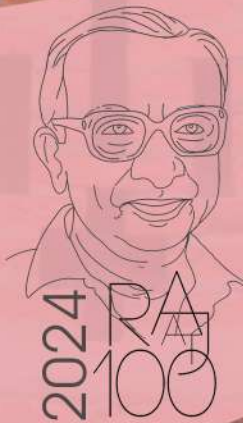


ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 25



**CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA

(Under the aegis of Govt. of Kerala & ICSSR, Govt. of India)



Workshop on Fiscal Decentralization: 8 April 2024, Chaired by Shri. K. N. Balagopal, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of Kerala.



6th Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture by Dr. Sambaiah Gundimeda, Krea University on 3rd May, 2024.



Book Discussion on "Accidental Gamblers Risk and Vulnerability in Vidarbha Cotton" by Dr. Sarthak Gaurav, IIT Bombay and Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan on 28th June, 2024



Public Talk on "Financial Stability" by RBI: Mr. R Ayyappan Nair, General Manager, Financial Stability Department and Mr. Kush Sharma, Assistant Advisor on 24th July, 2024



'Seminar on 'The Wayanad Resilience Series: Addressing Climate Change Challenges in India'-22 August 2024



Panel Discussion on 'Policies and Experiences of Disaster Management in Kerala and India' on 5th Sept, 2024



Discussion on Labour Rights Violations in the Malayalam Cinema Industry: Revelations of the Hema Committee Report and Remedies held the CDS on 2 Sept. 2024



13th Foundation Day Lecture by Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Chairman 16th Finance Commission, Govt. of India on 11th December, 2024.

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

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

Annual Report 2024-25



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Governing Body

As on 31 March 2025

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
Prof. Mohanan Kunnummal Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	Member
Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.	"
Shri Puneet Kumar 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. Satish Chandra Garkoti Professor of School of Environmental Science & Rector II, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	"
Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil Professor & Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Department of Commerce, University of Kerala, Trivandrum	"
Prof. Praveena Kodoth Professor, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	"
Prof. J. Devika Professor, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	"
Prof. P. Sivanandan Honorary Fellow, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	"
Prof. Amit Bhaduri Honorary Fellow, CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	"

The Centre gratefully acknowledges support received from:



Government of Kerala



NITI Aayog, Govt. of India



ICSSR, Govt. of India



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

UGC



JNU



University of Kerala



RBI



Kerala State Planning Board



Ministry of Commerce and Industry,
Government of India

Ministry of Commerce and
Industry, Govt. of India

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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OVERVIEW

The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) was established as an autonomous social science research institute on 19th 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 (ICSSR) 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.

Sri C. Achutha Menon envisioned strengthening scientific and social science research in Kerala, recognizing a gap in research engagement among university faculty at the time. To address this, he aimed to establish several research institutions in the state, with the Centre for Development Studies being the first and most prominent of these initiatives. In this pursuit, he successfully invited Professor K.N. Raj, a renowned economist, educationist, and then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, to lead the establishment of CDS in Trivandrum.

Professor Raj accepted the invitation and played a pivotal role in founding CDS, securing support and funding from both the 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. Their engagement with CDS was instrumental in building its reputation as a premier center for development studies. 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.



The launching of the Centre fortuitously coincided with the decision of Mr. Laurie W. Baker, the renowned British architect, to settle in Trivandrum. An Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA), Mr. Baker had already earned a global reputation for his innovative and socially conscious approach to architecture. Recognizing the potential of this architectural philosophy, Mr. Laurie Baker 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.

The Centre was registered as a Society in September 1970 under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act. The CDS was conceived as a premier social science institution to promote research and teaching in applied economics and development studies. The main activities of the Centre are research, teaching and training. 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 15. Further, it has 18 Visiting Professors/Fellows from across the country and abroad and 23 Administrative Staff.

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.

In addition to its degree programmes, CDS has played a pivotal role in capacity building through a wide range of training programmes. These have covered critical areas such as decentralization, demography, gender and development, human resources, and social security, catering to scholars, government officials, and professionals involved in development planning and implementation. CDS has also been a trusted consultant to various government bodies, providing expert policy advice and contributing significantly to development planning, particularly in Kerala.

A major turning point in the academic trajectory of CDS came with the launch of its MA Programme in Applied Economics in 2012. This marked a paradigm shift in the institution's profile, as it expanded into postgraduate teaching, integrating rigorous training in economic theory, quantitative methods, and policy application. The MA programme has attracted a diverse cohort of students and has further solidified the Centre's role in shaping future economists and development practitioners. In a move to internationalize the MA programme, the SAARC Scholarship was introduced in



2016–17, offering five scholarships annually to students from SAARC countries who enroll in the programme. This initiative, made possible through generous funding from the Government of Kerala, reflects CDS's commitment to regional academic collaboration and the promotion of cross-border understanding in development studies.

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

The Centre has earned widespread recognition for the quality and relevance of its research, leading to sustained support from both state and central governments, as well as a diverse array of national and international agencies. Key institutions such as the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the Planning Commission, the Reserve Bank of India, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), other UN agencies, and the Government of the Netherlands have extended liberal financial assistance to the Centre over the years. Crucially, such support was accepted only after ensuring the uncompromised academic autonomy of the Centre. This principled stance has allowed CDS to maintain its independent intellectual character, even while engaging with a broad spectrum of development issues and policy questions.

Over its 55-year history, the Centre has achieved numerous milestones and evolved significantly in its research focus. The widely acclaimed Kerala model of development was an outcome of academic research conducted at CDS during this time. This model has since become a key reference point in development discourse both nationally and internationally. In recent years, the Centre has been fortunate to receive prestigious endowment funds from various government agencies, enabling the establishment of dedicated research units focused on specific thematic areas such as local government, migration, and plantation development. Furthermore, CDS has consistently attracted sponsored research funding from a wide range of national and international organizations, supporting its work on diverse dimensions of development. This sustained financial support underscores the Centre's continued relevance and excellence in contributing to both academic scholarship and practical policy solutions.

The state-of-the-art CDS library is one of the largest social science libraries in India with over 1,50,000 titles in economics and related disciplines and subscribing to about 400 professional print journals and around 15600 e-journals. The IT wing of the Centre provides technical support to the faculty, students, library and Administration. The K N Raj Library is fully computerized using the open source software "Koha" and for the users convenience the library catalogue [OPAC] is available online can be made by author, title, subject, class number, publisher or words in title and boolean search. CDS Information Repository (Digital Library) is installed to capture / preserve digital content and make them accessible to scholars and faculty.

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 EconLit (599 journals) and JSTOR (2400 journals) were provided by the ICSSR/NASSDOC consortia. They are available to the CDS community through IP access. The Centre extends its outreach far beyond conferences, workshops, and training programmes. Its unwavering commitment to high-quality research has earned it distinguished recognition.

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.

Personnel

Since January 2021, the Centre has been utilizing the Mastersoft ERP cloud-based solution, employing key modules such as payroll, academics, establishment, grievances, and online admissions/recruitment. In 2025, CDS has decided to transition to the **Samarth** portal. Initiated by the Ministry of Education, the Samarth project is a digital transformation initiative aimed at empowering universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through a comprehensive, cloud-based ERP system. This platform is specifically designed to support the planning, management, delivery, and monitoring of academic and administrative services for students, staff, and other stakeholders. This online platform is now fully operational and accessible to all students, faculty, and staff. Key features and services available through the ERP portal include, Individual login access for students, faculty, and staff; Online leave application and approval system for faculty and staff; Access to pay slips, salary certificates, and other HR-related documents etc.

Dr. K. Chandra Shekar has joined the Centre as Assistant Professors on August 5, 2024. He was working as Economic Officer (Gazetted) in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. His research interests lie at the intersection of development economics and industrial policy, with a particular focus on Innovation and Economic Development, Informality, MSMEs and sustainable development

Dr. Amartya Paul has joined CDS as Assistant Professor with effect from November 12, 2024. Before joining CDS he was Assistant Professor, School of Economics, XIM University, Bhubaneswar. His research interests include Pro-Poor Growth, Public Policy, Development Economics and Applied Econometrics.

Academic Programmes

The two programmes – MA in Applied Economics, PhD in Economics – are the two pillars of the Centre's academic activities. The MA and PhD degrees are awarded by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). 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.

In the year 2024-25, 12 scholars were admitted for the Ph.D Programme and 27 students for the MA programme (25 Indian nationals & 2 SAARC nationals). The total number of students pursuing their doctoral research during the year was 38. **Six scholars were awarded with Ph.D degree.**

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: **Ms. Sita Majhi**, who pursued her research at *Maynooth University, Ireland*, and **Mr. Mohammed Anfas**, who was hosted by *King's College London*.

The MA programme is now into the thirteenth batch. For the academic session 2024-25, 615 candidates applied for admission. 197 candidates are shortlisted for online interview and finally 27 students were selected to join the programme. One Indian student discontinued during the second semester.

17 out of 22 students from the 2023 MA batch successfully completed their course.

The SAARC scholarship for MA students, launched in 2016-17 provides five scholarships to students from SAARC countries that enroll in the MA programme. The SAARC Scholarship is made possible by the generous funding of the State government which enables the MA programme to go international. Two applications were received for MA Applied Economics Programme this year. The Committee interviewed the candidates and selected Ms. Nilima Bhowmik & Mr. Apu Kundu from Bangladesh for admission. Both of them joined the programme.

Research

By agreement among the faculty, the research output of the Centre is presented here under the rubrics, Culture and Development; Decentralisation and Governance; Gender and Development; Human Development, Health and Education; Industry and Trade; Innovation

and Technology; Labour, Employment and Social Security; Macroeconomic Performance; Migration; Agriculture and Plantation Crops; Politics and Development and Other Studies. The studies are listed individually with abstracts in Chapter II.

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

This year three working paper were published. Two books have been published by the faculty, 27 research articles by faculty and students in professional journals. 5 chapters in edited volumes and 25 other publications in reports, newspapers, magazines etc.

Research Projects / Sponsored Studies

Research at the Centre extends beyond pure academic research and focuses on policy oriented research that acts as important academic input for informed policy making. Research at CDS is organized around eleven thematic issues: Culture and Development, Decentralisation and Governance, Gender and Development, Human Development, Health and Education, Industry and Trade, Innovation and Technology, Employment and Social Security, 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 2024-25.



