



# CHRONICLE

Quarterly Newsletter

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**CHRONICLE**

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FROM THE EDITOR

During the first three months of the year 2012, two seminars, five conferences and workshops and three training programmes have been organised at CDS. These reflect aptly and appropriately the priority areas of research at CDS. Besides, the contemporary development issues in Kerala's economy and society are critically assessed in an international conference at CDS. The lively presentation of Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, an important guest of CDS, may kindle research thinking on the challenges

in the implementation of the Twelfth Plan. Congratulations to Dr. K. Navaneetham for bagging the India Human Development award for the year 2012. It is also a matter of pride that the students excel in presentations at the national and international forums. Finally, the stress in the hectic research and teaching at the centre is softened to some extent by the celebrations and the musical entertainments during this period.

C. Gasper

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

**Conference on Kerala's Economy and Society:  
Situating the Present, Imagining the Future**

26-27 February



Kerala's economy and society have changed remarkably since 1970. Though the economy has experienced fast growth in recent years, there are many concerns that have to be addressed. These concerns are ecological well-being, social justice and collective socio-political existence. Globalisation and liberalisation at the national level also have significant impact on Kerala's social and economic domains. In order to have a wider discussion on these issues a conference has taken place at CDS on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. It has brought together scholars of different academic fields and practitioners.

There have been six technical sessions on topics such as Economic Growth, Welfare and Well-Being,

Education and Skills, Labour and Employment, Politics, Governance and Contestation and the State of Public Finance. Besides, there have been three panel sessions on topics such as Natural Environment, Infrastructure and Industry. Altogether fifteen papers have been presented. About 150 scholars and practitioners have participated. A few of them have come from abroad. Dr. Hrishikesh Mallick has been the Secretary of the Organising Committee.

Hrushikesh Mallick (Faculty)

**Challenges in the 12th Plan  
by  
Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia**

23 January

Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, New Delhi has delivered the third lecture in honour of P.K. Gopalakrishnan on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012. He has highlighted the major challenges that India will have to face when the country aims for the growth rate of 9 per cent during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The sum and substance of the presentation is given below:

Before the global financial crisis, the growth rate of Indian economy has been around 9 per cent; it falls



to 6.7 per cent and then bounces back to 8.4 per cent. It is expected to be around 7 per cent during the current fiscal year. It is not bad as compared to that during the period, 1990 to 2003 (about 6.5 per cent). The economy will achieve the rate of growth of 9 per cent during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan,

provided the country meets certain challenges. These challenges are at four levels - the investment level in economy, the human capital formation, global uncertainty due to European crisis and infrastructure development.

The rate of investment will be 38 per cent approximately in the next five years; and three per cent of this will be foreign investment. In the light of the past experience, the investment at the rate of 38 per cent can be expected to ensure that the economy grows at the rate of 9 per cent during the Twelfth Plan period.

Secondly, India has to try to reap as much the benefits of demographic dividend as possible, in order to achieve the growth rate of 9 per cent. Steps have to be taken to raise the educational level of the labour force. The Chinese educational level (an average of 8 years of schooling) is very much higher than that of India. Hence India should try to raise the educational level at least to an average of 6 years of schooling from that of 4.3 years during 1990s. The quality of education is very poor. It needs to be raised up.

Chinese economy has been growing at the rate of 9 per cent during 1990s. During the same period, the average years of education of the workers in China has been 6 years only. On that basis it can be assumed that by raising the educational level of Indian workforce to 6 years of schooling, India will be able to achieve growth rate of 9 per cent.

Thirdly, the present environment is conducive for high investment. On the whole, the market is doing

well. But, it is not doing well in the case of minerals, spectrum and land. These three markets have allocation problem since property rights are not properly defined in these markets. Allocation of resources in these sectors is a major challenge for the policy makers. The recent crisis in Euro zone may not remain for long. In fact, the European economy has already begun to improve. It may be that the rate of growth is very slow in the crisis ridden countries in the long run. As a result, India can expect to have more FDI.

