

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 24



**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA  
(Under the aegis of Govt. of Kerala and ICSSR, Govt. of India)



Director Prof. C. Veeramani received a report from Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh during a workshop on "Vision Kattakkada" held on June 19, 2023.



Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member NITI Aayog delivered the 13th Dr. P K Gopalakrishnan memorial lecture on November 22, 2023 at the Centre.



Shri. Haseeb Drabu, Former Finance Minister, Jammu and Kashmir delivered The 12th Foundation Day Lecture on 19 October 2023.



Shri K.M. Chandrasekhar, Former Chairman, CDS was awarded the prestigious KeralaShri Puraskaram by the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, on March 6, 2024.



Dr. K. N. Raj Memorial Lecture by Prof. Madhura Swaminathan on 5th February 2024.



The 14th B G Kumar Memorial Lecture by Prof. Karthik Muralidharan on 6th March 2024



Participants and officials of Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development: 7th-13th August 2023



Participants and officials of Workshop on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues held during March 4-8, 2024

# CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

(Under the aegis of Govt. of Kerala and Indian Council of Social Science Research)

## **Annual Report 2023-24**



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# Governing Body

## As on 31 March 2024

<b>Prof. Sudipto Mundle</b> Senior Advisor, National Council of Applied Economic Research & Visiting Faculty, Indian School of Public Policy, New Delhi	Chairman
<b>Prof. C Veeramani</b> Director, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	Convener
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<b>Prof. Dhananjay Singh</b> Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi	"
<b>Prof. Chiranjib Sen</b> Distinguished Professor of Economics & Public Policy, School of Liberal Studies B M L Munjal University	"
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<b>Prof. Ram Singh</b> Dept. of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi	"
<b>Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti</b> Professor of School of Environmental Science & Rector II, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	"
<b>Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil</b> Professor & Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Department of Commerce, University of Kerala, Trivandrum	"
<b>Prof. Praveena Kodoth</b> Professor, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	"
<b>Prof. J. Devika</b> Professor, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	"
<b>Prof. P. Sivanandan</b> Honorary Fellow, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	"
<b>Prof. Amit Bhaduri</b> Honorary Fellow, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	"

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# I

## OVERVIEW

The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala was registered as a Society in September 1970 under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act. The impetus for its setting up came from two sources. At the national level, in 1969, the Government of India established the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) to review and promote social science research in the country. This was primarily sought to be achieved through setting up 'Centres of Excellence' in a context where the university system was found lacking. At the regional level, the then Government of Kerala headed by Shri C. Achutha Menon decided to actively support research in development issues with a view to provide the necessary intellectual inputs for Kerala's development initiatives.

Sri C. Achutha Menon had a vision to augment scientific research in Kerala – which was somewhat lacking among the teachers in the universities and other such institutions at that time. He had therefore decided to establish few social science and science research institutions in the State and the first, and the foremost among them was Centre for Development Studies. In this context, he was able to attract Professor K.N.Raj (eminent economist, educationist, and the then Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi), and entrusted him the responsibility of organizing the CDS in Trivandrum. One of the objectives behind inviting Professor Raj was to provide intellectual leadership and develop a research atmosphere and to motivate the young teachers and students in economics and allied fields to the importance and relevance of research in modern times. Professor Raj accepted the invitation and took the initiative to set up the CDS as an autonomous institution with funding from both the ICSSR and the Government of Kerala.

As the Chairman of the Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, Professor Raj had already earned the distinction of developing the institution to academic excellence, comparable to international standards, especially the London School of Economics and Political Science. To achieve this international repute, he had the vision to attract eminent economists like Professor Amartya K. Sen, Professor Joan Robinson, Professor Nicholas Kaldor, Professor Sukhamoy Chakravarty, Professor Jagdish N.Bhagwati, Professor Manmohan Singh etc.. Professor P.G.K.Panikar was the first Director of CDS from 1971 and continued in that capacity until 1984.

The launching of the CDS coincided with Mr. Laurie W. Baker, the well known British Architect, deciding to settle down in Trivandrum Mr. Baker was an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects – ARIBA). Before coming to Kerala, he had done commendable work in various countries like China, and in various parts of northern India, and he had successfully experimented with the idea of cost reduction in building construction, using locally available construction materials, with minimum use of cement and steel, and without compromising on the strength and durability of the buildings. Both Sri Achutha Menon, Chief Minister and Professor Raj were highly impressed and fascinated by the idea of cost reduction techniques introduced by Mr. Laurie Baker, which would ultimately result in considerable savings on the cost of building construction. Mr. Laurie Baker was thus invited to take up the responsibility of designing the CDS campus and constructing the buildings thereon – this had also greatly helped propagate the low-cost building technology in and around Kerala. The architectural splendour of the CDS campus is the result of this vision and effort of Laurie Baker.

The CDS was conceived as a premier social science institution to promote research and teaching in applied economics and development studies. The main activities of the Centre are research, teaching and training. Other innovative beginnings include launching an inter-disciplinary M.Phil

Programme affiliated to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi and a Ph.D programme affiliated to both JNU and University of Kerala, capacity building through training programmes in varied areas of development studies including decentralization, demography, gender and development, human resources, and social security, and acting as consultants to the government in development planning. Another major milestone for CDS is the launch of its MA programme in Applied Economics in 2012. The introduction of the MA programme marked a paradigm shift in CDS' academic profile. The SAARC Scholarship available for MA students, launched in 2016-17 provides five scholarships to students from SAARC countries that enroll in the MA programme. This is made possible by the generous funding of the State government which enables the MA programme to go international.

Right from the beginning, a strong PAN Indian character in terms of both faculty and student composition was seen, as well as being very much internationalized, attracting a large number of distinguished academic visitors from abroad in addition to several tie-ups with international institutions, national institutions and institutions at the state level.

While the teaching programmes of the Centre have attracted students of diverse backgrounds from across the country, the training programmes have drawn participants from all over the world. The research activities of the Centre have thrown up new insights on development issues at the regional, national and international levels. The intellectual ambience of openness to ideas and plurality of perspectives that evolved over the years have contributed to defining the intellectual tradition of CDS.

Research at the Centre extends beyond pure academic research and focuses on policy oriented research that acts as important academic input for informed policy making. Research at CDS is organized around eleven thematic issues (Culture and Development, Decentralisation and Governance, Gender and Development, Human Development, Health and Education, Industry and Trade, Innovation and Technology, Employment and Social Security, International and Internal migration, Agriculture and Plantation Crops and Politics and Development) conducted independently, or under various endowment units and endowment funds.

Recognizing the value of the research carried out at the Centre, the state and central governments, and varied other bodies, national and international, including ICSSR, Planning Commission, Reserve Bank of India, United Nations Fund for Population Activities and other U.N. Agencies and the Government of Netherlands offered liberal financial assistance. Such assistance was accepted after ensuring that the Centre's academic autonomy is retained intact, coupled with the visionary leadership of the founders and a matching dedicated service put in by all segments of the staff and students helped the Centre to create and maintain a world-class infrastructure in terms of buildings, library, and computer facilities, and to find its own niche, in the world of development studies.

During a span of 50 years, CDS has crossed several milestones. During the 1970s, although a large part of academic research conducted at CDS was devoted to issues pertaining to the national economy, it was natural that CDS researchers devoted significant attention to issues pertaining to the economy and society of Kerala, given CDS's location. The widely acclaimed Kerala model of development was an outcome of academic research conducted at CDS during this time. Over the past decades, CDS has diversified its research into a large number of areas. Some of the topics that received significant attention in the 1970s and 1980s are no longer in vogue, while new areas of research concern have emerged in the field of development studies. It is also worth mentioning that the Centre received prestigious endowment funds from different government agencies to set up dedicated research units in recent years to focus on specific areas like local government, migration and plantation development. Needless to mention, CDS has been attracting sponsored

project research funding from several national and international organizations for researching various dimensions of development.

The Centre started with a very small team of five Fellows in 1970. Presently the CDS has a regular faculty strength of 15. Further, it has 18 Visiting Professors/Fellows from across the country and abroad and 23 Administrative Staff.

The state-of-the-art CDS library is one of the largest social science libraries in India with over 1,50,000 titles in economics and related disciplines and subscribing to about 400 professional print journals and around 3500 e-journals. The IT wing of the Centre provides technical support to the faculty, students, library and Administration. The K N Raj Library is fully computerized using the open source software “Koha” and for the users convenience the library catalogue [OPAC] is available online at the link: <https://cdslibopac.informaticsglobal.com/> Searches can be made by author, title, subject, class number, publisher or words in title and boolean search. CDS Information Repository (Digital Library) is installed to capture / preserve digital content and make them accessible to scholars and faculty. It can be accessed here <http://14.139.171.199:8080/xmlui/community-list>.

The Centre’s outreach activities extend beyond conferences, workshops, training etc. The CDS library has always been kept open for researchers, college lecturers, students and members of the public. CDS faculty members have been informally interacting with them to provide their academic and intellectual inputs. An opportunity to institutionalise this had emerged in 2010. The then Finance Minister of Kerala Dr. Thomas Isaac, a distinguished Alumni who was a faculty and is presently Honorary Fellow of the Centre, had made available in his budget the sum of Rs. 1 crore to constitute a K.N. Raj Endowment at the Centre. The income from this generous grant is to be used mainly for lecturers and others in Kerala to use the academic resources of the Centre for research and for putting together teaching material.

CDS is also judged as the best among the 24 ICSSR research institutes in the country on the basis of its research publications during the 2011-2020 period.

## **Personnel**

With a view to attract and retain faculty at CDS, seed money for research support to the tune of 4 lakhs per faculty member for a cycle of five years is being followed. This year several faculty members availed of this facility. A reservation policy for faculty recruitments at CDS is in place at all the three cadres of teaching positions, namely Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor.

This year Professor C. Veeramani, joined the service of the Centre as Director in the UGC Pay Scale of Rs. 37400-67000 with Academic Grade Pay of Rs.10000/- with effect from 01st June 2023.

Professor Sunil Mani, Professor of the Centre is relieved from the service of the Centre with effect from 31.05.2023 after attaining the age of superannuation.

Professor Udaya Sankar Mishra, Professor of the Centre is relieved from the service of the Centre with effect from 31.05.2023 on the basis of his request dated April 19 2023 for Voluntary retirement from the Centre with effect from 31.05.2023 after office hours.

Professor K N Harilal, a distinguished member of the CDS family, is retired on 31.07.2023. He joined the Centre on 22.10.2001 and has been an invaluable part of our Centre's journey for over two decades.

Smt Ansamma Joseph, Deputy Librarian of the Centre is relieved from the service of the Centre with effect from 31.08.2023 on the basis of her request dated June 12, 2023 for Voluntary retirement from the Centre with effect from 31.08.2023 after office hours.

Shri Tharun Kumar M P., Senior Audit Officer from the Principal Accountant General's Office (General & Social Sector Audit) in Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, is returning to the AG's Office after completing his deputation period as an Internal Audit Officer at the Centre from January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023 (a duration of 3 years and 6 months). Shri Tharun Kumar M P. has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and proficiency in his work, while also fostering warm and cherished friendships with his colleagues.

### **Academic Programmes**

The two programmes – MA in Applied Economics, PhD in Economics – are the two pillars of the Centre's academic activities. The MA and PhD degrees are awarded by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). To bring about more international exposure to research students, the PhD Internship Abroad (PIA) programme was launched and it enables PhD scholars to spend time in research work at an institute of repute in any part of the world. In 2014 CDS introduced an Integrated MPhil/PhD programme along the lines of the regulations of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Following the New Education Policy 2020, CDS discontinued the MPhil programme in 2020.

In the year 2023-24, 8 scholars were admitted for the Ph.D Programme and 21 students for the MA programme. The total number of students pursuing their doctoral research during the year was 41. Ten scholars were awarded with Ph.D degree.

To bring about more international exposure to research students, the PhD Internship Abroad (PIA) Programme launched in 2016-17 enables PhD scholars to spend time in research work at an institute of repute in any part of the world. Three PhD Scholars - Ms. Gayathri P., Ms. Rajalaxmi Singh and Mr. Sabeer V. C were selected for this programme during the year.

The MA programme is now into the twelfth batch. For the academic session 2023-24, 657 candidates applied for admission of which 9 opted Guwahati, 23 opted Hyderabad, 135 opted Kolkata, 112 opted Kozhikode, 193 opted New Delhi, 30 opted Pune and 155 opted Thiruvananthapuram as their centre for Entrance Test. A total of 493 candidates appeared for the entrance test and finally 21 students were selected to join the programme.

The SAARC scholarship for MA students, launched in 2016-17 provides five scholarships to students from SAARC countries that enroll in the MA programme. The SAARC Scholarship is made possible by the generous funding of the State government which enables the MA programme to go international. Two applications were received for MA Applied Economics Programme this year. The Committee interviewed the candidates and selected Ms. Nabina Kumari Gupta from Nepal for admission. Later she discontinued from the programme.

## Research

Research at the Centre extends beyond pure academic research and focuses on policy oriented research that acts as important academic input for informed policy making. This has been a part of CDS's mission right from its inception and this component of research often accounts for a significant share of faculty's research time. Many of these policy research outputs may not necessarily take the form of academic publications.

The Centre published 4 Books (one is forthcoming),<sup>25</sup> research papers and articles in Journals, one Working Paper and two Monographs and 3 Policy Papers in 2023-24.

By agreement among the faculty, the research output of the Centre is presented here under the rubrics, Culture and Development; Decentralisation and Governance; Gender and Development; Human Development, Health and Education; Industry and Trade; Innovation and Technology; Labour, Employment and Social Security; Macroeconomic Performance; Migration; Agriculture and Plantation Crops; Politics and Development and Other Studies. The studies are listed individually with abstracts in Chapter II.

## Research Projects / Sponsored Studies

The CDS faculty remained actively engaged in conducting sponsored research projects during 2023-24.

Under the theme '**Culture and Development**' two projects were completed. A study on '*A Gendered History of the Neo-savarna in Twentieth Century Kerala*' tries to take small steps towards the larger project of understanding the larger gendered history and context in and through which such women have been enabled to connect with the Hindutva project in Kerala in the recent conflict around women's entry into the Sabarimala temple. It was published in a book chapter, 'Due to appear in Nissim Mannathukkaren (ed), *Saffron In the South: Violence, Gender, Media and Hindutva in Kerala*', Routledge India. Another study '*Keep Calm and Carry On? The Post-Kerala Model and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century*' is an edited volume book consisting of essays that explore a range of development challenges in Kerala in the new millennium. It covers recent concerns in development and welfare in this state renowned for its achievements in human development in the twentieth century despite poor economic growth (popularly known as the 'Kerala Model').

Two projects are ongoing under the theme '**Decentralisation and Governance**'. '*The state of decentralisation in India: A Review of 30 years progress*' and '*State of fiscal devolution in Kerala: A review of State finance Commission reports*'. Both the studies are under RULSG and expected to be completed on December 2024. The study '*The state of decentralisation in India: A Review of 30 years progress*': Three decades have passed since the introduction of decentralisation and the Panchayati Raj system through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1993. In this context, RULSG decided to undertake a review of the last 30 years' progress of decentralisation across the country. This review will help address the merits and shortcomings of the programme in all aspects across the states and it will be beneficial for future reference. Based on this, RULSG has been conducting the following ongoing activities:

A) RULSG has worked to create a database that includes demographic and financial data on the decentralisation programme.

B) State-wise performance data on the Panchayati Raj System has been collected from secondary sources, primarily from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Statistics and

Programme Implementation, and others.

C) A comparative assessment of states is being prepared, focusing on the devolution status of Functions, Functionaries, and Funds.

Another study '*State of fiscal devolution in Kerala: A review of State finance Commission reports*': The functioning of the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) in Kerala needs to be assessed to obtain a clear picture of financial devolution in the state. Kerala is a leading state that has constituted six Finance Commissions on time. The SFCs assess the financial position of local governments and make recommendations on the distribution of financial resources between the state and local bodies, based on specific criteria and formulas. Each SFC has proposed various recommendations to the government regarding the devolution of financial resources to maintain fiscal health. In this context, RULSG is conducting a review of the all SFC reports of Kerala.

A) All SFC reports, up to 5<sup>th</sup> SFC have been collected (6<sup>th</sup> SFC is currently functioning) and the review is ongoing.

B) The approaches of each SFC towards financial devolution will be assessed.

C) A review report will be prepared based on criteria for financial devolution, tax-sharing methods, the financial autonomy of local bodies, and the recommendations of SFCs.

During the period, five projects completed under the theme '**Gender and Development**'. '*Covid 19, Livelihoods and Interventions by Local Self Government Institutions in Kerala: An exploratory study*' funded by RULSG, ICSSR aims to understand the nature and content of livelihood vulnerabilities caused by Covid-19? This includes efforts to assess the impact of Covid-19 on income, food security, intrahousehold dynamics, depletion of assets/ savings, social relations and mobility, analyse the impact of the pandemic on issues of informality, inequity and pre-existing gender, caste and class inequalities that characterise rural economy in Kerala, to understand the coping mechanisms adopted by families and communities to mitigate the vulnerabilities caused by loss of livelihoods during the pandemic. The Final Report submitted to ICSSR and published in the journal Gender and Development. Another study '*Carceral Feminism and the Punitive State in Kerala State, India*' is about the mutation of feminism in Kerala and its engagement with the state in the new millennium. It will be published book chapter Due to appear in Mary Caputi and Patricia Moynagh (eds), *Research Handbook on Feminist Political Thought*, Edward Elgar Publishing. Another study '*Marginals within the Marginalised: Exploring the Changes in Occupational Pattern among Adivasi Women in the context of Land Alienation in India*' is an exploration towards examining the changes in occupational patterns and addressing the problem of transition from paid activities to unpaid activities among Adivasi women in the context of land alienation. The study '*Education and Women's Autonomy*' analyses the relation between women's education relative to their spouse and their autonomy and found that around 20% of married women have education more than their spouses. The multivariate regression indicates that relative spousal education is positively related to decision making autonomy and physical mobility, but it is negatively associated with emotional autonomy. It was published in the Indian Journal of Labour Economics. (66, 833-53) titled 'Does being educated more than the Spouse give Women Higher Autonomy? Findings from India?'. Another study '*Working from Home and the Pandemic: Gendered Implications of the Lockdown*' explores the experiences of Indian middle-class and upper-middle-class women managing working motherhood in the context of pandemic-induced remote work. The findings reveal the classed and gendered nature of remote work, which manifests as an extension of gendered organization and neoliberal ideology within the homes of working mothers, fortifying their role as caregivers. It was published in the Women's Studies International Forum. 99, 102793 as 'Negotiating working motherhood and doing

work from home at the intersection of class, gender and crisis in India?.

Three studies are ongoing. The aim of study '*Family, Women, and Ill-being: A Critique of the Family in Twenty-First Century Kerala*' generating a more systematic understanding of the socio-economic and psychological challenges faced by informal sector women workers in Kerala during the pandemic, with a view of improving the responses of local governments to mitigate the negative impacts. A study '*Tiding Over Pandemic-Induced Vulnerability: Reflections on the Experiences of Two Groups of Cleaning/Domestic Workers in Kerala, India*' examines the experiences of two groups of women workers engaged in paid domestic/cleaning work in two prominent cities in Kerala. It will be published in a special issue of the journal Gender and Development on pandemic-induced insecurity. The study '*Child care and Educated Women's Labour Market Behaviour: Evidence from Kerala*' seek to develop a proposal to initiate a good quality and affordable child care intervention with the potential to increase women's labour market participation. Initiated primary research in rural and urban Kerala and focus on higher educated women and their qualifications should ease their entry into the labour market, at least in a relative sense. The new research plan initiated is '*Between the Self-Help Facilitator State and Private Finance: Debt, Discipline and Gender in Twenty-first Century Kerala*', which examines critically the new economic relationship forged between the state and lower-middle class women in the early years of this century, based on low-interest self-help loans at a time in which social reproduction called for greater resources for poor families.

Under the theme '**Human Development, Health and Education**', one project is completed and one is ongoing. A study '*The Socioeconomic Dimensions of BRICS: A Comparative Analysis over Three Decades 1990 to 2020*' was completed, focus to comprehend socioeconomic dimensions from a comparative assessment to develop an understanding and visualize BICS countries relative developmental positions over the last three decades (1990 to 2020). Analyzing the data, the study clearly observes visible diversities within them. One study '*Climate Change Pedagogy for Kerala project*' sponsored by The Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning, Finland is ongoing. This project aims to expand the scope and respond to the questions like How do (student) teachers make sense of sustainable education and the climate crisis?; How do they see their role as educators in promoting awareness and responding to the climate crisis?; What kind of pedagogies are used and needed to tackle the climate crises etc. New research plan is initiated on to publish a book '*A book on values for children*'.

Five studies completed under the theme '**Industry and Trade**'. '*Women Owned Enterprises and its Scalability: With Particular Reference to Kerala*' was a study which made an attempt to survey the women-owned micro-enterprises scattered across the state based on a snow ball sampling method to understand the motives of women entrepreneurs, nature and characteristics of the enterprises, activity pattern and scalability. The aspects of linkages, market dynamics, capability-building, etc., was obtained from the enterprises who have played a key role in those units. A study '*Investment and Capital-Labour Relations in India's Organized Manufacturing Sector*' carried out in the backdrop of severe crisis in investment in the Indian industry and manufacturing sectors, whereby Capital Formation has significantly slowed down in the second decade of twenty first century. The study adopts the theoretical approaches of heterodox schools of thought to understand the determinants of investment in the organized manufacturing sector in India. A paper on this study was presented in the international conference organised by ISID and CESP, JNU and plan to publish in a Scopus journal. Another study '*Can ICT Make Small Beautiful? Examining the Role of ICT in Affecting the Credit Behavior of SMEs in India*' examining the relationship between Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and credit behaviour among SMEs in India. The paper contributes significantly to the literature on SME financing. An understanding of what improves SMEs' credit access is important as it can enable them to grow and at the same time increase their survival probability during crisis periods. The paper was accepted for ADBI Working Paper. The study '*Growth gains*

*from offshore outsourcing*’ published in Journal of Policy Modeling, Volume 46, Issue 1, , January–February 2024, Pages 90-112 and another study *‘Unravelling the Complexity of Vertical Specialization and Fragmentation Trade: A Survey of Patterns, Drivers, Implications, and Evolving Dynamics’* published, Rajib Bhattacharyya and Debashis Mazumdar (eds), Contemporary Issues in International Trade: Challenges and Opportunities, Emerald, 2024.

Four studies are ongoing under ‘Industry and Trade’. The study *‘Impact of M&As on Innovation and Antitrust implications in Knowledge and Technology-driven Sectors’* aims to examine the trends and pattern of M&As, its effect on the innovation and competition in the High-tech and Medium-tech industries and their antitrust implications. Another study *‘Too risky for businesses? – Examining the relationship between crime, firm registrations and firm growth in India’* examines a relatively less explored factor, i.e., the role of crime in affecting firm entry and growth of existing firms in an emerging market economy like India. The findings of the paper make at least three contributions. First, the study emphasizes the importance of a stable external environment for firm entry and firm growth. The paper provides evidence that a safe neighbourhood characterised by lower crime is conducive for firm creation and growth. Second, the study extends the understanding of the economic effects of crime in the context of an emerging market economy by providing evidence of the negative effect of crime on businesses. Third, the study provides evidence of what might be driving the lower growth of firms facing crime. *‘Impact of Tariff Reduction and other Trade-Related Channels on Productivity and Markups: Panel Data Evidence from India’s Manufacturing Plants’* shows that import tariffs on both final and intermediate goods can yield positive outcomes for the manufacturing sector, provided that locational factors conducive to open trade are in place. Another ongoing study *‘Why is Labour Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India? Role of Trade, Technology, and Market Share Reallocation’* empirically examines the trends and determinants of labor share—the portion of income accruing to labor—at the aggregate, industry, and firm levels in India.

The 6 new research plan are initiated. These are *‘What explains startup failure?’*(aims to find possible factors that have led to startup failure in the Indian context); *‘Globalisation, Special Economic Zones and Development: Are there spatial spillovers in Kerala’*; *‘Technology licensing with cross holding’*; *‘High Growth firms in India’* (to examine the determinants of high growth firms in India); *‘Impact of ICT on Energy monitoring in Indian firms’*; *‘Gains from Mobile Phone Manufacturing in India through Backward-Linked Participation in Global Value Chains: Impact on Domestic Value Addition, Exports, Employment, and Wage Income’* (explores the transformation of India’s electronics manufacturing sector, focusing on the mobile phone industry and how strategic integration into global value chains (GVCs) has driven economic growth, job creation, and technological advancement).

**‘Innovation and Technology’** is one of the major research themes and under this theme six projects were completed and 2 projects are ongoing. The study *‘Process Innovation in Low-tech industries in India: An Empirical exploration’* is the first paper in the Indian context that uses secondary data to empirically determine the existence of process innovation in low-tech industries. One policy implication from the study is that government should encourage and incentivize low-tech firms to improve the capabilities of its labour force. It was published in the African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development. Another study *‘Diffusion of Digital payments in India: A tale of two technologies’* argue that if the cost of adoption and cost of use is reduced, then technology diffuses faster. This implies that innovation systems that ensure lower costs tend to be more successful and hence policy should support those functions within innovation systems that lower costs. The study *‘Actors, Innovation systems and Institutions in Emerging markets: Observations from two Indian case studies’* explores two sectors – petroleum refining and mobile phones services – stand out in terms of competitiveness in India, an emerging market. The study argue that since emerging markets generally have weak institutions, ceteris paribus, actors who have capabilities to effect institutional change have higher chances of success in upcoming sectors. Another study *‘Process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: observations from an empirical study’* is based on two observations made in literature (a) India’s trade surplus in pharmaceuticals is built on exports of

low-value added generic products, and (b) A major part of the R&D expenditure in Indian pharmaceutical firms is being spent on development of generics and their formulation, drug delivery mechanisms, and process R&D. The result of the study show that firms that do not have registered R&D department have higher dependence on strategies that induce process innovation. Another study '*Innovation as a Key Propellant of Per Capita Incomes in Two Rapidly Transitioning Asian Economies: A Comparative Analysis of China and India*' investigate the role of domestic and foreign innovations in explaining per capita output/income growth in two rapidly transitioning Asian economies of China and India during 1990-2021. The study '*Process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: observations from an empirical study*' based on two observations made in literature (a) India's trade surplus in pharmaceuticals is built on exports of low-value added generic products, and (b) A major part of the R&D expenditure in Indian pharmaceutical firms is being spent on development of generics and their formulation, drug delivery mechanisms, and process R&D. An ongoing study '*Bivoltine Sericulture in India: An Innovation system perspective*' using the innovation systems perspective we understand the bivoltine sericulture cluster promotion programme and another ongoing study '*Local and global impact of two biomedical products developed in Kerala: Few observations*' study technology transfer from the Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTI), Trivandrum, using a contingent effectiveness model.

Two studies were completed under the theme '**Labour, Employment and Social Security**'. The study '*Vocational education, skill training and self-employment: Evidence from India's non-farm sector*' examining socioeconomic and demographic complexities in providing vocational education and skill training to incentivise workforce towards self-employment opportunities in this study aligns with the recent economic policy of the Indian government. Another study '*Rural Non-farm Sector Employment in India: Shift or Diversification*' focus on the trends and patterns in the employment in the rural economy, dissect the change in non-farm employment into various categories of shifts and diversification in employment, drawing from structural transformation literature and livelihood literature we try to understand what are the impulses to which such change in rural employment is taking place. Given the vast and diverse rural economy of India these changes were analysed from a regional perspective as well. '*Labour Market Relations across Technology and Size classes In India's Organized Manufacturing Sector*' an ongoing study is an attempt to analyse labour market relations across technology and size groups of Indian manufacturing sector.

A study completed under '**Macroeconomic Performance**' was '*Short-run Impacts of Floods: A Case Study from India*' assesses the short-run economic impacts of the 2018 Kerala flood, the third-most severe flood in India since 1900. Both household income and expenditure declined substantially during the disaster, while credit increased. Households borrowed more for housing and medical expenses but less for consumption. Post-disaster, wages rebounded swiftly. These short-run dynamics, which remain in the shadow when analyzed with annual data, shed light on the complex economic impact of natural disasters. Ongoing studies are '*Informal Sector, Innovation and Growth*', applies the endogenous growth model with R&D that establishes the existence of formal and informal sectors at a steady state. '*Demand-led growth, education and wage inequality*' propose a simple three-class model of growth and distribution in the post Keynesian/neo-Kaleckian tradition consisting of capitalists, educated workers and uneducated workers. '*Policy Response of Monetary and Fiscal Authorities in Response to High Unemployment Rates in India: An Empirical Investigation*' estimates bank credit reaction function and fiscal policy reaction function with an aim to address a crucial question: how does the bank credit respond to high unemployment rate given the predominant concern of Reserve Bank of India to ensure price stability and high economic growth while controlling for the external sector conditions such as current account balance and capital account balance of the BOP. Another ongoing study '*Economic growth in India: A long run view*' paper examines the trends and pattern of economic growth in India during the period 1950-51 to 2022-23. The paper also devices alternative methods to assess the extent of recovery in GDP growth rates during the post-covid years.

Three projects completed under the theme **‘Migration’**. *Left out of Pre-school? Systemic Exclusion and Discrimination against Children of Migrant Labour in Kerala* examines the reasons for Children of migrant labour are frequently excluded from preschools with material from Perambavoor, a region that has been witnessing large scale labour migration from the northern and eastern states. A study *Internal differentiation in overseas migration from Kerala: Probing the effects of Caste, Social and Human Capital* was funded by the RPIMK programme. Another study *Return Migration and Economic Reintegration in Kerala* examines the trends, patterns and nature of return migrants to Kerala. It further looks into the factors that determine the participation in the local labour market after they return. In the end, a review of return migrant policies attempted to open policy choices for the local economy. Two studies are ongoing. *International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala: Patterns, Determinants and Implications* aims to study the key reasons for which students are migrating and the social and demographic characteristics of migrating students. Another study *Policy, Gender Politics and Women’s Migration for Work* delve into the deployment of individual and / or collective resources by women migrants to navigate employment relations and to resist harassment and abuse.

Under **‘Agriculture and Plantation Crops’** three projects were completed. *‘Performance of Rubber Producer Societies in Rubber’* conducted through a primary survey across Kerala, covers two primary stakeholders, the growers and the RPS functionaries. The focus of the study would be identify what are the factors that has led to the slowdown of the RPS activities. The study *‘Risk and Vulnerability in Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra, India’* published a book *‘Accidental Gamblers’* (Cambridge University Press) that underscores the importance of investigating roots of agrarian crisis and paying attention to adjustments of farm households, at a crucial juncture in India's economic transformation. Another study *‘Higher Order Risk Preferences and Livelihood Choices among Rural Households in West Bengal’* investigates the relationship between livelihood diversification strategies and risk preferences, including risk aversion, loss aversion, and higher-order risk preferences of farmers from West Bengal using multivariate regression (mvreg) and multivariate probit (mvp) models. Three studies are ongoing. *‘Cooperation and Endowments in Maharashtra, India’* uses field experiments to investigate the effects of heterogeneity in endowments and returns on cooperation. *‘Forest Restoration in Uttara Kannada’* investigates whether monetary incentives could effectively promote afforestation and what are the likely distributional consequences of these incentives. The study *‘Mechanisation, Gender, and Collectivization: A Study of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Tamil Nadu’* explores the role of mechanisation among small tea growers in the Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu.

Under **‘Politics and Development’** study *‘Political Nepotism in Frictional Labour Market’* was completed. A model where labour market friction incentivizes political leaders to promote nepotism in the job market under the threat of political regime change. Ongoing Research Project *‘Intergenerational Mobility of Scheduled Tribe: A case study of Mala Araya Community’* about how does Birsa Munda’s life, agitation and ideals influenced the Mala Araya community, the tribal community achieved a certain amount of socio-economic mobility as well. The study will specifically look into understand the intergenerational socio-economic mobility, if any, of Mala Araya community. New research plan *‘Taming the Tusker: Class, Caste and Politics of Human-Animal Conflict in Southern India’* examining human-animal conflict in the southern Western Ghats region of India. It explores the social relations within this context, particularly between indigenous and non-indigenous groups, and investigates how participation, voice, and agency are connected to the collective articulation of rights of the indigenous communities in relation to human-animal conflict.

Other Studies completed are *‘Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach’* and *‘Dynamics of Energy Consumption, Economic Growth and Carbon Emission in a Sub-National Economy of India: An Evidence from Kerala’*

## Outreach

As part of its effort to disseminate research activities, the Centre conducts a number of conferences, seminars, and workshops. Open seminars and webinars are given by faculty and researchers from other institutions and from within the country as well as abroad. The Centre has organized 41 conferences/Seminars (36 at the national level and 5 Training Programme/Workshop at the International Level) during the year 2023-24. This year 34 open seminars/webinars were conducted. In addition to this, 6 seminars were given by the faculty and students. CDS also organised seminars, conferences and workshops and academic discussions with distinguished speakers from India and abroad including 3 Short-term training Programmes. Four annual Public lectures were also organised.

- 12th Foundation Day Lecture on "Fiscal federalism in a Regulated Open Economy: Towards a New Federal Compact" delivered by Shri. Haseeb Drabu, Former Finance Minister, Jammu and Kashmir. The programme was chaired by Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac, Former Finance Minister, Kerala on October 19, 2023
- 13th Dr. P K Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture on 'India@2047: Will be a Developed Country' delivered by Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, Niti Aayog at CDS on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023
- Prof K N Raj Memorial Lecture on 'Food and Nutrition Security for All: Old and New Challenges' by Prof. Madhura Swaminathan, Tata Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, held on 5 February 2024
- The 14th B G Kumar Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Karthik Mralidharan, Professor of Economics, University of California on the topic 'Accelerating India's Development: A State-Led Roadmap for India' on 06 March 2024.
- Shri Suman Bery, V C, NITI Aayog delivered a lecture on 'Viksit Bharat, India's G20 Presidency: Implications for India's States' at the Centre on January 4, 2024
- The seminar series on 'Education Research on Climate Resilience and Environment in Kerala' is being jointly organized with VMFT, a well-known NGO based in Trivandrum and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The first research seminar, on 'Developing a research agenda for education regarding climate resilience and environment sustainability' was organised during December 6 - 7, 2023 at CDS.
- Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development: The National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) at the Centre funded by the Ministry of Commerce was conducted a one-week residential research capacity-building workshop on the theme 'Plantations and Development' during 7 – 13 August 2023.
- Dissemination Workshop on Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach was organised at Energy Management Centre Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram on November 28, 2023
- A Workshop on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration was held from 4 – 8 March 2024. The workshop was supported by the Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala at the Centre for Development Studies and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India. A total of 28 participants attended the Programme.

The Centre's faculty and students have been invited to speak at conferences/seminars/workshops/ roundtables etc., both in India and abroad. Many of the faculty have served as members of committees, task force, and advisory bodies at the national and international level.

The category of scholars known as ‘Visiting Professors/ Fellows’ initiated in 2017-18 is continuing this year. Appointments to this category are based on invitation only and represent eminent scholarship in a range of topics that are of importance to Centre’s increasing teaching and research responsibilities.

### **Professor K. N. Raj Centennial Celebrations**

Professor K. N. Raj, was born in Thrissur on May 13, 1924. An inspiring teacher, demanding supervisor, and brilliant economist, Prof. Raj’s legacy continues to inspire generations of scholars. He was a master builder of institutions and a visionary who recognized the need for well-trained economists in the emerging Indian economy. In commemoration of the birth centenary of Prof K N Raj, the Centre is planning to organize some significant events to honor his legacy and the profound impact he has had on CDS and beyond. A Conference to commemorate the centenary year of Prof. K.N. Raj scheduled to be take place from **October 19 to 22, 2024**. This conference holds special significance reflect on Prof. Raj’s remarkable contributions to academia, development studies, and the shaping of CDS into a renowned institution of excellence. Also planning an alumni meet during this period and taking steps to register the alumni association as a society. It is proposed to bring out a Souvenir dedicated to the memory of Prof. K N Raj. The souvenir will trace out reflections from various scholars who were closely associated with Prof Raj and photographs from the various phases in his life.

### **Infrastructure Development**

CDS is actively working on a comprehensive assessment and renovation plan for its campus buildings. A 14 member Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee, including 3 external experts has been constituted to provide additional insights and oversight. The first meeting of this Committee took place on January 24, 2024, the decision was made to commission a structural stability assessment for all buildings constructed before 2008. The structural stability assessment was carried out by an expert committee from the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram. This inspection took place over three days: March 18, 19, and 20, 2024. The expert committee is expected to submit a detailed report on the findings.

### **Finances**

During the year, the Government of Kerala and the Indian Council of Social Science Research have provided Grant-in-Aid to the Centre, whose support is gratefully acknowledged. The Government of Kerala provided a total Grant-in-Aid of Rs.400.84 lakh and the Indian Council of Social Science Research Rs. 384.64 lakh. The Centre earned a total income of Rs.61.25 lakh as rent from residences and guest house, tuition fee, interest from banks, fee from teaching and training programmes and faculty and overhead costs received from sponsored research programmes. During the year, income from the CDS Endowment Fund and Research Endowments amounted to Rs.392.28 lakh and Rs.188.62 lakh, respectively. The Centre has received Rs.496.11 lakh from the Reserve Bank of India as an additional one-time endowment grant for enhancing the Endowment Fund setup by RBI at the Centre. The Centre’s policy has been to manage its activities and operations at the minimum cost possible without compromising on essential needs and the quality of its output. The Investment Committee aimed to achieve the best possible growth of the Centre’s funds by investing in high-yielding and risk-free investments. The Annual Accounts are presented in Chapter X.

The Centre gratefully acknowledges the support received from the State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Indian Council of Social Science Research, NITI Aayog, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of Kerala and the University Grants Commission.

Several other Central and State Government agencies and institutions have supported the Centre's academic and research activities. We remain extremely grateful to them.

## II RESEARCH

This chapter provides a brief description of the studies that were done and are in progress during the year 2023-24. As in the previous year, they are grouped into broad thematic groups. However, given the inter-linkages between various themes, it is difficult to avoid some overlapping.

- Culture and Development
- Decentralisation and Governance
- Gender and Development
- Human Development, Health and Education
- Industry and Trade
- Innovation and Technology
- Labour, Employment and Social Security
- Macroeconomic Performance
- Migration
- Agriculture and Plantation Crops
- Politics and Development
- Other Studies

### **CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Studies under this theme have largely been historical. They explore the cultural and ideological bases of development in Kerala and the shifts in culture and ideology that shape particular development outcomes. The history of the shaping of public consent for state-sponsored artificial birth-control, the discursive dimensions of community assertion in development, the sub-nationalist ideology bolstered by developmentalism forming the basis of post-independence Kerala, and the discursive dimensions of gender and development have been actively explored at CDS. These studies have mostly relied on archival research and importantly, textual analysis, as their principal methods. Essentially, they represent interdisciplinary research at CDS which has appeared in a whole range of internationally and nationally renowned research journals across the social sciences and humanities. They examine the intertwining of development, politics, culture, and social institutions in Kerala that significantly shape the people's well-being. Other studies include those on the cultural and historical aspects of women's mobility into politics and paid work. Recent studies include those of the impacts of extraneous cultural flows that shaped Kerala's specific historical experience of socio-political change in the twentieth century facilitated by mobility across colonial and post-colonial geographies.

## *Completed Studies*

### **'A Gendered History of the Neo-savarna in Twentieth Century Kerala'**

J Devika

This paper tries to take small steps towards the larger project of understanding the larger gendered history and context in and through which such women have been enabled to connect with the Hindutva project in Kerala in the recent conflict around women's entry into the Sabarimala temple. I argue that this requires nothing less than a fine-grained understanding of the reinscription of elite caste power in twentieth century Kerala – through the gradual shaping of what I call the 'neo-savarna' cultural formation, as an unfinished, if powerful, component of post-independence Malayali social formation – and the centrality of the mutation of *aachaaram* to this process. I trace the vicissitudes of *aachaaram* through the twentieth century and in the present, trying to discern the insertion of women as its custodians and guardians in the discourse of community reformism that produced the neo-savarna.

Status: Book chapter, Due to appear in Nissim Mannathukkaren (ed), *Saffron In the South: Violence, Gender, Media and Hindutva in Kerala*, Routledge India, forthcoming in June 2024.

### **Keep Calm and Carry On? The 'Post-Kerala Model' and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century**

J Devika

This book is an edited volume consisting of essays that explore a range of development challenges in Kerala in the new millennium. It covers recent concerns in development and welfare in this state renowned for its achievements in human development in the twentieth century despite poor economic growth (popularly known as the 'Kerala Model'). The volume intends to include research papers on issues in local government, public health, migration, labour, gender, and community politics, which were significant aspects of the 'Kerala Model', as well as important emergent challenges such as those posed by natural resource predation and climate change or a phase that could be possibly described as the 'late Kerala Model', in which attempts were made by the political left to meet the rise of neoliberal policy half-way. These research studies will be prefaced by two long reflective essays post-1990 Kerala -- on politics and changing social dynamics in Kerala, and on the vicissitudes of development discourse in/about Kerala in this period. These essays will provide the broader historical context within which the research studies will make sense. The volume is expected to throw light on the changing contours and nature of economic and social inequalities, political power, and social dynamics in what could perhaps be described as a 'post-Kerala Model' phase. In other words, the volume will explore the question if the Kerala Model including its late phase, is well and truly in the past. As such, the volume brings together newer scholarship, from younger scholars whose careers begin from after the 'Kerala Model' debates, and others whose research spans from its late phase.

The book, therefore, aims to ignite a discussion on what could be an important point of transition in Kerala's unique history of expanding access to welfare and reaping the rewards, which included the ability of Malayali labour to access global job markets. The papers selected bring to our attention a considerable number of development and welfare issues, some of which arise from the very successes mentioned above. Also, it flags several unprecedented challenges: such as the human-wildlife conflict, a result of the shrinking of the human-wildlife interface in general; new forms of exclusion arising from predatory resource extraction and the neoliberalization of welfare; accentuating climate change crises and dispossession in Kerala's coastal areas; the challenges to gender-equal welfarism and so on. The papers generally take a nuanced approach, seeking to

careful trace continuities and shifts, avoiding easy black-and-white characterisations.

While focused on Kerala, the book's concerns address a much broader set of theoretical and political concerns: it potentially address a range of debates on politics and welfare, development and democracy, gender and development, climate change and livelihoods, public health and politics, and so on. It has 19 substantial chapters authored by researchers from across the social scientific disciplines.

Status: Edited volume(co-edited with V J Varghese). Under the review process with Orient Blackswan, Hyderabad.

## **DECENTRALISATION AND GOVERNANCE**

*Ongoing Studies*

### **The state of decentralisation in India: A Review of 30 years progress**

M. Parameswaran

Sponsorship, if any: Under RULSG

Three decades have passed since the introduction of decentralisation and the Panchayati Raj system through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1993. In this context, RULSG decided to undertake a review of the last 30 years' progress of decentralisation across the country. This review will help address the merits and shortcomings of the programme in all aspects across the states and it will be beneficial for future reference. Based on this, RULSG has been conducting the following ongoing activities:

- A) RULSG has worked to create a database that includes demographic and financial data on the decentralisation programme.
- B) State-wise performance data on the Panchayati Raj System has been collected from secondary sources, primarily from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and others.
- C) A comparative assessment of states is being prepared, focusing on the devolution status of Functions, Functionaries, and Funds.

Expected date of completion: By December 2024.

### **State of fiscal devolution in Kerala: A review of State finance Commission reports.**

M. Parameswaran

Sponsorship, if any: Under RULSG

The functioning of the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) in Kerala needs to be assessed to obtain a clear picture of financial devolution in the state. Kerala is a leading state that has constituted six Finance Commissions on time. The SFCs assess the financial position of local governments and make recommendations on the distribution of financial resources between the state and local bodies, based on specific criteria and formulas. Each SFC has proposed various recommendations to the government regarding the devolution of financial resources to maintain fiscal health. In this context, RULSG is conducting a review of the all SFC reports of Kerala.

- A) All SFC reports, up to 5<sup>th</sup> SFC have been collected (6<sup>th</sup> SFC is currently functioning)

and the review is ongoing.

B) The approaches of each SFC towards financial devolution will be assessed.