The project titled *'The Country System Analysis for Land Restoration'* (Ritika Jain), is currently underway, focuses on examining the various forms and drivers of land degradation across ten countries that have made the highest financial commitments to land restoration in recent years. The project analyzes and compares how land degradation manifests in each country, identifying both similarities and differences. It also explores how socio-economic factors influence the severity and impact of land degradation. Even when countries face similar types of degradation, the consequences can differ significantly due to varying social, economic, or policy conditions. Each country report highlights these dynamics, offering a unique perspective on the relationship between land degradation and national socio-economic systems. The insights aim to support more targeted, effective land restoration efforts under the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The Research 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'*, (C. Veeramani) examines the rapid transformation of mobile phone manufacturing in India, driven by strategic integration into global value chains (GVCs). The mobile phone industry offers a blueprint for India's broader electronics sector. As China shifts toward higher-value activities, India can position itself as a preferred partner in global electronics GVCs. Realizing this potential requires scaling exports, liberalizing trade, addressing tariff and regulatory bottlenecks, strengthening infrastructure, and sustaining supportive industrial policies.

The study, *'16th Finance Commission of India – Evaluation of Finances of State of Kerala (M. Parameswaran, Hrishikesh Mallick, C Veeramani)'* 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.

The project titled *'Intergenerational Mobility and Collective Articulation of Rights: A Case Study of Mala Araya Tribal Community in Kerala'*, ICSSR, New Delhi, (Dr. Abhilash T.) aims to explore the intergenerational mobility of the Mala Araya, a settled agriculturist tribal group in Kerala. It will also investigate the factors contributing to their potential upward mobility and assess the community's ability to sustain this progress. Additionally, the research will examine the struggles of individuals within the community who, like Birsa Munda, played crucial roles in mobilization efforts during the post-independence period. By analyzing the developmental experiences of the Mala Araya, this study seeks to derive insights that may inform policy formulations for



other socially disadvantaged groups in the state.

The study titled *“Keep Calm and Carry On? The ‘Post-Kerala Model’ and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century”* (J.Devika and V J Varghese) this edited volume brings together a collection of essays that critically examine emerging development challenges in Kerala in the new millennium. The book addresses contemporary concerns related to development and welfare in a state long celebrated for its unique achievements in human development—despite limited economic growth—commonly referred to as the ‘Kerala Model’.

The study *“Age-Friendly Local Governance in Kerala”* (M.Parameswaran, Krishna Kumar C and Mohan Kumar) represents an innovative initiative in local self-government aimed at improving the quality of life for senior citizens. Conducted in the context of Kerala’s rapidly growing elderly population, the study offers valuable policy recommendations to support the well-being of older adults in the state. A study *“State of Decentralisation in India: A Comparison of Indian States”* (M.Parameswaran and Mohan Kumar) presents a comprehensive assessment of the progress and current status of decentralisation across Indian states, as envisioned in the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. The study tracks developments over the past three decades, offering comparative insights into the effectiveness and challenges of decentralised governance in India.

The study *‘Debt, Discipline, and Gender in Twenty-first Century Kerala’* (Devika J and Anamika Ajay) is based on extensive fieldwork conducted between 2012 and 2024 across multiple sites in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, this study explores the gendered dynamics of debt among the lower-middle class and poor in Kerala. It critically examines the new economic relationship that emerged in

the 2000s between the state and lower-middle-class women, driven by low-interest self-help loans, particularly in a context where social reproduction demanded greater resources from already strained households.

The study *‘Child care and Educated Women’s Labour Market Behaviour: Evidence from Kerala’* (Thiagu Ranganathan, Tirtha Chatterjee and Praveena Kodoth) focuses on the role of childcare in influencing labour market participation among highly educated women (with education beyond higher secondary). It aims to inform policy by proposing a model for high-quality, affordable childcare interventions that could enhance women’s workforce participation, particularly among those with high aspirations and qualifications.

The Ongoing projects *‘Between Aspirations and Vulnerabilities: Unorganised Retail Sector Women Workers in Kerala’* (J Devika and Anamika Ajay) addresses a significant gap in the scholarship on informal women workers in the retail sector, focusing on the municipality of Tripunithura in Ernakulam district. It highlights the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women working in unorganised retail spaces. A study *‘Welfare support vs. Inherited Wealth: Unequal vulnerabilities of women entrepreneurs located within and outside the Kudumbashree network in Kerala’* (J Devika and Anamika Ajay) compares two groups of women entrepreneurs—those supported by the Kudumbashree network (KS) in Kochi and independent beauty parlour owners in Thiruvananthapuram. Using detailed semi-structured interviews, it examines how each group navigated the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, shedding light on the differential impact of welfare support versus inherited capital. Another study *‘Multiple Effeminisations: Twentieth Century Brahmanical Patriarchy in Kerala’* (J Devika and Anamika Ajay) investigates the mutations of Brahmanical patriarchy in Kerala from the 1980s to the present,



offering insights into how different forms of gendered subordination and "effeminisations" have evolved and persisted over time.

A study '*Competition and Extended Producer Responsibility induced Vertical Integration*' (Rajit Biswas, Muskaan Ahlawat and Neelanjan Sen) develops a two-period model of a vertically related market involving two manufacturing firms and a recycler. The study examines strategic interactions, including how the manufacturer may limit the recycler's capacity by controlling output, highlighting implications for extended producer responsibility (EPR) and vertical integration.

C. Veeramani (2025). "*External Sector Outlook and 2025-26 Union Budget.*" *Economic and Political Weekly*, 60(16), 19 April: To achieve Vision 2047, India must pursue outward-oriented growth by boosting exports, integrating into global value chains, and attracting foreign direct investment. The external sector outlook is analysed through recent budget measures, situated within global dynamics. Success requires structural reforms and regulatory efficiency.

C. Veeramani and M. Parameswaran (Forthcoming). "*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, chapter provides a comprehensive examination of the influence of international trade, particularly imports, on the long-term economic growth of nations

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:*

Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts. Springer, 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.

Ongoing Studies '*What explains startup failure?*' (Chidambaran G Iyer and Vinish Kathuria) investigates the key factors behind startup failures in India, aiming to identify patterns and systemic challenges that hinder the sustainability and success of new ventures. Study '*Bridging the Credit Gap: Influence of ICT on Credit Access in South Asia*' (Ritika Jain and Shreya Bjswas) focusing on enterprises across South Asia, this study explores how Information and Communication Technology (ICT) adoption influences credit access for firms. The research is situated within a context of uneven ICT penetration and underdeveloped credit markets, providing new insights into enterprise behaviour in developing economies. Study titled '*Firms are greener on the side of ICT adopters- An analysis of firms in South Asia*' (Ritika Jain and Shreya Bjswas) examines whether ICT adoption by firms is associated with better energy management and sustainable practices. By analysing firm-level data across South Asia, it assesses ICT's role in promoting environmental responsibility and operational efficiency. Titled '*To license or to cross-hold? An Analysis of Partial Passive Ownership and Alternate Forms of Technology Licensing*' (Rajit Biswas, Aishwarya Desai and Neelanjan Shah) models technology transfer and cross-holdings in an oligopolistic market involving three firms. It compares partial passive ownership and technology licensing as strategies in competitive markets, offering insights into strategic alliances and innovation diffusion.



The study *'Informality, innovation, and firm performance: evidence from World Bank Enterprise Survey in India, 2013–2014'* (Chandra Shekar K) investigates whether informality—defined as a firm's unregistered status—is linked to higher levels of innovation and improved firm performance. Using empirical data from the World Bank Enterprise Survey, it explores the complex relationship between legal status and business outcomes within the Indian business landscape. The study *'Process innovation through production strategies in Indian pharmaceutical industry: An empirical exploration'* (Chidambaran G Iyer) building on two key observations in the literature—India's trade surplus in low-value generic pharmaceutical exports and the focus of R&D on generics, formulations, and process innovation—this study empirically examines the strategic emphasis on process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical firms. *'Technology transfer impact of two biomedical products developed in Kerala'* (Chidambaran G Iyer) study addresses a notable gap in the literature on the economic impact of technology transfer in India. By tracing the effects of technology transfers related to two biomedical products developed in Kerala, it provides insights into how such transfers influence both the industry and broader economy. *'Policy implications from diffusion of two digital payment technologies in India'* (Chidambaran G Iyer) article compares the diffusion of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with card-based payments, highlighting the policy and infrastructural factors that led to UPI's exceptional adoption and performance in India's digital payment landscape.

Ongoing Studies *'Impact of Digitalisation on Financial Inclusion and Firm Performance of Informal Sector in India: Pre and Post COVID analysis'* (Chandra Shekar K) published as CDS Working paper, examines the role of digitalisation in enhancing financial

inclusion and improving the performance of informal sector enterprises in India. By comparing data and trends from the periods before and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the study aims to uncover how digital tools and platforms have influenced access to financial services and business outcomes among informal firms. The research provides insights into policy measures that can support digital transformation and resilience in the informal economy. *'Bivoltine Sericulture in India: An Innovation system perspective'* (Chidambaran G Iyer) paper explores the promotion of bivoltine sericulture clusters in India through the lens of the innovation systems framework. It highlights the critical role of downstream actors—such as farmers, reelers, and weavers—in adopting and adapting innovations generated upstream by research institutions and government bodies. The study emphasizes that building capabilities among these end users is essential for the successful diffusion and sustainability of sericulture innovations.

Abdullah, B., Abraham, V. & Jain, R. Youth (2024) Unemployment in India: Do Aspirations Matter?. *Ind. J. Labour Econ.* **67**, 883–908 find that youth with higher aspirations gap are more likely to be unemployed. Increasing educational levels raise job-related expectations and aspirations. The lack of quality employment opportunities matching the aspirations could be a contributing factor to higher unemployment among youth. An effective policy approach requires the creation of better-quality jobs that align with the aspirations of young, educated labour force. The project *'Contingent aspirations and employment dynamics of young mothers in Kerala'* (Thiagu Ranganathan, Praveena Kodoth and Tirtha Chatterjee) is ongoing. This paper probes the interconnected nature of structural and cultural constraints on the employment of higher educated mothers using a primary



survey of 67 women from a rural and an urban ward in Ernakulam district, Kerala.

The theme Macroeconomic Performance includes research that critically examines the structural dynamics of growth, inflation, inequality, and public finance in India. A study, *"Inflation in India: Dynamics, Distributional Impact and Policy Implications"* (M. Parameswaran and Pulapre Balakrishnan) investigates the nature and drivers of inflation in the Indian economy. It presents empirical evidence on how inflation disproportionately affects different socio-economic groups and identifies critical policy areas that require attention to ensure that inflation control measures are both effective and equitable. The project *"Economic Growth in India: A Longer View"*, (M. Parameswaran and Pulapre Balakrishnan) published as a chapter in the book *"75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts"* (Springer Nature). An ongoing study *"Demand-led Growth, Education and Wage Inequality"* (Gogol Mitra Thakur and Pintu Parui) seeks to bridge a gap in the heterodox literature on economic growth. This paper explores the interconnected roles of demand-led growth, public education, and wage inequality, emphasizing the expansion of public education as a potential source of autonomous demand. It highlights how investment in public education not only supports long-term economic growth but also plays a redistributive role by mitigating wage inequality.

