

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



**CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Prof. Barbara Harriss-White, Emeritus Professor and Fellow, Oxford University delivered the 16th Dr. B. G. Kumar Memorial Lecture on 5th November 2025.



Dr. K. N. Raj Memorial Lecture by Prof. Premachandra Athukorala (Emeritus Professor of Economics, Australian National University): 27th November 2025.



14th Foundation Day Lecture delivered by Dr. Poonam Gupta, Deputy Governor, RBI on 20th February, 2026.



15th Dr. P. K. Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture: Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran (Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India) on 16th March, 2026.



2nd Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture: Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director, ISID, New Delhi : 30th March, 2026



Training Programme on BIG Data Analysis Through Theory and Application: 28th April to 2nd May, 2025



Research Capacity-Building Workshop on Plantation and Development: 27th October to 2nd November 2025 at Guwahati



Workshop on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues: 24th to 28th November, 2025.

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

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

Annual Report 2025-26



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Governing Body

As on 31 March 2026

Prof. Sudipto Mundle Senior Advisor, National Council of Applied Economic Research & Visiting Faculty, Indian School of Public Policy, New Delhi	Chairman
Prof. C Veeramani Director, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	Convenor
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Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.	"
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Prof. P. N. Harikumar Department of Commerce, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	"
Prof. J. Devika Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum	"
Prof. Vinoj Abraham Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum	"
Prof. T. M. Thomas Isaac Honorary Fellow, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum	"
Prof. P. Sivanandan Honorary Fellow, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum	"

The Centre gratefully acknowledges support received from:

- Government of Kerala
- Indian Council of Social Science Research
- University Grants Commission
- Jawaharlal Nehru University
- University of Kerala
- Reserve Bank of India
- Planning Commission, Government of India
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
- Planning Board, Government of Kerala

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



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1. OVERVIEW

The Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram, is a premier social science research institution in India dedicated to advancing knowledge on development issues through high-quality research, teaching, training, and policy engagement. Established in 1970 by the renowned economist Prof. K. N. Raj, the Centre has evolved into an internationally recognised institution, making significant contributions to development economics and the broader social sciences.

CDS functions as an autonomous institution under the Government of Kerala and is supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Government of India. The Centre is committed to interdisciplinary research on issues relating to economic development, social change, public policy, international trade, labour, health, education, environment, gender, migration, and governance.

The Centre has earned global recognition for its pioneering contributions to development studies, particularly through the Kerala Model of Development, studies on poverty and inequality, demographic transition, migration, fiscal policy, trade, and sustainable development. Its research findings have significantly influenced public policy at the state, national, and international levels.

CDS offers postgraduate and doctoral programmes in Economics through its affiliation with the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. The Institute also organises specialised training programmes, conferences, workshops, public lectures, and policy dialogues that bring together scholars, policy makers, and practitioners from across the world.

The Centre publishes research findings through its Working Paper Series, Research Reports, books, journal articles, and policy briefs, thereby disseminating knowledge to academic, policy, and public audiences. It also undertakes sponsored research projects for national and international organisations and collaborates extensively with universities and research institutions across the globe.

Supported by a well-equipped library, modern computing facilities, digital resources, and residential amenities for students, faculty, and visiting scholars, CDS provides an intellectually stimulating environment for research and learning. Over the years, the Centre has established itself as one of India's leading institutions for development research, combining academic excellence with a strong commitment to informing public policy and promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

History

The Centre was registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act XII of 1955 on 19 October 1970. Its creation was influenced by developments at both the national and regional levels. At the national level, in 1969, the Government of India set up the Indian Council of Social Science Research to promote and review social science research. A key strategy was the creation of 'Centres of Excellence', recognizing shortcomings in the university system. At the regional level, the Government of Kerala, led by Shri C. Achutha Menon, sought to support research on development issues, aiming to generate intellectual inputs for Kerala's developmental policies and planning. Together, these factors catalyzed the founding



of CDS, positioning it as a premier institution for research in development and social sciences.

Shri C. Achutha Menon successfully persuaded Professor K. N. Raj, the renowned economist, educationist, and then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, to lead the establishment of the Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. Accepting the invitation, Professor Raj played a pivotal role in founding the institution, mobilising financial and institutional support from both the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Government of Kerala.

At the Delhi School of Economics (DSE), Professor K. N. Raj had already earned widespread acclaim for transforming the institution into a centre of academic excellence, comparable to some of the world's leading schools of economics—notably the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). His goal was to shape CDS into a world-class research institute, deeply rooted in the context of regional and national development, yet connected to global academic discourse. To this end, he sought to attract and involve eminent economists of international stature in the activities of CDS. Among those he brought into association with the Centre were: Professor Amartya K. Sen, Professor Joan Robinson, Professor Nicholas Kaldor, Professor Sukhamoy Chakravarty, Professor Jagdish N. Bhagwati, Professor Manmohan Singh etc.. Professor Raj's ability to forge such intellectual networks not only enriched the academic life at CDS but also inspired a generation of scholars and policy thinkers in India and beyond.

Mr. Laurie W. Baker, the renowned British architect and an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA), had already earned a global reputation for his innovative and socially conscious approach to architecture was invited to design and construct the CDS campus. His involvement not only gave CDS a distinct architectural identity, but also served as a catalyst for the wider adoption of low-cost building technologies in Kerala. The campus stands today as a living example of sustainable architecture, blending functionality with aesthetic and environmental sensitivity. The architectural splendour of the CDS campus—its

elegant brickwork, energy efficiency, and harmony with the natural landscape—is a lasting testament to Laurie Baker's vision, and to the commitment of Kerala's leadership to innovation not just in research, but in infrastructure and design as well.

Since its inception, the Centre has consistently embraced innovative approaches to academic research, teaching, and policy engagement, reinforcing its status as a leading institution in the field of development studies. Among its early academic milestones was the launch of an interdisciplinary M.Phil. programme affiliated to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, which emphasized a comprehensive and analytical approach to development issues, drawing from economics and allied disciplines. Complementing this, CDS also introduced a Ph.D. programme affiliated with both JNU and the University of Kerala, further strengthening its research base and expanding opportunities for advanced academic inquiry.

The Centre started with a very small team of five Fellows in 1970. Professor P.G.K.Panikar was the first Director of CDS from 1971 and continued in that capacity until 1984. Presently the CDS has a regular faculty strength of 17. Further, it has 18 Visiting Professors/Fellows from across the country and abroad and 22 Administrative Staff.

Notably, CDS was ranked the best among the 24 ICSSR research institutes in India based on research publications during the 2011–2020 period, underscoring its leadership and excellence in social science research.

Academic Programmes

MA in Applied Economics and 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). 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.



During the year 2025-26, ten scholars enrolled in Ph.D. programme, three submitted their theses, and forty four continue their research. During the same period, six scholars completed/awarded their Ph.D. degrees.

To enhance international exposure and strengthen research capabilities among doctoral scholars, the Centre launched the **PhD Internship Abroad (PIA) Programme**. This initiative provides PhD students with the opportunity to undertake part of their research at reputed institutions around the world, thereby fostering global academic engagement and collaboration. During the year, two PhD scholars were selected for this prestigious programme: **Mr. Rahul Kamal** (Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018) who pursued his research at Kiel University, Germany and **Ms. Shabnam T. P.** (PhD 2022) who was hosted by University of London, UK

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.

32 students (including three students admitted by Special Drive) joined for the MA Programme 2025. One student discontinued after the second semester. Current strength is 31.

Candidates from SAARC Countries: The SAARC scholarship for MA students, launched in 2016-17 provides five scholarships to students from SAARC countries that enroll in the MA programme.

26 students from the 2024 MA batch successfully completed their course.

Research

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.

As of now, the institute has published a total of 520 working papers and 47 books. This year, CDS faculty members have published 55 research articles in professional journals, 3 books, 7 chapters in edited volumes, 3 working papers and 25 other publications in reports, newspapers, magazines etc. The research outputs are published by reputed publishers like, Routledge, Springer, Cambridge University Press, Orient Blackswan, World Scientific, Social Science Press, Oxford University Press, DC Books etc.

Research Projects / Sponsored Studies

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, Migration, Agriculture and Plantation Crops and Politics and Development; conducted independently, or under various endowment units and endowment funds.

The CDS faculty remained actively engaged in conducting sponsored research projects during 2025-26.

The study report titled '**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**' prepared by Prof. C. Veeramani, has received wide appreciation for its significant policy relevance and analytical contributions.

The study examines the remarkable transformation of mobile phone manufacturing in India and demonstrates how strategic integration into global value chains (GVCs) has accelerated the sector's growth. It highlights the substantial increase in exports, improvements in domestic value addition, generation of employment, enhancement of wage incomes, and the industry's gradual transition towards more sophisticated production capabilities.



The report also provides a comprehensive assessment of the impact of various government policy initiatives in fostering the growth of the mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem. In addition, it identifies emerging opportunities and offers valuable policy insights for strengthening India's broader electronics manufacturing sector and enhancing its participation in global value chains.

Another study report titled **"Analysis of the Finances of the State of Kerala: A Report Prepared for the 16th Finance Commission"** by Prof. H Mallick, Prof. M Parameswaran and Prof. C Veeramani was submitted to the 16th Finance Commission. The report provides a comprehensive assessment of Kerala's fiscal position, with particular emphasis on debt sustainability and deficit dynamics. It finds that the state's debt-to-GSDP ratio has remained high and largely unsustainable, although recent state budgets indicate signs of modest fiscal correction. The analysis attributes the deterioration in the state's fiscal position primarily to the extensive use of borrowed resources to finance persistent revenue deficits rather than productive capital expenditure, which has constrained long-term growth prospects.

The report recommends a range of fiscal reforms to restore fiscal sustainability, including strengthening tax and non-tax revenue mobilisation, improving expenditure efficiency, reducing unproductive revenue expenditure, and adopting prudent fiscal management practices. The study offers valuable policy inputs for achieving long-term fiscal stability and promoting sustainable economic growth in Kerala.

Other major research projects completed this year were:

- Suraj Jacob, "Strengthening Local Governance: Policy Process of Reforms in Jharkhand", funded by the Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.
- Ritika Jain, "Country Systems Analysis of Land Restoration", funded by the United

Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany

- M Parameswaran, Aged Friendly Local Governance in Kerala, Research Unit on Local Governance, CDS.
- Vinoj Abraham, Social and Technological Responses to Extreme Heat and Air Quality issues in Urban India, funded by Kyoto University, Japan 2025-26
- Vinoj Abraham, Performance of Rubber Producer Societies in Kerala. funded by National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) by the Ministry of Commerce
- Vinoj Abraham, Performance of Farmer Producer Organisations in the Coffee Sector, National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) by the Ministry of Commerce
- Mohammed Izudheen, Kerala's Engagements with Foreign Countries funded by Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala, Govt. of Kerala

The Centre is actively engaged in the following research projects during the year 2025-26. The details are given below:

- Abhilash T, "Intergenerational Mobility and Collective Articulation of Rights: A Case Study of Mala Araya Tribal Community in Kerala", funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.
- Amartya Paul, "An Impact Evaluation Study of the NORKA Department Programme for Returned Emigrants (NDPREM)", funded by Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala, Government of Kerala.
- Ritika Jain (as a team member), "International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala", funded by funded by Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala, Government of Kerala, Centre for Development Studies
- C Veeramani, "Domestic Value Addition, Trade Balance Trends, Patterns and Opportunities in Mobile Phone Manufacturing in India through Backward



Participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs)", funded by the Integral Advisory Services Private Limited, New Delhi.

- Vinoj Abraham, Patterns and Determinants of International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala, funded by Research Unit on International Migration, at CDS
- Vinoj Abraham, Skill Centric International Labour Migration from Kerala (India) to Europe: An Overview of Issues and Policy Considerations, funded by Research Unit on International Migration

Some of the new research projects undertaken during the reporting period are as follows

- Amartya Paul, "Economic Growth-Inequality Nexus in the Last Decade: A study in the Indian context", funded by OH-31, ICSSR, New Delhi
- Thiagu Ranganathan, "Youth Employment, Skills and the Role of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu and Kadakkavoor, Kerala: A Study among Rural Youth with Higher Education", funded by Research Unit on Local Self Governance (RULSG).
- Vinoj Abraham, "Social and Technological Responses to Extreme Heat and Air Quality Issues in Urban India", funded by Kyoto University, Japan
- Praveena Kodoth, "Mapping Migrant Care Workers from India", funded by International Labour Office, New Delhi
- Vinoj Abraham, "Informality, Remuneration and Working Time in the Digital Platform Economy of India", funded by International Labour Office, New Delhi
- Beena P L, "Competition, Innovation, and Startup Acquisitions: Evaluating Antitrust Trends in India's High-Tech Landscape", funded by ICSSR, New Delhi under OH-31
- K Chandra Shekar, "Industrial Concentration and Firm Performance: Evidence from Formal and Informal Sector in India", funded by ICSSR, New Delhi under OH-31
- Vinoj Abraham, Assessing the Impact of NTMs on India's plantation sector: A Case Study of cardamom, funded by National

Research Programme on Plantation Development, CDS,

- Vinoj Abraham, Profitability and Productivity of Small Tea Growers in Assam and West Bengal funded by National Research Programme on Plantation Development, CDS
- Vinoj Abraham, Platform Economy in India – Informality, Remuneration and Working Time", funded by the International Labour Organization (ILO)

The Research Unit on Local Self Governments (RULSG) completed a major study on Age-Friendly Local Governance in Kerala and prepared a book titled '*Keralathile Vayojana Souhridha Pradesika Bharanam*'. The book is currently in the final editing stage and will be published by the State Institute of Languages (Kerala Bhasha Institute).

The study addresses the challenges arising from Kerala's rapidly ageing population and emphasizes the need for age-friendly local governance and innovative policy interventions through local self-governments. The publication assumes greater significance in the context of the Government of Kerala's recent establishment of a dedicated Department for Senior Citizens, reflecting the state's growing commitment to addressing the needs and well-being of its ageing population. The book is expected to serve as a valuable reference for policymakers, local governments, researchers, and other stakeholders.

The National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) at the Centre continued to undertake policy-oriented research addressing contemporary challenges in India's plantation sector. During the year, two major research projects were advanced. The study on Profitability and Productivity of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Assam and West Bengal examines the determinants of productivity, production costs, profitability, and livelihood outcomes among small tea growers.

The programme also completed two major research studies. The study on performance of Rubber Producer Societies (RPS) and its impact



on growers examined the functioning of RPS and their contribution to improving the productivity and livelihoods of small rubber growers. The study on Performance of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu assessed the role of collective action in improving production, marketing, and livelihoods among small tea growers.

The NRPPD Plantation Statistical Database was further developed during the year as a publicly accessible online repository of plantation statistics. Research undertaken under the programme continued to be disseminated through journal articles, research reports, policy briefs, and popular publications.

The NITI Aayog Endowment in Development Economics pursued its research on migration, gender, and labour during the year, with a particular focus on the experiences of women, children, and migrant workers, as well as the socio-economic implications of internal and international migration. Research also examined childcare as a constraint on women's employment and the significance of dowry in contemporary Kerala. The Unit completed three significant studies on women's employment, return migration, and migrant labour. These included an Economic & Political Weekly (EPW) article on the employment trajectories and aspirations of higher educated mothers in Kerala, a study on the employment vulnerabilities of return migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a paper examining the implications of care regimes for migrant women and children in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. With the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), New Delhi, the Unit initiated two new research projects on the mobility of Indian care workers. The projects examine global migration patterns of nurses, caregivers, and domestic workers, with particular emphasis on Kerala's role as a major source of migrant care workers.

The Research Unit on International Migration from Kerala continued its activities in research, training, migration database management, and the organisation of the annual conference on *Kerala and the World Economy*. During the reporting period, the Unit

organised a five-day workshop on "Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues" from 24–28 November 2025. The workshop focused on contemporary research methodologies, quantitative and qualitative techniques, migration data sources, fieldwork challenges, and interdisciplinary and policy-relevant approaches to migration research.

Two research projects were completed during the reporting period: (i) International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala – Patterns, Determinants, and Implications (Phase I) and (ii) A Study on Labour Market, Skills, and Skilling Policy for International Migration from Kerala to Europe (Phase I).

The Unit is currently undertaking five studies covering higher-education migration; labour-market and skilling policies related to migration to Europe; emerging labour migration destinations beyond the Gulf; migration among Scheduled Castes; and the impact of NORKA's reintegration schemes, including NDPREM and Pravasi Bhadratha.

Reserve Bank of India Endowment Unit on Economic Development engaged in its research, teaching, and academic activities in the areas of macroeconomics, international trade, global value chains, industrial policy, and economic integration. The Unit introduced two new courses into the MA and PhD curricula at CDS: "Financial Programming and Policies" and "Open Economy Macroeconomics in Emerging Market Economies." The Unit successfully organised the Second Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies from 19–24 January 2026. Two major research reports, *"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"* and *"Evaluation of Finances of State of Kerala,"* were completed and submitted during the reporting period. The Unit also produced several significant research studies and publications, including works that were published or are forthcoming.



Outreach

The Centre organised a wide range of academic events during 2025–26. A total of 38 conferences, seminars, and lectures were conducted, comprising 3 international conferences, 29 national-level conferences and seminars, and 6 public lectures. In addition, the Centre organised 13 training programmes and workshops focused on capacity building, research methodology, and skill development for researchers, students, and professionals.

The Centre organised a series of distinguished public lectures during 2025–26 and the major public lectures conducted during the year were:

- 16th Dr. B. G. Kumar Memorial Lecture on "A Different Approach to Informality", delivered by Prof. Barbara Harriss-White, Emeritus Professor and Fellow, University of Oxford, on 5 November 2025.
- Dr. K. N. Raj Memorial Lecture on "The Sri Lankan Economy: From Great Expectations to Debt Trap and Beyond", delivered by Prof. Premachandra Athukorala, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Australian National University, on 27 November 2025.
- 14th Foundation Day Lecture on "Perspectives on India's Growth: Last Four Decades to the Present", delivered by Dr. Poonam Gupta, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, in hybrid mode on 20 February 2026.
- 15th Dr. P. K. Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture on "Building Strategic Leverage in the Emerging New World Order: Challenges and Opportunities for India", delivered by Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, on 16 March 2026.
- 2nd Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture on "Multinational Enterprises, GVCs and India's Export Competitiveness: Theory, Evidence and Policy", delivered by Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, on 30 March 2026.

During 2025–26, the Centre organised three international conferences and seminars.

- Monsoon School on Inequality 2025 – A three-day international programme jointly organised with the Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) of the Institute for New Economic

Thinking (INET) from 24–26 July 2025. The programme brought together young researchers and distinguished scholars to discuss emerging perspectives on inequality and inclusive development.

- 11th International Conference on Law and Economics – Held during 15–16 November 2025, the conference provided a forum for interdisciplinary discussions on contemporary issues at the intersection of law, economics, public policy, and regulation, with participation from leading national and international experts.

- International Conference by Dr. Ikuno Naka – A two-day international conference organised on 6–7 December 2025, featuring scholarly deliberations and international participation on themes of mutual academic interest, further strengthening the Centre's global research collaborations.

As part of its efforts to expand its outreach and ensure financial sustainability, the Centre has established a dedicated **Training Programme Unit**. The Unit is responsible for designing and delivering high-quality training programmes that combine academic rigour with practical relevance, catering to researchers, academicians, policymakers, professionals, and students. During 2025–26, the Unit organised a Training Programme on "**Big Data Analysis through Theory and Application**" from 28 April to 2 May 2025. The programme was led by **Prof. Subrato Sarkar**, Former Dean of Faculties, IGIDR, Mumbai, as the Resource Person. It attracted 29 participants from across the country and provided comprehensive training in theoretical concepts and practical applications of big data analysis. Another Training Programme on 'Practical Guide to Marketing Research with Statistical Tools & AI' will be organised from 1st to 19th June, 2026.

The second round of **Crossroads 2026** was held from Feb 5-7th 2026. It featured academic presentations and discussions on six relevant and timely themes: Technology, Identity and Power; Firm Dynamics and performance; Development and Vulnerability, Economics of Climate Change; Casual Inference, Agriculture and Rural Development, Policy and Macroeconomics; Labour Market and Outcomes. A total of 24 papers and 8 posters



were presented by scholars from distinguished institutions across the country. Eminent Academicians joined to discuss the papers and give the presenters detailed feedback.

The Centre for Development Studies Alumni Association (CDSAA)

The First Annual General Body Meeting of the CDS Alumni Association was held virtually on 17 September 2025 at 4.30 p.m. The meeting reviewed the activities of the Association and discussed initiatives to strengthen alumni engagement and support for the Centre.

Recognising the need to strengthen financial support for students, the CDSAA, at its meeting held on 18 November 2025, requested the Centre to revise the existing guidelines governing the utilisation of the **Student Welfare Fund**. The CDS Alumni Association will play an active role in mobilising contributions from alumni and well-wishers to strengthen the Fund.

The K N Raj Library

The K. N. Raj Library continued to strengthen its role as a major social science resource centre, with an extensive collection of 138,933 resources comprising books, reports, government publications, theses and dissertations, 1,451 e-books, and 18,419 journal back volumes across various social science disciplines. The K.N.Raj Library also 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 206 books, and 733 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 K.N.Raj Library subscribes to 5 Print Journals and 11 News Papers. The library also received 41 print periodicals / journals as gift. This year CDS has been extended access to the Government of India's One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) eJournals (13000 journals) through the generous support from ICSSR-NASSDOC. Access to the JSTOR (2400 journals) was provided by the ICSSR/NASSDOC consortia. They are available to the CDS community through IP access.

The membership during the reporting period is as follows. A total of 323 members joined / renewed membership, out of which 259 are reference memberships. 2 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.

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.

As part of its e-Governance initiatives, the Centre has implemented a cloud-based Campus Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The online platform **Samarth Portal** is now fully operational and accessible to all students, faculty, and staff. The system facilitates end-to-end student lifecycle management, including online admission, fee payment, attendance management, and timetable access. It also offers a range of employee self-service features such as online leave application, access to pay slips, salary certificates, and other administrative services. The implementation of the cloud-based ERP has significantly enhanced the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of institutional processes, contributing to the digital transformation of campus administration.



New Initiatives

Endowment for Award on Adaptation to Climate Change

The Ramesh and Tara Mody Endowment on Climate Change at the Centre represents a significant initiative to foreground adaptation to climate change. At the heart of the Endowment is the Ramesh and Tara Mody Annual Prize for Outstanding Research or Journalism on Climate Change. The Prize is designed to encourage high-quality work that advances understanding, informs public policy, and strengthens public engagement on climate-related issues. The Prize is awarded annually for work published in the preceding calendar year. Eligible contributions include peer-reviewed academic research, policy analyses, and high-quality journalistic work across print, broadcast, and digital media.

The K. N. Raj-CDS Research Fellowship

As part of its capacity-building initiatives, the Centre launched the fellowship, is designed to foster collaborative research between researchers in Kerala and CDS faculty members. The Fellowship seeks to strengthen research linkages, promote joint scholarly work, and provide opportunities for collaboration between faculty members in Kerala and the academic community at the CDS. Each fellowship will be awarded for a duration of one year and will provide support of support under the following heads: (i) Reimbursement of expenses for travel between the Fellow's place of work and the CDS, accommodation in the CDS Guest House, and food expenses at the CDS Canteen, up to a combined maximum of ₹50,000, and (ii) honorarium of ₹50,000, payable to the Fellow after successful completion of fellowship requirements.

Research Collaboration with ILO

The International Labour Organization (ILO), New Delhi, has commissioned the Centre to undertake a comprehensive empirical **Study on Informality, Remuneration and Working Time in the Digital Platform Economy of India**. The study aims to generate rigorous empirical evidence on the nature and quality of

employment in India's digital platform economy. The study covers platform workers across multiple Indian cities representing metropolitan as well as emerging urban labour markets. The survey includes workers engaged in ride-hailing, food delivery, logistics, household services, and online freelancing.

Personnel

The Governing Body, at its 81st meeting held on 16 September 2025, approved the implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) for academic staff with effect from 1 January 2016 and the 11th Kerala State Pay Revision for non-academic staff with effect from 1 July 2019. It also approved the payment of salaries in the revised pay scales with effect from 1 April 2025.

Mr. Suresh Kumar S., who had been serving as Registrar of the Centre since 6 May 2016, retired from service on 6 January 2026. He had initially joined the Centre as Administrative Officer on 12 May 2011. During his tenure, he made significant contributions to the efficient functioning of the Centre through his exemplary service.

Smt. Rekha Nair N joined the Centre as Registrar on 7 January 2026. She brings over 15 years of experience in academic administration and has previously served at the Institute of Home Economics, University of Delhi.

Mr. Firozsha A joined the Centre as Internal Audit Officer on a contract basis with effect from 1 December 2025 for a period of one year. Prior to joining CDS, he retired as Senior Audit Officer from the Office of the Accountant General, Thiruvananthapuram, after rendering 36 years of distinguished service.

Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur, Assistant Professor, resigned from the Centre with effect from 30 October 2025. He had joined the Centre on 15 June 2021 and made valuable contributions to its teaching and research programmes during his tenure. Following his resignation, he joined the Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, as Assistant Professor.



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.502.14 lakh, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research Rs. 342.69 lakh. The Centre earned a total income of Rs.114.85 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.530.59 lakh and Rs.246.42 lakh, respectively. 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 best possible growth of the Centre's funds by investment in high-yielding and risk-free investments. The Annual Accounts are presented in Chapter X.

The Centre gratefully acknowledges 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.



2. RESEARCH

This chapter provides a brief overview of the studies completed and those currently in progress during the year 2025–26. As in the previous year, the studies are grouped under broad thematic categories. However, due to the interlinkages between various themes, some degree of overlap is inevitable.

- 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

Completed Studies

‘Now You See Me, Now You Don’t’: The Attendance Crisis facing Schools for the Disadvantaged, with Evidence from India’

Suraj Jacob and Caroline Dyer

Universal school enrolment, retention and learning programme completion are targets of

global Development Goals and recognised ‘policy problems’ across the global South.

Amidst stalled progress and a ‘learning crisis’, remarkably little policy attention is paid to an important mediator of those targets: students’ daily attendance at school. Student attendance is a prerequisite for the progress that Sustainable Development Goal 4 envisages, yet goes unreported in its accounting. Drawing on a post-positivist approach to public policy problematisation, we argue that imperatives of universality and equality orientate policy towards solution-seeking framed by ‘problem representations’ that occlude the link between student attendance and school-based learning. Taking the case of India, where primary school attendance averages only 70 percent, we develop a ‘policy-questioning’ approach that combines analysis of education policy discourses and quantitative data from over 5000 students in 21 schools in Rajasthan. The discourse analysis reveals that learner attendance is subsumed within policy representations of enrolment, retention and inequality as problems. Descriptive statistics reveal diverse learner attendance patterns that vary further by grade and socio-economic status. The actual group of students in a class varies significantly from day to day. Thus, there are sharp differences between empirical realities and the official attendance norms that structure the curriculum, and hence shape programmes of learning. We conclude that learner attendance should be re-framed as a ‘policy problem’ that is not in search of solutions, but of more extensive research and learning-focused policy attention at both national and global levels.

Status: Manuscript under review

**Ongoing****'Coastal Azhal. The Art of Grief in Kerala, South India'****J. Devika and Dr Claudia Lang**

KabhumM! was a month-long exhibition, curated by Radha Gomati, at the Kerala Museum in Kochi, Kerala. Engaging installations and performances by local artists, it engaged visitors affectively and sensually in the chronic lived experience of tidal flooding amongst Kerala's coastal communities. Unlike other art events in Kochi, such as the famous Kochi Biennale, KabhumM! exhibited, as the organizers called it, "art for the coastal commons". This article contributes, first, to the anthropology of the lived affective experience of the slow disaster of tidal flooding. It contributes, second, to anthropological writing on distress that often centres around grief, anxiety, or solastalgia by pluralizing and emplacing ecological distress. Third, it adds to discussions around what it means to writing along with artists and art works in a time of planetary unravelling. The analytic of azhal or burning grief, and its geographic and semantic emplacement via ocean (aazhi) and estuary (azhi), allows us to understand conversations in anthropology about ecological grief and the lived experiences of incremental tidal flooding in a different light. Azhal reveals part of what it means to affectively inhabit flooded and eroded coastal worlds. As a place-based, visceral, and shared analytic of burning and lingering grief, azhal helps to carve out what it means to think about the multiple interlocking relations of affects and ecologies under conditions of acute and slow disaster. As we hope to show throughout the chapter, a shared affective orientation of azhal not only enables a language of feeling loss and ruination, it also has what Butler has described we-creating capacity. Eng and Kazanjian (2003) suggest for melancholia that the "affective legacies of loss" (p. 16) in the "melancholic deferral of closure" (p. 53) can become sites for resistance and even creative transformation.

Status: In the edited volume titled *Experiencing Loss in Contemporary Worlds: Toward an*

Anthropology of Grief, from Routledge, edited by Serena Bindi, Aidan Seale Feldman

DECENTRALISATION AND GOVERNANCE**Completed Studies****'Aged friendly Local Governance in Kerala'****M.Parameswaran, S Krishnakumar and Mohankumar S M**

Sponsorship: RULSG

This book portraits the aged-friendly governance (AFG) in three grama panchayats (Manikkal, Poovachal and Vembayam) in Kerala. It provides a detailed analysis of (1) the activities and processes involved in implementing AFG, along with the difficulties encountered; and (2) the socio-economic and political challenges faced in sustaining age-friendly governance. It further discusses possible solutions to these challenges and offers practical recommendations. Finally, the book assesses the replicability of AFG in other panchayats across Kerala and provides concrete suggestions for its wider adoption. Each panchayat discussed in this book has a different story. The experiences and lessons learned from each panchayat are different, but it is useful for policy makers, researchers, elected members, and senior citizens.

The topic discussed in this book has relevance on the following grounds. The concept of age-friendly local governance is relatively new, and it has recently been gaining increased attention at both the national and international levels. In India, the aged friendly local governance was first implemented by Manikkal grama panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram district, with the help of Social Justice Department of the Government of Kerala. The State's old age policy says that the care of senior citizens is the responsibility of local self-governments (LSGs) since they have better interaction with them. Thus, many LSGs in the state are now very much interested to replicate the aged friendly governance implemented by the Manikkal



Grama Panchayat. As the book has described all the process and functions of the aged friendly governance implemented by them, it may serve as a good resource for all LSGs in the state.

Publication Status : Forthcoming as book in Malayalam

The road to safety- Examining the nexus between road infrastructure and crime in rural India

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Road is one of the important infrastructure investments that is critical for growth and development. In 2006, the World Bank introduced the Rural Accessibility Index (RAI), which gives the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road recognising the central position of rural roads within road infrastructure. The RAI is widely used as a metric to measure the progress in Sustainable Development Goal . Alongside, a large body of literature has examined the effect of rural roads on economic outcomes. In this paper, we examine a less explored dimension, that is, the road crime nexus in the context of a developing economy like India.

Theoretically, road can affect crime in both positive and negative ways. Road and crime can be negatively related if improved road infrastructure leads to growth and better employment opportunities (Chakrabarti, 2018; Laborda and Sotelsek, 2019). Becker's (1968) seminal work on crime highlights that the opportunity cost of crime rises with better employment opportunities, and as a result, with access to roads, individuals may substitute their time spent on crime with formal employment. Further, road construction activities may directly boost employment and income disproportionately for the poor and less skilled. Abbasi et al. (2022) show that in rural regions of Sub-Saharan Africa, access to roads led to a shift of employment from low-skilled to high-skilled jobs, suggesting a shift in the economic status of the population. Charlery et al. (2016) find that road infrastructure has

the greatest positive impact on the income of the poorest households in Nepal. Hence, considerable investments in infrastructure projects like road construction can reduce crime by improving the economic status of the poor and the opportunity cost of crime.

Roads can also be positively related to crime on account of at least two reasons. The first dimension is the direct relationship between road infrastructure and criminal activities owing to the physical network of roads. Roads tend to increase mobility and commute (Ng et al., 2017; Asher and Novosad, 2020), which is critical not only for economic activities but also for criminal activities. According to criminology literature, road infrastructure may work as a skeletal structure for criminals that may aid in identifying and easily accessing hot spots (Davies and Johnson, 2015). Hence, a well-connected road network may catalyze the movements of criminals to potential hot spots with ease. This may perpetuate criminal activities in areas that are well-connected. In support of this view, Agnew (2020) shows that the expansion of highways led to an increase in burglary in Ireland. McCutcheon et al. (2016) also find a positive correlation between the number of highway exits and robbery. Second, the benefits of infrastructure may not accrue to the poor. For example, Bryceson et al. (2008) show that access to roads had a limited effect on the mobility of the rural poor as they lacked motor vehicles and the ability to pay for public transportation facilities. In fact, if the benefits of roads accrue more to the economically advantaged segment, then roads may increase inequality in society. For example, Marein (2022) documents that access to roads can exacerbate inequality rather than reducing it. Combining this finding with Becker (1968) as well as the social theory of relative deprivation, one may argue that the disadvantaged and economically vulnerable groups may resort to crime given the low returns from the labour market (Ehrlich, 1973; Block and Heineke, 1975; Chiu and Madden, 1998). Road infrastructure-induced inequality may then increase crime due to a rise in inequality.

The above discussion underscores that ex-ante, the relationship between road infrastructure and criminal activities remains ambiguous. Against this background, we attempt to



empirically examine how rural road accessibility affects crime in rural India. The focus on India is on account of several reasons. Firstly, India is characterised by weak infrastructure, especially in rural regions (Jha, 2006). Even though RAI is not available for India, in 2001, almost 50% of Indian villages still lacked a paved road (Asher and Novosad, 2020). The Government of India initiated a centrally sponsored ambitious road construction program, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in 2000 to improve last mile connectivity of Indian villages by focusing on regions that lacked all weather road given certain population threshold. As of 2019, access has spread to 73% of Indian villages. This broad coverage of road networks reflects that road infrastructure since the 2000s has grown, making it an ideal candidate to test whether improvement in access to roads has any effect on crime. Moreover, literature suggests that the impact of roads on outcomes tends to be largely positive in the African region, though it remains inconclusive in Asia (Foster et al., 2023). Finally, the availability of reliable largescale household surveys allows us to tease out the effect of roads on crime in the Indian context. Against such a backdrop, investigating whether rural road infrastructure influences crime is worthwhile.

We use data from the two rounds of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) conducted in 2004-05 and 2011-12, respectively, for our analysis. Among several socio-economic attributes, the survey explored whether the household faced any type of criminal activity in the last twelve months. We rely on the response of the households to this question to construct measures of crime. In addition to the household module, IHDS also has a separate questionnaire for village-level amenities that provides information on whether the village was accessible through an all-weather pucca road. We find that households in villages with a pucca road are less likely to experience episodes of crime after controlling for various household level confounders. In order to address endogeneity concerns, we also employ an instrumental variable strategy. Specifically, we consider the total roads constructed in the district as a part of the PMGSY program during the five years preceding the survey as an

instrument for village level pucca road. Using an instrumental variable estimation, we find that road access is indeed negatively related to crime. The point estimates suggest that access to roads almost reduced the likelihood of experiencing crime by nearly 18.5 to 35 percentage points. These findings remain intact on performing a battery of robustness checks, like using matched data, Lewbel's method, and alternate district-level analysis using reported crime data collected by the National Crime Records Bureau.

On exploring the possible channels that may drive our main findings, we find that roads improve the likelihood of an individual being employed. As roads improve employment outcomes, it is likely to increase the opportunity cost of committing crime and explain the negative relationship between roads and crime. Concurrently, we find that access to pucca road is also positively related to the likelihood of the village having a bus stop and more individuals in the village commuting daily for work. Hence, roads through enhanced mobility can improve accessibility to better employment opportunities, thereby reducing crime.

We also test for the heterogeneity of our results. First, we explore whether the relationship between road and crime is dependent upon the quality of institutions, like the efficiency of courts and police per capita. Better institutions increase the cost of committing crime, and criminals are more likely to be caught/ acquitted. We find that the negative relationship between road and crime is primarily driven by the sub-sample of states with low quality institutions as proxied by police strength. This is further reinforced as we find that road has a negative effect on crime in states with low chargesheeting rate, that is, in regions with low police efficiency. This highlights that road access can substitute for weak institutions and help in lowering crime. Next, we find that the negative relationship between road and crime is driven by the sub-sample of states characterised by high levels of employment generated as a part of public works program. The public works program typically generates employment opportunities for the unskilled and benefits the poor. Hence, the results underscore that roads benefit the



poor and, therefore, can again reduce crime by improving employment opportunities, especially for the poor and unskilled. We also show that the negative effect of road on crime is essentially driven by states that have a high population density. These results underline the importance of building road infrastructure in rural India and also being cognisant of the fact that different state-level factors may moderate the road-crime relationship.

Publication Status : Published in Journal of Quantitative Economics

Ongoing

'Functioning and effectiveness of Gramasabha in decentralised governance of Kerala.'

M Parameswaran

Sponsorship, if any: RULSG

Status: Expected date of completion: By December 2026.

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

'Mutations of Caste Power, Neoliberal Femininity, and Retail Sector Work in Kerala'

J. Devika and Anamika Ajay

Sponsorship: ICSSR

This paper is based on qualitative interview-based research among female retail workers in the cities of Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi in Kerala. We argue that besides being an expanding sector for socially- and economically-disadvantaged women seeking employment which also seems to suit their ambitions for social and economic upward mobility, the retail sector in Kerala may be an important site to make sense of the mutations of brahminical patriarchy in twenty-first century Kerala. In other words, our interviews with women workers reveals much discontent

with the heavy workloads, physical exhaustion, poor remuneration as well as the lack of job security – but two sub-groups in our sample also revealed a preference for retail work that cited more than just convenience. Seeking to understand these perceived 'advantages', we find them emerging at the intersection of a newly-manifest brahminical-patriarchal possibility that we call 'sartorial kulinahood', and a version of the neoliberal 'bounce-backable' femininity.

Status: To be presented at a CDS open seminar and later as working paper

Ongoing

'ASHA Samarakurippukal (Malayalam) [Notes from the ASHA Strike, Mar-Nov.2025]'

J. Devika

This compilation of essays written analysing the nine-month-long public protests held by a minor union of ASHA workers in Kerala during 2025 both documents the protest as well as provides analytic insights into the history and the contemporary realities of gender, work, wages, social security, inequalities, and welfare in Kerala. They deal with the manner in which the informal sector of labour has increasingly grown gendered amidst the deepening of socio-economic inequalities in Kerala since the 1990s. The ASHA workers of Kerala constitute a section of ground-level health workers absolutely vital to the much-celebrated public health achievements of the state, especially in meeting the new health challenges of the twentieth century, including the rise of new communicable diseases mainly due to ecological destruction and the health emergencies triggered by man-made disasters, climate-related crises, and the global pandemic. Yet their conditions of work are poor, their wages abysmally low, and workloads, ever-increasing. The ASHA workers' protest began as an effort to hold the ruling LDF government to its election-manifesto promise of raising their wages to the minimum levels demanded by the left-party-led workers' unions, but the government's stubborn insistence on rejecting



these demands and Left unions' attacks on the protest led to the prolonging of the strike. The workers however continued the protest, voicing their demands and speaking of their atrocious working conditions and the indigence they faced as informal sector women workers, disadvantaged by class, caste, and gender. Over time, massive civil society support was built up, and the government was forced to concede minimal resources – and bring significant changes to their working conditions. The protest was remarkable in the historical sense as the longest women workers' agitation in the state, and generated huge public debate on the nature of welfarism, social democracy, and democratic bargaining in Kerala. The book which contains around 250 pieces of writing, along with photographs documenting the nine-month protest, is both a monument to their struggle and a documentation.

Status: To be published by DC Books, Kerala, in 2026.

New Initiatives

'Gender, Panchayati Raj, and Crony Capitalism in Twenty-First Century Kerala: A Study of Women Chairpersons in Panchayat Standing Committees'

J. Devika and Anamika Ajay

Sponsorship: Submitted for review for ICSSR funding

Women's reservation was not applicable to the standing committees at the early stages of panchayati raj in Kerala. A study on women in local politics in Kerala from 2012 (Devika and Thampi 2012) revealed the extent to which this resulted in a serious imbalance of power – while the panchayat committee presidents were often women who entered through reservation and sometimes as general candidates, the three most important standing committees in local bodies were inevitably chaired by men – most often, by senior male politicians who exceeded the woman president in age, political experience, and standing in the party hierarchy. Indeed, this research argued

that a 'reverse reservation' seemed to be at work in women-headed panchayats in 2007 – the presence of a woman panchayat president meant that the chairpersons of all three of the most important standing committees – Finance, Development, and Welfare – were likely to be male. A sample of 57 randomly-selected women-headed panchayats showed that in 44 such panchayats, these standing committee chairpersonships were exclusively male. Twelve showed a mixed pattern, and only one had more female standing committee chairpersons. A sample of 57 male-led panchayats, however, revealed more mixed patterns and in general, standing committees with mixed leadership and more women were significantly higher – 26 all-male and 31 mixed and all-female (26 and 5, respectively) (Devika and Thampi 2012: 106-9). A sample of 114 panchayats for the whole state showed that 90.35 per cent of the Finance standing committee chairs were men; for block panchayats (sample size: 71), this was 97 per cent, and for district panchayats (sample size: 14), 95.12 per cent. Even in the welfare standing committees the finding revealed a preponderance of men as chairs, even though elected women members strongly identified themselves as welfare-distributors, and were recognised as such – in the village panchayats surveyed, nearly 81 per cent were male-led, in block panchayats, nearly 62 per cent, and in district panchayats, nearly 89 per cent (Devika and Thampi 2012: 107). Such a gap seems to have attracted the government's attention. In 2010, the panchayati raj reforms in Kerala introduced reservation for women in standing committee chairpersonships.

Despite extensive literature on women's participation in Panchayats in Kerala, there is limited research that specifically focuses on standing committees, their structure and their role in shaping development planning. The pivotal role that standing committees play in decision-making around developmental and welfare activities of local bodies is undisputable, yet understudied, especially their transformation at a time in which capital has entered Kerala's rural world decisively. The gendered nature of these committees seem apparent, but again, a fine-grained analysis of the implications of women's reservations in



chairpersonships for both developmental directions and politics seems totally missing in both academic research and public discussion in Kerala.

Questions around how women's participation in formal governance institutions as leaders is influenced by restrictive caste and gender norms also remain understudied. This study, therefore, aims to examine whether the critical mass of women leaders in local self-governments in rural and urban Kerala has provided them with a platform to engage in "critical acts" with feminist effects on governance and development (Philips, 1995). The research will investigate the impact of women's reservation in Panchayat-level standing committees in Kerala and examine how women's entry into development planning has shaped governance, particularly from a gender perspective. The study seeks to move beyond questions of descriptive representation and explore whether women's participation has altered priorities, resource allocation, planning processes, and developmental outcomes in substantive terms.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Completed Studies

'Inflation in India: Dynamics, distributional impact and policy implication'

M Parameswaran

Inflation has remained one of the foremost macroeconomic policy challenges in India in recent years. Unlike the experience of most advanced economies, where inflation surged following the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently moderated, inflation in India began accelerating before the pandemic and has remained persistently above the Reserve Bank of India's target despite sustained monetary tightening. This paper investigates the determinants of inflation in India, evaluates the empirical validity of the inflation-targeting framework, analyses the distributional consequences of recent inflation, and discusses the policy implications.

The paper compares two competing explanations of inflation. First, it tests the New Keynesian Phillips Curve (NKPC), which underpins India's inflation-targeting regime by relating inflation to the output gap and inflation expectations. Second, it develops and estimates a structuralist model in which inflation is driven by changes in the relative price of agricultural goods arising from persistent imbalances between the growth of agricultural supply and non-agricultural demand. Using quarterly data for the period 1996–97(Q1) to 2023–24(Q3), the paper estimates both models employing Ordinary Least Squares and Generalised Method of Moments with instrumental variables to address endogeneity, while using alternative measures of inflation, output gaps, and inflation expectations to ensure robustness.

The empirical evidence strongly rejects the New Keynesian Phillips Curve as an adequate representation of inflation dynamics in India. Neither the output gap nor inflation expectations emerge as robust determinants of inflation, and the analysis finds no evidence that monetary policy, operating through interest rates, has been effective in controlling either headline or core inflation. In contrast, the structuralist model provides a statistically robust explanation of inflation. The results show that increases in the relative price of agricultural goods constitute the principal driver of inflation, with these price movements originating from the persistent divergence between the growth of agricultural production and that of the non-agricultural economy. Oil price movements contribute to inflation, but their effect is considerably smaller than that of agricultural price dynamics.

The paper further demonstrates that recent inflation has had significant adverse distributional consequences. Since food prices have risen more rapidly than other prices, households with a higher share of food expenditure - particularly poorer households - have experienced a larger decline in purchasing power. Analysis of wage and earnings data indicates that, despite increases in nominal wages, real earnings have declined for the majority of Indian workers during the recent inflationary episode.



The findings have important policy implications. They suggest that inflation control in India cannot rely primarily on monetary tightening or inflation targeting. Instead, a comprehensive strategy centred on expanding agricultural supply, improving agricultural productivity, strengthening food supply chains, and enhancing resilience to climate change is required to contain food-price inflation. The paper concludes that sustained price stability in India depends fundamentally on addressing structural constraints in agriculture rather than on demand management through monetary policy alone.