Another big challenge to the growth of the economy is the development in the infrastructure. Infrastructure is not developing as it is expected to. The rate of growth of energy sector has been less than 6 per cent as required for achieving 9 per cent of growth rate of the economy. There is need for a suitable pricing policy in the case of energy, especially petroleum, so that energy resources are used efficiently. In the same way, a lot of changes have to take place in the transportation sector. On the whole, public-private partnership has been successful in building up the infrastructure.

Speeding up the process of industrialisation and urbanisation is very essential for raising the rate of growth of the economy. Hence more land is required not only for agricultural purposes but also other ones. Let there be maximum land available and used for agricultural requirements. At the same time, one should recognise the importance of land availability for the purpose of speedier industrial expansion.

Water is posing the next big challenge. The issue of water is more complex than any other energy source, as it is not possible to import water and its property rights are not clear. Some experimentation has to be tried to find out the best methods of sustaining water resources. Pricing the use of water can be one method of meeting the problem of sustainability. Informal community management of water resources is possible only in small groups and is difficult to implement in larger groups. Regulation and taxation are most important methods of solving the problem of externality.

Latest technology should be used for waste disposal in large cities and the environmental laws have to be implemented properly. However, it is possible that the implementation of some developmental policies may cause some negative impact on the forest or the environment. It is difficult to avoid such, if the rate of growth of overall economy is

given priority. Poverty is multi-dimensional and it is difficult to eradicate poverty in all dimensions. However, by providing quality education to all, it will be possible to empower all people and thereby improve the quality of life of all.

Indervir Singh and Namrata Thapa  
(PhD Scholars)

S E M I N A R S

**Inflexion in Kerala's Gulf Connection:  
Report on Kerala Migration Survey 2011**

**S. Irudaya Rajan and  
K.C.Zachariah**

Centre for Development Studies

13 January

**Understanding Marriage Patterns and Trends  
in Asia: Kinship, Culture, and Economy**

**Gavin W. Jones**

Director, Comparative Asia Research Centre,  
Singapore & Editor, Asian Population Studies

22 February

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

**Workshop on Kerala Model of Development  
Co-ordinator: Sunil Mani**

13 January

A workshop has been organised at CDS for the students from the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, USA on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2012. The salient features of the Kerala Model of Development and the contribution of CDS to the understanding Kerala's economy are the major themes of discussion. Professor Sunil Mani and Professor Joseph Tharamangalam, Professor Emeritus, Mount Saint University, Halifax, Canada and Visiting Fellow, CDS are the main resource persons.

democracy, is in the shadow of a threat of bureaucratic capture. Government orders, rules and procedures set from above appear to have subdued the process of participatory planning from below. It is this picture of general despair that has provoked the Research Unit on Local Self Governments in the Centre for Development Studies (CDS-RULSG) to initiate a rethinking on the methodology of people's planning in the state. The discussions have taken place in multiple forums, such as workshops, online debates, focus group discussions, etc. The lessons learned from such forums have been presented in a follow-up workshop on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012. About 30 delegates have attended. They include the elected representatives, the government officers, the experts and the activists.

**Follow-Up Workshop on Participatory  
Local Level Planning**

Co-ordinator: K.N. Harilal

16 January

The people's planning programme in Kerala, the latest episode in the state's experiments with

The theme paper emphasises the need for corrective measures to put the democratisation experiment back on track. The goal of democratisation should be upheld by restoring and strengthening participatory spaces built into the process of planning from below. This can be achieved only by

demystifying and debureaucratising the planning process and making it as simple and transparent as possible. The experiment should also be sensitive to the limits of local level participatory planning and governance. The local governments should not be overburdened with responsibilities that are beyond their competence to fulfill. A number of policy suggestions have been drawn up.

K.N. Harilal  
(Faculty)

### **Seminar on Building Competitiveness in a Globalised World: Experience of India's Plantation Sector**

Co-ordinator: K.J. Joseph

23-24 January

Plantation sector is no more a mere foreign exchange earner but a key sector in India's inclusive development strategy. It plays a critical role in employment generation, particularly for women, livelihood of small and marginal growers and backward communities, balancing regional development and fostering environmental sustainability. It is, perhaps, the only sector where competitiveness determines decisively the ability to foster inclusive development on account of intense competition from desperate exporters who have very little space in the domestic market.