The project *'International Migration for Higher Education from Kerala: Patterns, Determinants and Implications'* (Vinoj Abraham, Gogol Mitra Thakur, Praveena Kodoth, V.Santhakumar, Ritika Jain and Srikantha Kundu) investigates the growing trend of international migration for higher education among college students in Kerala. Using primary survey data, the

study examines the determinants of student migration, including socio-economic background, academic aspirations, and perceived opportunities abroad. It also explores the implications of this trend for local education, labour markets, and future migration patterns.

The study *'Return Migration and Employment Vulnerability during the COVID-19 Pandemic in India'* (Ritika Jain Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham) questions whether migration leads to lasting economic improvement or merely serves as a temporary response to employment deficits at the place of origin. Based on a unique village-level census from Kerala the study analyzes who returns during a crisis, why, and with what consequences. It uncovers structural dimensions of employment vulnerability and reintegration challenges, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study *'Risk and Vulnerability in Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra, India'* (Thiagu Ranganathan, Sarthak Gaurav and Rahul Kumar Singh) published a book *'Accidental Gamblers'* (Cambridge University Press) that underscores the importance of investigating roots of agrarian crisis and paying attention to adjustments of farm households, at a crucial juncture in India's economic transformation. Another *'Mechanisation and Gendered Labour Market Impacts: Evidence from Longitudinal Data in Maharashtra, India'* (Thiagu Ranganathan and Himansu Sekhar Thapa) explores the impact of mechanisation on labour use in a gendered labour market in Maharashtra. The study uses the Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA) data collected by International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) over the years 2009 to 2014 in four villages of Maharashtra for the analysis. In the context of changing rural wages and increasing



mechanisation, the paper explores if mechanisation in agriculture leads to labour augmentation or labour substitution.

The study *'Land Rights and Livelihood: Contextualizing the Forest Conservation Act, 2023'* (Abhilash T) concludes by arguing that state's perspective on adivasi welfare should go beyond monetary expenditure and should also focus on the effective societal progress achieved through implemented schemes and policies. *'Tribal Rights and Kerala Model Development: Exploring New Trends (2024)'*, (Abhilash T) briefly discuss the popular tribal welfare scheme; the community kitchen in Attappadi and also discuss the recent issues regarding the dropout of adivasi children from higher education. The paper *'M Kunhaman (1949-2023) A Radical Academic Who Saw Things'* (Abhilash T) explores the academic contributions of Prof. M. Kunhaman, a radical scholar who provided unique perspectives on development, marginalization, and social exclusion in India, particularly Kerala. By analyzing the developmental experiences of the Mala Araya, the ongoing study *'Intergenerational Mobility and Collective Articulation of Rights: A Case study of Mala Araya Tribal Community in Kerala'* (Abhilash T) seeks to derive insights that may inform policy formulations for other socially disadvantaged groups in the state.

A set of studies by J Devika focusing on the life and thought of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma, a prominent literary and intellectual figure, explore her engagement with modernity, gender, and identity in Kerala: *'Lived Cosmopolitanism'? Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma and Her Challenge to Malayali Modernity'*, *'The Difficult Life of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma: Gender and Loneliness and the Unconventional Thinking Life'*, *'Wayfarer-Woman and the Wayside Lamps: Autobiography of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma'*.

Outreach

As part of its efforts to disseminate research activities, the Centre organized a series of academic events during the year 2024-25. A total of 45 Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures were conducted, which included 4 international events, 36 national-level events, and 5 public lectures. In addition, the Centre held 5 training programmes and workshops aimed at capacity building and skill development. The following five Public lectures were also organised.

- 1) 6th Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture titled *"Democracy and Social Justice: Reading Ambedkar in Our Times"* by Dr. Sambaiah Gundimeda, Associate Professor in the Politics Division at the School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences (SIAS), Krea University delivered on 3rd May, 2024.
- 2) First Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Public Lecture on *"Multinational Corporations and Technological Change in Host Countries: An Indian Perspective"* to be delivered by Prof. Rakesh Basant, Professor of Economics (Retd.) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad on 23rd August, 2024.
- 3) 13th Foundation Day public Lecture on *"The Nehru Development Model: History and Its Lasting Impact"* delivered by Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Chairman 16th Finance Commission at Columbia University on 11th Dec, 2024
- 4) 15th B. G. Kumar Memorial Public Lecture on *"Universal Health Coverage in India: A Continuing Journey"* by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Principal Advisor, NTEP, MoHFW, Govt. of India, Chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai and Former Chief Scientist, WHO on 12th March, 2025.



- 5) 14th Dr P K Gopalakrishnan Memorial Public Lecture titled "*Harnessing the Economic Potential of Indian Cities*" delivered by Dr. Rana Hasan, Regional Lead Economist for South Asia on 24th March, 2025.

The Institute has also organized 5 workshops/ training programmes in the year 2024-25.

- 1) One-day workshop on Fiscal Decentralization chaired by Shri. K. N. Balagopal, Hon'ble Finance Minister welcomed by Prof. Veeramani and Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman, CDS on 8th April, 2024.
- 2) 7 days' Workshop on Data Base on Indian Economy organised from 17th to 23rd February, 2025.
- 3) 6 days' Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies organised from 13th to 18th March, 2025
- 4) 3 day's CDS PhD Colloquium Workshop-Crossroads 2025 organised from 20th to 22nd March, 2025
- 5) 5 days' *Training programme on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues* organised by the Centre from 24th to 28th March, 2025

A Workshop on Fiscal Decentralization

held at CDS on April 8, 2024, was evidently a significant gathering of prominent figures in the field of governance, finance, and academia. Shri. K N Balagopal, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Govt. of Kerala inaugurated the programme. The notable speakers who addressed the gathering include Shri. K M Chandrasekhar, IAS (Retd), Shri. Rabindra Kumar Agarwal, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Finance, Govt. of Kerala, Prof. Haseeb Drabu, Former Finance Minister, Jammu & Kashmir, Shri. V

S Senthil, IAS, (Retd), Shri. R Srinivasan, Planning Board Member, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Prof. Abhay Pethe (online), Former Professor, University of Mumbai, Prof. Kavi Kumar (online), Madras School of Economics, Prof. M A Oommen, Honorary Fellow, CDS, Shri. R Mohan, IES (Retd), Shri. G Vijayaraghavan, IAS (Retd), Prof. K J Joseph, Director, GIFT, Prof. K N Harilal, Former Professor, CDS, Dr. Surajit Das, JNU and Prof. Pinaki Chakraborty

Prof K N Raj Centennial Celebrations:

In honour of the birth centenary of Professor K. N. Raj, the visionary founder of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), the Institute organized a series of commemorative events to celebrate his enduring legacy and intellectual contributions. These events reflected Professor Raj's deep impact on economic thought, policy, and institution-building in India, and reaffirmed his relevance in today's rapidly changing world. The centenary celebrations held from October 19 to October 22, 2024, and began with a grand homecoming of CDS alumni from around the world on October 19 and 20. An alumni association has been formed to strengthen the ties between CDS alumni and the institute. Apart from this, CDS faculty would be delivering K N Raj memorial lectures across different universities and colleges in Kerala. The conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan on October 20 at 10a.m. CM called for CDS to observe **February 10 as Development Researchers Day** by organising seminars with the participation of experienced and young scholars. The Chief Minister also launched a Souvenir commemorating K.N. Raj's contribution to Indian economic development. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman of CDS and Prof. C. Veeramani, RBI Chair and director of CDS, given the welcome address. The conference would also feature



two important panel discussions, On the 21st there was an interactive panel of farmers' representatives and scholars of agricultural economy including Prof. R. Ramakumar, Prof. P. S. Vijayshankar, Ms Aarathi L R, Prof. S. Mohanakumar and Prof. Vinoj Abraham. Smt. Minu Anwar from NABARD was the modereator; On the 22nd there was a panel discussing Kerala's development experience and future directions, chaired by Prof. John Kurien and featuring the scholars Prof. P. K. Michael Tharakan, Prof. K. J. Joseph, Prof. K. N. Harilal, Prof. Manjula Bharathy, Dr. K. Ravi Raman, Prof. V. Santhakumar, and Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan.

As part of a student-led initiative, the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) launched ***The Wayanad Resilience Series: Addressing Climate Change Challenges in India***—a platform of lectures, talks, and discussions commemorating the victims of the Wayanad tragedy and celebrating the resilience of its people in the face of a devastating natural disaster. The series seeks to foster critical dialogue on climate change, environmental governance, and disaster preparedness, with a focus on the unique challenges faced by regions like Wayanad. These sessions brought together students, researchers, and the broader academic community to engage with critical environmental issues, contributing to a deeper understanding of resilience, sustainability, and inclusive development in disaster-prone areas.

Training Programme Unit at CDS: As part of its efforts to expand its outreach and ensure financial sustainability, the Centre has established a dedicated Training Programme Unit. This unit focuses on designing and delivering high-quality training programmes that blend academic rigour with practical relevance, targeting a diverse range of stakeholders. Training Programme on BIG Data Analysis through Theory and Application will be held from

28 April to 02 May 2025 and a Training Programme on Labour Codes and the Transforming World of Work: Implications for Employer-Employee Relations in the Organised Sector in India is scheduled from 06 – 10 October 2025.

The Centre organized the inaugural edition of its PhD colloquium, titled **Crossroads 2025**, from March 20 to 22, 2025. The event 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 in a collegial environment. As the first of its kind hosted by CDS, Crossroads 2025 marked a significant step in nurturing a national research community among early-career scholars.

The Centre for Development Studies Alumni Association (CDSAA) has officially come into being and is now an active and dynamic organization. On **January 21, 2025**, the CDSAA was formally registered under Act XII of the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955, marking a major milestone in the collective efforts to establish a lasting and vibrant alumni network. Conceived as a platform to foster engagement, collaboration, and mutual support, the CDSAA seeks to bring together alumni, associates, and well-wishers of CDS from across the years and around the world. The Association encourages active participation from all members in the ongoing development of CDS—supporting its programmes, initiatives, and broader professional mission. At its core, the CDSAA is committed to nurturing a diverse, inclusive, and supportive community that reflects the founding values of CDS, while promoting both professional excellence and personal growth.



