: Application of a Mimic Model in West Bengal

27 January

(email: joysankar@cds.ac.in)

A. Vaidyanathan

(Honorary Fellow, CDS)

Agricultural Growth in India: Role of Technology Incentives, and Institutions

28 January

(email: a.vaidyanathan053@gmail.com)

B. Balagopal

(Managing Director, Terumo Penpol Limited, Trivandrum)

Entrepreneur-Academia Dialogue

29 January

(email: cbalagopal@terumopenpol.com)

Ananth Kamath

(PhD scholar, UNU-Merit
Maastricht, The Netherlands)

Revealing the Nature of Low-Tech Learning: Empirical Study of a Coir Cluster in Kerala

3 February

(email: kamath@merit.unu.edu)

Ameresh Samantaraya

(Reserve Bank of India)

Conduct of Monetary Policy in India: Theory and Practice

8 February

(email: asamantaraya@rbi.org.in)

Anup Kumar Bhandari

(Centre for Development Studies)

Global Crisis, Environmental Volatility and Expansion of the Indian Leather Industry

18 February

(email: anup@cds.ac.in)

Gary S. Fields

(John P. Windmuller Professor of International and Comparative Labour Cornell University, ILR School, USA)

Earning Their Way out of Poverty

5 March

(email: gsf2@cornell.edu)

Aparna Nair

(Centre for Development Studies)

The Indifferent Many and the Hostile Few: An Assessment of Smallpox Vaccination in Travancore, 1804-1941)

30 March

(email: aparna@cds.ac.in)

G. Raveendran

(Former Additional Director General, CSO, Government of India, and former Senior Consultant, National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector)

New Estimates of Poverty in India : A Critique of the Tendulkar Committee Report, 2009

8 April

(email: Gravi19@hotmail.com; mpudos@bol.net.in)

J. Devika

(Centre for Development Studies)

The Capabilities Approach in the Vernacular: The History of Capability Building in Kerala

9 April

(email: devika@cds.ac.in)

Sunil Mani

(Centre for Development Studies)

The Flight from Defence to Civilian Space: Evolution of the Sectoral System of Innovation of India's Aerospace Industry

23 April

(email: mani@cds.ac.in)

Rongili Biswas

(POLIS, University of Eastern Piedmont, Alessandria, Italy)

The Segregative Properties of Endogenous Jurisdictions Formation with a Welfarist Central Government

28 May

(email: rongili.biswas@sp.unipmn.it)

P. Vigneswara Ilavarasan

(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Delhi)

Mobile Phones Lead to Development? Case of Urban Micro Entrepreneurs in Mumbai City

1 June

(email: vignesh@hss.iitd.ac.in, evignesh@gmail.com)

C O N F E R E N C E S / W O R K S H O P S

Annual Conference of Indian Association for Research in National Income and Wealth (IARNIW)

(Organised in collaboration with CDS, Thiruvananthapuram)

8-9 January

Coordinator: N. Vijayamohan Pillai

This two-day conference was held at the CDS. Its main focus was on various methodological issues

involved in improving the National Income Accounting system of India.

CDS Director K. N. Nair welcomed the gathering. Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, President of the IARNIW, delivered the inaugural address, in which he highlighted the need for creating a new data base. He specifically mentioned the need for research to improve the accounting system at various levels. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vijayamohan Pillai, CDS.

Selected papers were presented and discussed in six sessions on the following areas of inquiry—measurement of inflation; estimation of savings, capital formation and assets; estimation of value added by industry; the corporate and public sectors; regional accounts and welfare; and studies on national accounts statistics.

Besides academics, researchers from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) participated. Mr. Deepak Mohanty, executive director of the RBI, spoke on inflation in India at the concluding session. Mr. Ramesh Kolli, Secretary, IARNIW, delivered the vote of thanks.

Suparna Pal

Seminar on ASEAN-India FTA and the Way Forward

(Jointly Organised by CDS, IIFT, UNCTAD and
Centre for WTO Studies)

5-6 February

Coordinator: K. J. Joseph



The India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that came in to being in January 2010 has had a mixed response among different stakeholders.

While some have hailed it as the beginning of the end to India's isolation from major trading blocks and a firm step towards pan-Asian economic integration, others have found the end of the protective trade regime threatening. In this context,

this seminar aimed at promoting discussions based on theoretically sound empirical analyses of various issues, which would aid informed policy making.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, highlighted the various challenges confronted by regional trading arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region. He called for consolidating existing bilateral trading agreements as the proliferation of FTAs had its own cost. In his welcome address, K. N Nair, Director, CDS, dwelt on the challenges raised by the FTA. In his opening remarks, Mr. Abhijit Das, Programme Officer in Charge, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) India, spoke of the importance of building research capacity in the country to address emerging issues in the field.

Spread across six sessions, the seminar addressed various macro and micro aspects of the FTA, alongside sector-specific (for instance, plantation, fisheries) and region-specific (for example, the North-east) issues. In addition, there was a special session chaired by Mr. V. Ramachandran, Member, CDS governing body, where different stakeholders highlighted the various challenges that they faced and underlined the need for domestic capacity building.