C) A review report will be prepared based on criteria for financial devolution, tax-sharing methods, the financial autonomy of local bodies, and the recommendations of SFCs.

Expected date of completion: By December 2024.

## **GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Completed Studies***

#### **Covid 19, Livelihoods and Interventions by Local Self Government Institutions in Kerala: An exploratory study**

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Sponsor: RULSG, ICSSR

The spread of the Covid- 19 novel coronavirus disease and the ensuing state responses have caused widespread disruptions to the lives of millions of people. In India alone, government records suggest that approximately 34.7 million people were infected virus and more than 0.47 million people have succumbed to the virus between January 2020 and December 2021, and this is widely held to be an underestimate. Health being the state subject, the onus on calling the shots with respect to monitoring and controlling the pandemic fall largely under the purview of the state government. However, the response strategies adopted by state governments to control the spread of the virus such as lockdowns, social distancing, mandatory restrictions on mobility, creation of containment zones and mass quarantines have triggered severe social and economic dislocations.

Kerala has been one of the worst-affected states especially during the second and third waves. However, Kerala received huge global attention for the way it handled the first and the second waves of the covid 19 crisis. Kerala's health infrastructure and a well-functioning system of local governance have played very important roles in managing the pandemic efficiently which according to the World Health Organisation is a "model" worth emulating. Since the state government of the day has had experience handling health issues that arose in the aftermath of the 2018 floods, the NIPAH outbreak in 2019 and were able to use its decentralised governance framework to develop innovative disaster management strategies especially like timely deployment of resources, strict enforcement of lockdowns through the police machinery, active surveillance at the local level with the support of the local governments, local Kudumbashree women and local community, setting up of district control rooms for monitoring, capacity-building of frontline health workers and an impressive system of risk communication.

While the LSGIs' efficient supply of efficient services and immediate responses to control the spread of the virus and providing health support to those infected and ensuring food security were indeed commendable, these very factors also had many negative impacts on the lives and livelihoods of the people. Service jobs that involve interpersonal interactions between the service provider/service sector worker and the customers. Microenterprises like small retailers, petty traders or commodity producers who could not use digital technologies to their advantage due to resource deficiencies were severely affected. The poorly paid low-skilled or medium-skilled workers who either migrate or commute from rural areas to the cities to work in the service sector were completely left unsupported- many of them pushed to abject poverty. Women workers were particularly affected by these changes in those employed in the precarious urban

labour markets in Kerala. Domestic workers, low-income retail workers, female fish vendors and women micro-entrepreneurs are some of the most badly affected categories of women workers. To make things worse, many of these workers also had taken loans from private banks, local moneylenders, private microfinance institutions and Kudumbashree and there were pressures from all these institutions to repay. The economic pressures on a large number of transmigrant households intensified when around 15 lakhs transmigrant workers from the state returned between May 2020 to June 2021 out of which 10 lakhs return migrants have lost their jobs in the host countries according to government data (Economic Times, 2021). All these added to a significant rise in the rural surplus population and rural distress in Kerala and it is in this backdrop, LSGIs in Kerala has an important role to play by inventing strategies to rehabilitate the distress-driven rural surplus population. It is in this context that this research proposes to conduct an in-depth analysis of the livelihood vulnerabilities induced by Covid-19 in rural Kerala with the view to help Gram Panchayat formulate plans to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

The proposed research has two major objectives:

(1) To understand the nature and content of livelihood vulnerabilities caused by Covid-19? This includes efforts to:

- a. To assess the impact of Covid-19 on income, food security, intrahousehold dynamics, depletion of assets/ savings, social relations and mobility.
- b. To analyse the impact of the pandemic on issues of informality, inequity and pre-existing gender, caste and class inequalities that characterise rural economy in Kerala.
- c. To understand the coping mechanisms adopted by families and communities to mitigate the vulnerabilities caused by loss of livelihoods during the pandemic.

Status: Final Report submitted to ICSSR.

Publication status: forthcoming book from Zubaan, Delhi, published article in the journal Gender and Development

### **‘Carceral Feminism and the Punitive State in Kerala State, India’**

J Devika

This essay is about the mutation of feminism in Kerala, India and its engagement with the state in the new millennium. Kerala has interested observers of development about how it supposedly relied on women’s agency for its social development successes (Jeffrey 2003). These claims have been strongly qualified by feminist scholars and others by now (for example, see Kodoth and Eapen 2005, Devika 2009, Erwer 2003). However, the state in Kerala and the mainstream communist parties which have been in power here emphasize continuing gains through state feminism that recognizes ‘Women’ as the central subject of development and local governance since the 1990s (Isaac and Franke 2000). Kerala is an interesting instance to observe the inter-workings of state feminism and, civil-social feminisms in the context of an unmistakable historical shift. This shift is of the state’s orientation from a broadly-welfarist orientation to a more predatory-capital-friendly, punitive and securitized thrust, in the shadow of the culturally-hegemonic majoritarian Hindu-fascist Union government of India (Kinnvall 2019). I argue that carceral feminism here has been of advantage to the increasingly-punitive state; the CPM finds it useful to its own version of ‘populist authoritarianism’. And unlike their Indian urban-metropolitan counterparts, Malayali feminists have neither been able to engage ethically with carceral feminism, nor call out the state’s aggressive thrusts against marginalized men who transgress boundaries of privilege in love and marriage. This essay consists of three sections followed by concluding thoughts. The first section is a discussion of the relevance of the concept of ‘carceral feminism’ in

the context of (urban-metropolitan) Indian feminism and mainstream Malayali feminism. This is followed by some observations on the power-effects of the state's specific deployment of carceral feminism in contemporary Kerala. The essay ends with some thoughts on retrieving feminist politics and dismantling hierarchies in the interest of anti-patriarchal struggles.

Despite deepening state punitivism, growing state-predatory capital nexus, women's disappointingly-low access to power, and the apparent decline of governance feminism in present-day Kerala, the state here continues to project itself quite successfully as a champion of women's freedoms. The state's specific use of carceral feminism combines public declarations promising strong punitive responses to sexual violations of all sorts with strictly limited, strategic use of the carceral legal instruments against sexual violence. Anyway such declarations do not necessarily imply active translation of these promises of protection through political struggle. Indeed, there is evidence of the deliberate abandonment of liberal feminist goals in the face of conservative opposition. Also evident, seemingly, in the retreat of the CPM from their strikingly progressive to the Indian Supreme Court's judgment in 2018-19 which removed the taboo against women worshippers of menstruating ages from entering the forest shrine of Sabarimala in Kerala; Hindutva legal action against a woman pilgrim for alleged obscenity went unopposed by the government, and she was jailed. Nor did the government adequately protect the women who entered the temple braving aggressive conservative opposition, and through this act, allowed the CPM to gain a symbolic victory over Hindutva. In each of these instances, the ruling CPM could have asserted itself as a formidable, progressive social and political force, but it did not; the police was allowed to take a pro-Hindutva stance.

But besides buckling under conservative pressure, the CPM has also failed to support subversive liberal feminist public assertions by groups and individuals against hostile police. This was evident, for example, during the string of protests by Malayali youth against moral policing (vigilante attacks against perceived breach of conservative sexual morality) in public spaces which came to be called the Kiss of Love protests (2014) (Devika2021). Even though these protests were often organized and widely supported by liberal feminists and others close to the CPM, the party leadership did not seize the opportunity to challenge police violence and turn it into a broader struggle to expand the very scope of civil liberties. Nor have they supported subversive cultural actions by radical liberal activists.

Given this situation, how to make sense of the state's successful retention of its image as the defender of women's rights? I argue that the deployment of carceral feminist promises and actions plays a key role in this success.

Status: Book chapter.

Due to appear in Mary Caputi and Patricia Moynagh (eds), *Research Handbook on Feminist Political Thought*, Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming.

### **Marginals within the Marginalised: Exploring the Changes in Occupational Pattern among Adivasi Women in the context of Land Alienation in India**

Hrushikesh Mallick, John Kujur, Udaya Shankar Mishra (Professor, IIPS, Mumbai) and Sebastian Irudaya Rajan (Chairman, International Institute of Migration and Development)

Land serves as a primary source of livelihood for Adivasi community in India. The decline in landholding size therefore adversely affects their labour force participation. The current study is an exploration towards examining the changes in occupational patterns and addressing the problem of transition from paid activities to unpaid activities among Adivasi women in the context of land alienation. In order to draw robust inferences, our study uses the statistical information

from combinations of authentic data sources viz. 50th and 68th rounds of Employment and Unemployment Survey, Periodic Labour Force Survey (2022-23) and Time Use Survey (2019) of NSSO. Using simple descriptive statistics, binary and multinomial logistic regression models, the study reveals that the decline in LFPR in a period of two decades is largely driven by the withdrawal of women from labour market and this decline is pronounced more among Adivasi women as compared to women from other social groups. Besides, its association becomes more stark for Adivasi women from landless households who remain restricted to domestic duties more than that of women in general. Moreover, it can be deduced from our study that the larger landholding size enhances the propensity of Adivasi women to move into better-paid occupations while, lower landholding size increases the risk of taking up employment in precarious occupations. The findings reinforce the argument on the significance of landholdings among Adivasis to maintain the relative egalitarian values in their society. Finally, this study suggests some measures to improve the LFPR of Adivasi women and quality of their employment.

Key words: Adivasi women, land alienation, LFPR, domestic duties, precarious occupations

Sponsorship, if any: NA

Publication Status : Submitted to a journal for consideration ("World Development")

### **Education and Women's Autonomy**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Ms. Avina Mendonca

Sponsorship: ICSSR

This paper analyses the relation between women's education relative to their spouse and their autonomy. Using a large-scale nationally representative Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS), we find that around 20% of married women have education more than their spouses. Women with more education than their spouses are younger, have fewer children, and earn a higher share of household incomes as compared to those with equal or lesser education than their spouses. The multivariate regression indicates that relative spousal education is positively related to decision making autonomy and physical mobility, but it is negatively associated with emotional autonomy.

Publication Status : Ranganathan, T. and Mendonca, A. (2023). Does being Educated more than the Spouse give Women Higher Autonomy? Findings from India. *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*. 66, 833-53.

### **Working from Home and the Pandemic: Gendered Implications of the Lockdown**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Ms. Avina Mendonca

Sponsorship: ICSSR

The paper explores the experiences of Indian middle-class and upper-middle-class women managing working motherhood in the context of pandemic-induced remote work. The increased paid and unpaid work during the COVID-19 crisis amplified the tensions between becoming a 'good mother' and an 'ideal worker'. The collapsed boundaries between work and home, resulting from flexible work that gained momentum in the pandemic, threatened the carefully negotiated boundaries by women. Using an interpretive qualitative approach, the present study investigates how women negotiated the meaning of working motherhood in the face of frequent boundary violations. The findings show how classed and neoliberal maternal subjectivities of Indian working women manifested during the crisis. When forced to integrate maternal with professional, working mothers claimed identities that aligned with middle-class values that were appropriately modern and global, at the same time rooted in patriarchy. Concurrently, the findings reveal the classed and

gendered nature of remote work, which manifests as an extension of gendered organization and neoliberal ideology within the homes of working mothers, fortifying their role as caregivers.

Publication Status: Mendonca, A., Redkar, A., and Ranganathan, T. (2023). Negotiating working motherhood and doing work from home at the intersection of class, gender and crisis in India. *Women's Studies International Forum*. 99, 102793.

### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **Family, Women, and Ill-being: A Critique of the Family in Twenty-First Century Kerala**

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

The present work started with the aim of generating a more systematic understanding of the socio-economic and psychological challenges faced by informal sector women workers in Kerala during the pandemic, with a view of improving the responses of local governments to mitigate the negative impacts. But it grew into a larger work that allows us to re-examine the alignment between the state and the informal sector worker/housewife, which has been crucial to the neoliberal 'regime of empowerment' that has been in place in Kerala since the 1990s, centred upon the project of poverty alleviation through women's self-help groups and local governments. It has four core chapters which include a historical account of family and power in Kerala. The subsequent chapters examine the struggle for family upward mobility under conditions of growing inequality, indebtedness and debt subjectivity among poor women, and shifting political rationalities and its implications for gender in governmental power. The book is based on fieldwork among four groups of informal-sector women workers in two urban areas in Kerala. It is concerned with broader, emergent debates on gender, indebtedness, micro-credit, economic inequalities, and shifting political rationalities, which are now widely acknowledged as global patterns. It also hopes to reflect closely and critically on both the legacy of the 'Kerala Model' as well as the possibilities of rebuilding it in the present.

Status: Book to be published by Zubaan, New Delhi.

#### **'Tiding Over Pandemic-Induced Vulnerability: Reflections on the Experiences of Two Groups of Cleaning/Domestic Workers in Kerala, India'**

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

In this paper, we examine the experiences of two groups of women workers engaged in paid domestic/cleaning work in two prominent cities in Kerala. Studies of women in domestic labour are few in the context of Kerala and such research is hampered by many hurdles including the reluctance of many paid domestic workers to report themselves as engaged in domestic work. However, after the decline of agriculture and the sluggish growth of industry in Kerala since the 1980s, cleaning/domestic labour provided an important avenue for poor women seeking a steady income. Demographic changes, specifically, population ageing in Kerala and rising middle-class and upper-class incomes in a migration-driven economy have driven up the demand for domestic labour especially in urban areas, with the result that urban areas in Kerala have seen the inflow of domestic workers from the surrounding rural areas, where jobs for women have declined.

Cleaning work is generally stigmatized, gendered, poorly paid, informal, and mostly invisible in the dominant discourses of labour rights in Kerala, but the recurrent experiences of epidemics and the pandemic of the present century, the mounting problem of waste in Kerala which now threatens public health and climate-change induced disasters call for a serious reevaluation and resignification of public cleaning work. The literature on cleaning workers here however is very poor; this research

is a preliminary attempt to fill the gap and offer initial thoughts in order to open up a discussion on how cleaning work may be destigmatized and revalued in the present. The association of stigmatized labour, brahmanism, and brahminical patriarchy in India is also well-noticed, and therefore this research is relevant to understanding the manifestation of caste power, gender, and labour in contemporary Kerala as well.

Status : Journal article to be published in a special issue of the journal Gender and Development on pandemic-induced insecurity.

### **Child care and Educated Women's Labour Market Behaviour: Evidence from Kerala**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan, Dr. Tirtha Chatterjee and Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Sponsorship: JPAL

Low and declining women's work participation in the state of Kerala have been emphasised as a matter of concern especially in view of gender parity in the state's achievements in other dimensions of human development, i.e., education and health (Kodoth and Eapen, Mathew, Sebastian). This trend preceded the decline in women's work participation experienced at the all India level over the past decade which has been the subject of considerable scholarly attention (Dhanaraj and Mahabare 2017, Klasen and Pieters (2015), Chatterjee, Desai, and Vanneman 2018, Sarkar et al, 2019, Deshpande and Singh, 2021 among others).

Commendable progress in women's education in Kerala did not translate into commensurate levels of employment but there have been notable differences in women's employment at different levels of education. Relatively high levels of employment among women with higher education have been accompanied by high levels of unemployment leading to high labour force participation rates (LFPR) compared to women with secondary and higher secondary levels of education, who registered high unemployment rates but had the lowest employment rates. Supply side factors, especially rigid job preferences have been underlined in empirical research that probed the high unemployment among educated women (Devi, 2002; Government of Kerala, 2005, Kodoth and Eapen, 2005) though the lack of employable skills could also be a factor (Nagaraj, 1999). Observing a dip in labour force participation (since 2004) on account of a reduction in unemployment, Mathew (2015) proposed that there could be a discouraged worker effect at work. Focussing on women with higher education, Sebastian (2019) analysed primary data to show that the younger cohort of higher educated women had high levels of aspirations to work but were constrained by housework and care responsibilities. Her work suggested that there could be an emerging pattern of women moving in and out of the labour market to accommodate care responsibilities.

Against this background, we seek to develop a proposal to initiate a good quality and affordable child care intervention with the potential to increase women's labour market participation. To have a better understanding of the extent and nature of the constraint posed by child care responsibilities to women's work participation, which is necessary to achieve an appropriate design for a child care intervention, we have analysed the available secondary data and have initiated primary research in rural and urban Kerala. We focus on higher educated women (post higher secondary) because of their observed high level of aspirations and their qualifications should ease their entry into the labour market, at least in a relative sense. In this report we present the current status of our research - both secondary data and field work.

Status: Expected date of completion is October, 2024.

## *New Research Initiatives*

### **‘Between the Self-Help Facilitator State and Private Finance: Debt, Discipline and Gender in Twenty-first Century Kerala’**

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

In this paper we examine critically the new economic relationship that was forged between the state and lower-middle class women in the early years of this century based on low-interest self-help loans at a time in which social reproduction called for greater resources for poor families. A third player which quickly entered this relation was private- and community finance offering high-interest loans. We, however, avoid homogenising the poor; rather, we aim at a nuanced account, treating Kerala as a special case in which the state appears as the mediator, assuring the interests of both the actual creditors and debtors. This, however, produces a specific, unique form of indebtedness which undergirds the relation between the state and the civil society of less privileged women centred on the state. Also, the implicit but intense presence of the language of ‘moral debt’ owed by women in this civil society to the state was crucial to enabling the extraction of considerable amounts of underpaid or unpaid governmental labour from them. Secondly, we pay attention to the existence of an object ‘outside’ to this civil society. Informal sector women workers who bear the greatest social disadvantage bear the full brunt of humiliation, exploitation, and indebted subjectivity. Thirdly, we attempt to identify the different ways in which (different groups of) women have tried to modify their status as welfare beneficiaries and resist immobilization through economic debt and moral obligation.

Status: To be presented at workshop “Engagements in Everyday Life: The Analysis of Emerging Forms of Social Action”, to be held at IIT Jodhpur in October 2024.

## **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND EDUCATION**

### *Completed Studies*

#### **The Socioeconomic Dimensions of BRICS: A Comparative Analysis Over Three Decades 1990 to 2020**

Hrushikesh Mallick and Sanjay Kumar Rout (Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Jain (Deemed To Be University), Bengaluru)

Sponsorship, if any: NA

BRICS countries are not only striving to gain more political and economic clouts in the developing world but are also influencing global governance. However, each one is facing its own economic concerns and challenges. For instance, India has been witnessing a severe economic slowdown, while Brazil is maintaining a low growth rate along with persistent high inflation and unemployment problems. South Africa has been mired with low growth rate, rising youth unemployment, high debt and inequality. China has been suffering from a sluggish growth on account of the trade war with the US, and Russia has massively suffered from US and EU sanctions. Despite these problems, they are trying to lay a robust foundation of cooperation with the countries in the Global South amid their rising discontent over perceived Western dominance of the global institutions. With this background, our main focus here is to comprehend socioeconomic dimensions from a comparative assessment to develop an understanding and visualize their relative developmental positions over the last three decades (1990 to 2020). Analyzing the data, the study clearly observes visible diversities within them. While China’s

socioeconomic dimensions have improved remarkably, followed by India, South Africa could achieve relatively only with minimal success. It demonstrates that certain BRICS countries while achieving significant strides in their socioeconomic development outcomes, others are encumbered and struggling with challenges over the last three decades (1990 to 2020) without witnessing similar success and yet to overcome those challenges. The uneven economic progress of economies needs to be addressed by individual economies by laying down efficient economic policies, which have been falling short of the average progress in any economic development parameters if their economic and social cooperation needs to be strengthened towards achieving higher economic progress by mutually benefitting from their stronger socioeconomic ties and simultaneously exert greater influence in the world stage.

Keywords. BRICS, unemployment, human capital development, living standard & Inequality.

Publication Status: Submitted to a journal for consideration ("Global Studies on Economics and Finance")

### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **Climate Change Pedagogy for Kerala project**

J Devika, Dr Anu Joy, TISS, Hyderabad and Prof Heidi Layne, Layne, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

Sponsor: The Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning, Finland.

Teaching sustainability has become paramount in teacher education and higher education in general, yet a shared understanding of the concept, in addition to what competencies and actions are needed to develop sustainable societies through education, remains elusive. Plenty of information is available; however, more understanding of how teachers understand their role as educators in teaching topics around climate crisis, what type of imaginaries of the future they have in terms of climate crises, and what type of pedagogy is used and needed to tackle the climate crisis is needed.

This project aims to address these gaps in the knowledge to support the development of climate change pedagogy and curriculum in the North-South collaboration. This project aims to expand the scope and respond to the following questions:

1. How do (student) teachers make sense of sustainable education and the climate crisis?
2. How do they see their role as educators in promoting awareness and responding to the climate crisis?
3. What kind of pedagogies are used and needed to tackle the climate crises.

Status: Fieldwork ongoing.

### *Research plan*

#### **A book on values for children.**

J Devika

In the coming year, I will be completing the final draft of the book that I am currently authoring with Anamika Ajay as well as readying the jointly-written papers from the same research for publication and an article for an edited volume on sovereignty and forms of power in Kerala. I also intend to do joint research on schooling in Kerala and produce content for the website for

climate change and body education for schools which I will be setting up with colleagues at TISS Hyderabad and the Vakkon Moulavi Foundation Trust. Thirdly, I will be translating into Malayalam a short monograph on the idea of consent, written by the psychologist and social psychology researcher Nilofer Kaul, besides finishing some commitments spilled over from last year – a book on values for children.

## **INDUSTRY AND TRADE**

### ***Completed Studies***

#### **Women Owned Enterprises and its Scalability: With Particular Reference to Kerala**

Beena P L

Sponsorship, if any: ICSSR

Promotion of self-employment as a strategy for reducing unemployment or for increasing labour force activity among disadvantaged groups has been pursued by the policy makers at the global level. Government of India has launched various programs to ensure women's participation in employment, especially women entrepreneurship. Although there are a number of studies looking at the performance of women-owned enterprises and the factors determining such performance at all India level, no systematic study has been carried out to analyze the recent changes in the structure of women-owned enterprises, role of the state in shaping such changes and the challenges faced by those enterprises in Kerala. Further this study aims to test the hypothesis whether the state with relatively higher literacy rates also have more women entrepreneurs?

Given this context, the present study makes an attempt to survey the women-owned micro-enterprises scattered across the state based on a snow ball sampling method to understand the motives of women entrepreneurs, nature and characteristics of the enterprises, activity pattern and scalability. The aspects of linkages, market dynamics, capability-building, etc., was obtained from the enterprises who have played a key role in those units. In order to understand the scope of scalability among women-enterprises, questions were formulated pertaining to introducing new product or diversification, vision of the firm in the next five years, market expansion and finally the growth status of the firm. In addition to this, selected women entrepreneurs were interviewed to obtain insights on the life and living conditions of the women, economic and social empowerment issues, etc., supplemented by group discussions and participatory observations. The study has also made use of the existing secondary level data i.e, unincorporated non-agriculture enterprises survey (NSSO rounds) to assess a) the sectoral and industrial distribution of women-owned enterprises in Kerala in terms of operational characteristics such as its expansion, networking, ICT use, and marketing; b) the performance of the women-owned enterprises in terms of size distributions in terms of value added, Net Fixed Assets, Turnover, employment and number of enterprise; c) the growth pattern of women-owned enterprises, productivity trends, its employment elasticity. The study has further made an attempt to identify the factors determining the probability of expanding enterprises by employing a probit model.

Field based survey found a correlation between educational qualification and the upward mobility in women-owned enterprises. Entrepreneurs who have attained training are more likely to use ICT for marketing. They are also successful in terms of growth, diversification and scalability. Female-owned enterprises are shifting towards establishments and operation outside households than male entrepreneurs. Both these features of women-owned enterprises shows that they have a tendency to scale up. The women owned enterprises which have declared themselves as on expansion in terms of turnover, diversification, export and profit found to be educated atleast having graduation, married and having children greater than 10 years of age. Entrepreneurs in establishments have started their business because they have interest/passion, skill and for

exploiting the opportunity. Establishments face more competition than OAEs since their products are sold at the national level. Majority of the entrepreneurs self-design their logo and design and depend on social media for advertisement. Therefore, it is found that most of those enterprises hardly have any selling cost. Majority of the entrepreneurs claim that their main source of their household income is from their business and they are the first entrepreneurs in their family. Majority of the entrepreneurs are Hindus and belong to OBC category. It is further observed that majority of the established entrepreneurs have started their business because of opportunity and education rather than distress. Majority of distress driven entrepreneurs are OAEs. There is no single private limited company born out of distress instead it was the opportunity and education motivated them to set up of a private limited company. Lack of finance was a very important problem for enterprises who are on contraction while starting their business. Whereas in case of successful entrepreneur's, large share of them claimed that lack of finance was not an issue while starting their business. It is also found that 41 percent of the successful entrepreneurs have commenced their business because of the financial strength of the family.

From the probit model of probability of expanding enterprises, the study argues that the factors such as age, size, labour productivity, usage of computer and assistance from government did play a major role on the expansion of women owned enterprises. Women owned Enterprises which are on expansion grew much higher than male-owned enterprises. Employment elasticity of women-owned enterprises across all the sectors is higher than male owned enterprises. But it is disheartening to observe that in general, half of unorganized sector enterprises are stagnant or on contracting stage irrespective of its ownership. And therefore, one could argue that Women have been empowered, but inequality persists.

(Paper presented in the conference organised by CESP, JNU )

Publication Status : CDS working paper and send to good journal

### **Investment and Capital-Labour Relations in India's Organized Manufacturing Sector**

Beena P L, Abhinav Surya (PhD scholar)

Sponsorship, if any: Nil

This study is carried out in the backdrop of severe crisis in investment in the Indian industry and manufacturing sectors, whereby Capital Formation has significantly slowed down in the second decade of twenty first century. The study adopts the theoretical approaches of heterodox schools of thought to understand the determinants of investment in the organized manufacturing sector in India. Through exploratory analysis, the study identifies that Rate of Profit and Investment Rate move together over time, pointing to a close relationship. Further, the study decomposes Rate of Profit into its component parts - profit/wage share (distribution), capacity utilisation (demand) and capacity-capital ratio (technology).

We then identify that, despite the fall in demand and the slowdown in technological growth, the decline in wage share and increase in profit share, which increased significantly in the first decade of twenty-first century, was sustained without a fall in the second decade, which has contributed to keeping the investment rate afloat. We identify that such a trend was achieved due to the extremely slow rate of growth of real wages of workers even as labour productivity increased sharply, which facilitated the maintenance and sharpening of dominance of capital over labour.

The study empirically demonstrates the relationship between Rate of Profit and Investment rate. The study also reveals that the struggle between capital and labour is the most important determinant of investment in the long run. We also extend the analysis to various size classes of firms (Large, Medium and Small). The analysis shows that among the Small size class, the struggle

for capital to gain dominance over labour is the primary driver of investment, which puts the focus on theoretical debates related to small enterprises, whereby it is argued that they play a key role of extending the exploitation of labour to a relatively less organized class of workers, for the progression of capitalist accumulation.

Based on the analysis of empirical results and global scenario, we explore policy interventions, whereby we suggest for the need for an active and functioning State in the economic sphere, with greater involvement in public research, public investment, demand management, and labour welfare, for a sustained long term growth and investment in manufacturing.

Publication Status : Paper presented in the international conference organised by ISID and CESP, JNU and plan to publish in a Scopus journal

### **Can ICT Make Small Beautiful? Examining the Role of ICT in Affecting the Credit Behavior of SMEs in India**

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas, Assistant Professor, BITS Pilani-Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are vital contributors to growth and employment, representing 90% of businesses and 50% of jobs worldwide (World Bank 2023). These enterprises play an especially important role in developing economies due to their high job creation potential. Despite their growth and employment potential, access to finance is a key constraint for SMEs. According to various World Bank Enterprise Survey (WBES) rounds, SMEs in developing economies have cited credit constraints as the second largest obstacle to business.

Beck (2007) discusses the reasons behind the differential access to credit for SMEs vis-à-vis large firms. Using the fixed transaction cost approach and the resulting agency problems as the basis for financial market frictions, Beck (2007) argues that high transaction costs, in the form of credit assessment, processing, and monitoring, which are predominantly fixed, push up the cost of borrowing and may restrict access to credit for a few consumer groups. Since SMEs' operations are relatively more opaque than those of their large counterparts, these transaction costs act as barriers to external funding. Further, SMEs are constrained by default risk since debtors have access to information related to their project but lenders may have access to only part of the information due to prohibitively high costs. This leads to information asymmetry problems, such as moral hazard and adverse selection.

Allen and Santomero (1997) focus on the risk management-based theory of financial intermediation and argue that technological adoption can reduce the information asymmetry issues for SME financing (Blancher et al. 2019). Specific technology usage to obtain data on SMEs' accounting and registration information can help to alleviate the information asymmetry. Banks' transaction costs can also be alleviated by access to the socio-economic, historical, and demographic data of the SMEs and their owners. Thus, reliance on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can be an effective bridge to improve credit access for SMEs. Further, reducing the information asymmetry benefits the banks as well since it facilitates an easy flow of credit, helping them and other financial intermediaries to diversify their risk (Hannig and Jahnsen 2011; Albertazzi et al. 2021).

A growing body of literature focuses on the impact of ICT and access to credit on the SME sector. Pellegrina et al. (2017) find that SMEs that use ICT are more likely to have access to credit because ICT usage signals their capacity to innovate to banks. The positive impact of ICT access on credit behavior is documented by other studies as well (Mushtaq and Bruneau 2019; Maiti and Singh 2020; Agyekum et al. 2022; Bui and Do 2022). The basic argument explored in the above studies relies on ICT's potential to reduce the high cost of intermediated funds due to asymmetric

information. In the absence of ICT adoption, banks bear a share of the screening and monitoring costs throughout the entire relationship term with their customers (Boot 2000). Since most of these transaction costs are fixed in nature, the burden is greater for smaller loans and hence leads to smaller firms facing higher rates of loan rejections. From the firms' perspective, investing in ICT carries the benefits of transparency, higher quality of information, and hence easier credit evaluation. Thus, ICT can reduce the information asymmetries on both the supply and the demand side of the credit market. We attempt to contribute to this literature by examining the relationship between ICT and credit behavior among SMEs in India.

India is an interesting case study for several reasons. India has experienced exponential ICT growth since the early 2000s and is the largest exporter of ICT-related services (Maiti, Castellacci, and Melchior 2020). India has more than 1.1 billion mobile phone subscribers and more than 881 million internet users (TRAI 2023). Further, the Indian Government has launched several schemes to increase the ICT diffusion in rural areas, such as Prasar Bharat and the Universal Service Obligation Fund, which focus on providing the rural population with access to specific types of ICT. The government also uses its public sector undertakings in the telecom sector effectively by setting specific and timely targets to enhance the rural outreach. This remarkable pace of ICT diffusion paves the way for research focusing on the impact of digitalization on economic development.

Besides the ICT boom, we focus on India for reasons stemming from the pattern of SME growth in the country. Firstly, India has a dynamic SME sector that contributes significantly to business innovations and spreads across various products and services (Ghalke, Kumar, and Rao 2022). Secondly, these enterprises depend on debt financing as their primary source of capital through banks. We investigate how ICT adoption within this sector affects the credit behavior of SMEs in India. The specific patterns of ICT and SME growth in India suggest that the answer to the above question may be different from that in developed economies, which are already explored in previous studies. To highlight the unique role of ICT in the SME sector, we start with an initial comparison of the SMEs with their larger counterparts in terms of ICT adoption and credit behavior. We focus only on the SME sector for our main analysis. As an extension, we complement our analysis by studying the situation for micro-enterprises.

We use the latest round of the World Bank Enterprise Survey (WBES) for India conducted in 2021. We employ an instrumental variable estimation methodology to reduce the potential endogeneity between the ICT adoption and the credit behavior of SMEs. Our main results indicate a positive impact of ICT adoption on credit access for SMEs. Specifically, ICT adoption improves the likelihood of obtaining a loan and the loan size for SMEs. Additionally, we find a positive impact on the likelihood of applying for loans and these loans being approved. These results highlight the positive influence of ICT adoption on deepening credit access within the SME sector in India.

We identify potential channels through which firms' ICT adoption may reduce the information asymmetry in the credit market, leading to higher credit access. We find a positive association between ICT adoption and a better capacity to adapt to online processes in other aspects of operations and formalization of business. We also find ICT adoption to be associated with better innovation and higher labor productivity among these firms. These factors consequently enhance credit access. Finally, we extend our main findings by testing the situation for the micro firms in India, drawing data from a parallel survey conducted by the World Bank during the same time period. We find that our results are valid for these firms as well.

We believe that our paper contributes significantly to the literature on SME financing. The issue is particularly pertinent in the event of a crisis that, despite affecting all firms, has a stronger impact on SMEs, which are less resilient because of their smaller cash buffers and greater financial fragility. Given their already vulnerable position in terms of access to finance, it is worthwhile investigating whether financial access for these firms has narrowed even further. If so, has ICT adoption acted as a remedial tool to reduce it? An understanding of what improves SMEs' credit access is important as it can enable them to grow and at the same time increase their survival probability during crisis periods.

Publication Status : Accepted for ADBI Working Paper

### **Growth gains from offshore outsourcing**

C Veeramani, Anwasha Basu and Sugata Marjit

Offshore outsourcing, which involves the sourcing of foreign inputs, has played a crucial role in the expansion of global trade in recent decades. Although there has been extensive research on the labor market effects of offshore outsourcing, particularly in advanced economies like the US, there has been relatively little attention paid to its productivity impacts. This represents a significant gap in the literature, as productivity is a key driver of long-term economic growth and can have indirect effects on employment. This paper contributes both theoretically and empirically to the ongoing policy debate on the domestic impact of offshore outsourcing, particularly in relation to productivity and output growth.

Within a simple Ricardian structure, this paper formulates a growth model suggesting that foreign input sourcing, even without other transplanted channels, leads to higher domestic industry growth. The model posits that the use of imported intermediate inputs can enhance productivity, which, in turn, stimulates growth. This is distinct from the reliance on innovations or other mechanisms, as the mere act of sourcing foreign inputs is shown to positively influence growth. To support the theoretical model, this study conducts an empirical analysis combining country-sector-level data on production with data on sector-level use of imported inputs and input tariffs. The study utilizes a panel dataset covering 28 countries from 2000 to 2014, drawing from the World KLEMS and World Input-Output Database (WIOD). The extent of foreign outsourcing is measured through two metrics: the imported input share in total input use and average input tariffs at the sector level.

The empirical findings confirm the predictions of the theoretical model. Specifically, foreign outsourcing has a positive impact on both productivity and output growth. Countries that engage more extensively in foreign input sourcing experience higher levels of total factor productivity (TFP) and growth. Moreover, reductions in input tariffs lead to faster productivity and output growth, while tariffs on final goods appear to have an insignificant effect on growth. These results remain robust across various estimation techniques and methods used to address potential endogeneity.

The findings of this study carry important policy implications. A major conclusion is that the removal of trade barriers on intermediate inputs is critical for fostering economic growth. In contrast, policies that discriminate against imported inputs, such as protectionist measures aimed at strengthening domestic supply chains, may impede growth. Policymakers should, therefore, consider the benefits of global value chain (GVC) participation and refrain from imposing tariffs on intermediate goods.

Despite the benefits of foreign input sourcing, recent global events—such as the US-China trade war, geopolitical tensions, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict—have raised doubts about the effectiveness of growth strategies that rely heavily on GVC integration. In response, several countries have adopted protectionist policies aimed at promoting domestic sourcing over foreign outsourcing.

In the face of these protectionist trends, the study underscores the productivity and growth-enhancing potential of foreign outsourcing. Participating in GVCs allows countries to boost their productivity and economic growth through the use of more efficient and cost-effective foreign inputs. By importing intermediate inputs, countries can specialize in higher-value production processes, ultimately leading to gains in both productivity and employment.

Publication Status : Journal of Policy Modeling, Volume 46, Issue 1, , January–February 2024, Pages 90-112

### **Unravelling the Complexity of Vertical Specialization and Fragmentation Trade: A Survey of Patterns, Drivers, Implications, and Evolving Dynamics**

C Veeramani

The reduction of tariff barriers and rapid advancements in transportation and communication technology have reshaped the structure of global trade. One of the key developments has been the fragmentation of production processes across different countries, enabling firms to specialize in specific stages of production rather than in producing final goods. This transformation, widely recognized as "fragmentation trade" or "vertical specialization," has significantly altered the dynamics of international trade, giving rise to new challenges and opportunities for countries around the world.

This paper provides an overview of the literature surrounding fragmentation trade and global production networks (GPNs). It synthesizes key drivers, determinants, and consequences of fragmentation trade while highlighting the distinctive regional trends, particularly in East Asia, and offering a comparative perspective on India's experience in integrating into these networks.

The concept of fragmentation trade refers to the process by which the production of goods is broken into distinct tasks, each performed in different countries. As countries focus on specific stages or tasks within the production sequence, trade in intermediate products, such as parts and components (P&C), has outpaced the growth of trade in final goods.

Technological advancements in industries such as electronics and automobiles have facilitated this division of labor, with production tasks being allocated to countries where the required resources are available at lower costs. Countries that are labor-abundant, such as China, specialize in low-skilled, labor-intensive activities, while capital- and skill-intensive activities remain concentrated in more developed, high-income countries such as the U.S., Europe, and Japan. This division has given rise to "factory economies," which specialize in production, and "headquarter economies," which focus on research and development, marketing, and other high-value tasks.

East Asia has been the most successful region in integrating into global production networks. The region's success, particularly China's, can be attributed to policy frameworks that emphasize export promotion and integration into global supply chains. China has been at the forefront of this trend since the 1990s, focusing on assembling parts and components into final goods for export. The integration of countries in East Asia into GPNs has significantly boosted their exports, especially in industries such as machinery and electronics.

In contrast, India has faced challenges in integrating into global production networks. Despite over two decades of economic reforms, India's manufacturing sector accounts for only about 15% of its GDP, a relatively low figure compared to East Asia. Although India's share of global trade has tripled since 1990, it remains below 2%, highlighting its limited participation in GPNs. The lack of substantial foreign direct investment (FDI) in labor-intensive industries and weak infrastructure have been key barriers to India's ability to position itself as a key player in GPNs. This experience contrasts sharply with that of East Asia, where strong regional production networks have been integral to the economic success of countries like China.

The determinants of vertical specialization and fragmentation trade have been analyzed extensively. Studies indicate that importing intermediates is highly sensitive to trade costs and strongly associated with multinational enterprises (MNEs) that operate across multiple countries. Factors such as infrastructure quality, access to finance, political stability, governance, and education play crucial roles in determining a country's ability to engage in vertical specialization. Additionally, geographical distance and trade costs influence the intensity of fragmentation trade, with value-added trade being more affected by indirect trade routes through third countries.

Several studies have focused on the potential for upgrading within GPNs. The "Flying Geese Model" suggests that less developed countries can gradually move up the value chain by taking over labor-intensive production, thereby fostering economic development. As countries upgrade their production capabilities, they can shift to higher-value activities within the GPNs, such as product and process upgrading. However, traditional theories have limitations in explaining the diverse outcomes for firms and countries engaged in GPNs, leading to the introduction of concepts like "value capture trajectories," which highlight the varied opportunities for growth or decline within these networks.

In conclusion, the rise of global production networks and fragmentation trade has transformed the nature of international trade. Countries now specialize in specific stages of production, with trade in intermediate products driving global economic integration. While East Asia, particularly China, has reaped substantial benefits from participation in these networks, India's integration remains limited, underscoring the challenges faced by countries that lag in GPN involvement. A comprehensive understanding of the drivers, dynamics, and implications of fragmentation trade is essential for policymakers seeking to enhance their countries' participation in global production networks and maximize the associated economic benefits.

Publication Status : Rajib Bhattacharyya and Debashis Mazumdar (eds), Contemporary Issues in International Trade: Challenges and Opportunities, Emerald, 2024

#### **Ongoing research papers:**

#### **Impact of M&As on Innovation and Antitrust implications in Knowledge and Technology-driven Sectors**

Beena P L

Sponsorship, if any: Nil

Indian firms are increasingly engaged in consolidation and foreign acquisitions in order to improve efficiency, market power, access to the global value chain, modern technology, markets, brands, patents, design, copyrights and trademarks (Beena 2018;2022). Our analysis further reveals that many of the successful large and small firms including start-ups in India have been acquired by the incumbent players either Indian or foreign firms. While such acquisitions have been considered as growth strategies from the point of view of the firms are concerned, these acquisitions can also bring down the innovative and competitive dynamics in the relevant market (Gonzalo, Marcos and

Camila, 2017; Parsheera, Shah & Bose, 2019; Francis,2019). Although, there are many empirical studies in the Indian context on innovation and intellectual property, especially after the implementation of TRIPS, there have been hardly any efforts to understand the effect of M&As on innovation in the Indian knowledge and technology driven sectors. Similarly, there is a need to address the anti-competitive effects of start-up acquisitions in the era of digital economy in India although there are some studies available (Glader 2006; Alves,Gonzalo, Lyra 2019;Khan 2018; UNCTAD, 2021, Saraswathy,2018). Given this context, the main focus of this paper is to examine the trends and pattern of M&As, its effect on the innovation and competition in the High-tech and Medium-tech industries and their antitrust implications.

Based on the theoretical and empirical literature, the econometric model is estimated to analyse the effect of M&As on Innovation in HT&MT industries, along with other firm specific variables. We have used Tobit regression framework (Tobin 1958) for this purpose as conventional regression model cannot take into account of the qualitative differences between zero observations and continuous observations (Greene,2003). We have constructed two models to capture the effect of M&As on R&D intensity by taking number of M&As and Value of M&As separately. Similarly, we have constructed another two models to analyse the effect of M&As on the payments made for Royalties and technical know-how by taking number of deals and value of deals separately. From the Tobit regression estimates, it is evident that M&As does affect the innovation efforts. Size and age of acquiring firms and its integration with the global market in terms of export and import of technology do play a positive role in explaining firms' in-house R&D expenditure/innovation activities. Large-sized firms are generally considered to be more efficient as they can exploit economies of scale in the production process and can operate under short term market shocks. Because of these reasons, bigger firms stay in the production process consistently and incur positive profit. This observation is consistent with an earlier study by Beena and Sahoo (2022) in the context of Hight-tech and Medium-tech sectors in India. The study also observed inverse relationship between the market share and in-house R&D innovation efforts which is quite consistent with the theoretical arguments made in the literature. However, the expenditure on the payments for royalties to import technology is not determined by the number of M&As or size, age etc. It is purely depending upon their intensity of global integration in terms of exports and imports of capital goods.

Our analysis further reveals that larger share of the M&A deals are engaged with the knowledge intensive service sectors such as ITEs/online services sectors, communication services etc. We have not carried out regression analysis to examine the effect of M&As on the innovative efforts and competition in the knowledge intensive sectors such as ITEs and the antitrust implications which is the limitation of this paper though it has potential for further research. Foreign firms have acquired many unlisted Indian firms in HT&MT sectors as the turnover or asset of the acquiring firms might be much below the threshold level set by the CCI (GOI, 2016). Such combinations can act as a barrier to the diversity of innovation and product diversification and therefore it is important to design the antitrust policy to deal with the acquisitions of such small sized knowledge intensive firms including start-ups. (Presented in the national conference on Economics of Competition Law, organised by CCI, March 7, 2024, New Delhi )

Expected date of completion: March 2025.

Publication Status : CDS working paper, Plan to send to the journal

### **Too risky for businesses? – Examining the relationship between crime, firm registrations and firm growth in India**

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas, Assistant Professor, BITS Pilani-Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad

What determines firm entry and firm growth? These two questions have implications for employment and economic growth. Entry of firms is an important measure of economy-wide

entrepreneurial activity. Evidence suggests that firm entry is related to higher economic growth, employment, and technological innovation (Reynolds, 1987; Fritsch et al., 2006; Wong et al., 2005). Related to firm entry, one strand of literature has focused on the role of barriers as a deterrent for firm creation. Market entry regulations that increase the cost of entry and act as a barrier are found to be detrimental to firm creation in Europe (Klapper et al., 2006). Studies have also found that access to capital (own resources) is essential for entrepreneurial activity (Lindh and Ohlsson, 1996; Demircuc-Kunt et al., 2009). Additionally, papers have found that the average wage, unemployment, and sectoral growth determine a firm's entry into a region (Storey, 1991; Santarelli and Piergiovanni, 1995). Once a firm enters the market, its survival depends upon its access to resources and ability to grow. The extant literature has focussed on various determinants of firm growth. Studies have found that firm growth is related to firm size, firm age, innovation, and location (Variyam and Kraybill, 1992; Mata, 1993; Wilson and Morris, 2000; Audrestch and Dohse, 2007; Bentzen et al., 2012).