Infrastrucure Development

The Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee entrusted an expert team from the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram to carry out a structural stability assessment of all campus buildings constructed before 2008. The expert committee conducted a detailed inspection of the buildings at the Centre and submitted their Structural Stability Assessment Report on April 17, 2024. The assessment identified several key buildings requiring urgent renovation, including: Administrative Block, Library Main Building, Teaching Block, H2/ H12 Quarters, WH Hostel Building, Residential Area Car Shed

The primary structural issues highlighted in the report were leakage and spalling of ceiling concrete, which pose both functional and safety concerns. The CD meeting reviewed the expert committee report along with a renovation cost estimate prepared by the Estate & Engineering Section of CDS. At the request of the Director, the matter was taken up with the ICSSR. The ICSSR advised CDS to apply for a one-time renovation grant, and recommended preparing cost estimates based on PWD or Central PWD rates. The major items included in the estimate are dismantling RCC, items for cutting reinforcement, plastering, painting, water proofing of ceiling and roof areas, trafford sheet roofing with GI tubular truss work for residential area car shed, scaffolding for repair works, mangalore tiling works etc. The total estimated cost of works as per DSR comes to Rs. 26,00,000/-

The ICSSR sanctioned 50% of the estimated cost, and the rectification works related to the leak proofing work of Library Main building First floor, leak proofing and repair work of H2 building, repair works on

H12 quarters have been successfully completed.

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.491.49 lakh and the Indian Council of Social Science Research Rs. 329.06 lakh. The Centre earned a total income of Rs.125.87 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.460.67 lakh and Rs.238.66 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 2024–25. 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

‘Keep Calm and Carry On? The ‘Post-Kerala Model’ and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century’ (Edited volume)

J Devika J and V J Varghese

This book is an edited volume consisting of essays that explore a range of development challenges in Kerala in the new millennium. It covers recent concerns in development and welfare in this state renowned for its achievements in human development in the twentieth



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

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

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

Publication Status: To be published by Orient Blackswan, Hyderabad. Finalized ms after review to be submitted soon

'Stirrings of collective conscience'

Suraj Jacob

The essay is based on the cases of community workers chronicled in *Being Earth* by Amrita Nandy. Modernity and discourses of facile progress and development often dull us into forgetting that we need a different lens to perceive wholesome social lives. The essay presents two reflections based on the book. The first is on stirrings of individual and collective conscience leading to solidarity and constructive work. The second is on how the bright lights of facile and narrow 'development' push such stirrings to the shadows of our



consciousness. Mainstream development emphasises material outcomes, particularly health, education, and standard of living on the one hand, and employment and livelihoods on the other. While that development agenda may superficially appear to be *nirmaan*, the latter is about individual and collective conscience, community building and common resolve, and social action—not state action—coming from that process. In recent times, the state’s development agenda has narrowed to piping in welfare benefits and service delivery. Further, mainstream development has bold outcome targets but there is relatively little emphasis on the means, which in the case of *nirmaan* is inseparable from ends. Further, while the recent emphasis in mainstream development on welfare entitlements and rights reflects a wonderful universal aspiration for wellbeing, the rights route is not predicated on building local community. Indeed, in practice the process of claiming rights is often transactional, individuating, and oriented to narrow self-interest—and sometimes also self-righteous. When people without deep relationships gather together to claim rights from a state that grudges them, it is one might arrayed against another: Might through strength in numbers versus the material and political might of the state. Today, claims about development and activity in the development mainstream are louder than ever. Considerable monetary and other resources are channelled for infrastructure services, welfare benefits, and skilling for the poor to get a toehold in a massively unequal market economy. And yet, ironically, despite these dizzying ‘goods’, the imagination is narrow (*sankeern*) compared to the alternative imagination of collective conscience, local deliberations, common resolve, *nirmaan*, and *sangharsh*. Further, narrowed development imagination and reduced appetite for pluralism are hardening sensibilities in the development sector across the state, CSRs, CSOs, and the wider public. Higher decibel levels and intolerance in the public sphere only reinforce this. In contrast, the cases profiled in the book speak to an ethic of development that is fundamentally different and life-affirming. The alternative sensibility of the cases emerges in local communities where there are stirrings of individual and collective conscience. By casting our glance away from the blinding lights of narrow mainstream development imagination, the cases allow us to see that there are many stars—the *gudri ke laal* (beloved of the earth) whose practices offer alternatives that can counter the anxieties and damages from mainstream development and recover our unalienated selves with dignity and compassion.

Status: “Stirrings of collective conscience” in forthcoming (2025) book *Being Earth* by Amrita Nandy (Seva Mandir)

Ongoing Studies

‘Toilet Theory: State, Sociality, and Policy in India’

Suraj Jacob and Balmurli Natrajan

Why do large numbers of people not use the toilets built for them? Why do state programs and policies for large-scale behavioural change fail? Based on ethnographic fieldwork in central India this book navigates critical social theory from interdisciplinary perspectives to advance an explanation for behavioural regularities (behaviours that are widespread in a population) and to theorize how modern states shape community and citizenship. Toilet Theory argues that the modern state operates without regard to sociality, the human capacity that constitutes humans as primarily oriented toward other humans in mutually



responsive ways. Although human action is embedded in sociality and social practices, the state's blinkers reduce human action to individual acts. As a result, state programs for behavioural change fail—since, unlike individual behaviours, shared social practices (such as open defecation) are far more durable and not easily transformed through nudge or coercion. Yet, even in their failure to change behavioural regularities, state programs further the thinning of sociality to construct the modern 'individual' as an atomized entity separable from social ties and the 'public' as simply a grouping of atomized individuals. The book develops these 'reasons of state' to account for how state power legitimizes itself through fragmentation of community and puts the stamp of individualization on society.

Status: Book manuscript titled Toilet Theory: State, Sociality, and Policy in India (under review at OUP London)

DECENTRALISATION AND GOVERNANCE

Completed Studies

'Age friendly local governance in Kerala'

M. Parameswaran, Krishna Kumar C and Mohan Kumar

Sponsorship: RULSG

The Research Unit on Local Self Government (RULSG) conducted a unique study on Aged-Friendly Governance in Kerala, which is an innovative effort in local self-government for the betterment of senior citizens. In Kerala, six grama panchayats—three from Thiruvananthapuram and another three from Palakkad district—had initially expressed interest in self-declaring as Vayojana Sowhrittha Grama Panchayats or Aged-Friendly Grama Panchayats since 2014. Out of these, three grama panchayats from the Thiruvananthapuram district—Manickal, Vembayam, and Poovachal Grama Panchayats—were selected for the study. We have conducted in-depth interviews with grama panchayat officials, elected representatives, stakeholders, and beneficiaries of the scheme. The study has been conducted using qualitative and quantitative data. Manickal is implementing age-friendly governance and has been declared an age-friendly grama panchayat, and Poovachal is also implementing the same. Vembayam began with new initiatives, then slowed down its activities, and has revamped its activities over the last two years.

The Pakalveed programme implemented in Manickal and Poovachal plays a crucial role in age-friendly governance. Both panchayats are focusing on running this programme smoothly. Entertainment activities, conducting tours, providing medicines and equipment for the elderly, conducting ward-level old age campaigns, etc., are the major activities of these grama panchayats. However, the grama panchayats are facing various challenges related to the aged-friendly project implementation, such as lack of financial resources, lack of experts and stakeholders, and lack of proper guidelines from the government. Several issues have been shared by the grama panchayat offices and also by elderly people who were beneficiaries of the schemes. The study evaluates the existing schemes for the elderly and their characteristics, identifies the gaps in programme implementation, and explores methods for further improvements, as well as the ground-level realities and the needs of



the elderly.

This study is a pioneering effort in the state in the context of the emerging issue of a rapidly growing elderly population, and it aims to provide valuable suggestions to the government for formulating suitable policies for the well-being of elderly people in the state. The study has been completed and is in the final stage of publishing its report/book.

Publication Status: Plan to publish in book form in Malayalam.

‘K. N. Raj on the Economy, Governance, and Policy’

Suraj Jacob

K. N. Raj influenced how developing economies are understood and served in important policymaking roles. His grounded understanding of Indian realities embedded the economy in society and institutions. His view of economic growth emphasised employment in agriculture while creating sustainable pathways into the industrial sector. He emphasised education, health, and social security well before the mainstream. He also traced the effect of governing classes on a society’s orientation to inclusive growth, and advocated bold structural change through land reforms and decentralisation. Through these interests, Raj touched a remarkably broad set of issues in the study and practice of development.

Publication status: Chapter in forthcoming book Social Theorizing in Contemporary India, edited by Ananta Kumar Giri (Routledge London)

Ongoing Studies

‘Gender and the History of Welfare Policy in Kerala : Some Preliminary Thoughts’

Devika J and Anamika Ajay

In this paper, we argue that the welfare policy regimes for the poor in Kerala have been historically shaped by distinctly different frameworks across nearly a century and a half, but they have been almost always a version of gendered familism. We identify four such frameworks that implicitly or explicitly endorse familism – appearing not in a linear chronology, but continuing to survive in parts, overlapping with each other. The first and the most enduring and pervasive of these has been the one that originated in the native state of Travancore (presently south Kerala) in the nineteenth century which achieved significant ‘infrastructural state penetration’ (Desai 2005). It was chiefly concerned with the provision of public education and health care but had a distinctly familistic orientation within its focus on modern family life as the ultimate base on which development and the new nation were to be built. The reminder that modern education should lead to a productive family which would ultimately be prosperous enough to ensure the welfare of all its members was very common indeed; modern health care, especially for women, was often linked to the purpose of enabling women of good health to become the animating core of the modern family, again, understood as capable of supporting all its members. The transformation of inheritance, marriage, and property in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Malayali society was directly understood as enabling this institution to secure the interests of all its members. Indeed, such a family was deemed fundamental to all economic and political progress. ‘Uplift’ as a framework of welfarism was to have a very long life. In its



terms, welfare flowed from the authorities to beneficiaries and was perceived as state benevolence. The second framework that shaped Kerala's welfare policy stemmed from leftist political struggles against feudal power which sought to provide more resources to the poor. Though with roots in the pre-independence era, the heyday of this framework spanned the vast expansion of welfare here from the 1950s up to the 1980s, culminating in social and economic security programmes. This included the fixing of minimum wages for many different groups of workers, the provision of housing for the poor, maternity benefits, 'marriage benefits' for daughters of poor widows, educational support for workers' children, the several welfare pensions including worker's pensions such as the agricultural workers' pension, the allowance for the unemployed, pensions for the widowed, and more recently for such groups as the disabled and unmarried women above the age of fifty, the welfare funds and so on. This framework was and is intensely familialistic even though recipients of pensions and grants are individuals, not surprising, given the strongly social-democratic orientation of leftist politics in Kerala. The third framework which may be referred to as 'social democracy-oriented self-help', was advanced with the hope that it would 'meet neoliberal marketization half-way' in the 1990s. This period marks the end of socio-economic redistribution-oriented policies rooted in socialist goals, especially the redistribution of arable land to oppressed castes which received only minimal homestead plots during the land reforms of the 1970s. In this framework, women were ostensibly granted crucial agency in local-level development. This was Kerala's own unique phase of neoliberalised welfare, and not associated with state withdrawal – as scholars have noted, there is no necessary association between the two. The fourth framework which gained circulation in the new century would seem to be an exception in that it turns a critical eye on patriarchy inside and outside family and community – for this reason it may be referred to as the 'gender-justice' framework. We argue that the fact that these policy regimes have continued to persist at different levels works to minimize the gender-equality impacts of the fourth regime that seems to decisively move away from familism at some levels.