The Unit on National Research Programme on Plantation Development at CDS has organised a seminar to understand various constraints in the sphere of production, processing, marketing, trade, employment and innovation confronted by this sector. Eighteen papers are presented. Professor T.M. Thomas Isaac, Professor A. Damodaran, Dr Nagesh Kumar and Shri K. C. Shashidhar are some of the important resource persons.

K.J. Joseph  
(Faculty)

### **Seminar on 'Innovations in Governance for Inclusive Development: Kerala Experience'**

Co-ordinator: K.J. Joseph

9 March



Various innovations in the sphere of Governance, among others, have enabled Kerala to be at the top of human development profile in India. Initiatives towards innovations in governance still continue. Recently, the Government of Kerala has undertaken mass contact programme in all the districts with a view to strengthen people's access to governance. It has exposed the relative lack of efficiency and effectiveness of governance and the apathy of the government system towards the ordinary citizens. The e-governance initiatives to ensure transparency of the Chief Minister's office and 24X7 call centres along with the whistle blowers' provisions to alert the incidence of corrupt practices are some of the other innovative efforts introduced recently by harnessing information technology. Though it is too early to assess the impact of such initiatives on governance, the efforts taken to ensure citizens' equal accessibility to public services merit some attention as innovations in governance for inclusive development.

While delivering the inaugural address, Shri. Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala has said that his Government's approach through the new initiatives like the mass contact programme is to listen and learn from people in terms of their expectations, ideas and vision. In her key note address, Ms. Geraldine Fraser Moleketi, Global Director of Democratic

Governance of UNDP has noted that the ongoing economic and climate crisis exposed the fallacy of market as the key driver of development and brought the role of state to the central stage. While delivering the presidential address, Shri. K.M. Chandrasekhar, Vice Chairman, State Planning Board, has dealt with various reform initiatives undertaken by the Government recently.

K.J. Joseph  
(Faculty)

**First Annual Conference on Migration and Development**

Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan  
26 March

There has been significant rise in the flow of labour internationally during the last two decades. In the case of India, these two decades are marked by globalisation and post-reforms. India has a vast reservoir of both skilled and unskilled labour force. She is the major contributor to the contemporary labour flows globally. As a result, India’s volume of remittances has risen from \$15.8 billion in 2000 to \$55 billion in 2010. Therefore, it is more essential to discuss the impact of international migration on

economic development in India.

The first annual conference on Migration and Development has taken place at CDS on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. Mr. George Joseph, former Ambassador to Qatar has given the inaugural address. Dr. Irudaya Rajan has presented the findings of the Kerala Migration Survey in 2011. He has highlighted the significant impact of remittance on the Kerala economy. Mr. Chinmay has given a detailed view of the causes and consequences of India’s internal and international migration both at the national and the sub-national levels during the period of 1880 to 2010 based on Census and NSSO data.

Dr. Binod Khadria has discussed the historical and contemporary migration between India and the American continents. He has also pointed out the issues in the immigration of foreigners and return migration of Indians from the American continents to India. Dr. Ruba Chandra has made a presentation on professional mobility in the context of WTO. Thirty-five participants have attended this conference. Some of them are from Ryerson University, Canada.

C. Valatheeswaran  
(PhD Scholar)

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

**Refresher Course cum Research Training Programme in Economics. Theme-Issues in Trade and Development**

Co-ordinator: K.J. Joseph  
4 – 24 January

The Unit on ‘National Research Programme on Plantation Development’ at CDS has organised the Refresher course-cum-Research Training Programme in Economics for the teachers and research scholars in the universities and colleges from 4<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012. This programme of 21 days has been sponsored by the Ministry of

Commerce, New Delhi. Besides CDS scholars, 16 teachers from universities and colleges spread over 11 states have participated in the programme. The team of resource persons has comprised of 10 members of the CDS faculty and four external experts.

Various issues relating to trade and development are discussed in the programme. Besides classroom lectures, a field survey is organised in the plantation areas in Idukki district in Kerala. The participants have collected primary data relating to production conditions, post harvest operations, labour and employment relationship and research-extension activities.