Given the positive spillovers of firm creation and firm growth for the overall economy, a large body of literature has focused on the determinants of firm entry and firm growth. In this study, we examine a relatively less explored factor, i.e., the role of crime in affecting firm entry and growth of existing firms in an emerging market economy like India.

Crime deters economic activities, and evidence suggests that crime adversely affects growth, investments, firm outcomes, and the like. The effects of crime on economic outcomes can be more pronounced in developing countries, given limited resources for crime abatement and weak institutions. In Becker's (1968) framework, the level of crime is related to the economic costs and benefits structure the criminals face. In developing countries with higher inequality, unemployment, and lack of economic opportunities, the opportunity cost of committing a crime is low, and the crime rate tends to be high. Further, weak law enforcement also reduces the likelihood of criminals getting caught, which may increase criminal activities.

Since crime is a social evil, extensive literature has focused on the economic effects of crime. For example, studies have found that crime reduces the overall economic growth at the country level by discouraging investments in Italy (Detotto and Otranto, 2010). On the other hand, the violent crime rate is found to be negatively related to the upward income mobility of individuals residing in the lower income quartile in the United States (Sharkey and Espinosa, 2017). Violent crime is also negatively related to housing prices in the neighbourhood (Tita et al., 2006), and more recently, Acolin et al. (2021) found that crime is related to reduced residential investment in cities in the United States. Further, Velásquez (2020) study finds that violent crime in Mexico is related to a lower likelihood of employment of females and reduced earnings for males in the labour market due to the fear of victimization.

Few papers have specifically focused on the effect of crime on firms. Benyishay and Pearlman (2014) find that an increase in property crime in Mexico is related to a lower likelihood of growth of microenterprises. Rozo (2018) finds that firms in Colombia that face higher crime have lower output prices. Slutzky and Zeume (2022) find that reduced organized crime in Italy is related to higher firm entry and competition. Another study by Mahofa et al. (2016) finds that crime reduces firm entry in South Africa. Using a cross-country dataset, Gaviria (2002) also finds that crime and corruption impose costs on firms and negatively affect sales growth.

There are multiple channels through which crime can affect firm entry and growth. First, higher crime may be associated with a higher perceived risk of expropriation of the firm (including damage to machines and equipment, product theft, etc.) once they start the business. The higher perceived risk may act as an entry deterrent for prospective firms and growth in the business of

the existing set of firms. Second, a higher crime rate may be related to higher environmental uncertainty and lower demand for output. The lower demand for products and services may negatively affect firm growth prospects and new firms' entry into the neighbourhood. Further, the fear of victimization may negatively affect both the entry of new firms and the growth of existing firms. Crime may increase costs, such as installing security cameras, hiring more security personnel, etc., that can lower expected profit, which may deter firms from entering the market and their growth. Finally, the threat of victimization may lower employees' productivity, reducing firm profitability, which in turn may lower the growth of firms. Because of direct and indirect costs associated with higher crime, we expect an increase in the crime rate to be negatively related to both firm entry and firm growth.

India is an interesting case study for at least two reasons. First, even though the registration of new firms has increased during the last decade, the number of new firms registered per 100 thousand workers remained low at 0.1 (Economic Survey, 2019-20). Further, there remains significant spatial heterogeneity when it comes to the registration of new firms in the country, with northern and southern regions accounting for a major proportion of registrations. Second, the incidence of crime in India is not very high compared to few African or South American economies; however, the crime rate defined as the crime per thousand population has increased from 1.876 in 2010 to 3.143 in 2020 (NCRB, 2020), indicating that crime rate has not fallen substantially in the economy during the last decade. The low per capita new firm registrations, spatial heterogeneity in firm registrations, and crime persistence make examining the relationship in India worthwhile.

Using administrative firm registration data from 2010 to 2020 and district level<sup>2</sup> crime records, we find that a higher crime rate in the district is related to lower firm creation in India. One empirical challenge for studies examining the economic effects of crime is the endogeneity associated with crime. To alleviate the concerns related to endogeneity, we use a dynamic panel data model wherein we used the lagged and differenced dependent variable as an instrument for the endogenous variables. Further, we also use the latest India wave of the World Bank Enterprise Survey, 2022, which covers over 9000 manufacturing and services firms, to assess the crime and firm growth relationship. In a cross-sectional setup, to address endogeneity, we employ an instrumental variable approach. We consider whether the firm spends on security as an instrument for crime. We find that crime is negatively related to employee growth but is unrelated to productivity growth. This negative employee growth can be explained by the lower share of skilled workers and a higher share of temporary workers in firms facing crime. Further, we also perform separate analyses for manufacturing and services firms. For manufacturing firms, we find that crime negatively affects both employee and productivity growth, whereas for services firms, crime only appears to affect employee growth. Our analysis suggests that this fall in productivity growth of services firms is possibly driven by the lower number of hours worked by employees in manufacturing firms facing crime.

The findings of the paper make at least three contributions. First, our study emphasizes the importance of a stable external environment for firm entry and firm growth. The paper provides evidence that a safe neighbourhood characterised by lower crime is conducive for firm creation and growth. Second, our study extends the understanding of the economic effects of crime in the context of an emerging market economy by providing evidence of the negative effect of crime on businesses. Third, the study provides evidence of what might be driving the lower growth of firms facing crime.

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<sup>1</sup>Crime in India Report- 2020- Volume- 1. Available at <https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII%202020%20Volume%201.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> District is the lowest administrative unit in India.

Status: Expected date of completion: Soon

## **Impact of Tariff Reduction and other Trade-Related Channels on Productivity and Markups: Panel Data Evidence from India's Manufacturing Plants**

C Veeramani and Prachi Gupta

Recent global events, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the US-China trade war, and geopolitical tensions, have sparked renewed discussions on the benefits of trade integration for economic growth. While some argue that reducing dependence on foreign products can bolster a country's resilience to external shocks and stimulate industrial growth, mainstream economic theory suggests that trade barriers can diminish productivity, increase monopoly power, and ultimately lead to lower economic efficiency and welfare. In response, some countries have instituted protectionist policies to reduce import dependence. However, this study empirically investigates the effects of import tariff reductions and other trade-related factors on total factor productivity (TFP) and markups over marginal costs in India's manufacturing sector. It makes two contributions to the existing literature by addressing the endogeneity of trade policy and exploring various channels through which trade integration impacts productivity and markups.

The Indian manufacturing sector presents a compelling case study for investigating these issues, given the substantial liberalization of trade policies in the sector during the 1990s and 2000s. Average import tariff rates fell drastically from about 128% in the early 1990s to below 10% by 2008. Although trade reforms in the early 1990s were externally enforced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), tariff reductions after the mid-1990s were systematically evaluated by Indian authorities, considering inputs from industry stakeholders and various government ministries. As a result, the changes in tariff rates during this period were significantly linked to pre-reform industry characteristics. These observations imply that import tariff rates may be endogenous, and overlooking this aspect can lead to incorrect inferences about the effects of tariff reductions on productivity and markups.

To address the endogeneity of trade policy, this study leverages India's status as the largest democracy, with a parliamentary system of government and extensive election data. The political economy literature highlights how special interest groups can influence trade policy through lobbying, campaign contributions, and media campaigns. Industries with low productivity or markups may lobby for higher tariff protection, and tariff reductions may occur only when domestic firms improve their performance. Using detailed election data, this study constructs two novel instrumental variables (IVs) that capture the political lobbying power of industries. These variables predict industry-level tariff rates and effective rates of protection (ERP), but remain exogenous to plant-level productivity and markups.

In addition to addressing endogeneity, this study examines the role of export and import variety growth, as well as technological spillovers, in influencing productivity and markups. Trade participation can impact plant productivity and markups through channels such as technology spillovers and product variety growth. Theoretical models have emphasized the importance of these factors, but relatively few empirical studies, especially in developing countries, have examined them in depth. This paper fills that gap by providing evidence from India's manufacturing sector.

The empirical analysis is based on a nationally representative plant-level panel dataset from the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) conducted by India's Central Statistical Organization (CSO). The dataset covers the period from 1998-99 to 2007-08 and includes plant identifiers, allowing for the use of authentic panel data rather than repeated cross-sections or 'constructed' panels. This panel data enables accurate measurement of productivity and markups at the plant level. The study

employs the semi-parametric approach proposed by Levinsohn and Petrin (2003) to measure productivity and the method developed by De Loecker and Warzynski (2012) to estimate markups.

The selected time frame, from 1998-99 to 2007-08, is significant because it corresponds to India's most notable phase of trade liberalization. The first phase of trade reforms (1991-1998) dismantled quantitative restrictions (QRs) on imports of capital and intermediate goods, while retaining a ban on consumer goods. The second phase (1998-2008) saw a reduction in the average output tariff from 33% in 1998 to less than 10% by 2008, and the removal of QRs on consumer goods. This period allows the study to distinguish the effects of tariff reductions from other policy changes, such as industrial de-licensing and foreign direct investment (FDI) liberalization, which were mostly completed in the early 1990s.

The econometric results provide compelling evidence of a substantial positive impact of tariff reductions in India, both in terms of productivity growth and reductions in markups. This pro-competitive effect aligns with mainstream economic theory, which posits that trade liberalization fosters competition, reduces monopoly power, and enhances efficiency. The findings also reveal significant heterogeneity across Indian states. Plants in states with better electricity generation, improved credit availability, and more conducive labor markets show greater productivity gains from tariff reductions. These locational factors, therefore, play a crucial role in determining the outcomes of trade liberalization.

Beyond the pro-competitive and efficiency effects of tariff reductions, the study also delves into additional channels through which trade integration affects the performance of the manufacturing sector. The results confirm that trade-induced technology spillovers and growth in product variety are significant drivers of TFP growth. States that provide a more favorable environment for leveraging these channels—such as better infrastructure and labor market flexibility—are better positioned to benefit from open trade policies. The study thus underscores the importance of complementing trade liberalization with strategic measures aimed at enhancing state-level conditions.

The broader implications of this research resonate in today's global environment, where protectionist tendencies and economic growth slowdowns are on the rise. The findings challenge the notion that import controls are desirable for industrial growth. Instead, the study demonstrates that a liberal trade regime, complemented by policies to enhance infrastructure and market flexibility, can foster productivity growth and strengthen a country's integration into global supply chains. Importantly, the study shows that import tariffs on both final and intermediate goods can yield positive outcomes for the manufacturing sector, provided that locational factors conducive to open trade are in place.

Status: Expected date of completion-December 2024

## **Why is Labour Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India? Role of Trade, Technology, and Market Share Reallocation**

C Veeramani and Anwesha Basu

This paper empirically examines the trends and determinants of labor share—the portion of income accruing to labor—at the aggregate, industry, and firm levels in India. The economy-wide labor share in India steadily declined from 1980 to 2006, with a slight recovery in the following years. A standard shift-share decomposition reveals that both 'within industry' and 'between industry' factors have influenced the changes in the aggregate labor share. Interestingly, typical 'within industry' drivers like technological progress or exposure to international trade do not significantly contribute to the decline. Instead, the decline is largely driven by two sectors: real

estate and construction, which are not particularly susceptible to technological change or trade. The ‘between industry’ component of the decline is driven by India’s unique structural transformation, which has favored high-skilled services and capital-intensive manufacturing sectors, bypassing traditional labor-intensive sectors. Using industry and firm-level panel data, we econometrically investigate the factors that determine labor share, focusing on the roles of import competition, technology-related factors, and intra-industry market share reallocation. Our findings indicate that market share reallocations towards capital- and skill-intensive firms tend to reduce labor share. The reallocation variable consistently shows a strong negative coefficient with statistical significance across various specifications. We employ novel instrumental variables to identify the causal effect of import competition on labor share, finding that import competition and participation in global value chains positively impact labor share. Conversely, labor share decreases with an increase in R&D intensity. Overall, the results suggest that both inter-industry and intra-industry resource reallocations towards capital- and skill-intensive industries and firms—an anomaly for a labor abundant country — explain much of the decline in labor share. In the Indian context, we do not find strong evidence supporting the hypothesis that new technologies and exposure to international trade are major contributors to the decline in labor share.

Status: Expected date of completion- December 2024

### ***New Research Studies***

#### **Globalisation, Special Economic Zones and Development: Are there spatial spillovers in Kerala**

Beena P L, Rajarshi Choudhury and Saikat Sinha Roy

#### **What explains startup failure?**

Chidambaran G. Iyer and Vinish Kathuria

India is experiencing a 'demographic dividend' with the stock of world's largest working-age population, and the trend will persist for another three decades. Theoretically, the working-age population propels economic growth, provided sufficient employment opportunities exist. Data shows that India needs almost 10 million jobs per year, and it is mainly micro and small enterprises rather than large enterprises that fulfill this requirement. Incidentally, the nature of enterprises and the structure of employment has changed in the past few decades in India. Earlier, there were OAE (own accounting enterprise) and small-scale industries abetted by the product reservation policy. However, from the late 1990s onwards, after the economy opened in 1991, startup culture (new generation and tech-based) started flourishing, which picked up in the last ten years. The data shows that in 2022, India had over 86,000 startups starting from 445 startups in 2016. Of these, over 10,000 have been set up in the IT sector, followed by over 8,000 in healthcare and life sciences.

Sufficient literature exists suggesting that (small high-technology) startups are the major drivers of job creation and innovation, thus fuelling economic growth (see for example, Baumol, 2002; Kirchoff and Spencer, 2008; Joshi and Satyanarayana, 2014). The factors influencing high-tech startups can be studied under three broad categories: a) entrepreneur-based characteristics, b) startup (firm) related characteristics, and c) ecosystem-related characteristics (Joshi and Satyanarayana, 2014). The first two are micro factors, whereas the third relates to the macro factors.

It is well acknowledged that external developments such as rapid technological changes and new whitespace market creation have a two-way effect on startups. Either it propels them to hyper-growth or leads to closure, depending upon how startups react to the ecosystem.

Literature often discusses what makes startups successful, but little is available on why startups fail. A 2019 Startup Genome report claims that 11 out of 12 startups fail. This study aims to find possible factors that have led to startup failure in the Indian context.

Under this backdrop, the study has the following objectives:

- 1.To find out what factors contribute to the success or failure of a startup.
- 2.Are these factors the same or different across tech and non-tech startups? and
- 3.To compare a few successful and few failed ventures in the same product domain to fathom what differentiates between a successful and a failed venture?

For the study, we will pick one or two high-tech sectors (IT or Bio-tech) and then see what distinguishes failed vs. successful ventures, the role of venture-capital funding, and how the ecosystem affects failure.

### **Gains from Mobile Phone Manufacturing in India through Backward-Linked Participation in Global Value Chains: Impact on Domestic Value Addition, Exports, Employment, and Wage Income**

C Veeramani

This study explores the transformation of India's electronics manufacturing sector, focusing on the mobile phone industry and how strategic integration into global value chains (GVCs) has driven economic growth, job creation, and technological advancement. By analyzing the impact of key government policies and exploring future opportunities in the broader electronics sector, the research provides insights into how India's electronics industry can continue to evolve.

The mobile phone manufacturing industry has undergone significant growth, driven by two key policy phases. The first phase, from 2016-17 to 2018-19, was characterized by the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP), which focused on import substitution. However, this phase primarily aimed to meet local demand and saw limited export growth. In contrast, the second phase, from 2019-20 to 2021-22, marked a shift towards an export-oriented strategy under the National Policy on Electronics (NPE) and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. This strategic realignment enhanced India's global competitiveness and deepened its integration into GVCs, resulting in substantial export-driven growth in mobile phone manufacturing.

The analysis highlights that India has become the fifth-largest exporter of mobile phones globally by 2022-23, with production increasing more than fivefold since 2015-16. This growth has been predominantly driven by exports. Despite concerns about the sector's reliance on imported components and its assembly-based nature, the study confirms a robust positive net export trend in mobile phones since 2019. Furthermore, the sector's integration into GVCs has significantly increased domestic value addition (DVA), with total DVA rising by 327% from Phase 1 to Phase 2. Employment in the sector has also surged, with direct employment increasing by 383% and indirect employment by 60%, benefiting both blue- and white-collar workers, including a notable rise in employment for female production workers. Wages and salaries in the sector have also seen substantial growth, especially in export-linked jobs.

Strategically, the study emphasizes the importance of GVC participation for India's manufacturing sector. By specializing in specific stages of production, particularly backward-linked GVCs, India can leverage its comparative advantage of a large low-wage labor force. While the mobile phone sector has already made significant progress through this approach, opportunities in the broader electronics sector remain untapped. The study suggests that India could follow the 'Flying Geese' model observed in East and Southeast Asia, where countries sequentially rise in global electronics

markets by focusing initially on assembly and then gradually developing higher value-added activities. As China transitions from electronics assembly to parts and components production, India is well-positioned to become a global assembly hub, provided an enabling policy framework is in place.

The study further argues that India's strategy should focus on scaling up exports and deepening GVC integration, even if the DVA ratio remains low in the short term. Achieving scale, rather than focusing narrowly on increasing the DVA ratio, is critical for driving economic growth, employment, and productivity. This approach mirrors the experiences of China and Vietnam, where liberalizing imports and focusing on export-oriented assembly led to increased scale and, over time, higher DVA ratios.

To sustain and accelerate growth in the electronics sector, the study advocates for a strategic focus on achieving scale through exports while gradually building a domestic ecosystem that enhances value addition. This requires addressing structural issues, such as liberalizing trade policies, reducing labor and land market rigidities, and improving logistical infrastructure. Additionally, industrial policies designed to support investment, technology transfer, skill development, and innovation will be key to the sustained growth of India's electronics manufacturing sector.

### ***New Research Papers/ Projects initiated during the year 2024-25***

#### **Technology licensing with cross holding.**

Rajit Biswas and Dr Neelanjan Sen (Madras School of Economics)

Sponsorship, if any: NA

This is a work in progress. We build an oligopolistic model where efficient firms can license its technology to inefficient firms and also invest in cross holding. All possible SPNE are characterized and the choice to license technology and the optimal cross holding is determined in terms of cost difference among firms.

#### **High Growth firms in India**

Ritika Jain

To examine the determinants of high growth firms in India

#### **Impact of ICT on Energy monitoring in Indian firms**

Ritika Jain

Just started

#### **The Problem of Inverted Tariffs in Indian Industries**

C Veeramani and Anwasha Basu

Inverted tariff exist when the duty rate for the overall finished good is lower than the duty rate of the component parts. Such a structure could render the relevant manufacturing process uncompetitive. This paper estimates the extent of tariff inversion across sectors in India. The analysis show that tariff inversion reduces export to output ratio and GVC participation in a panel of Indian industries

#### **Impact of industry level exchange rate movements on exports: Firm level evidence from India**

C Veeramani and Rajeswari Sengupta and Purna Banerjee

Using firm level data, this paper analyses the impact of exchange rate movements on exports of Indian firms along the intensive and extensive margins. The paper also examines how participation in global value chains influence the effect of exchange rates on exports.

## **INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

### ***Completed Studies***

#### **Process Innovation in Low-tech industries in India: An Empirical exploration**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Till now, studies have determined the existence of process innovation using survey data; however, in this paper, we use secondary data to empirically establish its presence in low-tech industries. Our empirical approach consists of data envelopment analysis in the first step followed by regression analysis in the second step. We use a cross-sectional dataset, i.e., Annual Survey of Industries, 2017–2018 for our study. Our results suggest that among Indian low-tech firms, investment in computer equipment and software is the most popular strategy to trigger process innovation followed by investment in plant and machinery. We find that these factors have a greater impact on firms that export products and import inputs, than on firms that export products but do not import inputs. In other words, the export-import orientation of firms induces a differential impact of these factors on process innovation. One policy implication from the study is that government should encourage and incentivize low-tech firms to improve the capabilities of its labour force. This is the first paper in the Indian context that uses secondary data to empirically determine the existence of process innovation in low-tech industries.

Publication Status : African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development, 16(1), 2024 DOI: 10.1080/20421338.2023.2274706

#### **Diffusion of Digital payments in India: A tale of two technologies**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Higher productivity resulting from a better technology can be achieved only with widespread diffusion. In a developing country context, the decision to support one or a few among a gamut of technologies is not an easy one for the policy maker. Using the experience of two digital technologies - card payments and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) from India - this paper intends to provide some pointers in this direction. We use the functions of innovation systems approach to argue that if the cost of adoption and cost of use is reduced, then technology diffuses faster. This implies that innovation systems that ensure lower costs tend to be more successful and hence policy should support those functions within innovation systems that lower costs.

Publication Status : Under peer review

#### **Actors, Innovation systems and Institutions in Emerging markets: Observations from two Indian case studies**

**Chidambaran G. Iyer**

Two sectors – petroleum refining and mobile phones services – stand out in terms of competitiveness in India, an emerging market. What is also particularly interesting is the presence of the same actor in both these sectors. Using a simple model and the sectoral systems of

innovation approach this paper presents evidence to highlight the influence of the actor on institutions in both – one sunrise and other mature – technology industries. In both these industries in addition to competitiveness, we find that the actor was able to primarily influence only the diffusion of the generic technology and not the specific technology used by the actor. Given the case studies, we argue that since emerging markets generally have weak institutions, *ceteris paribus*, actors who have capabilities to effect institutional change have higher chances of success in upcoming sectors. In emerging markets if faster diffusion of a technology is the aim, then policy makers should encourage actors with capabilities to effect institutional change.

Publication Status : Under peer review

### **Process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: observations from an empirical study**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

This paper is based on two observations made in literature (a) India's trade surplus in pharmaceuticals is built on exports of low-value added generic products, and (b) A major part of the R&D expenditure in Indian pharmaceutical firms is being spent on development of generics and their formulation, drug delivery mechanisms, and process R&D. Most of the Indian firms work on very thin margins and operate at scale. It is plausible that to face cost competition, process innovation may be a strategy that would be followed by these firms. The aim of this paper is to empirically capture process innovation in the Indian pharmaceutical industry. This is important because being a high technology industry not many papers have focussed on the process innovation aspect of the pharmaceutical industry. Keeping in mind the firm specific nature of process innovation, we build a panel data set for three years through which we control for firm level characteristics. We construct two groups, firms that do not have registered R&D department, and firms that have registered R&D department. Our empirical strategy consists of two steps, data envelopment analysis to compute firm efficiency followed by a second step that empirically verifies the impact of factors that induce process innovation. Our contribution to the literature is two-fold; as far as our knowledge goes, this is the first paper that empirically establishes the presence of process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry. In addition, our results show that firms that do not have registered R&D department have higher dependence on strategies that induce process innovation.

Publication Status : Under peer review

### **Innovation as a Key Propellant of Per Capita Incomes in Two Rapidly Transitioning Asian Economies: A Comparative Analysis of China and India**

Hrushikesh Mallick and Sanjay Kumar Rout (Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Jain (Deemed To Be University), Bengaluru)

Sponsorship, if any: NA

China and India have been experiencing dramatic economic growth and catching up fast with the advanced countries. Technological innovations (domestic & foreign) is one of the critical factors which thought to have played a significant role in their development. Both domestic and foreign innovations have substantial footprints and this footprint is strengthening over time. However, little is known in the literature about their impact on output growth. Thus, we investigate the role of domestic and foreign innovations in explaining per capita output/income growth in two rapidly transitioning Asian economies of China and India during 1990-2021. Decomposing aggregate innovation activities into domestic and foreign and using time series estimation techniques viz. FMOLS, DOLS, and CCR, our study demonstrates that both the domestic and foreign innovations play a crucial role in driving the per capita income of both economies. However, the impact of domestic innovation is observed to be predominant compared to foreign innovation. Similarly,

total investment significantly explains per capita output. The decomposition of total investment shows that it is a private investment which plays a crucial role in increasing the per capita output of China and India. Public investment has a significant adverse impact on China's per capita output, while the same does not significantly impact India's per capita output. Surprisingly, trade openness adversely impacts per capita income of both, which is not to suggest to adopt a reversal in their trade openness (trade protective policy) with the rest of the world but could significantly imply greater caution on their trade policy. Moreover, moderate inflation and financial development positively and significantly impact per capita incomes of both. Finally, our analysis throws some important policy implications.

Keywords: Domestic & Foreign Innovation, Private & Public Sector Investments, Per Capita Income, China & India

JEL Classification: E1, E2, O3

Publication Status : Submitted to a journal for consideration ("Innovation Discovery")

### **Process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: observations from an empirical study**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

This paper is based on two observations made in literature (a) India's trade surplus in pharmaceuticals is built on exports of low-value added generic products, and (b) A major part of the R&D expenditure in Indian pharmaceutical firms is being spent on development of generics and their formulation, drug delivery mechanisms, and process R&D. Most of the Indian firms work on very thin margins and operate at scale. It is plausible that to face cost competition, process innovation may be a strategy that would be followed by these firms. The aim of this paper is to empirically capture process innovation in the Indian pharmaceutical industry. This is important because being a high technology industry not many papers have focussed on the process innovation aspect of the pharmaceutical industry. Keeping in mind the firm specific nature of process innovation, we build a panel data set for three years through which we control for firm level characteristics. We construct two groups, firms that do not have registered R&D department, and firms that have registered R&D department. Our empirical strategy consists of two steps, data envelopment analysis to compute firm efficiency followed by a second step that empirically verifies the impact of factors that induce process innovation. Our contribution to the literature is two-fold; as far as our knowledge goes, this is the first paper that empirically establishes the presence of process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry. In addition, our results show that firms that do not have registered R&D department have higher dependence on strategies that induce process innovation.

Status: Completed in January 2024

### ***Ongoing Studies***

#### **Bivoltine Sericulture in India: An Innovation system perspective**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Compared to Indian silk yarns, Chinese yarns are lighter and smoother with less winding breakage thus lending itself well to power looms. China is also the leading supplier of raw silk in the world, no wonder power looms prefer Chinese silks to the more durable but less dependable Indian silk. Assuming other things are the same, there is a need to make Indian silk more reliable in terms of availability as well as quality. Improvement in productivity and quality of silk largely depends on genetic potential of silkworm genetic resources. The genetic resources in India have already been

fully exploited, as a result there is very little scope for improvement in silk productivity and quality with the locally available genetic resources. Hence, efforts are being made by research institutions to procure better silkworm breeds with desired traits from other sericulture practicing countries like Japan, China, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan and Brazil. This is not an easy task, as such silkworm breeds from other countries are susceptible to infections and high level of heat, both prevalent in the southern silk growing states of the country. The bivoltine sericulture cluster promotion programme is an example of the effort to introduce such better varieties in the country. In this paper, using the innovation systems perspective we understand the bivoltine sericulture cluster promotion programme. Initial findings suggest the importance of capabilities of the downstream users of the innovation in the success of the innovation generated upstream. We are in process of collecting data from various NSSO surveys to support a demand side argument.

Expected date of completion: March 2025

### **Local and global impact of two biomedical products developed in Kerala: Few observations**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

The focus of this paper is to study technology transfer from the Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTI), Trivandrum, using a contingent effectiveness model. SCTI is a publicly funded and pioneering institution that forays into multiple domains. For our study, we pick up two path breaking products – blood bag and heart valve – that were developed and transferred to industry. Primary survey of stakeholders and publicly available secondary data and information are two main pillars on which we present our understanding of technology transfer. Till now, we have interviewed three current employees of SCTI, two of whom were a part of the transfer process. We have also interviewed a current employee (in case of heart valve), one founder-promoter of a (blood bag) recipient firm, and one ex- senior management personnel (blood bag) from another recipient firm. For developing countries, from a public policy perspective the market impact and economic development criterion is vital. Hence, this study will try to apply the out the door, market impact, and economic development criteria.

The case studies highlight the medical device technology transfer challenges faced by poor/developing countries with a non-existent medical device ecosystem. Liberal rules for employees at SCTI immensely benefitted its technology transfer activities and survival of new firms, which echoes the findings of Roger et al (2001). In both the cases, though the transfer agent and recipient benefitted, the transfer process took quite some time, reflecting the nascent stage of the medical device industry. At the product level, the heart valve is an implant and a complex product; the blood bag, relatively is less complex and not an implant; no wonder, SCTI spent a lot of time in developing the heart valve than the blood bag. However, given huge domestic demand, the blood bag transfer created more backward linkages and economic opportunities than the heart valve. Thus, from a developing country perspective if industrialization and creation of economic opportunities is the aim then policy should aim for domestic development of products or technologies that have potential to create a huge demand.

Expected date of completion: December 2024

## **LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

### ***Completed Studies***

**Vocational education, skill training and self-employment: Evidence from India's non-farm sector**

Hrushikesh Mallick, Pradeep Kumar Choudhury (Assistant Professor of Economics Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies School of Social Sciences, JNU), Amit Kumar (Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce Shri Ram College of Commerce University of Delhi)

Does vocational education and skill training induce self-employment remains a significant open policy question in India. A connected question is how workers from different socioeconomic, demographic and educational settings relate their vocational education and skill training with employment type. In this paper, using nationally representative household survey data, we investigate how vocational education and skill training are associated with the uptake of self-employment activities (vis-à-vis wage employment opportunities) in the non-farm sector in India. The analysis finds that individuals with vocational training are more likely to engage in self-employment activities than those with wage employment in the non-farm sector in India, with stark socioeconomic and demographic differences. Our results suggest significant gender and caste inequalities in self-employment based on their vocational education and skill training status. We also find some evidence suggesting that youth with vocational training opt for wage employment vis-à-vis self-employment than their older counterparts. Examining socioeconomic and demographic complexities in providing vocational education and skill training to incentivise workforce towards self-employment opportunities in this study aligns with the recent economic policy of the Indian government.

Keywords: Vocational education; skill training; self-employment; youth; non-farm sector

Publication Status : Submitted to a journal for consideration ("Journal of Vocational Education & Training")

### **Rural Non-farm Sector Employment in India: Shift or Diversification**

Vinoj Abraham

The rather slow transition in the rural employment from farm to non-farm sector in India is well documented. Non-agricultural employment in rural India stood at 39.2 percent against agricultural employment of 60.8 percent in 2020-21. Spanning over the last two decades the share of non-agricultural employment in rural India increased only by 15.5 percent. That the structural transformation in employment had lagged behind output transformation in India is well known. Structural transformation implies that with the growth of the urban industrial/service sector and its interlinkages with the rural economy, employment opportunities in the rural non-farm sector would enhance, and the rural labour market would tighten. This would cause a change in the employment pattern from farm to non-farm sectors.

However, evidences do suggest that economic growth in India has a narrow base, mostly propelled by a few sectors in the urban service sector in India with little interlinkages with the rural economy. The rural economy, even when continues to be the bulwark for food security in the country, its weak or absent markets and their integration imply that the growth impulses in the urban services are only weakly percolating to the rural markets. In this context, the movement in employment from agriculture to non-agriculture sector in the rural economy may occur as a risk reducing response to poor agricultural employment opportunities. Thus, diversification in employment would appeal to risk mitigation, as opposed to shift in employment from farm to non-farm which may be more akin to earnings maximization.

Shift and diversification are rural household employment strategies in response to economic impulses. Analytically, employment shift is a movement from one activity to another, in this case from farm to non-farm activity. Diversification is the spread to more than one activity, here farm and non-farm

during the same period. Both Shift and Diversification could occur at the individual level and at the household level. The decision-making process in the rural context often being a joint decision making for the entire household, the shift and diversification can co-exist within households. Using this analytical frame of shift and diversification among individuals and households we analyse the nature of change in employment from agriculture to non-agriculture in rural India during the last two decades.

Firstly, we focus on the trends and patterns in the employment in the rural economy. Secondly, we dissect the change in non-farm employment into various categories of shifts and diversification in employment. Thirdly, drawing from structural transformation literature and livelihood literature we try to understand what are the impulses to which such change in rural employment is taking place. Given the vast and diverse rural economy of India we analyze these changes from a regional perspective as well.

Publication Status : The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, vol. 66(3), pages 661-685d.

### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **Labour Market Relations across Technology and Size classes In India's Organized Manufacturing Sector**

Beena P L, Abhinav Surya L T (PhD scholar)

Sponsorship, if any: Nil

The problem of stagnant employment in the organized manufacturing sector and declining share of wages of workers for a significantly long period of time has continued to be a topic of serious debate in India. But, since the beginning of the twenty-first century, the employment scenario has turned around, with a significant rise in factory sector workers. But the scenario only worsened on the front of wage share, with the share of wages in total output continuing to plummet at a hastened phase. Such a trend has sparked serious debates on its effect on sustaining demand in the economy and ultimately hindering economic growth. Another significant development in the organized manufacturing sector in India is the prevalence of contractual employment. A significant share of workers in Indian factories are now being employed on contractual basis, bypassing several provisions of the social security and job protection guaranteed to directly hired labourers. As a result, this development has cast a doubt on the quality of formal sector employment in India. Contractualisation as the driver of factory sector growth in India has almost become a stylised fact now.

While such developments have characterised the manufacturing sector until the Global Financial Crisis in 2008-09, the recent trends in the employment and wages, and their relation to the emerging dynamics of capital-labour relations are yet to be fully understood. Such a development gains particular prominence in the background of a severe crisis which the manufacturing sector in India had witnessed in the second decade of the twenty first century. The overall growth rate in India's manufacturing sector declined from 8.53% in the 2000s to 6.23% in the 2010s. More importantly, the decadal growth rate in Gross Capital Formation (a measure of investment) declined to its lowest level since independence, to a mere 4% annual growth rate. The crisis in manufacturing sector, its continued fall in share of national output, and a relative stagnation in employment share has led to scholars postulating the possibility of on-set of "premature de-industrialisation". From neoclassical to heterodox approaches, every school of thought theorises the relationship between labour productivity and wage rate. Several cross-country analyses show the close movement between labour productivity and wage rates, and therefore a constant wage

share, as a stylised fact. Theories on directed technical change combine theories on technical change and capital-labour conflict, arguing that wage pressures force capitalists to introduce labour-saving technology. Further, associated theories also argue that in the presence of strong institutions of collective bargaining, workers' representatives will strive hard to keep the growth of real wages at par with that of labour productivity.

Given this context, an attempt has been made in this paper to analyse labour market relations across technology and size groups of Indian manufacturing sector. The paper has divided into five sections including introduction and conclusion. The trends and patterns of wages and employment in India's organized manufacturing sector, particularly focusing on the second decade of the twenty first century is discussed in the second section. The third section tries to analyse the quality of employment and the wage pattern across technology and size class of the factory sector. The fourth section devote to analyse the dynamic relationship between labour productivity and wage rate over time. Since wage rate and labour productivity is informed to possibly influence one another, it is not possible to use traditional regression methods to estimate the inter-dependence. After testing for stationarity and identifying the order of stationarity, we use the stationary variables to estimate the vector autoregression (VAR) model for a panel data setting, following Holtz-Eakin, Newey, and Rosen (1988). Since ASI data provides information on labour productivity and wage rates for each industry and state over time, we employ panel time series analysis. We use the aggregated data on real Labour Productivity and real Wage Rate for each industry and state, across 21 years, from 1999-2000 to 2019-20, across 33 states and union territories of India. The last section would sum up the major findings and discuss some policy issues.

From the analysis of growth pattern of the nature of employment and wages in the organized manufacturing sector, we see that employment continued to grow even during the crisis period which set in after the global recession. This growth was primarily led by the large scale hiring of contractual workers in the first decade of this century. The growth in the number of contract workers continued to lead the growth in employment even in the second decade though there was a slowdown. The study observed a rapid fall in wage share from the beginning of the century until 2008-09. Since then, while nominal wage share bounced back and increased, most of the gains were eroded by inflation. The paper further argues that the contractualisation drive has weakened the bargaining power of the "skill-based" direct workers as witnessed by the steady rise in ratio of median-to-mean wage rates.

Based on the analysis of the intensity of contractualization in terms of the size of the factory sector and technological content, the study noticed that the Large size class of factories followed contractualisation drive more significantly in the second decade of this century. While the share of contractual workers in other size classes stagnated, this share has accelerated in the Large size class. Further, the analysis reveals that this continuing contractualisation was led by the large size High-tech industries and Medium-High tech industries. Thus, it could be argued that the large size class of factories used the strategy of contractualisation in order to suppress the wages of direct workers. Infact, the gap between the growth rate of average wage of contractual and male direct workers continued to remain high even after 2008-09.

Based on VAR model and Granger Causality test, in the case of large size class, the real Labour Productivity Granger Causes real Wage Rate, real Wage Rate does not Granger Cause real Labour Productivity. In the Medium size class, there exists a two-way Granger Causality between real Labour Productivity and real Wage Rate. In the case of Small size class, while real Wage Rate Granger Causes real Labour Productivity, real Labour Productivity does not Granger Cause real Wage Rate.

Thus in the case of Large size class, wage pressure does not induce technological upgradation. Due to wage suppression through contractualisation, and high dependence on global market demands, which shrunk in the last decade, the labour productivity growth in this size class significantly slowed down in the last decade. In the Small size class, unidirectional Granger Causality from real wage rate to real labour productivity shows that increasing labour productivity has been the weapon of capitalists to defend against drop in rate of profit due to pressure from rising wages. As the wage rate growth was suppressed, without any complimenting stimulant, the real labour productivity growth in Large size class significantly slowed down after 2008-09. Among Small size class, we show that growth was sustained through steady rise in labour productivity. We show that this was enabled by capital deepening, on the one hand, and intensification of labour, on the other hand. The intensification of labour was particularly sharp among female (direct) workers in “Low Tech” industries.

Expected date of completion: December 2024.

Publication Status : Paper presented in the Labour conference at CUH and Plan to publish in a Scopus journal

## **MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**

### ***Completed Studies***

#### **Short-run Impacts of Floods: A Case Study from India**

Gogol Mitra Thakur , Robert CM Beyer and Abhinav Narayanan

This paper assesses the short-run economic impacts of the 2018 Kerala flood, the third-most severe flood in India since 1900. Both household income and expenditure declined substantially during the disaster, while credit increased. Households borrowed more for housing and medical expenses but less for consumption. Post-disaster, wages rebounded swiftly. ATM transactions and nighttime light intensity indicate reduced economic activity during the three-month disaster period, followed by a subsequent recovery. A surge in reconstruction efforts tightened the labor market, disproportionately benefiting low-income earners, and led to heightened wages and economic activity, particularly in areas with strong government relief support. These short-run dynamics, which remain in the shadow when analyzed with annual data, shed light on the complex economic impact of natural disasters.

Publication Status: Revise and resubmit

### ***Ongoing Studies***

#### **Informal Sector, Innovation and Growth**

Chandril Bhattacharyya Dibyendu Maiti

Sponsorship, if any: No

This paper applies the endogenous growth model with R&D that establishes the existence of formal and informal sectors at a steady state. If the formal sector firms invest in R&D and buy patents of intermediate varieties alone, this generates growth limited by the patent length. It further shows that the steady-state growth rate depends on the share of formal employment and vice versa. However, the extent to which the economy would grow depends on various country-specific factors, production-related characteristics and the cost of accessing informal activities affecting investment in the formal sector. As a country develops, if the substitutability between formal and

informal goods declines and formal wage rent rises, they depress the formal employment and resultant growth rate. In contrast, the productivity rise improves formal employment. These two opposite forces together may produce a non-monotonic type (inverted U-shaped precisely) growth and formal employment against the level of development.

### **Demand-led growth, education and wage inequality**

Gogol Mitra Thakur and Pintu Parui

We propose a simple three-class model of growth and distribution in the post Keynesian/neo-Kaleckian tradition consisting of capitalists, educated workers and uneducated workers. Capital stock is owned by capitalists, educated workers supply skilled labor and uneducated workers supply unskilled labor. Output is demand constrained but requires capital, skilled and unskilled labor as complementary inputs. Supply of unskilled labor is perfectly elastic but skilled labor is scarce. Supply of skilled labor increases overtime as uneducated workers acquire education and transform into educated workers. Education is provided by the government, which employs a fraction of educated workers by taxing profits for the purpose. Long-run dynamics involves evolution of skilled-wage premium and the ratio of skilled labor to capital overtime. This paper is intended to fulfil a gap in the heterodox theoretical literature on growth as connections between demand-led growth, education and inequality remain unexplored. In particular, we are interested in highlighting the role of public education system as a source of autonomous demand and examine the effects of expansion of public education on growth and distribution.

### **Policy Response of Monetary and Fiscal Authorities in Response to High Unemployment Rates in India: An Empirical Investigation**

Hrushikesh Mallick

The study estimates bank credit reaction function and fiscal policy reaction function with an aim to address a crucial question: how does the bank credit respond to high unemployment rate given the predominant concern of Reserve Bank of India to ensure price stability and high economic growth while controlling for the external sector conditions such as current account balance and capital account balance of the BOP. It considers the data from 1991-2022. Incorporating the structural breaks in the time series model, it finds that Reserve Bank of India expands bank credit in response to high unemployment rate scenario, suggesting an expansionary monetary policy stance of the RBI. While contrasting with the fiscal policy response of the combined government in India, the study observes a very conservative fiscal policy response irrespective of the prevalence of unemployment rate except high abnormal situation like Covid-19 where general government of India adopted a stimulatory fiscal policy approach. Since India is continuously facing high unemployment problem, the present study suggests for a very proactive coordinated monetary and fiscal policy response to combat the prevailing high unemployment situation in India for deriving greater demographic dividend from its growing high population while aiming for a high per capita income economy.

Expected date of completion: December 2024

### **Economic growth in India: A long run view**

M. Parameswaran and Pulapre Balakrishnan (Former Director, CDS)

This paper examines the trends and pattern of economic growth in India during the period 1950-51 to 2022-23. The study identifies the various growth phases of aggregate GDP and its 11 sectors. The

study explains changing growth rates of aggregate GDP in terms of shifts in sectoral growth rates. The paper also devises alternative methods to assess the extent of recovery in GDP growth rates during the post-covid years.

Publication Status: Forthcoming in an edited volume.

### ***Research Plan***

#### **Aggregate demand, product quality and capital goods imports in a developing country**

**Gogol Mitra Thakur and Rajiv Jha**

Sponsorship, if any: No

#### **Human capital accumulation, economic development and Lewisian turning points**

**Gogol Mitra Thakur and Debarshi Das**

Sponsorship, if any: No

#### **Does international trade act as a panacea to high unemployment Problem at home? An Empirical Evidence from India**

Hrushikesh Mallick

We assess whether international trade along with other macro policies (monetary and fiscal) impact unemployment in the economy over a period of 1991-2022 during which a series of reform have been undertaken in the Indian economy. Employing time series econometrics tools, we find that over the long run, monetary policy, fiscal policy and capital inflows have aggravated unemployment situation in the economy. While exports of goods and services have helped to eliminate unemployment, imports of goods and services are resulting in greater unemployment woes. The study suggests that government of India should undertake more export oriented policies to effectively utilise the surplus labours in the economy along with designing other pro-employment oriented macroeconomic policies. Otherwise, taking advantage of demographic situation would be quite impossible and a docile proposition for India. Export oriented policies can be combined with policies which can enhance the quality of labour force who can produce more innovative and competitive products in the export or international markets. Greater competitive labour force would not only support to produce innovative products but also invent innovative methods of production to produce the products under most competitive conditions with attractive features in those not only to serve international market alone but also can serve large domestic consumer base of the economy leading to self-reliance. This means investment on industrial and professional (vocational) training along with quality education can take forward the nation to greater heights contributing to growth and per capita income of people.

#### **Validating the Flypaper Effect: Urban Local Bodies in Kerala, India**

Hrushikesh Mallick and Ashraful Khalq (PhD Scholar, CDS)

This paper revisits the flypaper effect hypothesis for the municipalities in the southern state of Kerala, India. The state is a unique context in the southern region in its socio-economic and political landscape. It considers 87 municipalities of Kerala and examines the impact of intergovernmental transfers and local revenue sources on municipal spending during 2013-19. The panel regression estimation provides the existence of a significant flypaper effect. It demonstrates that intergovernmental grants significantly induce a higher spending response of local governments than equivalent increases in local tax revenues. The additional analysis reveals that the effect varies in terms of the type of the grant. Even more, earmarked grants seem to be weaker in terms of its magnitude and statistical significance than general-purpose grants. Moreover, it puts emphasis on the local

revenue generation capacity and the necessity of fostering fiscal sustainability and resource allocation efficiency at the local level. It suggests to design the intergovernmental transfer programs in a way so as to improve the local governments' financial flexibility, support local revenue sources for local governmental needs, and improve transparency and accountability in the fiscal management.