‘From Public to Private Without Guardrails: The Challenge of Sustaining Achievements in Education in Kerala, India’

Suraj Jacob, Suaid Rather and Sajitha Bashir

The paper addresses new challenges in the education sector of Kerala, India’s most educationally advanced state and one that has received global attention for its development record. By the 1980s, Kerala had attained near-universal secondary schooling while the rest of India had barely half of it—and Kerala did this through schools government-supported and teaching in the local language (Malayalam). After the 1980s, an expansion in private English schools segmented schooling by public-private, language and curriculum, thus creating new forms of exclusion. This paper addresses the question: Does segmentation reduce equity in learning outcomes and educational attainments, and therefore also job prospects? It presents the first attempt to address this question by consolidating insights from multiple large datasets not used previously. The paper finds that caste and wealth status strongly affect enrolment in private English schools. Such schools have better learning outcomes relative to public English and Malayalam schools. This leads to differences in higher educational attainments that are known to influence employment opportunities. Thus, while the earlier system countered the educational and employment consequences of caste and wealth inequality, school segmentation exacerbated them. This raises the possibility that historical gains in educational

equity can be threatened by market-led segmentation in schooling provision — a concern that is relevant for many parts of the global South. The paper concludes with policy suggestions for guardrails to contain the inequity effects of marketization. This includes improved teacher training, curricular materials and pedagogic practice focused on public English and Malayalam schools, along with strategies to compensate and provide learning support for the home disadvantages faced by their students.

Status: Manuscript under review

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Completed Studies

‘Competition, Innovation, and Startup Acquisitions: Evaluating Antitrust Trends in India’s High-Tech Landscape’

P L Beena

Sponsorship, if any: CDS, OH31

Antitrust refers to legislation or laws aimed at curbing the establishment of monopolies and to promote fair competition in industries and sectors. Antitrust in the Indian context is dictated by the Competition Act of 2002, and enforced through the Competition Commission of India (CCI), the country’s primary antitrust enforcement agency, with the help of supplementary agencies such as the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Enforcing antitrust legislation in this current era of constant change is a very difficult task. The circumstances which prevailed at the time of passing the Competition Act and the markets it was initially aimed to cater for have changed completely. High-tech sectors are characterised by short innovation cycles, a great number of players and a high threshold of entry.

Identifying the key role played by innovation in high-tech knowledge economies, many countries have focused on implementing programs and providing incentives in order to promote the rise of startups and young innovative companies. Especially in India, it has been a recurrent part of government policy to support the emergence and development of



innovative startup firms (Grant Thornton, 2016.)

It is in this context that a study on India's effectiveness when it comes to dealing with antitrust concerns in this field becomes important. Startups are slated to be the driving force of the future Indian economy and therefore, healthy competition is a must-have requirement for enabling a healthy market which sustains innovation and growth

In the period following the introduction of the Competition Act, India has seen a flurry of activity when it comes to mergers and acquisitions. With stricter requirements for reporting potential acquisitions, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) was able to keep a close watch over the deals taking place in the country and recommend remedies if necessary.

However, over time it has increasingly come to the fore how the present legal statutes have been ineffective in dealing with acquisitions in more modern and high-tech sectors such as IT, digital platforms and pharmaceuticals, where innovation is the primary driver of growth.

It is for this reason that an assessment of the effectiveness of India's antitrust framework becomes an issue of great relevance. Acquisitions of small knowledge startups are primarily driven to gain an advantage in the innovation arena, which is an area rarely touched in Indian studies of the field.

Moreover, the current framework of how mergers and acquisitions are handled in India has repeatedly come into question for its ineffectiveness at preventing market concentration as well as how it rarely takes stern action against violations. The current rules also do not take into account future competition from innovation as a factor while assessing the implications of a merger. As a result, many high-potential innovative, albeit small, firms have been acquired by larger competitors without much scrutiny just because their asset/turnover size is lower than the size required for reporting. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that a detailed study on the Indian antitrust mechanism needs to take place, with in-depth case studies identifying the issues in the current antitrust

framework, and suggesting possible remedies and alternative methods

'IPR Regime, Knowledge Economy and Antitrust Policy'

P L Beena

Increasingly, the nexus between trade and investment is shaped by geopolitical considerations, with rising tensions. This theme aims to bring together academics, practitioners, policymakers, and students to examine the evolving nature of law and regulations in the new IPR and trade agreements regime. The latest economic environment, technological transition, the rise of digital platforms, and the growing influence of global corporations have brought new challenges related to ownership, access, data privacy, labour conditions, and environmental protection. These changes require a closer examination of who holds rights, how these rights are established, and how they are maintained or contested in practice. Although the CCI has been proactive in regulating dominant online platforms, the Competition Act 2002 was not designed with digital platforms in mind. The rapid expansion of digitalisation has redefined how people interact, businesses operate, and data is generated, recorded, and exchanged. Although India has implemented the Digital Personal Data Protection Regulation 2023, its effectiveness remains under scrutiny due to weak enforcement mechanisms. An integrated legal framework would not only generate consumer trust in digital activities but also help the digital economy to grow rapidly. India also needs a robust, forward-looking competition framework in an evolving market structure, led by technological advancements in AI, machine learning, and IoT, to harness the benefits of the digital economy and mitigate the risks of monopolisation and unfair trade practices. How does the regulator distinguish between competitive pricing and anti-competitive intent? What could be the role of the government to make the digital platforms remain neutral as far as search rankings, recommendations, and access to platforms are concerned? Therefore, papers are invited to explore legal mechanisms that address developmental issues through instruments that



respect the complex reality of competition policy.

Status : Presented papers under this theme in the ICLE have been accepted for publication in the Journal of Antitrust Bulletin

'Assessing the PLI Scheme in Mobile Manufacturing in India'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Make in India, the flagship initiative of the incumbent government, had modest outcomes. To improve these, the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme – a proactive policy to strengthen strategically important industries – was launched in 2020 for three sectors. PLI was then introduced in 12 additional sectors, taking the incentive outlay to over two lakh crore rupees, probably indicating the government's trust in the scheme to increase the share of manufacturing in the country's output. Mobile phones and specified electronic components led the share of incentive outlays and was one of the initial sectors in which PLI was implemented in 2020-21 (FY 21) and should end in FY 26. Two recent articles noted the inadequacy and lack of real impact of PLI on mobile manufacturing; however, the government recently announced that PLI in mobiles has surpassed its targets. These divergent viewpoints can be put to rest if one carries out a comprehensive review that looks at the PLI's impact on industry value addition, employment, net subsidy, and net exports etc. However, for that one would have to wait not only till end of the current fiscal but also for databases to release firm level data till FY 26. Moreover, a comprehensive study has numerous problems, some of which have been highlighted in earlier studies. Hence, the scope of this article is limited, it contributes to the debate using a preliminary assessment by focusing on few aspects of PLI impact, in particular, overall production and trade numbers, firm level characteristics of PLI firms, and comparison of production numbers of PLI firms with non-PLI firms.

The study finds that the budgeted outlay for five years of PLI is 50 percent of planned outlay, while the actual disbursed incentive for the first three years is only 27 per cent of the corresponding planned outlay. The huge

mismatch between planned and actual expansion of output not only supports contention of an earlier study that "scheme is saddled with a surfeit of rules and regulations that affect its pace of implementation because it can get stuck in a regulatory quagmire.", but also highlights the underestimation by policy planners of, on the ground roadblocks faced by manufacturers in expanding output. The study argues that through the four years, the eight mobile PLI firms generated 1,36,477 direct jobs, and if one assumes that 50 per cent of the actual disbursed amount was given to the eight mobile PLI firms then Rs 2.15 lakh was the amount spent by the government to generate one direct assembly job.

The study concludes that PLI added to the range of incentives available for mobile phone firms to manufacture in India. A preliminary analysis of PLI shows that there been an increase in domestic production of mobile phones and its exports; however, the increase in production as a share of overall electronics production is not commensurate to the support being offered. Foreign firms selected under PLI have utilized the opportunity to transfer their assembly operations in the country but are yet to start component manufacture in the country. Once PLI scheme ends, it is an open question if these foreign firms will continue their assembly operations here? Non-PLI firms have also meaningfully contributed to increasing production but seem to be losing momentum, which may not be benign for the Indian mobile phone market. Four fifths of the domestic PLI firms have not been able to step their pace thereby questioning the use of PLI to support and promotion of domestic firms. Policy support for domestic firms may have to factor in their capabilities and come up with a tailor-made solution, for example, support development of capabilities for customization of phones and focus on R&D.

Status : Iyer C.G. (2025). Assessing the PLI Scheme for Mobile Manufacturing in India. The India Forum, A Journal-Magazine on Contemporary Issues, 6 July.

'Phased Manufacturing Policy for Mobile Manufacturing in India: An Empirical and Theoretical Evaluation'

Chidambaran G Iyer



India is among the largest mobile phone markets in the world. Very little electronics manufacturing along with a booming mobile market implied huge imports of electronic goods which increased India's current account deficit. To reduce the import bill as well as to generate employment in manufacturing, the Indian government decided to give a major fillip to large investments in electronics manufacturing; one such policy that fitted well with the 'Make in India' (MiI) policy of the government was the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) for mobile manufacturing. In this paper, through macro and micro level evidence, we highlight the impact of the PMP on manufacture of mobiles in India. We find that mobile manufacturers have set up phone assembly facilities in the country; most of the components are imported with very little local manufacturing. The paper infers that this is because India has followed a traditional industrial policy approach which is prone to co-ordination problems among institutions. For industrial deepening and upgrading in the mobile manufacturing segment, India must first lay down its industrial vision. This should be followed by significant institution building, which includes rules & regulation as well as R&D labs that contribute to technological advances in the mobile phone technology space. Simultaneously, at the micro level, policy should encourage major lead firms to co-locate with their supply ecosystems in the country; and thereafter encourage these supply ecosystems to increase their share of domestic procurement.

Status : Chapter in a soon to be published Routledge edited volume "Technology and Change in Contemporary India: Critical Perspectives." Editors : Keshab Das and M. Vijayabaskar

'Technology transfer impact in a low-income country: Case studies of two medical devices from India'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Studies that focus on economic impacts of successful technology transfer from a public research institution to private firms are rare in India, a lacuna that this study tries to fill in. In the 1980s and 90s India was a low-income country and its medical device ecosystem was

non-existent; it was then that a government lab in Kerala (an Indian state) embarked on a technology transfer process for two medical devices – blood bag and heart valve. This paper, using the contingent effectiveness model, traces out few of the impacts of these two technology transfers on the industry and the economy. The paper not only brings out the market impact and economic development but also their impact on the government lab and on recipient firms. Blood bag was transferred first to an entrepreneur led firm, understandably, it faced a lot of challenges. The entrepreneur used people's competencies to overcome challenges and exploit the opportunity. Progressive outlook at the government lab coupled with learnings from blood bag process made the heart valve process smoother and efficient. We also note that scientific and technical human capital benefitted from the two processes. Higher demand for blood bags led to mushrooming of blood bag factories across the country, reducing imports and creating more forward and backward linkages. Policy insight from the analysis is that domestic development of products/processes having larger demand creates more economic opportunities.

Publication Status : Under peer review

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

Chidambaran G Iyer

A question faced by emerging economy policy makers is how to kickstart growth in individual sectors? In this context, sectoral system of innovation and production (SSI) is one theoretical framework that could help. In this paper, we focus on India an emerging market where few sectors have achieved fantastic growth. Empirical evidence on India in SSI literature focuses on the question of how SSI generates growth? Do some actors contribute more than others? SSI acknowledges that sectoral institutions emerge from deliberate planning or because of interactions among actors. In the Indian context there are very few papers that lay down possible interactions between actors and institutions within an SSI. By presenting experience of two Indian sectors – petroleum refining and mobile communications – that have become extremely competitive, this



paper intends to give some pointers on the emergence of institutions in the SSI. What is perhaps remarkable is the impact of one firm – Reliance Industries Limited – in both the sectors. This firm did not have any unique capability to succeed in both these sectors but was able to catalyze ongoing institutional change that allowed it to operate as per its strengths. After buying or licensing the most efficient technology, Reliance group planned huge capacities that enabled it to bring down costs. Access to cheaper sources of funding and world class project execution skills further tightened its grip over costs. Reliance group did not possess strength in any sector specific technological capabilities but had the capability to overcome barriers in achieving lowest possible costs in any sector it entered; the resulting affordability ensured higher rates of growth for Reliance and hence the sector. By discussing two case studies where Reliance pursued similar strategies in two different industries, this paper builds upon the contribution of a previous study. Reliance group entered the refining industry as a part of its strategy of backward integration, which allowed more control on raw materials for its downstream capacities. We emphasize that it started production only after an institutional change was implemented, which coupled with its technology adoption enabled it to achieve a very high level of competitiveness; this energized other actors in the SSI to improve their technological level. However, these followers bought different individual technologies from different specialized engineering firms, leading to a diffusion of complex refineries across the country.

In the mobile services industry, a completely different domain (Business to Consumer segment, B2C) and industry for the Reliance group, the impact of its strategy of affordability, was primarily on diffusion of mobile services – number of subscribers increased from 13 million in FY03 to almost 34 million in FY04. For achieving this Reliance violated an existing rule; however, an institutional change effected by the State allowed it to get away with just a nominal fine. With time, bulk of the mobile phone service providers preferred to offer GSM than CDMA. Reliance played an important role in faster diffusion of mobile phones services but could not influence the technology choice (GSM) of the

industry.

For both the sectors we present a set of events which we believe proxy Reliance's attempts to accelerate ongoing institutional change. The case studies seem to suggest that in emerging economies, actors who can catalyze institutional change have higher chances of accelerating growth in upcoming sectors.

Status : Under peer review – Revised and resubmitted

'Old Industrial Policy, New Industrial Policy, and the GVC Era: Lessons from India's Mobile Phone Industry'

C. Veeramani

India's mobile phone industry offers one of the most instructive comparative cases in contemporary industrial policy. Between 2016 and 2024, the same country and the same sector experienced two fundamentally different policy regimes whose outcomes diverged dramatically. The Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP, 2016-17 to 2018-19), rooted in the logic of traditional import substitution, expanded domestic production but generated negligible exports. The National Policy on Electronics (NPE, 2019) and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI, 2020) scheme, premised on deliberate integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs), catalysed a more than 115-fold increase in exports to \$24.1 billion by 2024-25 and elevated India to the world's third-largest mobile phone exporter. This paper draws on the contrasting logic of 'old' and 'new' industrial policy to explain why the design of the policy intervention - not merely its intent - determines outcomes in the GVC era. Using input-output analysis and firm-level ASI data, it shows that GVC integration substantially expanded domestic value addition, employment, and wage income beyond what the assembly-based character of the sector would suggest. The paper concludes with lessons for the broader electronics sector and the challenge of GVC upgrading.

Status: Forthcoming in Asian Economic Papers, MIT Press

'India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to Growth and Supply Chain Resilience.'

C. Veeramani



India's potential in global exports remains largely untapped, particularly in backward-linked global value chains (GVCs). Deeper integration—especially through regional blocs like ASEAN and RCEP—is crucial. India can leverage these regions' strength in parts and components while using its assembly capabilities as an entry point. This approach can drive value chain upgrading through scale and ecosystem development. Realising this potential requires reducing tariffs on key inputs, strengthening trade and FDI ties with regional partners, and attracting MNEs that facilitate GVC integration. Regional trade agreements should act as stepping stones towards broader multilateral liberalisation. Equally important are domestic reforms: easing non-tariff barriers, simplifying rules of origin, improving infrastructure, and enhancing inter-agency coordination. Without such complementary efforts, India risks remaining at the periphery of GVCs despite signing more trade deals. A coordinated strategy—combining external engagement with internal reform—is essential to unlock sustained, export-led growth and enhance India's global competitiveness.

Status: published in *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, Wiley: e70054.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/app5.70054>.

'Backward GVC Participation and Labour Market Outcomes in Indian Manufacturing: Skill, Contract, and Gender Disparities Across Trade Orientations'

Deepali Gupta and C Veeramani

This paper examines the impact of backward global value chain (GVC) participation on labour market outcomes in India's organised manufacturing sector across three dimensions: skill composition, contract labour use, and gender. Using plant-level panel data from the Annual Survey of Industries (2008–09 to 2022–23), a nationally representative dataset of over 678,000 plant-year observations, we compare GVC plants separately against export-only, import-only, and domestic plants through weighted regressions with industry and year fixed effects — a disaggregation that reveals heterogeneity masked by the pooled non-GVC baselines used in earlier plant-level studies. We

find that GVC participation is associated with substantially higher employment across all worker categories, with a disproportionate expansion of female employment. Wage gains are concentrated among supervisory workers, producing a wider skill premium at GVC plants relative to all comparison groups, while production worker wages remain above those at domestic plants. Contract labour use is elevated at both GVC and import-only plants but not at export-only plants, indicating that labour flexibilisation is driven by importing activity rather than GVC integration per se. The gender wage gap, by contrast, is narrower at GVC plants than at every comparison group, suggesting that deeper GVC integration can support employment-intensive and relatively inclusive industrial development even as it widens skill-based wage inequality. These findings imply that policies aimed at deepening India's GVC integration should be paired with targeted skilling and labour-market institutions to ensure that employment gains do not come at the cost of a widening skill premium.

Status: Forthcoming in *Economic and Political Weekly*

'The New World Trade Order: Reorganization, Not Retreat'

C. Veeramani

The global trading system is undergoing structural reconfiguration around three mutually reinforcing axes: the weaponization of trade policy as geopolitical leverage, the resurgence of industrial policy motivated by national security and strategic competition, and the fragmentation of global governance into competing regional blocs and bilateral arrangements. Drawing on the Trump administration's 2025 tariff regime, Brexit, the collapse of WTO dispute settlement, and the regional mega-agreement architecture, this paper argues that the liberal trading order is being actively rebuilt around power, security, and strategic competition rather than efficiency, rules, and mutual benefit. Three analytical conclusions are advanced: that the economic fallacies underlying the protectionist turn are politically functional regardless of their empirical validity; that the shift in industrial policy motivation from efficiency to security is the key variable determining whether the



current revival reproduces historical protectionist pathologies at global scale; and that the weaponization of economic interdependence represents a qualitative transformation that existing analytical frameworks are not adequately equipped to address. Three scenarios are assessed - managed bipolar stabilization, cumulative fragmentation, and institutional reform. The first is the most probable near-term outcome; the third requires political will not currently visible. The break from the post-war liberal trading order is already structural.

Status: IIM Kozhikode Society and Management Review., Sage Publications, (forthcoming)

'Special Issue on Trade Policy and Industrial Policy in the Evolving New Global Order'

Editors: Amitendu Palit, C. Veeramani, Shailja Singh, Surendar Singh & Malini L. Tantri

The special issue contains ten peer-reviewed papers on industrial policy and trade policy in the evolving global order, with a focus on India. Four papers deal with GVCs while the remaining six examine industrial and trade policy interfaces and their economic outcomes

Key issues covered: determinants of GVC participation, forward and backward linkage effects on manufacturing growth, import liberalization and export competitiveness, FDI and trade agreement linkages, and sector-specific insights from food processing, leather, and automobiles. The papers broadly converge on the finding that protectionist industrial policies may undermine the very GVC integration they seek to strengthen.

Status: Published in Journal of Social and Economic Development (Suppl 2), Vol. 27, 2025.<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40847-025-00464-7>

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 conducts an empirical analysis of the drivers of labor share decline in India by combining economy-wide, industry-level, and

firm-level evidence across both formal and informal sectors. Atypical patterns of structural transformation—where India largely bypassed labor-intensive industrialization and shifted directly from agriculture to capital- and skill-intensive manufacturing and services—emerge as a central factor. Market share reallocation is identified as the principal driver of labor share decline. Firm-level evidence shows that trade openness—via tariff liberalization, the “China shock,” and global value chain participation—is positively associated with labor share but only partially offsets the effects of domestic structural dynamics.

Status: published in Asian Economic Papers (2025) 24 (3): 1–31. MIT Press <https://doi.org/10.1162/ASEP.a.1>

'Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?'

C Veeramani and Manish

This paper examines how participation in global value chains (GVCs) shapes countries' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, distinguishing between the environmental implications of forward (upstream) and backward (downstream) integration. Using a new dataset that combines the OECD Inter-Country Input-Output tables, Trade in Value Added indicators, and GHG footprint data for 75 economies and 45 sectors from 1995 to 2020, the analysis traces emissions embodied in both domestic production and bilateral trade flows. An additive Logarithmic Mean Divisia Index (LMDI) decomposition reveals that rising output has been the principal driver of growing production-based emissions, while improvements in emission intensity have only partly offset scale effects. Fixed-effects and instrumental-variables regressions show that forward GVC participation is consistently associated with lower domestic emissions, whereas backward participation exhibits no systematic effect. A PPML gravity model of emissions embodied in bilateral trade demonstrates that forward participation reduces trade-embedded emissions across most sectors, while backward participation yields heterogeneous outcomes—lowering emissions in agriculture, mining, and utilities but raising them in manufacturing and services. The results highlight that environmental gains



arise most reliably when countries specialise in upstream, technology-intensive tasks, while downstream final production may increase emissions through scale and logistics effects. The paper concludes by discussing policy strategies that support functional upgrading, facilitate technology diffusion, and enable developing economies to balance the employment benefits of backward participation with long-term environmental objectives.

Status: published in *Indian Economic Review*, 04 March 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41775-025-00257-z>

'What you import and where it comes from matter for growth: Theoretical and empirical perspective'

C Veeramani and M Parameswaran

This chapter examines how the composition and technological origin of imports influence productivity and long-term growth. Drawing on theoretical, empirical, and policy literature, it integrates insights from traditional trade theory, endogenous growth models, and global value chain research. The chapter highlights four key mechanisms—competition, input variety, technology spillovers, and GVC participation—through which imports foster structural transformation. It concludes by outlining implications for modern industrial policy that harness import openness for technological learning and innovation-led growth.

Status: Forthcoming in Rajat Acharya and Sugata Marjit (Eds.) *Handbook of International Economics*. Oxford University Press.

'External Sector Outlook and 2025-26 Union Budget'

C. Veeramani

This article argues that greater outward orientation is essential for achieving *Viksit Bharat* by 2047. The Budget 2025-26 introduces positive measures, but tariff rationalization remains incremental and insufficient to address the inverted duty structure that hinders backward-linked GVC participation. Sustained export success requires complementary structural reforms - in labor markets, land acquisition, infrastructure,

and state-level regulatory frameworks

Status: Published in *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 60, Issue No. 16, 19 Apr, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.71279/epw.v60i16.43907>

'Trade, FDI, and Growth: Overview and Evidence from India'

C. Veeramani

This paper provides an overview of the evolution of India's trade and FDI policies, emphasizing their impacts on economic growth rates. During the post reform period, India has seen remarkable growth in trade and FDI. However, inward FDI has primarily targeted the domestic market rather than supporting export-oriented growth. A comparative analysis with China reveals India's progress in export diversification but lags in specialization and global value chain (GVC) participation. Policy reforms are necessary to enhance GVC integration and leverage FDI for export-led growth and job creation, emphasizing the need to capitalize on India's comparative advantages for faster export expansion.

We carry out an econometric analysis of the impact of FDI and trade openness on sectorlevel economic indicators using panel data from 1999-2000 to 2014-2015. The analysis focuses on the effects of trade openness and FDI on sector-level value added and employment. The findings indicate a positive effect of trade and FDI openness on sectorlevel real value added and employment. Importantly, import openness positively affects export performance, suggesting that lowering tariffs not only boosts imports but also exports. However, FDI appears to promote imports more than exports, reflecting India's inclination towards domestic market-seeking FDI rather than export promotion. This trend aligns with India's low participation in GVCs. The study underscores the need for policy reforms aimed at enhancing India's GVC participation to leverage FDI for export-led growth and job creation.

Status: Published in Dibyendu Maiti, Bishwanath Goldar, and K.L. Krishna (Eds.), *75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts*. Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-8054-9>



Ongoing Studies

'Women-Owned Enterprises in Kerala: Growth Patterns and Structural Challenges'

P L Beena

The increasing participation of women in entrepreneurship has been highlighted globally, with the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (2022) reporting that two out of every five early stage entrepreneurs are women. In the Indian context, women-owned enterprises both organised and unorganised have exhibited relatively faster growth in the manufacturing sector compared to other sectors, despite a decline in female work participation rates. However, existing studies indicate that the average size of women-owned enterprises remains significantly smaller than those owned by men (Census, 2013; Nagadevara; Chaudhari, Sasidharan and Raj; Jeemol et al.).

In Kerala, the structural limitations of women entrepreneurship are evident, as only 50,000 out of approximately 5 lakh women-owned enterprises generate at least one or more formal employment opportunities. The state has also witnessed a notable rise in individual women-led start-ups and nano-micro enterprises, particularly in the IT and creative industries. (Government of Kerala). These trends underline both the expanding presence of women entrepreneurs and the persistent structural challenges related to enterprise size, sectoral concentration, and employment generation in Kerala.

Although there are 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. Given this context, an attempt is being made to understand the growth dynamics, size distribution, productivity, and the factors determining the probability of expansion of the women-owned enterprises

Status: Expected date of completion: August, 2026

'Agglomeration Economies and Firm Productivity in India: Evidence from the Formal and Informal Manufacturing Sectors'

Chandra Shekar K and Vidyarani K

This paper investigates whether spatial clustering of manufacturing activity (agglomeration) raises firm-level productivity in India, and whether the effect differs between formal and informal enterprises. A central empirical challenge is that firms may cluster in a location precisely because it is already productive, which biases naive estimates of the agglomeration effect. The paper addresses this using an instrumental variables strategy built on lagged agglomeration measures and historical (2001 Census) industry location patterns as instruments, on the logic that current productivity shocks cannot have caused industrial location decisions taken more than two decades earlier. The dataset combines formal sector firm-level records with informal enterprise survey data to allow a direct comparison of agglomeration elasticities across the two segments. Preliminary work suggests informal firms may capture agglomeration benefits differently from formal firms, given their greater reliance on local labour and input markets and weaker access to formal credit and logistics networks. The paper is currently at the stage of finalising the IV estimation and robustness checks.

Expected date of completion: July 07th 2026

'What explains startup failure?'

Chidambaran G Iyer and Prof. 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. 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. 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?

An empirical study that uses data from a well-known incubator to distinguish factors that mark failed vs. successful ventures.

Status: Expected date of completion: March 2027

Research Plan

'Venture Capital, Start-up Acquisitions, and Innovation: Evidence from India's Emerging Entrepreneurial Ecosystem'

P L Beena and Rajkumar Byahut, PhD scholar

The relationship between venture capital financing, startup acquisitions, and innovation remains theoretically ambiguous and empirically unresolved. While venture capital is generally viewed as a catalyst for innovation and growth, it may also encourage exit-oriented strategies that prioritize acquisition opportunities over long-term independent development. Similarly, acquisitions may either enhance innovation through resource complementarities and knowledge transfer or suppress innovation by reducing future competition.

Existing empirical studies provide conflicting evidence. Some research finds that acquisitions generate positive innovation outcomes by combining complementary technologies and facilitating commercialization (Bena & Li, 2014). Other studies suggest that acquisitions may reduce innovation when acquiring firms eliminate potential competitors or discontinue overlapping projects (Cunningham, Ederer & Ma, 2021; Stiebale, 2016).

The absence of systematic evidence from India represents a significant gap in the literature. Given the rapid expansion of venture capital investment, startup formation, and acquisition activity, understanding these relationships is essential for designing policies that promote innovation while preserving competitive markets. This study therefore investigates the role of venture capital in startup growth and innovation and examines the causal impact of acquisitions on post-acquisition innovation outcomes. (Applied for funding from CDS under OH31 category)

'Women's Entrepreneurship and Digital Technology in a Comparative Perspective'

P L Beena, Sudipta Sarangi, HOD of Economics, Virginia Tech University, USA

It is evident from the literature that the number of women-owned businesses in the US, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America have increased significantly (Estes,



1999; Jalbert, 2000; Wilson, Kickul and Marlino, 2007; Jeemol, et al, 2021). It is widely argued that self-employment could be a desirable move whether it is for an "upward" mobility for workers in employment or whether it is a second choice for those dissatisfied in the wage and salary sector (Williams 2010; Andersson & Wadensjo, 2006). Korreck (2019) argued that states with relatively higher literacy rates also have more women entrepreneurs. However, women entrepreneurs in developing countries face challenges pertaining to difficulties with accessing finance, socio-cultural biases, individual traits, lack of business-related skills. Existence of institutional voids can also act as barriers for promoting women entrepreneurship (Goyal and Yadav, 2014). Given this context, we aim to understand how digitalization could empower women* in developing countries with respect to the above-mentioned barriers in their aspiration to become entrepreneurs. More specifically, the study would explore how women entrepreneurs in the knowledge economy have been leveraging digital technologies to overcome their business-related obstacles.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

'Informal Sector, Financial Inclusion and the Role of Digitalisation: A Cross-Country Firm-Level Analysis'

Chandra Shekar K and Shagishna K

This paper examines how digital technology adoption shapes financial inclusion outcomes for informal-sector enterprises across India, Ghana, and Bangladesh. Informal firms are typically excluded from formal credit markets due to lack of collateral, absence of documented financial histories, and high transaction costs for lenders. The study uses firm-level survey data and applies a propensity score matching combined with difference-in-differences (PSM-DID) approach to isolate the effect of digital payment and record-keeping tool adoption on access to credit, savings behaviour, and

business performance. The analysis finds that digitalisation improves financial inclusion primarily by creating a verifiable transaction history that substitutes for conventional collateral, though the effect size varies by country depending on the maturity of digital payment infrastructure and regulatory environment. The paper contributes to the literature by providing comparative cross-country evidence, which is scarce relative to single-country studies, and by identifying digital transaction records as a specific mechanism rather than treating digitalisation as a black box. Policy implications are drawn for fintech regulation and informal sector support programmes. [Note: this is a condensed summary; please expand to full length using the submitted manuscript before final submission.]

Status : Accepted for publication, Economic and Political Weekly (EPW).

'Indian experience of fostering competition through State intervention: Lessons from card payment system and Unified Payment Interface'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Diffusion of digital payments in India immensely benefitted from the introduction of Unified Payment Interface (UPI). Introduced in 2016, UPI usage in India has exceeded even the most optimistic prediction; on the other hand, card payments – with a longer history – has grown at relatively modest rates, primarily due to the cost it imposes. This paper uses the analytical framework of 'Technology Specific Innovation System' (TSIS), to understand the differences in diffusion of two payment systems (UPI & Card payments). We first break down the technology involved in UPI and card payments, followed by empirical evidence that delineates their individual diffusion. The paper then explains the impact of four factors – technology design, complementary markets, regulation, and state intervention – on market structure and hence competition. The paper concludes that if the State desires faster diffusion, then it should own the technology – preferably based on open standards, with a technology design that builds on lower costs in complementary markets. This reduces entry barriers for firms and increases competition.



State supported entry in a market, coupled with rules/institutions aligned with its goals, creates uneven playing field and uncertainty for stakeholders, which impact market formation activities of that market.

Status : Under peer review

Ongoing Studies

'Metro rail in India: Analysis of selected policy steps and missteps'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Metro rail has been adopted in India probably for its modernity and aspirational value. Operational and under construction metro rail spans almost 1500 kms across the country. Experience of numerous cities across the world has emphasized that the capital-intensive nature of metro rail makes the project economically unviable. However, based on the returns generated from increased urban economic activity and increase in urban land value, few studies do justify these projects in urban agglomerations.

India's tryst with metro rail started with Calcutta Metro in early 1970s, which, probably, gave India time to build capabilities in metro rail and its associated systems. However, Delhi Metro was completely built on imported systems which may have stymied budding industries. It is now well known that Delhi Metro spearheaded the adoption of metro rail across cities in the country. Needless to add, the choice of technology for Delhi Metro has played an important part in the overall design and development of metro rail across cities in the country.

This study intends to understand the capabilities developed during Calcutta Metro and if reliance of imported systems for Delhi Metro was the best strategy available?

Status: Expected date of completion: March 2027

'Understanding solar energy diffusion in India using an innovation systems framework'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Two states, Rajasthan and Gujarat seem to have done well in the adoption of solar energy; recent data also indicate that while Rajasthan

has done in utility-scale solar power, Gujarat has done better in distributed solar systems. Literature has also identified access to finance, affordability, cost, and awareness as key in the adoption decision. Though there is a vast literature on generation and diffusion of solar energy in India, there are very few studies that have adopted the innovation systems framework to understand this technological change.

The focus of this study will be on the diffusion of solar energy in Rajasthan & Gujarat. Using a combination of the sectoral system of innovation framework and the functions of innovation systems framework, in this paper, we intend to map the impact of the innovation systems in each of these states on the key determinants of diffusion identified by literature.

Status: Expected date of completion: March 2027

'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.

Status: Expected date of completion: March 2027

Can ICT make small beautiful? - Examining the role of ICT in affecting credit behaviour of SMEs in India

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are important contributors to growth and employment, representing 90% of businesses and 50% of jobs worldwide (World Bank, 2023). These enterprises play an even more vital role in developing economies due to their high job creation potential. Despite their growth and employment potential, access to finance remains a key constraint for SMEs. According to various World Bank Enterprise Surveys (WBES), SMEs in developing economies have cited credit constraints as one of the top obstacles to business (Kresten et al., 2017). Hence, identifying what can improve SMEs' access to credit remains pivotal. In this study, we examine whether the adoption of ICT affects the credit behaviour of SMEs in India.

Several studies have focused on credit-constraints faced by SMEs. Primarily, SMEs face credit constraints owing to severe information asymmetry between creditors and SME borrowers (Beck and Demirguc-Kunt, 2006). In addition to greater information asymmetry problems compared to their large counterparts, SME credit entails higher transaction costs, which also act as barriers to external funding. High transaction costs related to credit assessment, processing, and monitoring that are predominantly fixed, push up the cost of borrowing and may restrict access to credit for SMEs (Beck, 2007). The financial institutions like banks bear a share of the screening and monitoring costs during the

entire lending relationship term with their customers (Boot, 2000). Since most of these transaction costs are fixed in nature, it is higher for smaller loans and hence leads to smaller firms facing higher rates of loan rejection. Importantly, recent evidence suggests that the use of technology can be one of the instruments that improve credit access for SMEs (Pellegrina et al., 2017; Agyekum et al., 2022; Bui and Do, 2022).

Theoretically, the use of technology can improve credit access in at least two ways. The risk management-based theory of financial intermediation suggests that technological adoption can reduce information asymmetry issues for SME financing (Blancher et al., 2019). Specifically, technology usage to get data on the accounting and registration information of SMEs can help reduce information asymmetry. Banks' transaction costs can also decrease by increasing access to historical data on SMEs and demographic data of the owners. Thus, reliance on technologies like ICT can improve credit access for SMEs.

Moreover, signaling theory suggests that SMEs adopting technology can signal the creditor that the firm is more willing to disclose information and improve transparency, which in turn can improve their access to credit. Consequently, banks can favourably assess such borrowers while evaluating their credit applications. Adoption of technology may also signal the innovative capacity of the firm, indicating the likelihood of higher expected earnings, a vital factor affecting credit approvals. Pellegrina et al. (2017) find that SMEs in Italy that use ICT are more likely to have access to credit because ICT usage signals the capacity to innovate to the banks.

Recently, a few studies have examined how ICT can affect access to credit in the context of emerging market economies. Agyekum et al. (2022) explore the effect of ICT adoption on financial inclusion of SMEs in the South-East Asian region. Based on the cross-country analysis, it finds that SMEs having a website presence are more likely to be financially included like having access to credit. In the context of Vietnam, Bui and Do (2022) find that ICT adoption by the firm not only increases the likelihood of having access to credit but also the



amount of credit. We extend this line of inquiry by examining the relationship between ICT and the credit behaviour of SMEs in India.

India is an interesting case study for two reasons. First, India has a dynamic SME sector that contributes significantly to business innovations (Ghalke et al., 2022). These enterprises depend on bank debt financing as their primary source of capital. Hence, understanding what factors can improve access to credit for SMEs is a critical question. Second, India has experienced exponential ICT growth since the early 2000s and is the largest exporter of ICT-related services (Maiti et al., 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 programs to increase the ICT diffusion in rural areas such as Prasar Bharat and Universal Service Obligation Fund, along with effectively leveraging its public sector undertakings in the telecom sector by setting specific and timely targets to enhance rural outreach. This remarkable pace of ICT diffusion paves the way for research focusing on the impact of digitalization on economic development and other outcomes (Chatterjee and Das, 2021).

We use the latest round of the World Bank Enterprise Survey (WBES) for India conducted in 2021-22 to empirically analyse the effect of ICT on credit behaviour of SMEs in India. However, ICT adoption by SMEs can be endogenous; hence, teasing out the causal impact of ICT on credit behaviour remains challenging. It is also possible that managers of SMEs who are more growth oriented are able to secure credit as financial institutions value growth prospects in credit evaluation and such SMEs also adopt ICT for better access to markets. Additionally, one may argue that firms having better access to credit and face lower financing constraints are more likely to adopt ICT as its adoption is costly. Moreover, business networks of SMEs can influence credit access as well as ICT adoption. Hence, the relationship between ICT and credit can be plagued by endogeneity on account of reverse causality, simultaneity as well as omitted variables.

To address concerns about endogeneity in ICT, we employ an instrumental variables (IV)

strategy. The IV strategy has been employed in other papers trying to assess the impact of ICT on credit access (Agyekum et al., 2022; Bui and Do, 2022). Our IV results indicate a positive impact of ICT adoption on credit behaviour for SMEs. We find that ICT adoption not only increases the likelihood of obtaining a loan but is also positively related to loan amount. We find that SMEs using ICT are more likely to apply for loans and ICT is also related to higher likelihood of loans getting approved. We test the sensitivity of our results using a battery of checks including alternate measures of ICT adoption and alternate estimation model. We also consider the survey of micro firms in India conducted by World Bank during the same period and find that use of phone for paying/buying and selling improves their credit behaviour.

On further exploring the potential channels, we find a positive association between ICT adoption and the capacity to adapt to online processes in other aspects of operations and formalization of business which can lower the cost of monitoring SME loans by financial institutions. We also find that ICT adoption is associated with a higher likelihood of innovation and an increase in labour productivity. These factors may increase expected earnings that may consequently lead to favourable assessment of loan applications by the creditors. In terms of channels, we find suggestive evidence that reduced information asymmetry and financial inclusion are the pathways through which ICT adoption improves credit behaviour of micro firms in India.

Status : Accepted in Economic Notes

E-Commerce as a Green Catch-Up Tool: Firm-Level Evidence from South Asian Emerging Markets

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Digital transformation and environmental sustainability have emerged as key challenges for firms in emerging market economies (EMEs), where rapid e-commerce growth coincides with low adoption of energy management practices. Firm-level energy management is central to achieving Sustainable



Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy and SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure. The important role of digitization as a driver of greenization has gained prominence in international policy discussions. The UN Trade and Development advocates for innovative business models and robust policies focusing on sustainable digital technologies. However, financing constraints and limited access to resources (Dinh et al., 2010) can hinder adoption of green practices among firms in EMEs. E-commerce which has experienced rapid adoption and diffusion in EMEs over the last two decades, and has been found to transform firm functioning, including market access, productivity, and innovation (Goldfarb and Tucker, 2019) emerges as one of the important digitization aspects to improve greenization of firms. Given this background, this paper focuses on whether e-commerce adoption, an important dimension of digitization in South Asian EMEs, drives firm-level adoption of energy management practices. Moreover, through our heterogeneity analysis, the study explores whether e-commerce can be viewed as a green catch-up tool that narrows the energy management gap or widens it. The relationship between e-commerce and the adoption of energy management practices in EMEs remains largely unexplored. This study addresses this gap and provides direct empirical evidence on the digitization-greenization relationship in South Asia.

A large body of literature has examined various aspects of digitization and its effects on firm outcomes. However, these studies are disproportionately focused on advanced economies (see Van Reenen et al., 2007 for review), where digitization is less unequal, and adoption is much faster. During the last decade, focus has shifted to EMEs as they experienced rapid digitization. Few country-level studies focusing on EMEs have documented positive effect of information and communication technology (ICT) on labor productivity in firms in India, and China (Khanna and Sharma, 2018; Chen et al, 2020). Evidence also suggests that adoption of internet increases the likelihood of exporting for firms in EMEs owing to lower cost of communication and easier access to markets (Clarke, 2008; Hjort and Poulsen, 2019). In

another study for micro and small enterprises in South Africa, Gaglio et al. (2022) show that digitization is related to higher innovation which in turn improved productivity. Adoption of ICT is also found to ease credit constraints faced by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by reducing information asymmetry between creditors and firms in India (Jain and Biswas, 2024). In terms of effects on employment, studies have also found that ICT adoption among firms increases demand for female employees in Vietnam and India (Chun and Hang, 2018; Jain; 2021). Recently, Hjort and Tian (2025) provide a comprehensive review of how internet infrastructure, an important aspect of digitization has impacted firms in EMEs ranging from productivity, employment and innovation, among others.

Another strand of literature has examined the factors that determine the adoption of sustainable practices by firms. Stakeholder pressures have been identified as one of the most important predictors of the adoption of pro-environmental practices by firms (González-Benito and González-Benito, 2006). In terms of firm-specific factors, top management team beliefs and support are found to be related to energy management practices among SMEs in Uganda (Arinaitwe et al., 2024). Biswas and Thayyil (2026) find that exporting firms perform better in terms of green practices in India. Ali and Shah (2025) show that female ownership, access to credit and located in bigger cities are a few of the important firm level determinants of adoption of energy efficient practices in India. Even though the effect of digitization on various firm outcomes in EMEs has been examined, and studies have also focused on determinants of sustainable practices of firms, little is known about how digitization is related to sustainable practices like the adoption of energy management practices in firms. Our study intends to bridge this gap in the existing literature by focusing on one aspect of digitization, e-commerce and its relationship with adoption of energy management practices among South Asian firms.

In this study, we focus on the South Asian region for several reasons. First, South Asian region comprises countries that are similar in their economic structures, evolution of digital



commerce, and institutional context. Second, firms in the South Asian region face similar structural bottlenecks. For instance, South Asian firms are more credit-constrained and, in the face of weaker institutions, are more likely to face corruption and bribery (Wellalage et al., 2019). These challenges hinder the outcomes of firms in this region. Thirdly, South Asia's consumption of energy per unit of output is twice the global average. Despite a decline in the growth of energy consumption per unit of output since 2010, the rise in energy consumption is faster, thus raising questions about energy efficiency and energy management. Thus, adoption of energy management practices is crucial from a sustainability perspective.

Theoretically, digitization like e-commerce adoption may enable the adoption of energy management practices in several ways. First, enterprises can reduce asymmetric information among firms and their stakeholders through digital platforms, as suggested by information asymmetry. The firms may use website to signal customers/clients about their sustainable practices at a low cost, and this in turn can help the firm to onboard environmentally aware customers/clients. Moreover, lower information asymmetry may also help reduce credit constraints for firms, thereby providing access to capital, which is also critical for the adoption of energy management practices. Next, e-commerce adoption may help enterprises connect with broader markets, including entry into foreign markets (Cassia and Magno, 2022). Broader market access can increase profitability through the revenue channel, which in turn can help in the adoption of costly energy management practices. Third, e-commerce may be associated with firm innovation. For example, e-commerce platforms support business processes through automation, workflow optimization, and data analytics, enabling innovation and operational excellence, which can directly foster adoption of energy management practices. Given this backdrop, we examine the relationship between e-commerce and the adoption of energy management practices. Furthermore, we also try to tease the underlying drivers of the relationship.

In this study, we consider the World Bank Enterprise Survey (WBES) for South Asian countries, namely, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal and find that e-commerce adoption increases the likelihood of adopting energy management practices at the firm level. Moreover, these results are robust to addressing the endogeneity concerns related to the e-commerce variable using an instrumental variable approach. We also employ alternate estimation strategies like employing causal forests, propensity score matching method, and Lewbel's method to ensure that the results are driven by the choice of estimation strategy alone. Our further analysis highlights that the positive effect of e-commerce adoption on energy management is concentrated among non-exporting firms and firms with no quality-based certification. This underlines the critical role of e-commerce in helping firms with low international exposure to catch up with their counterparts. This is an important finding as it underscores the instrumental role that e-commerce adoption among firms can play in reducing the gaps in terms of energy management across various types of firms.

On exploring the possible channels, we find that e-commerce is positively associated with innovation, which can directly impact the adoption of innovative energy management solutions. Secondly, e-commerce adoption is associated with greater market access, with e-commerce firms exhibiting a lower likelihood of catering solely to local markets. We also find that e-commerce adoption is positively related to profitability of firms, which can provide financial resources required for adopting energy management practices. Moreover, we find that e-commerce adoption is associated with lower credit constraints, suggesting lower information asymmetry. Better access to credit in turn, may help in adoption of energy management practices. Hence, e-commerce can be viewed as a strategic resource for the firm.

Publication Status : Submitted



New Research initiatives

'Indian experience of fostering competition through State intervention: Lessons from card payment system and Unified Payment Interface'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Diffusion of digital payments in India immensely benefitted from the introduction of Unified Payment Interface (UPI). Introduced in 2016, UPI usage in India has exceeded even the most optimistic prediction; on the other hand, card payments – with a longer history – has grown at relatively modest rates, primarily due to the cost it imposes. This paper uses the analytical framework of 'Technology Specific Innovation System' (TSIS), to understand the differences in diffusion of two payment systems (UPI & Card payments). We first break down the technology involved in UPI and card payments, followed by empirical evidence that delineates their individual diffusion. The paper then explains the impact of four factors – technology design, complementary markets, regulation, and state intervention – on market structure and hence competition. The paper concludes that if the State desires faster diffusion, then it should own the technology – preferably based on open standards, with a technology design that builds on lower costs in complementary markets. This reduces entry barriers for firms and increases competition. State supported entry in a market, coupled with rules/institutions aligned with its goals, creates uneven playing field and uncertainty for stakeholders, which impact market formation activities of that market.