Mr. K. T. Chacko, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), in his presidential address at the concluding session, reiterated the need to be internationally competitive with or without FTAs. In the valedictory address, Dr. K. N. Harilal, Member, State Planning Board, called for co-operation among ASEAN member nations as well as joint initiatives by the centre and state governments to carry on in the FTA regime.

K. J. Joseph

International Conference – Paniya Sadas

(Supported by CDS and Universite de Montreal)

13-15 March

The *Paniya sadas* held in Wayanad brought together academicians, activists, administrators and political leaders, providing them with a unique opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas on the development issues facing marginalised tribal groups, such as the Paniya of Kerala (the most deprived of the tribes in the northern districts, mainly Wayanad).

The *sadas*, which had been conceived on lines different from those of usual social science conferences, had a healthy mix of four keynote addresses, 24 scientific papers, a presentation of reports and experiences, three exhibitions and the screening of a documentary. It was inaugurated by K. N. Nair, Director, CDS.

The participants numbered around 160 and at the top of the list were 50 Paniyas (of whom 20 were women) from Wayanad district, and from different parts of the state. There were also research students from various parts of India, including West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The special invitees included Dr. C. Rammanohar Reddy, Editor, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Dr. Ramachandra Guha, a distinguished researcher on tribal issues, and members of the Planning Commission and the State Planning Board, Kerala.

In the first session, the Paniyas pointed out that landlessness and a lack of autonomy was at the root of their troubles. In the next, they raised a large number of issues to do with their individual struggles. A distrust of the government among the Paniyas, and its reluctance to take serious cognisance of their extremely poor health were evident in other sessions. The sense of cultural difference exemplified in the Paniya identity and the subject of group assertion were predominant in the last sessions.

Members of the Kerala State Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Commission sat through the proceedings and accepted a memorandum submitted by the Paniyas, which was a major achievement. The Paniyas who attended were present throughout and were keen to voice their concerns clearly and effectively. The conference volume, which systematically documented the needs and social conditions of the Paniyas, was in great demand. The documentary on successful rice cultivation initiatives undertaken by the Paniyas was well appreciated.

The *sadas* also highlighted the Kanavu (Dream) project, an experiment in alternative education in tribal areas, and it was greeted with a standing ovation. The work done by handloom and power loom societies to empower single tribal mothers was a revelation to most of the audience. In all, the *sadas* exceeded expectations and very effectively turned the spotlight on the plight of the Paniyas.

D. Narayana

International Conference on Migrations, Mobility and Multiple Affiliations: Punjabis in a Transnational World

(Partly funded by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and the European Commission's TRANSNET Project undertaken by the CDS)

22-23 March

Coordinators:

S. Irudaya Rajan and V. J. Varghese

The conference, organised by the Research Unit on International Migration at the CDS, was aimed at examining the changing and multifaceted dimensions of Punjabi migrant transnationalism and its complex social, economic, political and cultural ramifications.

It brought together scholars from various parts of the world working on new and riveting aspects of Punjabi life in a transnational world. Unravelling the



International Conference on Migration and Remittances in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka) in the Context of Global Crisis

(Funded by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India)

24 March

Coordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan

concept of a Punjabi diaspora and its complex linkages with the homeland, the economic and philanthropic facets of this connection and its developmental consequences figured in a major way in the discussions.

It was evident from a few presentations that “narrow transnationalism” had a role in creating new inequalities and sustaining old hierarchies. The “cultural production of the educated person” under different “educational regimes” of transnationality, the internationalisation of nursing education as a strategy for social mobility, and the feminisation of skilled independent migration impelled a couple of presentations. The fragmented notion of home in the transnational space and the centrality of women in making a “home” possible, apart from inter-generational tension and the complex ways of Punjabi cultural reproduction were important threads in a few others.

The role of ethnic and kinship networks in the immigration and integration process and Sikh migration to unconventional locations such as countries in Latin America also figured in the presentations. The other side of migration in the form of untold human suffering, invisibility and marginality, the legal-illegal dichotomy, and an invalidating discourse of social licitness has significantly complicated the celebrated paradigm of transnationalism. Efforts are under way to bring out the papers presented at the conference in an edited volume.

V. J. Varghese



The seminar was partly an outcome of a major project on “Financial Crisis and Its Impact on South Asian Workers” done at the CDS, which was funded by the Asian Development Bank; Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India; and the Department of Non-Resident Keralite Affairs, Government of Kerala.

CDS Director K. N. Nair welcomed the participants. Papers on the effects of the global crisis on five countries in South Asia were presented and discussed.

S. Irudaya Rajan and K. C. Zachariah, CDS, presented the paper on India, and Nasir Iqbal and Saima Nawaz, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad, put forth the view from Pakistan. The situation in Bangladesh was elucidated by Anwara Begum, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. Ganesh Gurung, Nepal Institute of Development Studies, Katmandu, assessed the fallout in Nepal, while Myrtle Perera, Marga Institute, Colombo, presented a paper evaluating it in Sri Lanka.