Keywords: Flypaper effect, intergovernmental transfers, local government finance, municipal spending, fiscal decentralization, Kerala, India

## **MIGRATION**

### ***Completed Research Projects***

#### **Left out of Pre-school? Systemic Exclusion and Discrimination against Children of Migrant Labour in Kerala**

Praveena Kodoth

Children of migrant labour, especially those whose families move in conditions of employment precarity, are frequently excluded from preschools despite public schemes like the Integrated Child Development Services, which is universal and has no domicile restrictions. This paper examines the reasons for their exclusion with material from Perambavoor, a region that has been witnessing large scale labour migration from the northern and eastern states. An important factor was a trade-off between migrant children's schooling and their mother's employment which is produced within the system as children need to be accompanied to pre-schools but migrant work timings clash with the timings of pre-schools. As child care is considered the mother's responsibility, migrant children's exclusion from pre-schools also exposes the gendered underpinning of access to public welfare in Kerala. In addition, the class character of migrant labour and their human development deficits are viewed by Malayali parents through a lens of ethno-linguistic identities and framed in cultural terms as lacking in hygiene, violent and not amenable to reform. Migrant children are thus perceived as a threat to the social fabric and Anganwadi workers come under pressure from Malayali parents to avoid enrolling them.

Publication Status : submitted for review in an edited volume - Devika J and V J Varghese eds. 'Keep calm and carry on: The 'post Kerala model' and challenges of the twenty first century', Orient Blackswan

#### **Internal differentiation in overseas migration from Kerala: Probing the effects of Caste, Social and Human Capital**

Praveena Kodoth

Funded by the RPIMK programme

#### **Return Migration and Economic Reintegration in Kerala**

Vinoj Abraham and Dona M.

Sponsored by Kerala in the World Economy unit at CDS, instituted by Govt of Kerala

While international migration provides myriad opportunities for the emigrant and their place of origin, their return to their origin throws up multiple challenges. Kerala, till recently the hub of international migration to the gulf region is now having an increasing flow of return migration even as emigration is slowing down. For a developing region highly dependent on remittances even as high unemployment persists return migration poses an economic challenge. In this context

re-integration of these return migrants within the local economy is of importance. Thus, this paper examines the trends, patterns and nature of return migrants to Kerala. It further looks into the factors that determine the participation in the local labour market after they return. In the end a review of return migrant policies is attempted to open policy choices for the local economy.

Publication Status : In consideration for publication in an edited volume

### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala: Patterns, Determinants and Implications**

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Vinoj Abraham, Praveena Kodoth, V. Shanthakumar, Ritika Jain, Srikanta Kundu

Sponsorship, if any: Centre for Development Studies

Widespread international migration for higher education can have significant consequences both at the aggregate level for the state as well as at the household level. Household finances may be affected if foreign education requires loans or selling of assets. Impact on households, however, is likely to depend on household characteristics. At the aggregate level, a rising share of migrants for education out of total international migration from the state may affect the flow of remittances at least in the short run. In the long run, this could lead to brain drain if the motivation is primarily to settle abroad. On the other hand, the state could benefit in terms of human capital if students decide to return after acquiring foreign education. Though a survey of college students of Kerala, this project aims to study the key reasons for which students are migrating and the social and demographic characteristics of migrating students.

#### **Policy, Gender Politics and Women's Migration for Work**

Praveena Kodoth

Over the past half a century, women from low-income countries have been moving on an unprecedented scale to work in the more affluent regions of the world. Multiple forces operating at multiple levels have fostered their mobility. Overseas demand has found resonance in diversified strategies of source governments, embodied in their policies and interventions. Non-state actors, who have built connections and networks between source regions and destinations, tapped pre-existing ones and invested in a range of migration infrastructure have also fostered women's mobility as has the motivation of individual women to live and work overseas. Among the few occupations with a predominance of migrant women, domestic workers stand out. The ILO (2015) has estimated that three quarters of migrant domestic workers are women and that women migrants are more often engaged in services than men markedly on account their engagement as domestic workers. To varying extents, demand for migrant domestic workers has corresponded to high or rising levels of women's work participation, progress in ageing and the quest for social status. Response to demand has been shaped at the intersection of emigration policies, non state interventions, the social context and a history of migration from specific source regions. In this context, my paper will examine the dynamics of women's migration as domestic workers to the Middle East focusing especially (but not exclusively) on the experience of migrant women from two source countries, the Philippines and India, which have adopted contrasting strategies towards women's migration and have achieved very different outcomes. The paper will draw upon a sizeable scholarship that has generated a critical visibility for migrant domestic workers and brought into view the vulnerabilities associated with their migration and employment especially in the Middle East. Scholarship has focused on emigration policies and infrastructures, precarious mobility practices, immigration rules and employment conditions, challenges of social

reproduction and social dynamics in the source regions.

As a low wage occupation that entails largely single migration of women over long distances and for relatively long durations, migrant domestic workers must navigate unfamiliar socio-cultural contexts at the destination. This is made worse by policy regimes across the Middle East that invest sponsor-employers with heightened powers. The *kafala* system of recruitment and migration requires sponsor-employers to bear full legal and economic responsibility for workers, which effectively structures a relationship of overwhelming dependence of the worker on the sponsor. Domestic workers are rendered more vulnerable by the particularities of the occupation, i.e., the employer's ability to (more easily than in other occupations) confine the worker against her will and the lack of protection under labour laws. Despite limits on source countries to intervene at the destination, emigration policies along with source country perspectives on outreach to workers at the destination have shaped key differences in the experiences of women migrant workers. Besides the Philippines and India, insights will be drawn from the experiences of women from other important source countries, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Ethiopia with large scale migration or temporal depth in the migration stretching over more than half a century.

Notably, the experiences of Filipina workers illustrates the strengths and limits of a model of state-supported migration. Beginning in the 1970s, the Philippines invested in skills and training programmes for migrant domestic workers as well as infrastructure at the destination to support workers. While the strategy paid off in achieving a high rating for Filipina workers on the labour markets in the Middle East, workers struggle to deal with abusive employers. They are constrained by the lack of employment opportunities at home and must deal the challenges of social reproduction especially as mothers.

Migration from India, by contrast, is network driven and animated largely by informal recruitment and mobility practices. India's emigration policy has been protectionist and undergirded by state paternalism. Connections and networks going back to the British colonial era and a disproportionately large Indian diaspora in the Middle East fostered demand for Indian domestic workers. While a section of workers has benefited from these informal ties, the imposition of increased bureaucratic control has fostered information asymmetry, irregular mobility practices and risks of abuse by both recruiters and employers.

Emigration policies will be assessed also in terms of how they may nudge changes in gender norms. Have they contributed to bolstering the voice of migrant women? Or on the other hand, have they served to reinforce gender norms that constrain women's mobility? The focus here will be on the gender politics underlying the response of the state and society to women's migration, which assumes greater clarity at critical times such as when narratives of abuse gain currency and circulate widely at the source. Emigration policies and the Kafala system pose limits for workers' agency. In this context, the paper will delve into the deployment of individual and / or collective resources by women migrants to navigate employment relations and to resist harassment and abuse.

Expected date of completion: July 31, 2024

### ***Research Plan***

#### **Evaluation of NORKA Department Project for Returned Migration (NDPREM)**

Beena P L, Gogol Motra and Vinoj Abraham

Sponsorship, if any: NORKA (proposal submitted)

Given the potential for entrepreneurship among return migrants, NORKA had been proactive in encouraging entrepreneurship among return migrants. It launched the NORKA Department

Project for Returned Emigrants (NDPREM) in 2013 through its field agency NORKA ROOTS. Under this scheme, financial assistance can be availed by return emigrants who are interested in setting up their own modest enterprises in sectors such as agribusiness (poultry, pisciculture, horticulture, dairy farming, integrated farming, food processing, farm tourism, etc.), manufacturing-MSMEs (rice/flourmills, bakery products, furniture and wood industries, paper cup, recycled paper, agarbathi, IT hardware etc), trading enterprises (general merchandise, buying and selling, etc.) and services (repair shops, restaurants, shops, taxi services, homestay etc.).

Applicants should have at least two years of experience of working abroad. Societies, trusts or companies formed by groups of returnees can also avail this scheme. Seed capital up to Rs 30 lakhs is available under NDPREM. NORKA ROOTS has tied up with the State Bank of India, South Indian Bank, Union Bank, Syndicate Bank, Bank of Baroda, Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation, Kerala State Cooperative Agricultural & Rural Development Bank and Kerala State Pravasi Welfare Development Co-operative Society Limited (Pravasis Ltd.). Loans are sanctioned by these banks as per their business interests and terms and conditions for modest enterprises under the NDPREM scheme. A further 15% capital subsidy and 3% rebate on interest rate is offered for the first four years for prompt repayments. Even in cases of default, these subsidies could still be availed after clearing up the pendency. NORKA ROOTS also conducts orientation and training camps prior to screening and selection to boost managerial capabilities of the aspiring entrepreneurs amongst the return emigrants.

Another important initiative of NORKA is the Norka Business Facilitation Centre (NBFC). It seeks to facilitate investments returned emigrants (and also NRKs) for starting business ventures in the state by providing expert knowledge about investment opportunities in Kerala, specialist consultations and advisories to investors. In the context of evaluations of the NDPREM scheme, it seems appropriate to analyse the synergies between NBFC and NDPREM facilities.

The NDPREM scheme has been in existence for more than ten years now. However, very little is known about its impact. This project proposes to evaluate the performance of the scheme along following themes.

### **Paternalist Governance, Tacit Accommodations: The Dynamics of Informality in Women's Labour Mobility to the Middle East**

Praveena Kodoth

Women's labour mobility to the Middle East is governed by repressive rules unknown to professionals, male workers or workers going to most other parts of the world. Women workers are subject to a minimum age of 30 years and recruitment exclusively by specified state agencies. Private recruitment even through close relatives is prohibited. Control over women's mobility (effectively from resource-scarce and oppressed caste households) underscores a paternalist approach to governance that pitches, putatively, the bodily protection of women against protection of their rights as workers. Migrant women elude border controls, systematically, with help from informal intermediaries but informality in the present must be analysed in the light of the Emigration Act, 1983, which prohibited sub agents and commission agents from recruitment and introduced licensing. While hitherto bona fide intermediaries were relegated to an ambiguous informal space, licenses were expensive to obtain for small recruiters. Subsequent restrictions targeted women and widened the space for informal services while attracting highly dubious players. The paper will probe the vexed relationship between paternalist (gendered) governance and informality in women's mobility to the Middle East mostly for employment as domestic workers with material from field work in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. It will substantiate the

argument that paternalist governance and informality interact to generate tacit spaces for border crossing, which embed distinct risks and uncertainties for women workers. Feminist scholars have long underscored the connection between informality and invisibility of women's work. Tacit accommodation is conducive to masking women's mobility. Scholars explain the resilience of informality in terms of its social embeddedness and the economic and political benefits it generates. Paternalist governance, defined by intersecting norms of gender, caste, class and nation, alters the extent and nature of informality.

## **AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION CROPS**

### ***Completed Research Projects***

#### **Performance of Rubber Producer Societies in Rubber**

Vinoj Abraham

Sponsorship: NRPPD

Rubber producer societies, the grass roots level producer organisation that is focussed on collective production and marketing of rubber had been a key player in the growth and spread of rubber production in Kerala. However, the RPSs numbers are dwindling and there are hardly any new RPSs being developed. In the light of this declining level of activity of the RPS, rubber as a commodity has implications as a large share of the rubber is produced and marketed through the RPSs. Moreover, RPS is the first line of contact of the small rubber cultivator for inputs, marketing and information. The disappearance of RPS would have severe implications on the small grower who would be left to the mercies of the monopsonistic market conditions. Given this context this project analyses the performance of the RPSs in Kerala. The study is being conducted through a primary survey across Kerala. The survey covers two primary stakeholders, the growers and the RPS functionaries. The focus of the study would be identify what are the factors that has led to the slowdown of the RPS activities. Further, it would also suggest possibility of revival of the RPSs

Publication Status : Report being prepared to be published as CDS working paper

#### **Risk and Vulnerability in Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra, India**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. Sarthak Gaurav

Sponsorship: ICSSR

Vidarbha – a major cotton growing region in central India has been the epicentre of a protracted agrarian crisis. Chronic indebtedness and farmers' suicides continue unabated despite decades of state intervention. Going beyond the contemporary discourse that finds fault in neoliberal policies and integration with global markets, this fascinating book tells the story of how nineteenth century 'accidents' particularly in the form of colonial policies and the American Civil War ushered in institutional transformations that shaped the region's cotton economy. By drawing insights from their longitudinal study in villages of the region spanning 12 years, Gaurav and Ranganathan present the 'gamblers' that farmers are part of. The novelty of combining a long view of history and evidence based on primary field research results in a book that underscores the importance of investigating roots of agrarian crisis and paying attention to adjustments of farm households, at a crucial juncture in India's economic transformation.

Publication Status : Published a book : Gaurav, S. and Ranganathan, T. (2023). *Accidental Gamblers*. Cambridge University Press.

## **Higher Order Risk Preferences and Livelihood Choices among Rural Households in West Bengal**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. Kanchan Joshi

Sponsorship: ACIAR

This paper investigates the relationship between livelihood diversification strategies and risk preferences, including risk aversion, loss aversion, and higher-order risk preferences of farmers from West Bengal, India, using multivariate regression (mvreg) and multivariate probit (mvp) models. We use data from lottery choice experiments and household surveys to estimate higher-order risk preferences and analyse the relationship between risk preferences and livelihood diversification (N = 191). We found that many sampled households take up other supplementary income-generating activities besides agriculture and allied activities to spread their risk. Farmers who are risk averse are more likely to receive income from remittances and entrepreneurial activities. Higher prudence is linked with higher income contribution from agricultural activities, but a lower income contribution from migration-related activities and non-migratory casual labour. Temperate individuals are more likely to generate a higher share of income from agriculture-related activities and non-migratory casual labour, but a lower share from remittances. Higher-order risk preferences—prudence and temperance—affect livelihood diversification significantly.

Publication Status : Joshi, K. and Ranganathan, T. (2023). Higher-order risk preferences and livelihood choices of farmers from West Bengal, India. *Journal of Social and Economic Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40847-023-00292-7>

### ***Ongoing Studies***

#### **Cooperation and Endowments in Maharashtra, India**

Prof Thiagu Ranganathan, Dr. Kanchan Joshi and Dr. Ram Ranjan

Sponsorship: ACIAR

The paper uses field experiments to investigate the effects of heterogeneity in endowments and returns on cooperation. Participants were placed in decision-making situations. The scenarios included are equal endowments and returns, heterogeneous endowments and/or heterogeneous returns, and a borrowing provision for individuals with lower endowments. Experiments helped derive insights about the influence of these scenarios on the participants' decisions to contribute to the collective. We found that the mean contribution in the collective was lower when returns were heterogeneous than in uniform returns. Credit availability significantly enhanced mean group contributions. Despite the tangible benefits of collective action in rural settings, results indicated that the cooperation level varied under different experimental scenarios and that individuals were significantly concerned about heterogeneous returns. Variations in initial endowments of farmers affected cooperation considerably. Meanwhile, individuals with greater dependency on agriculture contributed to a higher proportion of tokens in a collective. From a policy perspective, we conclude that the collective decision-making aimed at mitigating farming costs or risks is more likely to be successful when group heterogeneity is simultaneously addressed.

Status: Expected date of completion is November, 2024.

#### **Forest Restoration in Uttara Kannada**

Prof Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. S Krithi

Sponsorship: ICIMOD

Afforestation and forest restoration are central to emerging global strategies for climate change mitigation. This study investigates whether monetary incentives could effectively promote afforestation and what are the likely distributional consequences of these incentives. In order to address this research question, we conducted a framed field experiment (FFE) in the Uttara Kannada region in Karnataka, India. In the FFE setup, respondents were given choices on planting native or commercial trees in their village common forest. The native trees were associated with higher risk but provided a mix of monetary and non-monetary benefits which varied across three experimental designs. We find that monetary payments for planting native species did not necessarily promote afforestation. Private tenurial rights mediated the differential response to monetary incentives. The results highlight the heterogeneous interests within the community and how these differences could play an important role in determining effectiveness and distributional outcomes of afforestation policy.

Status: Expected date of completion is October 2024.

### **Mechanisation, Gender, and Collectivization: A Study of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Tamil Nadu**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan, Dr. Tirtha Chatterjee and Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Sponsorship: NRPPD, CDS

The study explores the role of mechanisation among small tea growers in the Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu, India. By a survey of small tea growers (STGs) across 3 talukas in the district, the study will analyse the dynamics related to collectivization, mechanisation, and profitability of growing tea in the district. The paper will also explore if mechanisation is likely to have any gendered implications for the labour in tea gardens.

Status: Expected date of completion: October, 2024.

### ***New Research Initiatives***

#### **Mechanisation and Gendered Labour Market Impacts**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Mr. Himansu Kumar Thapa

This chapter explores the impact of mechanisation on labour use in a gendered labour market in Maharashtra, India. The study uses the Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA) data collected by International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) over the years 2009 to 2014 in four villages of Maharashtra for the analysis. In the context of changing rural wages and increasing mechanisation, the paper explores if mechanisation in agriculture leads to labour augmentation or labour substitution. It uses instrumental variable household fixed effects panel data regressions to explore the impacts of mechanisation in agriculture and mechanisation in specific farm operations for family male, family female, hired male, and hired female labour. The paper finds the following. Mechanisation as a whole augments labour use in agriculture and family labour use increases with mechanisation. With regard to specific machine use across farm operations, we find that tractor use reduces the use of both hired and family female labour in land preparation. Electric motor usage increases family male labour use and decreases the use of family female labour in irrigation. Use of sprayers increases both hired and family male labour in weeding and plant protection operations. Use of threshers is labour neutral with no change to labour use in threshing. However, the use of combined harvester is labour displacing with lesser use of hired male labour in harvesting. The findings incorporating the gender-based segmentation of farm

markets has important policy implications, particularly given the declining female labour force participation among rural women during the study period.

## **POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT**

### *Completed Studies*

#### **Political Nepotism in Frictional Labour Market**

Rajit Biswas and Dr Debojyoti Mazumder

Sponsorship, if any: NA

We build a model where labour market friction incentivizes political leaders to promote nepotism in the job market under the threat of political regime change. In the equilibrium, at least one of the leaders would choose nepotism, while both the leaders choose nepotism in an economy where labour market friction is high and/or productivity is low. Social surplus generated from nepotism can be higher compared to a no-nepotism situation. If workers are heterogeneous, then the low ability workers face higher probability of getting a job and a higher wage in nepotism situation, if they are ideologically closer to the incumbent

Publication Status : submitted to journal

### *Ongoing Research Project*

#### **Intergenerational Mobility of Scheduled Tribe: A case study of Mala Araya Community**

Abhilash T

Sponsorship, if any: ICSSR

Birsa Munda's life, agitation and ideals influenced many tribal communities in the country. Few of them have achieved a certain amount of socio-economic mobility as well. The Mala Araya community in Kerala is one among them. It is essential to study the mobility of such communities when remembering Birsa Munda. Tribal communities in the country are highly heterogeneous in their cultural, social and economic outlook. This divergence will have a major bearing in their development and inclusion. Many studies consider tribals as a homogenous category that obscure the nuances of their socio-economic milieu. Studies on tribal groups often neglect the occupational categories of these communities. It can be broadly classified into three; settled-agriculturists, hunter-gatherers and wage labourers. In Kerala's tribal landscape, the settled-agriculturists groups have somehow been able to garner the benefit of affirmative action, state-sponsored developmental initiatives and the benefits of the market economy. There are many reasons behind their mobility. Firstly, unlike others they were less subjected to land dispossession and alienation. They somehow benefitted first wave educational development in the state. However, the other two groups have been still at the receiving end of the state-sponsored developmental initiatives. Therefore, this study will explore the intergenerational mobility of settled-agriculturist tribal groups Mala Araya. This study will explore the factors that led Mala Araya's intergenerational upward mobility, if any, and how far the community is able to sustain the mobility at present. It will also explore the struggles of individuals like Birsa Munda from the community in their mobilization during the post-independence period. By analyzing their developmental experiences this study aims to gather inferences, if any, for the policy formulations for the other socially-backward groups in the state. Mobility questions of tribal communities are addressed in various social science disciplines, however, focussing on a particular community and

its integrational mobility is yet to be materialised. But the following historical and anthropological studies will shed light into this endeavour. It seems Reverend Samuel Mateer, who visited south India in the middle of the 18th century, was the first one who documented the livelihood of Mala Arayans. Moving beyond the socio-economic livelihood he elaborates on the bond between the Mala Araya community and Sabarimala in his work *Native Life in Travancore* published in 1883. During his field survey, Mateer came across the Mala Araya community in the forested hills of the southern Western Ghats. He documented the story of a Mala Araya man named Talanani, who was the priest in Sabarimala four generations ago. Pre- and post-colonial Adivasi situation is not uniformly dismal in the eastern mountainous belt where Adivasis mostly live. Thurston says, “There are evidently certain spatial variations in the levels of socio-economic development of the different tribal groups. The tribal economy of Kerala has not been subjected to a systematic investigation and analysis, though several scholars have studied the tribal economy within the state” (Thurston 1909). Thurston largely focuses on the ethnographic roots of the southern Indian tribes. L.A. Krishna Iyer’s study is a general description of the castes and tribes of Travancore-Cochin with emphasis on their socio-cultural milieu. However, it concentrates on the economic aspects of the hill-tribes. Iyer argues, “apart from other hill-tribes, there is a small-scale economy which existed among the Mala Arayans. They practiced shifting cultivation in which clearing jungles, cultivation of food crops and selection of fresh sites for cultivation when the soil became toxic. If a man is unable to do any work in the field, the headman and others help him in clearing jungle and in other works. In some hamlets, people meet once in a month, discuss village affairs, and depart after a feast. A fund is raised and which is in possession of the Kanikaran—the headman. Loans are given to the needy and the amount recovered in installments. The influence of the village government is weakening under the control of the forest department. After the establishment of a state monopoly over forests towards the end of 18th century, the hill-tribes came under the control of the government” (Iyer, 1937). When it comes to literary works, in 1998, Kerala’s first tribal novelist Narayan published his first novel *Kocharethi*. Based on the oral history of Mala Araya tribe in central Kerala this novel elucidates how poverty of the Mala Araya community is ruthlessly exploited by moneylenders, landlords, the businessmen and the police and gradually this unholy nexus of the upper classes and upper castes results in the alienation of the their land and those resisting are beaten into submission. This novel won Kerala Sahitya Academy award in 1999. Apart from this there are no serious studies conducted on Mala Arayas. There is no literature on the mobility of any tribal communities in the state. Most of the studies are focused upon the poverty, destitution and backwardness of the tribal communities in northern regions like Wayanad and Palakkad. It has been more than three decades since the beginning of the Tribal-sub plan implementation. Therefore, it is essential to understand the impact it has created on the community. The trajectory of mobility achieved, if any, by this settled-agriculturists group is worth to be studied for the future policy formulations for adivasi welfare and inclusion. This study will specifically look into the following objectives To understand the intergenerational socio-economic mobility, if any, of Mala Araya community.

Expected date of completion: 2025 October

### ***Research Plan***

## **Taming the Tusker: Class, Caste and Politics of Human-Animal Conflict in Southern India**

Abhilash T

Human-wildlife conflict poses a significant challenge to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in South Asia in India. This conflict occurs when interactions between humans and wildlife result in adverse outcomes, such as wildlife damaging crops, attacking livestock, injuring people, or destroying property. These encounters often lead to the loss of livelihoods and the

worsening of poverty (World Bank,2023). Increasing human-animal conflict across the southern-western ghat region in India is a matter of serious concern, especially in the habitats where indigenous communities co-exist with non-indigenous populations. As expected, the role of welfare state is pertinent in dealing with such an issue which has the potential to unsettle the livelihood of the indigenous communities who live in and around the forest-clad hills and valleys of western ghat region of Kerala and Tamilnadu states. It is said that the key reasons for human-animal conflict are encroachment of human being in wildlife habitat for development purpose & survival purpose as well as allowing livestock for grazing purpose in the forest area, forest fire. However, here, it seems that the habitat loss of the wildlife by the ineffective management practices rather than the human-induced deforestation is exacerbating the human animal conflict in the region. The initial ethnographic field survey reveals the dynamics of class, cast and political nature of the issue. The adverse effect of animal incursions to the indigenous habitats not only destroy their livelihood but also destabilize cohabitation the communities have been pursuing with the wild animal for centuries. Meanwhile, the agencies , especially the decentralized governance system, seems to become dysfunctional due to the overarching centralized wildlife legislations that asymmetrically favors wildlife over human beings. The collective argument of indigenous communities regarding the issues is often neglected by the political class in the region primarily because the indigenous communities are not a decisive electoral force. Their suggestions such as border fencing, afforestation programmes are often overlooked in the policy formulation. The community's inability to become a political force that can alter the electoral outcomes in the local institutional hierarchies also increases their vulnerability in this case. Here, it seems, the influence of existing political structure, which largely favors the upper class in the society, influences the decision making regarding the human-animal conflict. The villages/habitats affected by the human animal conflict are divided in line with the class and caste categories. The excessive politicization of this issue often draws interference from local political figures and tends to emphasize problems, such as crop destruction by wild animals, that primarily affect certain classes and upper castes in indigenous villages. This focus often neglects the perspectives of indigenous populations, who suffer the most severe consequences. This paper begins by examining human-animal conflict in the southern Western Ghats region of India. It explores the social relations within this context, particularly between indigenous and non-indigenous groups, and investigates how participation, voice, and agency are connected to the collective articulation of rights of the indigenous communities in relation to human-animal conflict.

## **OTHER STUDIES**

### ***Completed Studies***

#### **Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach**

Beena P L, Hrushikesh Mallick, Ritika Jain, Sanjib Pohit (Professor, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi) and Chetana Chaudhuri (Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi)

Sponsorship, if any: NCAER

Among the Indian states, Kerala has a very low carbon footprint in India. The per capita emission for Kerala is only 0.09 ton CO<sub>2</sub>e in comparison to the national average of 2.24 ton CO<sub>2</sub>e. A principal reason for low emission in Kerala vis-à-vis India is the low share of emission from power sector in the state. This stems partly from the fact that while Kerala's power generation comes primarily from hydel, Kerala is heavily dependent on import of power from other states. Nearly 70 percent of Kerala's total power come from the rest of India, which is mostly coal based

power. Surely, when all states adopt a low carbon pathway, the availability of cheap power from neighbouring states may not be a reality. There is no guarantee that supply will be available as all states will face hardship during energy transition. So, the state needs to harness its potential of non-fossil fuels for power generation and also needs to explore the new unconventional renewable energy sources like waste to energy, off shore wind farm, floating solar farms on water bodies. Adopting low carbon pathway imply not only to augment capacity of non-fossil based power use, but also to increase energy efficiency in all the sectors of the economy as increased gain in energy efficiency lead to energy saving and thereby lower footprint.

Understanding the feasible policy choices and the financial implications are must for adopting the right policy interventions for transition towards a low carbon pathway.

This study is a small endeavour in this direction. However in one respect this study differs from other similar studies is that we believe price plays a crucial role in determining choices of the feasible technologies depending on the supply/demand situation. Only by understanding the combined forces of behavioural realities, markets and prices, and technological innovation and infrastructure together, can coherent responses be built to transition energy systems. Furthermore as Kerala is a small state of India, Kerala economy is impacted by the happening in the rest of India or world. So, the economic framework needs to take this into account.

In this context, we have resorted to integrated assessment modelling (IAM) tool to analyse the issues. Integrated assessment framework typically links a macro model with a bottom up energy model so that the sectoral outputs and prices are not exogenous to the system in a typical bottom-up energy model, but are endogenously determined within the system. Most developed countries adopt this type of modelling tool for analysing energy transition issues. However in the India context, this tool, to our best knowledge, has not been adopted, at a subnational level. Furthermore in our approach, we also have taken into account the move towards energy transition in the rest of India while analysing Kerala's policy dilemmas as we believe Kerala's economy cannot studied in isolation.

Our BAU assumes that Kerala's economy will hover around 6 per cent per annum growth over the model run period namely, 2022-2050. Per capita emission will rise from 0.7 tons co<sub>2</sub>e in 2025 to 3.73 Tons co<sub>2</sub>e. Imported electricity will still play an important role in BAU, even though the share of renewable domestic electricity will rise. According to our estimates, US\$ 236 billion investment will be required in the energy sector during the period 2025-50.

Our policy run indicates that command and control approach such as restriction of import/production of fossil based electricity will not lead to augmentation of capacity of renewable electricity within Kerala. This kind of drastic step will only lead loss of Kerala's SDP as all sectors contract due to lower production of electricity and higher price of electricity.

A market based approach with tax/subsidies performs better in reducing the SDP loss during the transition. But increased energy efficiency along with productivity growth is must for energy transition. Higher energy efficiency leads to energy saving leading to lower emission and the need for energy. An energy efficiency to the tune of 2.5 percent concomitant with productivity growth of 1percent annum lead to per annum positive growth in most of the sectors. This also leads to the lower increase in per capita emission. With these policy intervention, the per capita emission will rise only to 2.18 ton co<sub>2</sub>e in 2050 versus 3.73 tonCo<sub>2</sub>e in 2050 in base run. Of course, this also lead to lower investment need.

Our results show that direct employment from operation and maintenance of power plants would be significantly more than the baseline employment projection from 2040 onwards, and the Policy scenario 3 (aggressive renewable, increase energy efficiency, and productivity growth) is expected to provide 0.8 million more direct employment in energy sector in Kerala as compared to the baseline scenario. Total employment from operation and maintenance of power plants, which captures the direct, indirect and induced employment generated from all sectors including energy sector, is also likely to surpass baseline scenario from 2040 and it is expected to provide 1.1 million more employment at 2050. The difference in magnitude between total employment from operation and maintenance of energy sector under policy scenario 3 and that of direct employment arises, because the policy intervention induces employment in other sectors also through inter-industry linkage.

Investment on renewable energy not only increases employment generated from operation and maintenance, but also from manufacturing and installation of new power plants. There would be significant addition in employment in Policy scenario 3, for both manufacturing and installation of power plants. This scenario is expected to generate additional 75 thousand employment in Kerala in 2050, as compared to the baseline scenario.

### **Dynamics of Energy Consumption, Economic Growth and Carbon Emission in a Sub-National Economy of India: An Evidence from Kerala**

Hrushikesh Mallick, Beena P L, Ritika Jain, Sanjib Pohit (Professor, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi) and Chetana Chaudhuri (Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi)

On examining the interrelationship among energy consumption, economic growth and carbon emission, the study finds the evidence that petroleum consumption growth rate significantly contributes to the GSDP growth of Kerala (as revealed from the regression coefficients), whereas electricity affects GSDP growth with a time lag (as evidenced from granger causality). In contrast, the income growth of the state drives both electricity as well as petroleum consumption demand, along with an observed strong substitutability relationship between the two energy consumption components. We further find that it is the growth of transportation sector activities measured from transportation output which significantly contributes to the gross emissions rather than the overall growth of income of the state, implying that with higher income growth, people might be demanding more petroleum products without regard for its environmental consequences over the long-run, more especially when the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emission is still lesser in Kerala compared to the national average of all the states in India.

Publication Status : Submitted to a journal for consideration

### ***Research Plan 2024-25***

#### **Women Empowerment and Environmental Quality**

Hrushikesh Mallick

This study would investigate whether women economic empowerment reduces ecological footprints across developing South Asian economies. Ecological footprint is a measure which indicates how much resources from the environment are necessary to support a specific way of life or using bio-productive space. Alternatively, It indicates the amount of pressure that humans put on the natural resources available to them in their surroundings. When societies advance by empowering the women, the women engage in offering their labour services in more productive

ways than collecting firewood/fuels for household cooking. As a result, it is less likely lead to cutting down trees, which can absorb more carbon emission from the environment and thereby contributing to green environment and less carbon footage.

### **The Political Economy of Affirmative Action: Effects and Potentialities of Sub-classification of Castes**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Sponsorship, if any: CDS OH-31 (Applied); USIEF (Applied)

I propose to examine the effects of sub-classification of administrative caste categories including Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) on their fractal economic inequality and social mobility. The extant literature on affirmative action in India has focused less on sub-classification of castes. It is critical that there are empirically informed studies on these aspects and my study is an attempt in that direction. To address my research objectives, I will follow a historical political economy approach and my analysis will consist of two parts. In the first part, I will delve into the reports of the backward class commissions, parliamentary and assembly debates, and newspaper archives to build a historical context of sub-classification of caste categories. In the second part, I will quantify the impact of sub-categorization on economic outcomes of the beneficiary social groups. For this purpose, I will use unit-level data from multiple rounds of the nationally representative survey data collected as part of the Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS). I intend to use the variations in reservation policies for caste sub-groups over time to frame the problem as natural experiments across specifically defined age cohorts. Using econometric techniques, this part of analysis will estimate the effects of sub-classification of castes on fractal inequality measured using inequality decomposition techniques and on social mobility of different jatis/sub-categories within the OBCs and the SCs. My residence in the United States will inform me of appropriate methods of analysis. I also believe that the multi-disciplinary environment at the Brandeis University and Boston will help me in critical engagement with the topic, particularly on the issue of class and social mobility and defining classes in the context of social mobility. Since the policies related to affirmative action need not be static and are subject to critical monitoring and change over time, I hope that my research contributes to policy advocacy in the Indian context and also provide insights on comparative aspects from an Indo-US perspective. In what follows, I provide details of my proposed research in the following sections.

# III

## OUTPUTS OF RESEARCH

### (A) PUBLICATIONS

The Centre has a rigorous research dissemination programme. Dissemination of research is carried out through regular publication of books, monographs, and research reports. The working paper series brings out initial findings of faculty research for discussion and review before they are considered for formal publication. The faculty and students are also encouraged to publish books through reputed publishing houses.

At present there are a total of 514 working papers and 47 books brought out under the CDS programme. This year one working paper was published. A total of four books have been published by the faculty, 25 research articles by faculty and students in professional journals. 9 chapters in edited volumes and 21 other publications in reports, newspapers, magazines etc. have been brought out. The faculty researches are also published by well-reputed publishers like, Routledge, Springer, Cambridge University Press, Orient Blackswan, World Scientific, Social Science Press, Oxford University Press, DC Books etc.

Books, journal articles, chapters in books, working papers and other publications brought out by the faculty and students are listed below.

#### (a) BOOKS

##### **Beena P L**

- Beena P L and Thiagu Ranganathan (Forthcoming) "Kerala Transforming: Labor and Trade Mobility in times of Pandemic" funded by International Migration Unit, CDS, Govt. of Kerala.

##### **Chandril Bhattacharyya**

- Ghosh, D. & Bhattacharyya, C. (2023). Introductory Macroeconomics. Book Rivers ; ISBN-13 : 978-93-5842-405-

##### **Thiagu Ranganathan**

- Gaurav, S., & Ranganathan, T. (2023). Accidental Gamblers. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom

##### **M A Oommen**

- *Indian Development and its Discontents*, A book project for Orient Blackswan

##### **K P Kannan**

- K.P. Kannan and G. Raveendran, *Women, Poverty and Capability: A Study of Kerala's Kudumbashree System*, published by the Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, April 2023.

- K. P. Kannan, *Kerala Vikasana Maghruka: Oru Punarvichinthanam* (in Malayalam) [Kerala Model of Development: A Rethinking], Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishad, Thrissur, December 2023.

## (b) JOURNAL ARTICLES

The Institute published 25 research papers and articles in Journals during the year 2023-24.

### Abhilash T

- Persisting Exclusion? Contextualizing the Tribal Welfare Policies of Kerala State, *Education and Society*, (2024), 46 (4): :pp.014–022
- M. Kunjaman: A Radical Academic who Saw Things Others Couldn't, *Economic and Political Weekly*, (2024) 59 (5): 22-25.
- 'Access to Education in Tribal Areas: Evidences from Mayurbhanj District of Odisha' with Susama Hansdah (2024), *Social Science in Perspective*, 41 (2), pp.369-390.

### Beena P L

- Chandrasekhar K, Joseph K J and Beena P L (2023) Innovations and Firm performance in Informal Manufacturing Enterprises, *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol.58, no.30, July.
- Beena P L and Ritika Jain (2023) Composition of Non-tax Revenue in Kerala: Identifying potential sources of resource mobilization? *Kerala Economy*, Vol.4, No 4, ISSN no.2583-4436.

### Chidambaran G Iyer

- Iyer, C.G. (2024). Process Innovation in Low-tech industries in India: An Empirical exploration. *African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development*, 16(1), 2024 DOI: 10.1080/20421338.2023.2274706

### Gogol Mitra Thakur

- Modern services led growth and development in a structuralist dual economy: Long-run implications of skilled labor constraint. *Metroeconomica*, 2023, 74(4), 748–776. <https://doi.org/10.1111/meca.12443>

### Hrushikesh Mallick

- Does Income Distribution Matter in Accelerating Consumption Demand? *Economic and Political, Weekly* Vol. 59, (14),2024, *Co-authored with Umesh Bhagat*
- Does onslaught of globalisation induce pro-efficient government expenditures in a large transitioning economy? Empirical evidence from India, *Economic Change and Restructuring*, 2024, vol. 57(2), Pp.1-46,
- Does the composition of fiscal deficit matter for economic growth at the Sub-national levels? An empirical analysis for India, 2023 Vol. 22(1), *Public Finance and Management co-authored with Binod Behera*
- Role of ICT, Governance Quality in Indirect Tax Revenue Productivity: A Comparative analysis of two recent indirect tax regimes in Indian States, *South Asian Journal of Macroeconomics and Public Finance*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/227797872312107>.

- Financial inclusion in India: an analysis from the user-side perspective, *International Journal of Social Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSE-03-2023-0162>
- Do renewable energy sources perfectly displace non-renewable energy sources? Evidence from Asia-Pacific economies, co-authored with Kashif Nesar Rather, Mantu Kumar Mahalik, *Environ Science and Pollution Research*, 2024 Apr;31(17):25706-25720

### **Rajit Biswas**

- “Collusion under Product Differentiation” with Dr Neelanjan Sen and Ms Urvashi Tandon, Pages1-43, Vol 142 (2024).

### **Ritika Jain**

- Jain, R., & Chatterjee, T. (2024). The Politics of State-level COVID-19 Responses in India: Evidence from the First Wave in 2020. *The Indian Economic Journal*, 72(2), 243-258.
- Who has ICT access in India? A gender based analysis (Accepted at *The Indian Economic Journal*)

### **Thiagu Ranganathan**

- Mendonca, A., Redkar, A., & Ranganathan, T. (2023). Negotiating working motherhood and doing work from home at the intersection of class, gender and crisis in India. *Women’s Studies International Forum*, 99, p. 102793.
- Ranganathan, T., & Mendonca, A. (2023). Does being educated more than the Spouse give Women Higher Autonomy? Findings from India. *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 66(3), 833-853.
- Joshi, K., & Ranganathan, T. (2023). Higher-order risk preferences and livelihood choices of farmers from West Bengal, India. *Journal of Social and Economic Development*.

### **Srikanta Kundu**

- Srikanta Kundu, Asymmetric effects of democracy and macroeconomic factors on happiness under high and low per capita incomes: A threshold panel analysis (Jointly with RumaKundu and Kul Bahadur Chettri). *Ecological Economics*.
- Srikanta Kundu, Asymmetric Effects of Monetary Policy: Evidence from India (Jointly with Irfan Ahmed Shah). *Empirical Economics*.

### **C Veeramani**

- Veeramani C, “Growth gains from offshore outsourcing”, pp 90–112, *Journal of Policy Modeling*, 46, 1, 2024.

### **Vinoj Abraham**

- Abraham, Vinoj (2023). The Slow Emergence of Rural Non-farm Sector Employment in India: Shift or Diversification?, *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, vol. 66(3), pages 661-685, September. DOI: 10.1007/s41027-023-00452-7
- Jain, Ritika and Vinoj Abraham (2023) “Do Job reservations hurt firm performance? Evidence from Indian Public Sector Enterprises”, *International Labour Review*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ilr.12397>

## Journal Articles by Honorary Fellows

### M A Oommen

- 'India's Human Development Index An Analysis of the Post-reform Story' , *Economic & Political Weekly* Vol. 58, Issue No. 50
- 'Indian Development and its discontents', *Social Change* 53(4) 448–468, 2023.
- Rebuilding a sustainable Kerala economy: Raising two issues, *Kerala economy*, Vol.4., No.4. [October – December 2023], published by Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Trivandrum.
- **Sunil Mani**
- Mani, Sunil (2023). "Innovation Performance of India's Computer Software Services and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industries." *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. LVIII, No. 47, pp. 45-54.

## (c) CHAPTER(S) IN BOOKS

### Praveena Kodoth

- The Normalisation of dowry in Contemporary India, P. Bilimoria, Renuka Sharma, Amy Rayner eds. *Routledge companion to Indian Ethics: Gender, Justice, Ecology*, New Delhi: Routledge 9781032638478

### C Veeramani

- Veeramani C, "Unraveling the Complexity of Vertical Specialization and Fragmentation Trade: A Survey of Patterns, Drivers, Implications and Evolving Dynamics", *Contemporary Issues in International Trade: Challenges and Opportunities*, edited by Rajib Bhattacharya and Debashis Mazumdar, Emerald Publishing, UK

## (d) OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### Abhilash T

- An Enquiry into the Tribal Development Policies of Kerala State ( Malayalam), *Vijnana Kairali*, A quarterly Journal Published by State Bhasha Institute ( UGC CARE)
- *Tribal Development in Kerala: Significance of Micro Analysis* ( Malayalam)”, *Tapasam*, ( UGC CARE) (pp 3-23)

### Beena P L

- **Beena P L, Sanjib Pohit, etal (2024)** Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach, Research Square, DOI: 10.21203/rs.

### Chidambaran G. Iyer

- 'Laptop import curbs would pinch low-techfirms', The Hindu BusinessLine, 25 September 2023.

### J Devika

- 'Beyond 'Rehabilitation': Local Governments and Restoring the Lives of Displaced People in the Coast of the Thiruvananthapuram District' RULSG Policy Dialogue, 2022-23, (with Magline Peter and Umesh O), Research Unit on Local Self-Government (RULSG), CDS, June 2023.
- Research Report -- Towards Gender-Inclusive Climate Action: A Local Initiative in Kerala, (with Praveena Sanjay).Pune: World Institute of Sustainable Energy, 2023.
- Feeling Kerala, New Delhi: Penguin Random House.
- Translated anthology of contemporary short stories from Malayalam with 'social scientific' introductions.
- Assassin, Harper Collins, New Delhi. Translation of K R Meera's Ghatakan.

### C Veeramani

- "Strategically reforming India's role in global value chains" East Asia Forum Quarterly, Vol.16 No.2 April-June 2024.

### Other Publications by Honorary Fellows/ Visiting Professors

#### Sunil Mani

- **Book Review:** Mani, Sunil (2024). Review of *The Syriac World: In Search of a Forgotten Christianity* by Francoise Briquel Chatonnet and Muriel Debie, translated by Jeffrey Haines. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2023. *Focus*, Vol. 12, Issue 1, pp. 6 and 20.

#### (e) Working Papers

- Vaidik Chakraborty and Udaya S. Mishra, (2024), '*Sequential Ordering of Deprivations: District-Level Measurements and Cluster Mapping of Level-Sensitive Improvements in India*', CDS Working Paper Series, WP 514

#### (f) CDS Monographs

- Gautam Ganapathy and Salil C S, (2023), "*Bureaucracy, Sustainable Development and Decentralization: Reflections on Jalasamrudhi, a Community-based Water Conservation Programme in Kerala*", "Ecological Challenges and Local Self-Government Responses, CDS-RULSG Monograph Series 05
- Umesh O, Magline Peter, J Devika, (2023) '*Beyond 'Rehabilitation': Local Governments and Restoring the Lives of Displaced People in the Coast of the Thiruvananthapuram District*', RULSG Policy Dialogue.