'Modelling diffusion of Bivoltine silk from 2002 till 2024: Analysis for few states in India'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Diffusion of a new technology is a slow process. Heterogenous consumers with differing level of incentives, network effects, uncertainty about the new technology are among the many factors that affect the pace of diffusion. In India, publicly funded institutions have been at the forefront of many diffusion efforts. This paper focuses on one such effort in silk, mulberry sericulture in particular. Extension or support programmes on crossbreed (CB) silkworm

rearing by the Central Silk Board (CSB) was a huge success which supplemented farmers' incomes in India. However, increasing adoption of powerlooms across the country and resultant imports of better quality bivoltine (BV) silk yarn for these powerlooms impacted farmers' incomes. To reduce imports of BV silk yarn and support local silk rearers, CSB, starting from the 1970s tried to promote BV silkworm rearing, which it still continues to do till date. BV silk yarn is obtained from BV cocoons – produced by BV silkworms. CSB genetically modified the BV silkworm – a race from temperate zone – in its laboratories to suit Indian conditions. The genetically modified strain was tested extensively before it was released for commercial exploitation. Given the demand for BV silk yarn, it was hoped that farmers or silk rearers would be quick to adopt BV silkworm rearing. However, at the farmer's end rearing of BV strain required more care and efforts than the CB strain, which increased costs, as a result diffusion or adoption of BV strain was much slower than expected. Farmers took to BV rearing till they had CSB support but retreated to traditional CB rearing once this support ended. Using a simple model, this paper aims to empirically capture efforts towards diffusion of BV silk from 2002 till 2024 for few states in the country. By making few assumptions and tweaking the model, we also comment on the impact of CSB efforts.

'Rethinking the Production Function for the AI Era: A Nested CES Framework with Embodied and Disembodied Knowledge'

Chandra Shekar K and Sachin Varghese Titty

Standard production function formulations treat labour, capital, and technology as broadly substitutable inputs, an assumption that sits uneasily with the way artificial intelligence and automation are reshaping production processes. This paper proposes a reformulated nested Constant Elasticity of Substitution (CES) production function that distinguishes knowledge along two dimensions: Core versus Periphery knowledge, and Embodied (machine-embedded) versus Disembodied (human, tacit) knowledge. Nesting these categories allows the elasticity of substitution between AI-embodied capital and human labour to differ depending on whether the task



involves core or peripheral knowledge, which is closer to observed patterns of AI adoption than a single aggregate substitution parameter. The paper is intended as a theoretical contribution for the Economic and Political Weekly Special Article format, with the framework illustrated through worked equations rather than fresh empirical estimation.

Research Plan

'Agglomeration, Carbon emissions and productivity in formal enterprises in India'

Chandra Shekar and Mohammad Izuddin

This study attempts to relate the impact of industrial agglomeration on environment especially in the form of emission of carbon dioxide which contributes a notable share of greenhouse gases. The differentiation of emission rates and emission intensity is also carried out to control for scale effects. The study also look into the determinants of industrial agglomeration across the Indian states.

Our major finding is that industrial agglomeration exerts a statistically significant negative effect on CO₂ emission intensity. This result is robust to the inclusion of a rich set of plant-level and state-level controls, including total factor productivity, output size, R&D intensity, state income, power availability, and trade exposure. The finding is consistent with the hypothesis that agglomeration economies—particularly through energy-sharing, technology diffusion, and better input networks—enable clustered industries to produce their output with better energy efficiency and lesser CO₂ emission.

'Economic impact of Blood Bag and Heart valve'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTI) is a publicly funded pioneering scientific laboratory in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, this study intends to bring out the economic impacts of two of its most impactful products – blood bag and heart valve. This work will be a chapter in a textbook, tentatively titled, "Foundations of

Biomedical Science and Technology: For Medical Device Development."

'Public AI infrastructure can give India its next UPI moment'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Based on the Indian experience of C-DoT and UPI, this short article argues the need for a publicly funded AI model for India.

'Process innovation through production strategies in Indian pharmaceutical industry: An empirical exploration'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Pharmaceutical is a high technology and process-based industry, which implies production strategies that induce process innovation will be employed. It has been noted in literature that India's trade surplus in pharmaceuticals is built on exports of low-value added generic products, and 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 with some operating at scale. Thus, to face cost competition firms will use production strategies to induce process innovation. The aim of this paper is to use a standard database and empirically capture production strategies that induce process innovation.

'Production strategies and process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: Few observations from a balanced panel data analysis'

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 with some operating at scale. It is plausible that to face cost competition, firms may use production strategies to induce process innovation. In this



paper we use a standard database to empirically capture production strategies in the pharmaceutical industry – separately for bulk drugs and formulations – that induce process innovation. Our analysis shows that both formulation and bulk drug firms use production strategies to improve productivity. In both these sectors, the emphasis of these strategies is similar for firms that have registered R&D units and firms that do not have registered R&D units.

‘Indian experience of fostering competition through State intervention: Lessons from card payment system and Unified Payment Interface’

Chidambaran G Iyer

Diffusion of digital payments in India immensely benefitted from the introduction of Unified Payment Interface (UPI). Introduced in 2016, UPI usage in India has exceeded even the most optimistic prediction; on the other hand, card payments – with a longer history – has grown at relatively modest rates, primarily due to the cost it imposes. This paper uses the analytical framework of ‘Technology Specific Innovation System’ (TSIS), to understand the differences in diffusion of two payment systems (UPI & Card payments). We first break down the technology involved in UPI and card payments, followed by empirical evidence that delineates their individual diffusion. The paper then explains the impact of four factors – technology design, complementary markets, regulation, and state intervention – on market structure and hence competition. The paper concludes that if the State desires faster diffusion, then it should own the technology – preferably based on open standards, with a technology design that builds on lower costs in complementary markets. This reduces entry barriers for firms and increases competition. State supported entry in a market, coupled with rules/institutions aligned with its goals, creates uneven playing field and uncertainty for stakeholders, which impact market formation activities of that market.

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Completed

‘Contingent aspirations and employment dynamics of young mothers in Kerala’

Thiagu Ranganathan, Praveena Kodoth and Tirtha Chatterjee

Sponsorship: JPal

Kerala had among the lowest women’s work participation rates in the country until recently, alongside consistently high labour force participation and unemployment, especially among the educated. The specificities of women’s labour market behaviour in Kerala have been studied in light of the human development achievements of the state and its distinct economic transformation. In the early 2000s, high unemployment was associated with rigid job preferences related to social status but recent studies suggest a relaxation of these preferences. The analysis of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data suggests a steep increase in the FWPR and a smaller decline in unemployment since 2017. An age-wise analysis indicates that the increase in WPR was driven by the older cohort (41–59 years). In 2022, the FWPR was 31% in the 18–40 age cohort compared to 50.3% in the 41–59 age cohort. Unemployment rate remained very high (25.4%) for women in the younger cohort (compared to 0.6% in the older cohort). Women with younger children are more likely to be affected by care responsibilities. Over two decades, the relationship between the age of the youngest child in the household and FWPRs provides some support for an M-shaped curve. The FWPR in households without children is higher than in households with children aged below two years. The FWPR in households with children aged over seven years is more than double that of households with children aged below two years, suggesting that childcare takes a heavy toll on women entering or remaining in employment, but they may return to employment as their children grow older. Given this background, we ask the following questions: What are the employment trajectories of women/mothers over the life course? What are the conditions that define



these employment trajectories? How do women sustain and pursue their aspirations for employment in light of labour market, household and care work-related constraints? How do their aspirations change over the life course, along with the changing requirements of care work?

To probe these questions, we study the employment trajectories of 67 higher educated mothers from a rural and an urban ward in Ernakulam district. The focus on higher educated mothers is motivated by their employment-seeking behaviour, reflected in high levels of both employment and unemployment. Building on the concept of flexible aspirations from the literature, we use the concept of contingent aspirations to show how higher-educated mothers of young children defined their aspirations by accommodating their household and care responsibilities. Our respondents aligned their desire for employment with constraints arising from the labour market and within the household by forging their aspirations in fluid and contingent ways. We probed women's aspirations in terms of what employment means to them, their willingness to take up available employment, and their efforts to remain in and/or return to employment. We find that the women's employment was interrupted by readjustments occasioned primarily by marriage, health risks of pregnancy, childbirth, family care responsibilities, and higher studies. In addition, they suffered from the non-recognition of care and gendered needs by the state, which was reflected in inadequate transportation and childcare infrastructure. Despite interruptions, most women aspired to be employed, and many had returned to participate in paid work, sometimes after multiple breaks. Faced with multiple challenges and strong aspirations to work, women enhanced their qualifications and diversified skills to gain access to newer opportunities. Higher educated mothers of young children in our sample framed employment as a highly valued space of self-expression that brought a sense of well-being. But as they sought to blend their socially embedded identities as mothers with the quest for employment within a modern individualistic framework, their aspirations

were rendered contingent. They were not content with the prospect of feminine domesticity confined to the familial realm. Their individualistic aspirations were reflected in their acute discomfort with the financial dependence on the husband. By defining employment as a valued space of self-expression, our respondents offered a critique of feminine domesticity that confines women to household responsibilities. From their social location as higher educated mothers in Kerala's rural-urban continuum, our respondents navigated aspirations in ways that broke away from previously documented rigid job preferences. They cultivated flexible preferences and accessed diverse, even poorly paid jobs not commensurate with their qualifications and this made them vulnerable to exploitation as a low-paid workforce. In the light of this, state intervention may address some core vulnerabilities of women by ensuring wider access to maternity leave, improved public transport, and childcare facilities.

Status: Published in EPW, July 28, 2025

New Research initiatives

'Unionization and labor composition in CPSEs'

Ritika Jain and Vinoj Abraham

Sponsorship, if any: OH 31- CDS

Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have historically played a critical role in India's industrial development, employment generation, and labour relations. Unlike much of the private sector, CPSEs have traditionally exhibited relatively high levels of trade union presence and collective bargaining. However, economic liberalization, technological change, increasing competition, and organizational restructuring have significantly altered employment practices within CPSEs over the past three decades.

One notable trend has been the changing composition of the workforce, including a decline in permanent employment, increased reliance on contract workers, greater skill intensity, and change in social composition of the workforce. These changes may have



important implications for trade unionization and worker representation. While a substantial literature examines trade unions in India, limited empirical evidence exists on how workforce composition and unionization patterns are related within CPSEs.

This study seeks to examine the relationship between workforce composition and unionization in CPSEs and to understand how changes in employment structures affect collective representation and labour relations.

MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Completed

Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy

Chidambaran G Iyer

Sponsorship, if any: ICSSR

India's economy is undergoing a period of deep transition. Global political and economic shifts—ranging from slowing multilateralism and rising protectionism to realignments in global value chains—are challenging established patterns of growth and trade. At the same time, domestic transformations—shaped by the adoption of new technologies, evolving labour markets, demographic shifts and migration, regulatory and institutional reforms, energy and climate pressures, and changes in public finance—are reshaping the foundations of economic activity within the country.

These developments are unfolding alongside longer-term structural challenges: the quest to generate quality employment at scale, the need to invigorate productivity in agriculture, industry and services, and the imperative to build robust institutions capable of supporting a rapidly changing economy. India must also deepen its integration into global value chains, attract higher and more diversified FDI, and address unexploited export potential—particularly in goods—if it is to strengthen its global competitiveness. State-level differences in economic structures, governance capabilities and reform momentum, together with the growing importance of local institutions, will play a crucial role in shaping how these

opportunities are realized. At the same time, persistently low female labour force participation, the evolving care economy, and gendered labour market dynamics represent significant untapped economic potential. India's demographic profile, expanding markets, urbanization and spatial reorganization, digital infrastructure, and growing scientific, innovation and technological capabilities offer new avenues for progress—but they also require careful analysis and informed policy choices.

In this wider context, the drivers of India's economic engagement and domestic transformation are themselves evolving. The reconfiguration of global value chains, the search for supply-chain resilience, and shifts in technology and energy systems are reshaping how India participates in the global economy and how domestic sectors compete. With multilateral mechanisms weakening, bilateral and regional arrangements are becoming increasingly important avenues for international engagement, while domestic reforms in regulation, logistics, investment facilitation and skill development are emerging as central to strengthening India's productive base. At the same time, the digital and green transitions, the growing importance of state- and local-level governance, changing migration patterns, emerging risks in finance and climate, and challenges related to gender, care work and household-level labour allocation highlight the need for renewed analytical attention to how India manages complexity across multiple layers of its economy.

The purpose of this conference was to bring together rigorous scholarship that can inform policy thinking on these emerging challenges and opportunities. We welcome contributions that examine contemporary developments, identify medium-term shifts, or offer fresh conceptual and empirical insights into India's evolving growth landscape. Growth, Investment and Structural Transformation; Work, Skills, Gender and Labour Market Dynamics; Technology, Digitalisation and Innovation Systems; Trade, External Sector and India's Global Positioning; Energy, Climate and Spatial Transitions; Public Finance, Federal Dynamics and Economic Governance were the broad themes (not limited to) for which



submissions were invited.

Status: This well attended conference was held on 19th and 20th March 2026. 147 submissions were received of which 24 were shortlisted for presentation. The inaugural address and special lecture were delivered by distinguished academicians. In addition to the paper presentations, the conference also had eight key note addresses by well known scholars.

'Income disparity among Indian States: Role for public policy'

M Parameswaran and ithin Sree

Regional inequality has emerged as one of the most important development challenges confronting India. Contrary to the expectation that regions within a common national framework would gradually converge in income levels, inter-state income disparities have widened significantly over the last three decades despite common political institutions, legal systems, and relatively free mobility of goods and factors of production. This chapter examines the underlying causes of this divergence and explores the role of public policy in addressing growing regional inequalities.

The chapter argues that the widening disparity among Indian States is best understood through the lens of endogenous growth theory and cumulative causation rather than the predictions of neoclassical convergence models. Increasing returns arising from knowledge spillovers, human capital accumulation, specialisation, and agglomeration create self-reinforcing growth processes that enable initially advantaged regions to sustain higher growth trajectories. Richer States attract greater private investment, skilled labour, financial resources, and innovation, thereby expanding their fiscal capacity and further improving the provision of public goods and infrastructure. Conversely, poorer States face a vicious cycle of inadequate fiscal capacity, lower investment, weaker infrastructure, and slower growth, making convergence increasingly difficult.

Drawing on recent evidence, the chapter documents the magnitude of regional divergence in India using data on per capita income, public expenditure, foreign

direct investment, and bank credit. The analysis shows that investment and financial resources remain highly concentrated in relatively richer States, while poorer States continue to lag in fiscal capacity and developmental expenditure. A review of the empirical literature demonstrates broad consensus that disparities in infrastructure, human capital, governance quality, and fiscal space are the principal drivers of the observed divergence, particularly in the post-liberalisation period when market forces assumed a greater role in resource allocation.

The chapter concludes that reducing regional disparities requires a more active and region-specific public policy framework. Since fiscal capacity itself has become an important determinant of long-run growth, poorer States require substantially greater fiscal support to finance investments in education, health, infrastructure, institutional capacity, and other complementary public goods. It further argues that centrally designed uniform development programmes are unlikely to address the diverse structural constraints faced by different States. Instead, greater fiscal decentralisation, enhanced autonomy for State governments in designing development strategies, and stronger equalisation mechanisms through intergovernmental fiscal transfers are essential for promoting balanced regional development. Such policies would not only reduce inter-state disparities but also strengthen the long-run growth potential and social cohesion of the Indian economy.

Status: Forthcoming in the Handbook of Indian Public Finance, published by the Routledge

'Analysis of the Finances of the State of Kerala: A Report prepared for the 16th Finance Commission.'

M Parameswaran, Hrushikesh Mallick and C Veeramani.

Sponsorship, if any: 16th Finance Commission

The study, '16th Finance Commission of India – Evaluation of Finances of State of Kerala' examines the fiscal performance of the Government of Kerala from 2012-13 to 2022-23 and projects revenue, expenditure, deficit, and debt trends for 2023-31, with a roadmap for fiscal consolidation. The analysis divides the



period into sub-phases: pre-GST (2012-13 to 2016-17), post-GST and Covid-19 (2017-18 to 2020-21), and post-pandemic recovery (2021-22 to 2023-24).

The State's total revenue growth broadly tracked GSDP growth, but recent years witnessed slower revenue mobilisation despite a peak revenue-GSDP ratio of 12.6% in 2021-24, reflecting exogenous constraints and declining central transfers. Own-tax revenue dominates receipts, though its growth has weakened. While non-tax revenues—especially lotteries—have grown, Kerala lags the national average. Rationalising stamp duties, restructuring liquor taxation, tapping under-utilised sources such as property, land, and electricity, and improving compliance through IT systems are suggested for boosting revenues.

Publication Status: Submitted to the Finance Commission and is available from its website.

MIGRATION

Completed Studies

'The Care Regime through the Lens of Migrant Labour'

Praveena Kodoth

The stubbornly low work participation rates of women in India has brought visibility to unpaid care and domestic work as a public policy issue and boosted the rationale for investment in care infrastructure. However, a shift in emphasis, more recently, from supply side constraints such as unpaid household work to employment deficits as more pertinent to addressing the low levels of women's employment underscores the need for a more robust grounding of the argument for investment in care infrastructure. Provision of care facilities at workplaces raises employers' costs hence the need to do so would act as a disincentive to employ women / mothers. On the other hand, the absence of affordable child care fosters unsafe practices like mothers taking children to informal sector workplaces. These are practical grounds to demand state investment in care infrastructure. The idea that

children are public goods i.e., that having children benefits state and society at large (as the future labour force) provides conceptual support for state provision / subsidy for child care. The perspectives of poor working women who for the lack of care facilities are forced to take children to work places or leave them at home without adult supervision, exposing children to unsafe conditions, merits emphasis. A male provider model of the family that underpins welfare policy and adjudication of family law in India assigns responsibility over child care to women and devalues it.

Care provision is structured by the assumption that families will provide for child care. This has meant that families at the higher end of the socio-economic hierarchy are able to hire care workers as well as retain women at home whereas those at the other end are deprived of both options. Migrant families dependent on daily wages are particularly vulnerable as they can scarcely afford paid child care but also, being hard pressed to earn their livelihoods, they have difficulty forgoing a family member's wage labour to take care of children at home. This paper identifies and probes the conditions that structure migrant children's exclusion from care services and early education with material from field work in two industrial clusters in south India, Perambavoor in Kerala and Hosur in Tamil Nadu. Kerala and Tamil Nadu lead the country in welfare provisioning and have better public infrastructure for early childhood care and school education compared to other states in India.

The fieldwork sites attracted a large presence of migrant labour families from the northern and eastern states and children were a visible presence in their residential areas. Viable options for child care not only frees up women's time for employment but also provides children access to a safe environment. Thus, without special provisions to access them, children of migrant labour may be deprived of access to care services like the ICDS that could be critical to their well being. Against this backdrop, the paper considers how migrant families resolve the tension between the mother's employment and child care and asks what are the terms on which migrant labour families may be able to obtain access to care and educational services on the two sites.



The Indian states are differently positioned with respect to both women's employment and social protection.

State government interventions in social policy have shaped distinctive sub national welfare regimes within India. Among the richer states in India, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have strong traditions of public provisioning and are witnessing the largest increases in inter-state labour migration including sizeable family migration to work mainly in lower end manufacturing and construction jobs. Kerala and Tamil Nadu fall under contrasting welfare regime clusters. What does the differential positioning of the two states mean for migrant children? How do these broad typologies of welfare regimes manifest at the local level in Hosur and Perambavoor or what do the experiences of migrant families and children tell us about the welfare regimes in place at the state level? The focus on children caught in the cycle of labour migrations allows us to probe how distinct sub national welfare regimes may condition access to pre and primary education by mediating the availability of viable child care options. The essay reflects on the contrasting implications of each state's welfare regime for care provision at the local level (in the field sites).

Publication Status: Forthcoming in Prabha Kotiswaran and Divya Ravindranath eds. *The Indian Care Debates: Taking Stock, Reimagining Work, Rights and Social Reproduction*, Penguin Random House

'Who returns during a crisis and why? Employment Vulnerability, the COVID 19 Pandemic and Return Migration to India'

Praveena Kodoth

Though India has witnessed substantial return emigration over the past half a century, there is little research on the conditions in which migrants return and their implications for livelihoods. We seek to bring return migrants into focus by probing in comparative perspective whether and how their employment vulnerability differed for that of current migrants and non-migrants during the COVID 19 pandemic with data from a Census of a migration intensive village in the south-

western state of Kerala. Econometric analysis confirmed that employment vulnerabilities, conceptualised in terms of loss of jobs and / or loss of incomes, are highest among return migrants and lowest among current migrants. Return migrants were less educated, poorer and had fewer migration-based networks as compared to current migrants and non-migrants indicating that they may have suffered from structural constraints pre-existing migration which reduced their ability to access to the more secure migrant opportunities. Also, COVID 19 returnees fared worse than earlier returnees. But crucially, the highest adverse impacts during the crisis are on returnees from the historically disadvantaged social groups. Thus, the crisis may have exposed and intensified employment vulnerabilities emanating from social structure that pre-existed migration, which is in accordance with theorisation that temporary migration regimes (of which West Asia is an example) generate protracted precarity for migrant labour.

Publication Status: Under review

Ongoing Studies

'Impact Evaluation of the Pravasi Bhadratha (PEARL) Scheme - A Model of Economic Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Return Migrants'

Amartya Paul, Dr. Jijin P., and Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur

Sponsorship, if any: Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala (RPIMK)

Studies show that international net migration from Kerala is slowing down. The slowing down of net migration is on account of both slowdowns in out-migration and increasing rate of return migration. With return migration increasing, Kerala is now facing the ominous problem of rising unemployment. If not addressed efficiently, return migrants would add to this statistic. Return migration is a double-edged problem for Kerala. Various studies claim that remittances to Kerala to be substantial, could be as high as 20 to 25 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product of Kerala. Return migration would thus not only add unemployment but also dent the flow of remittances to Kerala. It is imperative to ensure



productive integration of return migrants in the Kerala economy, which benefits both the return migrants and state.

One of the preferred modes of re-entry and reintegration of migrants is through self-employment and entrepreneurship. Self-employment has the potential to employ oneself and to generate employment locally. It also gives an avenue to channelize the investment potential of the return migrants in a productive manner. Further, it also can solve issues of skill mismatch and stigma of entering the local labour market. 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 manufacturing-MSMEs, trading enterprises and services.

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 19 financial institutions for this purpose. Loans are sanctioned by these financial institutions 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.

1. Effectiveness of the scheme in addressing the economic reintegration challenge of return emigrants by helping them in establishing their own businesses.
2. Explore features of both applicants and beneficiaries (those applicants who successfully obtained loan from banks) of the scheme. Study determinants of applicants' success in availing loan from banks under the scheme.
3. Explore the profile of enterprises in terms of industry, ownership patterns, employment structure, and other such characteristic features.
4. Estimate the rate of survival of beneficiary enterprises, and their rate of success in terms of indicators of performance such as profitability, productivity and employment generation.
5. Efficacy of resources allocation to operational aspects of scheme and effectiveness of built-in mechanisms for ongoing program monitoring and periodic evaluation.
6. Feasibility of scaling up the seed capital under the NDPREM scheme.
7. Do loan applicants under the NDPREM scheme also avail NBFC facilities for developing their business proposal and NDPREM application and of what kind?
8. Do beneficiaries under the NDPREM scheme use facilities of NBFC for building their business after successfully obtaining loans under NDPREM and of what kind?

Status: Expected date of completion: 31-03-2026



Return Migration and Employment Vulnerability during the COVID 19 Pandemic in India

Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham

Sponsorship: Kerala and the World Economy,

Though India is the largest source of emigrants worldwide and the largest recipient of remittances, scholarship on return migration is scarce. The condition of return migrant workers has important implications for a deeper understanding of the migration-development nexus. Hein de Haas (2012) observes that a dominant narrative of migration as a beneficial development strategy powered by individual migrant agency and remittances has shifted attention from structural constraints at the source addressing which could improve the position of migrants. A sizeable literature shows that strictly temporary migration arrangements, characteristic of host regions like the Middle East, render low-wage contract migrant workers vulnerable to an insecure and precarious form of circular transnationalism (see Piper, 2022). Attention to migrant categories suppressed by a largely positive migration-development nexus, may reveal the structural vulnerabilities besetting them (Raghuram, 2009). We focus on return migrants and ask whether migration lays the ground for substantive improvement in the conditions of migrants or is it merely a substitute for employment deficits at the source? To study this, we analyse a Census of a village in the state of Kerala that experienced large scale migration to the Middle East for over half a century and is presently witnessing more return migration than emigration.

India witnessed large-scale return migration in conditions of distress during the COVID 19 pandemic (Khan and Arokkiaraj, 2021, Prakash, 2022, Rajan S I. and Arokkiaraj 2022). Return migration to India has been mostly from the Middle East. Periodic repatriations of irregular workers, evacuations during conflicts and return precipitated by economic downturns and nationalisation policies in the Middle East have signalled insecurity (Nair, 1999, Zachariah et al, 2006). At the individual level, most emigrants return when they are still

in the labour force owing to adverse labour market conditions and those in the lower occupational categories especially persist in their pre-migration occupations (Abraham, 2020: 16).

In this light, we examine whether employment vulnerability during the pandemic is differentiated by migration status as current migrants, returnees and non-migrants. Employment vulnerability is conceptualised in terms of loss of jobs and / or loss of incomes both of which may be partial or full. We analyse data from the village Census that was conducted between August and December 2021, when most of the stranded migrants had returned. The pandemic and lockdowns led to cessation of a large part of economic activity in India affecting severely people who depended on earnings from unprotected jobs. Workers lost jobs irrespective of migration status. Among current migrants, some who lost jobs stayed on in the hope of finding jobs once the restrictions eased. Some current migrants worked for lower wages or fewer days so as to stay employed. On the other hand, pandemic uncertainties prompted some to retire early whereas some gave up jobs and returned in fear or because the circumstances at home were dire and required their presence.

Hitherto, the position of current and return migrants has not been examined within a single comparative frame, a gap we seek to redress here. We contend that return migration, especially premature return, demands analysis in structural terms with respect to the conditions in which workers migrate, their position in the social structure at the source and the conditions of migrant employment. To explain differentiation in employment vulnerability, we build on a critique of migration-development linkages and the vulnerability of migrant labour under temporary migration regimes.

The accumulated empirical and theoretical evidence shows that the relationship between migration and development is differentiated, context dependent and nuanced (de Haas, 2012). Scholars have shown positive migration-development linkages in the Indian context - poverty reduction and increase in per capita income and advancement of human



development (Noushad and Parida, 2020, Rajan et al., 2019, Kannan and Hari, 2020). Remittance-receiving households also have higher living standards reflected in higher spending on food, durable goods, health and education (Sunny et al. 2020). The pandemic altered abruptly the composition of current migrants and return migrants by compelling distress return and exposed a potential fault line in migration-development nexus. The pandemic and associated return migration would have exacerbated any existing stress on employment in source regions.

India uses temporary labour migration to reduce unemployment (Sasikumar and Hussain, 2007). Temporary migration is 'primarily about earning money based on the opportunity to obtain, and remain in, paid work over the course of their overseas contract' (Piper, 2022). Piper adds that the project of migration often fails migrants because it does not address pre-existing conditions leading to severely constrained choices. For instance, the insecurity of workers retrenched during the financial crisis of 2008 were compounded by exploitative employment conditions and large migration debts (Buckley, 2012). The pandemic exposed and exacerbated wage theft and made visible the lack of institutional mechanisms to address it (Piper and Foley, 2021). The experiences of stranded and returnee workers, who were forced to absorb the shock, speaks directly to the idea of 'protracted precarity' of migrant labour (Piper, 2022).

The prospects of migrants from India differ according to their position in the social structure. Structural inequality defined especially by the caste system diminishes the networks of the oppressed groups and consequently their access to the more remunerative pathways of migration (Arokkiaraj, 2022). Migration costs could wipe out personal savings if migration is not successful (Khan et al. 2024). Oppressed caste migrant households have higher debt (Santhya et al. 2020). Debt incurred to finance migration (or pre-existing debt that drove migration) could take years to repay, rendering migrants and returnees vulnerable (Santhya et al. 2022, Buckley, 2012). In this light, examining differential vulnerability during a crisis as well

as who returns at the time and for what reasons could help unravel some of the structural dimensions of vulnerability.

c. Expected date of completion: 2026

New Research Initiatives

'Impact Evaluation of the Pravasi Bhadratha (PEARL) Scheme: A model of Economic Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Return Migrants'

Amartya Paul, Dr. Jijin P., and Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur

Sponsorship: Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala (RPIMK)

Kerala's investment climate is undergoing a transformation, driven by deregulation, investment facilitation in existing businesses, and promotion of new ventures. A crucial yet often underutilized resource in this shift is the state's diaspora – individuals who bring diverse skills, global business acumen, and investment potential. Recognizing this untapped opportunity, Kerala has introduced targeted reintegration schemes to transform returning migrants into entrepreneurs, ensuring their successful rehabilitation and fostering innovation.

Kerala's remarkable approach to reintegrating its return migrants leverages two unique reintegration schemes – NDPREM and Pravasi Bhadratha. While the NDPREM scheme has facilitated over 10,500 enterprises with significant capital and interest subsidies (Rs. 90.31 crores and Rs. 16.6 crores respectively), the Pravasi Bhadratha (PEARL) scheme has also made its mark by generating 4,146 enterprises, mobilizing a total of Rs. 56.20 crores. Notably, the per-enterprise cost under the Pravasi Bhadratha scheme is approximately Rs. 1.35 lakhs, compared to Rs. 1.01 lakhs for NDPREM. Moreover, preliminary calculations (based on the data provided by NORKA) indicate a high survival rate of about 70% and strong loan repayment activity (over 90%) among PEARL beneficiaries, signifying the scheme's effectiveness in positively impacting the livelihood of return migrants. Additionally, the data reveal significant heterogeneity across sectors and districts. Given the dynamic shifts observed – declining ventures in sectors such as construction and business versus an uptick



in retail, trade, agriculture, and manufacturing – it is imperative to examine the underlying factors that drive these outcomes. This study will offer insights not only for refining state policy on return migration but also as a potential replicable model for other regions.

This study aims to assess the distinct impact of the scheme on the rehabilitation and economic reintegration of return migrants in Kerala, guided by the following objectives:

1. Assess the outreach of the Pravasi Bhadratha scheme among return migrants and their families.
2. Examine the demographic, social, educational and business backgrounds of beneficiaries, identifying determinants that influence the process of obtaining loans, survival rate and success of enterprises.
3. Evaluate profitability, productivity, and employment-generation capacities of the supported enterprises.
4. Identify the reasons behind shifts in enterprise trends across sectors, and interpret these changes within broader market dynamics.
5. Compare this scheme with the NDPREM scheme, evaluating its potential to enhance the economic well-being of return migrants' families.
6. Develop policy recommendations by examining the scalability of this scheme and evaluating the support mechanisms implemented, with the aim of enhancing the livelihoods of return migrants.

By evaluating the Pravasi Bhadratha (PEARL) scheme in depth, this project aims to identify the key factors behind its success in enterprise survival and loan repayment efficiency. The insights generated will help refine current policies for return migrant rehabilitation and establish a replicable model for other states. A thorough engagement with the scheme is expected to yield recommendations for enhancing Kerala's strategy in leveraging its diaspora for local development.

'Mapping the mobility of care workers from India'

Praveena Kodoth and V J Varghese

Sponsorship: International Labour Organisation, New Delhi

The report maps the mobility of care workers from India to all the major destinations worldwide in terms that lay out the volume and directions of migration, identify temporal and spatial trends and probe their underpinnings in the infrastructures that condition migration i.e., the multitude of activities, practices and technologies that constitute migration in each context. We engage with the effects of global labour markets, regulatory frameworks and changes therein, state policies related to training, recruitment and support for migrant workers and recruitment models and practices. Care work is a broad category that involves the performance of direct and indirect care services. The report breaks down migrant care workers into three categories - nurses, carers / caregivers and domestic workers - identified in terms of their jobs at the destination. Mobility of care workers is unevenly documented. Nurses' mobility is better studied than other categories and there is more data on their migration both at the source and destinations. Yet, there are significant gaps in estimation of migrant nurses.

The objectives of the study were: to map the migration of care workers in the context of global demand as well as the nature of demand and employment conditions in specific destinations and the conditions (aspirations, networks, state interventions) that foster mobility at the source; to lay out emigration and immigration regulations as they pertain to care workers and ongoing changes in regulatory frameworks which shape the nature and scope of (regular or irregular) migration pathways; and to probe state interventions and private initiatives in recruitment including process of information dissemination, training and skill development, financial assistance and mobilization and placement services. As part of the study we collated material from secondary sources and conducted field work in the state of Kerala, Telangana and Meghalaya.



India is second only to the Philippines as the leading source country of migrant nurses globally. Putting together the numbers available for recent years there are approximately 3 lakh Indian trained nurses working in the two main groups of destinations – the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. India is a major source of foreign trained nurses the GCC countries – the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Bahrain – and several countries in the OECD group – UK, USA, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Germany. In south-east Asia, Singapore has seen an uptrend in migration which is pronounced in the nursing assistants. Among source regions of migrant nurses, Kerala retains a strong dominance followed distantly by other south Indian states, Maharashtra (to the GCC countries) and Punjab (to the OECD region). A notable trend is the growing migration from the north eastern states alongside initiatives by governments in this region to assist care workers to seize global opportunities. Meghalaya, for instance, shows a big increase in verification certificates issued to nurses over the past few years.

The state of Telangana is making concerted efforts to facilitate the migration of nurses. It is one of only two Indian states to host the Triple Win programme based on a government to government (G to G) agreement (between TOMCOM and GIZ in Germany) to recruit nurses for employers in Germany. We identified multiple, intersecting and staggered pathways of migration some of which were distinct to care workers. Migration pathways may be regular or irregular in terms of legal status though legal status is rendered complex by migration regimes at the source and destination. Care workers use irregular pathways when access to regular pathways is narrowed by restrictions. Nurses benefit from more expansive regular pathways than domestic workers. Student migration has evolved into a pathway for overseas employment. It avoids aspirants having to go through procedures to obtain recognition of qualifications as a nurse and has developed into a route for recruitment in jobs as carers in the residential care homes or for home care

agencies. Recruitment of care workers for overseas jobs from India is carried out through the regulative infrastructure built on the Emigration Act of 1983. The present study identifies four modes of recruitment in practice across the country with state-wise variations: public sector recruitment, state-facilitated private recruitment, private recruitment without state facilitation and irregular (unlicensed) recruitment.

The work arrangements, remuneration, working conditions and migration pathways exhibit considerable variations across and within destinations. It is apparent that motivations for migration are diverse including a sense of adventure or parents wanting to be with their children who plan to move abroad for higher education, but the conditions of care work in India and especially the remuneration are critical push factors. Migrant care workers are aware of the cost of moving out of their home country in terms of lack of citizenship rights and discrimination on racial / ethnic lines but continue to be drawn to overseas employment. The chapter maps the terrain of migrant carer / caregiver employment, which is much less standardised than that of nurses. A key observation is that migrants with higher education, including graduate nurses, are opting for carer jobs that require only class 10 qualifications owing to the possibility of obtaining PR in the OECD destinations as well as the remuneration and working conditions. The GCC countries have the culture of home-based care for elderly and children, and as the care work is usually being provided by migrant domestic workers the dividing line between caregivers and domestic workers is often thin. Not only the type of work arrangements and the settings of work but also different regimes and pathways of migrations affect work schedules, working conditions, remuneration and even mobility of care workers.

Status: working towards a working paper in association with ILO



'Care workers migration and mobility from Kerala'

Praveena Kodoth and V J Varghese

Sponsorship, if any: NORKA, Government of Kerala and International Labour Organisation, New Delhi

The state of Kerala has been instrumental in India achieving a leading position as an origin country of internationally migrant care workers. Care workers, for the purpose of this study, are differentiated into three occupational categories – nurses, carers (personal care workers, health care assistants and caregivers) and domestic workers. Research attention to migrant care workers has varied from substantial research on migrant nurses and a growing literature on migrant domestic workers (MDWs) but scant scholarship on the migration of the intermediary category of carers / caregivers. Migration of care workers from Kerala stretches back to the mid twentieth century, long before the state (at the union or state levels) initiated policies to regulate, facilitate or support international migration. A history of migration fostered a migratory disposition that had occupational and community / social group dimensions. Nurses were among the early occupational groups to migrate from Kerala. In the last quarter century, migration pathways of nurses has gained complexity with multiple migrations to the eventual destination and migration as international nursing students as a pathway to overseas employment.

The state in Kerala has been largely supportive of migration of nurses; it has initiated skilling programmes and made efforts to locate opportunities and facilitate recruitment. The early cohorts of migrant domestic workers responded to demand both from professionally employed Malayali expatriates in the GCC countries and from families of nationals. By the early 1970s, the private recruitment industry in erstwhile Bombay was actively mobilising women with the assistance of local brokers, a process that served to forge aspirations and expand migration from Kerala. Migration of qualified people from Kerala to work as household based carers in countries like Israel, Italy, the GCC stretches back several decades. Men with diploma and graduate qualifications

from Kerala are motivated by wage differences and lack of remunerative opportunities at home to move to Italy as carers. Scholarship on this migration is sparse but the establishment of G to G frameworks with Israel and Italy in 2022/23 seeks to formalise and streamline migration.

Demand for carers spiked during the pandemic and led to changes in immigration rules in the UK and Ireland, which are favoured destinations of migrants from Kerala. As carer jobs opened up new pathways to obtain permanent residence, private recruitment agencies began to recruit directly from Kerala. While information about opportunities was unevenly available within Kerala, many international students from the state transitioned to carer jobs in the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and Canada. Challenges in the way of making migration rewarding for all stakeholders lie in creating systems at the source and destination that will enable access to safe and fair migration pathways and employment opportunities. Data difficulties are pronounced because of a dearth of adequate systems of reporting. Estimates based on sample surveys at the source are flawed because of sampling frames that are likely to underestimate women migrants (because of a high degree of spatial clustering) combined with enumeration in terms of achieved qualifications rather than destination job titles at the destination. For example, many graduate nurses experience downward occupational mobility as they are employed at the destination in jobs like nursing assistants and carers, which have lower minimum qualifications.

The lack of aspirational jobs at home and a strong migratory orientation prompt migrants to take up jobs that are not commensurate with their training. Besides, absence of standardised categories of the care workforce, differences in curriculum and lack of recognition of qualifications also generate mismatches in terms of qualifications and jobs. The increased prospects for overseas employment in the health care sector following the pandemic led to the mushrooming of language training centres across Kerala. With no regulatory framework for training centres, this has raised concern about the quality of language training



and also encouraged fraud and extortion. Weak regulation as well as regulatory overreach affect the migration of care workers. Inclusion and equity in access to migration are critical challenges. Aspirants from marginalised backgrounds lack access to social networks and personal connections that relay information about the prized overseas jobs opportunities and migration pathways. Irrespective of occupational category, the lack of access to reliable networks shapes vulnerability and increases the risk of falling prey to bad actors. Kerala has been reaping the benefits of long term investment in social / commercial networks with destination countries on the one hand and an ecosystem supportive of migration within the state. But migration must be a choice if the state is to sustain and advance its benefits.

The research seeks to map migration of care workers by analysing available trends and patterns recognizing distinctions in occupational categories and task specificities in the context of both global demand and destination-specific distinctions; analyse recruitment practices in the public, private and informal (unlicensed) sectors as they relate to migrant care workers and discern the challenges arising from them; and lay out and engage with the skilling architecture that addresses the requirements of overseas migration of care workers from Kerala.

Status: working towards a working paper with NORKA and ILO, New Delhi

AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION CROPS

Completed Studies

'Coffee sector in India: A study of few selected issues on marketing and prices'

Chidambaran G Iyer

India is a major coffee producer that exports almost three quarters of its produce. It is estimated that more than a million individuals directly involved in growing coffee. Market power – which includes higher bargaining power and better terms of trade – in the export

markets can imply better earnings for the growers. Given this background, we check India's market power in the coffee export market for the period 2012-13 till 2020-21, using the pricing-to-market (PTM) model, which analyses the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on export prices. Our analysis finds that given the value chain in coffee, Indian coffee exports do not have pricing power with its biggest buyers, while they enjoy pricing power with the smaller buyers. Using secondary data that describe the characteristics of the coffee processing sector, the paper argues that there is a scope for higher value addition if licensed coffee works engage in direct exports.

Publication Status : Chapter in a soon to be published Routledge edited volume "Plantations in transition: Productivity, Prices and Employment - Exploring Economic Changes in Tea, Coffee, Rubber, and Spices Sectors of India." Editor : Vinoj Abraham

POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

'Intergenerational Mobility and Collective Articulation of Rights: A Case Study of Mala Araya Tribal Community in Kerala'

Abhilash T

Sponsorship: ICSSR, New Delhi (Rs. 10 lakh)

Mobility refers to a change in an individual's socio-economic position—either in comparison to that of their parents (intergenerational mobility) or within their own lifetime (intragenerational mobility). Its trajectories, whether upward or downward, reflect broader patterns of opportunity, exclusion, and policy effectiveness. It is particularly significant among and within the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Given the heterogeneous nature of each group, it is wise to begin with intergenerational mobility within a specific group. For these communities, intergenerational mobility is not simply a personal achievement but an indicator of progress in overcoming historical disadvantages and inherited inequalities of



power and opportunities. Among these, the settled-agriculturist tribal communities—those residing in the forest-clad hills and valleys of the Western Ghats—present a unique case. Historically, such groups were considered likely beneficiaries of targeted development policies and sub-plans. However, their actual experiences of economic, educational, and occupational change across generations remain under-examined, making them essential subjects for mobility research.

The study focuses on the Malayaraya community, a hill tribe with deep historical roots in Kerala's social landscape and varied forms of engagement with colonial and postcolonial institutions. Over time, the community has also undergone religious and social bifurcation, reflecting broader currents of change and continuity. The research draws on two years of fieldwork employing mixed methods in four Malayaraya hamlets across Idukki and Kottayam districts, concentrating on households that maintain traditional cultural practices. Data collection involved interviews, surveys, and participatory observation, enabling a nuanced analysis of intergenerational mobility. Key variables assessed include occupation, income, education, and land ownership. Examination of these factors reveals not only individual mobility trajectories but also the collective articulation of rights in response to present and emerging challenges. By mapping these patterns, the study highlights both the progress made and the barriers that persist in the pursuit of social justice and sustainable development among Kerala's settled-agricultural tribal communities.

Status : Published: "Land Rights and Livelihood: Contextualizing the Forest Conservation Act, 2023", has been accepted for publication in *Artha Vijnana*, Vol. LXVII, Issue No. 4 (2025) (UGC Care).

Under publication : *Taming the Tusker: Caste, Class and Politics of Human-wildlife Conflict and the Malayaraya Indigenous Communities in Kerala, India*, *Journal of Development and Practice*: Taylor and Francis

Ongoing Studies

'Decolonizing Sustainability Transitions: Indigenous Justice and Human-Animal Conflict in the Western Ghats, Southern India'

Abhilash T

This paper critically examines sustainability transitions through the lens of human-wild animal conflict in the Western Ghats region of South India, where indigenous communities face escalating threats to their livelihoods, habitats, and cultural autonomy. Despite the enactment of progressive legislations such as the Forest Rights Act (2006) and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (1996), which promise self-determination and ecological stewardship, uneven and lethargic implementation of these Acts—especially in states like Kerala—has deepened the marginalization of indigenous communities. The failure to operationalize individual and community rights within India's federal structure has led to policy regimes that are both technocratic and temporally inadequate, often sidelining indigenous knowledge systems and historical practices of coexistence with wildlife. Through a systemic and justice-oriented analysis, this study interrogates the political, legal, and institutional inertia that undermines transformative change. It identifies key leverage points for transition, including the need to reconfigure governance frameworks to centre indigenous epistemologies, participatory decision-making, and long-term ecological resilience. Drawing on field insights and policy critiques, the paper argues for a decolonial reimagining of sustainability—one that moves beyond temporary fixes and dominant conservation paradigms to embrace pluralistic, community-led pathways to deal with this crisis. By foregrounding the lived experiences of indigenous communities as first-line victims of climate-induced ecological disruptions, this work contributes to interdisciplinary dialogues on transformation. It calls for a radical shift in how institutions conceptualize and implement sustainability, urging scholars and policymakers to recognize indigenous justice not as a peripheral concern



but as a foundational principle for navigating complex socio-ecological transitions. It is also argued that genuine sustainability transitions require rethinking institutional inertia and integrating indigenous worldviews into governance frameworks.