S. Irudaya Rajan

**5th International Project Meeting of
'Transnationalisation, Migration and
Transformation: Multi-Level Analysis
of Migrant Transnationalism'
(TRANS-NET) Project**

(Organised in collaboration with the European
Commission)

25-28 March

Coordinators:

S. Irudaya Rajan and V. J. Varghese

The CDS hosted the 5th International Project Meeting of the TRANS-NET Project. Project partners from Finland, Estonia, France, Morocco, Germany, Turkey and the UK participated in the meeting. Ms. Giulia Amaducci, the Scientific Project Officer of the European Commission, the funding agency, was also present.



A major part of the meeting was set apart for intense deliberations on the preliminary results of the research and issues related to the first publications from the project. The meeting also decided on the broader contours of country-specific reports and cross-country comparative reports. It decided to hold the next project meeting at the University of Sussex during early December this year.

V. J. Varghese

T R A I N I N G P R O G R A M M E S

**Short-Term Training on Methods
and Approaches in Research
on Migration Issues**

15-20 March

Coordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan

This short-term programme was meant to introduce researchers to the major trends and methods in migration research. Intensive discussions in class with leading practitioners in the field were combined with field visits and informal interaction to accentuate participants' interest and generate active debate.

This year, the programme attracted participants from many parts of India, mostly doctoral students investigating migration-related subjects. The faculty included members of the CDS as well as scholars from other institutions and senior

bureaucrats. The programme began with an inaugural session presided over by K. N. Nair, Director, CDS.

In the following days, it covered a range of issues, which spanned the historical to the contemporary, and included several key aspects such as physical and mental health, policy shifts, and implications for gender and development. Adequate importance was also accorded to acquainting the scholars with the methodological aspects of migration research. A highlight was their introduction to the Kerala Migration Survey, which familiarised them with the work of demographer and migration research expert Prof. K. C. Zachariah.

The participants expressed satisfaction with the exposure they had had to ongoing research and the themes highlighted in the major discussions.

They also appreciated the opportunity offered to compare and contrast the different kinds of expertise in the field—from that of the quantitative orientation of scholars to the practical orientation of bureaucrats focused on policy change.

J. Devika

Using Internet for Applied Development Research, Version 6.0

24-26 May

The 6th version of the programme was held at the CDS Computer Centre. Sixteen scholars,

comprising lecturers and doctoral students from all across Kerala and a few from outside the state, participated.

A total of 13 lectures on articulating research topics, efficient browsing, power searching, content tracking, data analysis, online storage, report writing and collaboration tools were provided. The lectures were delivered by J. Murali, Udaya Shankar Mishra and Sunil Mani.

Sunil Mani

Outreach

- J. Devika attended a meeting organised by Partners for Prevention, a UNDP-UNFPA-UNIFEM-UNV Regional Joint Programme for prevention of gender-based violence in Asia, at Bangkok, Thailand, during 1-3 February 2010. It was on the theme 'Conflict and Masculinities' and she was a resource person and discussant from India.
 - Neethi P. attended the Summer Institute in Economic Geography. The fifth Summer Institute was at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from 27 June to 2 July 2010, and hosted by the Geography Department at the University of British Columbia.
 - V. J. Varghese participated in an international conference on 'Globalising South Asia' held at the University of Helsinki, Finland, during 27-29 May 2010. He presented the paper 'Migration as a Transnational Enterprise: Emigrations from Eastern Punjab and Socially Licit Rationalities,' a collaborative work with S. Irudaya Rajan.
 - Vinoj Abraham participated in a workshop on 'Globalization and Inequality' conducted by Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI) of Brown University, held at the university in Providence, Rhode Island, from 6 to 16 June 2010.
 - Sunil Mani participated as a resource person at the Ad hoc Expert Committee Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators at UNCTAD, Geneva, on 18 January 2010. He also presented a paper titled 'Measuring Innovation in Developing Countries, New Innovation Indicators and Public Innovation Policies,' at the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-Building in Science, Technology and Innovation, UNCTAD, at Geneva, during 20-22 January 2010.
- Mani presented a paper titled 'Markets, Regulation and Bridging the Digital

Divide: The Indian Experience in Increasing the Access to Telecommunications Services,' at the *International Symposium on Innovation for Development: Frontiers of Research, Policy and Practice*, WITS Business School, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg during 24-26 February 2010. He has also been invited to develop and lead a new research project on 'Patents, Innovation and Developing Countries' by the Columbia Earth Institute, New York, under the Catch Up series directed by Prof. Richard Nelson.

Mani also guest edited a special issue of *International Journal of Technology and Globalization* on the theme 'Rise of Innovations in India' (Inderscience, Vol. 5, No. 1 and 2) with Sudip Chaudhuri.

Intouch

- Beena S., PhD scholar, presented a paper titled 'Production Efficiency of Firms under Mergers and Acquisitions: The Indian Evidence,' at a *national conference held at Madras School of Economics*, Chennai, during 19-21 March, 2010. She also presented the paper on 'Production Efficiency of Firms under Mergers and Acquisitions: The Indian Experience' at a *national conference organised by the Central University of Kerala*, Kasaragod, Kerala during 23-24 April 2010.
- J. Devika presented a paper titled 'Asking Questions of Ecofeminism: Women in Environmental Struggles in

Contemporary Kerala,' at a *workshop conducted by the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy*, Andhra University, and the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group on 'Resource Politics, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Displacement in India,' at Andhra University, during 22-24 January 2010. She also conducted a two-day *workshop on qualitative research methodology at the Department of Sociology*, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, for post-graduate students of sociology and social work.