### **(g) Policy Papers**

- National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) Policy Brief, July-September 2023. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/NRPPD-Policy-Brief-July-september-2023.pdf>
- National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) Policy Brief, April – June 2023. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/nrppd-policy-AprilJune2023.pdf>
- Abraham, Vinoj (2023) Return Migration and reintegration in Kerala: The potential for cooperatives” Project report submitted to Ministry of Finance, Government of Kerala

### **(h) GOOGLE SCHOLAR CITATION**

**Abhiash T**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=zqMsROUAAAAJ>

**P L Beena**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=vS0ofSYAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

**Chandril Bhattacharya**

<https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=u7GdIP4AAAAJ&hl=en>

**Chidambaran G. Iyer**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=47HAma8AAAAJ>

**J. Devika**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=8b1xY5oAAAAJ&hl=en>

**Gogol Mitra Thakur**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=sf8r54YAAAAJ&hl=en&authuser=1>

**Hrushikesh Mallick**

<https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=tQnpUcwAAAAJ&hl=en>

**M. Parameswaran**

<https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=EVrHm0gAAAAJ&hl=en>

**Rajit Biswas**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=rmp6FbQAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

**Ritika Jain**

<https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=-DGcDLcAAAAJ&hl=en>

**Srikanta Kundu**

<https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=CfEeI4sAAAAJ&hl=en>

**Thiagu Ranganathan**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=9Cp50WQAAAAJ&hl=en>

**Veeramani C**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=fFLFY9gAAAAJ>

**Vinoj Abraham**

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=vQpypHIAAAAJ&hl=en&authuser=2>

## **(II) SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS HELD AT THE CENTRE**

As part of its effort to disseminate the research activities, the Centre conducts a number of conferences, seminars, and workshops. The Centre organized 37 Conferences/ Seminars/ Lectures (32 at national level and Five Training Programmes/ Workshops at International level) during the year 2023-24.

1. Seminar on "Applying resilience framing: Groundwater management in agricultural communities in semi-arid India" by Dr.RekhaBhangaonkar, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Department of Land Economy and a By fellow at Churchill College, University of Cambridge held on April 12, 2023
2. 5th Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture on "Cities and Freedom: Thinking Indian Urbanisation with Ambedkar" delivered by Professor SuryakanthWaghmore, IIT-Bombay, chaired by Dr. T. Abhilash on 20th April, 2023
3. Seminar on "M-Sand, Metal, and the “More-than-Urban” Political Ecology of Urban Development in Kerala" by Mr. Siddharth Menon, Ph.D Research Scholar at University of Wisconsin-Madison held on April 28, 2023,
4. Seminar on "The Twin Crises of Globalization and Development: What Way Ahead for India's Economy?" by Prof.SurajitMazumdar, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU on May 30, 2023,
5. Seminar on "The Elector's Paradox" to presented by Dr.AnirbanGhatak, IIM Kozhikode on 9th June, 2023
6. Seminar on "Innovation performance of two high-technologies industries from India, A comparative analysis of the Pharmaceutical sector vis-a-vis Computer Software Services Industry" by Prof. Sunil Mani, Honorary Visiting Professor, CDS on July 20, 2023
7. Seminar on "Caste, City Geographies and Economic Development in India" by Prof.Sripad Motiram, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston on July 27, 2023
8. Seminar on "Holy Cow! Religious Violence, Cattle Markets and Social Costs in India" by Dr.AnandMurugesan, Central European University, Vienna held on August 2, 2023
9. Seminar on "Counter-Plantation imaginaries: Dalit women and autonomy in India's Tea Belt" by Dr.Jayaseelan Raj, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Development, King's College London, August 16, 2023
10. Seminar on "Information and Communication Technology and Female Employment in India" by Dr.Ritika Jain CDS, Trivandrum and Dr.Tirtha Chatterjee, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana presented on September 8, 2023
11. Seminar on "Conceptual and methodological challenges in the measurement of child migration"- Insights from a large-scale survey in Kerala and Tamil Nadu by Professor Vinoj Abraham and Professor PraveenaKodoth, CDS, on September 15, 2023

12. Webinar on "Crashed futures: a sociological investigation into the failure of cardamom futures market" by Mr. Tony Kurian, PhD. Scholar, IIT Bombay on 26th September, 2023
13. Seminar on "Financing of Kerala's Infrastructure" by Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac, Former Finance Minister of Kerala on 26th September at Baker Auditorium in a Hybrid Mode
14. Seminar on "Identities and Group Inequalities" by Dr. Kaustav Banerjee, Associate Professor of Global Studies, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi on October 4, 2023
15. Webinar on "Sequential Ordering of Deprivations: Its Application on District-Level Measurement in India and a Cluster Mapping of Level-Sensitive Improvements" by Shri. Vaidik Chakraborty, PhD Scholar, CDS and Prof. Udaya S. Mishra, IIPS on October 12, 2023
16. Seminar on "Climate Risk and Response" to be delivered by Dr. Vinod Thomas, Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute on November 3, 2023
17. Seminar on "Access to provision for Health and Education among Migrant Children in Kerala" by Professor Vinoj Abraham and Professor Praveena Kodoth, CDS on November 10, 2023
18. NRPPD Webinar Series: Seminar on "Governance and Asymmetry in Global Value Chains of the Coffee Industry: Possibility for Catch-Up by Emerging Economies" by Prof. Keun Lee, Professor of Seoul National University on November 15, 2023
19. Birsa Munda Jayanti: following events were conducted on November 15, 2023, Introduction: Unveiling Birsa Munda's history, Quiz competition: Birsa Munda's legacy, Panel Discussion: Birsa Munda's Enduring Legacy: Navigating Contemporary Tribal Issues, Documentary screening: The life story of Birsa Munda
20. Seminar on "Decomposing the Caste Divide in Formal Credit for Unorganised Enterprises: Insights from Indian Enterprise Surveys" by Ms. K Vidyarani and Mr. T Maheshkumar Ph.D Scholar on November 17, 2023
21. Seminar on "Migration and vulnerability in employment: Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in a migration intensive South Travancore village" by Dr. Ritika Jain, Dr. M. Parameswaran, Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Prof. Praveena Kodoth and Ms. Neethumol presented on November 24, 2023
22. **Dissemination Workshop on Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach held at Energy Management Centre Kerala on November 28, 2023**
23. Seminar on "Caste, Reservation and Social Mobility in Bengal: 1857 - 2017" by Mr. Tamoghna Halder, Assistant Professor of Economics, Azim Premji University on 1st December, 2023
24. Research Seminar : Education Research on Climate Resilience and Environment in Kerala: The seminar series is being jointly organized by VMFT, a well-known NGO based in Trivandrum, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum. The first research seminar, on developing a research agenda for education regarding climate resilience and environment sustainability was held on December 6-7, 2023 at CDS.
25. Seminar on "Process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: observations from an empirical study" by Dr. Chidambaran G. Iyer, Associate Professor on 8th December, 2023.

26. Birsa Munda Memorial event and Screening of the **movie** “Mannu : Sprouts of Endurance” followed by a discussion with the film maker Mr. Ramdas Kadavallur held on 21 December 2023
27. Book review of: ‘Poverty, Women and Capability: A Study of Kerala’s Kudumbashree System’, by Prof.K P Kannan and Prof.G Raveendran Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies, on 15 January 2024.
28. Seminar on ‘Viksit Bharat, India’s G20 Presidency: Implications for India’s States’ by Shri Suman Bery, V C, NITI Aayog on Jan 4, 2024
29. Seminar on ‘Tiding Over Pandemic-Induced Vulnerability : Reflections on the Experience of Two Groups of Cleaning/ Domestic Workers’ by Dr. Anamika Ajay and Prof. J Devika on Jan 16, 2024
30. Seminar on 'Evolution of Technological Self-Reliance in India: A Comprehensive Analysis of Patent, R&D, and Human Resources Policies' by Prof. Sunil Mani, Honorary Visiting Professor, CDS on Jan 19, 2024
31. NRPPD Webinar series on 'Harvesting consent: South Asian tea plantation workers' experience of fairtrade certification' by Dr. Karin Astrid Siegmann, Associate Professor, Labour & Gender Economics, International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam (ISS), The Netherlands on Feb 7, 2024
32. Conference on Kerala and the World Economy held during 18 and 19 March 2024
33. Seminar on ‘The Motherhood Penalty in Kerala: The Case of Women with Higher Education’ by Dr. Tirtha Chatterjee, Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan and Prof. Praveena Kodoth on 22 March 2024.
34. A Workshop on ‘Indian Securities Market and Wealth Creation’ by Dr. Dona Ghosh, Assistant Professor (Economics), Thiagarajar School of Management & Securities Market Trainer, SEBI held on 27 March 2024.

### **Training Programmes**

1. Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development: The National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) at the Centre for Development Studies funded by the Ministry of Commerce is conducting a one-week residential research capacity-building workshop on the theme ‘Plantations and Development’ during 7 – 13 August 2023.
2. Dissemination Workshop on Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach held at Energy Management Centre Kerala on November 28, 2023
3. Workshop on Research on Migration Issues held during 4 – 8 March 2024

### **Public Lectures/Memorial Lectures**

1. 12th Foundation Day Lecture on "Fiscal federalism in a Regulated Open Economy: Towards a New Federal Compact" delivered by Shri. Haseeb Drabu, Former Finance Minister, Jammu and Kashmir. This will be chaired by Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac, Former Finance Minister, Kerala on October 19, 2023
2. 13th Dr. P K Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture on 'India@2047: Will be a Developed Country' delivered by Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NitiAayog at CDS on 22nd November, 2023

3. K N Raj Memorial Lecture on 'Food and Nutrition Security for All: Old and New Challenges' by Prof.MadhuraSwaminathan, Tata Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, held on 5 February 2024
4. The 14th B G Kumar Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof.Karthik Mralidharan, Professor of Economics, University of California on the topic 'Accelerating India's Development: A State-Led Roadmap for India' on 06 March 2024.

### **(III) NETWORKING**

#### **(A) PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY IN CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS ELSEWHERE**

##### **OUTSIDE INDIA**

###### **Ritika Jain**

- Presented a paper, "Too small to be beautiful: ICT and credit constraints faced by SME in India" in SME Conference - 2024, Asia Developmental Bank Institute- Japan, February 2024
- Presented a paper, "Information and communication technology and female employment in India" in an international Conference "Economic Theory and Evidence" at Presidency University, December, 2023
- Attended a meeting in UNCCD on Land desertification in Bonn, Germany, October, 2023
- Attended a TSP2 workshop of UNCCD on LDN in Doha, Qatar, February, 2024

###### **Thiagu Ranganathan**

- Climate resilient agriculture: Inequality, rising cost of irrigation, and groundwater management in semi-arid India. Presented in Lost in Translation? Understanding Resilience in Sustainable Development Policy help at University of Cambridge on 23-24 June, 2023.
- Are monetary payments effective in restoring native species trees? Findings from Uttara Kannada, India Presented at Governing the Rural Commons Workshop help at Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge on 26th June 2023.
- This Time is it different? Crisis and Resilience in India's Cotton Frontier Panel Presentation Presented at Development Studies Association Conference held at the University of Reading on 28th June 2023.

##### **STUDENTS**

###### **Mr. Amresh Senapati (PhD Scholar)**

- Participated and presented my paper titled 'Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India' in the European graduate School for Training in Economic and Social Historical Research (ESTER) Research Design Course (RDC) 2023, 24-27 September, held at the University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.

- Participated in the annual Postgraduate workshop/PhD training workshop, organized by the Association for Heterodox Economics (AHE) at the University of Leeds, Leeds, UK, held from 16th-18th January 2024.
- Presented a paper on 'Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India' at the Applied Demography Conference 2024 organized by the Population Association of America (PAA), held from 6th to 9th February 2024.

#### **Libitha C (PhD Scholar)**

- Presented a paper titled "Intergenerational Educational Mobility in India: Does Caste Matter?" at the 11th South Asia Economic Policy Network Conference on Social Progress in South Asia organized by the Office of the Chief Economist for the South Asia Region, the Poverty and Equity Practice Group of the World Bank, and the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). It was held at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh on May 9th, 2023.

#### **Rajalaxmi Singh (PhD Scholar)**

- Presented a paper titled "Parental involvement in children's learning in Rural India: The role of perception" in the REAL Centre seminar, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, UK on 19th March 2024.

#### **Vidyarani (PhD Scholar)**

- 7th SANEM Annual Economists conference (SAEC), "New Frontiers in Development and Emerging Dynamics", in Brac Centre Inn, Dhaka, Bangladesh, February 25, 2024

### **IN INDIA**

#### **Beena P L**

- Beena PL and Ritika Jain (2023) "Non tax revenue in kerala: an assessment" in Seminar organised by International Congress on Kerala Studies during July 22-23 • Chaired the presentation of prof. Michiko Lizzuka, GRIPS, Japan as a part of Globelics – KEA International Lecture Seires1 held at the University College, Thiruvananthapuram on 10,October, 2023
- Beena PL and Surya Thampi (2023) Women Owned Enterprises and its Scalability, Golden Jubilee Conference organised by CESP, JNU, December 2023
- Hrushikesh Mallick, Beena PL et.al (2023) Dynamics of Energy Consumption, Economic Growth and Carbon Emission in a Subnational Context of India: An Evidence from Kerala , Golden Jubilee conference organised by CESP, JNU, December 2023
- Abhinav Surya LT and Beena PL (2023) "Understanding the Growth Dynamics of Investment and Rate of Profit in India's organized manufacturing sector" in the conference organized by ISID, New Delhi, October.

- Beena PL (2024) Keynote address delivered in the International seminar titled “Sustainable Agriculture and Diversity: An Economic Outlook organised by the Madurai College (Autonomous) during 8 February, 2024.
- Beena PL (2024) Delivered invited lecture titled “Women Owned Enterprises in Kerala and its Scalability” in an International workshop on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in India, 17, February 2024, Organise by Prof. Yuko Nikaido, Musashi University, Tokyo, Japan and Prof. Subash at IIT Chennai.
- Beena PL (2024) “Antitrust implications of Mergers and Acquisitions in Knowledge and Technology Driven Sectors” presented in the national conference on Economics of Competition Law, March 7, 2024, New Delhi
- Beena PL (2024) “Labour Market Relations across Technology and size classes in India” by Beena PL and Abhinav Surya LT presented in the ISLE conference at CUH, during March 28 to March 31, 2024.
- Beena PL (2024) Participated in the panel on Budget Discussion on Prospects of Kerala Economy: Sectoral Reflections in the Backdrop of Kerala Budget2024-25, organise by KEA at GIFT, Kerala.

### **Chidambaran G Iyer**

- Panel discussant at YSI Pre-Conference Workshop “Empowering the Global South Economy through Digital Innovation and Knowledge Economy Initiatives” @ GLOBELICS International Conference 2023 on 11th October 2023. Presented ‘Understanding Digital Payments in India through an Innovation Systems Perspective’ at the panel discussion.
- Discussant for three papers - (i) Exploring directionality in a technology intensive sector emerging under resource constraints: The case of medical device innovation and manufacturing in South Africa by Sanghamitra Chakravarty, Cees van Beers Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands (ii) The STEM Pipeline in India: Challenges Ahead by Christabell P. J., University of Kerala, India (iii) The Politics of Health Innovations: Unpacking the Role of Industry Associations in the Development and Diffusion of Health Innovations by Dinar Kale, Theo Papaioannou The Open University, United Kingdom - in Knowledge-driven development of national, regional, local and sectoral innovation systems, including Agricultural innovation systems and rural development (PS – 1A3) session on 12th October 2023 @ Globelics International Conference 2023, held at GIFT, Thiruvananthapuram.

### **Devika J**

- ‘Rethinking the History of the Modern Family in Twentieth Century Kerala’ M Govindan Memorial Lecture, at School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University. 14 February, 2024.
- ‘Neoliberal Feminism and the Crisis of the Nation: Reflections on KR Meera’s *Ghatakan*’. Special Lecture at U C College, Aluva. 15 February, 2024
- Panel Discussion on the Humanities in the Indian Languages Chair: Dr Bishnu Mohapatra KREA University, School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences. 12 March 2024.
- Panel discussion at the Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Zubaan Translation Conclave Chair: Manisha Chaudhry, Goethe Zentrum, Hyderabad. 27 March, 2024.

## **Hrishikesh Mallick**

- Presented a paper on “Dynamics of Energy Consumption, Economic Growth and Carbon Emission in a Subnational Context of India: An Evidence from Kerala”, CESP Golden Jubilee Conference, JNU(2023)
- Delivered a 3hr duration lecture session on Workshop on “Fiscal Policy in a Globalized Economic System” in Open-Economy Macroeconomics workshop for doctoral researchers and College/University teachers at MIDS, Chennai, held on 20th of February 2024.

## **M Parameswaran**

- Presented a paper titled “When does trade liberalisation promotes productivity growth? Evidence from Indian manufacturing industries” in conference titled “Towards Industrial Transformation of India” from October 4--6, 2023, organized by the ISID, New Delhi.
- Presented a paper titled “When does trade liberalisation promotes productivity growth? Evidence from Indian Manufacturing industry” Globelics International Conference 2023, October 11-14, 2023 at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram, India.
- Attended a workshop titled “Harnessing Data for Development to Accelerate Progress on Sustainable Development Goals” organised by the Niti Aayog, New Delhi on 3rd November 2023.
- Presented a paper titled “Economic growth in India: A longer view” in the workshop “Growth, Development and Productivity: 75 Years of Indian Experience” Organised by the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, on 7-9 March, 2024.

## **Praveena Kodoth**

- Presented a paper titled ‘The gendered terms of inclusion in human development in Kerala and exclusion on the margins’, Seminar on Advancing human development in the global south organized by Institute of Human Development, New Delhi, (Global Conclave, 11-13 Jan, 2024)
- Presented a paper titled ‘We came here to work’: Mother’s employment and the education of children of inter-state migrant labour’, on Annual conference - Indian Society for Labour Economics organised by University of Hyderabad and Institute of Human Development, New Delhi, March 29 to 31, 2024
- Presented a paper titled ‘Enablers and challenges for children of inter-state migrant labour to access basic public services in Kerala and Tamil Nadu’, Second UNICEF India ‘Evidence for Children’ Roundtable; 30 & 31 January 2024, 1 February 2024; UNICEF, New Delhi
- Presented a paper titled ‘Access to public services for child migrants: A case study of inter-state migrant children in Hosur, Tamil Nadu’, UNICEF, Chennai May 18, 2023

- Key note address and chair for Sub theme 8 on Women's movements: Challenges and Resilience, IAWS annual conference, 7 Sept 2023 Indian Association of Women's Studies, and Government Women's College, Trivandrum
- Key note address and chair of sub theme no 3: Contemporary Women's Movement: Grassroots, New Forms, Strategies, and Challenges, 8th September 2023, Indian Association of Women's Studies, and Government Women's College, Trivandrum
- Key note address - Challenges related to inter-state migrant labour District consultation, Don Bosco, Trivandrum on September 5, 2023
- Lecture titled, 'Doing Feminist Research: Invisibility, social structures and the gender binary', Two day national seminar on academic writing, and research methodology in social sciences, Department of Political Science, Government Brennan College, Dharmadam, October 31, 2023
- Presented a paper titled 'Emerging trends on violence against women and challenges faced by women migrant workers', National consultation on Crime against women migrant workers, Tamil Nadu state commission for women and the TN Domestic Workers Welfare Trust, November 29, 2023, Chennai.
- Chair at the Panel Discussion session, Promoting Social Dialogue: How Migrant Workers can Leverage the Social Capital Established by Trade Unions in Kerala "Consultation on Migration Coalition for Social Dialogue, Kerala on 24 November 2023 , FICCI and CMID, Perambavoor
- Inauguration and key note address on Kerala in Transition: unmasking the post pandemic realities at a three day national seminar on Kerala in Transition: unmasking the post pandemic realities on Dec 12, 2023 at the Research department of Economics, University College, Trivandrum

### **Ritika Jain**

- Chaired and discussed a session in Globelics Conference in GIFIT, Trivandrum, October, 2023
- Presented a seminar on Roads and Crime in NIAS, Bangalore, July, 2023
- Presented in "Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach"-in Energy Management Centre, Trivandrum, November, 2021

### **C. Veeramani**

- Meeting with EXIM Bank officials, 12.06.2023
- Attended Vision Kattakada – Jalsamrudhi Report presenting at a programme organised by KILA, 21.06.2023
- Attended R & D Colloquium- Interaction with Executive Heads of R & D Institutions at KU Research Fest organised by the University of Kerala, 22.06.2023
- Meeting with Dr. V K Ramachandran, Vice Chairman State Planning Board, 26.06.2023
- Attended Pinto Lecture at Mascot Hotel on 05.07.2023
- Inaugural Address, World Population Day organised by the Department of Demography, University of Kerala, 11.07.2023
- Online meeting of IGIDR, 14.07.2023

- Internal Audit Monitoring Committee Meeting at the Secretariat, Govt of Kerala, 26.07.2023
- Attended a Meeting at ICSSR, New Delhi, 28- 31 July 2023
- Attended a meeting at ICSSR, New Delhi, 11.08.2023
- Meeting at the State Planning Board on Keraleeyam, 07.09.2023
- Attended a workshop at the Department of Commerce, University of Kerala, 11.09.2023
- Seminar at Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha, 03.10.2023
- ISID New Delhi, 04.& 05.10.2023
- Speaker at the BIMSTEC-IFPRI conference on Environment & Climate change(ECC). The two-day event is scheduled to be held in Paro, Bhutan, 10 & 11.10.2023
- Seminar at Kasaragod Govt. College, 13.10.2023
- GLOBALICS- Panellist to a plenary session: Role of Knowledge in Addressing the Core Development Issues in South: Issues and Evidences, 14.10.2023
- Kautilya Economic conference at New Delhi, 20.10.2023
- Seminar at Mar Thoma College, Malappuram, 30.10.2023
- Seminar at Jamia Milia University, 08.11.2023
- EXIM Bank Quarterly meeting, 09.11.2023
- Kanhangad Govt. College, 11.11.2023
- John Mathai Centre, Thrissur, 20.11.2023
- Seminar - Marthoma College , University of Calicut- Chungathara, 21.11.2023
- Meetings with Apple officials, 24.11.2023
- Ph.D Viva, TERI University, 01.12.2023
- NIBM Journal Editorial Meeting, 01.12.2023
- Attended JNU Court meeting, 04.12.2023
- CII NITI Aayog meeting at New Delhi, 05.12.2023
- Seminar at Malayalam University, Tirur, 07.12.2023
- Seminar at RIS, New Delhi, 10.12.2023
- Screening and Evaluation committee to the major and minor projects at the ICSSR, New Delhi, 11-13 December 2023.
- Attended a meeting of Finance Minister, Govt. of Kerala with economists, pertaining to the preparation of state budget for the financial year 2024-25, 06.01.2024
- Attended an online meeting with Finance Minister, Govt. of Kerala – Expert Committee meeting on Additional Resource Mobilisation, 09.01.2024
- ICSSR - 3rd Review Meeting (online) for the Policy Theme Make in India and Atal Innovation Mission, 11.01.2024
- Attended a meeting of Board of Studies in Economics, Goa University - To frame the syllabus of UG & Integrated course, 15.01.2024
- Introductory meeting with Mr. Akash Passey, President, ZF Group in India, 17.01.2024
- Online Meeting with Apple India Officials, 18.01.2024

- Project proposal finalisation meeting with Industries Department, Govt. of Kerala, 18.01.2024
- Attended a meeting with RBI Officials with RBI Thiruvananthapuram office – signing MoU with CDS & RBI, 25.01.2024
- Attended a Consultative Workshop at the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI), Trivandrum to design the research methodology course in Social Science for PhD scholars, 30.01.2024
- A meeting with Dr. Emily Clarke, Director of Strategy and International Partnerships at the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK Research and Innovation(UKRI), UK with all staff members of CDS 02.02.2024:Delivered a lecture at Mampad, MES College, Malappuram, 01.02.2024
- Addressed students from Department of Economics Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU) Gandhigram, Dindigul dist.,TN at CDS, 20.02.2024
- A meeting of Mr. Fergus Cumming, Deputy Chief Economist of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office – FCDO (UK’s foreign office) and other officers of British Deputy High Commission, Bangalore with all faculty members of CDS, 22.02.2024
- Meeting with Govt. College Attingal, Thiruvananthapuram on College Mentoring Programme of CDS, 26.02.2024
- 4 Paper presentation at the “Annual Economics Summit on Contemporary Issues in Economic Theory and Policy” Organized by Department of Economics, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, 27 & 28.02.2024
- Paper presentation at the Workshop on Growth, Development and Productivity: 75 Years of Productivity Growth in India, 7-9.03.2024
- Foundation day Lecture, Department of Development Studies, University of Calicut 19.03.2024
- Second Meeting of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Task Force on GVCs 2023-24, New Delhi, 15.03.2024
- Meeting with Prof Arvind Panagariya, Chairman, 16th Finance Commission, New Delhi, 20.03.2024
- One-day seminar on ‘Social Science Research in India: Current Status and the Way – MIDS, Chennai, 22.03.2024
- Participated 64th annual conference on the Indian society of Labour Economics (ISLE) during 29-31 March at University of Hyderabad, 30& 31.03.2024.

#### **Vinoj Abraham**

- Presented the paper “What explains the Wage Productivity Wedge in India?” at the 61<sup>st</sup> ISLE annual conference, March 29-31<sup>st</sup> 2024 , Hyderabad University

- Chairperson, Panel discussion on “State of Working India” organised by Azim Premji University, at the 61<sup>st</sup> ISLE annual conference, March 29-31<sup>st</sup> 2024 , Hyderabad University
- Panellist, Panel Discussion on employment University of Calicut,– March 15th Friday, National Conference organised by EMS Chair.
- Panel discussion presentation on “State of Employment and Status of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in India” organized at the “Constitution and National Unity” meeting organized by Government of Karnataka, on 24-25th February 2024, Bengaluru
- Online lecture on ‘Wage Stagnation and Wage Productivity Decoupling in India’ OKDISCD, Guwahati, Assam on Feb 20th Tuesday, 2024
- Online lecture on ‘The slow emergence of Rural Non-farm Sector Employment in India: Shift or Diversification?’ South Asia University Webinar January 31st , 2024
- Panel discussion presentation on “Development and employment: Kerala’s achievements, challenges and possibilities” on the panel organised by the Centre for Development Studies in the Global Conclave on Human Development Organised by IHD, New Delhi at IIC, New Delhi, January 11-13th , 2024
- Presented the paper "Economic Reintegration of Return Migrants to Kerala: Trends, Determinants and Policy Options” at the Migration Conclave - 2024” organised by AKG Centre for Research and Studies, January 19-21 at Marthoma College, Thiruvalla
- Key note address “Labour market shocks and migration” on the theme National Seminar on Post-COVID Migration Trends and its Future organised by Dept of Economics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi, 25th January, 2024.
- Panelist on Kerala economy seminar on November 3<sup>rd</sup> under Keraleeyam 2023, organised by the Government of Kerala at Legislative Assembly, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Presented the paper titled “Child labour in Kerala” in the national seminar on Child labour organised by the Kerala Institute of Labour and Employment on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 at Chaitram Restaurant, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Presented the paper titled “Identities and labour market outcomes-review of theory and evidence” on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 in the international seminar on Pathways to inclusive growth: Unravelling the economics of discrimination at NMSM Government College, Kalpetta, Kerala
- Presented the paper “Economic Reintegration of Return Migrants in Kerala Lessons from Collective Entrepreneurship models” at the 20<sup>th</sup> GLOBELICS conference held at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram during 11-14<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.
- Panellist on the Tenth ISLE-IAWS Panel on Understanding Women's Labour Force Participation in India on 9th September at the XVII National Conference of Indian Association for Women's Studies conference held at the Women’s College, Thiruvananthapuram during 7-10 September 2023.
- Panellist on Round Table Discussion on “Managing Future of Work for Inclusive Development” during the International Conference on ‘New Technologies and Future of Work in Global South’; 17-19 July, 2023, at the India International Centre, organised by Institute for Human Development, New Delhi.
- Presented a paper “Employment Growth and Dimensions of Inclusion in Karnataka” in the Karnataka special session in three-day international conference on Intergroup

Inequality in Indian Society: Magnitude, Nature, Sources, Policies and the Movement at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru during August 23-25, 2023.

- Invited Speaker “The Promise of the Gig Economy” ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on “Preparing for the Gig Economy: How organizations and individuals can leverage the new workplace” 5th May, Vellore Institute of Technology Management School, Chennai, 2023
- Nobel Prize decoding- lectures at IISER Thiruvananthapuram, 7th November, 2023
- Nobel Prize 2023 explanation lecture at Mar Ivanios College Thiruvananthapuram, 14th November, 2023
- Nobel Prize decoding- lectures at Kerala University, 26th October, 2023
- Lectures on Poverty and inequality at MG University on 8th November, 2023
- Lectures on Research Methodology at Kerala University on 11th October, organised by Research Union, 2023

### **Participation of Students in Conferences/ Seminars/ Workshops (in India)**

#### **Mr. Amresh Senapati (PhD Scholar)**

- Participated in the Three-Day National Training Workshop on Microeconometrics for Survey Data held from 13–15 March 2024 at Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai.

#### **Ms. Sita Majhi (PhD Scholar)**

- Attended the workshop (Hybrid mode) on “NSSO cross-sectional unit level survey data analysis for empirical research using STATA and R studio” organised by Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani Campus from 21-25 February 2024.
- Attended the workshop on “Micro-econometrics and application of survey data for real-world problems in social science research” Organised by Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai from 13-15 March 2024.
- Attended the conference on “Kerala and the world economy”, organised by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum from 18-19 March 2024.
- Attended the workshop (online) on “Hands-on analysis of periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data using STATA” organised by VART consulting, Mumbai in collaboration with the Department of Economics, Government Model College Deithor, Assam from 19-21 March 2024.
- Presented a paper titled “An analysis of stability of employment in India”, at the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) 64th annual conference organised by the University of Hyderabad from 29-31 March 2024.

#### **Vidyarani**

- Presented a research paper titled "Decomposing the Caste Divide in Formal Credit for Unorganised Enterprises: Insights from Indian Enterprise Surveys" coauthored with Maheshkumar T , National Conference towards Industrial Transformation of India organized by the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), Delhi, October 4-6, 2023.

- Presented the same paper as a seminar at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum, on November 17, 2023.

### **Shabnam T P**

- Presented paper titled “Return Migration of Women Domestic Workers from Kerala: Mapping the Lived Experiences and Migration Governance” in the “International Conference on Migration and Sustainable Development: Opportunities, Challenges and Way Forward” conducted by IIMAD and TISS in Mumbai (15th and 16th December 2023).
- Presented paper titled “Inter-state Migrants in Kerala in Times of Kerala Flood: Critical Analysis of Migration Governance and Media” in the "Third Annual Conference on Migration in a Changing Climate" conducted by IIMAD and IIHS in Bangalore. (20th and 21st December 2023).
- Presented paper titled “Exploring the Migration Process and Aspiration of Students to Migrate Eastern European Countries” in the 5th International Congress on Kerala Studies, Migration Conclave, Thiruvalla, Kerala (18th to 21st January 2024).

### **Himansu Thapa**

- Participated in the one-week residential research capacity building workshop on the theme "Plantation and Development" organised by National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) funded by the Ministry of Commerce from 7th to 13th August 2023.
- Presented a research Poster titled "Millet Production and Rural Livelihood: A Study of Selected Rainfed Districts in India" at the PhD. Colloquium, 2023 (CoRe-2023) conducted by Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) Mumbai from 31st Oct to 3rd Nov 2023.
- Presented a paper titled "Unveiling Induced Investment in Farm Mechanisation: A Micro-Level Panel Evidence from Maharashtra, India" at the International Conference on Responsible Production and Consumption (ICRPC)- Agriculture Sustainability and Food Security organised by the School of Management Studies, University of Hyderabad (UoH) from 5th to 7th March 2024.

### **Pawan Kumar (PhD 2022 Batch)**

- Participated in Five Days' International Workshop on “Cities and Climate Change” Organized by the Department of Architecture and Planning, National Institute of Technology, Patna, held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023.
- Participated in Three Days' National Workshop on “Data Science and Information Technologies for Social Scientists” organized by Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, held from 09<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- Participated in Five Days' National Workshop On “NSSO Cross-Sectional Unit-Level Survey Data Analysis for Empirical Research Using STATA & R Studio” Organized by the Department of Economics & Finance, BITS Pilani – Pilani Campus, held from 21st to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### **Mr. Sabeer V C (PhD Scholar)**

- Participated and presented a paper titled ‘Impact of International migration on international trade: An Empirical Analysis for India’ in a three day PhD Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies organised by Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai on 23-25 August 2023.

## **Participation by Honorary Fellows**

### **M A Oommen**

- Two special lectures on 'Reorienting Public Finance with reference to Local Governments' delivered on 19th and 26th February, 2024 at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Trivandrum.
- Keynote address on 'India's 'Cooperative Federalism' and Random Reflections of a Concerned Nonagenarian Teacher of Economics' at the National Seminar on Cooperative Federalism: Challenges Ahead at the Senate Chamber, University of Kerala, Trivandrum Jointly organised by. KEA, GIFT, IUCAE and Department of Economics, University of Kerala, on March 16, 2024.
- Special address on 'The Fiscal conundrum of States in the India's Fiscal Federalism: Issues for Discussion' delivered at Senate Chamber, University of Kerala, Trivandrum Jointly organised by. KEA, GIFT, IUCAE and Department of Economics, University of Kerala 12/01/2024.

## **(D) SERVICES TO ACADEMIC COMMUNITY**

### **(a) COLLEGE MENTORING PROGRAMME**

The College Mentoring Programme (CMP) is one of the two sub components of the K N Raj Fellowship programme. Its aim is to help improve the quality of economics education in colleges and universities in Kerala by focusing primarily on government owned institutions. The programme commenced in 2019-2020.

The mentoring programme is ongoing with the Department of Economics of Government College, Attingal, Trivandrum from 01 November 2021. In the current year, the Centre has donated 50 books in economics worth Rs. 68,000/- to the college library. Further, all the teachers and research students of the college were given complementary membership to the K N Raj library at CDS. Also, all the faculty and students of the department is placed on the CDS's mailing list for all academic events at the Centre, such as seminars, special lectures, conferences and workshops.

Under the CMP, CDS has successfully completed the mentorship to Department of Economics of Government College, Nedumangad, Trivandrum during the period 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2022. With help of this programme college secured the coveted NAAC accreditation with Grade A.

### **(b) REPRESENTATION IN COMMITTEES/ TASK FORCES/ ADVISORY BODIES**

#### **Abhilash T**

Chair SC/ST Cell, CDS

#### **Beena P L**

- Chaired Book Discussion on "Indian Economy and Neoliberal Globalization: Finance, Trade, Industry, and Employment" to honor prof. CP Chandrasekhar on 16 Dec 2023 at IIC, New Delhi
- Discussed three papers in the Globalics conference at GIFT, Thiruvananthapuram on 13 October 2023. Session titled 'Innovation for inclusive development: Indigenous Knowledge, Grassroot innovations, Jugaad, Informal economy, micro and small enterprises

- Chaired the Dissemination workshop of our project titled Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach , Energy Management Centre, Trivandrum, 28, November.2023.
- Coordinated an Interactive Session programme of CDS MA 1st years and 2nd years students with RBI officers at Thiruvananthapuram.
- Chairperson, IT Committee, CDS
- Member of Executive committee of Kerala Economic Association

### **Chidambaran G Iyer**

- Doctoral committee member for Mr.Jibin J.K., PhD scholar at the Humanities and Social Sciences department, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Refereed paper for the Economic and Political Weekly,
- Refereed paper for the Indian Economic Journal
- Refereed paper for the Journal of Social and Economic Development
- Refereed paper for the ISEC Working paper series
- Refereed paper for the Technology Forecasting and Social Change
- Chairperson of Cafeteria Management Committee till 9 July 2023
- Member of Campus Management Committee, CDS
- Member of advisory committee to the Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala

### **Devika J**

- External Member, School Board, School of Social Sciences, Central University of Hyderabad.
- On the Editorial Board of Indian Journal of Gender Studies.
- Member of CDS Governing Body
- Chair of Internal Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment, PhD coursework Coordinator, Chairperson of Campus Committee, Member of Staff Welfare Fund Committee, CDS.

### **Gogol Mitra Thakur**

- Co-coordinated Kerala and the World Economy Conference (18-19 March 2024) at CDS

### **Hrushikesh Mallick**

- External evaluator and Chairperson of the committee to conduct the viva-voce examination of Ph.D thesis on Estimation of income and price elasticities of electricity demand in India at IIT Bhubaneswar, 9th March 2024.
- Editorial Review Board member in “Social Work and Social Welfare” <https://www.syncsci.com/journal/SWSW/about>
- Reviewer’s Board for the Athens *Journal of Business & Economics*, *Athens Institute for Education & Research* (A world association of Academics and Researchers) <https://www.athensjournals.gr/ajberb>
- Reviewer Board Member for the Innovation Discovery, Innovation Forever Publishing Group, Website: <https://www.innovationforever.com>  
<https://www.innovationforever.com/Journals/ID/EditorialBoard/HrushikeshMallick>

**M. Parameswaran**

- PhD Coordinator, Convener, Academic Programme Committee, Hostel Warden, CDS Chairperson, Cafeteria Management Committee.

**Praveena Kodoth**

- Member, Advisory Committee, Project PRAYAS, International Organisation for Migration
- Member, Advisory Committee, SEWA, Kerala
- Member, Research Advisory committee of a PhD candidate in History, Sree Sankara University, Kalady
- Co-ordinator, Workshop on Research on Migration Issues, march 4 – 8, 2024 at CDS

**Rajit Biswas**

- Convener, Academic Committee
- Seminar Coordinator, CDS
- Member, Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee

**Ritika Jain**

- Visiting faculty at IIMK
- Associate coordinator of Ph.D. Programme (coursework)
- Chairperson of the Library Committee
- Member of the ICC Committee
- Warden of the hostel

**Thiagu Ranganathan**

- M A Programme Co-ordinator, CDS
- Chairperson, SC/ST Cell, CDS

**C. Veeramani**

- Chairman of the study group to prepare a Report on 'E-Governance', for the preparation of Memorandum to 16th FC, Department of Finance, Government of Kerala
- Member: "RBI's Empowered Committee on External Commercial Borrowings and Overseas Direct Investments", January 2018 - onwards
- Member: "Standing Technical Committee of Experts to review "India Exim Bank's Export Leading Index model to forecast India's exports", since March 2018
- Member: Keraleeyam 2023- Seminar Committee, Government of Kerala
- Member: Memorandum Drafting Committee to formulate views and suggestions for submission to the 16th Finance Commission. Government of Kerala

**Vinoj Abraham**

- Senior Consultant to the World Bank "Review on Climate change, Rural Livelihood and Migration" (2023)

## (c) TEACHING, CO-ORDINATING TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT CDS/ EXTERNAL TEACHING

### **Beena P L**

- Presented a paper titled 'Globalisation, Special Economic Zones and Development: Are there spatial spillovers in Kerala' by Beena PL, Rajarshi Choudhury and Saikat Sinha Roy in a conference on Kerala and the World Economy, March 18-19, 2024.

### **Chidambaran G. Iyer**

- Iyer, C.G., 'Local and global impact of two biomedical products developed in Kerala: Few observations', Conference on Kerala and the World Economy, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, March 2024.
- Iyer C.G., "Coffee sector in India: A study of few selected issues" presented in Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development at CDS on 9th August 2023.
- Iyer, C.G. "Process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: observations from an empirical study" at CDS on 8 December 2023.
- Evaluator for one presentation for the course on Indian Economy for second semester PhD students.

### **Devika J**

- Paper presented 'Locating the Relevance of Climate Change Education in Kerala: A View from History' at seminar *Developing a research agenda for education in Kerala – Climate change and environmental sustainability* Jointly organized by Vakkom Moulavi Foundation Trust, Centre for Development Studies, and TISS (Hyderabad). Chair : Dr Sajitha Bashir at Centre for Development Studies, 6-7 December, 2023
- 'Tiding Over Pandemic-Induced Vulnerabilities: Reflections on the Experiences of Two Groups of Cleaning/Domestic Workers', Open Seminar, Jointly with Anamika Ajay., Centre for Development Studies, Chair: Praveena Kodoth, 16 January 2024.

### **Hrishikesh Mallick**

- Chaired a session on "Fiscal Issues in Kerala" in the seminar on "Kerala and the World Economy Conference" held at CDS, Trivandrum on 18-19 March 2024.

### **Praveena Kodoth**

- Open Seminar – 'Migration and Vulnerability in Employment: Effects of the Covid19 Pandemic in a Migration Intensive South Travancore Village', Ritika Jain, M Parameswaran, Vinoj Abraham, Praveena Kodoth and Neethu Mol, ' CDS, November 24, 2023
- Open Seminar – 'The motherhood penalty in Kerala: the case of women with higher education', Tirta Chatterjee, Thiagu Ranganathan and Praveena Kodoth, CDS, March 22, 2024
- Open Seminar – 'Access to provision for Health and Education among Migrant Children in Kerala', Vinoj Abraham, Praveena Kodoth and Preetha Nair, ,November 10, 2023

### **Ritika Jain**

- Participated in various conferences within the Centre as a resource person.
- Seminar on "Information and Communication Technology and Female Employment in India" in September 2023
- Seminar on "Migration and Vulnerability in Employment: Effects of the Covid19 Pandemic in a Migration Intensive South Travancore Village" in November, 2023
- Chaired a book discussion session at CDS Poverty, Women and Capability: A Study of Kerala's Kudumbashree System Author: Prof. K P Kannan, 15.01.2024

### **C. Veeramani**

- Chaired a seminar at CDS- Evolution of Technological Self-Reliance in India: A Comprehensive Analysis of Patent, R&D, and Human Resources Policies by Prof. Sunil Mani, 19.01.2024
- Chaired K N Raj Memorial Lecture at CDS - Food and Nutrition Security for All: Old and New Challenges by Prof. Madhura Swaminathan, 05.02.2024
- Organised EXIM Bank ELI Committee Meeting at CDS, 07.02.2024
- Attended a discussion on India exports study - Asian Development Bank & CDS, 19.02.2024
- Chaired 14th B G Kumar Memorial Lecture, Accelerating India's Development: A State-Led Roadmap for India" by Prof. Karthik Muralidharan, 06.03.2024

### **Vinoj Abraham**

- Ritika Jain, M Parameswaran, Vinoj Abraham, Praveena Kodoth and Neethu Mol, Migration and Vulnerability in Employment: Effects of the Covid19 Pandemic in a Migration Intensive South Travancore Village, Open Seminar, November, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram
- Vinoj Abraham and Praveena Kodoth, Access to provision for Health and Education among Migrant Children in Kerala, Open Seminar on 10th November, Friday 3.30- 5 PM, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram
- Vinoj Abraham and Praveena Kodoth Conceptual and measurement challenges on estimating child migration - Lessons from a large-scale survey in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Open Seminar on 15th September Friday 3.30- 5 PM, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram

### **(d) AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

Shri K.M. Chandrasekhar, Former Chairman, CDS received the prestigious KeralaShri Puraskaram. Hon'ble Governor Shri Arif Mohammed Khan presented KeralaShri Puraskaram to Shri K.M. Chandrasekhar, Former Chairman, CDS in the field of Civil Service, at Kerala Rajbhavan on 6th March 2024. KeralaShri is a high civilian honour presented by Govt of Kerala.

## IV

# TEACHING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

### (a) Doctoral Programme In Economics

The Doctoral Programme at the Centre allows scholars to register under either JNU or the University of Kerala. Of the **258** scholars who were admitted during 1975-2023, 119 scholars have been awarded PhD Degree: 110 from JNU and 9 from KU. 34 scholars discontinued from the programme to join elsewhere and others are in different stages of their doctoral research. 5 theses are under evaluation.