Expected date of completion: October 2025

'State of Decentralisation in India: A comparison of Indian States'

M. Parameswaran and Mohan Kumar

Sponsorship: RULSG

This report provides a detailed assessment of the status and progress on decentralization in India, as envisioned by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. This study highlights the present status of decentralization across Indian states over the last three decades. It evaluates the devolution of 29 functions to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), highlighting inter-state variations and trends over time based on the secondary data. The study primarily focuses on the status of functional devolution, financial devolution, transfer of functionaries, inclusiveness, and related aspects across states. It also presents data on fiscal transfers, local revenue generation, election status, inclusiveness, capacity building, etc. The role of the Central Finance Commissions in grant allocations, and the criteria used for equitable distribution across states, devolution of funds to grama panchayats by each state, etc., are also analysed. The status of each component of decentralized planning and its variation across states is analysed in detail. A comparative framework ranks states based on their decentralization achievements, including innovations and best practices. Even though the Constitution provides a strong foundation for local governance, the report shows that implementation varies widely across states, underlining the need to



strengthen the fiscal, functional, and administrative capacities of local governments.

Expected date of completion: October 2025

‘Governance Processes: The Making and Unmaking of Public Policies in India’

Suraj Jacob and Babu Jacob

Two views of ‘policy’ are common in India. One sees policy as the intent expressed by a policy authority (policy-as-intent). Another view expands policy upstream and downstream of intent: intent emerges from a swirl of alternative ideas and interests; intent is translated into implementation design; and this widens to different implementation practices (policy-as-hourglass). While these views are intuitive and insightful, they do not adequately describe or explain how policy works in India. The book develops a framework that provides an alternative view. Intent-setting, design, and implementation occur in different policy spaces each with its own players, rhythms, and tendencies—but there is also a hierarchy among policy players. The book introduces the concept of ‘policy schemas’ to understand these spaces and their relationships. A policy schema is a filter through which a policy player views the world and acts in it, and it is shaped by ideologies, discourses, and interests. Schemas of policy players vary across policy spaces (intent-setting, design, implementation) and over time. The schemas framework illuminates how policy works and helps to construct narratives of policy history. The book applies the framework to trace policy history over a century for three cases: decentralisation policy, forest policy, and sanitation policy. The analysis reveals that intent-setting space does not reflect diverse needs and interests—and it is often closed to diverse voices, that policy designing space has its own rhythm only partly connected with intent-setting, and that implementing space has its own rhythm focused on local concerns. The book shows how and why emphasis on expanding policy sectors and politics has trumped realistic implementation planning. This leads to two paradoxes that have not been adequately explored previous: the paradox of policy centralisation despite democratic politics and the paradox of thin policy outputs despite increased policy responsiveness.

Status: Book manuscript titled Governance Processes: The Making and Unmaking of Public Policies in India (to be sent to CUP in early 2026)

New Research Initiatives

Edited book on “Policy Histories and Decentralisation Possibilities in Water, Sanitation, and Waste Management”

Suraj Jacob, N C Narayanan and team from IIT-Bombay

Sponsored by IIT-Bombay

‘Policy Processes for Environmental Services: Solid & Liquid Waste Management in Kerala’

Suraj Jacob and N C Narayanan



Sponsored by IIT-Bombay

Draft paper titled “Campaign style governance: Exploring a waste management initiative by state and local government in Kerala”

Suraj Jacob and N C Narayanan and Ruth George

Sponsored by IIT-Bombay

Status: to be completed later in 2025

Draft paper titled “Imagination, projection, and practice of decentralisation: The case of waste management in Trivandrum”

Suraj Jacob and N C Narayanan and Ruth George

Sponsored by IIT-Bombay

Status: to be completed later in 2025

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

‘Debt, Discipline, and Gender in Twenty-first Century Kerala’

Devika J and Anamika Ajay

Based on fieldwork conducted in multiple sites in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi between 2012 and 2024, this paper throws light on the gendered nature of debt among the lower-middle class and poor in twenty-first-century Kerala. First, the paper critically examines the new economic relationship which was forged between the state and lower-middle-class women in Kerala in the 2000s based on low-interest self-help loans at a time when social reproduction called for greater resources for poor families. We, however, avoid homogenising the poor; rather, we aim at a nuanced account, treating Kerala as a special case in which the state appears as the mediator, assuring the interests of both the actual creditors and debtors. This, however, produces a specific, unique form of indebtedness which undergirds the relationship between the state and the civil society of economically-vulnerable women centred on the state. Also, the implicit but intense presence of the language of ‘moral debt’ owed by women in this civil society to the state was crucial to enabling the extraction of considerable amounts of underpaid or unpaid governmental labour from them. Secondly, we pay attention to the existence of an abject ‘outside’ to this civil society. Informal sector women workers who bear the greatest social disadvantage bear the full brunt of humiliation, exploitation, and indebted subjectivity. Thirdly, we attempt to identify the diverse ways in which different groups of women try to modify their status as welfare beneficiaries and resist immobilization through economic debt and moral obligation.



It is based on multiple spells of ethnographic fieldwork, and semi-structured interviews conducted during 2012-24. Fieldwork was conducted in 2012-16 in two sites marked by severe socio-economic deprivations-- a fishing hamlet and an urban slum in Thiruvananthapuram – on women’s empowerment through local governance. Our recent fieldwork was conducted during 2022-24 with different groups of cleaning/domestic workers in the cities of Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi and a group of fish workers in the city of Thiruvananthapuram.

Our work throws fresh light into neoliberal capitalism that is being played out in contemporary Kerala. While critical scholars have mostly focused on the form of technocratic and big infrastructure-driven model of neoliberal logic that seems to drive Kerala’s post-2000 development agenda, our research suggests that capitalism in Kerala has many filaments and the lives of our narrators point to the growth of ‘neoliberalism from below’ in the form of debt capitalism. Despite its pervasiveness and its crippling impacts on the poor, very little attention seems to be paid to it. We also seek to highlight certain Kerala-specific reasons for the pervasiveness and normalisation of debt capitalism. Here, most of the community organisations born out of community reformisms in the early 20th century, transformed into community capitalists by the late 20th century. They all mobilise women into community-based SHGs and facilitate microfinance with high interest rates. Since these organisations are associated with the ‘social’, their capitalist workings go unnoticed. Most significantly, a large majority of the vulnerable and abjected poor families in Kerala survive on these debts. Debt acts as a lubricant that makes the social reproduction of resource-poor families possible. Many of our narrators shared how they used the low-interest rate loans from KS to repay their loans taken from private MFIs. In other words, the money transferred from the state to the poor often acts as a subsidy for the debt capitalists.

Publication Status: to appear in the special issue of Social Change, edited by Rowena Robinson and Sherin Sabu.

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

Devika J and Anamika Ajay.

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



closely and critical on both the legacy of the 'Kerala Model' as well as the possibilities of rebuilding it in the present.

The long introductory essay makes a pitch for a thorough feminist critique of the deeply familialist welfare policy in Kerala and lays out the ways in which such a critique could be achieved. Two grim social facts -- that the greater burden of social reproduction in poor families now fall on women, and that familial injustice and violence against individuated women has been unrelenting -- prompted us to craft a close critical examination of the history of the diverse ways in which it has manifested in the twentieth century and the present.

At the outset we realised that this was impossible without finding an alternative set of theoretical lenses that would enable us to see through the blind spots of the dominant social democratic frameworks that have deeply informed our academic and non-academic understanding of modern Kerala. Social democratic theory identifies the family as potentially the chief instrument of welfare and bulwark against capitalism. The use of this identification as an explanation of 'Kerala Model' achievements (mainly in Robin Jeffrey's much-discussed work *Politics, Women and Well-being* (1993)) have rendered patriarchal power in the modern Malayali family hard to spot and analyse. This popular thesis attributed Kerala's social development achievements in the twentieth century to the enlightened home-bound women who hold the modern family together as an institution. However, the fact that modern Malayali families are maintained by the unequal distribution of power, responsibilities and resources is proven beyond doubt by feminist scholarship on twentieth century Kerala. Recent developments also reveal the considerable misogynistic violence that seemingly inheres in the heart of the modern Malayali family. The social democracy framework which leads to the uncritical celebration of Kerala's social development and women's status in it tends to obscure such anomalies.

Different versions of this feminist critique are now at least three decades old, but we believe that this book marks an important moment in the by-now decades-old feminist critique of the Kerala Model. We offer a more nuanced historical account of the modern Malayali family which refuses the common practice of making the history of modern family-formation among the twentieth-century Malayali new elite stand for the general history of the family in the region. Quite differently from accounts informed by social democratic theory, this book does not treat the process of modern family-formation as a simple unfolding in different stages. While it is true that the formation of modern elite families happened in the first half of the twentieth century, and the modernisation and consolidation of working class families happened later, these were processes with distinct histories informed by significantly different logics of power. This allows us to highlight the patriarchal familism at the heart of Malayali welfarism -- its commitment to building the self-supporting family without questioning its patriarchal foundations. Indeed, this gives us a tentative answer to the question why family patriarchy remains so strong in Kerala even after a century or more of state welfare.

This book is also a critique of Malayali feminist historiography which has left the distinctly-different histories of the modern family largely unexplored, focusing far more on the implications of the rise of binary gender in the language of Malayali modernity. Against the all-pervasive ideology of the patriarchal family being not only universal and eternal, but also



a power-neutral haven of love and peace, we offer a sketch of the political rationalities that came together to shape modern families in distinct socio-economic locations, and the distinct kinds of gendered power relations that they entailed. We especially stress that though the joint family embedded in the traditional caste order of janma-bhedam in which traditional patriarchal authority wielded sovereign authority waned in the course of economic and social changes of the twentieth century, the modern family based on conjugal monogamy among the resource-rich communities rested quite solidly on blood relations given by endogamy. The new elite kulina of the twentieth century, therefore, may be individuated, but was expected to submit her procreative capacities willingly to the generational reproduction of her caste/community's 'pure blood'. The modern man at the head of the family was also to be different from the patriarch of the caste-elite family of janma-bhedam who wielded even the authority to inflict physical violence. He was to lead the modern family as a 'softer' sovereign, complemented by the modern woman's disciplinary role. He was also to assume the role of the major economic decision-maker in the family, controlling women's property as well.