Lectures by local experts have enabled the participants to interact with the local experts. The participants have also been trained to handle primary data using statistical and econometric tools. The participants have worked in four thematic groups and have presented their group reports in a workshop at CDS. The final papers have been presented in one of the sessions in the national seminar on 'Building Competitiveness in a Globalised World: Lessons from India's Plantation Sector' organised after the training programme.

K.J. Joseph  
(Faculty)

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

Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan

6 – 10 February

Professor N. R. Madhava Menon, Honorary Professor, CDS has inaugurated the seventh short-term training programme on Methods and Approaches in Research on Migration Issues at CDS on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012. He has discussed the issues relating to Migration and Human Rights. Professor S. Irudaya Rajan has emphasised on the significance of the programme and has highlighted the broader areas of coverage in the training. Professor K.C. Zachariah, Honorary Professor, CDS has also spoken on the occasion.

There are 17 participants. Two of them are from abroad. During the five days, a wide range of issues on the dynamics of migration has been discussed. The broad issues on migration studies are: Migration and Inclusive Growth, Migration Policy, Employment and Migration, Impact of Migration on Health, Mental Health and Health Professionals, NSSO Data sets for Migration Analysis, Skilled Migration, Social Costs of Migration, Migration and

Remittances, Migration and Gender, Impact of Migration on Kerala Economy, Exports and Migration, Displacement and Migration, Estimating Migration using Census data, Issues of migration in Gulf countries, Migration and Poverty, Migration and Development, Migration and Inequality, Emigration and India's Foreign Policy. All participants have appreciated the training programme. It has come to an end on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

Rikil Chyrmang  
(PhD Scholar)

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

Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan

26-30 March

The social, economic and political implications of internal and international migration clearly demand research and policy attention in India. Given the importance of migration in the Indian economy, various policy initiatives have been undertaken to understand determinants and consequences of migration.

The eighth short term training programme has been organised at CDS during 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, March, 2012. Mr. George Joseph, former ambassador to Qatar has delivered a special address and has inaugurated the programme. Professor Irudaya Rajan has presented a broader view of the training programme. Twenty-five participants from different universities/ research institutes have attended the programme. A few participants have come from Ryerson University, Canada.

The participants are trained to handle large data sets on migration. They are oriented to new methods of research appropriate to study migration. They are given an opportunity to discuss a wide range of emerging issues relating to migration. Eminent resource persons including academicians, policy makers and practitioners in different fields have acted

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as resource persons. In short, the programme has offered the participants knowledge on different facets of migration and its linkages with developmental aspects such as poverty, inequality, inclusive

growth, human rights, gender issues, health, trade and employment.

Imran Khan  
(PhD Scholar)

## INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2012

The Planning Commission and the UNDP have jointly instituted India Human Development Awards in 2012 for the purpose of encouraging quality in the production of human development reports. CDS's Human Development Report on Kottayam District has been considered as the WINNER on the ground of quality of analysis. It has also been considered as a finalist on the ground of focusing gender and inclusion issues. The trophy and certificates have been distributed by the Minister of Rural Development, Government



of India, New Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

K. Navaneetham  
(Faculty)

## FACULTY'S INVOLVEMENT

### Domestic Involvement

**Sunil Mani** presented a lecture on 'TRIPS Compliance of Indian Patents Act and its Potential and Actual Effects on Innovative activity in Indian Industries', at the National Training Programme for Scientists & Technologists on "IPR & WTO Issues" at Administrative Training Institute, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai on 9 January, 2012. He presented another lecture on 'High Skilled Migration from India, An Analysis of its Economic Implications', to a group of visiting faculty and students of University of Oslo, Norway at St. Gits Institute of Management, Kottayam, on 12 January, 2012.

Presented a paper on 'High Skilled Migration from India, An Analysis of its Economic

Implications', at the *international seminar on Young People and Migration*, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sripeumbudur on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

Presented a paper (with Arun M ) on 'Liberalisation of Technical Education in Kerala: Has a Significant Increase in Enrolment Translated into Increase in Supply of Engineers?', at the *conference on Kerala's Economy and Society, Situating the Present, Imagining the Future*, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum during 26-27 February, 2012.

Designed and taught a ten lecture elective course on 'Innovation and Technology Policy' at the PGPEX programme, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, during 31 January - 7 February, 2012.