#### Overview of the Year

##### 2023 admission:

**Direct PhD:** 8 students joined the PhD Programme in 2023.

**As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, five theses are under evaluation at JNU:**

- *Multinationals: Relative performance and spillovers –a study of Indian manufacturing*  
**Rajesh P.**, 2016, RBI Fellowship  
Supervisors: Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick & Prof. K. J. Joseph
- *Interstate Labour Migration in India: A Comparative Study of Gujarat and Kerala*  
**Madhusudan Nag**, 2016, ICSSR Fellowship  
Supervisors: Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick & Prof. (Rtd.) S. Irudaya Rajan
- *Essays on Multidimensional Poverty: Sequential Ordering, District-Level Measures and Spatial Association*  
**Vaidik Chakraborty**, 2019, UGC Fellowship  
Supervisor: Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick
- *Globalization and Income Concentration in BRICS: The Role of Technology*  
**Sanjay Kumar Rout**, 2019, UGC Fellowship  
Supervisor: Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick
- *Social Exclusion and Its Impact among Older Persons: Experiences from Tamil Nadu*  
**Mahesh Kumar T.**, 2017, ICSSR Fellowship  
Supervisors: Dr. Abhilash T. & Prof. (Rtd.) S. Irudaya Rajan

**The following ten scholars have been awarded PhD degree by JNU in the last reporting year.**

- ❖ *Challenges and Prospects of Tourism as a Development Option: The Experience of Kerala*  
**Nalini Netto**, 2001  
Supervisors: Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Prof. Amit S. Ray

The expansion of international travel and tourism has been one of the most important outcomes of globalisation and time-space compression processes. The post-World War II era saw tourism grow into one of the most significant socio-economic forces in the world till the COVID-19

pandemic struck. The pre-pandemic year of 2019 marked tourism's tenth consecutive year of sustained growth. Since the 1960s, tourism as a source of foreign exchange and employment has been a crucial component of the development strategies in developing countries. The share of international tourism to emerging economies has increased over time.

Attempts to integrate tourism and development raised serious concerns regarding community-level participation and who benefits. Governments and development organisations became increasingly interested in a tourism-based approach to poverty alleviation during the first decade of the new millennium. This was primarily on account of the fact that tourism, as a strategy for rural development, has several advantages over other sectors. The result was an emphasis on increasing tourist arrivals and enhancing tourism products in destination countries. However, the logic of equating more tourists with greater benefits has been questioned in light of the world financial crisis, issues with overtourism, climate change, and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kerala, a state in India's southwest, has been an internationally acclaimed destination for the past four decades. Tourism was not on the agenda of Kerala's planned development before the mid-1980s. It was designated an industry in 1986, marking the beginning of deliberate governmental intervention. By the turn of the millennium, tourism had become prominent enough not to be ignored. Prior to the last decade, the primary focus had been on increasing tourism numbers and augmenting the supply of tourism products. The introduction of Responsible Tourism initiatives in 2008 signalled the beginning of a shift in emphasis toward community-level aspects of tourism. Although many facets of Kerala's tourism have been studied, most of these studies concentrated on tourism development than tourism for development.

Primarily a nature-based destination, Kerala's tourism spots are all precariously perched on ecologically fragile areas, increasing the vulnerability of tourism and necessitating a balance between ecology and economy in the development paradigm. The two recent shocks, the floods of 2018 in the state and the COVID-19 pandemic have more than adequately exposed this vulnerability, catastrophic especially for the poor and the marginalised. These aspects have increased the relevance of examining tourism as a development option for the state in detail. The fundamental questions are whether it is a viable option and, if so, how it can be sustained. Taking the road less travelled, the present study is an attempt to examine the challenges and prospects of tourism as a development option for Kerala.

The tourism sector's performance in Kerala was examined using secondary data for 25 years from 1995. This is accomplished in terms of domestic and foreign tourist arrivals and receipts, seasonality, spatial distribution and source markets. The historical aspect of the evolution of tourism in the state was also explored, resulting in a valuable knowledge base, much needed to connect tourism with development. A spatially concentrated tourism and a less pronounced seasonality of domestic tourism compared to foreign tourism have implications for the environment and livelihoods in Kerala's micro-destinations.

The study then moved away from the big picture to zoom in on the local level by examining tourism livelihoods in the four micro-destinations of Kovalam, Kumarakom, Thekkady, and Wayanad. These four depict distinct tourism products; they are also the locations where Responsible Tourism initiatives were piloted in 2008. Further, they are different as regards the length of exposure to tourism and its impacts: Kovalam and Thekkady are two of the oldest destinations, while Kumarakom rose to prominence in the early 1990s and Wayanad in the late 1990s. A primary survey was conducted in these four destinations focusing on tourism livelihoods. The survey sample was drawn from the population earning a livelihood from tourism using

stratified random sampling with proportional allocation. The sampling frame was obtained from the Responsible Tourism Mission and grouped by the nature of tourism livelihood activities.

The Sustainable Livelihood Framework, which considers non-financial factors and generally focuses on poor communities close to tourist products, was used to assess the context and form of tourism livelihoods in the four micro-destinations. Focussing on the five capitals — Natural Capital, Physical Capital, Human Capital, Social Capital and Financial Capital — this approach went beyond cash incomes and provided a more nuanced understanding of how tourism benefits the poor, rural communities. Livelihood Capitals were computed using appropriate Livelihood Indicators. The data collected using a structured household questionnaire under four broad thematic heads — basic household profile, assets and liabilities, details of tourism livelihoods and Likert-type statements — was used for calculating the values of the Livelihood Indicators. A two-way mixed design factorial analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed to analyse whether the variation in the intensity of the five Livelihood Capitals in the sample could be generalised onto the population and whether the level of Livelihood Capitals in the study population varied across the four destinations. Social Capital was found to be the highest and Natural Capital, the lowest among tourism-dependent households in Kerala in terms of intensity. The intensity pattern of the five different capitals was also found to be different across the four destinations.

A Policy Delphi analysis adopting a Mixed Methods Approach was done to arrive at the policy prescriptions for tourism being considered as a development option for the state. The internet-supported Policy Delphi study was done in two rounds, with 63 panellists in the first and 59 in the second. The questionnaire addressed issues under five relevant domains- Tourism as a Development Option, Destination Management Issues, Synergy between Livelihoods and Destination Development, Environment Related Issues and Post-COVID Scenario. The background for the study was obtained from the respondents of the primary survey at the four destinations and interaction with officials, tourism business professionals and local community leaders. Out of the five domains, there was consensus on all statements in the domain relating to environment, with 80% of the statements coming under the highly relevant category for policy. The Delphi analysis showed that tourism can be a developmental option for the state, but with relevant policy prescriptions regarding factors influencing sustainability- environmental, social, cultural and economic.

The study shows that more than 90% of Kerala's tourists are domestic. Kerala's international markets are primarily long-haul, in defiance of the distance decay concept, posing challenges in the wake of post-pandemic travel patterns and climate change. Limited spatial spread and the less pronounced seasonality of domestic tourism are challenges to sustainable tourism in Kerala. The study on livelihoods indicating low values for Natural Capital and the Policy Delphi analysis assigning high policy relevance for environment related matters, point to the delicate balance that is called for while having tourism as a development option. While tourism can be a livelihood option, it can only be part of a diversified portfolio. Relevant policy prescriptions are also necessary to ensure economic, environmental and sociocultural sustainability.

**Key words:** Tourism Livelihoods, Policy Delphi, Livelihood Indicators, Vulnerability, Environment

❖ Monetary Policy in India: A Study of its Evolution, Conduct and Transmission

**Irfan Ahmad Shah**, 2016, UGC Fellowship

Supervisors: Dr. M. Parameswaran & Dr. Srikanta Kundu

In the aftermath of the global financial crisis (GFC), the standard dynamic stochastic general equilibrium (DSGE) models were questioned for their ability to predict and control the crisis. The

major issue with these models however, was their incapability to explain why the recovery post-GFC was extremely slow. The underlying assumption of DSGE models was the unique stable equilibrium wherein the economy always returns back to its original path. This proved far from the reality after the GFC and led to the genesis of the Multiple Equilibrium And DiversE (MEADE) paradigm. According to this paradigm, the economy may be characterized by multiple stable equilibriums governed by nonlinear relationships. The question is how monetary policy reacts during these multiple equilibriums/regimes and does the effect of monetary policy vary across these regimes.

This thesis examines the evolution and outcome of monetary policy in India across various regimes in the post-independence era. It is argued that the objectives of monetary policy in India have changed from one of supporting investment to controlling the money supply and finally to inflation targeting. This has led to significant changes in the macroeconomic variables for far over seven decades from 1950 to 2020. We focus mainly on the post-reform period from 1997 Q1 to 2019 Q4. This period comprises of the recent Multiple Indicator Approach regime and the recent Inflation Targeting Approach regime. We first estimate a nonlinear Taylor rule to analyze the reaction function of the monetary authority in India. It is found that the response of monetary policy in India is asymmetric and is influenced by the state of the economy, determined by the lagged interest rate. To capture such asymmetry, we have used a set of nonlinear models including smooth transition models, threshold regression models, and the Markov-Switching regression models. We found that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reacts aggressively to the output gap compared to inflation in general and particularly during periods of high interest rate. Using Markov-Switching models, we found that the response of the RBI to output gap is strong during low volatile regimes.

In order to understand the effects of monetary shocks on the economy, we analyze the monetary transmission mechanism in the Indian context. Using standard vector autoregressive framework and nonlinear local projections method, we found that monetary policy significantly affects both output growth and inflation in India. The effects are immediate on output growth and delayed for inflation. We further found that the asset price and interest rate channels are more effective compared to the exchange rate and the lending rate channel. Considering the nonlinear framework, there is a significant asymmetry in the effects of monetary policy mainly due to the sign of the shock and the state of the economy. The effects are stronger during expansion compared to recession. When both the sign of the shock and the state of the economy are taken together, we observe that contractionary shocks during expansion are more effective in affecting output while expansionary shocks during recession significantly affect inflation. The small shocks are found to be relatively more effective in influencing real output compared to the large shock.

In the last chapter of the thesis, we analyze the impact of external shocks especially on the conduct and transmission of monetary policy in India. We considered four main external shocks such as oil prices, capital flows, remittances and the global uncertainty shock. Using a standard vector autoregressive framework and dividing the shocks into an increase and decrease in external shocks, we found that an increase in external shocks has a significant effect compared to a decrease in external shocks. Though monetary authority in India, in general, does not respond to the external shocks at least in the short-run, the transmission channels are significantly affected by these external shocks. While oil prices significantly affect the exchange rate with no direct impact on the financial market, the global uncertainty depreciates the exchange rate along with a fall in stock price returns. The capital inflows on the other hand appreciate the exchange rate, increase asset price returns as well as decrease the long-run interest rate. We did not find a significant effect of remittances on the monetary policy in India. The overall thesis discloses that there is a significant asymmetry in the conduct and transmission of monetary policy. Even the effect of external shocks

especially on transmission channels is asymmetric. We conclude by arguing that ignoring asymmetries and using a linear framework may actually lead to inaccurate and misleading outcomes.

❖ **Dynamics and Sources of Industrial Output Volatility: Evidence from India**

**Atish Kumar Dash**, 2008, ICSSR Fellowship

Supervisors: Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick & Dr. N. Vijayamohanan Pillai

Macroeconomic volatility draws significant policy attention as it has implications for the growth and development of an economy. The literature has mostly established the negative relationship of volatility with long-run economic growth. Economic growth with stability is what is argued to be ideal for an economy. However, economic growth has never been stable; it has fluctuating episodes. The fluctuating feature of economic growth is known as the 'growth cycle' in business cycle literature. Before liberalisation, the standard business cycle analysis did not apply to India. The New Industrial Policy of 1991 emphasised the greater role of the private sector and provided a conducive environment to the private sector. After 1991, the economy became more open and market-oriented; as a result, it has witnessed the emergence of conventional business cycles. In terms of comovement and persistence of macroeconomic indicators, the Indian business cycle has resembled that of industrialised nations since 1991. In the post-reform period (1992-2019), industrial output has witnessed the highest volatility within the non-agricultural GDP. The manufacturing component of the industry has higher relative volatility than the overall industrial sector. The persistence of the cyclical component of industrial output is also higher than that of real GDP and the service sector during 1992-2019, indicating higher inertia in the business cycle.

There are numerous studies relating to the business cycle in India. One strand of studies analyses business and growth cycles; and the coincident and leading indices. Another strand of studies examines the synchronisation of the business cycle of India with other economies. This study adds to the existing literature by analysing (i) the output volatility of different sectors within the industry and the inter-industry output comovement accounting for the conditional heteroskedasticity of various industries' outputs and (ii) the role of a common shock in explaining the industrial output variability of different sectors within the industry. Furthermore, to add to the existing cross-country research on the determinants of output volatility, this study investigates the impact of crucial macroeconomic variables on industrial output volatility in India.

Using the Dynamic Conditional Correlation-Multivariate Generalised Autoregressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity (DDC-MGARCH) model, the study attempts to capture the volatility dynamics of the growth rate of the monthly index of industrial production and its persistence at the aggregate industry level and several use-based sector levels for India. We find that the general (aggregate) sector, capital goods sector, and consumer durables show higher persistence in the volatilities compared to other sectors. Given that the relative volatilities of capital goods and consumer durables sectors are higher, it suggests that it is necessary to adopt policies to stabilise and sustain the growth of these sectors.

The results of the DCC-MGARCH model also establish the time-varying nature of conditional correlations between the sectors. All the use-based sectors are positively correlated with the aggregate industry, and among the sectors, the capital goods sector has the highest average correlation with the aggregate sector. On average, the conditional correlations between the use-based sectors are also positive, though the magnitudes are lower than their correlations with the aggregate. The weak correlation between use-based sectors is indicative of the lower degree of shock transmission from one sector to the other. Nevertheless, positive conditional correlations are consistent with the idea that changes in output across sectors move together. Interestingly, the

conditional correlation between consumer durables and non-durables declined and became negative from the end of 2008 until the end of 2009. At the same time, during the recession period of 2008-09, consumer durables has shown the highest conditional correlation with the aggregate industrial sector, implying that the propagation of shocks might be higher from this sector during the period of higher uncertainty.

Further, the study employs exploratory factor analysis to examine how well a single common shock explains the output variability of fourteen sub-sectors within the industrial sector. The findings show that the aggregate shock explains sectoral output variability only weakly, corroborating our finding of weak dynamic conditional correlations between different use-based sector pairs. The weak contribution of the common shock in sectorial output fluctuation suggests that the sectors generally do not respond greatly to the single common aggregate shock in terms of aggregate demand or aggregate productivity shock.

Finally, the study examines the effect of monthly macroeconomic variables on industrial output volatility using the Vector Autoregressive (VAR) model. Specifically, we consider the volatilities in key domestic macroeconomic variables, namely, inflation, interest rate, and international influences (external sector shocks) captured by the exchange rate and terms of trade. We also consider the association of industrial output volatility with government expenditure, the degree of financial development measured by the credit extended to the commercial sector and the degree of openness as measured by the trade-to-GDP ratio. The volatilities of the variables are measured using the GARCH model. The results show that all the variables jointly help predict industrial output volatility. Cumulative impulse response analysis clearly reveals that positive shocks in inflation rate volatility, interest rate volatility and exchange rate volatility induce industrial output volatility. With regard to government spending, it has a decreasing effect on output volatility, although not immediately. However, in the immediate months, government expenditure exacerbates output volatility. In the case of terms of trade volatility, although we do not observe any discernable effect from the accumulated impulse response function, the impulse response function indicates that the terms of trade volatility shock has a positive effect, implying that shock to terms of trade volatility induces output volatility. Similarly, domestic financial development has an increasing effect on output volatility but dies out very quickly. On the other hand, trade openness has a dampening impact on output volatility. Furthermore, the variance decomposition analysis demonstrates that apart from the output volatility shock itself, the shocks from inflation volatility, government expenditure, exchange rate volatility and interest rate volatility are significant sources of industrial output volatility.

The above findings suggest that controlling inflation volatility is key to containing industrial output volatility. However, it is essential to know, for a policy, whether inflation volatility is due to demand or supply-side shocks. The monetary authority can reduce interest rate volatility by effectively managing structural, frictional, and policy-induced liquidity shocks. Moderating exchange rate volatility may prove beneficial given the evidence in the literature in the context of India that it affects use-based components of the index of industrial production. As regards government spending, since it dampens output volatility with some lags and induces it immediately, the government should be cautious while adopting an expansionary fiscal policy stance. On the external front, rising terms of trade volatility is a concern, while trade openness may reduce output volatility. Therefore, this could imply that engaging in international trade is beneficial for India.

**Keywords:** *Business Cycle, Output Volatility, Co-movement, Industry, India*

❖ Institutions, Innovations and Livelihood Strategies: Study of Small Growers in Natural Rubber

**Sajitha A.**, 2012

Supervisors: Dr. M. Parameswaran & Prof. K. J. Joseph

Regarding small farmers in India in general and Kerala in particular, it has been observed that there is a shift towards growing commercial crops in the expectation that this would augment farm income and improve livelihoods. However, in the post-reform period, increased vulnerabilities due to multiple price and non-price risks in agriculture led to challenges in attaining sustainable livelihoods. In this context, this thesis critically examines, in the prevailing agriculture institutional context, how small growers construct their livelihood strategies during risky situations by taking the case of Natural Rubber, which has been experiencing a price decline since 2012.

The study drew insights from two broad strands of theoretical literature- the Systems of Innovation Framework and the Sustainable Livelihood Framework and identified four objectives for the analysis.

1. To map out the evolution of the innovation system in Natural Rubber and explore its systemic weaknesses.
2. To study the performance of natural rubber in India to understand its changes and challenges since 1991
3. To identify the impact of the natural rubber price crash and the ex-post coping activities adopted by the natural rubber growers
4. To examine the determinants of ex-post coping livelihood strategies and the livelihood outcomes.

The study uses primary and secondary data to address the research issue in detail. The secondary data were collected from various publications by the Rubber Board, ANRPC, Agricultural Census, India and Agricultural Statistics of the Department of Economics and Statistics, Kerala. The primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire and adopted a proportionate stratified random sampling method to choose 200 sample growers from one of Kerala's major rubber growing regions, i.e., the Kottayam district. In addition to quantitative data, the study collected qualitative information through semi-structured interviews with officials in Rubber Board, Rubber Producer Society, Krishibhavan and Panchayat and conducted Focused Group discussions with natural rubber growers (both RPS and Non-RPS members) in the study region. The study employed Cointegration analysis, Instability index, structural break growth rates, Multinomial Logit regression model and descriptive statistics to examine the objectives.

The coupled structural-functional analysis of the natural rubber innovation system has identified the systemic problems in the sector associated with four types of blocking mechanisms: lack of capability of actors, insufficient interactions, weak institutions, and poor infrastructure. Among the systemic problems, the result indicates that issues related to guidance for search and resource mobilization in the innovation system in the natural rubber hinder the coevolution of the sector in addressing the emerging challenges. The institutional context in natural rubber, governed mainly by the Rubber Act 1947, guides the system to focus primarily on productivity enhancement activities and gives less thrust to other aspects such as price stabilization, processing, marketing, value addition and development of supporting technologies. The narrow focus of the guidance of the search function in the natural rubber sector negatively impacted knowledge development, weakening other functions such as entrepreneurial experimentation, knowledge diffusion, and market formation. In addition, insufficient resource mobilization affected functions such as entrepreneurial activities, knowledge development, knowledge extension, and market formation of the system.

Having explored the systemic problems and the blocking mechanisms that hinder the proper functioning of the innovation system of natural rubber, the next aim of the thesis is to analyse its implications on the sector's performance in macro and micro contexts. The analysis of the

performance of the natural rubber in India at the macro level revealed the emergence of both price and non-price-related challenges in the sector, especially after the economic reforms. The challenges include increased fluctuation in natural rubber domestic price, integration of domestic natural rubber price with the world natural rubber price, deceleration in the country's natural rubber yield and production compared to other natural rubber producing countries, increase in the domestic supply gap, change in demand by the tyre sector from sheet rubber to block rubber, the surge in natural rubber imports and increase in competition from low price synthetic rubber. Among these challenges, the natural rubber price crash is hypothesized to have impacted the livelihood of small growers. In this setting, the thesis next explored the implication of the recent price crash (2012-17) on small growers' livelihood and identified the nature and determinants of ex post coping activities adopted by them to overcome the challenges therein. To understand the issue in detail, the study conducted a primary survey of small natural rubber grower households in one of Kerala's major rubber-growing regions, i.e., Kottayam.

The evidence from the field survey indicates that the natural rubber price crash had adversely affected the income derived from natural rubber. The fall in income resulted in altering their livelihood strategies because 69.5 per cent of the sample growers consider natural rubber their prime source of income. The analysis of the choice of activities adopted by the natural rubber growers identified fourteen types of ex post coping activities, categorized broadly into three groups based on the allocation of resources to each activity, such as austerity measures, diversification of activities & dissaving, and divestment. It reveals that 98 per cent of the total sample growers have adopted at least one activity from austerity measures, followed by 87 per cent of the sample growers who have chosen activities from diversification of activities & dissaving, and 47 per cent of the sample growers had adopted activities from this divestment.

After identifying the type of activities, the next objective of the thesis is to classify the sample growers based on their strategies adopted to analyse the determinants and the plausible livelihood outcomes. By using the cluster method, we have categorized growers into three clusters, i.e., high preference for austerity measures (cluster 1), austerity + diversification of activities & dissaving (cluster 2) and austerity + divestment (cluster 3). The growers belonging to cluster 1, i.e., 19.5 per cent of the total sample, basically adopted those activities which require less resources. Nearly 33.5 per cent of the growers have chosen cluster 2 as their coping strategy. The resources allocated for this cluster's activities are less reversible; however, most activities ensure a return to them. Among the three strategies, the highest proportion of growers has adopted cluster 3 (47 per cent), which includes those activities that require a high level of irreversible resources (e.g., sale of assets). The growers in this cluster could be considered the most vulnerable sections as they need to engage in more activities than the other two clusters to overcome the challenges.

Analysis of the determinants of the strategies using the multinomial logit model reveals that factors such as livelihood assets like natural capital (area under natural rubber cultivation and other crops), human capital (age, education, family size, number of dependents, and tapping skill), financial capital (number of income sources, value of productive assets, savings, credit) and social capital (institutional membership); accessing and facilitating factor (institutional support); and price shock impact (amount outstanding at the bank) play a decisive role on the choice of ex post coping strategies among the small grower natural rubber growers in the study region. It is to be noted that asset-rich growers tend to adopt Cluster 2, which includes more income-generating activities and dissaving activities like saving and borrowing from formal sources. An important point that needs to be highlighted is the role of institutional membership and institutional support in choosing diversified income-earning activities. Furthermore, it is noted that participation in income-earning activities, compared to other activities, provides a better livelihood outcome regarding less compromise on consumption expenditure, increased employment opportunities, and less

vulnerability to future risks.

Hence, from a policy perspective, there appears to be a need to redesign the innovation system in natural rubber with appropriate changes in the structural and functional dimensions such that the system ensures a platform to support small natural rubber growers to earn additional income that helps them increase their adaptive capacity. Moreover, the engagement in additional activities provides ample scope to undertake ex-ante strategies to overcome the shock situation without compromising their asset holding. In this context, it is imperative to strengthen the existing innovation system in natural rubber to ensure sustainable livelihood for small growers during risky and uncertain situations.

Keywords: Institutions, Innovations, Livelihood Strategies, Natural Rubber Price, Kerala

Economics of the Efficiency of State Transport Undertakings in India

❖ **Binoy John K. V.** , 1999

Supervisors: Dr. Srikanta Kundu & Prof. (Rtd) K. Pushpangadan

The State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) are an important player in providing bus-based public road transport to the urban and rural population of India. But as common to other public sector enterprises, SRTUs also have been accused of low performance in all aspects. Many explanations have been offered on why SRTUs continue to perform poorly, especially in the financial aspects. But the evaluation of SRTUs should have to be different from that of the private transport undertakings, simply because of the differences in their objectives. Rather than financial performance, the *efficiency* of SRTUs should become the focus to discuss their success or failure.

The study aims to measure and examine the performance and efficiency of selected SRTUs in India and enquire into the reasons behind their (in)efficiency. Along with the conventional performance indicators of physical, operational and financial aspects, *X-efficiency*, a comprehensive concept of efficiency put forward by Harvey Leibenstein was found an appropriate paradigm to analyse the efficiency of SRTUs. Linear programming-based frontier measurement tool, *Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA)* could quantify X-efficiency. The paradigm explains the *institutions* behind inefficiency, particularly through the comparative analysis of the *organisational forms* of SRTUs. The study was based on panel data of 33 SRTUs conducting mofussil or intercity services over a period of 7 years; from 2010-11 to 2016-17. The source of data was the *Review of Performance of State Road Transport Undertakings* by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.

Examination of the origin, evolution and present status of SRTUs revealed that they were actively promoted after the nationalisation of the road transport industry in 1950. But with a turnaround in policy from 1988 onwards, the Government has been encouraging private participation and more commercialisation of SRTUs. Many SRTUs are currently facing acute financial crises along with various other challenges.

Empirical evidence from the analysis of performance indicators showed that they all were on the lower side. Organisational form-wise, companies performed relatively better than corporations and departmental undertakings. Trend analysis showed that all indicators except for *Staff-Bus Ratio*, *Staff Productivity* and *Fuel Efficiency* at the aggregate level were found deteriorating over the study years. Fleet utilisation was found an important indicator with significant correlations with other performance indicators. Clustering of SRTUs based on the indicators identified two clusters (better and lower performers) having statistically significant association with the organisational forms; where companies dominated the cluster of better performers.

The DEA measured efficiency scores of SRTUs revealed that there was huge *X-inefficiency* among SRTUs, indicating tremendous scope for improvement. *Scale efficiency* showed a relatively better score. The majority of SRTUs were identified with *managerial* than *scale* inefficiency. The majority were found operating at increasing returns to scale. There were wide variations in all the efficiency scores among the SRTUs. Significant differences were found in all efficiency scores across the organisational forms. Companies were found with the highest averages followed by corporations. During the study period, most of the SRTUs retained their relative position in efficiency ranking more or less the same, indicating *inertia* in their relative (in)efficiency levels.

The enquiry for the reasons behind the inefficiency identified the excess input usages in every inefficient SRTUs. The study examined the importance of institutions, particularly of organisational forms, throughout the analyses. Each organizational form offered different *environment* characterized by varying government control in such a way that autonomy and ‘pressure for effort’ increased from departmental undertakings to companies. Findings concluded that companies had better performance and efficiency followed by corporations and departmental undertakings. The findings supported *Yerkes-Dodson Law* that increased pressure levels would lead to better performance. Based on the findings, the study has put forward specific suggestions for strategic interventions. Their implementation asks for a comprehensive institutional analysis of each SRTU.

- ❖ Grounded Globalisations and Shaping of the Local: A Political Ecology of Kerala’s Midlands and Highlands  
**Mijo P. Luke**, 2016, UGC Fellowship  
Supervisor: Prof. J. Devika

This study is an attempt of a preliminary foray into understanding the effects of transnational migration on the ecological and spatial aspects of the ‘rural’ in Kerala. The midland and highland areas of Kerala have been sites shaped by in-migration from the lowlands of Kerala in the middle decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and thereafter; these processes have closely shaped both production relations and social relations in these regions. How has transnational migration—which started to become sizeable in the later decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century—impacted production, ecology, and social life in the highlands and midlands. These questions are vital for a renewed understanding of ‘rural’ in the rapidly urbanizing state of Kerala; while they are also relevant in debates around the ecological survival of the Western Ghats, for instance, the questions raised by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel and the heated exchanges between the state, local communities, and other-interest groups such as the Catholic Church around it. In this context, the following questions arise from the core concerns of the study a) How do we understand globalisation with its spatial practices and power structures in a locality, as it is formed and inhabited by different communities? b) How do we conceive the dynamics of spatial transformations in the binaries of rural–urban and global–local, with respect to the mobility patterns and shifting power equations in the social relations between different communities? c) How does a locality continue to reproduce its landscape and ecology in the contemporary period and the shifting power relations of different communities with respect to the state and other institutions? To answer these questions, Political Ecology was employed as an analytical framework to understand the nature–society relationship beyond the limitations of a single discipline.

The core of the study is based on the mixed method fieldwork conducted at four sites across the midlands and highlands in Kerala. The four case studies offer an analytical value of grounding political ecology by unearthing the dynamics of loss of control of resources at the local level. The chapters unearthed the effects of transnational migration on ecological degradation, urbanisation, and inequalities from various sites. The first case study explores the dynamic relations of human

mobility, social relations of power, and the changing rural at Arakkuzha and their interplay effects. It shows the continued exclusion of the marginalised communities from land ownership and transnational opportunities. The second case study deploys a historical perspective to understand the spatial formation of the 'local' at Mutholy. The case study presents the changing land use and shifting economic base and concludes that the spatial form in Mutholy is neither urban nor rural in the conventional sense. The third case study tries to delineate different political–ecological processes that shape Peringasserry. Over the years, the settlement's ecology has changed from forest land to a fragile one that is prone to landslides. The processes that have led to the alienation of livelihoods for people who depend solely on agriculture in Peringasserry have been discussed. The fourth case study of Thankamani shows that the rich Syrian Catholics from the lowlands were able to use their already-existing dominance in the region to acquire more land in the highlands and occupy the best areas there, thus shaping the settlement pattern. This chapter reveals how these relations of power and inequality have been reproduced. The thesis highlights the importance of considering these aspects in the analysis of nature–society relationships in the region, without which, the analysis would not yield fully representative results.

The major findings from the case studies on the relationship between transnational migration, livelihood, and local ecology offers a complex picture considering different pathways and strategies of various castes/communities in the context of land use changes and changes in agriculture. We argue that the spatial forms are produced over enduring agrarian relations, and inequalities that limit free mobility and the accumulation of capital in the urbanisation process are an extension of agrarian capital accumulation. A major contribution to political ecology is that the opposition to the report is not only from the fear of the small-scale farmer but also the attempt of the most powerful community in the area to retain power and control over resources which they acquired over many years.

***Keywords: Transnational Migration, Livelihoods, Rural-Urban, Political Ecology, Kerala***

❖ **Industrial Agglomeration: A Study of the Indian Manufacturing Sector**

**Smruti Ranjan Sahoo**, 2016, UGC Fellowship

Supervisors: Dr. M. Parameswaran & Prof. P. L. Beena

Manufacturing sector is considered as the engine of long-run economic growth. The expansion of the manufacturing sector drives the overall growth of the economy through exports; transfer labour from the low productivity sectors; and increases labour productivity due to the exploitation of increasing returns in production, thereby taking a country to the path of higher economic growth. Recognising the growth and development potential of the manufacturing sector, in the post-independent period, India followed a manufacturing led growth strategy and envisioned a state led industrialisation process. Policies were also made to encourage manufacturing industries in the backward states of India to achieve balanced regional development. However, despite the concerted efforts manufacturing activities are concentrated among states. The geographic concentration of manufacturing activities gained momentum after the economic liberalisation in 1991. Under the liberalised regime, the role of the state as an industrial owner and location regulator has been curtailed substantially. At the same time, economic factors received greater importance in determining the location of manufacturing industries. It has been observed that with the dominance of the private sector in Indian manufacturing, in the post-liberalisation period, plants started locating in industrially richer states. This process further induced greater geographic concentration. It is argued that, the geographic concentration of manufacturing plants - widely known as industrial agglomeration - positively affects the productivity and economic growth of only a few states and is responsible for widening regional income disparities. It is in this context,

a study on industrial agglomeration assumes significance.

Theoretically, agglomeration of the industry within a region increases the level of specialised inputs, attracts skilled workers to the region, promotes spillover of knowledge and competition among plants, which is important for the innovation of new products and process of production, and lastly provides a market for goods produced by these plants, thereby minimising the cost of transportation. Further, agglomeration promotes the spillover of knowledge relating to export among plants. This can also encourage export by plants. The thesis examines these issues in the case of the registered manufacturing sector of India. Specifically, the thesis (1) analyses the nature and extent of industrial agglomeration; (2) evaluates the impact of industrial agglomeration on the productivity of manufacturing plants; (3) unravels the nexus between industrial agglomeration and plants' export performance. This analysis not only sheds light on the recent evolution of industrial agglomeration in the Indian manufacturing sector but also explains its benefits on individual plants. Differing from the existing studies in the context of India, the present study measured agglomeration at the disaggregated industry level and provides a detailed insight into the performance of manufacturing plants by using more recent data and a variety of agglomeration measures.

In the nature and extent of industrial agglomeration, we examined the dynamics of industrial agglomeration in the Indian manufacturing sector. Firstly, we analysed the agglomeration of Indian manufacturing industries over the years; followed by that, the agglomerated industries and their location were identified; lastly, the relationship between agglomeration and the characteristics of the industry is examined. Differing from the previous studies, we considered four-time points and computed agglomeration at the disaggregated industry level. We also grouped the industries based on their technological intensity and plant size to examine whether the agglomeration of industries varies across these groups. Even though we found a declining trend of industrial agglomeration, in 2015-16 more than 67 percent of industries were agglomerated, which is substantive. The analysis further shows that the decline in the level of industrial agglomeration is faster for high-tech and large plants size industries. From the analysis of the location of agglomerated industries, we observed that over time the resource-based industries are moving to the industrially agglomerated states to benefit from the scale economies. These findings motivate us to analyse the effect of industrial agglomeration on manufacturing plants. Industrial agglomeration can affect manufacturing plants in several ways, this study analyses its effect on plants' productivity and export.

The analysis of the impact of agglomeration on productivity is done as follows. First, we estimated the productivity of plants using a gross output production function. Gandhi et al. (2017)'s method is used for this purpose. This method non-parametrically identifies the production function parameters and estimates productivity in the presence of simultaneity, which distinguishes it from other existing methods. The estimated productivity is then used as the independent variable to analyse the impact of agglomeration on the productivity of manufacturing plants. The empirical analysis is based on the plant-level panel data over the year 2004-05 to 2015-16. We used the Generalised Method of Moment Instrumental Variable (GMM IV) estimation procedure to ensure that the analysis is not biased by the endogeneity between agglomeration and productivity. The analysis shows that the agglomeration of industry in a state increases the productivity of manufacturing plants. Local competition among plants on the other hand negatively impacts productivity. Our findings also show that, the effects of agglomeration on plants' productivity vary greatly depending on their size and technological intensity.

In the analysis of agglomeration and export, the study examined the effect of industrial agglomeration on the probability and intensity of plants' export. We used plant level panel data

covering the period 2008-09 to 2015-16 for this purpose. The empirical analysis shows that, agglomeration does play an important role in explaining plants' exports. However, its effect on the intensity of export is relatively lower than export probability. Local competition among plants on the other hand significantly reduced the export intensity and probabilities of plants. Further, by examining the agglomeration and export relationship for the plants of high-technology industries the study found that the agglomeration of plants of other industries in a region only affects the probability of their export.

While analysing the above objectives, the thesis also highlights the importance of plant and state specific factors in the productivity and export performance of Indian manufacturing plants. The thesis thus provides a detailed insight into the effects of industrial agglomeration on manufacturing plants by using plant-level panel data. The findings of this thesis are quite consistent with the hypothesis developed in the theoretical and empirical literature.

**Keywords:** *Industrial Agglomeration, Localisation, Urbanisation, Technology-intensive industries, Manufacturing plants, Productivity, Export, System-GMM, Two-part model*

- ❖ Understanding the Nature and Performance of Enterprises Owned by Marginalized Social Groups in India  
**Rajesh I. D.**, 2017, GoK Fellowship  
Supervisors: Prof. P. L. Beena & Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Entrepreneurs from marginalized social groups such as Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST), often disadvantaged due to caste-based discrimination and other lack of endowments, face significant challenges to establishing businesses, unlike entrepreneurs from established business families. This is particularly difficult for first-generation entrepreneurs from SC and ST backgrounds, who often face additional hurdles. The prior studies explain the enterprises owned by marginalized social groups and their access to capital, social networks, state roles, education, and training. However, less attention has been paid to the performance and employment of enterprises owned by different social groups. The present study aims to analyze the ownership pattern, productivity and caste-based nature of employment in enterprises across social groups utilizing secondary data sources from Economic Census (2005 & 2013), NSSO (Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises Survey 2010-11 & 2015-16) and All Indian MSME Census (2007).

The analysis revealed that SCs and STs, as marginalized social groups, had a lower share of enterprises compared to their respective population shares, indicating under-representation. Conversely, OBCs had proportional representation, and Other's had over-representation in the ownership of enterprises. As for the activity profile of enterprises owned by marginalized social groups, there was a shift, albeit marginal, from primary sector activities to secondary and service sector activities. Entrepreneurs from marginalized social groups perceive new industries as offering more opportunities for success and also their desire to move away from traditional enterprises and become entrepreneurs in a variety of industrial activities. There were significant differences in labour productivity and total factor productivity between SC/ST and Non-SC/ST-owned enterprises. The differences between the two groups can be attributed to the lack of technical knowledge and the under-utilization of registration facilities among enterprises. In addition, the industrial nature of the enterprises also substantiates the labour productivity differences between the two groups. The employment aspect of the enterprises presents a significant argument that caste matching is persistent in all the enterprises, with a greater prevalence among upper caste and established business communities, while it is relatively lower among enterprises owned by marginalized social groups.

The study shows that marginalized social groups have the potential to become entrepreneurs but also highlights the various hindrances they face in doing so. The presence of caste-matching aspects shows that social factors are very much entrance into the economic activities in Indian society. The policies aimed at improving entrepreneurship among marginalized social groups should focus on promoting better caste intermixing and enhancing the performance of enterprises owned by these social groups.

**Keywords:** *Marginalized Social Groups, Caste Discrimination, Dalit Entrepreneurship, Productivity, Employee-Employer matching, Caste-Matching*

❖ Direct Corporate Taxation and its Effects on Financial Behaviour of Indian Firms after the Macroeconomic Reforms of 1991

**Amit Nandan, 2018, UGC Fellowship**

Supervisors: Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick & Dr. Ritika Jain

After the structural macroeconomic reforms of 1991, India has been taking many steps to reform its direct corporate taxes. In this direction, many steps were taken, mainly the gradual reduction in the statutory corporate income tax, altering the nature of exemptions and incentives, simplifying the corporate taxation so that less litigants took place between the government and taxpayers, reforming dividend distribution tax, the introduction of new taxes, etc. It is in this context; this study looks at the implications of these on the financial behaviours of firms in the manufacturing sector.

This study comprises three main objectives besides having other chapters.

1. In this thesis, we examine trends and patterns of corporate taxation and finances of non-government non-financial private limited companies.
2. Relationship between the statutory corporate income tax on firms' leverage.
3. Relationship between the dividend distribution tax on firms' payouts.

In the first chapter, this study looks at the trends and patterns of some of the variables that are associated with direct corporate taxation- namely(1) the percentage of collection from direct corporate taxes as a percentage of total net collection from direct taxes, (2) costs of collection of direct taxes as a percentage of total collection from direct taxes,(3) amounts under tax disputes with the government(corporate vs. government),(4) revenue forgone due to concessions given to the corporate sector, and profiles of companies paying corporate taxes based on size, manufacturing versus service, and manufacturing versus service. We also calculate the corporate tax buoyancy. Furthermore, we also show the trends and patterns of many variables, but the emphasis was given on (1) debt to equity ratio and (2) dividend paid to net worth.

We find the government loses a significant amount of money due to tax disputes. However, the Government of India is concerned about this matter and has been taking many steps to deal with this issue. Moreover, the good news is that the government is making efforts in increasing its efficiency in the collection of taxes from the corporate sector as the revenue forgone as a percentage of total collection from the corporate sector are reduced, and the costs of collection of direct taxes as a percentage of total collection from direct taxes have been on a falling trend. We also find that the effective tax rate is higher for small-sized firms than for big-sized firms. For many years, corporate tax buoyancy has been less than one during the whole period of analysis. Furthermore, it appears that firms in India are now relying more on equities for their capital structures. Dividend payments by the corporates as a ratio to their net worth are greater than 2 for the most part, but in 2011-12, it had started falling.

In the second objective, we examine the exogenous changes in statutory corporate income on the

leverage of firms engaged in manufacturing. Besides, the statutory corporate income tax and other tax variables. We find that there exists a linear relationship between statutory corporate income tax and leverage. This relationship is statistically robust in static and dynamic frameworks. It means that if the statutory corporate income tax rate decreases in India, manufacturing firms in India will prefer less debt as a source of finance. This result also reflects in what we get in the earlier objective. In the earlier chapter, where we use the financial data of non-government and non-financial firms, we find that firms rely more on equity.

In the last objective, we try to answer the implication of change in dividend distribution taxes (DDTs) on the dividend payment behaviour of the firms engaged in manufacturing. The Government of India altered the dividend distribution taxes (imposed on firms and shareholders also) many times during the analysis period. How did it affect the dividend payment behaviour-whether firms decreased the dividend payments when DDT tax was imposed on them? We find that dividend distribution tax (DDT) on firms has negatively affected the dividend paid by firms, and it is statistically robust both in static and dynamic frameworks.

Through the above-stated objectives, this thesis concludes that direct taxes on firms affect firms' financial behaviours.

Keywords: Tax Law, Tax System, Tax Deductible, Corporate Finance, Microeconometrics, Panel Fixed Effects Model, Panel Dynamic Model

❖ Cash versus In-kind Transfers: The Indian Experience

**Indrajeet Kumar, 2016, UGC Fellowship**

Supervisors: Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick & Prof. U. S. Mishra

The thesis aims to evaluate the impacts of cash versus in-kind transfer programmes on household welfare in India regarding poverty, employment, health, and education outcomes. The study uses two data sources (i) India Human Development Surveys (IHDS) 2004-05 & 2011-12 and (ii) Field Survey in Bihar 2015. IHDS provides nationally representative secondary information, and the primary survey interviews households, fair price shop dealers, bank managers, and local elected representatives. The thesis examines the impacts through descriptive analysis and impact evaluation using propensity score matching- considering the insights from the field survey. So, the results from the quantitative analysis are corroborated by the qualitative insights to understand the mechanisms working on welfare impacts- applying a mixed-method approach.

The study considers the IHDS the most suitable data source given the aim that it has two programmes- one in cash and one in in-kind. The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is the in-cash pension programme, and the Annapurna Yojana is the in-kind food grain programme. The second programme is a substitute for the first, while it is not otherwise. In this sense, those not under the pension but eligible can enrol for the food grain. So, the two programmes are mutually exclusive to participate in as there were constraints on how many people could be accommodated in the pension scheme.

The impact evaluation results on the poverty outcomes show that the cash transfers helped households live with lower monthly per capita income in 2005. The reason is once households are secured with minimum cash income, they limit their labour supply. In contrast, the in-kind transfers reduce conspicuous consumption explaining that no-free-cash deters such habits. The outcome changes when the programme design modifies and the cash amount increases in the later period. In particular, the impact becomes significant in cash-recipient households by improving their food consumption (except rice and wheat) and asset ownership. The supply of ten kilograms

of food grain unaffected the outcomes, while cash-recipient households subsist by lowering their per capita income.

In employment outcomes, the cash transfers helped reduce the market-generated labour supply of the elderly and improved it for working-age adults in 2005. Instead, food grain reduced the child and teen labour supply. In 2012, the working hours per person remained higher in in-kind receiving households. In the gendered outcome, male elderlies from cash-recipient homes worked lesser than those from non-recipients across the periods. By 2012, food-grain transfers reduced the working hours of female elderlies. On participation in MGNREGS, food grain recipients worked extra days than cash recipients. So, the changes in programme design and implementation become the reason for the difference in outcomes in the second period.

Initially, concerning health outcomes, cash transfers helped the elderlies in programme-recipient households to spend more on healthcare during short-term morbidity conditions. By 2012, the elderlies from these homes spent more on aggregate healthcare and doctors, hospitals, and surgery-related services during such morbidity. But, food grain transfers to homes unchanged the healthcare expenses of the elderlies. In managing long-term morbidity- which depends on dealing with short-term morbidity, both transfers significantly lowered elderly healthcare expenses. On top, elderlies from in-kind receiving households spend lesser on aggregate healthcare, doctors, hospitals, and surgery-related services than those non-recipients. one must note that- considering healthcare expenditures, both lower and higher expenses indicate favourable outcomes.