- Krishna Reddy Chittedi, PhD scholar, delivered a guest lecture on 'Application of Eviews-6 in Time Series Analysis,' for post-graduate students, research scholars and faculty members at Nizam College (Autonomous), Osmania University, Hyderabad, on 1 February 2010.

He presented a paper titled 'Development and Integration of Global Stock Market: With Special Reference to India' at the International Conference on Quantitative Methods in Money, Banking, Finance and Insurance, at Hyderabad, jointly organised by IBS, Hyderabad and the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, during 19-20 March 2010. He also presented the paper 'Agriculture Development, Employment and Rural Poverty in India: Macro Level Analysis,' at the National Seminar on Inclusive Growth in Agriculture at Osmania University, Hyderabad, on 27 March 2010.

- Mythri Prasad, PhD scholar, participated in 'On Marginalities,' a conference organised by the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics. Its theme was centered on the question "What constitutes marginality?" and considered eight axes of marginal identities—the Dalit, the adivasi, the religious minority, the homosexual, the woman, the troubled periphery (Kashmiri/North-eastern), the disabled, and the informal sector labourer. She presented a paper titled 'A Market Place for Migrants: Mobility, Settlement and Social Protection in Kerala,' which looked at the nature of migrant politics in Kochi.
- Sunil Mani designed and taught an elective course on 'Innovation and Technology Policy' (10 lectures) at the PGPEX (Batch 3, Term VII, Session 2009-10) programme at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta during 8-12 February 2010. He also gave a lecture 'Has India Become More Innovative Since the Onset of Reforms in 1991?,' at Helioz-2010, UST Global, Technopark, Thirunanantha-puram, on 10 March 2010. In addition, he participated in the discussions on bringing out the 2010 edition of *India: Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators 2010* at the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS) in New Delhi on 16 March 2010.

Mani gave a lecture on 'Indian Companies Going Global: An Analysis of its Determinants, Financing and

Relative Profitability,' at the Project Management Institute, Kerala Chapter, Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram, on 20 April 2010. He was also a resource person at the 'Capturing the Gains Workshop,' organised by Duke University, University of Manchester, and the Institute for Human Development, Delhi, in Agra during 26-28 May 2010.

Mani delivered the 25th Distinguished Lecture on 'The Flight from Defence to Civilian Space: Evolution of the Sectoral System of Innovation of India's Aerospace Industry,' at the Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad, on 25 June 2010. He was also invited to chair the Research Committee at the Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad.

- V. J. Varghese and S. Irudaya Rajan presented their paper 'Migration as a Transnational Enterprise: Emigrations from Eastern Punjab and the Question of Social Licitness,' in an international conference on 'Migrations, Mobility and Multiple Affiliations: Punjabis in a Transnational World,' at the CDS during 22-23 March 2010.
- Vijay Korra, PhD scholar, presented a paper titled 'Impact of Seasonal Labour Migration on Assets Structure: Case Study of a Village Economy in Andhra Pradesh' at the Development Convention 2010, held at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, during 21-23 January 2010.

- Vinoj Abraham presented a position paper titled 'Information and Communication Technologies and Labour Market in India' at the Indo-UK Round Table Conference on

Information and Communication Technologies for Development at the International Institute for Information Technology, Bangalore, during 11-13 January 2010.

A C H I E V E M E N T S

Binu Roshni P., PhD scholar, was awarded the G. Rajesh Kumar Media Fellowship for 2010 along with Rajesh Kumar K. (Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, M. G. University) to study the impact of the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) in Kerala.

P. L. Beena, now on leave from the CDS, took up the position of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Fellow at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, in January 2010.

Gareth Wall, MPhil scholar, was appointed as an executive committee member of the International Association for Ladakh Studies, and is part of the organising committee for the next biannual Ladakh Studies Conference to be held at the University of Aberdeen during 24-28 August 2011.

Jayasekhar S., PhD, was selected for the Best Student Paper award by the International Institute for Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET), Oregon State University, for the research paper 'Impact of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) Measures on Indian Seafood Industry: A Micro and Macro Level Analysis,' an excerpt from his PhD work at the CDS. The IIFET 2010 conference was during 12-17 July 2010 at Montpellier, France. He was provided with a travel grant, local hospitality and free conference registration, and awarded a certificate of honour and prize money.

K. P. Kannan was appointed by the Government of Kerala as Chairman of the Public Expenditure Review Committee in February 2010 in accordance with the provisions of the Kerala Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003. The vacancy was caused by the demise of Prof. K. K. Subrahmanian in October 2009.

P. Mohanan Pillai was appointed a Member of the Pay Revision Commission, Government of Kerala, on 20 February 2010. The commission will study and make recommendations on revising the pay, allowances and other benefits of state government employees, including teaching and non-teaching staff in aided educational institutions and staff in local bodies.