In contrast, the modern family among working-class communities was shaped by such mid-twentieth century governmental instruments as the male breadwinner norm in wage fixation exercises and the discourse of family planning which targetted working-class women's bodies. Following Anna Lindberg, we have argued that working class women were effeminised and directed towards becoming non-wage-earning, 'housewives' dependent on the incomes of their husbands. However, this does not mean that they were elevated to elite kulinahood. Though working-class women were freed from the bhrthyahood of the traditional caste-order to a large extent, this did not guarantee their entry into either the elite notions of 'family feminine' or full and equal membership in the organised proletariat. Indeed, the decline of traditional industries and agriculture in the 1980s set the stage for their further demotion into the unorganised, poorly-paid, poorly-skilled informal sector carrying very heavy burdens of labour – the neo-bhrthy. This disempowered femininity was not the same as, but surely reminiscent of the bottom-most female role in the traditional caste order. In this way, we try to open up new questions and offer fresh hypotheses for feminist history-writing in Kerala.

By attempting a preliminary exploration of brahmanical patriarchy in the present, we seek to pose a fresh set of questions that take the discussion on it beyond its present articulations which largely revolve around twentieth century experiences. We examine how the changing state-capital nexus as well as the state's alignment with working-class women have shaped brahmanical patriarchy of the present century. The three substantial chapters of the book clearly underline the impossibility of referring to 'Malayali Women' as a singular entity. Indeed, it is crucial to state this precisely because the discourse of the state and the dominant Left continue to refer to 'Women' in such terms, though the actual object of reference is the state-centred development civil society of the women of the economically more vulnerable, lower-middle-classes of the Malayali population. Multiple spells of fieldwork over an extended period over multiple sites and groups of women indicate that the major socio-economic divide in Kerala today is no longer a simple binary between the wealthy and the poor. Rather, those who own marginal assets and possess lower middle-class status, but who are still economically vulnerable are often divided off from the assetless poor whose condition is perhaps best described as abjection, and not just deprivation. The women of the former group are 'seen' in clearer terms by the neoliberalised welfare state since the mid-1990s and recognised as the potential 'good



subjects' of neoliberal self-help entrepreneurialism, while the latter are often its 'bad subjects' who find themselves outside state welfare. When associated with protests against dispossession, they are to be even disciplined in punitive terms. That this divide conforms largely to the caste inequalities inherited from the twentieth century too is perhaps no surprise -- the abjected women are more likely to be the poorer coastal communities, Adivasis, or Dalit, especially from underprivileged urban areas.

Yet this dividing line is by no means stable – as was evident in our fieldwork in areas affected by climate change or preyed upon by natural-resource predatory capital, it does not take much for those with relatively better access to welfare to descent into the rank of the abjected. The relative economic security enjoyed by the former through neoliberalised state credit is neither adequate nor stable, and hence even the women of the vulnerable communities favoured by the state may well descend into abject conditions in a crisis. And such crises are ever-more frequent with external threats like extreme climate events and pandemics becoming common. We point to the way in which a sense of indebtedness seems to be at the heart of the new social contract between the twenty-first century state in Kerala and the 'Women' that it has summoned up for/through the new welfarism. This is also to highlight the erosion of democracy that this effects. Secondly, the pervasiveness of debt as the lubricant of the material lives of the poor that we found in our fieldwork shows the extent to which debt capitalism which extracts both resources and future time from the most disadvantaged sections of the people remains largely invisible and even normalized. Mainstream feminism in contemporary Kerala remains largely blind to it even though women who carry social reproductive burdens are its victims for the most. With minor exceptions, even critics of twentieth century capitalism scarcely notice it. This may have to do with the fact that such debt lubricates much family life in the state and it is women, still perceived to be at the margins of capitalism who acquire it.

This is further confirmed by the exploration of the vicissitudes of 'women's empowerment' in Chapter 5. As the larger economic policy framework shifts away from decentralized development towards corporate-led growth, the public recognition of the value of women's resilience in making possible social reproduction in families and the local community tends to fade. It may be remembered that women's resilience was at the very core of 'women's empowerment'—however, it has been largely understood as absorptive and not adaptive or transformative resilience. This means that women of even the vulnerable populations favoured by the governmental eye of neoliberalised welfare stand to lose, ending up as cheap labour for the state recruitable on command during emergencies. Also, the rise of sovereign logics of power in Kerala's political field seem to have decisively reshaped the Left conceptualisation of 'Women' (meaning women in the state-centred development civil society) in a mechanical, near-authoritarian command-response model.

Publication Status: In press, to be published by Zubaan, New Delhi.

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

Thiagu Ranganathan, Tirtha Chatterjee and Praveena Kodoth

Sponsorship: JPAL

Low and declining women's work participation in the state of Kerala have been emphasised



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

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

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

Publication Status : Presented at Kerala and World Economy; Published an article in EPW as a part of Review of Gender Studies

Ongoing Studies

'Between Aspirations and Vulnerabilities: Unorganised Retail Sector Women Workers in Kerala'

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Sponsorship: Based on research supported by the RULSG and ICSSR (ICSSR (F. No. 3 – 16/2021/RIC) on 22. 3. 2022)



Even when popular films and literature in Kerala have begun to pay some attention to the lived realities of the unorganised retail sector women workers, there has been very little attention paid to this cohort of workers in the policy circles. Despite being one of the largest employers of young women workers in post-reform Kerala, there is very little scholarship on the experiences of these workers and the labour relations in this sector. The present study is an attempt at filling this void in the scholarship on informal sector women workers in retail and bringing to the fore the challenges faced by the female retail workers in the municipality of Tripunithura in Ernakulam district. We interviewed women working as salesgirls/saleswomen in small to medium-sized garment shops, supermarkets and stationery shops.

The methodological challenges that we encountered while studying unorganised women retail workers were tough indeed. Since the primary data collection technique adopted in this study was semi-structured long interviews with women workers, a space needed to be created where women could express their views, experiences and concerns freely. In the first part of the paper, we provide a sociological profile of the women who work as saleswomen in the municipality of Tripunithura in Ernakulam district to make sense of their home and work lives, illuminate how the pandemic triggered economic insecurities and dampened their aspirations for upward mobility and identify the different strategies used by them to cope with the challenges posed by the pandemic. In the subsequent sections, we try to make sense of the manner in which these workers perceive their situation and opportunities, and how these perceptions are mediated by evolving brahmanical patriarchy. We refer to this specific manifestation of brahmanical patriarchy as 'sartorial effeminisation' – 'effeminisation' being the primary mode of orienting women workers in Kerala towards a docile femininity, as identified in the history of cashew workers in the twentieth century by the historian Anna Lindberg. We argue that the new sartorial codes required of their workers by the retail sector here offer ambiguous gains to retail sector women workers. On the one hand, their work continues to be arduous, hazardous to health, and poorly paid; however, the elite sartorial codes, body language, and speech that they are expected to conform to as part of their performance of elite femininity – to produce the 'look' of the kulina -- even as their torturous work routine condemns them to a neo-bhrtya status. This lived contradiction, however, is probably important in making sense of their eagerness to mobilise and fight oppressive work regimes and cultures.

Expected date of completion: September 2025

'Welfare support vs. Inherited Wealth: Unequal vulnerabilities of women entrepreneurs located within and outside the Kudumbashree network in Kerala'

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Sponsorship: Based on research supported by the RULSG and ICSSR (ICSSR (F. No. 3 – 16/2021/RIC) on 22. 3. 2022)

In this paper, we study two groups - Kudumbashree-supported (KS) enterprise owners in Kochi and beauty parlour owners in Thiruvananthapuram who were outside of the KS network. We compared the ways in which these two groups tided over the challenges of the



pandemic using data collected through detailed semi-structured interviews. In contrast to other women working in the informal sector, the Kudumbashree women and the beauty parlour owners occupy the lower-middle class and middle-class positions with better access to economic and social resources. The KS women we interviewed were members of NHGs who had taken loans from either one, two or all three sources- thrift credit system, bank-linkage group credit system and NULM Self Employment Program credit system. This was a group of 18 women who hailed from and were married into working-class neighbourhoods in the city who were part of the KS networks. These women mostly belonged to avarna caste/OBC groups like Ezhavas and Kudumbis or from non-elite Latin Catholic and Muslim families. All the 18 women we interviewed were married and began as 'housewives', and they did not identify themselves as the primary earners in their families. The other group was of 15 beauty parlour owners in the city of Thiruvananthapuram city. Given the increased presence of non-Malayali women and transwomen in Kerala's beauty industry in the last decade, we decided to get insights from their experiences too in this study. Thus, out of the 15 beauty parlour owners we interviewed, 2 were transwomen make-up artists and 1 was a non-Malayali parlour owner. Like the first group, most of the members of the second group were also mostly married, middle-aged women who started as housewives. Though the shock absorption capacities of the ME women we interviewed, in general, were better developed than the domestic workers, saleswomen and fisherwomen, they faced specific kinds of vulnerabilities that dried up their sources of income and affected their businesses significantly. Moreover, we also found that the vulnerabilities faced and coping mechanisms employed by the entrepreneurs supported by the KS network and the beauty parlour owners (who were outside the KS network) were significantly different.

From the research it appears that the KS program has played a laudatory role in encouraging lower-middle-class housewives to become enterprise owners by helping them access credit and access to other welfare resources. However, the limited support offered by the government in the form of welfare was not enough to help them grow as businesses women nor was it enough to help them with the huge shock that the pandemic induced on their lives and businesses pushing them back to take huge and multiple loans for their home and business needs. It was clear that the cushioning effect of the welfare programs was not enough for many KS women to survive the challenges imposed by the pandemic. In contrast, the case of the upwardly mobile middle-class non-KS beauty parlour owners demonstrates clearly how the resilience capacities of those who possess inherited capital and have control over resources were much better equipped to absorb and adapt to the vulnerabilities induced by the pandemic.