In education outcomes, cash-recipient households performed better in promoting schooling and tutoring regarding enrolment rates and spent more than non-recipients on other than school/tuition fees in 2005. The aggregate educational expenditure, which includes the school/tuition fees and others, remains lower in food grain recipient houses than in non-recipients. In the mean years of schooling, children from these houses also forwent about a trimester of education. In contrast, the enrollment rate of teens in cash-recipient homes was barely two per cent lower than in non-recipients. Later, cash transfers had insignificant effects on households' education attainment and expenditures.

In recommendation, in-kind foods over cash are suggested to target the consumption poverty in food products (e.g., rice, wheat, millet, or fortified food). In contrast, cash transfer becomes the best-recommended option to improve the diversity in food consumption- respecting consumer choices. Yet, considering food inflation, if the cash or in-kind transfer stays modest, it insignificantly affects consumption outcomes. One lacuna with cash transfer remains that it lowers the labour supply, though if the aim is to restrict the labour supply of the elderly, cash transfers could be the best policy choice. Then again, through spill-over effects, in-kind transfers lower the regressive labour supply of children and teens, whereas such spill-overs are absent under in-cash transfers. In managing short-term and long-term morbidity conditions, cash transfers help more than in-kind. Since long-term morbidity conditions depend on short-term morbidity- cash transfers reduce healthcare expenses during long-term conditions. Beyond, cash transfers show more noticeable results than food grain in achieving better educational outcomes regarding enrollment rate and educational expenses through spill-over effects.

This study suffers some limitations. The information about IGNOAPS is available in most datasets; however, Annapura Yojana is only in IHDS. The scale-up of the pension scheme and the scale-down of the food grain programme increased and decreased the samples in 2012. In terms of methods, this study relied on cross-section analysis to estimate the outcomes than calculating the net effects over time and across panel units. The programmes target the elderly, so their impacts on education can only be measured in the spill-over results but not on the

beneficiaries. Specifically, this study planned to revisit the 2015 field survey site in Bihar; however, the persistent lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic restricted materialising the same.

**KEYWORDS:** Cash, In-kind, IGNOAPS, Annapurna Yojana, Old-Age Pension, Food Grain, Public Distribution System, Poverty, Employment, Health, Education, Bihar, India.

### **Current Studies**

1. Credit Availability and the Performance of MSME Enterprises in India  
**Vidyarani K.**, 2018- UGC Fellowship  
# Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick
2. Analysing Public Private Partnerships in Indian Infrastructure Sector  
**Papaiah Koppula**, 2018- ICSSR Fellowship  
# Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Dr. Ritika Jain
3. A Study on the Operation of Caste-Based Privilege among Students  
**Aishwarya Prakash**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
# Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan
4. Labour force participation and decision making power of women in urban India: The case of West Bengal  
**Annesha Mukherjee**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
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5. Empirical Analysis of Subnational Borrowing: A Study on Major Indian State  
**Ashraful Khalq**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
# Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick
6. Analysis of Non-Farm Self-Employment in the Context of Economic Development in India  
**Basit Abdullah**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
# Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Dr. Ritika Jain
7. The Political Economy of Forest Property Rights: A Case of Jharkhand  
**Rahul Kamal**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
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9. Revisiting the Migration-Trade Nexus for India: An empirical analysis  
**Sabeer V.C.**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
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10. The Political Economy of Affirmative Action in India  
**Suaid Ahmad Rather**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
# Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Srikanta Kundu

11. Asymmetric information in health care sector  
**Swathi Krishna K.U.**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
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**Vishnu K. Venugopal**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF  
# Prof. Vinoj Abraham
13. Essays on Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India  
**Amresh Senapati**; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF  
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**Ashish Biswas**; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF  
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**Devika Dileepkumar**; 2020 – GoK  
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16. Equality of opportunity and unfair inequality in India  
**Gayathri P.**; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF  
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**Shakuntala Ghadai**; 2020 - UGC NFSC  
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**Shonima Nelliath** ; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF  
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**Sita Majhi**; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF  
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# Prof. Praveena Kodoth & Dr. Ritika Jain

23. Technical and Technological Progress in Small and Medium Manufacturing Industries in India  
**Abhinav Surya L. T.;** 2021 - UGC JRF/SRF  
# Prof. Beena P. L.
24. Unravelling the Evolving Labor Process in Gig Economy: Insights from Gig Platforms in India  
**Mohammed Anfas;** 2021 - UGC JRF/SRF  
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25. An Analysis of the Non - Institutional Factors Affecting on Child Nutrition and Development: A Study of the Bihar and Maharashtra  
**Mayur Jeevan Kamble;** 2021 –  
# Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick
26. A Study of Migrant Workers of Assam in Kerala: Purpose, Networks, and Choice of Employment  
**Richa Baruah;** 2021 – UGC JRF/SRF  
# Prof. Vinoj Abraham
27. Medium - high and High technology industries in India: A study of its evolution and growth  
**Sachin Varghese Titty;** 2021 – ICSSR  
# Prof. Beena P. L.

**Topics of the following students are yet to decide**

1. **Vishnu Ravi;** Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- GoK Fellowship  
# Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Dr. Abhilash T.
2. **Ahsana ;** 2022 – UGC JRF  
# Dr. Ritika Jain & Prof. Vinoj Abraham
3. **Anna Maria Abraham;** 2022  
# Prof. C. Veeramani
4. **Ayana Krishna D.;** 2022- UGC JRF  
# Prof. Praveena Kodoth
5. **Jayalakshmi T. A.;** 2022 – UGC JRF  
# Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur & Dr. Srikanta Kundu
6. **Kalayath Mohamed Shemil;** 2022 – UGC JRF  
#Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan
7. **Pawan Kumar;** 2022 – UGC JRF  
# Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. M. Parameswaran
8. **Sangeetha Kethapaka;** 2022 – UGC JRF  
# Dr. M. Parameswaran

9. **Shabnam T. P.**; 2022 – UGC JRF  
# Prof. Beena P. L. & Prof. Vinoj Abraham
10. **Arun M. Balaji**; 2023  
# Prof. Beena P. L. & Prof. Vinoj Abraham

**Topics and supervisors of the following students are yet to be decided**

1. **Bhatraju Jithin Sree**; 2023 – UGC JRF
2. **Mahitha K.**; 2023 – UGC JRF
3. **Manish**; 2023 – UGC JRF
4. **Nafseena R.**; 2023 – UGC JRF
5. **Sarath U. V.**; 2023 – UGC JRF
6. **Shubhankar**; 2023 – UGC JRF
7. **Subranil Nandi**; 2023

**PhD Internship Abroad Programme**

To bring about more international exposure to research students, the PhD Internship Abroad (PIA) Programme launched in 2016-17 enables PhD scholars to spend time in research work at an institute of repute in any part of the world. The following three PhD Scholars, were selected for this programme during the year.

- 1) **Ms. Gayathri P** - Ph.D scholar (2020 batch), Topic: “*Equality of Opportunity and Unfair Inequality in India*” under the mentorship of Prof. Paolo Brunori, Associate Professor in Public Economics, University of Florence, Italy.
- 2) **Ms. Rajalaxmi Singh** - Ph.D scholar (Int MPhil/PhD 2018 batch), Topic: “*Parental Involvement, Aspiration, and Learning Outcomes of Children in India*” under the mentorship of Professor Ricardo Sabates, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, UK
- 3) **Mr. Sabeer V C** Ph.D scholar (Int MPhil/PhD 2018 batch), Topic: “*Impact of International Migration on International Trade: An Empirical Analysis for India*” under the mentorship of Dr. Julian Hinz, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Germany.

**(b) M.A. IN APPLIED ECONOMICS**

MA (Applied Economics) in CDS is a unique master’s programme in economics that aims at providing rigorous training in theory, tools and methods for applied economic analysis, with a special focus on issues of economic development. The degree is awarded by Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi).

**2023 MA Admission**

For students from India

- 657 Applications were received.
- Out of the 657 candidates, 9 opted Guwahati, 23 opted Hyderabad, 135 opted Kolkata, 112 opted Kozhikode, 193 opted New Delhi, 30 opted Pune and 155 opted Thiruvananthapuram as their centre for Entrance Test.

- Entrance test was conducted from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon on Sunday, July 31, 2022. The test centres were Jadavpur University in Kolkata, IIT Guwahati in Guwahati, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) in Hyderabad, Malabar Christian College in Kozhikode, School of International Studies (SIS) in JNU, New Delhi, **Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in Pune** and Govt. SMV HSS in Thiruvananthapuram
- 439 Candidates out of 657 applicants appeared for the entrance test.
- Selection was based only on the score of the entrance test.
- 21 students joined the programme.

### For students from SAARC Countries

Two applications were received for MA Applied Economics Programme. The Committee interviewed the candidates and selected Ms. Nabina Kumari Gupta from Nepal for admission. Later he discontinued from the programme.

### MA 2021 Batch

Degree awarded from JNU

### MA 2022 Batch

4<sup>th</sup> Semester classes started on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### MA 2023 Batch

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester classes started on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Project Topics of MA Programme- 2022 batch AE 208: project

Sl No	Name	Project Title
1	A K Hisana Thasneem	Does female owned enterprises hire more female employees?
2	Aman Kumar Soni	Reservation and dropouts: a case study on Centre for Development Studies
3	Anandakrishnan V. R.	Poverty Trends in Social Groups : A study of Kerala and Tamil Nadu
4	Anila Muraly	Gender gap in the employment of disabled people
5	Anusmita Das	Impact of Business Group Ownership on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices-Study on manufacturing sector in India
6	Aparna	Determinants of GVC participation in Electronics and Automobile Industry: A Cross-Country Analysis
7	Ardra R. S.	Impact of TRIPs on the structure and performance of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry
8	Bhanu Kumar	Livelihood promotion and poverty alleviation: A case study of Jeevika in Bihar
9	Bishwakar Kumar	Military Expenditure and economic growth in India
10	Fidha T. P.	Population Ageing and Healthcare Expenditure: An all-India study based on LASI data

11	Gayathri B. Mambra	Analysing the Impact of Increasing Life Expectancy on Pension Burden in Indian States
12	Kannan P.	Impact of Global Value Chain Participation on Carbon dioxide emission
13	Lavanya E. D.	Does high growth magnitude result in greater fiscal balance? state-wise analysis of Indian economy
14	Mufeed P. M.	Impact of Economic Shock on Employment Patterns in the Indian Labor Market: A Study on COVID-19
15	Navamika Prasad	Education and Development
16	Rimi Sarkar	Quantile Price and Volatility Connectedness among Sectoral Indices of Indian Stock Market
17	Riny Raju	Oil price volatility and exchange rate dynamics under normal and crisis periods: Evidence from India
18	Sakya Mukherjee	Impact of GVC Participation on Labor Market Outcomes: evidence from India's organized manufacturing
19	Sanidhya Sanjay Dayal	Analysing the relationship between consumption and exchange rate
20	Satabdi Debadulari	Relationship between Biocapacity and ecological footprint: The role of economic status
21	Shahana M.S.	Major obstacles facing business enterprises in India: Examining who bears the hurdles more
22	Vaibhav Kumar	<b>Informal Employment in Uttar Pradesh: An Intra-state Analysis</b>

### (c) Short Term Training Programmes

#### Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development

7th-13th August 2023

Coordinator: Prof. Vinoj Abraham

After its peak in the 1950s and 1960s, the significance of plantations in the national economy diminished due to various factors, including declining competitiveness. The trend was further exacerbated by liberalization in the 1990s and global integration. Alongside this, research into plantations also declined. Despite the reduced economic contribution, the dependence on these crops for livelihood has remained unchanged. The sector is now transitioning into a new phase of development, marked by shifts such as the estate model replacing smallholder production, rising concerns about climate change, adherence to environmental standards, and evolving labor arrangements. These changes highlight the need for a multidisciplinary approach to comprehensively understand and address the developmental challenges associated with plantation economies.

In this context it becomes imperative that renewed interest is developed in research on this area. Keeping in this mind the National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) at CDS, organized a multidisciplinary workshop on research capacity building on plantation and development.

The seven-day Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development was held from 7th to 13th August 2023 at the Centre. Funded by the endowment established for plantation research and capacity building by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, the workshop received high praise and was very well received by participants. A total of 23 participants were

selected from various regions across India, including Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Delhi, and Kerala. The program featured three lectures each day, complemented by interactive sessions where participants discussed their own research.

The lectures, delivered by esteemed academics and researchers specializing in plantation studies, covered a wide array of themes—from theoretical and methodological approaches to sector-specific issues. The sessions were primarily led by faculty from the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), with additional contributions from other renowned institutions. Travel support was provided to all participants to facilitate their attendance.

### **Workshop on “Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration,”**

**4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2024**

**Coordinator: Professor Praveena Kodoth**

The workshop, organized annually under the state government’s Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala, is designed for research scholars from Indian universities and colleges, as well as early career professionals engaged in migrant issues. This initiative aims to foster a deeper understanding of migration through diverse research methods and perspectives.

The workshop on **Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues** was held from **4th to 8th March 2024**. The event brought together **27 young scholars** from diverse disciplinary backgrounds across India. The workshop was inaugurated by **Prof. C. Veeramani**, Director of the Centre.

Over the five days of training, participants explored a range of topics in migration research including: Overview of migration issues, Data and methods (Dr.Ravi Srivastava), Macro-economic impact of Gulf migration (Dr.K S Hari), Studying migration through a historical lens (Dr.V J Varghese), International Labour Migration Policies (Dr.S K Sasikumar), Migration through the IHDS data (Dr.Ritika Jain), Analysis of migration using the Census (Prof. Vinoj Abraham), Gender and migration (Dr.Neetha N), Migration through the lens of a village study (Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Dr. Ritika Jain, Dr. M. Parameswaran, Prof. Praveena Kodoth).

#### **(d) Research Affiliation**

**Ms. Rajashree Raju**, Ph.D Scholar-Department of Indology, University of Tubingen, Germany has been granted research affiliation at Centre for Development Studies for her research work on "Culture, Youth, and Nation-Region Building in India: The History of the Kerala State School Youth Festival". Ms. Rajashree Raju’s academic activities while with the CDS will be guided by Professor J. Devika. The affiliation is for a period from January 03rd 2024 to April 03rd, 2024.

## V

# ENDOWMENTS

### **Reserve Bank of India Endowment Unit on Economic Development**

The Reserve Bank of India established an endowment scheme in 1976, providing annual grants aimed at supporting research and higher education in finance, banking, economics, and allied areas. Currently, Prof. C. Veeramani, the Director, serves as the Chair Professor of the Unit, continuing the legacy of fostering research and scholarship in these critical domains.

On 25 January 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) generously enhanced the CDS corpus by Rs 12 crores, with Rs 10 crores already released and the remaining Rs 2 crores to be disbursed after five years. CDS expresses its gratitude to the RBI for this substantial support, which significantly strengthens its research capabilities and academic programs. As part of this agreement, CDS introduced two new courses for its MA and PhD programs—'Financial Programming and Policies' and 'Open Economy Macroeconomics in Emerging Market Economies.' Furthermore, CDS will organize an annual Workshop-cum-Conference on 'Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies,' with the inaugural event scheduled for February/March 2025.

Several key studies have been conducted under the RBI unit. The first, titled *Growth Gains from Offshore Outsourcing* and published in *Journal of Policy Modeling* (January–February 2024), examines the impact of offshore outsourcing on productivity and output growth. Through a Ricardian framework, the study demonstrates how sourcing foreign inputs enhances domestic productivity. Analyzing data from 28 countries between 2000 and 2014, the study finds that outsourcing foreign inputs positively influences total factor productivity (TFP) and growth. It suggests that reducing tariffs on intermediate inputs, rather than final goods, is critical for promoting productivity.

Another study, *Dynamics and Determinants of Fragmentation Trade: India in Comparative and Long-term Perspective*, published in *Economic and Political Weekly* (August 2024), explores fragmentation trade dynamics in major Asian countries from 1962 to 2018, focusing on the role of network products within global value chains (GVCs). The research identifies a sequential entry pattern into the network product export market, with Japan leading, followed by East and Southeast Asian economies. It highlights India and Indonesia as yet to make significant inroads and emphasizes the need for trade liberalization and infrastructure improvements for greater GVC integration.

The third study, titled *Unravelling the Complexity of Vertical Specialization and Fragmentation Trade* and published in an edited volume (*Contemporary Issues in International Trade: Challenges and Opportunities*, 2024), surveys patterns and drivers of fragmentation trade, especially in East Asia and India. It contrasts East Asia's successful integration into global production networks (GPNs) with India's lagging progress due to infrastructure weaknesses and limited foreign direct investment.

A forthcoming study, *Why is Labour Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India?* (*Asian Economic Papers*), investigates the declining share of labor in India's income. It attributes this decline to structural shifts favoring high-skilled services and capital-intensive industries. The study also notes that while import competition and GVC participation positively affect labor share, R&D intensity decreases it.

An ongoing study explores the impact of tariff reductions and trade liberalization on productivity and market power in India's manufacturing sector. Based on plant-level data from 1998 to 2008,

the research shows that tariff reductions improve productivity and decrease monopoly power, particularly in states with better infrastructure and labor conditions.

Another study examines the transformation of India's electronics manufacturing sector, particularly mobile phone production, through strategic integration into GVCs and key government policies. The shift from import substitution under the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) to an export-driven strategy under the National Policy on Electronics (NPE) and Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has positioned India as the fifth-largest mobile phone exporter by 2022-23. The research underscores the importance of scaling up exports and addressing structural challenges such as trade liberalization and infrastructure improvements to sustain growth in the broader electronics sector. This study has been extensively cited in the *Economic Survey 2023-24* published by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

## **Planning Commission Endowment in Development Economics**

Planning Commission Endowment in Development Economics was established in 1998. On evaluation of the activities of the Unit, the Planning Commission recognised the Unit as the one working on issues relating to technology and innovation in the Indian context. Professor Praveena Kodoth is the Chair Professor.

As in the previous years, this year the unit mainly focussed on issues concerning migration within and across the country, including a special focus on women, children while also examining micro level socio economic implications of international and internal migration. The importance of child care as a constraint on women's employment and significance of dowry in contemporary Kerala was also a point of focus.

A study 'Left out of Pre-school? Systemic Exclusion and Discrimination against Children of Migrant Labour in Kerala' is completed and submitted for review in an edited volume - Devika J and V J Varghese eds. 'Keep calm and carry on: The 'post Kerala model' and challenges of the twenty first century', Orient Blackswan. This paper examined the reasons for Children of migrant labour, especially those whose families move in conditions of employment precarity, are frequently excluded from preschools despite public schemes like the Integrated Child Development Services, with material from Perambavoor region. An ongoing study 'Policy, Gender Politics and Women's Migration for Work' will examine the dynamics of women's migration as domestic workers to the Middle East focusing especially (but not exclusively) on the experience of migrant women from two source countries, the Philippines and India, which have adopted contrasting strategies towards women's migration and have achieved very different outcomes. The paper will draw upon a sizeable scholarship that has generated a critical visibility for migrant domestic workers and brought into view the vulnerabilities associated with their migration and employment especially in the Middle East. A new research project initiated during the year 2024-25 is 'Paternalist Governance, Tacit Accommodations: The Dynamics of Informality in Women's Labour Mobility to the Middle East' will probe the vexed relationship between paternalist (gendered) governance and informality in women's mobility to the Middle East mostly for employment as domestic workers with material from field work in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

## **Research Unit on Local Self Governments (RUSLG)**

The Research Unit on Local Self Governments (RUSLG) was established by the Government of Kerala at the Centre for Development Studies in March 2005, with a corpus fund of ₹3.70 crore released in two installments: ₹1.70 crore in 2005-06 and ₹2.00 crore in 2006-07. The primary objectives of the Unit are to promote research, build research capacity, and disseminate research

findings, particularly by linking research with training programs at institutions like the Kerala Institute of Local Administration.

Beginning its operations in the last quarter of 2005, RULSG formed an Advisory Committee chaired by Professor N.R. Madhava Menon. Through a series of meetings, workshops, and interactions with local body officials, state government representatives, and activists, the Unit developed a comprehensive agenda that continues to guide its work.

Currently, RULSG conducts annual policy dialogues aimed at strengthening and expanding the framework of local self-government in Kerala, focusing on the inclusion of marginalized communities. The Unit also commissions research on pressing issues related to local self-governance, particularly ecological challenges and the responses of local governments. Additionally, it publishes a series on Kudumbashree, one of Kerala's significant welfare programs, and conducts concurrent assessments of various aspects of local self-governance in the state.

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Two studies are ongoing under the unit

## **1. The state of decentralisation in India: A Review of 30 years progress**

Three decades have passed since the introduction of decentralisation and the Panchayati Raj system through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1993. In this context, RULSG decided to undertake a review of the last 30 years' progress of decentralisation across the country. This review will help address the merits and shortcomings of the programme in all aspects across the states and it will be beneficial for future reference. Based on this, RULSG has been conducting the following ongoing activities:

- A) RULSG has worked to create a database that includes demographic and financial data on the decentralisation programme.
- B) State-wise performance data on the Panchayati Raj System has been collected from secondary sources, primarily from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and others.
- C) A comparative assessment of states is being prepared, focusing on the devolution status of

Functions, Functionaries, and Funds.

## **2. State of fiscal devolution in Kerala: A review of State finance Commission reports.**

The functioning of the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) in Kerala needs to be assessed to obtain a clear picture of financial devolution in the state. Kerala is a leading state that has constituted six Finance Commissions on time. The SFCs assess the financial position of local governments and make recommendations on the distribution of financial resources between the state and local bodies, based on specific criteria and formulas. Each SFC has proposed various recommendations to the government regarding the devolution of financial resources to maintain fiscal health. In this context, RULSG is conducting a review of the all SFC reports of Kerala.

- A) All SFC reports, up to 5<sup>th</sup> SFC have been collected (6<sup>th</sup> SFC is currently functioning) and the review is ongoing.
- B) The approaches of each SFC towards financial devolution will be assessed.
- C) A review report will be prepared based on criteria for financial devolution, tax-sharing methods, the financial autonomy of local bodies, and the recommendations of SFCs.

## **National Research Programme on Plantation Development**

National Research Programme on Plantation Development at CDS undertakes policy-oriented research on socio-economic aspects of India's plantation sector. The programme was set up in 2009 supported by a generous endowment provided by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. NRPPD is mandated to conduct in-house research on India's plantation sector, conduct capacity building and training programmes for research in plantation sector, Conduct webinars/seminars of relevance to plantation sector, disseminate in-house research and external research through research abstracts. During more than a decade of its existence the programme had successfully generated a rich volume of research on the plantation sector.

*Edited Volume on Plantations:* During the academic year 2023-24 the following activities were undertaken by the NRPPD unit. The NRPPD unit is in the process of publishing a compendium of plantations which deals with production, marketing, employment and prices in the Tea, Coffee, Spices and Rubber. The collection of papers is ready for publication. A formal agreement for publication has been signed with Routledge and the volume has reached an advanced stage for publication. The volume consists of a collection of 12 articles prepared by CDS faculty and other experts in the area and is edited by Prof.Vinoj Abraham.

*Online Database on Plantations:* One of the critical hindrance that lie in the way of plantation research is the lack of consolidated data in a usable format. Most data for plantations are still available in PDF format that require much cleaning before it can be utilized. In order to overcome this challenge in plantation research the unit has embarked on a bold attempt to collate and digitize historical and contemporary statistics on various aspects relating to the plantation crops. The digitization effort requires much manual entry of data, scanning of data and cleaning of information. Further, creating continuity for various indicators also has been challenging. Our efforts have led to creating an online database for plantation crops. We have completed the work for area, production and yield by various dimensions and indicators for the four crops. The data will be made available for public use after scrutiny in the next few months.

*Study on the Performance of Rubber Producer Societies :* This study explored two key aspects, what was the effect of RPSs on the grower members ; and why were the RPSs failing? Based on a sample

survey of 600 households, 100 societies, case studies and interviews this study did an indepth analysis of the above questions. The study reported that the grower members made substantial economic gains in rubber production by remaining as members. However, there existed economic and social biases on who became a member of an RPS. The study also reported that the failure of RPSs emanated from the fact that the governance of these RPSs were weak and exclusionary. The study recommended restructuring and re-orienting the RPSs in order to remain relevant in the changing context. The study was presented in two parts as open seminars in CDS with participation from across the State, including from the Rubber Board. The report is complete and publications are being prepared. The study was led by Prof. Vinoj Abraham

*Study on the Performance of Farmer producer organizations in Coffee:* FPOs are an organisational innovation that is aimed at using the collective strengths at grassroots level and at the same time overcome the challenges of conventional cooperative system. Since the amendment of the Companies Act to include not for profit companies in 2018 farmer producer companies (FPCs) became an organisational tool for collective efforts. Such efforts were supported by the government through subsidies and grants. FPCs were established in coffee sector as well under financial and technical support. While FPCs were reasonably successful in collectivising productive efforts in some regions such as Wayanad in Kerala, their performance remained lacklustre in other regions. The study tries to analyse such variations in the performance of FPCs across regions and their causes. The study was initiated in 2020 and was disrupted due to covid. The surveys were delayed. By 2023 early the surveys were completed and in the current period the preliminary draft was prepared.

*Small Tea Growers and Growers societies in Tea* is another study that is being conducted currently. The study is progressing well. A primary survey is completed. Data analysis and report preparation is progressing.

*Training Programme on plantation and development:* A seven-day workshop on “*Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development*” was conducted by NRPPD at the Centre for Development Studies, during August 2023. The lectures covered a broad range of themes from theoretical approaches, methodological approaches to sector specific issues. The full report of the workshop, including participant list and resource persons list is available on the website.

*Webinar series:* NRPPD webinar series were initiated during the covid period to continue with research activities during the period. However, with very good responses to the webinars, the series continued and have become a regular feature. During the period 2023-24 three webinars were conducted.

- Dr. Karin Astrid Siegmann from International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam (ISS), The Hague, The Netherlands spoke on the topic “Harvesting consent: South Asian tea plantation workers’ experience of fair-trade certification on Feb 7th 2024.
- Prof Keun Lee , Professor of Seoul National University, spoke on the topic “Governance and Asymmetry in Global Value Chains of the Coffee Industry: Possibility for Catch-Up by Emerging Economies” on 15th Nov, 2023.
- Mr. Tony Kurian, PhD. Scholar, IIT Bombay spoke on the topic “Crashed futures: a sociological investigation in to the failure of cardamom futures market” on 26th September 2023.

*Policy Briefs:* NRPPD has been bringing out the NRPPD Policy brief a quarterly compilation of policy pointers from research conducted across the world on issues relating to plantations. During the last year four briefs were released and are available online.

*Steering Committee meeting:* The 12<sup>th</sup> steering committee meeting of NRPPD was held on **17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 through hybrid mode hosted by Centre for Development Studies at the Governing Body Meeting Room, CDS. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman NRPPD Steering Committee and Chairman CDS and was attended by the Director CDS, representatives from the Ministry, and the Commodity Boards of Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Spices. The coordinator of the programme, Prof. Vinoj Abraham presented the report. Comments were incorporated and programmes for the next year were discussed.**

## **Research Unit on International Migration from Kerala**

The Research Unit on International Migration from Kerala at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) was established in 2020-21 through a collaboration with the Government of Kerala. It builds upon an earlier initiative called "Kerala and the World Economy" and aims to provide research-driven insights to inform policymaking in the area of international migration from the state. The unit operates under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Kerala and CDS, signed in December 2020, which outlines four main activities to be carried out annually. These include conducting research studies on topics of interest to the government, organizing an annual training programme on migration research, creating and maintaining a database on international migration from Kerala, and holding an annual conference on "Kerala and the World Economy." The programme is coordinated by Professor C. Veeramani, Director of CDS, and is monitored by an advisory committee composed of representatives from NORKA and migration research experts.

One of the ongoing projects involves the socio-economic impact of migration at the local level, specifically in Kadakavoor village in Trivandrum district. The research team, including Praveena Kodoth, Vinoj Abraham, M. Parameswaran, and Ritika Jain, has completed a census and a sample survey of the village. This study analyzes the decadal migration patterns since 1961 and explores how the COVID-19 pandemic affected both onward and return migration, with a particular focus on the role of migration status in mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic. Early findings from the study suggest that while migration helped reduce employment vulnerability during the pandemic, caste-based differences remained significant, especially for non-migrant households. A paper on these findings was presented at a seminar at CDS in November 2023 and has been submitted for consideration as part of the CDS working paper series.

In addition to ongoing research, the unit has initiated new projects, including one on international migration for higher education from Kerala, which seeks to understand the patterns and determinants of students pursuing education abroad. The study was undertaken in the wake of the reports of large rise in student migration for education. The current study, looks into the aspirations of young college students regarding higher education abroad. A structured questionnaire survey based on random sampling was conducted in Arts, Science and Engineering colleges in Thiruvananthapuram district covering more than 35 colleges and more than 2000 students. The preliminary results of the study shows that more than 70% of the students aspire for higher education abroad. More in-depth analysis is being conducted and the final report is being prepared. A follow up study is being planned as future work. The researchers involved in the study are Vinoj Abraham, Praveena Kodoth, Ritika Jain, Gogol Mitra Thakur and V Santhakumar.

The unit has also made significant progress in developing a searchable database on international migration from Kerala, based on data collected through five Kerala Migration Surveys conducted

between 1998 and 2018. This database, which will soon be available on the CDS website, offers summary tables and data visualization tools, making it a valuable resource for researchers and policymakers.

In March 2024, the unit organized a five-day workshop on migration research methods and approaches, attended by 35 research scholars from across the country. The workshop provided practical training on topics related to migration studies. Additionally, a two-day conference on "Kerala and the World Economy" was held later in March, where 15 papers were presented, and a panel discussion and special lecture were organized. This conference brought together 59 scholars and facilitated discussions on the economic impact of migration and other related themes.

Through its research, training programmes, and public resources, the Research Unit on International Migration from Kerala continues to contribute to the understanding of migration and its implications for the state, providing crucial insights for policymakers and scholars alike.

### **P. Mohanan Pillai Endowment Fund**

Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai made invaluable contributions to the Centre, serving as a faculty member from 1983 to 2011 and continuing as an Honorary Fellow thereafter. Renowned for his kindness, generosity, and excellence in supervising research students, Prof. Pillai significantly advanced the understanding of technology transfer in Indian industries. His research also spanned industrial development and Kerala's economy. He was the member of 9<sup>th</sup> Pay Revision Commission of Govt. of Kerala headed by Justice R. Rajendra Babu.

In honor of his remarkable legacy, Prof. Pillai's family has generously established an endowment in his name, which will be used to organize special lectures every two years and the first lecture will be held on 23 August 2024.

### **P.K. Gopalakrishnan Endowment Fund**

Dr. P.K. Gopalakrishnan, an eminent sociologist and economist has played a crucial role in formulating the Science & Technology Policy of Kerala in 1972 and in establishing the R&D institutes under it. He was one of the founder members of the Centre. He completed his Ph.D. in Economic Sciences from Amsterdam University, The Netherlands under Prof. Tinbergen, a noble laureate. Dr. Gopalakrishnan affectionately called 'PKG' had occupied many important positions in Government of Kerala. He was associated in different capacities with Cardamom Wage Board, Taxation Enquiry Committee, Labour & Industrial Bureau and Backward Classes Reservation Commission. He was a Special Secretary to Planning & Economic Affairs Department during 1974-80. As a Policy Advisor and Secretary to the Government during the Chief Ministership of the late Shri. C. Achutha Menon, Dr. Gopalakrishnan provided excellent support in formulating a science and technology policy for the state. To perpetuate Dr. Gopalakrishnan's memory, his family instituted the endowment at the Centre.

The 13th Dr. P K Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture on 'India@2047: Will be a Developed Country' was delivered by Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NitiAayog at CDS on 22nd November, 2023

### **B.G. Kumar Endowment Fund**

Bhaskar Gopalakrishna Kumar, fondly known as Gopu Kumar, made significant contributions to

the field of economics during his time as an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) from 1990 to 1993. His untimely passing in 1993 was a great loss to the academic community, as he was a promising and independent-minded economist. Educated at prestigious institutions like the International School in Geneva and Calcutta Boy's School, Gopu Kumar completed his undergraduate studies at St. Stephen's College, Delhi. He furthered his education at renowned universities including Leeds, Cambridge, and Oxford, where he had the privilege of studying under the esteemed economist Amartya Sen.

Gopu Kumar's research encompassed various critical topics, including the Kerala model of development, agricultural price-setting in India, and population studies, showcasing his broad expertise and commitment to understanding economic issues in depth. In honor of his legacy, his family established an endowment fund to host annual lectures, ensuring that his contributions to economics and the values he stood for continue to inspire future generations.

The 14th B G Kumar Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Karthik Mralidharan, Professor of Economics, University of California on 20 February 2023 on the topic 'Accelerating India's Development: A State-Led Roadmap for India'

### **A.D. Neelakantan Endowment Fund**

A.D. Neelakantan was a member of the inaugural M.Phil. cohort at the Centre for Development Studies (1975-76). Following his tragic passing in 1977, an endowment fund was established through contributions from his family, fellow students, and the staff of the Centre. This endowment aims to provide financial support to deserving scholars conducting research on socio-economic issues, as well as to recognize the best performer in the Ph.D. coursework. The fund not only honors Neelakantan's memory but also fosters academic excellence and commitment to socio-economic research within the academic community.

During the reporting period, the AD Neelakantan Endowment prize was awarded to **Mr. Kalayath Mohamed Shemil (PhD 2022 Batch)**.

### **Chandrika Sharma Endowment Fund**

Chandrika Sharma completed her MPhil in Applied Economics at the Centre for Development Studies from 1993 to 1996. Tragically, she was aboard Malaysian Airline Flight MH 370, which disappeared on March 8, 2014, while traveling from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

In her memory, her classmates established the Chandrika Sharma Endowment at CDS in January 2020. The annual income from this endowment is designated to support an award for the best Statistical Survey Report authored by an MPhil or Pre-PhD student, ensuring that Chandrika's legacy lives on in the academic community. This initiative reflects her contributions to the field and the impact she had on her peers.

Last year it was awarded to **Mr. Abhinav Surya L.T** and **Mr. Mayur Jeevan Kamble** of the PhD Programme in Economics 2021 Batch. Chandrika Sharma Prize for PhD 2023 batch will be announced later only. Their evaluation is underway.

### **Joan Robinson Endowment Fund**

Prof. Joan Robinson, a distinguished economist, spent several months as a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Development Studies in the mid-seventies. From the royalties of one of her books, she established an endowment to support public lectures at the Centre. After her passing, the Centre honored her legacy by organizing seven public lectures, the last of which was delivered by

Professor Maria Cristina Marcuzzo from the University of Rome, Italy.

The initial funds from Prof. Robinson's royalties were later supplemented by a generous grant from Professor Ravi Kanbur, a Professor of Economics at Cornell University. This contribution came during his time as the first K N Raj National Fellow at the Centre in 2013-14. Together, these efforts formed the Joan Robinson Endowment, ensuring that her influence and contributions to economics continue to be celebrated and shared through ongoing public discourse.

The Joan Robinson prize will be awarded for the best overall performance in the MA (Applied Economics) programme.

The prize is awarded from the annual returns of this endowment. The Joan Robinson prize for meritorious performance during the reporting time was awarded to **Mr. Anandakrishnan V. R. (MA 2022-24 Batch)**

### **M.G. Kanbur Endowment Fund**

Professor M.G. Kanbur played a pivotal role in applying quantitative and econometric methods to the study of the Indian economy and other developing nations. His Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham focused on spatial econometrics, specifically analyzing the rice economy in South India. As a close associate of Professor K.N. Raj, Kanbur was among the first economists invited to the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), where he became a regular visitor during its formative years. He often spoke fondly of his time at CDS, highlighting the collaborative spirit and intellectual environment that characterized the center's early days. His contributions have significantly enriched the field of development economics, particularly in the context of India.

The M.G. Kanbur Prize is awarded based on the annual returns from the M.G. Kanbur Endowment, established at the Centre for Development Studies by his son, Professor Ravi Kanbur, a Professor of Economics at Cornell University. The endowment began with an initial corpus of ₹5 lakhs and aims to honor Professor Kanbur's contributions to economics and development studies.

The prize is awarded to the best performer in the quantitative courses of the MA (Applied Economics) programme. The M.G. Kanbur Prize for meritorious performance was awarded to **Ms. Anusmita Das & Ms. Riny Raju (2022-24 Batch)**.

## VI

### Support Services

#### (a) K N RAJ LIBRARY

During the year 2023-24, the library's activities proceeded as usual.

The K.N.Raj Library continues to provide Book Selection Lists, display of latest catalogues of leading Universities Presses, prominent publishers, book lists and reviews, display of books on approval from several reputed book suppliers, etc. for the benefit of Faculty and Scholars, thereby improving the quality of books selected for the library. During the year 285 books, and 113 ebooks were added to the collection. The library is automated using the open source library automation software Koha. It is hosted in cloud installation and is used by library users and staff for the day to day operations and catalogue search. The library catalogue (OPAC) is available online at <https://cdslibopac.informaticsglobal.com/> CDS Information Repository (Digital Library) using the DSpace Open Source Software is installed to capture / preserve digital content and make them accessible to scholars and faculty. It is updated regularly by capturing the details of CDS Publications. It is available here <http://ir.cds.ac.in:8080/xmlui/community-list>

The K.N.Raj Library subscribes to 37 Print Journals and 12 News Papers. The library also received 41 print periodicals / journals as gift. The subscription to Oxford Online – Social Science collection (86 journals), Wiley Online (22 journals), ProjectMUSE – Social Science collection (113 journals), Science Direct - Economics, Econometrics, and Finance (106 journals) were renewed for the year 2023. Access to the EconLit (599 journals) and JSTOR (2400 journals) were provided by the ICSSR/NASSDOC consortia. These 6 journal databases jointly are providing access to 3326 e-journals. They are available to the CDS community through IP access.

The membership during the reporting period is as follows. A total of 441 new members joined / renewed membership, out of which 396 are reference memberships. Four institutions also renewed their membership. The library continued to provide Reference Service, Lending Service, Bibliographic Service, Internet Search Service, Content Page Service, and so on. Students and Researchers from all over India and abroad used the online services of the library.

The Electronic Database Unit (EDU) continued to provide services to internal as well as external members. The EDU has a collection of databases in Economics, and related disciplines in Social Sciences. Some prestigious statistical databases available in the library are Annual Survey of Industries, Census of India Data, CMIE ProwessIQ, EPWRF India Time Series, IndiaStat, National Sample Survey Unit Level Data, IMF Balance of Payment Statistics, IMF Direction of Trade Statistics, IMF International Finance Statistics, RBI Database on Indian Economy, UN Comtrade, Venture Intelligence and World Bank Data. EDU also provided the document delivery / ILL service through DELNET and JNU Library.

During the reporting period the online 'content alerts' site has been updated with 1206 posts and has received 23745 visits. The following is the URL <http://knrajlibrary.wordpress.com/> of the service.

## KNRaj Library on Social Media:

Content alert blog on Wordpress	<a href="http://knrajlibrary.wordpress.com/">http://knrajlibrary.wordpress.com/</a>
Facebook	<a href="https://facebook.com/knrajlibrary">https://facebook.com/knrajlibrary</a>
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/knrajlibrary">https://twitter.com/knrajlibrary</a>
Telegram Messenger	<a href="https://t.me/knrajlibrary">https://t.me/knrajlibrary</a>
WhatsApp Messenger	<a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/CBwzglDWYE8K9ILTH3paQd">https://chat.whatsapp.com/CBwzglDWYE8K9ILTH3paQd</a>

The plagiarism / similarity check was done using the Turnitin software provided by the JNU. From April 2023, this was changed to Urkund/Ouriginal software. From October 2023, we are using DrillBit PDS software.

Four book displays were conducted during the reporting period. The works of Prof. C. R. available in the library were kept for display from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The works of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan available in the library were kept for display from 29<sup>th</sup> September till 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The works of Prof. Claudia Goldin available in the library were kept for display from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The works of Prof. M. Kunhaman available in the library were kept for display from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023. All the displays were kept in the Circulation Area of K.N.Raj Library. They were useful for the CDS community and library users.

Online Training Programme on EBSCO e-Resources was organized for the CDS faculty and students on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Mr. Nanda Lal T. S., Training Manager-South India, EBSCO Information Services was the resource person for the programme. The event was held on the Zoom platform. The users got the opportunity to seek clarification from the resource person for specific doubts about search and retrieval of EconLit and EBSCO e-Books that are provided by ICSSR and subscribed by the centre at <http://search.ebscohost.com> and also about using the mobile app of the EBSCO e-resources.

The 2023-24 batch MA, and PhD scholars were given an orientation about the library. This included a power point presentation and a live interactive session with the librarian. They later met the library staff, after arriving in the campus, to familiarize with the library's activities and services. The students of MPH course at SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram visited the KNRaj Library on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. 22 librarians of Kerala State Central Library, Thiruvananthapuram visited the KNRaj Library on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to learn about our best practices and services. 42 UG, 10 PG students and three faculty members of the Department of Economics, St Dominic's College, Kanjirappally visited the library on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023. 13 students and 2 teachers of College of Architecture Trivandrum visited the library on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to learn and to design a library as a functional element of their project titled Literary museum. 17 PG Students and 4 teachers of St. Mary's College, Malappuram visited the library on 05<sup>th</sup> February 2024 forenoon. 22 PG Students and 2 teachers of John Mathai Centre, Thrissur visited the library on 05<sup>th</sup> February 2024 afternoon.

External events by staff:

Name	Event	Date
V. Sriram	Lecture on Information Technology for Social Science Research. International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.	5th April 2023
V. Sriram	Online Lecture on Significance and Challenges of Reference Management and Open Source Tools (Zotero) Three Day International Virtual Conference on Nuances in Social Science Research Methodology, Academic Writing and Reference Management, St. Joseph's College of Teacher Education for Women, Ernakulam, India.	19th April 2023
V. Sriram	Online lecture on Artificial Intelligence and Plagiarism issues. Three Day International Virtual Conference on Nuances in Social Science Research Methodology, Academic Writing and Reference Management, St. Joseph's College of Teacher Education for Women, Ernakulam, India.	19th April 2023
V. Sriram	Online lecture on Referencing styles and bibliography using Zotero in One Week Workshop on Writing Skills, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, India.	14th June 2023
V. Sriram	Lecture on Literature Search : Databases and Grey Literature in 30 days International Online Workshop on Scholarly Writing & Publishing: Emerging areas and challenges from Artificial Intelligence, CMS College, Kottayam ... et. al.	21st June 2023.
V. Sriram	Style Manuals and Use of Reference Management Software - Zotero by V. Sriram. Short-term Course in Academic Writing, Research and Publication Ethics, HRDC, University of Kerala. India.	28th October 2023
V. Sriram	Style Manuals and Use of Reference Management Software - Zotero by V. Sriram. 179th Induction Programme, HRDC, Univ. of Kerala. India.	4th November 2023.
V. Sriram	Academic Writing, Publishing, and Reference Management by V. Sriram. Higher Secondary School Teacher Transformation Programme (HSSTTP), Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram	17th February 2024
V. Sriram	External expert in the interview board for Departmental Promotion Committee of SCTIMST, Tvpm. For the post of Sr. Librarian cum Documentation Officer and Scientific Officer (Medical Illustration)	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2024

### (c) Computer Centre

The IT wing of the Centre provides technical support to the faculty and students to achieve its objective of knowledge creation/dissemination. In this regard, the IT section supports teaching/research activities and operations of the Library and Administration.

#### IT infrastructure in CDS Campus

- CDS has its own data centre with state of the art facilities.
- Nine Juniper 3300 switches with 10 Gigabits uplink ports are installed in four buildings of the campus. Switches are distributed in nine locations on the campus.
- Fiber network connection from the computer centre to other buildings.
- Fortinet 200F UTM as a security device.
- Two HP Proliant DL 180 Gen-9 servers.
- One EMC VnXe 3200 SAN Storage
- One Polycom Video conferencing system.
- Virtualization of servers using VMWare.
- Zimbra based Email server for 200 users.
- KOHA software for library access.
- Active directory for 300 users.
- File server for storing and sharing data.
- 90 HP desktops and 10 thin clients for staff and student use.
- 60 Printers 6 Scanners.
- 100 Mbps NKN(National Knowledge Network ) connectivity and 20Mbps NMEICT connectivity for internet facility in the campus.
- 45 numbers of Cisco and D-link Wi-Fi Access points across the campus, including hostel and guest house, to provide internet facilities.
- **Software:** Microsoft Windows 11 / Office, Statistical software such as STATA 17, Eviews 9.5, SPSS 22, Gauss software and Grammarly for education.