K. Navaneetham has been appointed as a member of the Project Review Group (PRG) of the Health Systems Research (HSR) cell of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, which reviews the projects submitted to the council for possible funding.

Neethi P. was selected for the American Association of Geographers' Travel Award to facilitate her travel to Canada to attend the Summer Institute in Economic Geography in June-July 2010.

Rikil Chyrmang, PhD scholar, was made a member of the Asian Population Association (APA), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, on 11 June 2010.

LIBRARY NEWS

We moved into the new library building on 21 January 2010 and are now fully utilising its facilities.

On the ground floor, we have economic books from Class no. 330-332.59 and have ensured that there are an adequate number of seats for readers. The first and second floors are air-conditioned and house the current periodicals section and the electronic resources section respectively. The second floor also has an array of these and reference books. Government statistical publications are on the third floor.

There are passages connecting the old and new library buildings on the ground floor and the third floor. All floors have an online public access catalogue and seats for users. The entire library has wi-fi connectivity.

A look at the membership statistics reveals that during the last financial year, 2009–2010, the total membership figure was 875, an increase over the previous year's figure of 633.

T. K. Subramoni

CAMPUS NEWS

Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrations

"Dalits should reclaim their history." - B. R. P. Bhaskar

Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated for the first time in the CDS on 13 April 2010. The official celebrations included a speech by Mr. B. R. P. Bhaskar, an eminent journalist and Dalit human rights advocate.

The programme began at four in the evening with the screening of *Panthibhojanam*, a 20-minute film directed by Sreebala K. Menon. It

was a subtle but insightful examination of the influence of caste on the food preferences of Malayalis.

J. Devika welcomed Mr. Bhaskar, stressing his pivotal role in the struggle to win justice for Dalits in Kerala today, and invited him to deliver his address on "Ambedkarism Today".

Mr. Bhaskar began by saying that much like Mahatma Gandhi grew in fame and stature after his death, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's work and thoughts had been gaining wider influence since his demise in 1956. For example, just as blacks in South Africa drew inspiration from Gandhi (who interestingly did not endorse black resistance when he was in South Africa), gypsies in Romania were finding inspiration in Dr. Ambedkar's writings.

He drew attention to that the Indian Constitution, which borrowed from the Constitutions of many other countries such as the U.K. and the U.S., was unique in its adoption of justice, apart from liberty, equality and fraternity, as binding on the citizens of the country. This can be seen in the Preamble and its inclusion was almost certainly because of Dr. Ambedkar. His genius, rooted in a firm understanding of inequalities in the sub-continent, would have seen justice-social, economic, and political-as the pre-requisite for liberty, equality and fraternity.

However, Mr. Bhaskar offered a caveat-understanding Dr. Ambedkar should not mean rigidly adhering to one interpretation of his persona or his writings. This would be repeating the mistake of many Left ideologues, who ossified Marx and clung to mechanical and literal interpretations of Marxism. Openness to new ways of interpreting, contextualising, and developing Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts is essential.

The final part of his speech dwelt on the need of Dalits to reclaim their histories and culture, the ones that existed before they were forced into subordination. He pointed to the archaeological discoveries in Pattanam that indicate trade with the outside world flourished in Muziris in the distant past. It was likely that this port perished with the advent of the caste system, which had rigid sanctions on trade and travel across the seas, he observed. He also mentioned the cave drawings in Edakkal in Wayanad, which were done by ancestors of the present Paniyas, now one of

the most disadvantaged tribes. Thus what is important is that Dalits reclaim the history they lost when they were subjugated by the caste system. Knowledge of their unknown history could provide them with the strength for their many struggles.

With B. Sumayya, the cultural secretary, presenting a small memento as a token of appreciation from the CDS community, the programme came to a close.

Struthi Herbert

STUDENTSPEAK

Discussion on Economic Survey

The students' discussion club in the CDS scrutinised the Economic Survey 2009-2010 in a session held on 3 March, 2010 titled 'Critiquing Economic Survey 2010'. Chapters of the survey were first presented and the floor was then left open for dialogue.

Anoopa Nair presented the first chapter, "Micro-Foundations of Inclusive Growth", a new addition to the survey that seeks to take an analytical look at the basis of policy-making in India. The three major issues addressed in this chapter are (a) the challenges involved in poverty measurement in India; b) the appropriateness of replacing the public distribution system with food coupons; and c) the challenges faced by the central government in maintaining buffer stocks of food grains.

The chapter on "Agriculture and Food Management" was introduced by Arun C. Adatte. The performance of Indian agriculture in the past year, 2009-10, did not seem very promising, he

observed, and pointed to a glaring contradiction. There was a record food grain harvest last year but the per capita availability of domestic food grain was the lowest since 1980. The continuing rise in food prices still ailed the economy. State support extended to agriculture in the form of minimum support prices worked as an incentive for farmers to produce more; but it still had a regional (benefits North-western states) and a class (benefits large farmers, rather than small and marginal ones) bias. Unlike farmers who cultivate superior crops, those growing coarse ones lack substantive state support. This imbalance, if unaddressed, will only perpetuate the regional and class bias in state intervention.