Status: Expected date of completion: 2026 October

'Has Growth been 'Inclusive' in India: Evidence from the last three decades, 1983-2012'

Amartya Paul

In this paper, we assess India's progress toward achieving pro-poor growth using two axiomatic measures of pro-poor growth. The choice of these indices is based on their theoretical validity, wide acceptance in the literature and empirical flexibility. We have found limited studies that use these measures to evaluate the Indian case. Motiram and Naraparaju (2015) used a few of these measures for their study on India. However, their analysis is restricted between 2004-05 to 2011-12. On the other hand, our assessment period spans three decades, starting from 1983 to 2011-12. We use nationally representative data for our evaluation which makes our results more robust. Our measurement approach is purely unidimensional and considers consumption expenditure as the metric for the computation of the required indices used for assessment. Indian economy has gone through a diversified experience of different regimes of growth during the period 1983 to 2012. Despite several fluctuations during the short periods, the decadal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the pre-liberalisation period 1981-1990 hovered at an average of 5.5 per cent a year. The first ten years after liberalisation, 1991-00, experienced an average annual GDP growth of 5.6 per cent. In the recent decade 2001-10, however, the growth rate has seen an acceleration of about 1.1 percentage points, reaching an annual average of 6.7 per cent. In a sub-period during 2003-07, the growth rate was unusually high - it grew at an average annual rate of more than 8 per cent. Similar high fluctuations can also be seen in other two phases of growth. Overall, during this entire period, annual growth rate ranges from 1.1 per cent to 9.6 per cent. Nevertheless, this growth

phase is coincided with increasing levels of inequality and declining poverty (Deaton and Dreze, 2002; Sen and Himanshu, 2004a,b; Sundaram and Tendulkar, 2003a,b,c). Overall inequality (measured using consumption Gini) during 1983--2012, has increased at country level from 0.351 to 0.393 while poverty significantly reduced from 61.7 to 21.9 per cent. Given the fact that the extent and depth of Indian poverty are severe and its contribution to world poverty is significant, the question of whether growth is inclusive is important and relatively less explored until now in the context of India. In this paper, we attempt to address this by measuring post-growth benefits (or losses) across various income (proxied through expenditure) class of people. The assessment is extremely critical from the point of designing strategies of growth (or welfare measures) as sustainable poverty reduction has remained a key challenge for large developing countries to date.

Status: Expected date of completion: July 2026

New Research Initiatives

'Beyond the Firewall: AI Power, Vulnerable Populations, and Challenges of India's Digital Democracy — A Critical Analysis of India's Digital Policy Architecture'

Abhilash T

Democratic governance in the digital age faces a structural paradox: the very infrastructures designed to extend state capacity to marginalised populations increasingly reproduce and amplify historical inequalities through algorithmic mediation. This paper examines India as a critical case study in the governance of artificial intelligence and its implications for democracy's most vulnerable citizens and unorganised gig workers and the rural poor. Drawing on recent developments, including the cybersecurity alarm triggered by Anthropic's Claude Mythos model and the constitution of India's apex AI governance body, the AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG, April 2026), the paper argues that India's AI policy architecture exhibits a constitutive democratic deficit: regulatory frameworks address individual data privacy



but systematically fail to account for the collective, structural harms experienced by marginalised communities through algorithmic welfare exclusion, predictive policing bias and AI-accelerated financial fraud. Methodologically, the paper employs a qualitative comparative case study design, combining policy document analysis, secondary data on algorithmic exclusion outcomes, and critical discourse analysis of India's AI governance architecture. The research draws on documented cases of Aadhaar-linked welfare denial, gig economy labour precarity data, and official mandate documents of the AIGEG to construct an evidence-based account of the gap between stated policy intent and experienced institutional harm. The paper situates India within a comparative framework, contrasting its governance response to Claude Mythos with those of the United Kingdom, United States, and Australia. The comparison reveals that India's framework is structurally more ambitious yet institutionally weaker, operating without binding enforcement authority or civil society representation. The paper concludes with six policy prescriptions for democratising AI governance in contexts of deep inequality, contributing to comparative scholarship on digital democracy and institutional innovation in the Global South.

Research Plan 2026-27

The Tribal Land Question in Kerala: Alienation, Restoration and Recognition

Abhilash T

The proposed research examines the tribal land question in Kerala across its full legal-political arc: the alienation of Adivasi land through settler encroachment and distress transfers; the Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on Transfer of Lands and Restoration of Alienated Lands) Act, 1975 and its prolonged non-implementation; the High Court's 1993 enforcement direction and the settler resistance it provoked; the legislative dilution through the 1996 amendment attempt and the 1999 Act, which validated transfers up to two hectares and converted the right of restoration into a claim on government-allotted substitute

land; and the new horizon opened by the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and complicated by the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork among tribal communities of the Western Ghats, archival records of community organisations, and analysis of legislation and case law, the study asks why land restoration failed in a state celebrated for redistributive reform, and what the shift from restoration to recognition has meant for the livelihoods and rights articulation of Kerala's Adivasi communities.

OTHER STUDIES

Completed Studies

'Welfare Policy, Education and Inclusive Growth: Evidence from India'

Amartya Paul and Srikanta Kundu

Welfare policies aim to reduce poverty and inequality to foster inclusive economic growth, but their effectiveness is often inconsistent. This is particularly true in federal systems like India, where states have discretion over policy design, leading to varied outcomes. Existing research typically focuses on individual case studies, failing to capture the aggregate impact of these policies. This study addresses this gap by analysing the aggregate influence of welfare spending on inclusive growth in India from 1983 to 2012, using a unique state-level panel dataset. We define inclusive growth using advanced "pro-poor growth" indices instead of simple poverty measures. Crucially, we investigate whether the impact of these policies is linear or non-linear, especially concerning education levels. Our findings reveal that aggregate redistributive policies significantly enhance the pro-poorness of growth and reduce poverty. This positive effect holds even after accounting for different state-level economic conditions. However, the impact on overall inequality remains inconclusive. Most importantly, our analysis identifies a critical non-linearity: welfare policies are more effective in states with higher levels of tertiary education. Primary and secondary schooling show no significant relationship with policy effectiveness. This suggests that higher



education acts as a complementary policy tool, amplifying the benefits of welfare programs and making growth more inclusive. This highlights the importance of education for maximizing the return on welfare investments.

Status: Submitted to a journal. Under review
CDS Working Paper Series

'Economic Growth-Inequality Nexus in the Last Decade: A study in the Indian context'

Amartya Paul and Thiagu Ranganathan

Sponsorship: OH-31, ICSSR

This paper has analysed the nexus between economic growth and inequality in the Indian context over the last decade with a particular focus on the distributional consequences of economic growth and income inequality. In this context, the study has laid out a detailed profile of income inequality across states, sectors, and social groups. It has also attempted to assess the change (increasing or decreasing) by taking the growth-inequality nexus into account. The research will investigate the answers to the following research questions: [1] Do states that have shown high economic growth also undergo an increased economic inequality? [2] How does economic growth in rural and urban areas contribute to inequality? Which of the growth - rural or urban - is relatively more inequality reducing? [3] How has the economic growth over the last decade affected inequality within and between social groups in India? We will use the data collected by the National Sample Survey (NSS) related to Employment and Unemployment and Consumption Expenditure for our analysis.

Status: Manuscript is being prepared for submission

'Memoirs of an Exile: The Autobiographies of Swadeshabhimani K Ramakrishna Pillai and B Kalyani Amma'

J. Devika

This paper attempts to read together two memoirs by two prominent figures of the intense social churning in Malayali society of the early twentieth century -

Swadeshabhimani K Ramakrishna Pillai, widely considered the founder of critical journalism in Malayalam, who paid a heavy price for his defiance of and B Kalyani Amma, social reformer, writer on gender. They were partners who entered into marital union as a kind of 'experiment' that the survivor of their union would document. The paper compares their two memoirs - B Kalyani Amma's account of her marriage after Ramakrishna Pillai's death, and Ramakrishna Pillai's account of his arrest and exile from Travancore - to reflect on how the gendered nature on the modern conception of the public and politics itself took shape in the early twentieth century.

Status: Published in the journal South

Ongoing Studies

'Political Masculinity and Political Domesticity in Early Twentieth Century Malayali Society'

J. Devika

This paper attempts to make sense of the limited successes garnered by the counter-publics online and offline which attempt to secure women's rights and gender justice in contemporary Kerala, despite the fact that the 'objective' social conditions seem absolutely right for such change. It argues that the persistence of what may be called the 'scandal public' in the Malayali public sphere might be an important reason why this is so. Examining the writings of Swadeshabhimani K Ramakrishna Pillai, widely recognized as the founder of modern critical journalism in Malayalam, and those of his partner B Kalyani Amma, this paper argues that the 'scandal public' that uses rumour, especially about the sexual and private lives of the powerful, was integral to the early attacks on political authority spearheaded by Ramakrishna Pillai's journalism. While this proved to be often effective in bringing down immensely-powerful political figures, it also degraded women who were caught in the middle and reinforced sexual conservatism, almost making it a central aspect of radical journalism in Malayalam. In other words, modern radical journalism seemed to make women pay the price for its exposures of corruption and other public ills. The paper traces the shaping of



'scandal publics' through the twentieth century which were directed against powerful politicians highlighting sexual scandals, to the great disadvantage of women who were accused along with them. However, the nature of the scandal public changed in the twenty-first century, especially after the coming of legal remedies against sexual harassment in the workplace and sexual violence in general. The paper explores these shifts as well.

'An Illegal Baby': The Anupama Chandran Case, the Left Political Community, and Brahminical Patriarchy in Kerala'

J. Devika

This paper is an attempt to reflect critically on a recent 'event' – what appeared to be an idiosyncratic, one-off, momentous happening – of an infant abduction in 2021, which was highly controversial. I will refer to it as the Anupama case, after the aggrieved mother of the abducted infant. As the extended discussion on the 'event' via Arendt, Deleuze, Žižek, Badiou and others suggest, the 'event' is a unique action or happening that breaks the expected, the normal, and the everyday, renders visible the structures and power equations of social life as constructed hitherto, and cancels their significance. The Anupama case (as also other recent controversial cases, such as the Hadiya case (2017) did not, of course, cancel or collapse, the highly power-ridden everydayness of social life that it exposed, but it did bring considerable illumination that revealed these in an unprecedented way. Specifically, I argue that this event revealed significantly the present shaping of the political community of the left in Kerala and the manner in which brahminical patriarchal is furthered precisely through institutions of the secular political system.

Status: Most probably in an edited volume edited by V J Varghese

'Kaalabhedini: Essays on the Short Stories of K Saraswati Amma'

J. Devika

This is a collection of ten essays by authors from across the country which analyse the short stories of the pioneering mid-twentieth century literary writer in Malayalam, K Saraswati Amma. It brings out her intellectual contributions in her times, which also seem to defy the limits of her times. As the authors demonstrate through their close readings of her short stories, Amma seems to have prefigured some of the most striking foundational texts of second-wave feminism in the West – for example, her own analysis of the 'Othering' of women in emergent modern Malayali society, published in 1947, came two years ahead of Simone de Beauvoir's seminal work on existentialism, *The Second Sex*. The volume is planned as bi-lingual; the Malayalam version will first appear in the online journal TrueCopy Think, and will be republished as a book by RAT Books. The English version will circulate free as a dossier online.

Status: The Malayalam version is to be published by RAT Books, Kozhikode. The English version is to be circulated free online as a dossier.



3. 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 520 working papers and 47 books brought out under the CDS programme. This year three working papers were published. A total of three books have been published by the faculty, 51 research articles by faculty and students in professional journals. 6 chapters in edited volumes and 25 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

The faculty/ staffs of the Institute have published **three** books in the year 2025-26. The details are given below:

Beena P L and Thiagu Ranganathan

- Beena, P. L., and Thiagu Ranganathan, editors. *Kerala Transforming: Labor and Trade Mobility in Times of Pandemic*. Taylor & Francis, 2025.

This book examines Kerala's recent development trajectory and highlights the impact of COVID-19 on its economy. It analyzes Kerala's growth and structural transformation while engaging critically with issues related to employment and migration. The book delves into policies aimed at reintegrating return migrants into Kerala's development process. It examines the implications of Free Trade Agreements and policies initiated by the Government of India under the WTO regime on agriculture. The chapters in the book also investigate the impact of the growth trajectories on distributional aspects of inequality and social mobility.

J Devika

- Devika J, Ajay Anamika, *Family, Women, and Ill-Being: A Critique of the Family in Twentieth Century Kerala*, New Delhi: Zubaan, 2026.

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.

Sunil Mani

Mani. Sunil, *India's High Tech Leap, Industrial policy and future of innovation*, Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, Mass.USA: Edward Elgar.2026.

This incisive book explores how strategic government support can drive innovation and competitiveness, especially in emerging economies. The book highlights India's industrial successes, such as global IT software services, pharmaceutical industries and sustainable technologies, as well as the drawbacks of their reliance on imports and weak coordination. The book proposes an actionable policy roadmap with concrete steps for India's high-tech future, from strengthening supply chains and boosting skill advancement to fostering public-private research and development partnerships.

M A Oommen

Indian Development and its Discontents, A book project for Orient Blackswan (Revised and submitted for publication) - Ongoing

(b) CHAPTER IN EDITED BOOK

The faculty staffs of the Institute have published **six** chapter in edited books in the year 2025-26. The details are given below:

Suraj Jacob

- Jacob, Suraj. "Geography of Electoral Support: The BJP and Congress over Time." *State Politics in Contemporary India*, edited by Yatindra Singh Sisodia, Ashutosh Kumar, and Pratip Chattopadhyay, Routledge, 2025, pp. 57-74.
- Jacob, Suraj. "Process Tracing." *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, edited by Hridya Kant Dewan and Vimala Ramachandran, Aakar Books and Azim Premji University, 2025, pp. 191-213.
- Jacob, Suraj. "Stirrings of Collective Conscience." *Being Earth: Portraits of Militant Nonviolence*, edited by Amrita Nandy, Seva Mandir, 2025, pp. v-xvi.

Thiagu Ranganathan

- Thapa, H. S., and Thiagu Ranganathan. "Mechanisation and Gendered Labour Market Impacts: Evidence from Longitudinal Data in Maharashtra." *Mechanization of Small-Scale Farms in Asia: Current Status, Impacts, and Future Prospects*, edited by W. Ma and D. B. Rahut, Asian Development Bank Institute Publications, forthcoming 2026.

M Parameswaran

- Parameswaran, M. and Balakrishnan, Pulapre. "Economic Growth in India: A Longer View" *75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes and Impacts*, edited by Dibyendu Maiti, Bishwanath Goldar, and K L Krishna, Springer, 2025, pp.91—114.

C. Veeramani

- C. Veeramani (2025). *Trade, FDI, and Growth: Overview and Evidence from India*. In Dibyendu Maiti, Bishwanath Goldar, and K.L. Krishna (Eds.), *75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India*. Springer. C Veeramani and M. Parameswaran "What You Import and Where It Comes from Matter for Growth: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives." In Rajat Acharya and Sugata Marjit (Eds.), *Handbook of International Economics*. Oxford University Press. Forthcoming



(c) RESEARCH PAPERS AND ARTICLES IN JOURNAL

The centre have published **fifty-one** research papers and articles in Journal in the year 2025-26. The details are given below:

Abhilash T

- T, Abhilash. "Land Rights and Livelihood: Contextualizing the Forest Conservation Act, 2023." *Artha Vijnana*, vol. LXVII, no. 4, 2025. UGC Care.
- T, Abhilash. "Persisting Exclusion? Contextualizing the Tribal Welfare Policies of Kerala State." *Education and Society*, vol. 46, no. 4, 2025, pp. 014–22. UGC Care.
- T, Abhilash. "Tribal Rights and Kerala Model of Development: Exploring New Trend." *Indian Journal of Political Science*, vol. 85, no. 2, 2025, pp. 401–406. UGC Care.

Amartya Paul

- Paul, A., Anand, I. & Chaudhary, S. "Chronic Unemployment in India." *Indian Journal of Labour Economics* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-026-00611-6>

Beena P L

- LT Abhinav Surya and PL Beena (2025) Investment and Capital-Labour Relations in India's Organized Manufacturing Sector, *International Review of Applied Economics*, Online, Routledge, Taylor and Francis.
- LT Abhinav Surya and PL Beena (2026) Labour Market Relations across Technology and Size class categories in India's Organised Manufacturing Sector, *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, Online, February, Springer.

Chandara Shekar K

- Shekar, K. Chandra. "Informality, innovation, and firm performance: evidence from World Bank Enterprise Survey in India." *Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship* 14.1 (2025): 17.

Devika J

- J Devika and Anamika Ajay, 'Debt, Discipline, and Gender in Twenty-First Century Kerala', *Social Change* 56, 2, 2026, 192-209.

- J Devika, 'Memoirs of an Exile: The Autobiographies of Swadeshabhimani K Ramakrishna Pillai and B Kalyani Amma', South inaugural edition., 2026.

- J Devika, The Limits of a 'Social Contract' Revealed? The ASHA Workers' Strike in Kerala', *Journal on Labour*, 1, 1, 2025, 1-14, Centre for Labour Law Research and Advocacy, National Law University, Delhi.

- Devika J, 'Malayalam', Symposium on translation and Indian languages, Special Issue on Indian Languages, *Granta* 173, 2025, 40-42.

M Parameswaran

- Balakrishnan, P. and Parameswaran, M. 'Inflation in India: Dynamics, distributional impact and policy implication', *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics* vol. 74, 2025, pp. 556--566.

Praveena Kodoth

- Kodoth, P. "Paternalist Governance, Tacit Accommodations: The Dynamics of Informality in Women's Labour Mobility to the Middle East." *Sociological Bulletin*, vol 74, no 4, pp 489-503, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380229251349569>
- Ranganathan Thiagu, Praveena Kodoth and Tirtha Chatternee 2025. Contingent Aspirations and Employment Dynamics among Higher-educated Young Mothers in Kerala, *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol lx nos 26 & 27
- Neetha, N. Praveena Kodoth and Rajni Palriwala. "Analysing the co-constitution of unpaid care labour and paid work, Introduction to Review of Gender Studies," *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 60, no 26 & 27, 2025, pp June 28 and July 5.
- Kodoth, P. Failures of Marital Provisioning and the Framing of Agency by Migrant Domestic Workers from Kerala, *National Law University Journal of Labour*, Vol 1 (1), 2025

Ritika Jain

- Biswas, Shreya, and Ritika Jain. "The Road to Safety-Examining the Nexus between Road Infrastructure and Crime in Rural India." *Journal of Quantitative Economics* (2025): 1-24.



- Jain, Ritika. "Who has ICT Access in India? A Gender-based Analysis." *The Indian Economic Journal* 73.3 (2025): 515-533.

Suraj Jacob

- Dyer, Caroline, Suraj Jacob, and Archana Choksi. "Accountability for learning in contexts of fragile school attendance in India." *International Journal of Educational Development* 121, 2026: 103485. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2025.103485>

Thiagu Ranganathan

- Ranganathan, T., and S. Krithi. "Heterogeneous Interests and Monetary Payments for Afforestation: Findings from a Framed Field Experiment (FFE) in Uttara Kannada, India." *Environment and Development Economics*, forthcoming 2026.
- Singh, R., and Thiagu Ranganathan. "Does Parental Involvement Improve the Learning Outcomes of Children? Evidence from India." *Oxford Development Studies*, forthcoming 2026.
- Thapa, H. S., and Thiagu Ranganathan. "Dynamics of Mechanisation and Labour Use in Semi-Arid India: Evidence from a Longitudinal Study." *Economic and Political Weekly*, forthcoming 2026.
- Ranganathan, T., Kodoth, P., and T. Chatterjee. "Contingent Aspirations and Employment Dynamics among Higher-educated Young Mothers in Kerala." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 60, no. 26-27, 2025, pp. 14-19
- C. Veeraman. C. Veeramani. "Old Industrial Policy, New Industrial Policy, and the GVC Era: Lessons from India's Mobile Phone Industry", *Asian Economic Papers*. MIT Press. (forthcoming)
- C. Veeramani "The New World Trade Order: Reorganization, Not Retreat", IIM Kozhikode Society And Management Review., Sage Publications, (forthcoming)
- Deepali Gupta and C. Veeramani "Global Value Chain Participation and Labor Market Outcomes in Indian Manufacturing", *Economic and Political Weekly* (forthcoming)
- C. Veeramani (2026) "India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to

Growth and Supply Chain Resilience." *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, Wiley: e70054. <https://doi.org/10.1002/app5.70054>.

- C. Veeramani and Anwesha Basu (2025). "Why is Labour Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India? Role of Trade, Technology, and Market Share Reallocation" *Asian Economic Papers* (2025) 24 (3): 1–31. MIT Press <https://doi.org/10.1162/ASEP.a.1>
- C Veeramani and Manish (2026) "Do Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?" *Indian Economic Review*, 04 March 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41775-025-00257-z>
- C. Veeramani (2025). External Sector Outlook and 2025–26 Union Budget. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 60(16), 19 April.

- Amitendu Palit, C. Veeramani, Shailja Singh, Surendar Singh & Malini L. Tantri (2025). Industrial policy and trade policy in the evolving new global order. *Journal of Social and Economic Development* (Suppl 2), 135–137.

Editors: Amitendu Palit, C. Veeramani, Shailja Singh, Surendar Singh & Malini L. Tantri (2025). Special Issue on Trade Policy and Industrial Policy in the Evolving New Global Order, Vol. 27, 2025. *Journal of Social and Economic Development* (Suppl 2)

Vinoj Abraham

- Abraham, Vinoj and Sachu Sara Sabu. "Rethinking Kerala's Farming Systems: Diversification through Fruit Crops", *Kerala Karshakan*, Volume 13, Issue 09, 2026 <https://www.fibkerala.gov.in/sites/default/files/inline-files/E%20KK%20February.pdf2026>

Sunil Mani

1. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Building India's semiconductor ecosystem: policies, capabilities, and challenges in achieving technological self-reliance', *Science and Public Policy*, scap094, <https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scap09>
2. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'India's RDI Scheme Overcoming Governance Bottlenecks for Strategic Innovation', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 60, Issue No. 45, pp. 20-22



3. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Evolving Strategies in India's Technological Self-reliance, Patent Policies, R&D Incentives, and Human Resource Development', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 60, Issue No. 23, pp. 52-64
4. Mani, Sunil, VK Dadhwal, and C S Shaijumon (2025), Space economy of India, its impact on rest of the economy, *Space Policy*, DOI: 10.1016/j.spacepol.2025.101692

(d) ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES:

5. Devika J, Ajay Anamika, Debt, Discipline, and Gender in Contemporary Kerala', *Social Change*. Published online, 20 April, 2026, doi/10.1177/00490857261435013
6. Mallick, Hrushikesh, et al. "Dynamics of Energy Consumption, Economic Growth and Carbon Emission in a Sub-national Economy Context of India: An Evidence from Kerala." *Green and Low-Carbon Economy* (2025). DOI-<https://doi.org/10.47852/bonviewGLCE52024837>
7. Kodoth, P. "Paternalist Governance, Tacit Accommodations: The Dynamics of Informality in Women's Labour Mobility to the Middle East." *Sociological Bulletin*, vol 74, no 4, pp 489-503, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380229251349569>
8. Iyer C.G. (2025). Assessing the PLI Scheme for Mobile Manufacturing in India. *The India Forum*, A Journal-Magazine on Contemporary Issues, 6 July 2025. <https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/assessing-pli-scheme-mobile-manufacturing-india>
https://www.theindiaforum.in/sites/default/files/article_pdf/2025/07/23/1819-1753245851.pdf
9. Neetha, N. Praveena Kodoth and Rajni Palriwala. "Analysing the co-constitution of unpaid care labour and paid work, Introduction to Review of Gender Studies," *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 60, no 26 & 27, 2025, pp June 28 and July 5.
10. Ranganathan T., Praveena Kodoth and Tirtha Chatterjee. 2025. Contingent aspirations and employment dynamics of young mothers in Kerala, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 60, no 26 & 27) 2025.
11. Kodoth, P. Failures of Marital Provisioning and the Framing of Agency by Migrant Domestic Workers from Kerala, *National Law University Journal of Labour*, Vol 1 (1), 2025.
12. Mani, Sunil (2026), 'India's IP Surge: A Questionable Patent Filing Boom Obscures a Persistent Innovation Deficit', *The India Forum*, March 26, <https://www.theindiaforum.in/education/indias-ip-surge-patent-filing-boom-obscuring-persistent-innovation-deficit>
13. Mani, Sunil (2026), 'Why Rising Foreign Demand for Nurses Benefits Keralite Women', *Global Indian Times*, March 15, <https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/nurses-kerala>
14. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Compulsory or voluntary licensing? India's strategic dilemma in access to medicines', *Ideas for India*, December
15. Mani, Sunil (2026), 'Inspiring Achievements of Keralite Women in Science and Technology', *Global Indian Times*, February 21
16. Mani, Sunil (2026), 'Will the Adani Embraer Partnership Enable India to Build Aircraft', *Global Indian Times*, January 28
17. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Why Emperor Akbar's Church in Agra Shows India's Religious Tolerance', *Global Indian Times*, December 02
18. Mani, Sunil (2025), "Why Rising Rubber Imports is Bad for India's Economy", *Global Indian Times*, November 01, https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/rubber-kerala-112025?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=4o2o2t&triedRedirect=true
19. Shah, Mihir and Sunil Mani (2025), 'Water-guzzling data centres could strain fragile ecosystems along coasts', *Business Standard*, October 30, https://www.business-standard.com/opinion/columns/water-guzzling-data-centres-could-strain-fragile-ecosystems-along-coasts-125103001648_1.html
20. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'For a knowledge-driven economy, India must fix how it



measures its progress on R&D', The Mint, October

21. 29, <https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/india-r-d-expenditure-innovation-economy-nstmis-survey-reform-science-technology-g20-funding-private-public-tax-11761565771601.html>

22. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Balancing caution and opportunity: RBI's new stance on FDI in commercial banking', Ideas for India, October 21, <https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/money-finance/balancing-caution-and-opportunity-rbis-new-stance-on-fdi-in-commercial-banking.html>

23. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Can Indian Shrimp Industry Overcome Hit from US Tariffs', Global Indian Times, October 12, <https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/shrimp-us-india-102025>

24. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Why Kerala Needs to Quickly Shift to Exporting Premium Spices', Global Indian Times, August 28, <https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/spices-kerala-82025>

25. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'India should take the wakeup call and emerging opportunities against the odds', Indian Newslink, <https://indiannewslink.co.nz/india-should-take-the-wakeup-call-and-emerging-opportunities-against-the-odds/>

26. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Reengineer India's IPR framework', Business Today, Print edition, August 17, <https://www.businesstoday.in/magazine/columns/story/reengineer-indias-ipr-framework-sunil-mani-489409-2025-08-14>

27. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'Can India catch up to China in AI capabilities?', Global Indian Times, August 10, <https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/artificial-intelligence-india-82025>

28. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'How Indian French Fries and Gherkin pickles came to be Sold in New York Delis', Global Indian Times, July 21, 2025, <https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/french-fries-pickles-72025>

29. Mani, Sunil (2025), 'How Much of China's Exports to the United States Can India Replace', Global Indian Times, April

26, <https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/china-exports-42025>

30. C. Veeramani and Himanshu Jaiswal "Signing free-trade deals is not enough to secure real economic gains", Business Standard, Jan 2026

(e) OCCASIONAL PAPERS

The Centre have published **one** occasional papers in the Journal in the year 2025-26.

C.Veeramani

Deepali Gupta and C. Veeramani (2025). '*Effects of Backward GVC Participation on Labor Market: Micro-Level Evidence from India*'. IGIDR Working Paper WP-2025-005

(f) RESEARCH REPORTS

The faculty staffs of the Institute have published Twelve Study/Research reports

1. Hrushikesh Mallick, M Parameswaran and C Veeramani, Analysis of the Finances of the State of Kerala, 16th Finance Commission.
2. Hrushikesh Mallick, Parameswaran, M and Veeramani, C. Analysis of the Finances of State of Kerala A Report Prepared for the 16th Finance Commission. 16th Finance Commission, 2025, <https://fincomindia.nic.in/asset/doc/commission-reports/16th-FC/studies/evaluation/Kerala.pdf>
3. Mohammed Izudheen, Kerala's Engagements with Foreign Countries
4. Ritika Jain, "Country Systems Analysis of Land Restoration"
5. Suraj Jacob, "Strengthening Local Governance: Policy Process of Reforms in Jharkhand"
6. M Parameswaran, Aged Friendly Local Governance in Kerala, Research Unit on Local Governance, CDS
7. Veeramani C. (2025). 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. CDS Publications.
8. Vinoj Abraham, 'Study on the Performance of Rubber Producer Societies and its impact on growers', NRPPD, CDS, 2025.



https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/Rubber-Report-_vinoj_RB_report.pdf

9. Vinoj Abraham, Social and Technological Responses to Extreme Heat and Air Quality issues in Urban India.
10. Vinoj Abraham, Performance of Rubber Producer Societies in Kerala.
11. Vinoj Abraham, Performance of Farmer Producer Organisations in the Coffee Sector

(g) POLICY BRIEFS

The Centre have published **three** policy briefs in the year 2025-26. The details are given below:

NRPPD Policy Brief, April-June 2025
<https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/PolicyBriefApril-June2025.pdf>

NRPPD Policy Brief, October-December 2025
<https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/Policy-Brief-Oct-Dec-2025.pdf>

NRPPD Policy Brief, January-March 2026
<https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/NRPPDJanMarch2026.pdf>

(h) WORKING PAPERS

The Centre have published **three** working papers in the year 2025-26. The details are given below:

Rahees K A

1. Rahees K A. *From Protection to Competition: Assessing the Impact of De-reservation on India's MSMEs and Exporting Enterprises*, CDS Working Paper No. 520, CDS 2025. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/WP520.pdf>

Chandra Shekar K. and Vidyarani K.

2. Shekar, K. C., and Vidyarani, K. *Impact of Digitalisation on Financial Inclusion and Firm Performance of Informal Sector in India: Pre and Post COVID Analysis*. **CDS Working Paper No. 519**, CDS 2025. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/WP519.pdf>

Papaiah Koppula

3. Papaiah Koppula. *Determinants of Infrastructure Sector Projects in India: A State and Sector Level Analysis*, **CDS Working Paper No. 518**, Centre for Development Studies, 2025. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/WP518-Papaiah.pdf>

(i) OTHER PUBLICATIONS

J. Devika

Translations:

Dechoma and the Women of Mahe (author: Fathi Salim), New Delhi Bloomsbury.

The Red Badge (author: Rajesh K Varma), New Delhi: Harper Collins.

Pedagogic Material for children:

Kadalkkuttu (on climate change/marine warming), Carnet Books, Kottayam,

Oru Kadarikukatha (on environment and forest-fringe ecological issues in Kerala), RAT Books, Kozhikode, 2026

Kunhimakkachi (on ethics and urban ecology), Carnet Books, Kottayam, 2026.

M A Oommen

Finance Panels, and Needs of Local Bodies [Opinion] |18/02/2025 | The Hindu Business Line

(j) GOOGLE SCHOLAR CITATION

Abhiash T

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

Amartya Paul

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=xr7T21kAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

P L Beena

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

Chandra Shekar K.

<https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=c32n16wAAAAJ&hl=en>



Chidambaran G. Iyer

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=47HAmA8AAAAJ>

J. Devika

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

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=vQpypHIAAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

(k) PUBLICATIONS BY STUDENTS

Mohammed Anfas K

• Mohammed Anfas K, and Sandra Maria Augustian (MA Batch 2020-2022) published our paper titled “Navigating a Masculine Domain: Gender, Work, and Inequalities in India’s Food Delivery Platforms,” in the Sociološki pregled (Sociological Review) journal in January 2026 (DOI: 10.5937/socpreg59-53535).

Raunak Maitra (MA Economics 2024-26)

• What does NFHS-6 reveal about the use of period products in India? Published in The Hindu, here is the link of the article [https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/what-does-nfhs-6-reveal-about-the-use-of-period-products-in-](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/what-does-nfhs-6-reveal-about-the-use-of-period-products-in-india/article71079459.ece)

[india/article71079459.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/what-does-nfhs-6-reveal-about-the-use-of-period-products-in-india/article71079459.ece)

Sabeer VC (PhD 2020)

• Published Journal Article titled “International migration and trade: A comparative analysis of China and India” in Journal of Asian Economics (October 2025) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asieco.2025.102028>.

• Published Working Paper titled “India-UK CETA: Estimating Market Access Opportunities for India” with Sunitha Raju and Ninad Shah - IIFT Working Paper (November 2025)

• <https://mp.ra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/129178/>, <https://cc.iift.ac.in/research/Docs/WP/EC-25-80.pdf>

• Published Working Paper titled “Mapping US Tariff Shock at Product Level and Assessing the Transmission Effects of the Supply Chain: A Case of Indian Textile Industry” with Sunitha Raju and Ninad Shah - IIFT Working Paper (December 2025)

• <https://mp.ra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/128699/>, <https://cc.iift.ac.in/research/Docs/WP/EC-25-81.pdf>

Abhinav Surya, L. T

Abhinav Surya, L. T., & Beena, P. L. (2026a). Investment and capital-labour relations in India’s organised manufacturing sector. International Review of Applied Economics. 40(2), 216–240. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02692171.2025.2468652>

Abhinav Surya, L. T., & Beena, P. L. (2026b). Labour Contractualisation and Productivity across Technology and Size Class Categories in India’s Organised Manufacturing Sector. The Indian Journal of Labour Economics. 69(1), 23–52. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-025-00605-w>

One of the Contributor in Kerala Development Report 2026, Kerala State Planning Board, http://spb.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/kerala-development-report_2026.pdf



Abhinav Surya, L. T., "Kerala's Manufacturing Sector: Resilient and Transforming", *Deshabhimani*, November 24, 2025, available at <https://www.deshabhimani.com/deshabhmani-english-/kerala-news/kerala-manufacturing-sector-transformation-resilience-48256>

Abhinav Surya, L. T., "Modi's Austerity Push and India's Economic Crisis", *Frontline*, May 28, 2026, <https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/modi-india-economic-crisis/article71025725.ece>

(II) SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS HELD AT THE CENTRE

As part of its efforts to disseminate research activities, the Centre organized a series of academic events during the year 2025–26. A total of 38 Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures were conducted, which included 3 international events, 29 national-level events, and 6 public lectures. In addition, the Centre held 13 training programmes and workshops aimed at capacity building and skill development.

International Seminars/Conferences

The institute has organized three International Seminars/conferences in the year 2025-2026. The details of the seminars are given below: -

1. Three days Seminar on Monsoon School on Inequality 2025 Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) during 24th to 26th July, 2025.
2. 11th International Conference on Law and Economics during 15th to 16th November, 2025.
3. Two days' International Conference by Dr. Ikuno Naka during 6th and 7th December, 2025.

Seminars/ Webinars

The Institute has conducted 29 Seminars/ Webinars in the year 2025-26.

1. Seminar on "Driving Change: Government Strategies and Technological Innovations in India's Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Sector" delivered by Prof. Sunil Mani, Visiting Professor, CDS Trivandrum and Ahmedabad University on 4th April, 2025.
2. Seminar titled "Social Mobility of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Tamil Nadu: A Jati-wise

Analysis" delivered by Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan on 7th April, 2025.

3. Seminar on "Leaving the acacia tree? Dignity and changing terms of schooling inclusion among mobile pastoralists in Gujarat" delivered by Professor Caroline Dyer, Centre for Global Development, University of Leeds on 9th April, 2025.

4. Seminar on "Beyond Numbers: Transforming Math Learning in Government Schools" delivered by Ms. K. Vijayanti, Director Research and Evaluation, Akshara Foundation, Bangalore on 10th April, 2025.

5. Seminar on "Impact of Digitalization on Firm Performance and Financial Inclusion of the Informal Sector in India: Pre and Post COVID Analysis to be delivered by Dr. K. Chandra Shekar, CDS on 11th April, 2025.

6. Seminar on "Contemporary Critiques of Political Economy" delivered by Prof. Ananta Kumar Giri, PhD, Founding Honorary Executive Trustee, Vishwaneedam Center for Asian Blossoming, Puducherry and Chennai and Prof. (Retd.) MIDS, Chennai during 22nd April, 2025.

7. Seminar titled "Imperatives of regulating the Knowledge and Technology driven Industries in India" by Professor P. L. Beena, CDS on 30th April, 2025.

8. Book Discussion of Shri. R. Mohan's recent book titled "Story of SCHISMS and ISMS: Kerala – From the Twilight of Monarchy to the Present" during 11th July, 2025.

9. Talk titled - "Green industrialization: Global concerns and the potential for India" by Prof. Jayati Ghosh on 15th July, 2025.



10. Seminar titled "Technology transfer impact in a low-income country: Case studies of two medical devices from India " delivered by Dr. Chidambaran G. Iyer on 19th September, 2025.
11. Discussion on the topic: "Revisiting Gandhi in Contemporary Times: Economy, History and Society" by CDS Students Discussion Committee on 19th Oct, 2025.
12. Seminar titled "Making Sense of the Deglobalization Debate: Rhetoric, Reality and Policy Response" delivered by Prof. Prema-Chandra Athukorala, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia on 19th Nov, 2025.
13. Seminar titled "Back to Basics: Understanding Trade, Tariffs, Global Value Chains and India's Way forward" by Prof. C. Veeramani, Director and RBI Chair Professor on 19th Nov, 2025.
14. Open Seminar titled "Optimal Public Investment in Education, Health, and R&D: A Unified Framework for Innovation-Driven Growth" delivered by Dr. Pintu Parui, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay on 21st Nov, 2025.
15. Seminar titled "Indian experience of fostering competition through State intervention: Lessons from card payment system and Unified Payment Interface." By Dr. Chidambaran G Iyer, 5th December 2025.
16. Seminar titled "Innovation policy and the quest for inclusive development in South Africa" delivered by Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula on 10th December, 2025
17. Seminar titled " Agricultural Transitions in the Age of Climate Change: The Role of Natural Capital Management " to be delivered by N. S. Cooray, Professor, Graduate School of International Relations (GSIR), International University of Japan on 12th December, 2025.
18. Seminar titled "China: Catching-up, Surging ahead " delivered by Dr. Mritunjoy Mohanty, Professor (Retd.), Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta on 12th December, 2025.
19. Discussion "Handbook on Sex, Gender and Health" by T. K. Sundari Ravindran on 15th Dec, 2025.
20. Discussion on book "Unpacking Participatory Democracy" edited by Aruna Roy and Suchi Pande on 16th Dec, 2025.
21. Seminar titled "Citizenship, Inequality and Governance in Indian Cities: Findings from 14 Cities" to be delivered by Prof. Patrick Heller on 18th Dec, 2025.
22. Webinar-Discussing with Prof Marcus Taylor from Queensland University, Canada under Wayanad Resilience Series on 16th Jan, 2025.
23. Discussion on Kerala's Governance-on the occasion of the publication of "Beyond Cynicism: Kerala 2.0"-Edited by P. H. Kurian and T. Balakrishnan on 30th Jan, 2026.
24. Seminar titled " Strategic Resource Acquisition and Capability Development: A Performance Comparison between Business Group Affiliated and Unaffiliated Indian Companies" by Mr. Ashish Biswas on 12th Feb, 2026.
25. Seminar titled "Participatory Spaces and Changing Institutional Values of Local Governments: The case of West Bengal" delivered by Dr. Debjani Dasgupta, University of Birmingham, UK on 13th Feb, 2026.
26. Seminar titled "Caste is Gender, Gender Caste: The Autonomy Dividends of Breaching Endogamy in India" to be delivered by Mr. Nandagopan-IIM-Kozhikode on 19th Feb, 2026.
27. Seminar titled "Loan Guarantees and the Internationalisation of Indian Firms" to be delivered by Prof. Sunil Mani, Visiting Professor, CDS on 20th Feb, 2026.
28. Discussion on 16th Finance Commission by Shri. R. Mohan on 2nd March, 2026.
29. Seminar titled "When Attention Matters Most: Investor Focus, Returns, and Volatility during COVID-19" by Ms. Devika DileepKumar on 5th March, 2026.



Public Lectures/ Memorial Lectures

1. 7th Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Event, screening and discussion of the documentary titled “Chaityabhumi”, directed by Shri. Somnath Waghmar on 13th June, 2025.

2. 16th Dr. B. G. Kumar Memorial Lecture titled “A Different Approach to Informality” to be delivered by Barbara Harriss-White, Emeritus Professor and Fellow, Oxford University on 5th Nov, 2025.

3. Dr. K. N. Raj Memorial Lecture titled “The Sri Lankan Economy: From Great Expectations to Debt Trap and Beyond” by Prof. Premachandra Athukorala, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Australian National University on 27th Nov, 2025.

4. 14th Foundation Day Lecture titled “Perspectives on India's Growth: Last Four Decades to the Present” delivered by Dr. Poonam Gupta, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India on a hybrid mode at 11:30 am on 20th Feb, 2025.

5. 15th Dr. P. K. Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture titled “Building Strategic Leverage in the Emerging New World Order: Challenges and Opportunities for India”, by Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India on 16th Mar, 2026.

6. 2nd Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture on “Multinational Enterprises, GVCs and India's Export Competitiveness: Theory, Evidence and Policy”, delivered by Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director, ISID, New Delhi on 30th March, 2026.

Workshops/ Training Programmes

During the academic year 2025–26, the Institute conducted a series of workshops and training programmes aimed at academic enrichment, capacity building, and policy-oriented research engagement. Below is a summary of the key programmes organized:

1. Training Programme on BIG Data Analysis Through Theory and Application by Prof. Subrata Sarkar 28th April to May 2nd, 2025.

2. National Workshop by CDS and KEA 26th to 30th May, 2025.

3. Data User's Conference of Time Use Survey (TUS) – 2024 on 22nd Sept, 2025.

4. Seven-day Residential Research Capacity-Building Workshop on Plantation and Development during 27th Oct to 2nd Nov, 2025.

5. National Conference on Production, Employment and Marketing of Plantation Crops in India during 3rd and 4th Nov, 2025.

6. Workshop on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues during 24th to 28th Nov, 2025.

7. RBI Workshop on Open Economy, Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies during 19th to 24th Jan, 2026.

8. Crossroads 2026-PhD Colloquium during 5th to 7th Feb, 2026.

9. Workshop on Advanced Econometric Techniques for Treatment Effective by Dr. Subhasish Dey, University of Warwick during 8th to 13th Feb, 2026.

10. Conference on Kerala and the World Economy Conference-2026 during 23rd to 24th Feb, 2026.

11. Conference on Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy during 19th to 20th Mar, 2026.

12. Eight-Day Workshop on Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India: Design, Implementation, and Impacts during 22nd to 27th Mar, 2026.

13. Workshop on Ethnographic Methods by Prof Jonathan Anjaria on 30th Mar, 2026.



Major Events

The 11th International Conference on Law and Economics (ICLE-2025)

15-16, November, 2025.

The Centre successfully hosted the 11th International Conference on Law and Economics, bringing together distinguished academics, policymakers, legal experts, economists, and researchers to deliberate on contemporary issues at the interface of law, economics, public policy, and governance. The conference served as an important platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on emerging national and global challenges, with a particular focus on trade, intellectual property rights, digital regulation, institutional reforms, and the blue economy.

The inaugural session featured Prof. Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics, as the Guest of Honour. In his address, he highlighted the growing significance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing complex economic and legal challenges and emphasized the role of evidence-based policymaking in fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

A major highlight of the conference was the panel discussion on “Global Trade and the Knowledge Economy: Rethinking IPR and Regulation in the Digital Era.” The session was chaired by Prof. Rakesh Basant, Former Professor, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. The panel brought together leading experts, including Prof. Pritam Banerjee, Centre for WTO Studies; Prof. Murali Kallummall, Centre for WTO Studies and Head of Administration (CRIT); Prof. James Nedumpara, Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL); Ms. Pallavi Arora, Legal Consultant, Centre for WTO Studies; and Prof. Beena P. L., Centre for Development Studies. The discussion examined evolving global trade dynamics, intellectual property rights, digital governance, and regulatory frameworks in the context of the rapidly expanding knowledge economy.

The conference also featured keynote lectures by eminent experts from academia, public policy, and government. Dr. Renuka Sane, Managing Director, Trust Bridge, delivered a keynote address on institutional trust and governance. Shri Atul Kaushik, Additional Secretary (Retd.), Government of India, shared valuable insights on public administration and regulatory policy. Dr. M. V. Ramana Murthy, Mission Director, Deep Ocean Mission, presented an engaging lecture on “Evolving Framework of Blue Economy in India,” highlighting emerging opportunities and policy challenges associated with the sustainable utilization of marine resources.

The valedictory session featured an address by Prof. Rajat Kathuria, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence. Reflecting on the conference deliberations, he emphasized the importance of integrating legal and economic perspectives in addressing emerging policy challenges and strengthening institutions capable of responding to technological, environmental, and geopolitical transformations.

The conference facilitated rich academic exchanges through keynote lectures, panel discussions, and interactions among participants from universities, research institutions, government agencies, and policy organizations. The deliberations reaffirmed the importance of interdisciplinary research in informing public policy and contributed to advancing scholarly discourse on contemporary issues in law and economics.

The Second CDS PhD Colloquium, “Crossroads,”

5th - 7th February, 2026

The Centre organised the second edition of its PhD colloquium, Crossroads, from 5th Feb 2026 to 7th Feb 2026. Crossroads 2025 brought together doctoral scholars from across India working in diverse domains of development studies within the broader ambit of social sciences. The colloquium aimed to provide a platform for young researchers to



present their ongoing work, receive structured academic feedback, and engage in peer discussions.

After a rigorous review process, 24 full papers and 8 posters were selected for presentation. Crossroads emphasised interaction, encouraging active dialogue among panellists, discussants, CDS PhD scholars, and faculty after each presentation. Every full paper presenter also received written comments from CDS faculty members.

The colloquium featured three special sessions: “Perspectives on Research, by Prof. Suraj Jacob, (CDS)”, “From Manuscript to Publication: An Editorial Perspective by Nachiketh Kulkarni, Senior Assistant Editor, EPW, Shweta Shetty, Assistant Editor, EPW” and “AI and Research by Prof. S Chandrashekhar, IGIDR”.