#### Campus ERP

Cloud based campus ERP is now part of E-governance implementation at CDS. All students, faculties, and staffs have login faculty to this online ERP portal and can avail of various services.

The main modules and activities through the ERP application are,

**Academic-** Student life cycle management- Student admission. Fee payment, Attendance time table etc

**Examination** – Exam subject registration and Grade card

**Feedback** – submission of student feedback and various reports.

### **Online Learning management system**

**Establishment:** Online leave application and approval by faculty and staff

**Payroll-** Pay slips, salary Certificate etc.

**Grievance service:** Students and staff can request various service requests to the estate and engineering section.

- **General Facilities**

(a) **Computer Lab**

Air conditioned computer lab houses 20 PCs with Windows 8.1/10 and other essential software, including statistical packages like STATA and E-Views. These lab has been used for computer based training programmes and workshops regularly.

(b) **Wi-Fi Facility**

CDS campus is fully WI-Fi enabled. All the buildings in the campus are equipped with Wi-Fi facilities. Wi-Fi facility is also available in the guest house and the hostels for students.

(c) **Classrooms**

All classrooms are equipped with PC, Digital Podium and LED screens.

### **Current activities.**

CDS is planning to have a digital database of Plantation and Migration data. Development of the database is in progress.

(c) **Staff Welfare Fund**

The Staff Welfare Fund, started in 1999 with an initial corpus from the CDS endowment has investments and consisting of two components: (i) to provide financial assistance (non-refundable) to the last grade employees in the event of unforeseen calamities; and (ii) to provide repayable loans to the employees for specified purposes like house constructions and renovation, education of children, medical treatment, purchase of vehicles, land for house constructions etc.. The amount available in the Welfare Fund, contribution from the Endowment fund as approved by the Committee of Direction from time to time and 10% (ten percent only) of the surplus generated out of the research projects every financial year and return on loans and other investments shall constitute the fund for the purpose. The annual expenditure on account of financial assistance and repayable loans will be limited to the funds so allocated plus the loan amount and interest there on repaid by the employee borrowers during that year. During the reporting period, **eleven applications** for loan were approved.

The Fund is managed by a Committee. The Chairperson of the committee is Prof. J. Devika with Shri Suresh Kumar S, Registrar and Shri Suresh S., Senior Finance Officer.

### **Staff Welfare Fund Merit Awards 2023**

The Staff Welfare Fund Merit Awards (merit certificates and cash prizes) are being given to the children of employees who have obtained scholastic merit of First Class and above on their Board/University level examinations. This year the following **five** children of employees were awarded certificate and cash award (Rs.3000/- for Distinction and Rs.2000/- for First Class) as per the Staff Welfare Fund Management rules of the centre. The award distributed on the day of

the Governing Body (GB) meeting held on 23 August 2023.

<b>SINo</b>	<b>Name of Children</b>	<b>Name of Staff</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Class/ Grade</b>
1.	Aadithya Suresh	Suresh S Sr. Finance Officer	Plus Two (CBSE)	Distinction
2.	Srinivas S	Sriram V Chief Librarian	10 <sup>th</sup> (CBSE)	Distinction
3.	Namita B Nair	Lekha K Asst. Grade I	10 <sup>th</sup> (CBSE)	First Class
4.	Esther George	Ansamma Joseph Deputy Librarian	B.Tech. Computer Science, APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University	First Class
5.	Devanayan Kookal	C.Veeramani Director, CDS	Plus Two	First Class

## VII New Initiatives

### **Professor K. N. Raj Centennial Celebrations**

The 100th birth centenary year of Kakkadan Nandanath (K.N.) Raj, popularly known as K. N. Raj, our esteemed founder, is marked on 2024. In celebration of the birth centenary Professor K. N. Raj, CDS is organizing a series of events to honour his enduring legacy.

Professor K. N. Raj was not only an inspiring teacher and a distinguished economist but also a master builder of institutions and a visionary who recognized the need for well-trained economists in the emerging Indian economy. Beyond founding CDS, he made significant contributions to national economic planning, served as an economic advisor to several Prime Ministers and played a pivotal role in computing India's Balance of Payments for the first time during his tenure at the RBI. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2000, the second-highest civilian award of the Republic of India. As part of the centennial celebrations, we are organizing four main events:

CDS Alumni Meet (19 – 20 October 2024)

Conference (20-22 October 2024)

Launching a Souvenir that highlights the life and contributions of Professor Raj

K. N. Raj Memorial Lectures: A series of lectures across colleges and universities in Kerala by CDS faculty members.

These celebrations will serve as a lasting tribute to Professor Raj's remarkable achievements and his enduring impact on Indian economic thinking and policy.

### **Prof. P.Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture**

Prof. P.Mohanan Pillai served the Centre with great distinction as a faculty member for about three decades during 1983- 2011. Thereafter he was serving as an Honorary Fellow of the Centre. He has made an important contribution to the understanding of issues related to technology transfer in Indian industries.

The family of late Professor Pillai has donated a sum of money to create an endowment in his memory. The CDS Committee of Direction had accepted this generous offer from the family. The 'P. Mohanan Pillai Endowment Fund' is created at the Centre on 20.12.2021. The annual interest income from this endowment will be used to organise special lectures in memory of Prof.Pillai once in two years and the first lecture will be held on 23 August 2024.

### **MA Admission based on CUET-PG scores**

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Academic Programme Committee (APC) held on July 24, 2023, MA admission from 2024 onwards could be held through CUET conducted by NTA instead of CDS MA entrance examination. The selection to the MA Programme will be on the basis of CUET score and online interview. Candidates shortlisted on the basis of CUET score, will be called for interview. In addition to the existing eligibility criteria, the candidate must have successfully

completed at least one Mathematics/Statistics/Quantitative paper, either at the Plus-Two or undergraduate level to apply for the MA Programme.

## **Launch of consultancy services and diverse training programs**

To formulate guidelines for launching consultancy services and diverse training programs aimed at the corporate sector, government officials, and students, with the goal of generating internal funds for the Institute. Building on discussions from the CD meeting on August 22, 2023 and the APC meeting on November 27, 2023, the Director has formed a 12-member Committee tasked with formulating Guidelines for Consultancy and Training Programmes, effective from November 28, 2023, for a period of three years. The committee met on January 31, 2024 and engaged in thorough deliberations. In addition to training programmes and consultancy, the APC proposed the initiation of an incentive scheme to encourage CDS faculty to secure sponsored institutional projects. Following further discussions at the APC meeting, the committee proposed a scheme, and the report was subsequently revised. The revised report was circulated among the CD members. An Oversight Committee, chaired by the Director, is responsible for approving the training program's theme, academic credentials of the resource persons and other details.

The guidelines for consultancy and training programs will be implemented based on the committee's recommendations. The Oversight Committee will review and approve specific aspects of the training programs to ensure quality and relevance. The incentive scheme will be finalized and implemented to encourage faculty participation in sponsored projects. These initiatives are designed to enhance CDS's engagement with external stakeholders and to generate additional internal funds through well-structured programs.

## **Building & Infrastructure committee**

CDS is actively working on a comprehensive assessment and renovation plan for its campus buildings.

The Director has constituted a 14 member Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee, including 3 external experts, to provide additional insights and oversight. The first meeting of this Committee took place on January 24, 2024, the decision was made to commission a structural stability assessment for all buildings constructed before 2008. The structural stability assessment was carried out by an expert committee from the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram. This inspection took place over three days: March 18, 19, and 20, 2024. The expert committee is expected to submit a detailed report on the findings. The Committee of Direction at CDS is preparing to review the expert committee's structural stability report alongside a renovation cost estimate prepared by the Estate & Engineering section of CDS. The Centre has been directed to obtain a formal estimate from either the Public Works Department (PWD) of the Government of Kerala or the Central Government PWD for submitting a funding request to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) to secure financial support for the necessary building renovations based on the findings and estimates.

# VIII

## GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

(As on 31 March, 2024)

### COMMITTEES

#### Governing Body

##### **Chairperson**

Prof. Sudipto Mundle  
Senior Advisor, National Council of Applied Economic Research &  
Visiting Faculty, Indian School of Public Policy, New Delhi

##### **Member – Convener**

Professor Sunil Mani (retired on 31 May 2023)  
Director  
Centre for Development Studies  
Thiruvananthapuram

Prof. C. Veeramani (joined on 01 June 2023)  
Director  
Centre for Development Studies  
Thiruvananthapuram

##### **Members**

Prof. Mohanan Kunnummal  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Kerala  
Senate House Campus, Palayam  
Thiruvananthapuram 695 034

Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit  
Vice-Chancellor  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi

Smt. Sarada G Muraleedharan IAS  
Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Planning and Economic Affairs,  
Govt. of Kerala  
Member Secretary, Kerala State Planning Board  
Thiruvananthapuram

Prof. Dhananjay Singh  
Member Secretary  
Indian Council of Social Science Research  
New Delhi

Prof. Chiranjib Sen  
Distinguished Professor of Economics & Public Policy, School of Liberal Studies  
B M L Munjal University

Prof. Ramesh Chand  
Member, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog

Prof. Ram Singh  
Department of Economics,  
Delhi School of Economics,  
University of Delhi

Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti  
Professor of School of Environmental Science  
& Rector I, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil  
Professor & Director  
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Department of Commerce,  
University of Kerala, Trivandrum

Prof. Praveena Kodoth  
Professor,  
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. J. Devika  
Professor,  
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. P. Sivanandan  
Honorary Fellow,  
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. Amit Bhaduri  
Honorary Fellow,  
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

### **Committee of Direction**

Chairperson  
Prof. Sudipto Mundle  
Member – Convener  
Prof. C. Veeramani  
Smt. Sarada G Muraleedharan IAS  
Prof. Dhananjay Singh  
Prof. Ram Singh  
Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti  
Prof. J. Devika

### **Finance Committee**

Chairperson  
Prof. Sudipto Mundle  
Member – Convener  
Prof. C. Veeramani  
Smt. Sarada G Muraleedharan IAS  
Prof. Dhananjay Singh  
Prof. Chiranjib Sen  
Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil  
Professor & Director (IQAC), Department of Commerce,  
University of Kerala, Trivandrum  
Prof. Praveena Kodoth  
Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

### **Academic Programme Committee**

C Veeramani (Chairperson)  
M. Parameswaran (Convener)  
All Faculty (Members)

### **JNU-CDS Committee of Direction for MA/MPhil/ PhD Programmes**

C Veeramani, Director, CDS (*Chairman*)  
Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli (Dean/ SIS/ JNU, New Delhi)  
Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma (Dean/ SIS/ JNU, New Delhi)  
Prof. B. K. Pandey (Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management, Haryana)  
Dr. Sanjeev Mishra (Chairman, Dr. Jagannath Mishra Institute of Economic Studies, Patna)  
Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti (Rector II, JNU, New Delhi –Special Invitee)  
M. Parameswaran (CDS)  
Thiagu Ranganathan (CDS)  
S. Suresh Kumar, Registrar, CDS (*Convener*)

### **Academic Programme Co-ordinators**

Ph.D Co-ordinator  
Dr. M. Parameswaran  
Ph.D Course Work Co-ordinators  
*Co-ordinator:*  
Prof. J. Devika  
*Associate Co-ordinator:*  
Dr. Ritika Jain

MA. Programme:  
Thiagu Ranganathan  
Chandril Bhattacharyya

### **Faculty Committee**

C Veeramani (Chairman)  
J. Devika (Convenor)  
Praveena Kodoth  
Vinoj Abraham  
P L Beena

### **Academic Committee**

C Veeramani (Chairperson)  
Rajit Biswas (Convenor)  
All faculty (Members)  
Registrar (Member)  
Chief Librarian (Member)  
Systems Officer (Member)  
Mufeed P M (MA Representatives)  
Surya K K (MA Representatives)  
Manish Sharma (PhD Representatives)  
Shonima Nelliath (PhD Representatives)

### **Library Committee**

Ritika Jain (Chairperson)  
V. Sriram (Chief Librarian)  
Abhilash T  
S. Suresh Kumar (Registrar)  
Shabnam T P (Student Representative)

### **IT Committee**

Beena P.L. (Chairman)  
V. Sarath (Convenor, Ex-officio)  
Srikanta Kundu  
S. Suresh Kumar (Registrar, Ex –officio)  
V. Sriram, (Chief Librarian, Ex –officio)

### **Investment Committee**

C Veeramani (Chairman)  
Praveena Kodoth (Finance Committee Member)  
S. Suresh Kumar (Registrar)  
S. Suresh (Sr.Finance Officer - Convenor)  
Internal Audit Officer (Member)

### **Staff Welfare Fund**

J. Devika (Chairperson)  
Suresh Kumar. S (Registrar)  
S. Suresh (Sr. Finance Officer)

### **Staff Council**

*Ex-officio Members:*

C Veeramani (Director)

S. Suresh Kumar (Registrar)  
V. Sriram (Chief Librarian)  
S. Suresh (Senior Finance Officer)

***Representatives:***

Vinoj Abraham (Academic Staff)  
P. L. Beena (Academic Staff)  
H.S. Shareef  
(Convenor & Member,  
Administrative Staff A)  
Ansamma Joseph (Library Staff)  
A.R. Ajikumar  
(Member, Administrative Staff B)  
Reeshma R.S.  
(Member, Administrative Staff B)  
G. Vijayan  
(Member, Administrative Staff C)

**Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee**

Chairperson  
Prof. Veeramani C, Director  
Convener  
Mr. Sriram V, Chief Librarian

Expert Members

Ar. Sajan P. B, Joint Director, COSTFORD  
Prof. Mitra D C, College of Engineering, Trivandrum (CET)  
Prof. Biju V, College of Engineering, Trivandrum (CET)

Members

Mr. Suresh Kumar S, Registrar  
Mr. Suresh S, SFO  
Prof. Devika J  
Dr. Parameswaran M  
Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick  
Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan  
Dr. Rajit Biswas  
Mr. Aanandh N. R, Campus Supervisor  
Mr. Anoop Kumar P P, Asst.Campus Supervisor

**Committee to formulate guidelines for consultancy and training programmes**

Chairperson  
Prof. Veeramani C, Director  
Convener  
Dr. Ritika Jain  
Members  
Prof. Vinoj Abraham  
Prof. Beena P. L  
Dr. Parameswaran M  
Dr. Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer

Dr. Srikanta Kundu  
Dr. Abhilash T  
Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur  
Mr. Suresh Kumar S, Registrar  
Mr. Suresh S, SFO – Member  
Mr. Sarath V, Systems Officer

### **Committee on Official Language**

Chairperson  
Mr. Suresh Kumar S

Members  
Mr. Shareef H S  
Mrs. Lekha K  
Mr. Ajikumar A R

### **Hostel Wardens**

M. Parameswaran  
Ritika Jain

### **SC/ ST Cell**

Chairperson  
Dr. Abhilash T  
Members  
Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan (Representative of Faculty)  
Mr. Sumesh C. S (Representative of Administrative Staff)  
Ms. Devika Dileepkumar (Student representative)  
Mr. Pawan Kumar (Student representative)

### **Student's Grievance Redressal Committee**

Chairperson  
Prof. C. Veeramani  
Members  
Prof. J. Devika  
Dr. M. Parameswaran  
Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan  
Ms. Krishnapriya V S, Special Invitee

### **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)**

Chairperson  
Professor J Devika  
Members  
Ms. Magline Philomena – External Member  
Dr. Ritika Jain  
Mr. Sriram V  
Mrs. Lekha K  
Ms. Shakuntala Ghadai  
Mr. Animesh Srivastava

### **Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC)**

Chairperson

Prof. C. Veeramani

Members

Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Prof. J Devika

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Dr. M. Parameswaran

Mr. Suresh Kumar S -Registrar, Convener

External Members

Prof. N Jayaram, Former Director, ISEC- Bangalore

Prof. Ram Singh, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

### **Communications and Outreach Committee**

Dr. Ritika Jain – Chairperson

Mr. Ajikumar A R – Convener

Mr. Sriram V – Member

Mr. Sarath V – Member

Mr. Praveen G – Member

Mr. Emmanuel T. J – Member

Mr. Basit Abdullah – Member

Mr. Sachin Varghese Titty – Member

### **Seminar Co-ordinator**

Dr Rajit Biswas

### **Campus Committee**

Prof J. Devika (Chairperson)

Mr Suresh Kumar S, Registrar (Ex-Officio)(Convenor)

Dr Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer (Member)

Mr Ajikumar A R (Member)

Mr Aanandh N R (Member)

Mr Anoop Kumar P P (Member)

Ms. Mahitha K, Student's representative (PhD)

Mr. Arun M Balaji, Student's representative (PhD)

### **Canteen Management Committee (CMC)**

Chairperson

Prof.M.Parameswaran

Convener

Mr. Sureshkumar S, Registrar (Ex-Officio)

Members

Dr.Ritika Jain, Warden (Ex-Officio)

Mr. Aji Kumar A R

Mr. Rahul Kamal

Ms. Rajalaxmi Singh

Mr. Ganesh Sandu Pawar

### **Guest House Management Committee**

Praveena Kodoth (Chairperson)  
Suresh Kumar S, (Ex-Officio, Convener)  
J Devika, Campus Committee Chairperson (Ex-Officio)  
Anoop Kumar P P, Guest House Manager (Ex-Officio)

### **Right to Information Act**

S. Suresh Kumar, Registrar  
(Chief Public Information Officer)  
Ajikumar A.R.  
(Asst. Public Information Officer)  
C Veeramani, Director  
(Appellate Information Officer)

## **FACULTY**

### ***Director & RBI Chair Professor***

C Veeramani  
Ph.D in Economics  
(CDS/JNU)  
*Research Area:* International Trade; Industrial Economics; Foreign Investment; Labour Market

### ***Professors***

Harilal, K.N. (Retired on 31.07.2023)  
Ph.D in Economics  
(CDS/JNU)  
*Research Area:* Decentralisation and Governance, Politics and Development

Praveena Kodoth  
Ph.D in Economics  
(University of Hyderabad)  
*Research Area:* Gender and Development, Migration

Devika, J.  
Ph.D in History  
(MG University)  
*Research Area:* History of, and present developments in, Gender, Politics, Development, and Culture in Kerala; the history of Migration and Cosmopolitanism in Kerala; local self- government in Kerala; translations and translation studies; Malayalam literature; contemporary politics and Methodologies in Social Sciences and Humanities

Vinoj Abraham  
Ph.D in Economics  
(JNU)  
*Research Area:* Labour Economics, Gender & Development, Economics of Technology and Innovation, Development Economics, Regional Development, Plantation Studies.

Beena, P.L.  
Ph.D in Economics,  
(JNU)

*Research Area:* Industrial Economics, Indian  
Corporate Sector ,FDI, M&As and Competition (CESP,  
Policy, Globalisation and Contemporary Issues of  
Indian Economy, Kerala Economy

*Associate Professors*

Parameswaran, M.  
Ph.D in Economics  
(CDS/JNU)

*Research Area:* Economic Development,  
Macroeconomics and Industrial Development

Hrushikesh Mallick  
Ph.D in Economics  
(University of Mysore)

*Research Area:* Applied Open Economy  
Macroeconomics and Development Economics

Chidambaran G. Iyer  
Ph.D in Development  
Economics  
(IGIDR)

*Research Area:* Innovation and Technology,  
Industry and Trade

Thiagu Ranganathan  
Ph.D in Economics  
(IIT, Bombay)

*Research Area:* Plantation Crops, Labour  
Employment and Social Security, agricultural Economics

*Assistant Professors*

Srikanta Kundu  
Ph.D in Quantitative Economics  
(Indian Statistical Institute)

*Research Area:* Financial Econometrics,  
Time Series, Volatility Models, Nonlinear Models,  
Stock Market

Ritika Jain  
Ph.D in Economics  
(IGIDR)

*Research Area:* Politics and Development, Industry  
and Trade, Innovation and Technology, Labour  
Employment and Social Security

Rajit Biswas  
Ph.D in Quantitative Economics  
(Indian Statistical Institute)

*Research Area:* Industry and Trade

Abhilash Thadathil  
Ph.D in Political Science &  
International Studies

*Research Area:* Politics and Development,  
Human Development, Health and Education, Labour,  
Employment and Social Security

(JNU)

Chandril Bhattacharyya  
Ph. D in Quantitative Economics  
(Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata)

*Research Area:* Growth Theory and Other Studies

Gogol Mitra Thakur  
Ph.D,  
(JNU)

*Research Area:* Growth and Development,  
Macroeconomics

***Honorary Fellows***

Amit Bhaduri

Emeritus Professor,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Mathew E.T.

Former Professor and Head,  
Department of Economics, University of Kerala

Jayachandran T.N.

Former Vice Chancellor,  
Calicut University, Kerala

Oommen M.A.

Former Professor and Head, Department of Economics,  
University of Calicut, Kerala

Rao G.N.

Former Fellow, CDS

Thomas Isaac T.M.

Former Fellow, CDS

Mridul Eapen

Former Fellow, CDS

Kannan, K.P.

Former Director and Fellow, CDS

P. Sivanandan

Former Fellow, CDS

## ADMINISTRATION

S. Suresh Kumar  
Shareef H.S.  
Ajikumar A.R.

*Registrar*  
*Assistant Administrative Officer*  
*Assistant Grade I (designated as PS to Registrar)*

Director's Office  
Praveen G.  
Ajayanandam S

*Senior Grade Assistant (designated as P.S. to Director)*  
*Attendant*

### *Academic Programme Office*

K. Lekha  
Raji R.S.  
Arun K.C.

*Assistant Grade I*  
*Assistant Grade II*  
*Assistant Grade II*

### *Programme Office*

Emmanuel T.J.

*Assistant Grade I*

### *Guest House*

Anoop Kumar P.P.  
Biju R.S.

*Guest House Manager*  
*Attendant*

### *Finance*

S. Suresh  
Tharunkumar M P  
(Deputation was over on 30.06.2023)  
Arun Hrishikesh  
Reeshma R.S.  
Sumesh C.S.

*Senior Finance Officer*  
*Internal Audit Officer*  
*Accounts Officer*  
*Accountant*  
*Attendant*

### *Estate and Engineering*

Aanandh N.R.  
Anoop Kumar P.P.

*Campus Supervisor*  
*Assistant Campus Supervisor*  
*(designated as Guest House Manager)*  
*Attendant*

### *Reception/ Despatch*

Satheesh S.S.

*Assistant Grade II*

## COMPUTER CENTRE / IT

V. Sarath

*Systems Officer*

## K.N. RAJ LIBRARY

V. Sriram  
Ansamma Joseph  
Sivakumar P  
Saibabu S.

*Chief Librarian*  
*Deputy Librarian (Retired on 31.08.2023)*  
*Assistant Librarian*  
*Attendant*

## RETIREMENT

Professor Sunil Mani has officially retired from the Centre effective May 31, 2023, after over 37 years of dedicated service as a researcher and educator. He began his career as an Assistant Professor on February 1, 1986. Notably, he contributed to the Drafting Committee for the Technology-led Innovation Policy at the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, from January to September 2020. His extensive experience and commitment to advancing knowledge in his field will be remembered fondly.

Professor K. N. Harilal, a distinguished member of the CDS family, retired on July 31, 2023. Since joining the Centre on October 22, 2001, he has been an invaluable part of our journey for over two decades. His contributions extended beyond the Centre, as he also served two terms on the Kerala State Planning Board. We are immensely proud of his accomplishments and the lasting legacy he leaves behind.

Smt Ansamma Joseph, Deputy Librarian of the Centre is relieved from the service of the Centre with effect from 31.08.2023 on the basis of her request dated June 12, 2023 for Voluntary retirement from the Centre with effect from 31.08.2023 after office hours. During her impressive tenure, Mrs Joseph has exhibited unparalleled dedication and commitment to her work since she joined the Library on December 21, 1989. Her 34 years of service have left an indelible mark on our institution and the countless lives she has touched. Her passion for knowledge-sharing has greatly enriched our library and contributed to the intellectual growth of our community.

Shri Tharun Kumar M P., Senior Audit Officer from the Principal Accountant General's Office (General & Social Sector Audit) in Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, is returning to the AG's Office after completing his deputation period as an Internal Audit Officer at the Centre from January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023 (a duration of 3 years and 6 months). Shri Tharun Kumar M P. has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and proficiency in his work, while also fostering warm and cherished friendships with his colleagues.

## **RESEARCH TITLES**

### **CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### *Completed studies*

#### **‘A Gendered History of the Neo-savarna in Twentieth Century Kerala’**

J Devika

Status: Published a book chapter, ‘Due to appear in Nissim Mannathukkaren (ed), *Saffron In the South: Violence, Gender, Media and Hindutva in Kerala*’, Routledge India, forthcoming in June 2024.

#### **Keep Calm and Carry On? The ‘Post-Kerala Model’ and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century**

J Devika

Status: Edited volume (co-edited with V J Varghese). Under the review process with Orient Blackswan, Hyderabad.

### **DECENTRALISATION AND GOVERNANCE**

#### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **The state of decentralisation in India: A Review of 30 years progress**

M. Parameswaran

ship, if any: Under RULSG

Expected date of completion: By December 2024.

#### **State of fiscal devolution in Kerala: A review of State finance Commission reports.**

M. Parameswaran

Sponsor: Under RULSG

Expected date of completion: By December 2024.

### **GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### *Completed Studies*

#### **Covid 19, Livelihoods and Interventions by Local Self Government Institutions in Kerala: An exploratory study**

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Sponsor: RULSG, ICSSR

Status: Final Report submitted to ICSSR., Will be published in forthcoming book from Zubaan, Delhi, published article in the journal Gender and Development

#### **‘Carceral Feminism and the Punitive State in Kerala State, India’**

J Devika

Status: Book chapter.

Due to appear in Mary Caputi and Patricia Moynagh (eds), *Research Handbook on Feminist Political Thought*, Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming.

#### **Marginals within the Marginalised: Exploring the Changes in Occupational Pattern among Adivasi Women in the context of Land Alienation in India**

Hrushikesh Mallick, John Kujur, Udaya Shankar Mishra (Professor, IIPS, Mumbai) and Sebastian Irudaya Rajan (Chairman, International Institute of Migration and Development)  
Status : Submitted to a journal for consideration ("World Development")

### **Education and Women's Autonomy**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Ms. Avina Mendonca

Sponsor: ICSSR

Publication Status : Ranganathan, T. and Mendonca, A. (2023). Does being Educated more than the Spouse give Women Higher Autonomy? Findings from India. *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*. 66, 833-53.

### **Working from Home and the Pandemic: Gendered Implications of the Lockdown**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Ms. Avina Mendonca

Sponsor: ICSSR

Publication Status: Mendonca, A., Redkar, A., and Ranganathan, T. (2023). Negotiating working motherhood and doing work from home at the intersection of class, gender and crisis in India. *Women's Studies International Forum*. 99, 102793.

### ***Ongoing Studies***

#### **Family, Women, and Ill-being: A Critique of the Family in Twenty-First Century Kerala**

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Status: Book to be published by Zubaan, New Delhi.

#### **'Tiding Over Pandemic-Induced Vulnerability: Reflections on the Experiences of Two Groups of Cleaning/Domestic Workers in Kerala, India'**

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Status : Journal article to be published in a special issue of the journal *Gender and Development* on pandemic-induced insecurity.

#### **Child care and Educated Women's Labour Market Behaviour: Evidence from Kerala**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan, Dr. Tirtha Chatterjee and Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Sponsor: JPAL

Status: Expected date of completion is October, 2024.

### ***New Research Initiatives***

#### **'Between the Self-Help Facilitator State and Private Finance: Debt, Discipline and Gender in Twenty-first Century Kerala'**

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Status: To be presented at workshop "Engagements in Everyday Life: The Analysis of Emerging Forms of Social Action", to be held at IIT Jodhpur in October 2024.

## **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND EDUCATION**

### ***Completed Studies***

#### **The Socioeconomic Dimensions of BRICS: A Comparative Analysis Over Three Decades 1990 to 2020**

Hrushikesh Mallick and Sanjay Kumar Rout (Assistant Professor, Department of Economics,

School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Jain (Deemed To Be University), Bengaluru)  
Publication Status: Submitted to a journal for consideration ("Global Studies on Economics and Finance")

### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **Climate Change Pedagogy for Kerala project**

J Devika, Dr Anu Joy, TISS, Hyderabad and Prof Heidi Layne, Layne, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

Sponsor: The Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning, Finland.

Status: Fieldwork ongoing.

### *Research plan*

#### **A book on values for children.**

J Devika

## **INDUSTRY AND TRADE**

### *Completed Studies*

#### **Women Owned Enterprises and its Scalability: With Particular Reference to Kerala**

Beena P L

Paper presented in the conference organised by CESP, JNU)

Publication Status : CDS working paper and send to good journal

#### **Investment and Capital-Labour Relations in India's Organized Manufacturing Sector**

Beena P L, Abhinav Surya (PhD scholar)

#### **Can ICT Make Small Beautiful? Examining the Role of ICT in Affecting the Credit Behavior of SMEs in India**

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas, Assistant Professor, BITS Pilani-Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad

Publication Status : Accepted for ADBI Working Paper

#### **Growth gains from offshore outsourcing**

C Veeramani, Anwesha Basu and Sugata Marjit

Publication Status : Published in Journal of Policy Modeling, Volume 46, Issue 1, , January–February 2024, Pages 90-112

#### **Unravelling the Complexity of Vertical Specialization and Fragmentation Trade: A Survey of Patterns, Drivers, Implications, and Evolving Dynamics**

C Veeramani

Status : Published, Rajib Bhattacharyya and Debashis Mazumdar (eds), Contemporary Issues in International Trade: Challenges and Opportunities, Emerald, 2024

### **Ongoing research papers:**

#### **Impact of M&As on Innovation and Antitrust implications in Knowledge and Technology-driven Sectors**

Beena P L

Expected date of completion: March 2025.

Publication Status : CDS working paper, Plan to send to the journal

**Too risky for businesses? – Examining the relationship between crime, firm registrations and firm growth in India**

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas, Assistant Professor, BITS Pilani-Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad

**Impact of Tariff Reduction and other Trade-Related Channels on Productivity and Markups: Panel Data Evidence from India's Manufacturing Plants**

C Veeramani and Prachi Gupta

Status: Expected date of completion-December 2024

**Why is Labour Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India? Role of Trade, Technology, and Market Share Reallocation**

C Veeramani and Anwasha Basu

Status: Expected date of completion-December 2024

*New Research Studies*

**Globalisation, Special Economic Zones and Development: Are there spatial spillovers in Kerala**

Beena P L, Rajarshi Choudhury and Saikat Sinha Roy

**What explains startup failure?**

Chidambaran G. Iyer and Vinish Kathuria

**Technology licensing with cross holding.**

Rajit Biswas and Dr Neelanjan Sen (Madras School of Economics)

**High Growth firms in India**

Ritika Jain

**Impact of ICT on Energy monitoring in Indian firms**

Ritika Jain

Just started

**Gains from Mobile Phone Manufacturing in India through Backward-Linked Participation in Global Value Chains: Impact on Domestic Value Addition, Exports, Employment, and Wage Income**

C Veeramani

**INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

*Completed Studies*

**Process Innovation in Low-tech industries in India: An Empirical exploration**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Publication Status : African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development, 16(1), 2024 DOI: 10.1080/20421338.2023.2274706

**Diffusion of Digital payments in India: A tale of two technologies**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Publication Status : Under peer review

**Actors, Innovation systems and Institutions in Emerging markets: Observations from two Indian case studies**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Publication Status : Under peer review

**Process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: observations from an empirical study**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Publication Status : Under peer review

**Innovation as a Key Propellant of Per Capita Incomes in Two Rapidly Transitioning Asian Economies: A Comparative Analysis of China and India**

Hrushikesh Mallick and Sanjay Kumar Rout (Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Jain (Deemed To Be University), Bengaluru)

Publication Status : Submitted to a journal for consideration ("Innovation Discovery")

**Process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: observations from an empirical study**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Status: Completed in January 2024

*Ongoing Studies*

**Bivoltine Sericulture in India: An Innovation system perspective**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Expected date of completion: March 2025

**Local and global impact of two biomedical products developed in Kerala: Few observations**

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Expected date of completion: December 2024

**LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

*Completed Studies*

**Vocational education, skill training and self-employment: Evidence from India's non-farm sector**

Publication Status: Submitted to a journal for consideration ("Journal of Vocational Education & Training")

**Rural Non-farm Sector Employment in India: Shift or Diversification**

Vinoj Abraham

Publication Status : The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, vol. 66(3), pages 661-685d.

### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **Labour Market Relations across Technology and Size classes In India's Organized Manufacturing Sector**

Beena P L, Abhinav Surya L T (PhD scholar)

Expected date of completion: December 2024.

Publication Status : Paper presented in the Labour conference at CUH and Plan to publish in a Scopus journal

### **MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**

#### *Completed Studies*

#### **Short-run Impacts of Floods: A Case Study from India**

Gogol Mitra Thakur , Robert CM Beyer and Abhinav Narayanan

Publication Status: Revise and resubmit

#### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **Informal Sector, Innovation and Growth**

Chandril Bhattacharyya Dibyendu Maiti

#### **Demand-led growth, education and wage inequality**

Gogol Mitra Thakur and Pintu Parui

#### **Policy Response of Monetary and Fiscal Authorities in Response to High Unemployment Rates in India: An Empirical Investigation**

Hrushikesh Mallick

Expected date of completion: December 2024

#### **Economic growth in India: A long run view**

M. Parameswaran and Pulapre Balakrishnan (Former Director, CDS)

Publication Status: Forthcoming in an edited volume.

#### *Research Plan*

#### **Aggregate demand, product quality and capital goods imports in a developing country**

Gogol Mitra Thakur and Rajiv Jha

Sponsor, if any: No

#### **Human capital accumulation, economic development and Lewisian turning points**

Gogol Mitra Thakur and Debarshi Das

Sponsor, if any: No

#### **Does international trade act as a panacea to high unemployment Problem at home? An Empirical Evidence from India**

Hrushikesh Mallick

#### **Validating the Flypaper Effect: Urban Local Bodies in Kerala, India**

Hrushikesh Mallick and Ashrafal Khalq (PhD Scholar, CDS)

## **MIGRATION**

### *Completed Research Projects*

#### **Left out of Pre-school? Systemic Exclusion and Discrimination against Children of Migrant Labour in Kerala**

Praveena Kodoth

Publication Status : submitted for review in an edited volume - Devika J and V J Varghese eds. 'Keep calm and carry on: The 'post Kerala model' and challenges of the twenty first century', Orient Blackswan

#### **Internal differentiation in overseas migration from Kerala: Probing the effects of Caste, Social and Human Capital**

Praveena Kodoth

Funded by the RPIMK programme

#### **Return Migration and Economic Reintegration in Kerala**

Vinoj Abraham and Dona M.

Sponsored by Kerala in the World Economy unit at CDS, instituted by Govt of Kerala

Publication Status : In consideration for publication in an edited volume

### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala: Patterns, Determinants and Implications**

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Vinoj Abraham, Praveena Kodoth, V. Shanthakumar, Ritika Jain, Srikanta Kundu

Sponsor, if any: Centre for Development Studies

#### **Policy, Gender Politics and Women's Migration for Work**

Praveena Kodoth

Expected date of completion: July 31, 2024

### *Research Plan*

#### **Evaluation of NORKA Department Project for Returned Migration (NDPREM)**

Beena P L, Gogol Motra and Vinoj Abraham

Sponsor, if any: NORKA (proposal submitted)

#### **Paternalist Governance, Tacit Accommodations: The Dynamics of Informality in Women's Labour Mobility to the Middle East**

Praveena Kodoth

## **AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION CROPS**

### *Completed Research Projects*

#### **Performance of Rubber Producer Societies in Rubber**

Vinoj Abraham

Sponsor: NRPPD

Publication Status : Report being prepared to be published as CDS working paper

### **Risk and Vulnerability in Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra, India**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. Sarthak Gaurav

Sponsor: ICSSR

Publication Status : Published a book : Gaurav, S. and Ranganathan, T. (2023). Accidental Gamblers. Cambridge University Press.

### **Higher Order Risk Preferences and Livelihood Choices among Rural Households in West Bengal**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. Kanchan Joshi

Sponsor: ACIAR

Publication Status : Joshi, K. and Ranganathan, T. (2023). Higher-order risk preferences and livelihood choices of farmers from West Bengal, India. Journal of Social and Economic Development. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40847-023-00292-7>

### *Ongoing Studies*

#### **Cooperation and Endowments in Maharashtra, India**

Prof Thiagu Ranganathan, Dr. Kanchan Joshi and Dr. Ram Ranjan

Sponsor: ACIAR

Status: Expected date of completion is November, 2024.

#### **Forest Restoration in Uttara Kannada**

Prof Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. S Krithi

Sponsor: ICIMOD

Status: Expected date of completion is October 2024.

#### **Mechanisation, Gender, and Collectivization: A Study of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Tamil Nadu**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan, Dr. Tirtha Chatterjee and Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Sponsor: NRPPD, CDS

Status: Expected date of completion: October, 2024.

### *New Research Initiatives*

#### **Mechanisation and Gendered Labour Market Impacts**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Mr. Himansu Kumar Thapa

## **POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT**

### *Completed Studies*

#### **Political Nepotism in Frictional Labour Market**

Rajit Biswas and Dr Debojyoti Mazumder

Sponsor, if any: NA

Publication Status : submitted to journal

### *Ongoing Research Project*

#### **Intergenerational Mobility of Scheduled Tribe: A case study of Mala Araya Community**

Abhilash T  
Sponsor, if any: ICSSR  
Expected date of completion: 2025 October

***Research Plan***

**Taming the Tusker: Class, Caste and Politics of Human-Animal Conflict in Southern India**

Abhilash T

**OTHER STUDIES**

***Completed Studies***

**Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach**

Beena P L, Hrushikesh Mallick, Ritika Jain, Sanjib Pohit (Professor, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi) and Chetana Chaudhuri (Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi)

Sponsor, if any: NCAER

**Dynamics of Energy Consumption, Economic Growth and Carbon Emission in a Sub-National Economy of India: An Evidence from Kerala**

Hrushikesh Mallick, Beena P L, Ritika Jain, Sanjib Pohit (Professor, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi) and Chetana Chaudhuri (Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi)

Publication Status : Submitted to a journal for consideration

***Research Plan***

**Women Empowerment and Environmental Quality**

Hrushikesh Mallick

**The Political Economy of Affirmative Action: Effects and Potentialities of Sub-classification of Castes**

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Sponsor: CDS OH-31 (Applied); USIEF (Applied)

# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**  
ULLOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695011

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2024**

EXPENDITURE	Sch NO	31-03-2024 (Rs)	31-03-2023 (Rs)	INCOME	Sch NO	31-03-2024 (Rs)	31-03-2024 (Rs)	31-03-2023 (Rs)
Faculty & Staff Cost	1	8,04,55,389	8,54,80,087	<b>Grant in Aid</b>				
Fellowship	2	3,14,706	8,74,811	<b>A. From ICSSR</b>				
Academic Development	3	1,15,07,569	1,07,90,422	Salary (OH -36)		3,34,64,000		
Repairs & Maintenance	4	73,42,685	83,43,172	Non-Salary (OH-31Recurring)		50,00,000		
Administrative Expenses	5	25,89,611	23,40,153	Non-Salary (OH-31Project/Research Activities)		-	3,84,64,000	3,89,00,000
Sponsored Research/ Fellowship/ Projects Expense	6	12,59,878	1,06,37,517	<b>B. From Govt. of Kerala</b>				
Surplus & Recovery of Overheads Transferred to Endowment Fund	7	80,10,487	1,53,93,973	Plan		1,25,00,000		
Net Income from Earmarked Funds Transferred to Respective Funds	B	2,15,51,173	2,07,63,317	Non-Plan		2,75,83,810	4,00,83,810	5,94,26,550
Depreciation	G	1,17,34,523	1,17,11,732	Total Grant (A+B)			7,85,47,810	9,83,26,550
				Less: Utilised for Capital Expenditure			19,65,278	1,01,38,863
				<b>Grant for Project (RBI Endowment Fund)</b>			7,65,82,532	8,81,87,687
				Less: Transferred to Project Fund		4,96,10,795		
						4,96,10,795		
				<b>Fees Received</b>	8		11,06,990	9,75,040
				<b>Other Income</b>	9			
				Less : Transferred to Endowment Fund		49,24,942		
						46,81,042	2,43,900	2,15,102
				<b>Sponsored Research/ Fellowship/ Projects Income Transferred</b>	6		12,59,878	1,06,37,517
				<b>Surplus &amp; Recovery of Overheads Transferred from Project Funds</b>	7		80,10,487	1,53,93,973
				<b>Interest on Investment of Earmarked Funds</b>	B			
				Less : Expenditure on Funds		5,80,89,093		
				Less : Transfer to I&E - recoupmnt of deficit		1,22,61,382	2,15,51,173	2,07,63,317
						2,42,76,538		
				<b>Transfer from General Fund (Depreciation)</b>	G		1,17,34,523	1,17,11,732
				<b>Transfer from Endowment Fund (Deficit)</b>			2,42,76,538	1,84,50,816
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,47,66,021</b>	<b>-16,63,35,184</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>14,47,66,021</b>	<b>16,63,35,184</b>

  
 Director  
 Centre for Development Studies



-2-

For KRISHNAN RETNA & ASSOCIATES  
 Chartered Accountants  
 PR NO - 0015365  
  
 (A. Rastnakumar Nair)  
 Partner  
 M.No. 024791



**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**  
ULLOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695011

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2024**

LIABILITIES	Sch	As at 31.3.2024 (Rs.)	As at 31.3.2023 (Rs.)	ASSETS	Sch	As at 31.3.2024 (Rs.)	As at 31.3.2023 (Rs.)
<b>General Fund</b>	A	7,34,31,748	8,31,31,155	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	G	7,25,84,598	8,22,84,005
<b>Earmarked Funds</b>	B	1,06,52,87,264	98,14,09,996	<b>Investments</b>			
<b>Deposits</b>	C	15,72,245	15,42,545	Earmarked Funds	B	1,05,57,42,792	97,36,84,335
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	D	8,56,898	30,28,637	<b>Loans &amp; Advances</b>			
<b>Unspent Grant</b>	E	1,36,861	5,92,114	Welfare Fund Loan		95,37,171	73,87,022
<b>Sponsored Projects &amp; Fellowships</b>				Prepaid Expenses	H	1,94,700	9,17,227
Unspent Grant	F	37,35,907	32,03,674	TDS		7,301	3,38,639
				<b>Current Assets</b>			
				Closing Stock	I	48,058	60,017
				Cash & Bank Balance	J	69,06,303	82,36,876
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,14,50,20,923</b>	<b>1,07,29,08,121</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,14,50,20,923</b>	<b>1,07,29,08,121</b>

**Notes to Accounts as per Schedule K**

  
 Director  
 Centre for Development Studies



- / -

For KRISHNAN RETNA & ASSOCIATES  
 Chartered Accountants  
 TR NO. 0013365  
 (A. Retnakumaran, Partner)  
 M No - 994791





Conference on Kerala and the World Economy  
18 - 19 March 2024



Seminar by Dr. Vinod Thomas  
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Yusof Ishak  
Institute: November 3, 2023



Seminar by Prof. Sripad Motiram, University of  
Massachusetts Boston: July 27, 2023



Dissemination Workshop held on  
28 November 2023 at Energy Management Centre,  
Thiruvananthapuram.



Educational trip to RBI, Thiruvananthapuram:  
November 09, 2023.



Book discussion held on 16th December, 2023 at  
India International Centre, New Delhi



Research Seminar on 'Education Research on  
Climate Resilience and Environment in Kerala'  
held at the Centre during 6-7 December 2023.



Book Discussion on "Poverty, Women and  
capability: A Study of Kerala's Kudumbashree  
System" held on 15th January 2024.



**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

(Under the aegis of Govt. of Kerala and ICSSR, Govt. of India)

Prasanth Nagar, Medical College.P.O, Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram - 695011

Phone: +91 471 2774200, Website: [www.cds.edu](http://www.cds.edu)