Participated and presented a paper 'Innovative activities in China and India: Are there any Lesson for other BRICS Countries,' at the 4<sup>th</sup> *BRICS Academic Forum: Stability, Security & Prosperity*, New Delhi, during 5-6 March, 2012.

**P.L. Beena** has been on leave from the Centre during the period 2010-12 under ICSSR Fellowship to work on the topic, 'Mergers and Acquisitions: A study based on Selected Industries in Indian Corporate Sector' at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi. She has returned to the centre on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012, after completion of her work.

**C. Gasper** participated in the meeting of the Project Approval Board of SSA in MHRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi on 27 February, 2012 and made a presentation on the critical assessment of the SSA during 2011-12 and the issues to be considered in the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) of SSA in Lakshdweep during 2012-13.

Participated in the meeting of the Project Approval Board of MDM in MHRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi on 28 February, 2012 and made a presentation on the critical assessment of the MDM programme during 2011-12 and the issues to be considered in the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) of MDM in Lakshdweep during 2012-13.

Participated in the meeting of the Project Approval Board of SSA in MHRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi on 12 March, 2012 and made a presentation on the critical assessment of the SSA during 2011-12 and the issues to be considered in the Annual

Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) of SSA in Kerala during 2012-13.

Participated in the meeting of the Project Approval Board of MDM in MHRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi on 13 March, 2012 and made a presentation on the critical assessment of the MDM programme during 2011-12 and the issues to be considered in the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) of MDM in Kerala during 2012-13.

## Global Involvement

**J. Devika** participated in a *South Asia writing workshop on Feminisms and Governmentalities in South Asia* organised jointly by KITS, Amsterdam, and Sahayog, India during 16-22 February, 2012. She presented a paper titled 'Feminism and Late 20th Century Governmentalities in Kerala, India: Towards a Critical History'.

Presented a paper titled 'Migration, Transnationalism, and Modernities: Thinking of Kerala's Many Cosmopolitanisms' at the *three-day international conference on 'Lived Cosmopolitanisms'* organised by the Social and Behavioural Science Research Cluster, the Department of English and Humanities, and the Academy of Malay Studies at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during 5-7 March, 2012.

**Sunil Mani** presented a paper titled, 'On the Road to Self-reliance in High Technology, Role of Public Sector Enterprises in India', and was a discussant to another paper at the *international conference on 'The State's Return to Business: Government-Linked Companies in the Post-Crisis Global Economy'*, organised by University of Malaya, Siam Reap, Cambodia during 9-10 February, 2012.

## STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

**Deepak Singhania**, M.Phil Scholar, received the Best Paper Award for the paper entitled 'Contrasting Consumption Poverty with Asset Poverty: The Case of Maharashtra', at the 5<sup>th</sup> IIM-A Doctoral Colloquium, organised by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in January 2012.

The paper identifies the poor people who need enabling to move out of poverty through self-motivated strategies and by using the assets they have. Poverty status of households in Maharashtra is classified into consumption and asset domains, like those who are poor in none, poor in either and poor in both. Households that are poor in both are the most vulnerable ones. They are about 37 per cent in Maharashtra and are largely found in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. They are less educated and belong to poor social groups like SC or ST. The regional disparity in terms of asset poverty is quite high in Maharashtra.

**Krishna Reddy Chittedi**, presented a paper titled 'Financial Integration and Contagion of BRIC Stock Markets: An Empirical Analysis', presented in 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Perm Winter School on Risk Management and Financial Markets Modeling. This was jointly organised by Perm State University, Professional Risk

Managers' International Association (PRMIA) and PROGNOSZ Company, Perm, Russia during 2-4 February, 2012. His visit and stay there were sponsored by the organisers.

His paper discussed the integration of stock markets in the BRIC countries in comparison with that in developed countries. Integration occurs, but is not complete. The pace of integration is slow and is particularly driven by bigger markets. Further there is asymmetric contagion to Emerging Market Economies. When bad news hit stock markets, equity correlation among BRICs and developed markets increase dramatically.