Development Researcher's Day 2026

10th February 2026

The Centre organised a Symposium on Development Researcher's Day on 10 February 2026 to commemorate the death anniversary of Prof. K. N. Raj (1924–2010), the eminent economist, development scholar, policymaker, and institution builder. The symposium assumed special significance as the Government of Kerala had declared 10 February as Development Researcher's Day in late 2024, recognising Prof. K. N. Raj's enduring contributions to development economics and public policy.

The symposium served as a platform to reflect on the relationship between development research and public action, a theme that was central to Prof. Raj's intellectual legacy. Bringing together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, faculty members, students, and development professionals, the programme encouraged critical discussions on how evidence-based research can effectively inform policy and practice in addressing contemporary development challenges.

A highlight of the programme was a series of lectures by nine eminent invited speakers, each of whom has made significant contributions at the intersection of research and practice. Collectively, they represented a wide range of

development sectors, including education, ecology, biodiversity conservation, water and sanitation, health, gender, governance, climate change, rural development, infrastructure, and social justice.

Hemraj Bhati, a development practitioner and community mobiliser from Udaipur, shared his extensive experience in education and the management of ecological commons—including forests, pastures, and water resources—in the Adivasi regions of southern Rajasthan. Madhuri Ramesh, a scholar and practitioner based in Bengaluru, reflected on biodiversity conservation, political ecology, and the evolving relationship between nature and society. N. C. Narayanan, a scholar and policy practitioner with experience in Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram, discussed lessons from his work in water and sanitation policy, energy, local governance, and climate studies.

The symposium also featured Sajitha Bashir, an international policy advisor whose extensive experience spans development initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Sanjeev Chopra, retired civil servant, author, and patron of a literary festival in Dehradun, shared insights from public administration and governance. Santhosh Mathew, a retired civil servant with wide-ranging experience in rural development, decentralised governance, and teacher training, highlighted the importance of evidence-based policymaking in strengthening public institutions.

Further enriching the discussions were Sekhar Bonu, a policy analyst and retired civil servant with expertise in health and infrastructure policy at the state, national, and international levels; Sridhar Radhakrishnan, noted environmentalist and social justice activist from Kerala, who reflected on environmental governance and people's movements; and Sundari Ravindran, a distinguished scholar and policy practitioner from Thiruvananthapuram, who drew upon her extensive work in public health, gender, and equity at the local, national, and international levels.



The Kerala and the World Economy Conference 2026

23–24 February 2026

The Centre organised The Kerala and the World Economy Conference 2026 on 23–24 February 2026 under the theme “Kerala in Transition: Building an Inclusive Economy in a Shifting Global Order.” The conference brought together eminent scholars, policymakers, researchers, and students from diverse disciplines to deliberate on Kerala’s development trajectory within the changing global economic landscape. It served as a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on the opportunities and challenges confronting the state amid rapid economic, technological, and social transformations.

The two-day programme comprised keynote lectures, thematic technical sessions, oral and poster presentations, a documentary screening, and a book discussion and release session. A total of 20 research papers were presented, including 17 oral presentations and three poster presentations, covering a broad range of issues related to Kerala’s economy, society, and its evolving engagement with global processes.

The inaugural keynote lecture by Prof. K. P. Kannan introduced the concept of “New Malayali Capital,” highlighting how migration, remittances, entrepreneurship, and diaspora networks have created new forms of economic and social capital in Kerala.

The second keynote address by Prof. Chinmay Tumbbe, titled “The Rise of the West in India,” explored the historical and geographical determinants of regional development. Beginning with rainfall as a key developmental indicator, the lecture demonstrated how geography, migration, trade networks, and urbanisation have influenced India’s regional economic trajectories. His observation that “*water is the destiny of India*” underscored the enduring significance of natural resources in shaping long-term patterns of development.

The third keynote lecture by Prof. Sunil Mani focused on the emergence of knowledge-based industries in Kerala.

The concluding keynote by Prof. M. Vijayabaskar examined the challenges and opportunities associated with subnational industrial development, drawing important lessons from Tamil Nadu’s industrialisation experience.

The thematic technical sessions covered a wide spectrum of contemporary development issues, including labour markets, gender, migration, environmental sustainability, industrial development, fiscal governance, social inclusion, and public policy. The presentations reflected diverse methodological approaches and generated rich discussions on Kerala’s evolving development challenges in a rapidly changing global environment. Several presentations examined labour market dynamics and migration, highlighting how labour mobility influences employment patterns, household aspirations, livelihood strategies, and demographic change. These discussions were particularly relevant for sectors such as agriculture, where labour shortages and changing workforce characteristics continue to shape production decisions and rural transformation.

Beyond the formal academic sessions, the conference featured a documentary screening on Kerala’s inland waterways, which provided valuable insights into the interconnectedness of geography, ecology, transport, and livelihoods. A book discussion and release session further enriched the programme by stimulating critical conversations on labour mobility, migration, and social change, complementing many of the themes explored during the conference.

The conference also underscored the growing importance of integrating high-quality secondary datasets generated by national statistical agencies and research institutions into development research. Participants highlighted the value of large-scale datasets produced by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and other



public institutions for analysing long-term economic and social trends, facilitating evidence-based policymaking, and strengthening empirical research on Kerala and comparable regions.

The International Conference on Socio-Economic Impacts of GST:

28–29 March 2026

The Centre organised a two-day International Conference on "Socio-Economic Impacts of GST in India" on 28–29 March 2026 at Hotel Gokulam Grand, Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram. The conference marked the culmination of the eight-day workshop on 'Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India: Design, Implementation, and Impacts' conducted by CDS from 22 to 29 March 2026.

The discussions focused on the realised and anticipated socio-economic impacts of GST, covering themes such as tax design and implementation, consumption patterns, compliance and revenue mobilisation, state finances, fiscal federalism, tax administration, and the future direction of GST reforms. Particular attention was devoted to the next generation of GST reforms, including rate rationalisation, simplification of the tax structure, broadening of the tax base, institutional reforms, and strengthening Centre-State fiscal coordination.

A major highlight of the conference was the Special Address by **Dr. Vito Tanzi**, Honorary Professor of the International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF) and former Director of the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Drawing upon his extensive international experience in public finance and taxation, Dr. Tanzi discussed the evolution of GST in India, global experiences in value-added taxation, and the challenges and opportunities associated with modern tax reforms. His address provided valuable international perspectives on designing efficient, equitable, and growth-oriented tax systems.

Over the two days, research papers were presented by leading scholars, faculty members, doctoral researchers, and officials working in taxation and public finance. The

presentations examined a broad range of issues including GST's impact on economic growth, consumer welfare, business competitiveness, revenue performance, informal sector adjustment, intergovernmental fiscal relations, and digital tax administration. Interactive panel discussions and technical sessions enabled participants to engage in constructive dialogue on emerging policy challenges and future research directions.

Conference on "Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy"

19th to 20th March 2026

The Centre organised a two-day Conference on Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy on 19 and 20 March 2026 at Hotel Gokulam Grand, Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram. The conference served as a platform for discussing contemporary challenges and opportunities arising from structural transformation, technological change, global economic uncertainties, climate change, demographic shifts, and evolving policy priorities. Through thematic sessions and research presentations, participants examined the implications of these developments for India's growth trajectory and policy framework.

The conference featured eight technical sessions covering a broad spectrum of issues relevant to the Indian economy. The sessions were organised around the following themes: Growth, Investment and Structural Transformation; Work, Skills, Gender, and Labour Market Dynamics ; Trade, External Sector, and India's Global Positioning ; Energy, Climate, and Spatial Transitions ; Technology, Innovation Systems and Investment ; Public Finance, Federal Dynamics, and Economic Governance

Research papers presented during these sessions addressed a wide range of contemporary issues, including investment and industrial development, employment generation, labour market transformation, gender disparities, skill development, trade competitiveness, global value chains, energy transition, climate resilience, technological innovation, fiscal federalism, public finance, and institutional reforms. The presentations



stimulated vibrant discussions among participants, fostering critical engagement with emerging evidence and policy perspectives.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for interaction between established scholars and early-career researchers, facilitating the exchange of ideas and promoting collaborative research. The active participation of researchers from universities, policy institutions, and research organisations enriched the academic discussions and strengthened networks within the economics research community.

National Conference on “Production, Employment and Marketing of Plantation Crops in India”

3–4 November 2025 | Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, Assam

The National Conference on Production, Employment and Marketing of Plantation Crops in India was jointly organised by the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati, NRPPD, CDS, Kerala, and the Department of Geography, Sikkim University during 3–4 November 2025 at OKDISCD, Guwahati.

The conference aimed to bring plantation studies to the forefront of academic and policy discourse by fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on key issues related to plantation crops such as tea, coffee, rubber, spices, and cashew. Special emphasis was placed on production systems, labour and employment relations, market dynamics, trade, sustainability, and the challenges faced by smallholders, particularly in the North-Eastern region of India. Inaugural Session

The conference commenced with an inaugural session on 2nd November 2025, welcoming participants from across India. The session opened with a welcome address by Prof. Saswati Chowdhury (Director, OKDISCD), followed by the concept note presented by Prof. Vinoj Abraham (Ministry of Commerce Chair, Professor and National Coordinator, NRPPD, CDS), who outlined the relevance of plantation crops in India’s agrarian economy and the need for renewed research attention in the context of

climate change, labour transitions, and global market integration. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Deepak Kumar Mishra (Professor, JNU), who highlighted the structural challenges confronting plantation economies and underlined the importance of evidence-based policy interventions. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by the programme coordinators.

The conference featured special lectures, panel discussions, and five technical sessions, providing a rich platform for scholarly exchange. A special lecture by Prof. B. S. Butola (Retd. Professor, JNU) examined the nature of postcolonial states and the organisation of plantation economies under neoliberalism, offering a critical political economy perspective. This was followed by a panel discussion on “Green Leaf Pricing in the Smallholder Tea Sector in India and North-East States” was moderated by Dr. Abdul Hannan (Associate Professor, Sikkim University) included the President, Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers Associations, and representatives from the All Assam Small Tea Growers Association, Tripura Small Tea Growers Association, and Arunachal/Bodoland Small Tea Growers Associations. Several papers focused on labour relations, migration, gender, and trade unionism in plantation regions, particularly in Assam, North Bengal, Dooars, Tripura, and Darjeeling. Presentations highlighted the precarious living conditions of plantation workers, changing employment structures, and the socio-economic vulnerabilities faced by women labourers. The role of cooperatives, Fair Trade initiatives, and governance mechanisms was critically examined.

The valedictory session featured a concluding lecture by Prof. Vinoj Abraham, who synthesised the key insights from the conference and emphasised the urgency of integrating plantation studies into mainstream development research. The conference concluded with the release of a Press Note, highlighting the need for inclusive policies, strengthened institutions for smallholders and workers, region-specific strategies for the North-East, and enhanced collaboration between academia, industry, and policymakers.



(III) NETWORKING

(a) PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY IN CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS ELSEWHERE

INTERNATIONAL

Amartya Paul

- Presented a paper at 'World Inequality Conference' organised by Paris School of Economics, Paris, 4-6 June, 2026.

Chandra Shekar K.

- Presented a paper on formal and informal modes of innovation in South African enterprises, Globelics International Conference, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Presented a paper on informality and financial inclusion, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB) Conference on Inclusive Finance and Empowerment of the Marginalized, 21-22 May 2026

Suraj Jacob

- CDS-Leeds lecture on policy processes, University of Leeds, June 26, 2025

DOMESTIC

Abhilash T

- Presented a paper, "Intergenerational Mobility and the Collective Articulation of Rights Among Settled Agriculturalist Tribal Communities in Kerala", at the Two-Day National Conference "Many Voices: Contemporary Tribal Research and Cultural Expressions in Kerala", jointly organised by the School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and KIRTADS, Kozhikode, 4-5 November 2025.
- Delivered an invited lecture on "Ethnicity in a Globalised World: Perspective from Global South" at the Department of West Asia and Islamic Studies, University of Kerala, 26 November 2025.

Amartya Paul

- Presented a paper at the 2026 UNU-WIDER Development Conference: "Green industrialization and inclusive growth in a fractured world order" organised by UNU-WIDER in New Delhi, 18-20 March, 2026.
- Presented a paper at the "7th Annual Economics Conference" organised by Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University, January 9-10, 2026.
- Presented a paper at XXXth Annual Conference on Contemporary Issues in Development Economics, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 6-8 January, 2026.
- Presented a paper at the 5th International Conference on Issues in Economic Theory and Policy, Presidency University, Kolkata, 23-24 December, 2025.

Beena P L

- Panellist in the book discussion titled "Kerala Transforming: Labour and Trade Mobility in Times of Pandemic" in the conference held at GIFT in collaboration with KEA, March 2026
- Beena PL (2025) Innovation and Antitrust in the New IPR Regime: The Impact of M&As in India's Technology Sectors in the Knowledge Forum Conference held during 4-7, December 2025, IIT, Indore
- Beena PL and Raj Kumar (2025) Dominance of Digital Platforms: Need for an Ex-ante Antitrust Framework, in the International Conference on Law and Economics during 14-15 November 2025 held at CDS.

Chandra Shekar K.

- Presented a paper on digitalisation and its impact on informal sector enterprises (PSM-DID approach), seminar organised by Delhi School of Economics and Ministry of MSME (YSS).
- Presented a paper on green adoption strategies of Indian MSMEs, ISID Conference on Industrial Transformation, 2025.



Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer

- Iyer, C.G. "Technology transfer impact in a low-income country: Case studies of two medical devices from India." School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi, 9 September 2025.
- Iyer, C.G. "Technology transfer in the Indian Medical Device Sector." Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, Delhi, 26 September 2025.

J. Devika

- Public History, Not Selling History: Reflections on Moving Between Academic and Public Registers of History Writing', Paper presented at the seminar 'The Public and the Professional: Navigating History and Archaeology in the Twenty-first Century', 11-12 April 2025, Department of History and Archaeology, SNIoE and the Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies, Delhi (MWF Delhi)
- 'First-Generation Malayali Feminists and the Possibilities of a Counter-Archive: Some Reflections', Gauri Sankunni Memorial Lecture, Kerala History Congress, 26 November 2025, Govt. College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 'Lived Cosmopolitanism: The Life of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma', 'Internationalism, Cosmopolitanism, and Kerala in the Literary Imagination', Session at the Kerala History Congress, 27-29 November 2025, Govt. College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 'Protecting the Child from its Parents? Family, Child, and State in Contemporary Kerala', Paper presented at the workshop 'Unfamiliar: Family, Law and Democracy in India', 3-5 December 2025, India International Centre (IIC), Delhi organized by Merian Tagore International Centre for Advanced Studies, Max Weber Stiftung, and DEMFAM, Freie Universität Berlin.
- "An Illegal Baby": The Anupama Chandran Case, the Left Political Community, and Brahminical Patriarchy in Kerala', Paper presented at the seminar 'Discursive (Dis)continuities of Modernity: Law and Society in India', in honour of Prof Anindita

Mukhopadhyay, Hyderabad Central University, 2-3 March, 2026.

- 'Political Masculinity and Political Domesticity in Early Twentieth Century Malayali Society', Paper presented at Interrogating the Past: Two-day International Conference Commemorating Prof K N Panikkar, 25-26 March, 2026, Hotel Chaithram, Thiruvananthapuram, organized by Kerala Council for Historical Research

M Parameswaran

- Workshop on "Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies" held during January 19 – 24, 2026.
- Six-day workshop on "Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India: Design, Implementation and Impact" held during March 22 – 27, 2026.
- Two-day conference on "Socio-economic impacts of GST in India" held during March 28–29, 2026.
- One lecture gave in the workshop on "Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies", January 19 – 24, 2026.
- One lecture gave in the workshop on "Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India: Design, Implementation and Impact", March 22 – 27, 2026.

Praveena Kodoth

- Presentation on 'Mapping care workers mobility from India', Virtual ILO Roundtable with trade unions, Towards Promoting Decent Work for Migrant Care Workers from India, October 9, 2025
- Presentation on findings of the National study on Employment Conditions, Decent Work deficits and Social Protection of migrant care workers from Kerala, ILO National dissemination and multi-stakeholder dialogue in New Delhi on March 10, 2026 at the ILO office, New Delhi
- Presentation on State level Trends and Patterns for Skill Development and Placement



of Migrant Care Workers from India at the National roundtable on promotion of skilled migration and fair recruitment of care workers from India, on March 11, 2026 at the ILO office, New Delhi

Ritika Jain

- Conducted a two day workshop on using secondary data in India as the sole resource person (March, 2026) in Kannur University
- Organized Kerala and the World Economy Conference, March, 2025
- Organized PhD Colloquium, Feb, 2025
- Took several sessions in various workshops and training programmes in CDS

Suraj Jacob

- March 12, 2026: Special lecture for One-Day Capacity Building Workshop on Research Methods in Social Sciences organised by the Kerala Economic Association
- February 20-21, 2026: Participated in a panel discussion ("On knowledge(s) and Discipline(s): Reflections on Development from the Global South") at the conference on Teaching and Practice of Development in the Global South, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru
- January 12, 2026: Talk at Faculty Development Programme, University of Kerala; title "Qualitative Data Analysis"
- November 24, 2025: Talk at Faculty Development Programme, University of Kerala; title "Interpretive Approaches to Research and Challenges of Intersectionality and Positionality"
- November 8, 2025: Talk on research methodology at workshop on Research Methodology in Economics at the K N Raj School of Economics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
- October 24, 2025: Talk at Mar Ivanios College, Trivandrum; title "Poverty, Inequality & Economic Wellbeing"

- October 6, 2025: Keynote address at MIDS doctoral colloquium, Chennai; title "Research as a Voyage of Discovery"

- September 22, 2025: Talk on synthesising insights at the Data User's Conference on Time Use Survey (Trivandrum), organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

- July 7-8, 2025: Participated in Roundtable at the conference on The Network State: Redefining State & Education in an Era of Public-Private Partnerships, organised by the University of Melbourne in New Delhi

C. Veeramani

- 03.04.2025: 166th Academic Council of JNU (attended online)
- 08.04.2025: 2nd Review Meeting - Special Call for Collaborative Research Projects on Vision Viksit Bharat @2047, ICSSR, (online)
- 08.04.2025: Invitation as an external expert for Ms. Gopika, Ph.D scholar, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation - proposal presentation on the topic 'A sub national analysis of size, composition and efficiency of public expenditure in India'
- 22.04.2025: Panel Discussion on Trump Tariff Walls, Retaliatory Tariffs & The Downgrading of WTO at the Islamic University of Science & Technology, Kashmir (Online)
- 30.04.2025: A Roundtable Discussion - The USA Tariff War and its Implications for India organised by Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) TVM at Press Club
- 13.05.2025: EXIM Bank ELI Committee meeting
- 17.05.2025: Professional Connect Kerala-2025 organised by Govt. of Kerala, interactive platform to engage with professionals across diverse sectors who are connected to Kerala through origin, work, or interest. This initiative aims to gather valuable ideas, perspectives, and expertise to help shape the state's developmental roadmap and address challenges in building a globally competitive and sustainable future, at Sankaranarayanan Thampy Hall, Kerala Legislative Assembly Hall.
- 19.05.2025: Attended meeting of the Board of Studies (BoS), GSMD, IIFT to revise the



course curriculum of MBA International Business

- 27.05.2025: Participated at the the Data User's Conference on ASUSE and CAPEX as a panelists organized at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad by the National Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India
- 29.05.2025: GVC Project Online Meeting
- 30.05.2025: Kerala Economic Association meeting
- 01-05.06.2025: ICSSR Evaluation study meeting
- 11.06.2025 : Meeting with Prof. Rupa Chandra, Director, UNESCAP, Bangkok
- 13.06.2025: Participated and presented a paper at the Feng Chia Conference 2025 organized by Feng Chia University, Taichung, Taiwan, Title: Do Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?
- 19.06.2025: Participated and presented a paper at the RBI workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics at MIDS, Chennai
- 05.07.2025: Participated at the KILA Academic Council Meeting at Thrissur.
- 21.07.2025: Research Institute Committee meeting, ICSSR, Delhi
- 22.07.2025: Apple project/GVC – project meeting at New Delhi
- 30.07.2025: JNU CDS CD Meeting at CDS
- 04.08.2025: EGROW Webinar Series - Trump, Tariffs and Indo US Trade – Online
- 13.08.2025: Invitation to Speak at the First Meeting of CII Task Force on Global Value Chains (GVCs) 2025–26 at New Delhi
- 22.08.2025: Participated at the Round Table discussion on US Penal Tariff with a special focus on Kerala organised by Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation
- 23.08.2025: Seminar on Trump, Tariffs and the World Trade Order: India's immediate and Longer Term Policy Options organised by GIFT and KEA
- 26.08.2025: Lecture series on Fastest Growing Economy: Decoding Myth and Reality - First Lecture by Prof. Veeramani on Trump Tariffs and Indias Strategy: Turning Barriers into Opportunities orgnised by Analytical Economic Association of Mar Ivanios College
- 28.08.2025: Data User Conference on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) on 28th

August, 2025, at Kaushal Bhawan, New Moti Bagh, New Delhi.- organized by NSO, MoSPI

- 08.09.2025: Participated at a meeting organsied by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of Kerala, Sri K. N. Balagopal, to discuss the impact of the recent tariff hikes imposed by the United States and the proposed GST slab rationalisation on Kerala's economy.
- 12.09.2025: Participated at the first Kerala Urban Conclave 2025, focusing on 'Kerala Urban Policy 2025–50: Aspiring Cities, Thriving Communities', and delivered a lecture at the Speaker in the Policy Session "Local Economic Development Framework" organized by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Govt. of Kerala.
- 27.09.2025: Participated at the NORKA Professional and Business Leadership Meet at the Loka Kerala Sabha held at Grant Hyatt, Kochi
- 13.10.2025: keynote speaker at the State Level Seminar 'Kerala @ 2031, Fiscal Achievements and the Strategic Vision' at Kochi organized by Ministry of Finance, Govt. of Kerala.
- 27.10.2025: Participated and presented a paper on "International Trade and Plantations" at the Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development organized by CDS, OKDISCD and Simmim University at Guwahati.
- 29.10.2025: Participated and presented a paper on "Global Value chains and Manufacturing secture" at the third ISID Conference on India's Industrial Transformation, at ISID New Delhi
- 31.10.2025: Stakeholder Engagement Meeting organsied by the Principal Accountant General, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 04.11.2025: Participated and delivered a lecture at the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of Maharaja's College, Ernakulam & Centenary Celebration of Department of Economics.
- 05.11.2025: Chaired the 16th B G Kumar Memorial Lecture by Prof Barbara Harriss-White at CDS
- 06.11.2025: Participated at the inaugural session of the International Conference on Agrarian Change 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram organized by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies



- 08.11.2025: Chaired a session at the International Conference on Agrarian change organized by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies
- 10.11.2025: Participated at the Pre-Budget discussion session organized by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Govt. of India
- 11.11.2025: Participated at the State Audit Advisory Board (SAAB) organized by the Principal Accountant General, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 28.11.2025: At Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Tirur.
- 05.12.2025: Participated and delivered a lecture at the Economics Conclave 2025 on the theme "India in the New Economic Order: Adapting to Macroeconomic Uncertainties and Global Trade Shocks" at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi
- 15.12.2025: Participated at the 2nd CAG ICSSR Colloquium on "Public Finance of States"
- 27.12.2025: Attended a conference organized by the Indian Economic Association at Bangalore.
- 10.01.2026: Invited as a Resource Person for the Higher Secondary School Teacher Transformation Programme (HSSTTP) 2026 and lead the Session titled "Stepping stone to Economic research and preparation of research proposal" organized by the Centre for Budget Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology
- 11.01.2026: Participated and presented a paper on the "Global Value Chains and Trade" at the 2nd Production Networks Research Conference organized by the IIM Kozhikode.
- 17.01.2026: Participated as a Discussant in the Session 'Globalisation and India in the Changing Global Order' at the international seminar on 'Rethinking Development: Discourses and Inclusive Pathways' in honour of Prof. Deepak Nayyar organized by the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi.
- 19-24.01.2026: Organised Workshop on Open Economy, Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies as part of the RBI endowment Unit of CDS
- 28.01.2026 : Participated at the Gokhale institute's 6 months PhD progress on Trade and development
- 30.01.2026: Participated as a discussant at the themes: "E-Commerce Moratorium" and "New Landscape of Trade, Investment and Services" at the RIS Brainstorming Sessions of the 14th ministerial conference of the WTO organised by RIS New Delhi.
- 30.01.2026: Chaired Discussion on Kerala's governance on the occasion of the publication of "Beyond Cynicism: Kerala 2.0"
- 02.02.2026: Participated at the 2nd Indo-Swiss Research and Methods Festival, organized by ICSSR in collaboration with Swissnex and the University of Basel
- 03.02.2026: Delivered the Plenary Address at the Inaugural Ceremony of our International Conference on "Interdisciplinary Pathways in Business and Beyond," at the Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship (XIME) Kochi.
- 10.02.2026: Organised and participated at the Development Researchers' Day
- 12.02.2026: EXIM Bank meeting (online)
- 16.02.2026: Participated at the Vision 2031: an International Conference on Development and Democracy organised by the State Planning Board, Government of Kerala
- 20.02.2026: Chaired CDS Foundation Day Lecture by Dr. Poonam Gupta, Deputy Governor, RBI
- 20.02.2026: Chaired a seminar at CDS by Prof. Sunil Mani : Loan Guarantees and the Internationalisation of Indian Firms
- 28.02.2026: Invited to participate at the Vikasita Kazhakkuttam seminar series - at Visvesaraya Bhavan, Insti. of Engineers - Inauguration by Honble Minister of State , S & T. Govt of India, Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- 02.03.2026: Chaired the Discussion on 16th Finance Commission by R Mohan, IRS Rtd, Prof. Pinaki Chakraborty, Shri. V S Senthil, IAS and Prof. Parameswaran, CDS.
- 09.03.2026: Invited to deliver the Late Prof. G. V. Kamat Helekar Memorial Lecture 2026 organised by the Goa Business School
- 11.03.2026: Invited to participate at the ADBI-ICSSR Strategic Partnership Workshop on Viksit Bharat Vision @2047 and Asia's Future Prosperity: Shared Vision, Shared Pathways, at Tokyo, Japan.
- 16.03.2026: Chaired Dr. P. K. Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture by Dr.



Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor of India at CDS

- 19-20.03.2026: Organised and participated at the Conference on Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy by CDS at Hotel Gokulam Grand
- 22-27.03.2026: Organised and participated at the six day workshop on Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India: Design, Implementation, and Impacts at CDS
- 28-29.03.2026: Organised and Participated at the International Conference on Socio-Economic Impacts of GST in India by CDS at Hotel Gokulam Grand
- 30.03.2026: Chaired second Prof.P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture by Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director, ISID at CDS

(b) PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS IN CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS

Pawan Kumar

- Presented a paper titled "Understanding Climate-Induced Migration in the Indian Western Himalayas: Micro-Level Evidence from Himachal Pradesh " in the "National Seminar on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals: Is the World Ready to Achieve Agenda 2030?" organized by the Department of Economics, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), from 22nd to 23rd December 2025.
- Presented a paper titled "Climatic Change Impacts and Adaptation by Apple Farmers in Himachal Pradesh" in the "85th Annual conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE) " held at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Haryana), from 26th to 28th November 2025.
- Participated in a one-Day virtual Hands-on Training Program on "Applications of GIS-Based Research in Agriculture, Climate Change and Biodiversity Assessment" organized by Vindhya Innovation Research Foundation (VIRF), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, on 26th April 2026.

Gouri G Hari (PhD 2025 batch)

- Presented the research paper titled, 'Caste, Ageing, and Women's Unpaid Labor: Insights from the 2024 Time Use Survey in Kerala at The Fourth Annual Conference on Ageing: Reimagining Gender, Ageing and Care: Perspectives from the Global South, held on 4 and 5 December, 2025 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Mohammed Anfas K

- Mohammed Anfas K presented another paper titled "Algorithmic Control and Informal Labour Market in India's Gig Economy: The Case of Food and Parcel Delivery Work" at the British Sociological Association (BSA) Annual Conference 2026 held at the University of Manchester, UK, from 8th to 10th April 2026.

Anjana Kesav C

- Anjana Kesav C (PhD 2024) and Sachin Varghese Titty (PhD 2021), presented a paper titled "Beyond the Poverty Line: Examining the Structural Roots of Vulnerability in Agricultural Households" at the International Conference on Agrarian Change organised by Foundation for Agrarian Studies (November 06-09, 2025) on November 08, 2025; Panel: Through the Lens of Political Economy; Chair: Prof John Harris

Ashraful Khalq

- Presented the paper titled "Characteristics of Elected Members and Fiscal Performance: Evidence from Urban Local Bodies in Kerala, India" was accepted for presentation at the International Conference on "Rethinking Public Finance for Emerging Development Challenges", jointly organised by the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) and the Madras School of Economics (MSE), held from 19-21 March 2025.
- Presented the paper "Fiscal Decentralization in Practice: Assessing the Financial Health of Kerala's Local Bodies" at the Kerala and the World Economy Conference, organised by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), held on 10-11 March 2025.



- Presented the paper “GST’s Effect on Subnational Government Borrowing: Tax Reform and Fiscal Autonomy in India” at the MIDS Doctoral Colloquium, held in October 2025.
- Presented the paper “Mediating the Effect of Tax Reform: Revenue Autonomy, GST, and Subnational Debt in India” at the NIPFP Training Programme on Public Finance, held in November 2025.
- Presented the paper “GST and the Borrowing Paradox: Efficiency Gains vs. Autonomy Loss in Indian States” at the 21st Macroeconomics and Finance Conference, organised by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), held in December 2025.
- Presented the paper “GST and State Borrowing Dynamics: Insights from Panel, Quantile and Mediation Models” at the 7th Annual Conference in Economics and Finance (ACEF), organised by BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus, held in January 2026.
- Presented the paper “Reservation, Local Democracy, and Welfare Outcomes: Evidence from Kerala’s Panchayats” at the Kerala and the World Economy Conference, organised by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), held in February 2026.
- Presented the paper “Tax Smoothing under Constrained Tax Autonomy: Evidence from India’s GST” at the Eight-Day Workshop on Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India, jointly organised by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), held in March 2026.
- Presented the paper “Heterogeneous, Conditional, and Regime-Dependent Fiscal Sustainability: Evidence from Indian States” at the 4th Annual Conference on Public Finance and Policy, jointly organised by the Madras School of Economics (MSE) and the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), held in March 2026.
- Presented the paper “Debt, Demography, and Fiscal Behavior: Evidence from Indian States Using Nonlinear Models” at the CDE-IEDS International Conference on Economic Development, Demographic Transition, and Environmental Sustainability, held on 3-5 June 2026.

- Presented the paper “Tax Smoothing under Constrained Tax Autonomy: Evidence from India’s GST” at the 2nd International Conference on Finance for Development, organised by the National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune, held on 19-20 June 2026.

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

Abhilash T

- Chaired a Panel Discussion on Sectoral Impacts of Climate Change in Monsoon School of Inequality on a three day conference , Jointly Organised by Inequality Working Group, Young Scholars Initiatives, INet and Economiga on July 24-26, 2025.

Amartya Paul

- Participated in a panel discussion in Moonsoon School of Inequality 2025
- Co-organised 2nd CDS PhD Colloquium, Crossroads 2026.
- Participated in CAG-ICSSR Colloquium, Kerala chapter.
- Chaired a seminar by Ms. Devika Dilipkumar, PhD Scholar on 5th March 2026.
- Organised a week long workshop on Advanced Econometric Techniques for Treatment Effect, 08-13 February 2026. Resource person: Dr. Subhasish Dey, University Warwick.

Beena P L

- Coordinated International Conference (Jointly with Murali Prasad, IIT Khanpur) on Law and Economics during 14-15 November 2025 held at CDS (Sponsored by ICSSR)
- Coordinated technical session jointly with Murali Kallummal on “Interface between IPR regime , Trade regulation and Knowledge Economy” in the International conference on Law and Economics held at CDS, 2025 (Sponsored by WTO Studies cell, GOI)
- Coordinated and Participated in the panel discussion on “Global Trade and Knowledge Economy: Rethinking IPR and Regulation in the



Digital Era", in the International conference on Law and Economics held at CDS, 2025.

- Beena PL and Raj Kumar (2026) Innovation, Startups and Competition Law in India in the conference titled "Emerging Issues in Indian Economy" 19-20, March 2026, organised by CDS.
- Beena PL (2026) Women-owned enterprises and its scalability: With particular reference to kerala in the conference titled "Kerala in transition: Building on Inclusive economy in a shifting global order", CDS, 23-24, February, 2026.
- Beena PL (2026) Panellist of the book discussion titled "Kerala Transforming: Labour and Trade Mobility in Times of Pandemic" at CDS organised on 24, February 2026
- Chairperson and discussant of many conferences held at CDS, Trivandrum

Chandra Shekar K.

- Regular participation in APC and Academic Council meetings, and Centre seminars/conferences.
- Organised the Kerala and World Economy Conference, 2025; currently preparing the conference volume.

Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer

- Co-ordinator- Conference on Emerging Issues in Indian Economy, 19 & 20 March 2026
- Iyer C.G. "Technology transfer impact in a low-income country: Case studies of two medical devices from India." 19 September 2025
- Iyer C.G. "Indian experience of fostering competition through State intervention: Lessons from card payment system and Unified Payment Interface." 5 December 2025.
- Iyer C.G. "Indian experience of fostering competition through State intervention: Lessons from card payment system and Unified Payment Interface." presented as part of "Session 6: Technology, Innovation Systems and Investment" at the ICSSR sponsored Conference on Emerging Issues in Indian Economy 19 & 20 March 2026

J. Devika

- Chair of Keynote session by Dr Chinmaya Tambe in the annual Kerala and the World Economy conference, 23 Feb. 2026.
- Discussant role in the annual PhD student colloquium, 2 Feb. 2026

Praveena Kodoth

- Coordination of Workshop on Methods in migration research – Nov 24 to 28 – Research Unit on International Migration from Kerala
- Lecture on intersectionality in migration research as part of the workshop

Suraj Jacob

- April 29, 2026: Chaired book talk by Prof Sunil Mani
- April 28, 2026: Chaired seminar by Prof Ananta Kumar Giri
- February 24, 2026: Chaired session with keynote address by Prof Sunil Mani at the Kerala and World Economy Conference
- February 24, 2026: Chaired book launch for book edited by Profs P L Beena and Thiagu Ranganathan
- February 13, 2026: Chaired seminar by Dr Debjani Dasgupta
- December 18, 2025: Chaired seminar by Prof Patrick Heller
- December 15, 2025: Co-organised and moderated launch of book edited by Prof Sundari Ravindran
- July 26, 2025: Discussant at session on social mobility at the Monsoon School on Inequality organised by the Institute for New Economic Thinking
- July 25, 2025: Chaired session by Prof Ajit Zacharias at the Monsoon School on Inequality organised by the Institute for New Economic Thinking
- July 11, 2025: Discussant for book by R. Mohan
- April 22, 2026: Chaired seminar by Prof Ananta Kumar Giri



(d) SERVICES TO ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

REPRESENTATION IN COMMITTEES/ TASK FORCES/ ADVISORY BODIES

Abhilash T

- Member: Indian Political Science Association
- Chairperson, SC/ST Cell, CDS
- Member, MA Advisory Committee
- Member, Committee to formulate guidelines for consultancy and training programmes
- Member, Library Committee

Amartya Paul

- Faculty member (placement coordinator), CDS Placement Cell
- Member, MA Advisory Committee

Beena P L

- Chairperson and Discussant of many conferences held at GIFT, Trivandrum
- Panellist of the book discussion organised by GIFT and KEA, Trivandrum, Kerala
- Member, Expenditure Committee, Govt of Kerala (2022-26)
- Secretary, CDS Alumni Association
- Chairperson, IT Committee, CDS
- Member, Committee to formulate guidelines for consultancy and training programmes
- Member, Staff Council
- Member, Faculty Committee

Chandra Shekar K.

- External Consultant, mByom Consulting & Management Services LLP (from 24 November 2025);
- Visiting Scholar, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Member, PhD Advisory Committee, CDS.
- Member, Steering Committee, Training Programme Unit, CDS.
- Treasurer, CDS Alumni Association.
- Drafted a training proposal for submission to the IES Cadre Controlling Authority

Chidambaran Gurunathan 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 two papers for the Economic and Political Weekly
- Guided Ms Archa A J, BA Economics (Hons) in Christ (Deemed to be University), BGR Campus, Bengaluru, Through her two-month internship on 'Production and trade trends in the Indian pharmaceutical industry: a study analysing the patterns of growth in the period from 1994-95 to 2004-05.'
- Guided Ms Neha K A, MSc. Economics, Symbiosis School Of Economics, Pune, through her two-month internship on 'Kerala's coir industry in global value chains: an analysis of forward and backward participation.'
- Evaluated four papers for CDS-PhD Colloquium 2026.
- Session on "Panel data and principal component analysis" at Quantitative Workshop at CDS on 3 December 2025.
- Member of Institutional Academic Integrity Panel
- Member of Campus Management Committee
- Member of Advisory Committee to the Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala
- Member of MA Advisory Committee

J Devika

- Member of CDS Governing Body
- Chairperson of Campus Committee,
- Chairperson, Staff Welfare Fund Management Committee, CDS.
- Member, IQAC
- Member, Ethics Committee

Praveena Kodoth

- Co-ordinated the Workshop on Methods and Research in Migration issues -24 to 28 Nov. 2025 at CDS
- Member, Faculty Committee
- Member, Finance Committee/ Investment Committee
- Chairperson, Internal Complaints Committee



- Chairperson, Guest House Management Committee
- Member, Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC)

M Parameswaran

- Chairperson, Sub-committee for SNA 2025 update constituted by the National Account Division, Ministry of Statistics
- Member, JNU-CDS Committee of Direction for MA, M.Phil and Ph.D
- Member, Faculty Committee
- Convener, Academic Programme Committee
- Member, Steering Committee for the Training Programme
- Member, IQAC
- Member, Students Grievance Redressal Committee
- Coordinator, PhD Advisory Committee
- CDS Hostel Warden
- Chairperson, Cafeteria Management Committee.
- Member, Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee
- Member, Committee to Formulate Guidelines for Consultancy and Training Programmes
- Member, MA Advisory Committee

Rajit Biswas

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

Ritika Jain

- Co-ordinator, MA Advisory Committee
- Chairperson of the Library Committee
- Chairperson, Communication and Outreach Committee
- Member, Committee of Academic Futures
- Associate coordinator of Ph.D. programme
- Convener of the Steering Committee of TPU
- Member of the infrastructure committee of TPU
- Member of the ICC Committee
- Warden of the CDS hostel

- Member, Canteen Management Committee

Suraj Jacob

- Board Trustee, Seva Mandir, Udaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.sevamandir.org/>)
- Board Trustee, Mohan Sinha Mehta Memorial Trust, Udaipur, Rajasthan
- Interim Board Chair, Ayang Trust, Majuli, Assam (<https://www.ayang.org.in/>)
- Visiting Faculty, Azim Premji University
- Chair, Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (statutory body)
- Chair, Committee on Academic Futures
- Member, Ethics Committee (statutory body)
- PhD Coordinator
- Coordinator, K N Raj Fellowship Programme

Thiagu Ranganathan

- Member, JNU-CDS Committee of Direction for MA, M.Phil and Ph.D
- Member, SC/ST Cell
- Member, Staff Council
- Member, Committee of Academic Futures
- Member, PhD Advisory Committee
- Member, Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee

C. Veeramani

- Member, "RBI's Empowered Committee on External Commercial Borrowings and Overseas Direct Investments", January 2018 - onwards
- Chairperson / Member, various committees of the Centre
- Two Day National Conference on Kerala and the World Economy Conference-2026 on the theme: 'Kerala in Transition Building an Inclusive Economy in a Shifting Global Order' held during 23rd to 24th Feb, 2026. Funded by Migration Unit of CDS
- Two-Day National Conference on "Emerging Issues in Indian Economy", organised by CDS on 19-20th March 2026. The conference was funded under the OH 31 grant by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. (Jointly by Dr. Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer)



- Six-day workshop on “Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies” January 19th to 24th, Funded by the RBI endowment unit at CDS. (Jointly by Prof. M Parameswaran)
- Six-day workshop on “Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India: Design, Implementation, and Impacts at CDS, during 22-27 March, 2026, Funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). (Jointly by Prof. M Parameswaran)

Vinoj Abraham

- Chair Professor, NRPPD
- Member, Governing Body, CDS
- Member, Committee of Direction, CDS
- Chair Professor, Ministry of Commerce at CDS and Faculty in Charge: National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD), sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India
- Member, Faculty Committee
- Member, Committee to Formulate Guidelines For Consultancy And Training Programme
- Member, Steering Committee for the Training Programme
- Member, Ethics Committee

Honorary Fellow

Sunil Mani

- Refereeing for the Journals:
 - Research Policy
 - Space Policy
 - Technological Forecasting and Social Change
 - Asian Journal of Technology Innovation
 - Aerotecnica Missili@Spazio- Springer Nature Link
 - Indian Journal of Labour Economics
 - Economic and Political Weekly
- Book: Palgrave Macmillan
- Member, Faculty Selection Committee, School of Public Policy, IIT-Delhi

- Member, Faculty Promotion Committee, School of Public Policy, IIT-Delhi
- Vice Chair, International Advisory Committee, Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators, HSRC, South Africa

M A Oommen

- Chair the Inaugural Session on Post-COVID Development Challenges and Response: Kerala through the lens of State Budgets organised by Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation on August 5, 2025.
- Special lecture sessions on ‘Fiscal Federalism’ at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation organised by Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation on 4th March 2026.
- Presented opening address as the chair of the session on Local Finances, “The 16th Finance Commission and Fiscal Federalism”, held at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation on 19th March 2026.

(e) AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

1. Dr. Ritika Jain receives the Award for Best Performing Assistant Professor

Dr. Ritika Jain, Assistant Professor at the Centre was honoured with the Best Performing Assistant Professor Award in recognition of her outstanding publication record during the biennium 2023–2025.



The award, comprising a cash prize of ₹50,000/-, was presented by **Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India** on 16 March 2026.



The award recognises excellence in academic research and publications and reflects CDS's commitment to promoting high-quality scholarship and research excellence among its faculty members. Dr. Ritika Jain's distinguished research contributions during the assessment period exemplify the Centre's tradition of rigorous and policy-relevant research.

2. The Joan Robinson Prize for the best overall performance in the M.A. Applied Economics Programme (2023–25) was awarded to **Ms. Ponnu Bimal and Mr. Mohammed Sinan A.**

The M. G. Kanbur Prize for the best performance in the Quantitative Courses of the M.A. Applied Economics Programme (2023–25) was awarded to **Ms. Ponnu Bimal.**

The A. D. Neelakantan Prize for securing the highest grade point average in the coursework component of the Ph.D. Programme 2023, and the **Chandrika Sharma Prize** for splendid performance in the statistical survey report submitted as part of the Ph.D. Programme 2023, were awarded to **Mr. Manish.**



The award was presented by **Dr. Poonam Gupta**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, during the **CDS Foundation Day** celebrations held on **20 February 2026**.

3. Staff Welfare Fund Merit Awards

The Staff Welfare Fund Merit Awards—comprising merit certificates and cash prizes—are presented to children of employees who achieve scholastic excellence, securing First Class or above in their Board or University examinations. Five children of employees received the Merit Award this year, which includes a certificate and the applicable cash prize. The awards were distributed by Prof. Sudipto Mundle Chairman, CDS during the Governing Body (GB) meeting held on 15 September 2025.



4. Mr. Powen Kumar (PhD Scholar, CDS) Received the Best Paper Presentation Award at the 85th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE-2025) held from November 11-13, 2025, at CCSHAU, Hisar, Haryana for the paper titled “Climatic Change Impacts and Adaptation by Apple Farmers in Himachal Pradesh”



4. TEACHING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

(a) DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN ECONOMICS

The Centre has been offering its Doctoral Programme in Economics since 1975. Doctoral scholars are registered for the Ph.D. degree under either Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) or the University of Kerala.

Between 1975 and 2025, the Centre admitted a total of 291 doctoral scholars. Of these, 131 scholars successfully completed the programme and were awarded the Ph.D. degree, including 122 under JNU and 9 under the University of Kerala. Thirty-six scholars discontinued the programme, while the remaining scholars are pursuing their research at various stages. In addition, three doctoral theses are currently under evaluation.

Overview of the Year

2025 admission:

PhD Programme: 11 students joined the PhD Programme in 2025.

As on 31st March 2026, three theses are under evaluation at JNU:

1. Women's Work and Agency in Low-Income Localities of Urban India

ANNESHA MUKHERJEE, 2020-2025, UGC Fellowship

Supervisors: Prof. Praveena Kodoth & Prof. Vinoj Abraham

2. Export Performance of MSME's Under Economic Reforms in India

RAHEES K. A., 2019-2025, UGC Fellowship

Supervisor: Prof. Beena P. L.