Nadhaneal G. V., who is now with the RBI, joined in and focused on the issue of "Prices and Monetary Management". He noted that the current phase of inflation was initially driven by supply shocks but subsequently turned into a generalised one. Apart from supply shocks in the recent period, there was evidence of structural imbalances in the economy in terms of a large

gap between production and consumption of certain food items such as dairy products and pulses. This is manifested as high inflation in the prices of these commodities. Monetary management was focused on reviving the economy from the significant slowdown in growth because of the global financial crisis.

Sanjaya Kumar Malik discussed the revival of the industrial sector in 2009-10, which had been in decline for the previous two years. This was owing to the rise in the prices of crude oil and intermediates. He also added that the global financial crisis in 2008-09 accentuated industrial decline.

Krishna Reddy discussed the performance of various financial institutions during the year 2009-10 and pointed out that public-sector banks had fared better compared to private-sector ones, including foreign banks, reflecting the risk-averse behaviour of the latter category during the crisis period. He emphasised that developments in the financial market during the last year showed that regulation and governance of financial intermediaries remains a key challenge in the context of rising instability in the sector.

Vachaspati Shukla presented the last chapter, focusing on the country's performance in human development, poverty eradication and employment growth. He stressed that though India had achieved a significant increase in economic growth in the last decade, its performance was still poor in human development. The Tendulkar committee report on poverty estimation, which revised the poverty line and gave a much higher figure for the number of poor in rural India, was a highlight of the economic survey.

Alice Sebastian

The Kodaikanal Trip

20-23 May 2010

Mid-summer at the CDS was hectic. Vacation time saw students beleaguered with unfinished assignments, term papers and dissertations. Respite came when a much awaited and planned trip to Kodaikanal finally materialised, with the dates for the trip being finalised for 20-23 May 2010.



The contingent was smaller than usual this time but that also meant that the ones who participated were totally up for it—spirited and raring to go. The three-day tour was organised by the students and a bus was booked for the entire trip. The sight-seeing destinations were to be Kodaikanal and Madurai.

The excursion began on the evening of 20 May. Eager travellers flocked onto the bus with tote bags and rucksacks, ready to spend the night on the road. The overnight journey was nothing but enjoyable, what with non-stop in-house entertainment provided by enthusiastic participants. The break of dawn saw the bleary-eyed travellers scale the Palani hills. The air became cool, fresh and fragrant with the scent

of eucalyptus and pine as the bus negotiated swerves and bends on the climbing road.

Kodaikanal was reached late in the morning, and after unpacking and a brunch by the lake, the travellers set out to see the sights. The day was spent drinking in the beauty of lush green meadows, and the majesty of forest-clad hills, their tops veiled by misty clouds. Not to forget the breathtaking pine forests, the sheer, awe-inspiring gorges of Pillar Rock and the erstwhile suicide point, now rechristened Green Valley View. In the evening, the wayfarers strolled by the lakeside, enjoyed boating, horse-riding, and bicycling, and, of course, went shopping.

The first half of day two was devoted to admiring

the flower show, which with its riot of colours was truly a visual treat. The holiday-makers then wistfully bid Kodaikanal goodbye, and geared up for the winding descent to the hot plains. After four hours, the bus reached Madurai. Here the party spent the late afternoon taking in the magnificence of the Meenakshi temple, an exquisite shrine of historical and cultural significance.

After dinner, it was time to head home. Reaching Thiruvananthapuram in the wee hours of the morning, it was back to the grind the next day. But there was a difference—there were smiling faces, happier hearts and refreshed minds.

Sushma Kindo

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From the Administrator's Desk

Retirements

In the first half of the year, four staff members retired. E. N. Sathy, Accountant (Higher Grade), retired on 31 March 2010 after working in the Finance Section for more than 28 years. Sathy will be in Thiruvananthapuram for another year until her younger daughter completes a post-graduate degree in Computer Science.

Sosamma Mathew, Senior Assistant Librarian, and S. Rajalekshmy, Personal Assistant to the Director, retired on 31 April 2010. Sosamma began her career at the CDS as Professional Assistant, Library, in April 1980 and Rajalekshmy as Junior Stenographer in May 1982.

E. N. Thankappan, Cleaner, retired on 31 May 2010 after 29 years of service. A native of Kottayam, Thankappan will be in Thiruvananthapuram until his son finishes a post-graduate degree in Computer Science.

Addition to CDS community

Jaysankar Bhattacharya joined us as Visiting Scholar on 20 April, 2010 for a period of one year. He submitted his doctoral dissertation titled "Contribution of Women Self-Help Groups to the Pursuit of Women Empowerment: A District-Level Study in West Bengal" to the University of Siena, Italy, in December 2009 and will be defending it some time in October 2010.

Soman Nair

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh formally released *The Dynamics of Competition: Understanding India's Manufacturing Sector* authored by K. Pushangadan and N. Shanta, both of the CDS, in a function held at the Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram, on 3 January 2010. The book is dedicated to Prof. K. N. Raj and is published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi.