**Neethi P** made presentations in the Department of Geography Colloquium Series, University of Minnesota (17-02-12), the Department of Development Sociology at Cornell University (27-02-12), the School of Industrial and Labour Relations Workshop Series at Cornell University (28-02-12) and Sociology Colloquium Series, University of Georgia (23-03-12). These presentations related to her Ph.D thesis on 'Globalisation Lived Locally: A Labour Geography Perspective on Control, Conflict and Response among Workers in Kerala'.

## LIBRARY &amp; CAMPUS NEWS

## K.N. RAJ LIBRARY NEWS

During the months of January to March, 13 external/internal memberships and 266 reference memberships were granted. 298 books, 52 working papers and 8 CDs were added to the library. Library Blog received 9634 visits. About 75 per cent of these visits were from India.

Mr. Sethuraman, Regional Head, CMIE, Chennai initiated a discussion on the 'Prowess4 Database' in CDS on January 25, 2012. A Workshop on

Reference Management for Researchers was organised at CDS on March 6 and 8, 2012. Softwares like Zotero and Mendeley were discussed. To coincide with the lecture of Prof. J. Krishnamurthy, his books were displayed in the Library on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The participants of the NRPPD Refresher Course cum Research Training Programme in Economics and the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> Short-term Training on Methods and Approaches in

Research on Migration Issues were given a briefing about the library during their respective stay at CDS. BLISc students from Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi visited the library on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

S. Gopakumar attended a workshop on 'DELNET: Resources, Services & Facilities' at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University, Kollam on January 28, 2012. This was organised by the Developing Library Network (DELNET), New Delhi. V. Sriram was the resource person at the Workshop on Science Information Literacy and Scholarly Writing, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India held during January 17-19, 2012 and delivered a lecture on "Reference Management for Scholarly Writing".

V. Sriram

## CAMPUS NEWS

### Madhurima...

The Centre was in all cheers to welcome the 'Madhurima' club to another musical night. The spirits ran high as 21<sup>st</sup> January approached. With practices and preparations going on in full swing, songs poured out from the windows and balconies of the hostel rooms, canteen and auditorium.

The programme started around 6.30 pm with a prayer song. Music knew no boundaries and the audience welcomed each song with applause in their hearts and hands. The recipe that the comperers handled skillfully had a right mix of all the ingredients. There were duets and solos, old and new songs, melodies and fast numbers and songs from different languages. The orchestra that accompanied the performance was mind blowing. The participation was literally from all walks of life and the participants were of all age groups. Truly music knew no boundaries! The students, Madhurima members, faculty, the employees at

CDS, their family members and everyone with a heart to appreciate music had gathered around.

Mrs. Shobana Kannan and the cultural secretaries deserve a special word of appreciation for putting the show together, from planning the date to encouraging everyone to perform on stage. The volunteers went around attending to minute details, and serving refreshments. The musical night was followed by a dinner served by SEWA and the waves of music lingered around with the aroma of the food. People went around congratulating the performers and sharing the old warmth of the get-together. And the night came to its end with promises to return next year and to re-live these vivid memories.

Chinju Johny  
(M. Phil, 2010-12)

## Holi Celebration

Every year the festival of Holi was celebrated at the centre with a lot of enthusiasm and joy. This year it was celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> March. The students drenched in various beautiful colours shared their joy with the members of the faculty and other staff members by applying colours on them and distributing sweets. The entire campus was livened up with smiling colourful faces of the inmates. It was an occasion that brightened up our day and added to our wonderful memory of our stay at the campus. This festival of colours rightly brought with it happiness and vigour, reminding us of the beauty of our life that, time and again we tend to forget in the daily routine. Promising to bring with it colours again in the coming year but with some new faces, the festival bid us adieu, leaving us all in a joyous mood.

Namrata Thapa  
(PhD Scholar)

STUDENTS SPEAK

**Those Were the Days of Experience**

I was sitting in the TV room in CDS and it was raining outside. There was the regular power cut. The rains brought everything that I have associated it with. The rocks with rain droplets were making a mark, the leaves hustling and making noise, the coffee and my spectacles being foggy, the sound of thunder giving the scare it always does to me, the smell when the rains hit dry earth, etc. These are just the small droplets of experience which everyone carries with them. And I am also one enthusiast who remembers all these, enjoys; not always though. These are our associations with nature which provide us the perfect escape out of our 'commodified-materialised' lives.