Expected date of completion: December 2025

'Multiple Effeminisations: Twentieth Century Brahmanical Patriarchy in Kerala'

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Sponsorship: Based on research supported by the RULSG and ICSSR (ICSSR (F. No. 3 – 16/2021/RIC) on 22. 3. 2022)

In this paper we examine the mutations of brahmanical patriarchy in Kerala in the period spanning the 1980s to the present. This is based on both research by historians of gender about twentieth-century Kerala, research on women's labour, employment, and migration in



Kerala by other scholars, and our own field research among informal sector women workers and women engaged in self-help and development labour at the interface of politics and local governance in Kerala, that ranges over the past twenty years. However, we rely strongest on our most recent fieldwork among informal sector women workers in contemporary Kerala – domestic workers, fish-sellers, and retail sector workers. We argue that new processes of ‘effeminisation’ are afoot among these groups, with differing consequences. By ‘effeminisation’ we refer to the orientation of women workers towards docile, home-bound femininity, which leads them to claim merely second-income and second-class citizenship – through processes initiated not just by conservative civil society, but also the state and political society with progressive credentials. Anna Lindberg argued that this history of cashew workers in twentieth century Kerala had been one of effeminisation of women workers. We try to look beyond the 1980s and argue that effeminisation as a process now unfolds in multiple ways in relation to multiple groups. We draw upon terms from the discourse of brahmanical patriarchy in India to highlight the manner in which gendered oppression and class exploitation are inseparable from caste oppression.

Relying on recent research, we examine the ways in which the more recent mutations of brahminical patriarchy affect our interviewees. It appears that women workers who are highly disadvantaged socially and economically try to secure social respectability through arranging dowry-marriages for their daughters. While such behavior has been noted among working-class women in the 1990s as well, a shift towards securing social respectability and not merely economic security for daughters, seems evident now. The fact that dowry now includes a sizeable share of non-depreciating assets sets an economic trap, and it appears that such women can only ‘borrow’ social respectability, paying heavy economic costs. Here we draw on our interviews with three groups of women workers: domestic workers, retail workers, and fish-sellers to identify distinct processes of effeminisation that define twenty-first century brahminical patriarchy in Kerala. If the working-class woman was steadily pushed into informal work – the core of a new bhrthya-hood from the 1980s, the 1990s and after saw them being ushered into a new kulina-hood, distinctly different from the elite kulina of the twentieth century, which may be termed ‘governmental kulina-hood’. The renewed familism of neoliberalised welfare which continued to emphasize the woman’s centrality to the family thus unwittingly gave brahminical patriarchy a new life in twenty-first century Kerala. While this new kulina shared much with her predecessor, she also differed with her in significant ways. Besides this, we also identify ‘sartorial effeminisation’ and ‘effeminisation by dispossession’. If the former combines the performance of kulinahood with the life of a neo-bhrtya, the latter condemns women to abjection. Meanwhile, research on migration and women in Kerala reveals yet another form of effeminisation, wielded against women workers who seek to migrate abroad seeking better income and work opportunities. This, we call ‘effeminisation by nation.’

Expected date of completion: August 2025

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Completed Studies

‘Accountability for learning in contexts of fragile school attendance in India’

Suraj Jacob, Caroline Dyer and Archana Choksi



Sponsorship: ESRC, UK

Accountability-focused governance reforms aiming to address the ‘learning crisis’ in schools across the global South have generated a performative orientation that diverts from a sustained focus on student learning. How education system actors perceive accountability for ensuring that all enrolled children attend school and learn, even if children’s attendance is irregular remains a critical question. This paper draws together disparate bodies of scholarship on accountability and attendance to frame its empirical investigation of accountability for learning. It focuses on India, where despite near universal enrolment, the average rate of primary school attendance is about 70 per cent. Field sites are three government-run elementary schools, with poor material conditions, in the Adivasi region of southern Rajasthan. We disaggregate rates of learner attendance in these schools, identifying a variety of temporal patterns that are captured in a typology. We apply this typology to investigate qualitatively how those patterns shape teachers’ responses and pedagogical strategies, and parental perceptions. We find that in this context of ‘fragile’ learner attendance, there are misalignments of accountability for attendance; and while teachers hold themselves to account for delivering teaching, this does not extend to enabling good quality learning opportunities for all children. We evidence learner attendance patterns that are socially embedded, diverse and do not reflect policy norms, and argue that in contexts of ‘fragile’ attendance, found in India and more widely, this has important implications for policy goals and generating systemic accountability for children’s learning.

Status: Draft article “Accountability for learning in contexts of fragile school attendance in India” to be sent to journal in 2025

‘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: Draft article titled “From Public to Private Without Guardrails: The Challenge of Sustaining Achievements in Education in Kerala, India” to be sent to journal in 2025

New Research Initiatives

‘Rural Diets, Consumption, and Livelihoods’

Suraj Jacob and Richa Kumar

Research sponsored by IIT-Delhi

‘Student Backgrounds and Food Choices: Life in an Indian University’

Suraj Jacob and Richa Kumar

Research sponsored by IIT-Delhi

‘School Attendance and Learning Progression in India’

Suraj Jacob, Caroline Dyer, Suman Bhattacharjea, and Archana Choksi

Sponsorship expected from ESRC, UK

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Completed Studies

‘For mobiles, PLI is not enough’

Chidambaran G Iyer

This opinion article published in The Hindu BusinessLine argued on the inadequacy of PLI as a policy to improve domestic capabilities in mobile manufacturing.

Publication Status : The Hindu Business Line, 10/10/24, Investment and Capital-Labour Relations in India's Organized Manufacturing Sector

‘Competition and Extended Producer Responsibility induced Vertical Integration’

Rajit Biswas, Muskaan Ahlawat and Neelanjan Sen

We develop a two-period model of a vertically related market with two firms and a recycler. The recycler enters the market in the second period. The manufacturer has the potential to limit the capacity of the recyclers by decreasing its output, which the recycler uses as scrap to produce and compete with the manufacturer in the input market. In contrast to Belleflamme and Ha (2024), we assume the recycler is more efficient since it can produce at a lower unit cost than the manufacturer. If the collection rate of the scrap by the recycler is higher and the relative efficiency of the recycler is lower, only then will the unconstrained equilibrium arise, where the recycler will not be constrained from operating at its optimal



capacity. Otherwise, constrained equilibrium will prevail. Interestingly, we show that if the relative efficiency of the recycler is low, even partial recycling that allows the recycler to produce as much as it wants maximises the welfare. However, when the recycler is extremely efficient Complete recycling maximises welfare. We also show that the final good producer will not voluntarily vertically integrate with the recycler. In such a situation policy like Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) induced vertical integration of the final good producer and the recycler is sometimes sub-optimal. It is only optimal a) in the presence of Constrained equilibrium, when the recycling rate is low, or b) in the presence of Unconstrained equilibrium, when the relative advantage of the recycler is moderate.

Publication Status : Submitted to Journal

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

C. Veeramani

This study examines the rapid transformation of mobile phone manufacturing in India, driven by strategic integration into global value chains (GVCs). The sector's growth reflects two distinct policy phases. The Phased Manufacturing Programme (2016–19) promoted import substitution but generated limited exports. From 2019 onward, with the National Policy on Electronics and the Production-Linked Incentive scheme, India adopted an export-oriented strategy, leading to extraordinary expansion. By 2024, India had become the world's third-largest exporter of mobile phones, with output rising more than twenty-fold since 2014–15, largely due to exports surpassing domestic demand.

Concerns about India's trade surplus being overstated, given heavy reliance on imported components, are addressed through precise estimates, confirming robust positive net exports since 2019. GVC integration has also boosted domestic value addition: direct value added grew by 283 percent between 2019–20 and 2022–23, while indirect value added increased by over 600 percent. The share of value added in output rose from 9 to 22 percent. Employment has surged, with direct jobs rising nearly eighteen-fold and indirect jobs fifteen-fold, alongside notable wage growth and increased female participation in production.

India's comparative advantage lies in backward-linked GVC participation, but the long-term opportunity is to move up the "smile curve" into higher-value activities such as design, R&D, and branding. International experience shows that achieving scale before targeting higher domestic value-added ratios is optimal. For India, the focus should be on expanding total value added rather than imposing local content rules, which risk undermining competitiveness.

The mobile phone industry offers a blueprint for India's broader electronics sector. As China shifts toward higher-value activities, India can position itself as a preferred partner in global electronics GVCs. Realizing this potential requires scaling exports, liberalizing trade, addressing tariff and regulatory bottlenecks, strengthening infrastructure, and sustaining supportive industrial policies.



‘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.

C. Veeramani (Forthcoming). "India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to Growth and Industrial Upgrading." *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies*. Wiley. 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. Realizing 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 toward broader multilateral liberalization. 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: *Asian Economic Papers*, 24(3). MIT Press (Forthcoming).

Do Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?

C. Veeramani and Manish

This study investigates the environmental implications of global value chain (GVC) participation by combining two datasets from the OECD's Inter-Country Input-Output (ICIO) framework, covering 75 economies over the period 1995–2020. We examine both production-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and emissions embodied in international trade, capturing GVC integration through forward (GVC-FP) and backward (GVC-BP) linkages. Using fixed-effects panel regressions, we estimate the relationship between GVC participation and production-based emissions at the national level and across six major sectors. To assess the impact of GVC integration on trade-related emissions, we employ a gravity model estimated via Poisson Pseudo-Maximum Likelihood (PPML), both



for aggregate and sector-level bilateral trade flows. The empirical results indicate that greater GVC participation—both forward and backward—is significantly associated with reductions in production-based emissions and emissions embodied in exports. While the sector-level results for production-based emissions are heterogeneous, the trade-based analysis reveals a consistent negative relationship between GVC participation and emissions across all sectors. These findings suggest that GVC integration may contribute to environmental upgrading, complementing its established benefits in enhancing productivity, economic growth, and employment.

Status: *Indian Economic Review* (Forthcoming).

‘External Sector Outlook and 2025–26 Union Budget.’

C. Veeramani

To achieve Vision 2047, India must pursue outward-oriented growth by boosting exports, integrating into global value chains, and attracting foreign direct investment. The external sector outlook is analysed through recent budget measures, situated within global dynamics. Success requires structural reforms and regulatory efficiency.

Status: *Economic and Political Weekly*, 60(16), 19 April.

‘Dynamics and Determinants of Fragmentation Trade: India in Comparative and Long-term Perspective.’

C. Veeramani and Garima Dhir.

The dynamics and determinants of fragmentation trade in major Asian countries from 1962 to 2018 are examined, focusing on the role of network products within the global value chains. A sequential entry pattern into the network product export market is seen, with Japan as the forerunner, followed by other East and Southeast Asian countries. China experienced significant growth in the 1990s, following a wild geese flying pattern. An inverted V curve for export market participation is identified, with economies like Thailand and Vietnam currently on the upswing. India and Indonesia are yet to make substantial inroads. It is argued that concerns about low-wage countries being trapped in low-value tasks are unfounded. Liberalising trade policies and fostering a conducive environment for foreign direct investments are crucial for GVC integration. Additionally, improving logistical infrastructure and connectivity to lower transportation and communication costs is essential.