Strengthening Development through Human Development Reports

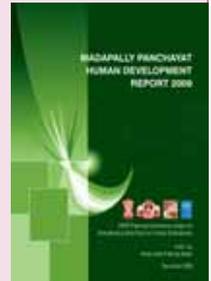
As a follow up to the Kerala Human Development Report 2005 (KHDR 2005), the Kerala State Planning Board entrusted the CDS with the task of preparing district-level human development reports (HDRs) for Kottayam and Wayanad, and panchayat-level ones for Madapally in Kottayam district and Kottathara in Wayanad district. This was under the UNDP/Planning Commission project on "Strengthening State Plans for Human Development". We prepared the reports and the State Planning Board has published them.

The Kottayam district HDR explored the human development experience of the district against the backdrop of the overall development of the region. It identified education as the crucial factor that had contributed to relatively better human development and overall economic well being among all sections of

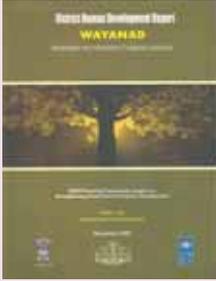


people in the district. While appreciating positive developments and the human development achievements of the vast majority, the report also addressed the issue of sustainability and the problems in enhancing the human development achievements of the deprived sections.

The Madapally panchayat HDR sought to understand and analyse human development issues from a local perspective. This study analysed the factors associated with achievements in human development at the local level and the issues involved in sustaining it with respect to primary production, poverty alleviation, education, health, women empowerment, and local governance.



The Wayanad district HDR examined the positive and negative impacts of demographic changes, shifts in the structural composition of the economy, and state intervention on the human development and overall economic well being of different social and economic groups in the



district. It noted that market penetration in all spheres of life had adversely affected the living standards of indigenous communities, who were not familiar with the vagaries of supply and demand.

The Kottathara panchayat HDR highlighted that skewed distribution of land, landlessness among some social groups (for instance, Paniyas), low agricultural yield and poor prices for agricultural commodities in recent years had led to the persistence of poverty in the panchayat. Lack of access as well as social distance had denied

educational opportunities and better health status to the underprivileged sections.

A team consisting of Prof. K. Navaneetham, Prof. G. Gopikuttan and Dr. C. S. Krishnakumar prepared the Kottayam, Wayanad and Madapally HDRs under the guidance of Prof. K. N Nair. The Kottathara HDR was prepared by Prof. D. Narayana. Prof. Navaneetham coordinated the programme.



For copies of the reports, please contact Kerala State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram.

K. Navaneetham

P O L I C Y P O I N T E R S

In **'Overseas Recruitment in India: Structures, Practices and Remedies'** (Working Paper No. 421, February 2010), S. Irudaya Rajan, V. J. Varghese and M. S. Jayakumar analyse emigration governance in India with special reference to the overseas recruitment system and recommend comprehensive institutional reform.

The study advocates revamping the present system and forming an Indian Migration Management Authority (IMMA) to administer all aspects of emigration and expatriate life. The IMMA should have a home wing to ensure orderly emigration, social security of the emigrants and a proper documentation system, including an Indian Citizen Employed Overseas (ICEO) card, and robust structures in the destination countries to ensure the welfare of Indian workers. The new administrative set-up is envisaged to be based on the fundamental principle of equal opportunity and should essentially enable migrants.

K. C. Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan in **'Migration Monitoring Study 2008: Emigration and**

Remittances in the Context of Surge in Oil Prices' (Working Paper No. 424, March 2010) point out that while everything about emigration from Kerala is dynamic, there is one element that is absolutely static.

The proportion of households with an emigrant or the proportion of households that has received remittances from abroad is static at about 16% to 18%. This proportion has not moved a bit since 1998. The vast majority of Kerala households, more than 80%, are not direct participants in the developments that are transforming the state's economy and society. How to get more households in Kerala a share of the Gulf bonanza is a challenge to planners and policy makers in the state.

In **'Exchange Rate and Export Behaviour of Indian Textiles and Clothing Sector: An Enquiry for Major Destination Countries'** (Working Paper No. 425, March 2010), P. L. Beena and Hrushikesh Mallik analyse the role of the exchange rate in determining the export behaviour of the Textiles and Clothing (T&C) sector from 1984 to 2006, a period when the domestic currency was depreciating against the US dollar.

From a panel regression analysis of eight major export destinations in the T&C sector, the study found an inverse relationship between the exchange rate and exports in the long run. This suggests that the devaluation of the Indian rupee has not helped to boost T&C exports. Exchange rate intervention may not be the right solution for export promotion and the government should not place much emphasis on devaluing as a policy option to promote exports.

In '**Global Crisis, Environmental Volatility and Expansion of the Indian Leather Industry**' (Working Paper No. 426, March 2010), Anup Kumar Bhandari points out that the Indian leather industry faces a demand-side dilemma in the short run. On one side, the worldwide financial crisis poses the threat of shrinking markets. But on the other side, environmental volatility like the severe winter last year in North America and Europe could create some unanticipated demand, particularly for leather garments.