But imagine a world in which these would be a thing of the past. These associations would be played in commercial cinema halls which would then be screening 'Rains of the 21st century'. How strange would that turn out for a person of my era or any era before is only imaginable. Given the way we castigate our environment, we might eventually lead us to preserve our associations with nature only on film rolls or on DVD's. What would we want our generations to see, feel, touch, smell and experience certainly depends upon our realisation of what we value now and would want to preserve for years henceforth.

But the real crucifixion of our lives would be then, when we could not only experience such fascinating romances with nature; but we would be selling the man-made version of these in movie halls which only the rich could buy. Glimpses of such thought could easily be seen in Stanley Kubrick's masterpieces depicting England of the 2050's. For there should not be such a world is as much a part of economics as of any other discipline. And it doesn't need any complex maximisation or social welfare optimisation to realise that there are lots of things in general which we must appreciate and

preserve, for they are now abundant invaluable. They could soon be rarities which we crave for if our insensitivities are persistent. Then I would just be telling, reading out to my grandchildren what I write out to you!

Those Were Days of Experience  
The 70mm of rainfall,  
That's all we would have to be proud of,  
The lightning would be special FX,  
We would be packaging smell in bottle of  
manufactured products.

The air would not be cold,  
Not enough to soothe the skin,  
And make us consume coffee and stare,  
The leaves would be mumed by the bark.

There would be no wet green grass,  
We won't be sitting and talking,  
Cause we would all be chasing,  
Greener means.

The guitar would play your tunes,  
But not to the merry of every bafoon,  
Spells of silence would not be in vogue,  
Cause they would want to not produce  
what could not be sold.

The hard stone goes soft for the rains are persistent,  
Those spots would be designs drilled without  
sentiments,  
The sand would never fume of hot escape,  
We would have conquered it all for there to remain  
a landscape!

What would my grandchildren learn,  
Would they at all be waiting beyond playstation and  
experience the fun?  
I could not blame them for the unfamiliarity,  
They haven't sat in the rain writing poetry!

Nikhil  
(M.Phil, 2011-13)

## PUBLICATIONS

**Book**

Devika, J. 2011. *Yellow is the Colour of Longing: The Short Stories of K.R. Meera*, [translation of 15 short stories], Penguin India, New Delhi.

**Articles**

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## POLICY POINTERS

### **Liberalisation of Technical Education in Kerala: Has a Significant Increase in Enrolment Translated into Increase in Supply of Engineers?**

(CDS Working Paper No. 448, 2012)

There has been a significant increase in the places for undergraduate engineering degree programmes in the state. This has happened over the last decade by licensing a number of privately owned engineering colleges.

Consequently, enrolments in engineering increased from about 2800 in 1991 to about 28,000 in 2008. The study analyses whether this increase in potential supply of engineers has resulted in actual supply of engineers. In fact, after a careful analysis of a unique data set the study reaches the conclusion that actual outturn rates have been steadily declining and especially since 2004. This decline is observed both at the aggregate level, across different branches and across different colleges. It then hypothesises about the probable causes for this steady decline in outturn rates and has identified this in terms of two prominent causes. The study then concludes with the larger implications of this state of affairs.

Sunil Mani and Arun M

### **Modeling Optimal Time-Differential Pricing of Electricity under Uncertainty: Revisiting the Welfare Foundations**

(CDS Working Paper No. 447, 2012)

It has long been advocated that the sale of electricity and other services, in which periodic variations in demand are jointly met by a common plant of fixed capacity, should be at time-differential tariffs. Despite a very rich tradition of modeling, theoretical refinements in peak load pricing have not attracted much attention of late. The present study has sought to model seasonal time-of-day pricing rules for electricity for two types of power systems – pure hydro and hydro-thermal in normal and exigent conditions under the various umbrellas of assumptions in the first-best, second-best, monopoly and constrained monopoly domains. These simple and static rules appear to be well-adapted for less developed power systems, and in the face of inaccessibility of computerised dynamic models, capable of being applied to actual tariff estimation.

N. Vijayamohan Pillai



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