3. Export Performance of MSME's Under Economic Reforms in India

SABEER V. C., 2021 – 2025, UGC Fellowship

Supervisor: Prof. M. Parameswaran



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

■ **Caste and Economic Mobility in India: With Special Reference to Kerala and Tamil Nadu**

LIBITHA C. , 2014

Supervisor: Prof. Vinoj Abraham

The social structure in India, characterised by a system of graded inequality, has perpetuated discrimination and social exclusion against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). This marginalisation persisted even during periods of high economic growth in the country. Given its serious impact on the well-being of these communities, this study examines the nature of economic mobility among SCs and STs in India. Specifically, it explores intergroup variations across key dimensions of economic mobility, including income, education, and occupation. While the study covers the entire country, it places particular emphasis on Kerala and Tamil Nadu due to their distinctive approaches to addressing caste-based marginalisation. Although intergroup inequality persists in these states, it appears weaker compared to other regions, making them intriguing cases for analysis. Despite their shared emphasis on social development, Kerala and Tamil Nadu differ in their developmental trajectories: Kerala excels in human development, while Tamil Nadu has a stronger record of inclusive economic growth. This study investigates the factors influencing economic mobility among different castes, with a specific focus on both intragenerational and intergenerational mobility in India as a whole and in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in particular. Additionally, it delves into the political economy of caste, the role of institutional reforms, and the impact of policy changes over time in shaping mobility. The analysis primarily draws on data from the Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) for 2004–2005 and 2011–2012, supplemented by the Census of India.

A comparative analysis of households belonging to SCs and STs in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and India, based on census data from 1991, 2001, and 2011, highlights the substantial

presence of these communities within the Indian population. In 2011, SCs and STs together accounted for 25.26 per cent of the national population. Interestingly, their population share has remained remarkably stable across these decades. An analysis of living conditions, asset ownership, and access to resources reveals significant progress in the well-being of SCs and STs over the past decades. However, disparities persist between SCs and STs and others, both at the national and state levels. In this context, given the substantial size of these populations and the persistence of relative deprivation, the remainder of the study focuses on exploring pathways to reduce these disparities. It does so by examining economic mobility across three critical dimensions of capability building: income, education, and occupation.

An analysis using transition matrices based on IHDS data from 2004–2005 and 2011–2012 reveals higher intragenerational income mobility in Kerala and Tamil Nadu compared to the national average. At the all-India level, more than half of the households remain within their respective income quintiles, indicating limited income mobility. Notably, in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, SCs and STs experience relatively higher upward mobility compared to the national trend. The analysis identifies caste as a significant determinant of intragenerational income mobility. Even after controlling for factors such as education, initial income, age, and other variables, caste remains a critical influence. This effect is consistent across various measures of income mobility, including income growth and the impact of past variables on current income. These findings underscore the enduring significance of caste status in shaping income mobility outcomes. However, the impact of caste is not uniform within caste groups. Class-based heterogeneity within castes emerges as a significant factor influencing income mobility. This suggests that while caste strongly affects income mobility, a household's class position within a caste group also plays a crucial role in shaping their mobility trajectory.

An analysis of transition matrices for intergenerational educational mobility across castes, using father-son pair data from IHDS 2011, reveals significant caste disparities



across regions. General castes experience greater upward educational mobility compared to others. In all regions, sons of fathers with higher levels of education are more likely to maintain the same educational level, with a higher persistence rate observed among these groups. In identifying factors influencing intergenerational educational mobility, the analysis highlights that both caste and a father's years of schooling play a significant role. Even after accounting for various factors such as per capita income, age, and other variables, caste and paternal education remain significant determinants. A closer look across age cohorts shows that the influence of a father's education, per capita income, and caste is less pronounced among younger cohorts compared to older ones. This suggests that non-hereditary factors, particularly public education initiatives and reservation policies, are increasingly shaping educational attainment levels. From a policy perspective, these findings underscore the importance of public education in promoting higher levels of educational mobility and reducing caste-based disparities. Strengthening such initiatives could further diminish the intergenerational transmission of educational inequality.

The study identified notable shifts in occupational distribution across all three regions, based on father-son pair data from IHDS 2011. A significant proportion of sons were employed in skilled or semi-skilled occupations. While white-collar occupations remain limited, their prevalence has increased compared to previous generations. Urbanisation has been a key driver of these trends, with the shift from farming to non-farming occupations more prominent in Kerala and Tamil Nadu than at the national level. Transition matrix analysis reveals substantial occupational persistence, with sons often following their fathers' occupational paths. Nationally and in Kerala, occupational persistence is highest among OBCs, while in Tamil Nadu, SCs and STs show the greatest persistence. To examine the influence of parental background on sons' occupational mobility, multinomial logit regression analysis was applied. The results indicate that caste plays a significant role in determining intergenerational occupational mobility. While

caste strongly influences upward mobility at the national level and in Kerala, its impact is less noticeable in Tamil Nadu. Additionally, a father's occupation significantly impacts his son's upward occupational mobility across all regions. Fathers in more favourable occupations were better positioned to provide educational opportunities for their sons, facilitating upward mobility in the occupational hierarchy.

A comparative analysis of Kerala and Tamil Nadu's politics, policies, and economic opportunities for marginalised sections is attempted to explain the interplay between social and political institutions in shaping mobility. The political forces shaping public policies in these states are rooted in distinct social bases. Our analysis focuses on the contrasting political formations: class-based movements in Kerala versus caste-based movements in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, the consolidation of marginalised caste electorates and their political mobilisation have likely contributed to more targeted policies and better outcomes for marginalised communities. In contrast, class-based politics in Kerala has often subsumed the voices of marginalised communities, including SCs and STs, within broader class-oriented rhetoric aligned with dominant political formations. Despite these differences, both approaches suggest that empowering socially disadvantaged groups and amplifying their voices enhance their ability to make claims on the state. This, in turn, prompts the state to respond more effectively to their needs and aspirations.

In conclusion, SCs, STs, and OBCs have experienced absolute economic mobility during the period under consideration, but relative mobility has remained marginal. Caste and parental background continue to significantly influence educational mobility and occupational opportunities, perpetuating hierarchies of privilege by creating barriers for some and advantages for others. However, the role of political mobility and empowerment in enhancing economic mobility is evident, particularly in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. This highlights the importance of targeted policies and political mobilisation in addressing systemic inequities. To uplift SC and ST communities, concerted societal efforts,



especially proactive government intervention, are essential. Such efforts must focus on reducing structural barriers and ensuring equitable access to opportunities across all dimensions of mobility.

Keywords: Caste, intragenerational mobility, intergenerational mobility, income mobility, education mobility, occupation mobility, economic mobility, political movements, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, India.

■ **Analysis of Non-Farm Self-Employment in the context of Economic Development in India**

BASIT ABDULLAH, 2020

Supervisors: Prof. Vinod Abraham &

Dr. Ritika Jain

The thesis examines the place of non-farm self-employment (NFSE) in the Indian labour market, situating it in the larger process of structural transformation in India. The thesis uses different rounds of NSS's Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS) and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 and 2018-19 rounds for the analysis. NFSE is primarily concentrated in manufacturing, as well as in trade, hotels, and restaurants. To understand how self-employment evolved alongside structural transformation over the years, the study uses the shift share analysis. We decompose the rise of self-employment in India from the period 1993-94 to 2018-19 by conducting shift-share analysis of changes in self-employment for two periods – 1993-94 to 2004-05 and 2004-05 to 2018-19. The increase in NFSE is largely a consequence of the changing industrial structure, specifically the shift of workforce from agriculture to the services sector. The manufacturing sector experienced a decline in self-employment, primarily driven by a shift towards wage employment within the sector. This trend suggests a transition from small enterprises to larger firms in the manufacturing. However, the trend is distinct for females, as female self-employment in manufacturing has grown over the years, despite a significant decline in unpaid family labour. This highlights the manufacturing sector as a key source of self-employment for women outside of agriculture, particularly in rural areas. The findings show

the different ways in which structural transformation has shaped patterns of self-employment across different sectors and demographic groups.

The thesis further re-examines the place of self-employment within the context of structural transformation in India, with a focus on self-employed earnings across different industrial sectors. Using selectivity-corrected earnings estimation approach, the results reveal that various characteristics affect self-employed earnings differently, depending on the sector. Females have a major disadvantage in terms of earnings compared to males in the manufacturing sector. Non-business services, that has become the primary absorber of self-employed individuals in India, attracts a relatively lower-educated workforce, and they earn lower than self-employed in the business services. We further decompose the earnings gap between self-employed individuals in business services versus those in non-business services, employing the Recentered Influence Function (RIF) decomposition method. A large part of the earnings gap remains unexplained, suggesting the influence of unobserved factors. We argue that structural advantages in business services are possibly making self-employment in this sector more productive than in non-business services.

The thesis also empirically examines if variation in casual employment wage levels leads to differences in NFSE across time and space in India. Using pseudo-panels constructed from the NSS's EUS rounds over a 20-year period, the results indicate that wage level in casual employment has a negative impact on NFSE. The negative relationship suggests that an increase in casual wages is associated with the decrease in NFSE in cohorts, and vice versa. The results also highlight the heterogeneous nature of self-employment, showing that casual wage has a negative impact on NFSE at the lower end of the income distribution. In contrast, the occupational choices of higher-income individuals are not affected by changes in casual wages. Furthermore, the negative relationship exists only for males and not for females, indicating that the occupational choice between self-employment and casual employment, influenced by economic factors



such as casual wages, may be less relevant for women.

The overall thesis suggests that the structural transformation from agriculture to non-agriculture sector has not resulted in a significant change in the employment structure in terms of employment status. The manufacturing sector has failed to expand sufficiently, leading to an over-reliance on self-employment in the low-productive services sectors. However, female self-employment in the manufacturing sector has increased, likely due to the prevalence of home-based work, though women self-employed in manufacturing experience significant earnings disadvantages. We find that NFSE in India is predominantly driven by necessity, with individuals from lower-income groups turning to self-employment as a subsistence strategy in response to unfavorable labor market conditions, such as low wages.

Key Words: Self-employment, Earnings, Structural Transformation, Casual employment

■ **Agricultural Insurance and Farmer's Behaviour: An Analysis from Behavioural Economics Perspectives**

BINOD KUMAR BEHERA, 2019

Supervisors: Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick &

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

The agriculture sector is prominent in providing livelihood and employment in India. However, Indian farmers encounter diverse forms of risk and uncertainty arising from the fluctuating prices of agricultural inputs and outputs, the imperfect credit market, frequent natural calamities, and pest infestations. Farmers adopt both informal and formal risk management strategies to mitigate production risks. However, the covariate nature of risks caused by adverse weather events makes informal risk management strategies unviable. Crop insurance becomes a formal risk management strategy to mitigate crop loss. Despite implementing various restructured and innovative insurance schemes over time with highly subsidised premium rates, the adoption rate of crop insurance remains low in India. A vast amount of literature explores the various factors influencing crop insurance

adoption. However, there is a scarcity of literature examining how financial literacy and risk preferences influence the adoption of crop insurance. Additionally, no literature has been observed that explores how the prospect theory parameters, such as loss aversion and reference point, influence the real-world situation of crop insurance in India. Further, most studies do not encompass the role of emotional responses such as regret and rejoicing in decision-making in general and in the purchase of crop insurance in particular. This study attempts to fill these gaps in the crop insurance literature.

This thesis explores the behavioural factors that are pivotal in the farmer's decision-making while facing risk and uncertainty. The study starts by analysing how farmers are responding to the recent policy changes of making mandatory crop insurance as the default option for loanee farmers. This study employs behavioural economics frameworks, such as prospect theory and regret theory, to explain the real-world situation of crop insurance among Indian farmers. Moreover, the factors influencing crop insurance demand among Indian farmers have been studied from the perspective of behavioural economics. The thesis contains three core chapters, two based on the field survey data and the other one is theoretical. With the backdrop of the existing literature, our study contributes to the arena of crop insurance research in three ways.

Firstly, the study explores the impact of financial literacy and risk preference on the adoption of crop insurance in general and how these factors differentially impact the voluntary purchase of crop insurance (non-loanee farmers) and add-on insurance purchase beyond the credit-linked insurance (loanee farmers), in particular. The study conducted a field survey in two drought-prone rainfed districts of Odisha, India. We have collected data from 415 agricultural households through multistage stratified random sampling methods. The stratification undertaken while selecting the farm households includes caste groups, land holdings, and crop loans. The study employs probit models and found that financial literacy is essential to promote the voluntary purchase of crop insurance. Risk-averse farmers are



more likely to take crop insurance voluntarily, whereas they are reluctant to purchase insurance beyond credit-linked insurance.

Secondly, we have developed a theoretical framework for understanding crop insurance demand through prospect theory to reflect the realities of the demand for crop insurance among Indian farmers. It elucidates how the two core concepts of prospect theory—reference points and loss aversion—influence the demand for crop insurance among Indian farmers who purchase insurance voluntarily without crop loans and mandatorily bundled with crop loans (a default choice now). Additionally, it also explores how the presence of basis risk influences crop insurance demand through prospect theory parameters. The finding reveals that reference points and loss aversion significantly contribute to the demand for crop insurance.

Thirdly, this study theoretically explains the impact of emotional response, i.e., anticipated regret and rejoice, on the future demand for crop insurance. Moreover, this study employs the probit estimation method to investigate the impact of anticipated regret and rejoice on willingness to insure for presently insured and uninsured farmers separately. It was observed that anticipated regret encourages future demand for crop insurance, whereas anticipated regret is detrimental to future demand among uninsured farmers. However, opposite impacts of anticipated regret and rejoice have been observed in the case of presently insured farmers.

Keywords: Financial literacy, risk preference, reference points, loss aversion, risk aversion, anticipated regret, anticipated rejoice, willingness to insure, and crop insurance

■ **Credit Availability and the Performance of MSMEs in India**

VIDHYARANI K., 2018

Supervisor: Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick

Globally, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play an important role in contributing to employment growth and overall economic activity. They contribute enormously to the socio-economic development of the country. In India, MSMEs contain 65 million units,

employing about 120 million people. Needless to mention, the contribution of MSME is 8 percent of GDP, 40 percent of exports, and 45 percent of manufacturing output. As the promotion of small enterprises in India dates back to the late 1950s, since then numerous preferential schemes have been conducted to improve credit supply, marketing, skills, and technology in this sector. But there are many challenges impeding the growth of MSMEs, and one of the most critical factors is inadequate access to formal credit. In India, in spite of favourable credit policies, many MSMEs remain credit-constrained. According to the International Finance Corporation (2018), the total demand for external credit in the MSME sector is estimated to be 36.7 trillion rupees. However, formal sources of finance currently supply only 10.9 trillion rupees. This leaves a substantial credit gap of 25.8 trillion rupees. Specifically, the credit gaps for MSMEs are 8 trillion, 16.8 trillion, and 1 trillion rupees, respectively. This lack of access to institutional credit affects around 97 percent of non-farm informal enterprises in India. Against this background, this study focuses on credit availability and its impact on the performance of MSMEs in India. The study used RBI data set and the 73rd NSSO Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises Survey (2015-16). For the empirical analysis, the study has used descriptive analysis, probit regression analysis, and the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method.

The first chapter analysed the trends and patterns of formal finance for MSMEs in India. It mainly focuses on the flow of bank credit to MSMEs in India since the 1970s. Our analysis indicates that the introduction of the MSMED Act in 2006 has not succeeded to fulfil its objective of providing formal credit to MSMEs. The growth rate of MSME credit is increasing, but at a slow rate. The corresponding decline in MSME credit after 2010, specifically at the beginning of 2016, can be due to the stress experienced by the banking sector because of the sharp rise in non-performing assets and capital erosion. This was further compounded by the effects of demonetisation in November 2016. The study reveals that MSME credit growth was highest during the 1980s and declined sharply from 2007-08 to 2019-20.

The third chapter examines the inter-regional



variations in the determinants of formal credit access. A descriptive analysis was executed to analyse the credit distribution, and a logit model was applied to determine the predictors of access to formal credit in each region. Results from descriptive analysis highlight significant regional differences in accessing formal credit in India. The southern region has more access to formal credit than the other regions. The Northeast, Central, and North regions are laggards in accessing formal credit. Besides, the study highlights that the determinant factors at the national level are uneven across the regions. Based on the evidence, it emphasises the government's need to re-examine its measures and implement regional-specific programs to establish an environment that is favourable for MSMEs to access formal credit.

The fourth chapter discusses the impacts of credit on MSMEs' performance. In this chapter, we empirically evaluate the impact of formal and informal financing on MSMEs' turnover, net surpluses, and labour productivity. Our findings show that while both formal and informal sources significantly influence MSME performance, formal financing has a predominant impact. It underscores the significance of a collaborative ecosystem involving various stakeholders to foster the growth of MSMEs. It enhances the understanding of the dynamics of credit sources and their impact, which will help policymakers formulate effective strategies to enhance MSME performance, promote active economic growth, and promote inclusive development.

Keywords: MSME, Formal credit, Informal credit, unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises, Region, Annual turnover, Net surplus, Labour productivity, India.

■ **Analysing Public Private Partnerships in Indian Infrastructure Sector**

PAPAIAH KOPPULA, 2018

Supervisors: Dr. Ritika Jain &

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

The thesis explores the structure, key determinants and performance of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the Indian infrastructure sector. For this analysis, we used

different datasets from various sources. To examine the structure and current status of PPPs, the Infrastructure Projects in India database was used. For studying the determinants and performance, we used Election Commission of India, Economic and Political Weekly Research Foundation (EPWRF), Census, RBI Handbook of Statistics and CIAL data sources. These datasets provided the information related to infrastructure projects, as well as social, political and economic variables used in the analysis. By combining these data sources, we constructed a panel data covering 21 Indian states from 1991-92 to 2017-18. Following this, we performed descriptive statistical analysis and applied Poisson and OLS regression models to test our hypothesis.

The role of infrastructure in promoting economic growth, development and improving the overall quality of life is widely recognized in both academic research and policy discussions. However, India's vast geography, rapid population growth and expanding economic size have significantly increased the demand for infrastructure. The widening gap between infrastructure demand and supply, alongside budget constraints and inefficiencies in the public sector, promoted the introduction of private participation in infrastructure development. As part of economic reforms, the government launched PPP initiatives to develop infrastructure across the various major sectors such as transportation, telecommunication, social and commercial infrastructure sector, energy and water and sanitation sectors.

In chapter 2, we examined the structure of PPPs in India, highlighting the shift from purely public and private approach to PPPs for infrastructure development. The analysis reveals a skewed distribution of PPPs, with a strong concentration in economically stronger states, while public projects are more evenly spread across both stronger and weaker states. In light of this, chapter 3, explores the key determinants influencing PPP participation across the sectors and states. While both PPP and public sector projects shows similar trends, PPPs have minimal presence in the water and sanitation sector and over 85 percent of energy PPPs are concentrated in just three states.



Political factors play a significant role in attracting PPPs, whereas social and economic factors are more influential in public projects.

In chapter 4, we analysed the performance of PPPs and public projects concerning time and cost overruns, as well as the impact of concessionaire's role on performance. The study findings revealed that while PPPs still face time and cost overruns, they exhibit fewer time overruns and higher cost overruns compared to public projects. Additionally, political alignment between central and states governments has contributed to reduced time overruns. In chapter 5, we examined two case study projects: one from the water sector and the other from transport sector (an airport), to identify the factors that contribute to the success or failure of projects developed using PPP model. Our analysis indicated that, in addition to efficiency in service delivery, effective management and governance from both public and private partners are essential for the successful implementation of such projects.

Overall, the study reveals that there exists a clear skewness in the distribution and concentration of PPP projects across specific sectors and states. Despite the implementation of various sector and state specific policies, the participation of PPPs remains low, with the public sector continue to dominate in economically weaker states. Political and geographical factors significantly influence PPP participation, with political competition affecting the implementation of these projects, particularly in the final years of government's term. Although PPPs still experience higher overruns, the cost overruns in PPP projects are notably greater than those in public projects. Ultimately, alongside efficiency in service delivery, effective management and governance are crucial for the successful execution of infrastructure projects. PPPs during the final years of term. PPPs still have higher overruns, but cost overruns are much higher in PPPs compared to public projects. Finally, along with efficiency in service provisioning, the management and governance also play a role in carrying out a successful infrastructure project.

■ An Assessment of Energy Poverty in India: Dimensions and Correlates

KRISHAN, 2017

Supervisors: Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick &

Prof. U. S. Mishra

Chapter 2: This chapter quantifies energy deprivation in India by developing the Energy Deprivation Index (EDI), incorporating dimensions of access, reliability, usage, and utilisation of LPG and electricity. It also aims to identify key determinants of changes in energy deprivation between two rounds of the Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) conducted in 2004-05 and 2011-12. **Methodology:** The EDI was constructed using fuzzy logic, measuring energy deprivation as a matter of degree, capturing four dimensions: access (availability of LPG and electricity), reliability (metered connections, hours of electricity supply, functional kitchens), usage (exclusive use of LPG for cooking and electricity for lighting), and utilisation (per capita LPG and electricity consumption). First-difference models were used to analyse the determinants of EDI, controlling for unobserved heterogeneity, and robustness checks were conducted using the fractional response panel regression model. Interaction terms were included to examine disparities across social groups and regions.

Analysis:

The findings reveal that the national average EDI declined from 0.55 to 0.48, reflecting progress in energy access and utilisation. Significant improvements were observed in LPG and electricity access, but reliability and exclusive use of modern energy sources showed modest gains. Rural households, particularly Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) groups, experienced greater reductions in deprivation compared to urban households but remained more deprived overall. Income dynamics emerged as a critical determinant, with positive income changes reducing EDI and income declines worsening deprivation. Larger households exhibited higher deprivation due to resource constraints, while urbanization and improved infrastructure, such as road networks, reduced deprivation. Social inequalities persisted, with



lower social groups and rural households facing systemic barriers to energy access.

Conclusion: This chapter underscores the multidimensional nature of energy deprivation, emphasising that access alone is insufficient. Reliability, usage, and utilisation are critical dimensions influencing household well-being and energy deprivation. Policy recommendations include targeted subsidies for disadvantaged groups (e.g., SC/ST households), income-support mechanisms to enhance affordability, integrated infrastructure planning to ensure reliable energy provisioning, and education initiatives, especially for women, to foster sustainable energy transitions. These measures are essential for addressing disparities and promoting inclusive energy access in India.

Chapter 3: This chapter investigates the influence of cooking characteristics and household amenities on cooking fuel choices, transitions to cleaner fuels, and LPG consumption in India. It explores how factors like separate kitchens, kitchen ventilation, person responsible for cooking, cooking duration, frequency of meals, and modern stoves, along with essential household amenities such as electricity, safe drinking water, and sanitation facilities, shape household energy decisions. **Methodology:** The study uses data from two rounds of the Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) conducted in 2004-05 and 2011-12, analysing the role of cooking characteristics and amenities through composite scores developed using inverse probability weighting (IPW). A fixed-effects multinomial logistic regression model examines fuel choices (exclusive LPG, mixed fuels, unclean fuels), while a change score multinomial model analyses fuel transitions. The impact on LPG consumption intensity is evaluated using pooled seemingly unrelated regressions and random-effects Tobit models. **Analysis:** The findings reveal that households with better cooking conditions and amenities are more likely to adopt LPG and reduce reliance on unclean fuels. Separate kitchens, modern stoves, and shorter cooking durations significantly promote exclusive LPG use and higher consumption. Improved household amenities like reliable electricity and sanitation further encourage clean energy

transitions, though the quality of electricity supply moderates these effects. Households with higher income and smaller family sizes show greater adoption of cleaner fuels, while free access to firewood increases reliance on unclean fuels. **Conclusion:** The chapter underscores the importance of enhancing cooking environments and household amenities to facilitate clean cooking transitions. Policy recommendations include integrating separate kitchens into housing schemes, subsidising modern stoves, and improving basic infrastructure such as electricity and sanitation. These interventions can reduce the burden of traditional cooking, enhance cooking efficiency, and promote sustainable clean energy adoption, contributing to health improvements and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Chapter 4: This chapter investigates the impact of LPG adoption on female workforce participation and children's learning outcomes, focusing on direct and indirect pathways. It examines how improved health, reduced school absenteeism, and lower fuel collection burdens mediate these relationships. Furthermore, it explores moderating factors such as kitchen ventilation and gender disparities in the burden of fuel collection on educational outcomes. **Methodology:** The study employs Generalized Structural Equation Modelling (GSEM) using data from the Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS). This approach enables simultaneous estimation of direct, indirect, and moderating effects across multiple pathways. Key variables include LPG adoption (clean vs. unclean fuels), respiratory health (measured as mild and severe cough), fuel collection time, school absenteeism, and learning outcomes (math and reading skills). Female workforce participation is categorized into no participation, part-time, and full-time roles. **Analysis:** The results reveal that LPG adoption directly increases full-time female workforce participation with a probability of 41%. Indirectly, LPG adoption improves workforce participation by reducing respiratory health issues, with a combined total effect of 55.8%. However, while LPG adoption significantly reduces fuel collection time, its impact on full-time workforce participation is statistically insignificant. For children, LPG



adoption directly enhances math and reading skills, particularly division-level math with a probability of 35%. Indirect effects mediated by reduced health-related absenteeism further improve learning outcomes, highlighting the cascading benefits of clean fuel adoption. However, fuel collection time's impact on absenteeism and learning outcomes is weak, and gendered effects on learning disparities for girls are statistically insignificant. **Conclusion:** LPG adoption has significant direct and indirect impacts on female workforce participation and children's educational outcomes, primarily through health improvements and reduced

absenteeism. Policy recommendations include expanding the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to ensure sustained LPG use by addressing refill affordability and promoting health-focused LPG campaigns. Integration with broader health and education policies, such as Ayushman Bharat (ABY) and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), can further amplify LPG's socioeconomic benefits. Targeted interventions, such as subsidized modern stoves, ventilated kitchens, and community-level fuel-sharing programs, can address residual barriers and enhance both workforce and educational outcomes.

Current Studies

A Study on the Operation of Caste-Based Privilege among Students

Aishwarya Prakash; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Empirical Analysis of Subnational Borrowing: A Study on Major Indian State

Ashrafal Khalq; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Beena P.L. & Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick

The Political Economy of Forest Property Rights: A Case of Jharkhand

Rahul Kamal; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Tirtha Chatterjee

School education in India: An analysis from the behavioral economics perspective

Rajalaxmi Singh; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Suaid Ahmad Rather; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Srikanta Kundu

A Study on Health behaviors, health-seeking behaviors and health insurance behaviors

Swathi Krishna K.U.; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Beena P. L.

Essays on Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India

Amresh Senapati; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Essays on Globalization and Corporate Strategies: A Study of Indian Business Groups

Ashish Biswas; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Beena P. L.

Uncertainties, Investor Attention and Sentiment; A Study on Indian Stock Market

Devika DileepKumar; 2020 – GoK

Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur & Dr. Srikanta Kundu



Equality of opportunity and unfair inequality in India

Gayathri P.; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Srikanta Kundu

Millet Production and Rural Livelihoods: A Study of Rainfed Districts in India

Himanshu Sekhar Thapa; 2020 - UGC NFOBC

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Diversification Opportunities and Expected shortfall of India's Commodity Market

Rhythm Sparsh Narayan; 2020 - UGC NFSC

Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur & Dr. Srikanta Kundu

Women's Empowerment and Household Food Security: A Study on Dhenkanal District, Odisha

Shakuntala Ghadai; 2020 - UGC NFSC

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Tirtha Chatterjee

The labour process of knowledge production. A study on Indian Software Industry

Shonima Nelliath ; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

An Analysis of Stability of Employment and Wage in India and their Determinants

Sita Majhi; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Networks and women's work: How women acquire social capital and how they put them to use

Srimanjori Guha; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Praveena Kodoth & Dr. Ritika Jain

Technical and Technological Progress in Small and Medium Manufacturing Industries in India

Abhinav Surya L. T.; 2021 - UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Beena P. L.

Exploring the Evolving Labor Process in Gig Economy: Insights from Gig Platforms in India

Mohammed Anfas; 2021 - UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Performance of Integrated Child Development Service Scheme in Maharashtra and Bihar:
Perspectives from New Institutional Economics

Mayur Jeevan Kamble; 2021 – BANRF

Prof. Suraj Jacob

A Study of Migrant Workers of Assam in Kerala: Purpose, Networks, and Choice of
Employment

Richa Baruah; 2021 – UGC JRF/SRF

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Medium - high and High technology industries in India: A study of its evolution and growth

Sachin Varghese Titty; 2021 – ICSSR

Prof. Beena P. L.

Returns to Education and Higher Education Decision in Malappuram District

Ahsana ; 2022 – UGC JRF

Dr. Ritika Jain & Prof. Vinoj Abraham



Emerging Technologies and the loop of digital and social inequality

Anna Maria Abraham; 2022

Prof. Suraj Jacob

Impact of Climate Change on Women's Work in the Coastal Communities of Kerala

Ayana Krishna D.; 2022- UGC JRF

Prof. Praveena Kodoth & Prof. Suraj Jacob

Monetary Policy transmission and Bank Balance sheets of Scheduled Commercial Banks

Jayalakshmi T. A.; 2022 – UGC JRF

Dr. Rajit Biswas & Dr. Srikanta Kundu

Embedded exchange and transactional spaces in cardamom markets

Kalayath Mohamed Shemil; 2022 – UGC JRF

#Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies in the Horticultural Sector in Himachal Pradesh

Pawan Kumar; 2022 – UGC JRF

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Prof. M. Parameswaran

Food Price Inflation in India

Sangeetha Kethapaka; 2022 – UGC JRF

Prof. M. Parameswaran & Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur

Negotiations in Economic and Political Uncertainties: A Study of Refugees in India

Shabnam T. P.; 2022 – UGC JRF

Prof. Beena P. L. & Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Economic Complexity and Regional Disparities In India

Bhatraju Jithin Sree; 2023 – UGC JRF

Prof. M. Parameswaran

Industrial Productivity and External Trade in Kerala: Trends, Patterns, and Structural changes

Mahitha K.; 2023 – UGC JRF

Prof. M. Parameswaran and Dr. K. Chandra Shekar

Trade and Its Effects on Environment

Manish; 2023 – UGC JRF

Prof. C. Veeramani & Prof. M. Parameswaran

Economic Mobility and Inequality of Opportunity in In

Nafseena R.; 2023 – UGC JRF

Dr. Amartya Paul

Global Value Chain participation and upgradation: Evidence from Indian -manufacturing sector

Subranil Nandi; 2023 – NFOBC

Dr. K. Chandra Shekar & Prof. Beena P. L.

For the following doctoral scholars, the prescribed coursework has been successfully completed. The formal allocation of research supervisors is currently under process.



- 1) Aarathi L. R.; 2024
- 2) Adil Ahamed Hasan; 2024 – UGC JRF
- 3) Anjali C.; 2024 – UGC JRF
- 4) Anjana Kesav C. ; 2024 – UGC JRF
- 5) Ashin S. Anish; 2024 - NFPWD
- 6) Fidha S. Fatima; 2024– UGC JRF
- 7) Rupender Singh; 2024
- 8) Sukhdeep Kaur; 2024- NFSC
- 9) Vijay Kumar; 2024

The following students are currently in the coursework phase of the Ph.D. programme.

- 1) Aju Sahu; 2025
- 2) Akanksha; 2025
- 3) Ashok Giri; 2025
- 4) Gaikwad Tejaswini Suresh; 2025
- 5) Gouri G. Hari; 2025
- 6) Harigopal Raghavan; 2025
- 7) K. Balachander; 2025 - UGC JRF
- 8) Mohammad Samar; 2025
- 9) Paresh Deep ; 2025- UGC JRF
- 10) Patthe Pallavi Samadhan; 2025- UGC JRF
- 11) Shubham Kumar Sehgal; 2025

PhD Internship Abroad (PIA) Programme

To enhance international exposure and strengthen research capabilities among doctoral scholars, the Centre launched the **PhD Internship Abroad (PIA) Programme**. This initiative provides PhD students with the opportunity to undertake part of their research at reputed institutions around the world, thereby fostering global academic engagement and collaboration. During the year, two PhD scholars were selected for this prestigious programme: **Mr. Rahul Kamal** (Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018) who pursued his research at Kiel University, Germany and **Ms. Shabnam T. P.** (PhD 2022) who was hosted by University of London, UK



(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).

MA 2025 Admission

Candidates from India

Total applications received - 225					
General	OBC NCL	SC	ST	EWS	PwD
138	52	12	2	19	2

- 32 students (including three students admitted by Special Drive) joined for the MA Programme 2025. One student discontinued after the second semester. Current strength is 31.

Candidates from SAARC Countries

Two applications were received for admission to the M.A. Applied Economics Programme. The Committee interviewed both candidates and selected one candidate from Bangladesh for admission. However, the selected candidate did not join the programme.

MA 2024 Batch

26 students from the 2024 MA batch successfully completed their course.

MA 2023 Batch

Degree awarded from JNU

Project Topics of MA Programme- 2024 batch

AE 208: project

Sl No	Name	Project Title
1	Abdulla M. K.	Crowding In or Crowding Out? Examining the Relationship Between Public and Private Investment
2	Abhipsha Khuntia	Impact of Global Value Chain Participation on Labour Market Outcomes in India: An Empirical Analysis
3	Adarsh Kumar	Revisiting the U-Shape: Female Labour Force Participation and Economic Development in India
4	Aditya Kumar Rajak	Urban-Rural Productivity Gaps in India's Manufacturing Sector: Evidence from ASI and NSS
5	Alphons Rose Jerry	Green Transition and Firm Performance: Evidence from Indian firms
6	Anagha Roy	Male Participation in Unpaid Work and Its Implications for Women's Time Allocation: Evidence from India's Time Use Survey
7	Apu Kundu	Causal Relationship between Energy Consumption, Economic Growth, Foreign Direct Investment and Governance: Time Series



		Evidence from India and Bangladesh
8	Ardra M. Sunoj	Caste and Mental Health: A Comparative Analysis of North and South India
9	Aritra Mazumdar	A study into the structure of political institutions and economic outcomes
10	Chandrakant Pisda	Grounded Realities of Microfinance : Joint Liability Groups in Rural Chhattisgarh
11	Chitra Ranjan Gogoi	Economic Growth Disparities in India : A State level Panel Data Analysis (2011-2025)
12	Dhinesh M.	Barriers to Formal Sector Inclusion: The Informality Trap among Nomadic Tribes — A Case Study of Adiyan
13	Ganesh Padhan	Mapping Average Tariff Rates to Industrial Structure: An Empirical Study of India
14	Gouri Gayatri Devaraj	Assessing the Effects of US tariff on selected Industries in India
15	Hasavath Santhosh Naik	Female ownership and credit access in Indian firms
16	Hefzeeba Jose	Gender Gap in Employment Among People with Disabilities: Rural–Urban Comparisons in India
17	Jeffry Priyadharshan J.	What drives change in Tribal Housing - an intergenerational analysis of Kanikkaran Tribe
18	Nausheen Qureshi	Unpacking Muslim Women’s Labor Force Participation: Are Social Norms or Limited Access to Economic Resources Driving Women Out of the Labor Force?
19	Navneet Kumar	GVC Participation and Export Performance in BRICS Nations
20	Nilima Bhowmik	An Empirical Analysis of Policy Interventions and the Changing Dynamics of Female Migration from Bangladesh (2004–2024)
21	Rakshit Kumar Tiwary	The Role of Logistics Efficiency in Driving Manufacturing Growth:- An Empirical study of Indian States
22	Raunak Maitra	The Productivity Cost of Corruption: Panel Evidence from Indian Firms
23	S.M. Muzammil Afroz	Monetary Policy Transmission and Sectoral Credit in India: Evidence from the EBLR Reform
24	Samadrita Haldar	Financial inclusion and Poverty: Evidence from a Bank Branch expansion programme
25	Saptarshi Ghosh	Behavioural assumptions underlying India’s output-outcome budget: An evaluation
26	Saptarshi Mondal	Modeling Dynamic Conditional Correlations Between Gold and Sectoral Equity Indices in India



(c) SHORT TERM TRAINING PROGRAMMES

- Six days RBI Workshop on Open Economy, Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies during 19th to 24th Jan, 2026.
- Six days' workshop on Advanced Econometric Techniques for Treatment Effective by Dr. Subhasish Dey, University of Warwick during 8th to 13th Feb, 2026.
- Eight-Day Workshop on Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India: Design, Implementation, and Impacts during 22nd to 27th March, 2026.
- One-day Data User's training programme on Time Use Survey (TUS) – 2024 during Sept 22nd, 2025.
- Five-day training programme on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues held during 24th to 28th Nov, 2025.

Training Programme on "Big Data Analysis through Theory and Application"

28 April to 2 May 2025



As part of its efforts to expand its outreach and ensure financial sustainability, the Centre has established a dedicated Training Programme Unit. The Unit is responsible for designing and delivering high-quality training programmes that combine academic rigour with practical relevance, catering to researchers, academicians, policymakers, professionals, and students.

During 2025–26, the Unit organised a Training Programme on "Big Data Analysis through Theory and Application" from 28 April to 2 May

2025. The programme was led by Prof. Subrato Sarkar, Former Dean of Faculties, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, as the Resource Person. It attracted 29 participants from across the country and provided comprehensive training in theoretical concepts and practical applications of big data analysis. The programme enhanced participants' analytical skills and exposed them to contemporary data-driven research methodologies, reflecting the Centre's commitment to capacity building and advanced research training.

The Monsoon School on Inequality 2025

24 to 26 July 2025



The Monsoon School on Inequality 2025 was organised from 24 to 26 July 2025 at the Centre jointly by the Inequality Working Group (IWG) of the Young Scholars Initiative (YSI), the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), Economiga, and the Centre for Development Studies. The School focused on key themes including economic inequality and its measurement, social mobility and equality of opportunity, environment, climate change and inequality, and economic growth, public policy and inequality. Participants engaged in keynote lectures, paper presentation sessions, panel discussions, and mentorship interactions with leading economists and researchers. The programme provided a vibrant platform for scholarly exchange on diverse concepts, methodologies, and policy approaches to understanding inequality in India.



The keynote sessions featured distinguished economists, including **Prof. Maitreesh Ghatak**, Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Editor of *Economica*; **Dr. Arvind Subramanian**, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics and former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India; and **Dr. Ajit Zacharias**, Senior Scholar and Program Director on Distribution of Income and Wealth, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Other resource persons included faculty members and researchers from CDS and leading academic institutions.

The programme also included parallel technical sessions, where selected participants presented research papers on labour markets, education, health, gender, climate change, public policy, taxation, social protection, and related dimensions of inequality. Dedicated mentorship sessions enabled participants to receive detailed feedback from senior scholars, fostering collaborative learning and strengthening research networks.

The Monsoon School successfully strengthened academic engagement on inequality by bringing together researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and encouraging critical dialogue on evidence-based policy responses. It reaffirmed CDS's commitment to promoting high-quality research and nurturing young scholars working on issues of inclusive and equitable development.

National Research Capacity Building Workshop on Plantation and Development

27 October to 2 November 2025
Indian Institute of Enterprises, Guwahati



The National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) organized the 3rd National Research Capacity Building Workshop on Plantation and Development from October 27 to November 2 followed by the National Conference on Production, Employment and Marketing of Plantation Crops in India from November 2 to 4 at the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati.

The workshop and conference were organized in collaboration with the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati, and the Department of Geography, Sikkim University.

The week-long research capacity building programme brought together 27 young scholars from universities and research institutions across India to strengthen research capabilities and engage with contemporary challenges in plantation systems.

The national conference featured 19 research presentations along with invited lectures and thematic discussions that examined India's plantation landscape through the lenses of labour rights, environmental vulnerability, market dynamics, international trade, and fairtrade practices.

In the inaugural keynote, Prof Deepak K Mishra reflected on labour futures under contemporary capitalism, focusing on Assam's plantation workers and the need to re-envision labour protection in the face of informalisation and shifting global markets. A special lecture by Prof Indraneel Bhowmik emphasized emerging issues in the natural rubber sector in the North East India. Closing the programme, organizers Prof Vinoj Abraham, Dr Rajdeep Singha, and Dr Abdul Hannan reaffirmed their commitment to building an ecosystem of advanced research, informed policymaking, and sustained engagement between academia, civil society, and industry for the benefit of plantation communities and stakeholders in India.



Workshop on “Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues”

24th to 28th November 2025



The Unit organised a five-day workshop on "Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues" from 24 to 28 November 2025. The workshop aimed to enhance the research capabilities of scholars and practitioners working on migration-related themes by familiarising them with diverse methodological tools and theoretical approaches. The primary objectives of the workshop were to introduce participants to contemporary methods in migration research; provide training on quantitative and qualitative research techniques; facilitate understanding of data sources relevant to migration studies; discuss the ethical and logistical challenges in conducting fieldwork; and encourage interdisciplinary and policy-relevant approaches to migration.

The workshop featured a series of expert-led technical sessions covering a diverse set of topics and methodological approaches. The following sessions were conducted:

‘Internal Migration in India: Recent Research and Methodological Insights’ and ‘Using AI to Learn STATA in Order to Work with NSS Data’ (S. Chandrasekhar, IGIDR); ‘Dynamics between Migrants and Non-Migrants on the Labour Market’ and ‘Using Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) Data for Empirical Research’ (Mohd Imran Khan, NMIMS School of Economics, Mumbai); ‘Methodological and Data Related Issues and their Implications for the Policies of Regional Development’ (Amitabh Kundu, RIS); ‘Issues, Data and Methods in Research on Skilled Migration’ (Binod Khadria, GRFDT);

‘Introduction to Research on Migration and Methods to Estimate Migrants using Census Data’ (Vinoj Abraham, CDS); ‘Research on International Labour Migration: Review of Theories, Empirical Issues and Policy Contours’ (S.K. Sasikumar, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute); ‘Studying Return Migration through a Village Survey’ (Ritika Jain, CDS); ‘Research Strategies for Understanding Internal Migration in India’ (Jayesh M.P., Christ University, Bangalore); ‘Intersectionality in Migration’ (Praveena Kodoth, CDS); ‘Application of Mixed Methods in Migration Studies’ (K. Jafar, MIDS); ‘Macroeconomic Impact of Remittances’ (K.S. Hari, GIPE); ‘Historicising Migration from India’ (V.J. Varghese, University of Hyderabad); and ‘Kerala Migration Survey (KMS): Evolution, Methodology, and Usage’ (S. Irudaya Rajan, IIMAD).

The technical sessions were complemented by an orientation to the K.N. Raj Library conducted by the Chief Librarian, Mr V. Sriram, and by two film screenings – “*Pathemari*” and “*Where is my Home?*” (an official selection at the DC South Asian Film Festival 2025), the latter introduced by its maker, Adv. Jaya Jose Raj.

The workshop brought together 31 participants, including doctoral students, early-career researchers, faculty members, and practitioners from various institutions across India. The selection was made based on academic background, research interests, and a statement of purpose.

Crossroads 2026

5th to 7th February 2026



The second round of Crossroads 2026 was held from Feb 5-7th 2026. It featured academic presentations and discussions on six relevant



and timely themes: Technology, Identity and Power; Firm Dynamics and performance; Development and Vulnerability, Economics of Climate Change; Casual Inference, Agriculture and Rural Development, Policy and Macroeconomics; Labour Market and Outcomes

A total of 24 papers and 8 posters were presented by scholars from distinguished institutions across the country. Eminent Academicians joined to discuss the papers and give the presenters detailed feedback.

The special sessions included: Perspectives of Research by Prof. Suraj Jacob, chaired by Prof. Devika J; From Manuscript to Publication: An Editorial Perspective by Nachiketh Kulkarni, Senior Assistant Editor and Shweta Shetty, Assistant Editor, Economic and Political, chaired by Prof K J Joseph – Director – Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation; AI and Research by Prof. Chandrashekhar - IGIDR chaired by Dr. Chidambaran G Iyer

(d) RESEARCH AFFILIATION

Mr. Bavan Pushpalingam, Research Fellow, University of Toronto has been granted affiliation at the Centre for Development Studies for his research work on “Brewing Justice: Rethinking Tea Production in Nilgiris and Wayanad through Labour Justice, Gender Equity, Food Security, and Agroecological Alternatives”. Mr. Bavan’s academic activities while with the Centre was guided by Professor Thiagu Ranganathan. The affiliation was for a period of three months from 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025.

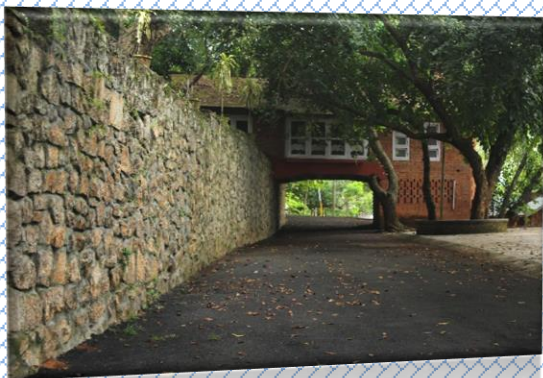
Ms. Mallory Rose Cerkleski, PhD Student in History, Scuola Normale Superiore, Faculty of Humanities has been granted research affiliation at Centre for Development Studies for her research work on “Memories of Two Leftist Lands: Communal Food Systems and Food Systems Imaginaries in Cuba and Kerala, India.” Ms. Mallory’s academic activities while with the CDS was guided by Professor J. Devika. The affiliation has been extended to 01/06/2025 to 31/01/2026 and later the affiliation was discontinued by CDS.

(e) INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Centre's Internship Programme provides valuable opportunities for undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. students to gain exposure to social science research. The programme is intended for students with a keen interest in social science research, particularly on issues related to economic development.

Eligible applicants may directly approach, or contact through email, a CDS faculty member whose area of specialization aligns with their research interests. Interns work under the guidance of faculty members and gain first-hand experience in research methodologies, data analysis, and academic writing.