Considering these demand-side effects to be exogenous, the study analyses the supply-side behaviour of the industry over the last two decades. Looking at the industry's firm-level cross-sectional data for some selected years through the Data Envelopment Analysis method, it is observed that there is a significant positive association between a firm's size and its technical efficiency. However, the analysis is unable to draw any conclusion on the operational size of a majority of firms. Therefore, although there is a policy dilemma in optimising overall productivity of the industry, policy makers should go forward with expanding the industry, particularly by increasing individual firm size to attain more efficiency and hence improved competitiveness.

Sunil Mani in '**The Flight from Defence to Civilian Space: Evolution of the Sectoral System of Innovation of India's Aerospace Industry**' (Working Paper No. 428, April 2010) observes that India is one of the few developing countries that have attempted to create a domestic sectoral system of

innovation in a truly high-tech sector such as the aerospace industry. The country now has one of the fastest growing aerospace sectors in the world.

Historically speaking, Indian public policy has been disproportionately directed towards the astronautic part than the aeronautical, so much so that in terms of public expenditure intensity on space-related activities (defined as the expenditure on space as a percentage of gross domestic product, GDP), India is second only to the US. The paper identifies the three building blocks of the cluster: lead actors, knowledge or technology domain, and demand. Changes in each of these blocks over time are discussed.

The main policy conclusion of the study is that India may focus more on the astronautic part of the aerospace industry for the present as it has a clear comparative advantage. It may not be very prudent for it to enter the market for regional transport aircraft right now as the market is saturated with established players and is also a cyclical one. But the government can fine tune policy instruments such as the offset policy so that the country becomes a credible supplier of high-precision components for the aerospace industry and also an attractive location for R&D outsourcing by major international aerospace companies. Finally, the state has to address itself to improving the quantity and quality of aerospace engineers.

T. R. Dilip in '**School Educational Attainment in Kerala: Trends and Differentials**' (Working Paper No. 429, April 2010) examines the trends and differentials in school educational attainment in Kerala using the National Family Health Survey (2005-06) data.

The progress noted at the lower levels of schooling is not manifested at the higher secondary level, with less than half the children enrolled in high school proceeding to the next level. Socio-religious differences are large at the higher levels of education, with scheduled tribes, Muslim girls and scheduled castes benefiting the least, in that order. The situation

among the vulnerable scheduled tribe communities is today worse than what it was among the forward castes at the time the State was formed.

A survival analysis brings out that uninterrupted continuity in schooling is a major issue in the State, with a fifth of the children at the higher secondary level being over-aged. Religious differentials indicate Christians are well ahead of other religious groups in terms of uninterrupted progress to the higher secondary level. The paper also exposes wealth-based inequalities in schooling continuity in Kerala.

In 'Has China and India become More Innovative since the Onset of Reforms in the Two Countries?' (Working Paper No. 430, May 2010), Sunil Mani points out that China and India are definitely on a higher economic growth path, although the contribution of technology to economic growth has still not been very clearly estimated.

There is evidence to show that innovative activities in the industrial sector in both countries have shown significant increase in the post-reform period. But in both countries, much of the innovative activities are contributed by multinational corporations (MNCs). A continued rise in innovative activity elsewhere is limited by the availability of finance and good quality scientists and engineers. Although the available supply appears to be very productive, it is important to sustain this on a long-term basis.

To spread the innovation culture to other areas of the industrial establishment, concerted efforts will have to be made to increase both the quantity and quality of scientific manpower. Fortunately the governments in both the countries are aware of this problem and have started initiating a number of steps towards easing the supply of technically trained personnel. But the governments still have to rethink its financial support schemes by reducing prevailing distortions as much as possible.

In 'Integration of India's Financial Markets on the Domestic and International Fronts: An Empirical Analysis of the Post-Liberalisation

Period' (Working Paper No. 431, June 2010), Gargi Sanati finds that Indian financial markets (money, bond, equity and foreign exchange) are well integrated on the domestic front.

This signifies financial deepening and stability, making the Indian financial system more resilient to financial risk. On the international front, the call money rate shows the prevalence of the "law of one price". India's long-term government bond and short-term money markets are integrated with the US and the UK, but are not robust. The weak integration of India on the international front and its underdeveloped bond market probably explain why the country was not exposed to direct effects of the recent US crisis.

The study understands the need for developing the Indian bond market and having an internationally well-connected financial system but points out that it should be done under efficient supervision and monitoring because international integration always exposes a country to systematic risk on a larger scale.

In 'Impact of The Global Recession on Migration and Remittances in Kerala: New Evidence from the Return Migration Survey (RMS) 2009' (Working Paper No. 432, June 2010), K. C. Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan point out that, from the policy perspective, it is important to note that among those who returned to Kerala due to recession-related reasons, not all have remained unemployed.

Statistical data indicate that return emigration due to the global recession has not been much of a calamity at the state level in Kerala as the numbers involved are relatively small. Even during the peak of the recession, when some emigrants were returning to Kerala due to job losses, others were going to the Gulf and other destinations. These are important developments that have to be taken into account when we consider rehabilitation policies to redress the problems of a relatively small number of returnees.



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