During the year, **48 students** from prominent universities and colleges across the country availed themselves of the Internship Programme. In addition, **one international student from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom**, successfully completed an internship at the Centre, reflecting the growing national and international recognition of the programme.



5. ENDOWMENTS

National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD)

The National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) is a research programme supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, to undertake policy-oriented research on the socio-economic dimensions of India's plantation sector. Established in 2009, the programme aims to generate evidence-based research, strengthen research capacity, and facilitate informed policy discussions on issues relating to plantation crops, including tea, coffee, rubber, and spices. The programme functions under the guidance of a Steering Committee chaired by the Chairman, CDS, and a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) chaired by the Director, CDS. The programme is coordinated by Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Professor, and Ministry of Commerce Chair. Dr. Sachu Sara Sabu was appointed as Post-Doctoral Researcher under the programme in 2025–26, and the appointment was subsequently extended for a further year.

NRPPD continued to undertake interdisciplinary research, organise capacity-building programmes, webinars and academic events, develop database, and disseminate research findings through publications, policy briefs, and research reports. The programme also strengthened collaborations with universities, commodity boards, and other research institutions to promote evidence-based research and policy engagement in the

plantation sector.

Research Activities

NRPPD continued to undertake policy-oriented research addressing contemporary challenges in India's plantation sector. During the year, two major research projects were advanced. The study on Profitability and Productivity of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Assam and West Bengal examines the determinants of productivity, production costs, profitability, and livelihood outcomes among small tea growers. The first phase of the study, comprising a field survey in Assam, was successfully completed. The second phase, involving a field survey in West Bengal, is currently underway. The second ongoing study, assessing the impact of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) on India's plantation sector: A case study of cardamom, investigates the implications of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, technical barriers to trade (TBT), and other non-tariff measures on India's cardamom exports and competitiveness. During the year, the first phase of the study, involving secondary data collection and analysis, was completed. The next phase will comprise field surveys among cardamom growers, traders, and exporters, followed by an assessment of the impact of SPS, TBT, and other NTMs on exports, culminating in report preparation and publication.

The programme also completed two major research studies. The study on performance of Rubber Producer Societies (RPS) and its impact on growers examined the functioning of RPS and their contribution to improving the productivity and livelihoods of small rubber



growers. The final report was submitted to the Rubber Board and published on the CDS website (Link: https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/Rubber-Report-_vinoy_RB_report.pdf). The study also generated two publications: "Deepening Disconnect: The Case of Rubber Growers and Producer Organisations in Kerala" published in Economic and Political Weekly (2024), and "Sagging Solidarity: There is a Crisis Facing Kerala's Rubber Producer Societies" published in Down To Earth (2025).

The study on Performance of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu assessed the role of collective action in improving production, marketing, and livelihoods among small tea growers. The findings were disseminated through an NRPPD Open Seminar and Webinar Series (Webinar 14) titled "Mechanization and Collectivization: Emerging Dynamics and Implications for Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu," presented by Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. Sachu Sara Sabu. The final report was submitted to the Tea Board and published on the CDS website (https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/Tea-Report_NRPPD.pdf). Research papers based on the study are currently under preparation for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development

As part of its mandate to strengthen research capacity in plantation studies, NRPPD organised the Third Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development from 27 October to 2 November 2025 at the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, in collaboration with the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati, and the Department of Geography, Sikkim University. The seven-day residential programme aimed to strengthen research skills, theoretical understanding, and policy-oriented perspectives among young researchers, faculty members, and development practitioners working on plantation economies.

The programme adopted an interdisciplinary approach, covering themes such as plantation economics, labour and employment, gender,

political economy, climate change, sustainability, international trade, non-tariff measures, producer collectives, and research methodology. Resource persons included distinguished scholars from leading universities and research institutions across the country, alongside experts from commodity boards and the plantation sector. Interactive discussions and methodological training equipped participants with practical skills in field research, data analysis, and policy-oriented research. The call for participation received 70 applications, from which 28 participants representing universities and research institutions across India were selected through a competitive screening process. The programme provided an important platform for networking, interdisciplinary collaboration, and mentoring between senior scholars and early-career researchers, thereby strengthening the national research ecosystem on plantation development.

National Conference on Production Employment and Marketing of Plantation Crops in India

NRPPD, in collaboration with OKDISCD, Guwahati, and the Department of Geography, Sikkim University, organised the National Conference on Production, Employment and Marketing of Plantation Crops in India during 2–4 November 2025 at the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati. The conference provided an interdisciplinary platform for researchers, faculty members, policymakers, representatives of commodity boards, industry stakeholders, and research scholars to deliberate on emerging issues confronting India's plantation sector.

The conference featured keynote and special lectures, a panel discussion on Green Leaf Pricing in the Smallholder Tea Sector in North-East India, and five technical sessions covering production, labour and employment, marketing, international trade, value chains, climate change, sustainability, governance, and the challenges faced by smallholders and plantation workers. A total of 19 research papers were presented by scholars from universities and research institutions across the country, reflecting the growing scope and diversity of plantation research in India. The



conference concluded with a valedictory lecture, presentation of the rapporteurs' report, and the release of the Guwahati Declaration, highlighting the need for evidence-based policies, stronger institutional support for smallholders and plantation workers, region-specific development strategies, and enhanced collaboration among academia, industry, and policymakers. The conference significantly strengthened academic networking and promoted policy dialogue on the future of India's plantation sector.

Publications and Research Outputs

Research undertaken under the programme continued to be disseminated through journal articles, research reports, policy briefs, and popular publications. During the year, the programme also made significant progress in the forthcoming edited volume, *Plantations in Transition: Productivity, Prices and Employment*, which brings together original contributions from researchers and experts working on plantation issues.

Notable publications during the year included:

1. Vinoj Abraham & Sachu Sara Sabu (2026). *Rethinking Kerala's Farming Systems: Diversification through Fruit Crops*. Kerala Karshakan.
2. Vinoj Abraham & Sachu Sara Sabu (2025). *Sagging Solidarity: There is a Crisis Facing Kerala's Rubber Producer Societies*. Down To Earth.
3. Mohankumar, S., Joseph, K. J., & Prem Kumar (2025). *Production and Marketing of Seed Spices: A Study of Cumin and Coriander in Rajasthan*. Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics.

Forthcoming publication:

- Forthcoming: Vinoj Abraham & Sachu Sara Sabu. *Rubber Producer Societies in Kerala: Institutional Innovation, Smallholder Gains, and Emerging Disconnects – Rubber Board Publication*

Research reports

1. Study on the Performance of Rubber Producer Societies and its Impact on Growers by Vinoj Abraham

2. Performance of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of Small Tea Growers (STGs) by Thiagu Ranganathan and Sachu Sara Sabu, and

Academic presentations in Conferences

Sachu Sara Sabu. "Import Rejections of Indian Beverage and Spice Commodities in the International Market" presented at the National Conference on Production, Employment and Marketing of Plantation Crops in India, jointly organised by NRPPD, OKDISCD and the Department of Geography, Sikkim University, held at the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, Assam, during 2–4 November 2025.

Forthcoming conference presentation:

Vinoj Abraham & Sachu Sara Sabu. "Does FPO Membership Improve the Economic Performance of Coffee Growers in South India?" Accepted for presentation at the 34th Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA) on "Agricultural Transformation in India: Resource Use, Trade Dynamics, and Sustainability," to be held at Pondicherry University, Puducherry, during 12–14 October 2026.

Policy Briefs

The quarterly NRPPD Policy Brief continued to disseminate recent national and international research relevant to plantation development in a format accessible to policymakers and researchers. During 2025–26, three quarterly issues covering April–June 2025, October–December 2025 and January – March 2026 were published. The October–December 2025 issue introduced an expanded format which was continued in the January–March 2026 issue. In addition to policy insights from national and international research, featured highlights of NRPPD's in-house research, publications, external research, and programme events. This enhanced format provides a comprehensive overview of the programme's research activities while facilitating wider dissemination of evidence-based policy insights on plantation development.

Database

Statistical Database: The NRPPD Plantation Statistical Database was further developed



during the year as a publicly accessible online repository of plantation statistics. The database compiles national-, state-, and district-level time series on area, production, and productivity of major plantation crops, including tea, coffee, rubber, and cardamom, from official sources. Extensive data validation, consistency checks, and quality assurance exercises were undertaken to ensure the reliability of the database, which is now ready for public launch. Work also progressed on expanding the database to incorporate information on international trade, prices, employment, climate, and sustainability indicators, thereby transforming it into a comprehensive knowledge platform for researchers, policymakers, commodity boards, and other stakeholders.

Literature Database: The programme continued to update the NRPPD Literature Database, a curated and thematically organised bibliography of research on plantation crops. The database includes peer-reviewed journal articles, books, reports, working papers, and policy documents covering diverse aspects of plantation economies. Available in a Zotero-compatible format, it serves as an important reference resource for researchers, students, and policymakers working on plantation development.

Internship Programme

NRPPD continued to engage interns as part of its research and knowledge dissemination activities. During the year, interns assisted in identifying and reviewing recent national and international research publications on plantation crops for inclusion in the NRPPD Policy Brief. Their contributions supported the systematic compilation of external research, strengthened the evidence base of the policy briefs, and provided valuable research training in literature review, knowledge synthesis, and policy communication.

Webinar Lecture Series

The NRPPD Webinar Lecture Series continued to serve as a platform for academic exchange by bringing together leading scholars and practitioners to discuss emerging issues in plantation development. During the year, a webinar titled "Agricultural Transitions in the

Age of Climate Change: The Role of Natural Capital Management" (12th December 2025) was delivered by Prof. N. S. Cooray, Professor, Graduate School of International Relations, International University of Japan. The lecture examined the implications of climate change for agricultural transitions and highlighted the role of natural capital management in promoting sustainable and resilient plantation economies.

Reserve Bank of India Endowment Unit on Economic Development

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) established an endowment scheme at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) in 1976, with the objective of supporting research and higher education in finance, banking, economics, and allied fields. The scheme was converted in March 2002 into a one-time Corpus Fund of ₹1.5Cr for research and advanced learning in finance, banking, economics, and related areas; the corpus was later enhanced to ₹4Cr lakh and more recently to ₹10 Crore. The Unit has been led by successive RBI Chair Professors. Prof. C. Veeramani currently holds an RBI Professorial Chair at the Centre.

Under the initiative of this unit, two new courses have been introduced into the MA and PhD curricula at CDS: "Financial Programming & Policies" and "Open Economy Macroeconomics in Emerging Market Economies"

Second Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies

The Centre for Development Studies successfully hosted the Second Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies from 19th to 24th Jan, 2026.

The workshop brought together scholars, policy experts, and early-career researchers to engage in in-depth discussions on contemporary macroeconomic challenges and opportunities facing emerging markets, with a



particular emphasis on India. A total of 140 participants from institutions across India took part in the workshop.

The workshop was designed to: Deepen participants' understanding of key issues in open economy macroeconomics; Explore the macroeconomic implications of economic integration, especially for emerging market economies; Familiarize attendees with the latest theoretical developments, empirical techniques, and policy frameworks; Provide insights into the working of financial institutions, particularly the Reserve Bank of India.

The workshop featured a lineup of eminent speakers and researchers:

Dr G V Nadhanael (RBI Mumbai), Open Economy Considerations in Inflation Targeting Framework

Prof Soumyen Sikdar (IIM, Calcutta), A simple intertemporal model of Balance of Payments.

Prof Barendra Kumar Bhoi (Utkal University), Monetary policy Strategy: Theory and practice with special reference to India.

Prof Rudra Sensarma (IIM, Kozhikode), Monetary policy transmission: channels and recent evidence

Prof Chetan Subramanian (IIM, Bangalore), Monetary Policy Spillovers, UIP Deviations and Term Premium Dynamics

Prof Saikat Sinha Roy (Jadavpur), Exchange Rate pass through and Macroeconomy.

Dr Rajeswari Sengupta (IGIDR), From Tariffs to Turmoil: Trade Policy Uncertainty and Export Dynamics in India

Prof Devesh Roy (Ashoka University), New Avenues of Agri-food trade: Methods, data and the new understanding.

Prof Prachi Mishra (Ashoka University). Do Sovereign Ratings Match Theory? Evidence on Debt and Primary Balances

Prof. C Veeramani (CDS): Global Value Chains: Theory and Evidence.

Dr Rajit Biswas (CDS) .A Brief Introduction to the Theory of Product Cycle Models

Prof M. Parameswaran (CDS) Post-

Independence Growth Experience of India

In addition to lectures, the workshop also showcased research presentations by emerging scholars. This created a stimulating environment for peer feedback, mentorship, and potential collaborations. The focus on applied and policy-relevant research helped bridge academic inquiry with real-world economic challenges.

Several key studies have been conducted/ published under the RBI unit.

1. Old Industrial Policy, New Industrial Policy, and the GVC Era: Lessons from India's Mobile Phone Industry, Asian Economic Papers. MIT Press. (forthcoming)

2. Global Value Chain Participation and Labor Market Outcomes in Indian Manufacturing, Economic and Political Weekly, forthcoming (with Deepali Gupta)

3. The New World Trade Order: Reorganization, Not Retreat, IIM Kozhikode Society And Management Review., Sage Publications, (forthcoming)

4. Why is Labour Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India? Role of Trade, Technology, and Market Share Reallocation. Asian Economic Papers (2025) 24 (3): 1–31. MIT Press <https://doi.org/10.1162/ASEP.a.1> (C. Veeramani, Anwesha Basu)

5. "India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to Growth and Supply Chain Resilience." Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies, Wiley: e70054. <https://doi.org/10.1002/app5.70054>.

6. "Do Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?" Indian Economic Review, 04 March 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41775-025-00257-z> (C Veeramani and Manish)

7. External Sector Outlook and 2025–26 Union Budget. Economic and Political Weekly. Vol. 60, Issue No. 16, 19 Apr, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.71279/epw.v60i16.43907>

8. Industrial policy and trade policy in the evolving new global order. Journal of Social and Economic Development Dev. 27 (Suppl 2), 135–137 (2025).



<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40847-025-00464-Z> (Amitendu Palit, C. Veeramani, Shailja Singh, Surendar Singh & Malini L. Tantri)

9. Coeditor of Special Issue on Trade Policy and Industrial Policy in the Evolving New Global Order, Vol. 27, 2025. *Journal of Social and Economic Development* (Suppl 2), (with Amitendu Palit, Shailja Singh, Surendar Singh & Malini L. Tantri).

10. "What You Import and Where It Comes from Matter for Growth: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives." Rajat Acharya and Sugata Marjit (Eds.), *Handbook of International Economics*. Oxford University Press. (C Veeramani, M Parameswaran) (forthcoming)

11. "Strategic Trade Policies for Catalysing India's Economic Transformation." Charan Singh and Arvind Virmani (Eds.), *India's Economic Evolution Towards Inclusive Development: Exploring the Bhartiya Model*. Academic Foundation (C Veeramani, Anwesha Basu), forthcoming

12. "Trade, FDI, and Growth: Overview and Evidence from India." Dibyendu Maiti, Bishwanath Goldar, and K.L. Krishna (Eds.), *75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts*. Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-8054-9>

13. 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 Research Report <https://cds.edu/publicationsstudyreports/>. Completed Research Report

14. "Evaluation of Finances of State of Kerala", C Veeramani (with M Parameswaran and Hrishikesh Mallick), Report Prepared for the 16th Finance Commission, 2025, completed

15. "Signing free-trade deals is not enough to secure real economic gains", *Business Standard*, Jan 2026 (with Himanshu Jaiswal)

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Member, RBI Empowered Committee on External Commercial Borrowings and Overseas Direct Investments (2018–present)

Member, Memorandum Drafting Committee,

Government of Kerala - prepared submission to the Sixteenth Finance Commission

Member, CII Task Force on Global Value Chains (2024–26), chaired by the Managing Director, Apple India

Member, Standing Technical Committee of Experts, India Exim Bank (2018–present)

Pre-Budget Consultations with the Finance Ministers of India and Kerala

Niti Aayog Endowment in Development Economics

The NITI Aayog Endowment in Development Economics was established in 1998. Following an evaluation of its activities, the erstwhile Planning Commission recognised the Unit for its contributions to research on technology and innovation in the Indian context. **Professor Praveena Kodoth** serves as the Chair Professor.

During the year, the Unit continued its research on migration within and across national borders, with particular emphasis on the experiences of women and children and the socio-economic implications of both international and internal migration. The Unit also focused on issues relating to childcare as a constraint on women's employment and the significance of dowry in contemporary Kerala.

A study titled "**Contingent Aspirations and Employment Dynamics of Young Mothers in Kerala**", published in *Economic & Political Weekly (EPW)* on 28 July 2025, examined the changing employment trajectories and aspirations of higher educated mothers in Kerala, where women's work participation has increased despite persistently high unemployment among younger women. Based on interviews with 67 higher educated mothers from rural and urban areas of Ernakulam district, the study explored how women negotiate their employment aspirations within the constraints of family responsibilities, labour market conditions, and inadequate public support. The findings underscore the need for stronger policy interventions, including wider access to maternity benefits,



affordable childcare services, and improved public transport, to support women's sustained participation in the labour force.

Another study, **"Who Returns During a Crisis and Why? Employment Vulnerability, the COVID-19 Pandemic and Return Migration to India"**, examined the employment vulnerabilities of return migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic by comparing them with current migrants and non-migrants in a migration-intensive village in Kerala. The findings indicate that the pandemic intensified pre-existing structural inequalities and employment vulnerabilities, highlighting the need for policies that strengthen the economic resilience and social protection of return migrants.

The study **"The Care Regime through the Lens of Migrant Labour"** examined how India's care regime shapes the employment opportunities of migrant women and the well-being of migrant children in the industrial clusters of Perumbavoor (Kerala) and Hosur (Tamil Nadu). Comparing the welfare regimes of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the study highlighted the importance of inclusive public investment in childcare infrastructure and improved access to childcare and educational services for migrant families to enhance women's employment opportunities and promote child well-being.

With the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), New Delhi, the Unit initiated two new research projects during the year. The first project, **"Mapping the Mobility of Care Workers from India"**, examines the global migration patterns of Indian care workers—including nurses, caregivers, and domestic workers—and analyses the factors shaping their mobility across major destination countries. The study finds that India is the world's second-largest source of migrant nurses after the Philippines, with Kerala continuing to be the leading source state, while Telangana and Meghalaya are emerging as important migration hubs. The findings are expected to inform policies on ethical recruitment, safe migration pathways, improved domestic employment conditions,

and the protection and welfare of Indian migrant care workers.

The second project, **"Care Workers' Migration and Mobility from Kerala"**, examines the evolution of migration pathways for Kerala's care workers and the opportunities and challenges arising from changing global demand. The study finds that international student migration, government-to-government recruitment programmes, and private recruitment agencies have created new pathways for overseas employment in the post-pandemic period. It emphasises the need for stronger ethical recruitment systems, improved skills and language training, better migration data systems, and equitable access to safe migration pathways to ensure that international migration remains a rewarding and informed choice for Kerala's care workers.

During the year, four research articles published in reputed national and international journals. The Chair Professor presented research papers at several national and international conferences and seminars. She also continued to serve on a number of committees and advisory bodies at the national and state levels, contributing to policy discussions on migration, labour, gender, and social development.

Research Unit on Local Self Governments (RUSLG)

The Research Unit on Local Self Governments (RUSLG) was established in March 2005 by the Government of Kerala at the Centre to promote research on decentralization and strengthen the functioning of local self-governance institutions in the state. The Unit aims to undertake high-quality research, build research capacity, and disseminate research findings, while fostering strong linkages between research and training programmes, particularly through collaboration with institutions such as the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). The Unit is currently headed by **Prof. M. Parameswaran**, Chair Professor.



The Unit undertakes a wide range of research, policy, and outreach activities to support evidence-based local governance. Its major activities include organising annual policy dialogues that promote inclusive and participatory local governance, with particular emphasis on the concerns of marginalized communities; commissioning studies on critical issues such as ecological challenges and the responses of local governments; publishing a dedicated series on Kudumbashree, Kerala's flagship programme for poverty alleviation and women's empowerment; and conducting concurrent assessments of various components of local self-governance across the state. Through these initiatives, the Unit contributes to informed policymaking and strengthens the institutional framework for democratic decentralisation in Kerala.

Status Report on Panchayati Raj System in India

RULSG prepared a Status Report on the Panchayati Raj System in India to review three decades of democratic decentralisation following the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments of 1993. The report assesses the performances of panchayat raj system across the states in the country in various aspects. It serves as a valuable reference for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners and contributes to future policy reforms for strengthening local self-governance in India.

Keralathile Vayojana Souhridha Pradesika Bharanam (Age-Friendly Local Governance in Kerala)- Book

RULSG completed a major study on Age-Friendly Local Governance in Kerala and prepared a book titled *Keralathile Vayojana Souhridha Pradesika Bharanam*. The book is currently in the final editing stage and will be published by the State Institute of Languages (Kerala Bhasha Institute).

The study addresses the challenges arising from Kerala's rapidly ageing population and emphasizes the need for age-friendly local governance and innovative policy interventions through local self-governments. It is based on an in-depth analysis of three

Gram Panchayats that have successfully implemented age-friendly initiatives, together with a review of nationally and internationally recognized age-friendly governance frameworks and best practices. Drawing on these findings, the study proposes a policy framework and practical recommendations for strengthening age-friendly local governance in the state. The publication assumes greater significance in the context of the Government of Kerala's recent establishment of a dedicated Department for Senior Citizens, reflecting the state's growing commitment to addressing the needs and well-being of its ageing population. The book is expected to serve as a valuable reference for policymakers, local governments, researchers, and other stakeholders.

Study on the Effectiveness of Grama Sabha in Decentralized Governance of Kerala

RULSG has undertaken a major research study on the "Effectiveness of Grama Sabha in Decentralized Governance of Kerala". The Grama Sabha is the foundation of grassroots democracy and plays a vital role in identifying local needs, prioritising development projects, ensuring people's participation, and monitoring local development initiatives. The introduction of the *People's Plan Campaign* in 1996 marked a significant milestone in strengthening the role of Grama Sabhas in Kerala's decentralised governance system. After three decades, it has become essential to assess whether Grama Sabhas continue to function effectively in promoting citizen participation, addressing local needs, ensuring transparency, and contributing to inclusive local development.

The study aims to evaluate the functioning and effectiveness of the Grama Sabha system and identify the challenges affecting its performance. Based on the findings, the study seeks to develop policy recommendations for strengthening Grama Sabhas as the basic institution of democratic local governance. The research covers an extensive field survey in nine Gram Panchayats across five districts of Kerala, capturing the perceptions and experiences of different sections of the community. In addition, Grama Sabha minutes and other relevant records have been systematically analysed to assess institutional



performance. The field survey has been completed, and the study is currently in the data analysis stage.

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.

Workshop on "Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues"

The Unit organised a five-day workshop on "Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues" from 24 to 28 November 2025. The workshop aimed to enhance the research capabilities of scholars and practitioners working on migration-related themes by familiarising them with diverse methodological tools and theoretical approaches. The primary objectives of the workshop were to introduce participants to contemporary methods in migration research; provide training on quantitative and qualitative research techniques; facilitate understanding of data sources relevant to migration studies;

discuss the ethical and logistical challenges in conducting fieldwork; and encourage interdisciplinary and policy-relevant approaches to migration.

The workshop featured a series of expert-led technical sessions covering a diverse set of topics and methodological approaches. The following sessions were conducted:

'Internal Migration in India: Recent Research and Methodological Insights' and 'Using AI to Learn STATA in Order to Work with NSS Data' (S. Chandrasekhar, IGIDR); 'Dynamics between Migrants and Non-Migrants on the Labour Market' and 'Using Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) Data for Empirical Research' (Mohd Imran Khan, NMIMS School of Economics, Mumbai); 'Methodological and Data Related Issues and their Implications for the Policies of Regional Development' (Amitabh Kundu, RIS); 'Issues, Data and Methods in Research on Skilled Migration' (Binod Khadria, GRFDT); 'Introduction to Research on Migration and Methods to Estimate Migrants using Census Data' (Vinoj Abraham, CDS); 'Research on International Labour Migration: Review of Theories, Empirical Issues and Policy Contours' (S.K. Sasikumar, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute); 'Studying Return Migration through a Village Survey' (Ritika Jain, CDS); 'Research Strategies for Understanding Internal Migration in India' (Jayesh M.P., Christ University, Bangalore); 'Intersectionality in Migration' (Praveena Kodoth, CDS); 'Application of Mixed Methods in Migration Studies' (K. Jafar, MIDS); 'Macroeconomic Impact of Remittances' (K.S. Hari, GIPE); 'Historicising Migration from India' (V.J. Varghese, University of Hyderabad); and 'Kerala Migration Survey (KMS): Evolution, Methodology, and Usage' (S. Irudaya Rajan, IIMAD).

The technical sessions were complemented by an orientation to the K.N. Raj Library conducted by the Chief Librarian, Mr V. Sriram, and by two film screenings – "*Pathemari*" and "*Where is my Home?*" (an official selection at the DC South Asian Film Festival 2025), the latter introduced by its maker, Adv. Jaya Jose Raj.



The workshop brought together 31 participants, including doctoral students, early-career researchers, faculty members, and practitioners from various institutions across India. The selection was made based on academic background, research interests, and a statement of purpose.

Annual Conference on Kerala and the World Economy - 2026

The Unit organised the annual Kerala and the World Economy (KWE) Conference on 23 and 24 February 2026 at the Joan Robinson Hall, CDS, on the theme 'Kerala in Transition: Building an Inclusive Economy in a Shifting Global Order'. The conference invited unpublished original research papers on international migration, labour markets and livelihoods, inequality and social protection, health and education, industrial and port-led development, trade and global value chains, public finance, gender and care economies, tourism, environment and climate vulnerability, and public policy, with comparative contributions from within India and internationally strongly encouraged.

The programme comprised four keynote addresses, six technical sessions with seventeen paper presentations, three poster presentations, a book talk and a book release. Prof. C. Veeramani, Director, CDS, delivered the welcome address. The keynote addresses were 'The Rise of a New Malayali Capital through Kerala's Engagement with Globalization 2.0: Some Preliminary Explorations' by Prof. K.P. Kannan (CDS); 'The Rise of the West in India' by Prof. Chinmay Tumble (IIM Ahmedabad); 'Turning Constraints into Capabilities: The Emergence of Knowledge-Based Industries in Kerala' by Prof. Sunil Mani (CDS and Ahmedabad University); and 'Challenges to Subnational Industrial Development: Some Lessons from Tamil Nadu' by Prof. M. Vijayabaskar (MIDS). The technical sessions were organised around gender and labour, environmental issues, industrial development, state finance, social inclusion and democracy, and migration and society, drawing presenters from institutions including JNU, IIM Indore, IIPS Mumbai, CUSAT, GIPE, Jamia Millia Islamia, and several universities within Kerala.

The conference also hosted a book talk on "*Kerala, 1956 to the Present: India's Miracle State*" by Tirthankar Roy and K. Ravi Raman (Cambridge University Press), presented by Prof. K. Ravi Raman, and the release of "*Kerala Transforming: Labor and Trade Mobility in Times of Pandemic*", edited by P.L. Beena and Thiagu Ranganathan (Routledge India), with a panel discussion. On the evening of the first day, the award-winning documentary "*Jalamudra*" by P. Ajith Kumar was screened, tracing the legacy of Kerala's inland waterways and the West Coast Canal.

Research Studies

During the reported period, two research projects were completed under the unit.

1. International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala – Patterns, Determinants, and Implications (Phase I: Completed)

Based on a survey of nearly 2,500 undergraduate students in Thiruvananthapuram district, the study highlights the widespread and persistent aspiration for higher education abroad. These aspirations are driven primarily by expectations of a better quality of life, followed by the quality of education and overseas employment opportunities. They are largely shaped by peer influence and informal sources of information, while awareness and preparedness - particularly regarding application procedures, scholarship opportunities, and visa processes - remain limited. The study also points to challenges such as unrealistic financial planning, rising private financial burdens on households, and broader social costs associated with student migration, including brain drain and fund outflows.

2. A Study on Labour Market, Skills, and Skilling Policy for International Migration from Kerala to Europe - Phase I: Completed

Phase I focused on analysing the evolving international labour migration landscape, with particular emphasis on



skill-centric migration pathways from Kerala to selected European countries—Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden. The study reviewed changes in labour market dynamics, emerging skill demands, and transformations in immigration policy frameworks in these countries. The analysis highlights a shift toward skill-intensive, time-bound migration policies and identifies a strategic opportunity for Kerala—given its relatively high levels of education and investment in skill development—to position itself as a key supplier of skilled labour to Europe. The study recommends a migration cycle-based policy framework and underscores the need to shift the migration narrative from brain-drain to brain-gain.

Ongoing Studies under the units are

1. International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala – Patterns, Determinants, and Implications (Phase 2)

The Phase II of this study focuses on understanding how students who have migrated for higher studies pursued their aspirations and were able to migrate. As part of this phase, in-depth interviews are being conducted with students who are currently pursuing or have recently completed undergraduate or postgraduate courses abroad. The objective of these interviews is to gain insights into how students develop aspirations to study overseas and the orientations of their aspirations, how they plan for their overseas study programmes, the networks and channels they use to obtain information and prepare for migration, how they finance their migration and study programmes, the challenges they face, how they overcome them as well as how they see their futures in the current global economic and political context.

Twenty students across different countries have been identified for interviews. Two interviews have been completed—one with a Master's student in the UK and another in Canada. Additionally, a student preparing to pursue a PhD in Germany has also been interviewed. Two Research Assistants are

supporting the process of conducting and transcribing the interviews.

2. A Study on Labour Market, Skills, and Skilling Policy for International Migration from Kerala to Europe (Phase 2)

Phase 2 of this study will involve a detailed primary survey in Kerala to assess the supply side of skills and the effectiveness of skilling and migration-related support systems. The survey will cover current migrants, return migrants, and prospective migrants, and will collect data on their skill endowments, migration experiences, and awareness of and access to government schemes and programmes promoting skill-based international migration. It will also evaluate the performance and outcomes of skill development centres offering Europe-relevant training, and assess the effectiveness of pre-departure orientation programmes.

3: Migration Beyond the Gulf - Charting the Transition in Labour Migration from Kerala

The study aims to examine the transition in Kerala's labour migration pattern, characterized by a decline in migration to the Gulf and a growing preference for OECD destinations, including countries in Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. This shift has been accompanied by changes in the educational and occupational profile of migrants, along with the emerging role of recruitment agents (RAs) in facilitating these new migration pathways.

The study will document the role of RAs operating under the jurisdiction of the Protectors of Emigrants in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, as well as state-run agencies. It will explore how these agents are adapting to the requirements of new destinations, building relevant networks, leveraging their prior experience with Gulf migration, and responding to the increasing demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers, particularly in the care and trade sectors. The study will also examine emerging trends, such as the use of Au Pair programmes and the growing participation of women and less formally educated migrants.

4: Scheduled Caste Migration Study,



Kadakavoor - Internal Differentiation, Social and Human Capital

The study aims to understand the access to and experience of migration among SC households, with a focus on internal differentiation and the role of social and human capital. The third round of fieldwork was conducted in March 2024, using a stratified sample of migrant and non-migrant SC households differentiated by sub-caste (Thandan, Kuravar/Sidanar, Pulaya, and others). A total of 89 household interviews were completed. Preliminary findings from the March 2024 fieldwork indicate patterns of disadvantage among non-migrant households, debt-driven migration, insecure working conditions, and the critical role of women's paid labour in sustaining households and repaying debt. The narratives also highlight the risks and challenges faced by SC migrants, including irregular recruitment practices, workplace injuries, and exploitative conditions. The study aims to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the three rounds of data (2021, 2022, and 2024), combining household survey data and in-depth interviews to deepen the understanding of SC migration dynamics.

5: Impact of Reintegration Schemes (NDPREM and Pravasi Bhadratha) of NORKA - Phase II

Phase II of this study focuses on NORKA's reintegration schemes, with a specific focus on evaluating the NORKA Department Project for Returned Emigrants (NDPREM). While Phase I of the study was based on administrative data, Phase II proposes a detailed primary survey to assess the scheme's impact on the economic reintegration of return migrants in Kerala. The study aims to evaluate key aspects of NDPREM, including the effectiveness of the scheme in supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship among returnees; the determinants of success in availing loans; the characteristics and performance of beneficiary enterprises; survival rates; and the synergy between NDPREM and the NORKA Business Facilitation Centre (NBFC). A sample survey of approximately 1,000 applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) will be conducted, supplemented by case studies and interviews.

6 Impact Evaluation of the Pravasi Bhadratha (PEARL) Scheme - A Model of Economic Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Return Migrants

This study aims to undertake a comprehensive impact evaluation of the Pravasi Bhadratha (PEARL) scheme, implemented by NORKA for the economic reintegration of return migrants in Kerala. The study aims to assess the scheme's outreach, effectiveness in promoting entrepreneurship, and its potential as a replicable model for return migrant rehabilitation.

The proposed study will analyse the demographic and business profiles of PEARL beneficiaries, determinants of enterprise success and survival, sectoral trends, and loan repayment patterns. It will also draw comparative insights from the NDPREM scheme to evaluate the relative strengths of the two interventions. The findings are expected to inform refinements to Kerala's return migration policy and support the scaling up of successful models.

A mixed-methods approach will be adopted, comprising a structured survey of 800 beneficiaries across districts and sectors, supplemented by in-depth interviews with entrepreneurs and Kudumbashree functionaries.



Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Endowment

Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai served as a faculty member at CDS from 1983 to 2011, and later as an Honorary Fellow. Widely respected for his scholarship, mentorship, kindness, and generosity, Prof. Pillai made significant contributions to the study of technology transfer in Indian industries, as well as industrial development and the economy of Kerala. He also served as a member of the 9th Pay Revision Commission of the Government of Kerala, headed by Justice R. Rajendra Babu. In recognition of his contributions, Prof. Pillai's family has established an endowment in his name at CDS. This fund will support the



organization of special lectures every two years, ensuring that his intellectual legacy continues to inspire future generations of scholars and policymakers.

2nd P Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture

The 2nd Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture was held on 30 March 2026 at the Centre. The lecture, titled “Multinational Enterprises, GVCs and India’s Export Competitiveness: Theory, Evidence and Policy,” was delivered by **Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi.**

In his lecture, Prof. Kumar examined the role of multinational enterprises (MNEs) and foreign direct investment (FDI) in strengthening India’s export competitiveness through participation in global value chains (GVCs). He explained how FDI can facilitate export growth by integrating host economies into the production networks of multinational enterprises, drawing on the experiences of several developing countries that have successfully leveraged GVC participation to expand their presence in international markets.

The lecture reviewed both cross-country and India-specific empirical evidence on the relationship between FDI and export competitiveness. It highlighted the importance of complementary policies and institutional frameworks in enabling host countries to maximise the benefits of FDI, particularly through technology transfer, productivity enhancement, and deeper integration into global production networks.

Concluding the lecture, Prof. Kumar outlined key policy lessons for leveraging both inward and outward FDI to enhance India’s export competitiveness. He emphasised the need for a strategic policy framework that promotes stronger linkages between domestic firms and multinational enterprises, encourages innovation and technological upgrading, and supports India’s deeper integration into global value chains.

The first Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Rakesh Basant, retired Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), on **23 August 2024** at the Centre.



P. K. Gopalakrishnan Endowment

Dr. P.K. Gopalakrishnan was one of the founder members of the Centre. 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.

15th Dr.P.K.Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture

Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, delivered the 15th P.K. Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture on the topic “*Building Strategic Leverage in the Emerging World Order: Challenges and Opportunities for India*” at the Centre on 16 March 2026

Speaking at the event, Mr. Nageswaran noted that the ongoing conflict in the Persian Gulf, which is multidimensional in nature, has the potential to disrupt the strategic balance among nations for the next two or three decades.

Highlighting the importance of economic strength in geopolitics, he said that competitiveness in manufacturing and export sectors is crucial for building strategic resilience and strategic indispensability.



According to him, India's growth trajectory lies at the intersection of global headwinds and domestic potential.

"Ultimately, if we have to build strategic leverage and strategic indispensability, making stuff matters. Making stuff well with high quality matters, and therefore export competitiveness matters. In doing so, Swadeshi matters," Mr. Nageswaran said.

On the policy front, he called for 'Swadeshi ecosystem-first' reforms, a whole-of-government approach, and cluster-led growth suited to the Indian context. He also emphasized the importance of world-class and reliable infrastructure, long-term policy stability, and the role of an 'entrepreneurial State' in driving economic development.

Mr. Nageswaran suggested that India may need to revisit the concept of Swadeshi with suitable modifications. He observed that while the idea may have been set aside between 1990 and 2015/2020, it could regain relevance if adapted carefully to avoid the shortcomings experienced earlier.

"Swadeshi matters, and within it you have to indigenise," he remarked.

During the event, the CDS Prize for the Best Performing Assistant Professor was awarded to Dr. Ritika Jain in recognition of her academic performance.



B. G. Kumar Endowment

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.

16th B. G. Kumar Memorial Lecture was held on 5 November 2025 at the Centre. The lecture was delivered by **Prof. Barbara Harriss-White**, Emeritus Professor and Fellow, University of Oxford, on the theme "A Different Approach to Informality."

In her lecture, Prof. Harriss-White examined India's informal economy, widely recognised as the largest in the world, accounting for the overwhelming majority of employment and a substantial share of the country's GDP. She noted that conventional understandings of informality have largely been shaped by binary classifications such as organised and unorganised, protected and unprotected, or incorporated and unincorporated sectors.

Presenting an alternative conceptual framework, she argued that informality should be understood through the lens of the selective enforcement of state regulatory laws and the varied responses of economic actors, including voluntary adherence and compliance motivated by the fear of penalties. Drawing on an experimental analysis using artificial intelligence, complemented by evidence from seven predominantly rural case studies based on her extensive fieldwork, she demonstrated that informality extends well beyond officially classified sectors and is deeply embedded across the economy.



The lecture offered fresh theoretical and empirical insights into the nature of informality, challenging conventional perspectives and stimulating a lively discussion among faculty members, researchers, students, and invited participants on its implications for economic policy and development research.



A. D. Neelakantan Endowment

The A.D. Neelakantan Endowment Fund was instituted in memory of A.D. Neelakantan, a promising scholar who was part of the inaugural M.Phil. cohort (1975–76) at the Centre. Following his untimely and tragic passing in 1977, the fund was established through the generous contributions of his family, fellow students, and CDS faculty and staff, as a tribute to his academic dedication and passion for development studies. 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.

The A. D. Neelakantan Prize for securing the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) in the coursework component of the Ph.D. Programme (2023 Batch) was awarded to **Mr. Manish**. The award was presented by **Dr. Poonam Gupta**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, during the CDS Foundation Day celebrations held on 20 February 2026.



Chandrika Sharma Endowment

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.

Mr. Manish was awarded **The Chandrika Sharma Prize for splendid performance in the statistical survey report submitted as part of the Ph.D. Programme 2023**. **Dr. Poonam Gupta**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India presented the award.



Joan Robinson Endowment

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 for the best overall performance in the M.A. Applied Economics Programme (2023–25) was awarded jointly to

Ms. Ponnu Bimal and Mr. Mohammed Sinan

A. The award was presented by **Dr. Poonam Gupta**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.



M.G. Kanbur Endowment

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 M. G. Kanbur Prize for the best performance in the **Quantitative Courses** of the **M.A. Applied Economics Programme (2023-25)** was awarded to **Ms. Ponnu Bimal**. The award was presented by **Dr. Poonam Gupta**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, during the CDS Foundation Day celebrations held on 20 February 2026.



6. SUPPORT SERVICES

(a) K N RAJ LIBRARY

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 206 books, and 733 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.ltsinformatics.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 online bibliography of the publications of Dr. K.N. Raj is available here https://www.zotero.org/groups/5542435/kn_raj_collection/library

The K.N.Raj Library subscribes to 5 Print Journals and 11 News Papers. The library also received 41 print periodicals / journals as gift. This year CDS has been extended access to the Government of India's One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) eJournals (13000 journals) through the generous support from

ICSSR-NASSDOC. Access to the JSTOR (2400 journals) was provided by the ICSSR/NASSDOC consortia. They are available to the CDS community through IP access.

The membership during the reporting period is as follows. A total of 323 members joined / renewed membership, out of which 259 are reference memberships. 2 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, EPWRF India Time Series, 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, and World Bank Data. Access to CMIE Prowess, and IndiaStat were provided by the ICSSR/NASSDOC consortia. 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 1260 posts and has received 46986 visits. The following is



the URL <http://knrajlibrary.wordpress.com/> of the service.

Display of new additions in the library through video presentation on TV screen was launched

in March 2026. Along with metadata of books, the QR Code of online resources are also included in the display.

KNRaj Library on Social Media:

Content alert blog on Wordpress	http://knrajlibrary.wordpress.com/
Facebook	https://facebook.com/knrajlibrary
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/knrajlibrary/
LinkedIn	http://in.linkedin.com/in/knrajlibrary
Twitter	https://twitter.com/knrajlibrary
Telegram Messenger	https://t.me/knrajlibrary
WhatsApp Messenger	https://chat.whatsapp.com/CBwzglDWYE8K9ILTH3paQd

We are using DrillBit PDS software provided by JNU for checking similarity/plagiarism of PhD thesis. Apart from this ICSSR also provided access to the Turnitin software for checking the plagiarism / similarity of publications of faculty.

Four book displays were conducted during the reporting period. All the displays were kept in the Circulation Area Of K.N.Raj Library. They were useful for the CDS community and library users. The works of Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt (Joint winners of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for 2025 available in the library were kept for display from 14th to 17th October 2025. The works of Dr. T.K. Oommen (1937-2026) available in the K.N. Raj Library are kept for display from 27th Feb to 5th March 2026. The works of Dr. André Beteille (1934-2026) available in the K.N. Raj Library were kept for display from 6th to 11th March 2026. The works of Dr. K.N. Panikkar (1936-2026) available in the K.N. Raj Library were kept for display from 12th to 17th March 2026.

A Training Session on Enhancing Authoring and Publishing Skills with EBSCO EBooks and EconLit Journals was organized for the CDS faculty and students on 18th February 2026. Mr. Nanda Lal T. S., Training Manager-South India, EBSCO Information Services was the resource person for the programme. 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 2025-26 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 23 MA students, and teachers of the Department of Economics, University of Calicut visited the library from 22nd to 25th April 2025. 24 students from various colleges in Kerala doing internship in International Institute of Migration and Development, Thiruvananthapuram (IIMAD) visited the library on 16th May 2025 forenoon. 16 students from various colleges in Kerala doing internship in Kerala Finance Commission, Thiruvananthapuram visited the library on 16th May 2025 afternoon. 24 PG students and 2 teachers from School of Development Studies, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Tirur visited our library on 18th September 2025. 16 students and 3 teachers from the Department of Economics, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallur visited the library on 18th December 2025. 23 Students of Masters in Public Health and 2 Faculty Members from SRM University, Sikkim visited the library on 9th January 2026. of 22 students



and teachers from Department of Economics and Centre for Research, St Teresa's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam visited the library on Tuesday, 3rd February 2026. 35 students and teachers from the Department of Economics, Government College Kattappana are visiting the library on 11th February 2026. 42 students along with 2 faculty members from Department of Economics, Bharata Mata College (Autonomous), Thrikkakara, Kochi visited our library on 16th February 2026. 55 students and

teachers from the PSMO College (Autonomous), Tirurangadi visited the library on 17th February 2026.

Two students of Master of Library and Information Science (one each from University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and Rajagiri College of Social Science, Kochi) completed their summer internship at the K.N. Raj Library under the supervision of V. Sriram, Chief Librarian.

External events by staff:

Name	Event	Date
V. Sriram	Open Access and Scholarly Communications. Online Lecture, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam.	21 st June 2025.
V. Sriram	Software tools for checking plagiarism. Online lecture, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam.	5 th July 2025
V. Sriram	Chaired a session at the International Seminar on "Future Libraries, Beyond Walls" organized by Prof. K. A. Isaac Society for Library and Information Science and the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala, at Kerala University Library, Thiruvananthapuram.	9 th July 2025
V. Sriram	Attended the online orientation meeting for Nodal Officers of the Government of India's "One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)" scheme, organized by the Kerala State Higher Education Council, Thiruvananthapuram.	12 th August 2025.
V. Sriram	Attended the meeting of the Board of Studies (Library & Information Science) of Rajagiri Business School (Autonomous), Rajagiri Valley, Kakkanad, via online	19 th August 2025.
V. Sriram	Lecture on Zotero – Reference Manager. National Workshop on Research Methodology, Christ Nagar College, Thiruvananthapuram.	26 th September 2025.
V. Sriram	1. Lecture on One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Online Databases. 2. Lecture on Using Reference Management Software : Zotero Short Term Course on Academic Writing, Research Publishing and Ethics UGC – Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.	11 th October 2025.
V. Sriram	Talk on "The future of digital reading" at a panel discussion at the 4 th Kerala Legislature International Book Festival, Thiruvananthapuram. URL: https://youtu.be/p_pP4P_LYk	8 th January 2026
V. Sriram	Using Reference Management Software and Online Databases – Zotero in Faculty Development	10 th January 2026



	Programme under PM-USHA Scheme in Academic Writing, and Data Analysis in Social Science Research, UGC-MMTTC, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.	
V. Sriram	Attended the meeting of the Board of Studies (Library & Information Science) of Rajagiri Business School (Autonomous), Rajagiri Valley, Kakkanad, via online	24 th February 2026.
V. Sriram	Lecture on Systematic Review of Literature & Reference Management in Social Sciences in One-day Capacity Building Workshop on Research Methods in Social Science, Systematic Literature Review, Reference Management & Research, organized by Kerala Economic Association (KEA) In Collaboration With Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and HHMSPB NSS College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram.	12 th March 2026.

(b) 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
- 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 for staff and student use.
- 60 Printers 6 Scanners.
- 100 Mbps NKN(National Knowledge Network) and 300 Mbps KFON (Kerala Fiber Optic Network) connectivity for internet facility in the campus.
- 45 numbers of Cisco,tplink and D-link Wi-Fi Access points across the campus, including hostel and guest house, to provide internet facilities.
- Four Heneywell 4 MP CCTV cameras and Heneywell NVR.
- **Software:** Microsoft Windows 11 / Office, Statistical software such as STATA 17, Eviews 9.5, SPSS 22 and Gauess software

• Campus ERP – Samarth

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

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 and LED screens.

(C) STAFF WELFARE FUND

The Staff Welfare Fund, established in 1999 with an initial corpus from the CDS Endowment, is supported through investments and consists of two primary components: (i) non-refundable financial assistance to last grade employees in the event of unforeseen calamities; and (ii) repayable loans to employees for specified purposes such as house construction and renovation, children's education, medical treatment, and the purchase

of vehicles or land for residential construction. The Fund is constituted from contributions approved by the Committee of Direction from the Endowment Fund, 10% of the annual surplus generated from research projects, and the returns from loans and other investments. Annual expenditure towards financial assistance and loans is restricted to the funds thus allocated, along with the principal and interest repayments received from employee borrowers during the financial year.

The Fund is managed by a Committee chaired by Prof. J. Devika, with Smt. Rekha Nair N., Registrar, and Shri Suresh S., Senior Finance Officer, as members.

During the reporting period, four loan applications were approved.

Staff Welfare Fund Merit Awards

The Staff Welfare Fund Merit Awards—comprising merit certificates and cash prizes—are presented to children of employees who achieve scholastic excellence, securing First Class or above in their Board or University examinations. In accordance with the Staff Welfare Fund Management Rules of the Centre, eligible students are awarded ₹3,000 for securing Distinction and ₹2,000 for securing First Class.

Five children of employees received the Merit Award this year, which includes a certificate and the applicable cash prize. The awards were distributed during the Governing Body (GB) meeting held on 15 September 2025.

SlNo	Name of Children	Name of Staff	Course	Class/ Grade
1.	Malavika Parameswaran	Prof.M.Parameswaran	X th (ICSE)	Distinction
2.	Amit Swaminathan	Dr. Chidambaran G. Iyer	X th (ICSE)	Distinction
3.	Rohith B R	Mrs. Raji R S	X th (CBSE)	Distinction
4.	Srinivas S.	Shri. Sriram V	XII th (CBSE)	Distinction
5.	Namita B Nair	Mrs. Lekha K	XII th (CBSE)	First Class



(D) CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (CDSAA)

The Centre for Development Studies Alumni Association (CDSAA) serves as a vibrant platform for fostering lifelong engagement between the Institute and its alumni. The Association aims to strengthen the bond among former students, faculty, and the Institute by promoting academic, professional, and social interactions. During the year, the Alumni Association continued its efforts to connect alumni across the globe through networking initiatives, institutional events, and knowledge-sharing activities. Alumni remained actively engaged with the Centre by participating in seminars, conferences, mentoring programmes, and student interactions, thereby contributing to the academic and intellectual life of the Institute.

The First Annual General Body Meeting of the CDS Alumni Association was held virtually on 17 September 2025 at 4.30 p.m. The meeting reviewed the activities of the Association and discussed initiatives to strengthen alumni engagement and support for the Centre.

As part of its academic outreach, the Association organised two book discussion programmes during the year:

- Book Discussion on *Fortune Seekers: A Business History of the Nattukottai Chettiars* on 19 July 2025 at 5.30 p.m.
- Book Discussion on *Contested Childhoods: Caste and Education in Colonial Kerala* on 27 September 2025 at 5.30 p.m.

The Association has also planned an Alumni Meet and a **National Conference on "Development and Structural Transformation in India: Evidence and Policy"**, to be held on 25–26 September 2026, providing a platform for alumni, researchers, policymakers, and students to engage in

discussions on contemporary development issues.

CDS Student Welfare Fund

Recognising the need to strengthen financial support for students, the CDS Alumni Association (CDSAA), at its meeting held on 18 November 2025, requested the Centre to revise the existing guidelines governing the utilisation of the Student Welfare Fund. The Association proposed that the revised guidelines should address the urgent needs of students and recommended the constitution of a CDS Student Welfare Fund Management Committee with representation from the faculty, students, and the Alumni Association.

Accordingly, the CDS Student Welfare Fund Management Committee was constituted with the following members:

- Dr. Meena Chacko – CDS Alumni Association Representative
- Dr. Ritika Jain – Faculty Representative
- Ms. Alphons Rose Jerry – Student Representative

The Committee is entrusted with formulating guidelines and establishing mechanisms to identify students eligible for financial assistance through additional donations to the existing Student Welfare Fund. The CDS Alumni Association will play an active role in mobilising contributions from alumni and well-wishers to strengthen the Fund. The Committee is expected to meet twice a year, preferably at the beginning of each semester, to review applications and recommend financial assistance.

At present, the Student Welfare Fund is primarily intended to support M.A. students in meeting tuition fees and other Institute-related expenses, thereby ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their academic pursuits.



7. NEW INITIATIVES

(a) The K. N. Raj–CDS Research Fellowship

As part of its capacity-building initiatives, the Centre launched the fellowship, is designed to foster collaborative research between researchers in Kerala and CDS faculty members. It is open to early- and mid-career academics and researchers in Kerala. While preference will be given to faculty members of colleges and universities, other individuals based in Kerala with interests in scholarly work and teaching are also eligible to apply.

The Fellowship seeks to strengthen research linkages, promote joint scholarly work, and provide opportunities for collaboration between faculty members in Kerala and the academic community at the CDS.

Fellowship Provisions

Each fellowship will be awarded for a duration of one year and will provide support under the following heads:

- Reimbursement of expenses: Travel between the Fellow's place of work and the CDS, accommodation in the CDS Guest House, and food expenses at the CDS Canteen, up to a combined maximum of ₹50,000.
- Honorarium: ₹50,000, payable to the Fellow after successful completion of fellowship requirements.

Fellowship Requirements

- The research work must be carried out jointly with a designated CDS faculty member. All resulting outputs, including a seminar presentation and working paper, will be jointly

authored by the Fellow and the CDS faculty member. The designated faculty member will participate actively in the development of the research output.

- Fellows are required to submit a mid-term progress report six months after the fellowship is awarded, detailing research progress and preliminary findings.

The Fellowship will culminate in:

1. Presentation of a research paper in the CDS Seminar Series (within one year of commencement of the fellowship).
2. Submission of the paper to the CDS Working Paper Series (within two months of the seminar presentation and after incorporating comments received at the seminar). The honorarium will be released only upon the submission of the Working Paper.

Applications may be submitted at any time of the year. However, the number of fellowships available in a given financial year is limited to five.

(b) Endowment for Award on Adaptation to Climate Change

The Ramesh and Tara Mody Endowment on Climate Change at the Centre for Development Studies represents a significant initiative to foreground one of the most urgent yet under-addressed challenges facing India today: adaptation to climate change. Established through a Memorandum of Understanding between Dr Ashoka Mody—a distinguished alumnus and former Research Associate of CDS—and the Institute, the Endowment



reflects their intellectual commitment to this critical development task and the continuity through institutional association.

Rationale

In India, the consequences of climate change are compounded by environmental degradation caused by the country's development choices. The list is long. Air pollution—caused by vehicular traffic and coal-burning power-plants—is becoming more rather than less severe in major cities, and it amplifies the health risks of extreme heat. Infrastructure expansion in ecologically fragile zones—such as the Himalayan region—has increased susceptibility to landslides and other climate-induced disasters. Alterations of river ecosystems—riverfront development and diversion of rivers—further undermine natural resilience. Coastal highways and ports hasten coastal erosion.

These problems disproportionately hurt the vulnerable, such as workers in India's vast informal sector and especially women and marginalised communities.

Recognising these intersecting challenges, the Endowment seeks to highlight practical, grounded, and socially sensitive approaches to climate adaptation, while also encouraging a deeper engagement with issues of climate justice.

The Annual Prize

At the heart of the Endowment is the Ramesh and Tara Mody Annual Prize for Outstanding Research or Journalism on Climate Change. The Prize is designed to encourage high-quality work that advances understanding, informs public policy, and strengthens public engagement on climate-related issues.

The Prize is awarded annually for work published in the preceding calendar year and carries a target value of approximately ₹1.75 lakh (subject to variation depending on investment returns). Eligible contributions include peer-reviewed academic research,

policy analyses, and high-quality journalistic work across print, broadcast, and digital media.

Preference will be given to works that focus on India, though comparative international studies relevant to the region may also be considered. Particular emphasis is placed on:

- Documentation of ongoing climate impacts;
- Identification of successful adaptation strategies with potential for wider application; and
- Analysis that highlights the impact on women and socially disadvantaged groups of citizens.
- Clarity of exposition that engages with a broad cross-section of civil society.

Nomination and Submission Process

Nominations may be invited by CDS or submitted directly by eligible individuals or institutions. Each nomination must include: (i) A copy of the published work (or verified digital access); (ii) A note (not exceeding 1,000 words) outlining its significance, contribution, and impact; and (iii) A brief biographical note of the author(s) with publication details. (iv) Nominations shall be submitted to the Director, CDS by the date specified in the annual call for nominations.

Selection and Evaluation

The Prize is awarded by a five-member Selection Committee chaired by the Director of CDS. The Committee includes a senior CDS faculty member, two distinguished external experts (including a senior journalist), and a representative of the Mody family. Members serve for a fixed term and follow a transparent and rigorous evaluation process.

Submissions are assessed across multiple criteria, including originality, analytical rigour, policy relevance, clarity of communication, societal impact, and adherence to ethical standards. The emphasis is not only on scholarly or investigative depth but also on the ability to communicate complex ideas effectively to a broad audience.



Engagement and Dissemination

The Prize is announced each year on World Environment Day (5 June) and presented on the CDS Foundation Day. In addition to receiving the award, the recipient is invited to deliver a public lecture at CDS, fostering dialogue among researchers, students, policymakers, and the wider public.

Through these activities, the Endowment aims to build a sustained intellectual and policy conversation around climate adaptation—an area that is likely to define Indian and global development trajectories in the coming decades.

(c) Internship Facility at CDS has been revised

The Centre has revised its internship programme to provide greater opportunities for students interested in social science research. Undergraduate, Graduate, and Ph.D. students from Kerala as well as other States are now eligible to undertake internships at CDS.

The internship may be availed at any time during the year for a maximum duration of two months. The internship fee has been fixed at ₹3,500.

The programme is intended for students with an interest in social science research, particularly on issues relating to economic development. Eligible applicants may directly approach or contact, through email, a CDS faculty member whose area of specialization aligns with their research interests.

(d) Study on Informality, Remuneration and Working Time in the Digital Platform Economy of India

The International Labour Organization (ILO), New Delhi, has commissioned the Centre to undertake a comprehensive empirical study on the digital platform economy in India. Digital labour platforms have become a major source

of employment in sectors such as ride-hailing, food and grocery delivery, domestic and personal services, logistics, and online freelancing. The study is funded by ILO as part of its continuing work on the future of work, labour standards, and decent work in the digital economy.

The study seeks to generate rigorous empirical evidence on the nature and quality of employment in India's digital platform economy. The study covers platform workers across multiple Indian cities representing metropolitan as well as emerging urban labour markets. The survey includes workers engaged in ride-hailing, food delivery, logistics, household services, and online freelancing.

The fieldwork spans major metropolitan centres including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Delhi, together with selected Tier-II cities such as Mysuru, Warangal, and Ranchi, enabling comparison across different regional labour markets. A structured Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) survey is being administered among workers engaged on both location-based and web-based digital labour platforms.

The findings will contribute to national and international policy discussions on decent work in the platform economy. The findings are expected to inform labour policy, social security reforms, employment regulation, and implementation of international labour standards relating to platform work.

(e) ICSSR - OH 31 Research Support

The Centre has initiated a research support scheme for faculty members aimed at encouraging the research activities. A portion of the annual grant-in-aid provided by the ICSSR under OH-31 will be allocated for this endeavor. The maximum funding available for each proposal will be Rs.3,00,000/-. Annually, a maximum of five research proposals will be competitively selected for funding under this scheme. Financial assistance will be designated solely for research-related expenses, including research assistance, fieldwork, procurement of



books, publication costs, domestic conference travel, and advisory committee meetings. All research activities must be concluded within the same financial year in which the proposal receives funding.

The study must be completed within the financial year in which it is sanctioned, and the research should result in at least one paper published in a refereed Scopus-indexed journal as well as a CDS Working Paper. An Advisory Committee comprising the Director, Project Director and an external expert will periodically review the progress of the study.

The proposals will be evaluated by two external experts, and financial assistance will be provided to the qualified proposals. The sanctioned grant will be released in three instalments: 50% of the approved project cost upon approval of the proposal, 40% upon submission of a satisfactory progress report and signed minutes of the Advisory Committee recommending the release of the second instalment, and the final 10% upon submission of the final report. The Project Director is responsible for ensuring that all expenditure conforms to the approved budget heads and relevant rules. Until a sanctioned project is completed, the faculty member will not be eligible to submit an application for another study under the scheme. No expenditure relating to the project, including publication expenses, will be admissible after the closure of the concerned financial year.

(f) One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) eJournals

The Government of India has launched the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) (<https://onos.gov.in/>) scheme to provide country-wide access to international high impact scholarly research articles and journal publications to students, faculty and researchers of all Higher Education Institutions managed by the central government and state governments and Research & Development Institutions of the central government. A total of 30 major international journal publishers have been included in ONOS in the first phase. All the journals published by these publishers will be accessible to the students, faculty members and researchers of the participating institutions.

Through coordinated efforts CDS has received access to the ONOS eJournals through the generous support from ICSSR-NASSDOC in February 2025. In the ONOS scheme, CDS community will get access to more than 13000 eJournals. The access is through IP address, and these eJournal are available within the CDS LAN and WiFi. There are continuous training programmes organised by the UGC-INFLIBNET and the respective publishers to train the users to efficiently search these journals.



8. GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

(As on 31 March, 2026)

COMMITTEES

Governing Body

Chairman

Prof. Sudipto Mundle

Senior Advisor, National Council of Applied Economic Research & Visiting Faculty, Indian School of Public Policy, New Delhi

Convenor

Prof. C Veeramani

Director, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram

Members

Prof. Mohanan Kunnummal

Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit

Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Dr. Veena N. Madhavan, IAS

Addl. Chief Secretary, Dept. of Planning & Economic Affairs, Govt. of Kerala, Member Secretary, Kerala State Planning Board

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

Dept. of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

Prof. Shankari Sundararaman

Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Prof. P. N. Harikumar

Department of Commerce, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Prof. J. Devika

Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. T. M. Thomas Isaac

Honorary Fellow, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. P. Sivanandan

Honorary Fellow, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum



Committee of Direction

Chairperson

Prof. Sudipto Mundle

Convener

Prof. C. Veeramani

Members

Prof. Dhananjay Singh

Dr. Veena N. Madhavan, IAS

Prof. Chiranjib Sen

Prof. Shankari Sundararaman

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

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)

Prof. M. Parameswaran (CDS)

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan (CDS)

Academic Committee

Chairperson

Prof. C Veeramani

Convenor

Dr. Rajit Biswas

Members

All faculty

Registrar

Chief Librarian

Systems Officer

Jeffry Priyadarshan J (II MA Representatives)

Alphons Rose Jery (II MA Representatives)

Anakha Gopan (I MA Representatives)

Jamal Hamid Saleh (I MA Representatives)

Bhatraju Jithin Sree Jithin (PhD

Representatives)

Anjana Kesav C (PhD Representatives)

Academic Programme Committee

Prof. C Veeramani (Chairperson)

Prof. M. Parameswaran (Convenor)

All Faculty (Members)

Finance Committee

Chairperson

Prof. Sudipto Mundle

Convener

Prof. C. Veeramani

Members

Prof. Dhananjay Singh

Dr. Veena N. Madhavan, IAS

Prof. P. N. Harikumar

Prof. J. Devika

Prof. P. Sivanandan

JNU-CDS Committee of Direction for MA/MPhil/ PhD Programmes

Chairperson

Prof. C Veeramani, Director, CDS

Convenor

Mrs. Rekha Nair N, Registrar, CDS

Members

Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli
(Dean/ SIS/ JNU, New Delhi)

Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma
(Dean/ SIS/ JNU, New Delhi)



Ph.D Advisory Committee

Coordinator

Prof. Suraj Jacob

Members

Prof. J. Devika

Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Dr. Chandra Shekar K

Mrs. Lekha K. (Ex-officio Member)

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Coordinators

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Dr. Ritika Jain

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Prof. M Parameswaran

Dr. Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer

Dr. Abhilash T

Dr. Amartya Paul

Mrs. Lekha K (Ex-officio Member)

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Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Prof. P L Beena

Prof. M. Parameswaran

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Prof. Suraj Jacob

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Shri. V. Sriram (Convener)

Members

Dr. Abhilash T

Mrs. Rekha Nair N

Shri. Sivakumar P

Shri. Amresh Senapathi (Student's Representative)

Ms. Anjali C (Student's Representative)

IT Committee

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Shri. V. Sarath (Convenor, Ex-officio)

Mrs. Rekha Nair N (Registrar, Ex -officio)

Shri. V. Sriram, (Chief Librarian, Ex -officio)

Investment Committee

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Shri. S. Suresh (Sr.Finance Officer - Convenor)

Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Mrs. Rekha Nair N

Internal Audit Officer

Staff Welfare Fund

Prof. J. Devika (Chairperson)

Mrs. Rekha Nair N

Shri. S. Suresh

Staff Council

Ex-officio Members:

Prof. C Veeramani (Director)

Mrs. Rekha Nair N (Registrar)



Shri. V. Sriram (Chief Librarian)

Shri. S. Suresh (Senior Finance Officer)

Representatives:

Prof. P. L. Beena (Academic Staff)

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan (Academic Staff)

Shri. Ajikumar A.R.

(Convenor & Member, Administrative Staff)

Ms. Raji R.S (Member, Administrative Staff)

Shri. Saibabu S. (Member, Administrative Staff)

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

Mrs. Rekha Nair N

Mr. Suresh S

Prof. Devika J

Prof. Parameswaran M

Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Dr. Rajit Biswas

Mr. Aanandh N. R, Campus Supervisor

Mr. Satheesh S S

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

Mrs. Rekha Nair N

Shri. Suresh S

Shri. Sarath V, Systems Officer

Steering Committee for the Training Programme

Prof C Veeramani (Chairperson)

Dr. Ritika Jain (Convener)

Members

Prof Vinoj Abraham

Prof M Parameswaran

Prof Suraj Jacob

Dr. Chandra Shekar K

Committee on Official Language

Mrs. Rekha Nair N (Chairperson)

Members

Mr. Shareef H S

Mrs. Lekha K

Mr. Ajikumar A R



Hostel Wardens

Prof M. Parameswaran

Dr. Ritika Jain

SC/ ST Cell

Dr. Abhilash T (Chairperson)

Members

Prof. 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

Prof. C. Veeramani (Chairperson)

Members

Prof. J. Devika

Prof. M. Parameswaran

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Ms. Krishnapriya V S, Special Invitee

Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)

Prof. Praveena Kodoth (Chairperson)

Members

Dr. Ritika Jain

Shri. Sriram V

Mrs. Lekha K

Shri. Rahul Kamal

Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC)

Prof. C. Veeramani (Chairperson)

Convener

Mrs. Rekha Nair N

Members

Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Prof. J Devika

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Prof.. M. Parameswaran

External Members

Prof. N Jayaram, Former Director, ISEC-
Bangalore

Prof. Ram Singh, Delhi School of Economics,
University of Delhi

Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP)

Chairperson

Prof. Suraj Jacob

Members

Dr. Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer

Dr. Jyothi Krishnan, (Associate Professor,
Loyola College of Social Sciences, Trivandrum)

Shri. V Sriram

Communications and Outreach Committee

Dr. Ritika Jain (Chairperson)

Convener

Shri. Ajikumar A R

Members

Shri. Sriram V

Shri. Sarath V

Shri. Praveen G

Shri. Emmanuel T. J



Shri. Basit Abdullah

Shri. Sachin Varghese Titty

Anti-Ragging Committee

Chairperson

Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Convener

Prof. M. Parameswaran

Members

Dr. Ritika Jain

Dr. Abhilash T.

Ethics Committee

Prof. J Devika

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Prof. Suraj Jacob

Dr. V. Ramankutty
(Retired Professor SCTIMST)

Prof. Reethika Khara (IIT Delhi)

Seminar Co-ordinator

Dr Rajit Biswas

Campus Committee

Prof J. Devika (Chairperson)

Mrs. Rekha Nair N (Ex-Officio)(Convenor)

Members

Dr Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer

Shri. Ajikumar A R

Shri. Aanandh N R

Shri. Mohammed Anfas K.

Ms. Ahsana

Members-Hostel Representatives

WH-Srimanjori Guha (PhD 2020)

WH-Abhipsha Khuntia (M.A. 2024)

NH- Pawan Kumar (PhD 2022)

NH –Bhatraju Jithin sree (PhD 2023)

LH- Richa Baruah (PhD 2021)

LHA –Fidha S Fatima (PhD 2024)

MH –Anna Maria Abraham (PhD 2022)

MH –Aryan Kochar (MA 2025)

Canteen Management Committee (CMC)

Chairperson

Prof.M.Parameswaran

Convener

Mrs. Rekha Nair N (Ex-Officio)

Members

Dr.Ritika Jain, Warden (Ex-Officio)

Shri. Aji Kumar A R

Shri. Abdulla M K

Shri. Vijay K

Ms. Mahitha K

Guest House Management Committee

Prof.Praveena Kodoth (Chairperson)

Mrs. Rekha Nair N , (Ex-Officio, Convener)

Prof.J Devika, Campus Committee Chairperson
(Ex-Officio)

Shri. Arun K C, Guest House Manager
(Ex-Officio)

Right to Information Act

Chief Public Information Officer

Mrs. Rekha Nair N, Registrar

Asst. Public Information Officer

Ajikumar A.R., P S to Registrar

Appellate Information Officer

C Veeramani, Director, CDS



FACULTY

Director & RBI Chair Professor

C Veeramani

Ph.D in Economics
(CDS/JNU)

Research Area: International Trade; Industrial Economics; Foreign Investment; Labour Market

Professors

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

Parameswaran M.

Ph.D in Economics
(CDS/JNU)

Research Area: Economic Development, Macroeconomics and Industrial Development

Hrushikesh Mallick (On leave)

Ph.D in Economics
(University of Mysore)

Research Area: Applied Open Economy Macroeconomics and Development Economics

Thiagu Ranganathan

Ph.D in Economics
(IIT, Bombay)

Research Area: Plantation Crops, Labour Employment and Social Security, agricultural Economics



Suraj Jacob

Ph. D in Economics
(Stanford University)

Research Area: Political economy of development, institutions, policy processes, and governance and social relations and justice.

Associate Professor

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Ph.D in Development
Economics
(IGIDR)

Research Area: Innovation and Technology, Industry and Trade

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

Assistant Professors

Srikanta Kundu (On Leave)

Ph.D in Quantitative Economics
(Indian Statistical Institute)

Research Area: Financial Econometrics, Time Series, Volatility Models, Nonlinear Models, Stock Market

Abhilash Thadathil

Ph.D in Political Science &
International Studies
(JNU)

Research Area: Politics and Development, Human Development, Health and Education, Labour, Employment and Social Security

Chandril Bhattacharyya (On Leave) *Research Area:* Growth Theory and Other Studies

Ph. D in Quantitative Economics
(Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata)

K. Chandra Shekar

Ph.D in Economics
(CDS/ JNU)

Research Area: Industry, Innovation and Economic Development, Informality, MSMEs and Sustainable Development

Amartya Paul

Ph.D in Economics
(CDS/ JNU)

Research Area: Pro-Poor Growth, Public Policy, Development Economics, Applied Econometrics



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

Rekha Nair N	<i>Registrar</i>
Shareef H.S.	<i>Deputy Administrative Officer</i>
Ajikumar A.R.	<i>Assistant Grade I (designated as PS to Registrar)</i>

Director's Office

Praveen G.	<i>Senior Grade Assistant (designated as P.S. to Director)</i>
Ajayanandam S	<i>Office Attendant</i>

Academic Programme Office

Lekha K.	<i>Assistant Grade I</i>
Raji R.S.	<i>Assistant Grade II</i>

Programme Office

Emmanuel T.J.	<i>Assistant Grade I</i>
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Guest House

Arun K C	<i>Guest House Manager</i>
Biju R.S.	<i>Office Attendant</i>

Finance

S. Suresh	<i>Senior Finance Officer</i>
Firozsha A	<i>Internal Audit Officer</i>
Arun Hrishikesh	<i>Accounts Officer</i>
Reeshma R.S.	<i>Accountant</i>
Arun K.C.	<i>Assistant Grade II</i>
Sumesh C.S.	<i>Office Attendant</i>

Estate and Engineering

Aanandh N.R.	<i>Campus Supervisor</i>
Anoop Kumar P.P.(On Leave)	<i>Assistant Campus Supervisor</i>
Satheesh S.S.	<i>Assistant Grade II</i>
G.Vijayan	<i>Office Attendant</i>



COMPUTER CENTRE / IT

V. Sarath *Systems Officer*

K.N. RAJ LIBRARY

V. Sriram *Chief Librarian*

Sivakumar P *Assistant Librarian*

Saibabu S. *Office Attendant*



9. RESEARCH TITLES

CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

'Now You See Me, Now You Don't': The Attendance Crisis facing Schools for the Disadvantaged, with Evidence from India'

Suraj Jacob and Caroline Dyer

Status: Manuscript under review

Ongoing

'Coastal Azhal. The Art of Grief in Kerala, South India'

J. Devika and Dr Claudia Lang

Status: In the edited volume titled *Experiencing Loss in Contemporary Worlds: Toward an Anthropology of Grief*, from Routledge, edited by Serena Bindi, Aidan Seale Feldman

DECENTRALISATION AND GOVERNANCE

Completed Studies

'Aged friendly Local Governance in Kerala'

M.Parameswaran, S Krishnakumar and Mohankumar S M

Sponsorship: RULSG

Status : Forthcoming as book in Malayalam

The road to safety- Examining the nexus between road infrastructure and crime in rural India

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Publication Status : Published in Journal of Quantitative Economics

Ongoing

'Functioning and effectiveness of Gramasabha in decentralised governance of Kerala.'

M Parameswaran

Sponsorship, if any: RULSG

Status: Expected date of completion: By December 2026.

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

'Mutations of Caste Power, Neoliberal Femininity, and Retail Sector Work in Kerala'

J. Devika and Anamika Ajay

Sponsorship: ICSSR

Status: To be presented at a CDS open seminar and later as working paper

*Ongoing*

***'ASHA Samarakurippukal (Malayalam)
[Notes from the ASHA Strike, Mar-Nov.2025]'***

J. Devika

Status: To be published by DC Books, Kerala, in 2026.

New Initiatives

'Gender, Panchayati Raj, and Crony Capitalism in Twenty-First Century Kerala: A Study of Women Chairpersons in Panchayat Standing Committees'

J. Devika and Anamika Ajay

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Completed Studies

'Inflation in India: Dynamics, distributional impact and policy implication'

M Parameswaran

'From Public to Private Without Guardrails: The Challenge of Sustaining Achievements in Education in Kerala, India'

Suraj Jacob, Suaid Rather and Sajitha Bashir

Status: Manuscript under review

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Completed Studies

'Competition, Innovation, and Startup Acquisitions: Evaluating Antitrust Trends in India's High-Tech Landscape'

P L Beena

Sponsorship, if any: CDS, OH31

'IPR Regime, Knowledge Economy and Antitrust Policy'

P L Beena

Status : Presented papers under this theme in the ICLE have been accepted for publication in the Journal of Antitrust Bulletin

'Assessing the PLI Scheme in Mobile Manufacturing in India'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Status : Iyer C.G. (2025). Assessing the PLI Scheme for Mobile Manufacturing in India. The India Forum, A Journal-Magazine on Contemporary Issues, 6 July.

'Phased Manufacturing Policy for Mobile Manufacturing in India: An Empirical and Theoretical Evaluation'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Status : Chapter in a soon to be published Routledge edited volume "Technology and Change in Contemporary India: Critical Perspectives." Editors : Keshab Das and M. Vijayabaskar

'Technology transfer impact in a low-income country: Case studies of two medical devices from India'

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

Status : Under peer review – Revised and resubmitted

'Old Industrial Policy, New Industrial Policy, and the GVC Era: Lessons from India's Mobile Phone Industry'

C. Veeramani



Status: Forthcoming in Asian Economic Papers, MIT Press

'India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to Growth and Supply Chain Resilience.'

C. Veeramani

Status: published in Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies, Wiley: e70054.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/app5.70054>.

'Backward GVC Participation and Labour Market Outcomes in Indian Manufacturing: Skill, Contract, and Gender Disparities Across Trade Orientations'

Deepali Gupta and C Veeramani

Status: Forthcoming in Economic and Political Weekly

'The New World Trade Order: Reorganization, Not Retreat'

C. Veeramani

Status: IIM Kozhikode Society and Management Review., Sage Publications, (forthcoming)

'Special Issue on Trade Policy and Industrial Policy in the Evolving New Global Order'

Editors: Amitendu Palit, C. Veeramani, Shailja Singh, Surendar Singh & Malini L. Tantri

Status: Published in Journal of Social and Economic Development (Suppl 2), Vol. 27, 2025.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40847-025-00464-7>

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

C. Veeramani and Anwesha Basu

Status: published in Asian Economic Papers (2025) 24 (3): 1–31. MIT Press
<https://doi.org/10.1162/ASEP.a.1>

'Do Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?'

C Veeramani and Manish

Status: published in Indian Economic Review,

04 March 2026.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41775-025-00257-z>

'What you import and where it comes from matter for growth: Theoretical and empirical perspective'

C Veeramani and M Parameswaran

Status: Forthcoming in Rajat Acharyya (ed) The Oxford Handbook of International Economics for Asia and the Global Economy, Oxford University Press

'External Sector Outlook and 2025–26 Union Budget'

C. Veeramani

Status: Published in Economic and Political Weekly. Vol. 60, Issue No. 16, 19 Apr, 2025.
<https://doi.org/10.71279/epw.v60i16.43907>

'Trade, FDI, and Growth: Overview and Evidence from India.'

C. Veeramani

Status: Published in Dibyendu Maiti, Bishwanath Goldar, and K.L. Krishna (Eds.), 75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts. Springer.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-8054-9>

Ongoing Studies

'Women-Owned Enterprises in Kerala: Growth Patterns and Structural Challenges'

P L Beena

Status: Expected date of completion: August, 2026

'Agglomeration Economies and Firm Productivity in India: Evidence from the Formal and Informal Manufacturing Sectors'

Chandra Shekar K and Vidhyarani K

Expected date of completion: July 07th 2026

'What explains startup failure?'

Chidambaran G Iyer and Prof. Vinish Kathuria



Status: Expected date of completion: March 2027

Research Plan

'Venture Capital, Start-up Acquisitions, and Innovation: Evidence from India's Emerging Entrepreneurial Ecosystem'

P L Beena and Rajkumar Byahut, PhD scholar

'Women's Entrepreneurship and Digital Technology in a Comparative Perspective'

P L Beena, Sudipta Sarangi, HOD of Economics, Virginia Tech University, USA

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Completed

'Informal Sector, Financial Inclusion and the Role of Digitalisation: A Cross-Country Firm-Level Analysis'

Chandra Shekar K and Shagishna K

Status : Accepted for publication, Economic and Political Weekly (EPW).

'Indian experience of fostering competition through State intervention: Lessons from card payment system and Unified Payment Interface'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Status : Under peer review

'Can ICT make small beautiful? - Examining the role of ICT in affecting credit behaviour of SMEs in India'

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Publication Status : Accepted in Economic Notes

'E-Commerce as a Green Catch-Up Tool: Firm-Level Evidence from South Asian Emerging Markets'

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Publication Status : Submitted

Ongoing Studies

'Metro rail in India: Analysis of selected policy steps and missteps'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Status: Expected date of completion: March 2027

'Understanding solar energy diffusion in India using an innovation systems framework'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Status: Expected date of completion: March 2027

'Bivoltine Sericulture in India: An Innovation system perspective'

Chidambaran G Iyer

Status: Expected date of completion: March 2027

New Research initiatives

'Rethinking the Production Function for the AI Era: A Nested CES Framework with Embodied and Disembodied Knowledge'

Chandra Shekar K and Sachin Varghese Titty

Research Plan

'Agglomeration, Carbon emissions and productivity in formal enterprises in India'

Chandra Shekar and Mohammad Izuddin

'Economic impact of Blood Bag and Heart valve'

Chidambaran G Iyer

'Public AI infrastructure can give India its next UPI moment'

Chidambaran G Iyer



'Process innovation through production strategies in Indian pharmaceutical industry: An empirical exploration'

Chidambaran G Iyer

'Production strategies and process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry: Few observations from a balanced panel data analysis'

Chidambaran G Iyer

'Indian experience of fostering competition through State intervention: Lessons from card payment system and Unified Payment Interface'

Chidambaran G Iyer

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Completed

'Contingent aspirations and employment dynamics of young mothers in Kerala'

Thiagu Ranganathan, Praveena Kodoth and Tirtha Chatterjee

Sponsorship: JPal

New Research initiatives

Unionization and labor composition in CPSEs

Ritika Jain and Vinoj Abraham

Sponsorship, if any: OH 31- CDS

MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Completed

Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy

Chidambaran G Iyer

Sponsorship: ICSSR

Status: This well attended conference was held on 19th and 20th March 2026. 147 submissions

were received of which 24 were shortlisted for presentation. The inaugural address and special lecture were delivered by distinguished academicians. In addition to the paper presentations, the conference also had eight key note addresses by well known scholars.

'Income disparity among Indian States: Role for public policy'

M Parameswaran and Ithin Sree

Status: Forthcoming in the Handbook of Indian Public Finance, published by the Routledge

'Analysis of the Finances of the State of Kerala: A Report prepared for the 16th Finance Commission.'

M Parameswaran, Hrushikesh Mallick and C Veeramani.

Sponsorship, if any: 16th Finance Commission
Publication Status: Submitted to the Finance Commission and is available from its website.

MIGRATION

Completed Studies

'The Care Regime through the Lens of Migrant Labour'

Praveena Kodoth

Publication Status: Forthcoming in Prabha Kotiswaran and Divya Ravindranath eds. *The Indian Care Debates: Taking Stock, Reimagining Work, Rights and Social Reproduction*, Penguin Random House

'Who returns during a crisis and why? Employment Vulnerability, the COVID 19 Pandemic and Return Migration to India'

Praveena Kodoth

Publication Status: Under review

Ongoing Studies

'Impact Evaluation of the Pravasi Bhadratha (PEARL) Scheme - A Model of Economic

***Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Return Migrants'*****Amartya Paul, Dr. Jijin P., and Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur**

Sponsorship, if any: Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala (RPIMK)
Status: Expected date of completion: 31-03-2026

Return Migration and Employment Vulnerability during the COVID 19 Pandemic in India**Ritika Jain, Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham**

Sponsorship, if any: Kerala and the World Economy, CDS

'Return Migration and Employment Vulnerability during the COVID 19 Pandemic in India'**Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham**

Sponsorship: Kerala and the World Economy,

*New Research Initiatives****'Impact Evaluation of the Pravasi Bhadratha (PEARL) Scheme: A model of Economic Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Return Migrants'*****Amartya Paul, Dr. Jijin P., and Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur*****'Mapping the mobility of care workers from India'*****Praveena Kodoth and V J Varghese**

Sponsorship: International Labour Organisation, New Delhi

Status: working towards a working paper in association with ILO

Care workers migration and mobility from Kerala'**Praveena Kodoth and V J Varghese**

Sponsorship, if any: NORKA, Government of Kerala and International Labour Organisation, New Delhi

Status: working towards a working paper with NORKA and ILO, New Delhi

AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION CROPS*Completed Studies****'Coffee sector in India: A study of few selected issues on marketing and prices'***
Chidambaran G Iyer

Publication Status : Chapter in a soon to be published Routledge edited volume "Plantations in transition: Productivity, Prices and Employment - Exploring Economic Changes in Tea, Coffee, Rubber, and Spices Sectors of India." Editor : Vinoj Abraham

POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT*Completed Studies****'Intergenerational Mobility and Collective Articulation of Rights: A Case Study of Mala Araya Tribal Community in Kerala'*****Abhilash T**

Sponsorship: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi (Rs. 10 lakh)

Status : Published: "Land Rights and Livelihood: Contextualizing the Forest Conservation Act, 2023", has been accepted for publication in Artha Vijnana, Vol. LXVII, Issue No. 4 (2025) (UGC Care).

Under publication : Taming the Tusker: Caste, Class and Politics of Human-wildlife Conflict and the Malayaraya Indigenous Communities in Kerala, India, *Journal of Development and Practice*: Taylor and Francis

Ongoing Studies



'Decolonizing Sustainability Transitions: Indigenous Justice and Human-Animal Conflict in the Western Ghats, Southern India'

Abhilash T

Status: Expected date of completion: 2026 October

'Has Growth been 'Inclusive' in India: Evidence from the last three decades, 1983-2012'

Amartya Paul

Status: Expected date of completion: July 2026
New Research Initiatives

'Beyond the Firewall: AI Power, Vulnerable Populations, and Challenges of India's Digital Democracy — A Critical Analysis of India's Digital Policy Architecture'

Abhilash T

Research Plan 2026-27

The Tribal Land Question in Kerala: Alienation, Restoration and Recognition

Abhilash T

'Memoirs of an Exile: The Autobiographies of Swadeshabhimani K Ramakrishna Pillai and B Kalyani Amma'

J. Devika

Status: Published in the journal South

Ongoing Studies

'Political Masculinity and Political Domesticity in Early Twentieth Century Malayali Society'

J. Devika

"An Illegal Baby": The Anupama Chandran Case, the Left Political Community, and Brahminical Patriarchy in Kerala'

J. Devika

Status: Most probably in an edited volume edited by V J Varghese

'Kaalabhedini: Essays on the Short Stories of K Saraswati Amma'

J. Devika

Status: The Malayalam version is to be published by RAT Books, Kozhikode. The English version is to be circulated free online as a dossier.

OTHER STUDIES

Completed Studies

'Welfare Policy, Education and Inclusive Growth: Evidence from India'

Amartya Paul and Srikanta Kundu

Status: Submitted to a journal. Under review
CDS Working Paper Series

'Economic Growth-Inequality Nexus in the Last Decade: A study in the Indian context'

Amartya Paul and Thiagu Ranganathan

Sponsorship: OH-31, ICSSR

Status: Manuscript is being prepared for submission



10. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
PRASANTH NAGAR, ULLOOR, MEDICAL COLLEGE P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 011 , KERALA, INDIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2026

(Amount in Rs.)

	Particulars	Note	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
I	Sources of Funds			
1	NPO Funds	3		
(a)	Unrestricted Funds			
1	General Funds		6,58,38,627	6,95,41,698
4	Endowment Fund		81,91,25,307	77,69,09,734
(b)	Restricted Funds			
1	Other Earmarked Funds		36,55,49,800	35,51,19,364
			1,25,05,13,734	1,20,15,70,796
2	Non-current liabilities			
(a)	Long-term borrowings	4	-	-
(b)	Other long-term liabilities	5	18,08,245	16,31,595
(c)	Long-term provisions	6	-	-
			18,08,245	16,31,595
3	Current liabilities			
(a)	Short-term borrowings	4	-	-
(b)	Payables	7	-	-
(c)	Other current liabilities	8	1,07,93,098	32,82,937
(d)	Short-term provisions	6	-	-
			1,07,93,098	32,82,937
	Total		1,26,31,15,077	1,20,64,85,328
II	Application of Funds			
1	Non-current assets			
(a)	Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible assets	9	6,49,91,477	6,86,94,548
(i)	Property, Plant and Equipment			
(ii)	Intangible assets			
(iii)	Capital work in progress			
(iv)	Intangible asset under development			
(b)	Non-current investments	10	1,17,53,83,253	1,12,15,09,804
(c)	Long Term Loans and Advances	11	92,91,854	1,05,19,294
(d)	Other non-current assets	12		
	Prepaid expenses		1,94,700	1,94,391
			1,24,98,61,284	1,20,09,18,037
2	Current assets			
(a)	Current investments	10	-	-
(b)	Inventories		38,136	53,261
(c)	Receivables	13	-	-
(d)	Cash and bank balances	14	1,32,12,267	54,75,530
(e)	Short Term Loans and Advances	11	-	-
(f)	Other current assets	15	3,390	38,500
			1,32,53,793	55,67,291
	Total		1,26,31,15,077	1,20,64,85,328
	Brief about the Entity	1		
	Summary of material accounting policies	2		
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			

As per our report of even date.

For N.S.Sarma Associates
Chartered Accountants

CA.Rema Sarma.N
Partner, M.No-226770
FRN-008018S
UDIN:26226770BAICZB4427

Trivandrum
27-05-2026



For and on behalf of the Centre

Director

Trivandrum
18-05-2026

Director
Centre for Development Studies





ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
PRASANTH NAGAR, ULLOOR, MEDICAL COLLEGE P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 011, KERALA, INDIA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2026

(Amount in Rs.)

	Particulars	Note	31 March 2026			31 March 2025		
			Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
I	Income							
(a)	Donations and Grants	16			-			-
	Grant-in-aid				-			-
	From ICSSR			3,42,69,000	3,42,69,000		3,29,06,000	3,29,06,000
	From Govt of Kerala			5,02,14,000	5,02,14,000		4,91,49,000	4,91,49,000
(b)	Fees from Rendering of Services	17	70,53,269		70,53,269	58,66,988		58,66,988
(c)	Sale of Goods				-			-
II	Other Income				-			-
i)	Interest on Investment of Endowment Fund	18	2,66,12,500		2,66,12,500	4,16,63,830		-
ii)	Sponsored Research/Fellowship/Projects (Contra)	19(a)	49,36,519		49,36,519	26,00,203		26,00,203
iii)	Faculty Cost & Recovery of Overheads (Contra)	19(b)	1,55,84,743		1,55,84,743	1,71,90,704		1,71,90,704
iv)	Transfer from General Fund (Depreciation - Contra)	19(c)	95,93,967		95,93,967	1,02,13,032		1,02,13,032
III	Total Income (I+II)		6,37,80,998	8,44,83,000	14,82,63,998	7,75,34,757	8,20,55,000	15,95,89,757
IV	Expenses:							
(a)	Material consumed/distributed						-	-
(b)	Donations/contributions paid						-	-
(c)	Employee benefits expense	20	3,10,70,169	6,17,83,000	9,28,53,169	84,81,207	6,01,15,000	6,85,96,207
(d)	Depreciation and amortization expense (Contra)	21	95,93,967		95,93,967	1,02,13,032	-	1,02,13,032
(e)	Finance costs	22			-			-
(f)	Other expenses	23			-			-
i)	Establishment Expenses		23,80,090	2,27,00,000	2,50,80,090	17,39,053	2,19,40,000	2,36,79,053
(g)	Religion/charitable expenses				-			-
(h)	Other Expenses (specify nature)				-			-
i)	Sponsored Research/Fellowship/Projects (Contra)	24(a)	49,36,519		49,36,519	26,00,203		26,00,203
ii)	Faculty Cost & Recovery of Overheads (Contra)	24(b)	1,55,84,743		1,55,84,743	1,71,90,704		1,71,90,704
iii)	Net Income from Endowment Fund transferred (Contra)	24(c)	2,66,12,500		2,66,12,500	4,16,63,830		4,16,63,830
	Total expenses		9,01,77,988	8,44,83,000	17,46,60,988	8,18,88,029	8,20,55,000	16,39,43,029
V	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year before exceptional and extraordinary items (III- IV)		-2,63,96,990	-	-2,63,96,990	-43,53,272	-	-43,53,272
VI	Exceptional items		-	-	-	-	-	-
VII	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year before extraordinary items (V-VI)		-2,63,96,990	-	-2,63,96,990	-43,53,272	-	-43,53,272
VIII	Extraordinary Items (specify nature & provide note/delete if none)		-	-	-	-	-	-
IX	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year (VII-VIII)		-2,63,96,990	-	-2,63,96,990	-43,53,272	-	-43,53,272

As per our report of even date.

For N.S.Sarma Associates
Chartered Accountants

CA.Rema Sarma.N
Partner, M.No-226770
FRN-0080188
UDIN:26226770BAICZB4427

Trivandrum
27-05-2026



For and on behalf of the Centre

Director

Trivandrum
18-05-2026

Director
Centre for Development Studies





Second Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies: 19th to 24th January, 2026.



Workshop on Public Finance, Tax Reform, and GST in India: 22nd to 27th March, 2026.



'Crossroads 2026'-PhD Colloquium : 5th to 7th February 2026



Development Researcher's Day : 10th February 2026



Conference on Kerala and the World Economy-2026: 23rd to 24th February, 2026.



Conference on Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy : 19th to 20th March, 2026



11th International Conference on Law and Economics: 15th to 16th November, 2025.



International Conference on Socio-Economic Impacts of GST: 28th -29th March 2026



CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

(Under the aegis of Govt. of Kerala and ICSSR, Govt. of India)

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