Status: *Economic and Political Weekly*, 59(34), 24 August.

‘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. Veeramani and M. Parameswaran



This chapter provides a comprehensive examination of the influence of international trade, particularly imports, on the long-term economic growth of nations. While the positive impact of exports on growth is widely recognized, the effects of imports remain a debated topic, dependent on specific economic and industry characteristics. The theoretical literature review begins by critically assessing the rationale behind import substituting trade policies adopted post-World War II. Subsequent discussions are intricately linked to the evolution of endogenous growth theory, with recent contributions incorporating heterogeneous firms and the endogenous evolution of productivity. The chapter explores the theoretical landscape, investigating the influence of imports on domestic research and development (R&D), international technology diffusion, firms' incentives for technological upgrades, input variety availability and learning through participation in global value chains. Emphasis is placed on the significance of importing intermediate and capital goods as carriers of valuable knowledge. The analysis underscores that the extent of import-induced knowledge spillovers is contingent upon the learning potential of imported goods, influenced by the exporting country's knowledge stock. Richer societies' accumulation of knowledge contrasts with the benefits derived by poorer countries from importing higher productivity goods, facilitating knowledge transfer. Empirical evidence underscores that the types of products a country imports and their sources significantly impact growth rates, with capital goods playing a pivotal role in linking trade to economic growth. Particular attention is given to methodological advancements enhancing the ability to draw causal inferences. The review seeks to unravel the nuanced theoretical and empirical relationship between imports and economic growth, shedding light on the dynamic interplay within the global trade landscape.

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

'Strategic Trade Policies for Catalysing India's Economic Transformation.' In Charan Singh and Arvind Virmani (Eds.), *India's Economic Evolution Towards Inclusive Development: Exploring the Bhartiya Model*. Springer. (Forthcoming).

C. Veeramani and Anwesha Basu

India's growth trajectory in the coming decade hinges on its ability to generate an estimated 90 million new non-farm jobs, which requires sustained GDP growth of 8–8.5 percent annually. Given the rising debt burden across households, firms, and governments, relying solely on domestic demand appears untenable. Instead, deeper integration into global value chains (GVCs), particularly through backward participation in sectors such as electronics, automobiles, textiles, and footwear, presents a more viable pathway to job creation and structural transformation. Recent global shifts—stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic, the US-China trade conflict, and rising costs in China—have created opportunities for India to emerge as a competitive assembly hub.

Over the past decade, India's trade policy framework has undergone significant reorientation to leverage these opportunities. Key initiatives include factor market reforms, simplification of labor codes, bankruptcy reforms, corporate tax reductions, liberalization of foreign direct investment (FDI), and recalibration of import tariff structures to correct inverted duties. Industrial policies, most notably the Production Linked Incentive (PLI)



scheme, have been introduced to promote scale and competitiveness. Complementing these measures, India has pursued new-generation free trade agreements with partners such as the UAE and Australia, while negotiating with the EU, UK, and Canada. Collectively, these reforms aim to strengthen manufacturing, boost exports, and position India as a competitive, self-reliant participant in the global economy.

Status: In Charan Singh and Arvind Virmani (Eds.), *India's Economic Evolution Towards Inclusive Development: Exploring the Bhartiya Model*. Springer. (Forthcoming).

'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: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts*. Springer.

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 sector-level 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 sector-level 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: 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.

'Strategically reforming India's role in global value chains'

C Veeramani

India is poised to integrate more deeply into global value chains (GVCs), leveraging its labour abundance to drive job creation and manufacturing growth. Recent policy reforms—including liberalized FDI, tariff recalibration, labour law simplification, and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme—aim to attract export-oriented investment and correct structural bottlenecks such as inverted duty structures. While India has improved



diversification of exports, limited specialisation and rigid factor markets continue to constrain competitiveness. Addressing labour and land market rigidities, refining industrial policies, and strengthening participation in backward-linked GVCs are critical for positioning India as a global manufacturing hub.

Status: East Asia Forum Quarterly, Vol.16, No.2 April–June 2024 49.

Effects of Backward GVC Participation on Labor Market: Micro-Level Evidence from India

Deepali Gupta and C. Veeramani

Several studies show that countries increasingly participate in Global Value Chains (GVC) by specialising in intermediate goods. Theoretical fragmentation models suggest that backward GVC participation has a double advantage for a low-skilled, labour abundant country like India. It increases employment, and it reduces wage inequality. This paper assesses the impact of backward GVC participation on employment, wages, and labour productivity of workers engaged in Indian organised manufacturing industries. We use plant-level data provided by the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2008-09 till 2019-20. We find that GVC plants employ more workers and pay higher wages but find no significant differences in labour productivity. The share of female and contractual workers is not significantly different from non-GVC plants, but the share of production workers is slightly higher in GVC plants. We also find a lower wage gap between male and female workers; and contractual and non-contractual workers but a higher wage gap between production and non-production workers for GVC plants.

Status: IGIDR Working Paper WP-2025-005.

‘Trade Liberalization, Productivity, and Markups: Evidence from India’s Manufacturing’

C. Veeramani and Prachi Gupta

This paper examines the impact of trade integration on productivity and markups in India’s manufacturing sector, against the backdrop of renewed global protectionism and debates over trade policy. Using plant-level panel data from the Annual Survey of Industries (1998–99 to 2007–08), we analyze how reductions in import tariffs influence total factor productivity (TFP) and markups over marginal costs. The study addresses a key empirical challenge—the endogeneity of trade policy—by constructing novel instrumental variables based on industry-level political lobbying strength, drawing on India’s rich political economy data. Our findings show that tariff reductions significantly boost productivity while lowering markups, consistent with pro-competitive effects predicted by mainstream trade theory. Additionally, we explore alternative transmission channels—such as trade-induced technology spillovers and growth in import and export variety—underscored by endogenous growth and heterogeneous firm trade models. The effects of tariff reductions exhibit heterogeneity across Indian states, influenced by variations in infrastructure, credit access, and labor market conditions. By incorporating multiple mechanisms of trade effects and rigorously addressing policy endogeneity, this study



contributes to the broader literature on trade liberalization and firm performance in developing economies. It provides robust empirical evidence in support of trade openness as a driver of efficiency and welfare, offering timely insights for policymakers in an era of increasing trade scepticism

Status: Submitted to a journal

Ongoing Studies

'What explains startup failure?'

Chidambaran G Iyer and Vinish Kathuria

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

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

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

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

Under this backdrop, the study has the following objectives:

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

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



Expected date of completion: March 2026

‘Bridging the Credit Gap: Influence of ICT on Credit Access in South Asia’

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Access to credit remains one of the main obstacles for firms across the globe (World Bank).¹ The issue of credit access is further exacerbated for firms located in developing economies. For instance, 27% of enterprises in Sub-Saharan Africa and 16.4% of enterprises in South Asia and North Africa described credit constraints as the biggest obstacle faced by them. The reasons for facing credit constraints in developing economies stem from high information asymmetry and lack of contract enforcement (Islam and Rodriguez, 2023). In this study, we examine how ICT can influence credit access among South Asian firms. Theoretically, ICT can improve credit access for enterprises in multiple ways. First, the use of ICT, like websites, can reduce the information asymmetry problem among borrowers (enterprises) and creditors (banks and other financial institutions), thereby improving credit access. Second, the use of ICT by enterprises can also reduce credit market transaction costs for assessment, processing, and monitoring of credit (Beck, 2007). Further, ICT adoption by firms may signal credibility and lower the perceived risk of businesses to the creditor. This lowers the credit constraints faced by the firm either by reducing the cost of borrowing or increasing the amount of credit availability. Hence, ICT adoption by firms benefits both borrowers and creditors and increases the availability of credit for the enterprise. The use of ICTs by firms enhances their technological capabilities and improves performance, (Jain and Biswas, 2022). However, in emerging economies, given infrastructural bottlenecks and low levels of skilled workers, the benefits of ICT may not be evident. Hence, the extent to which ICT adoption can impact firms outcomes largely remain an empirical question.

Against this background, we focus on the role of ICT adoption in credit access to firms in South Asia. We focus on enterprises in South Asia region as this region provides a unique backdrop of rapid but unequal ICT penetration in the last two decades but a weak credit market. Despite several policy impetus, the credit market in this region is plagued with low approval rates and high default rates.² Despite these common patterns across the countries in South Asia, each of these countries is also unique in terms of its composition, policy framework, and other functions.

We use the World Bank Enterprise Survey (WBES) for the seven countries in the South Asian region for this study. Since the World Bank conducts these enterprise surveys in different years in different countries, the data of our analysis varies from 2011 to 2022. For the purpose of our analysis we used the latest round of the Survey conducted in Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka. Our final dataset comprises more than 13,000 enterprises. Despite being conducted in different years, the sampling strategy and questionnaires used in these countries are comparable making cross-country study feasible. The enterprise survey questionnaire comprises a detailed set of questions on credit access and obstacles faced by firms, allowing us to test the relationship between

¹ Source: <https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/en/data/exploretopics/biggest-obstacle>

² We discuss the choice of our study region in detail in Section 3.



ICT adoption and credit access in the South Asian region.

Our estimation strategy relies on an instrumental variable framework to address any potential endogeneity related to ICT variable. Our main finding suggest that ICT adoption increases the likelihood of credit access for enterprises in South Asia. Our main analysis indicates that ICT adoption improves the likelihood of enterprises in South Asia obtaining a loan. ICT adoption is also found to be related to larger loan sizes. Additionally, we also find a enterprises in this region that have use ICT are more likely to apply for loans and loans are also more likely to be approved. These results underscore how ICT adoption leads to deepening credit access for firms in South Asia.

On exploring the mechanisms, we provide suggestive evidence that ICT adoption by firms reduces credit market related information asymmetry leading to higher credit access. For this, we show that there exists a positive association between ICT adoption, using online processes for other of operations and the formalization of business³. Adapting online processes and formalization of business will provide more information regarding the quality (credit repaying ability) of the borrower to the lender, improving credit access. We also find evidence that ICT adoption is associated with higher chances of firm innovation and as well as labor productivity. These factors also consequently enhance credit access. We also extend our analysis and examine possible heterogeneity in how ICT affects credit behavior across firms. In this regard, we assess the relationship across large and small firms and among male-owned and women-owned firms. This additional analysis highlights that the impact of ICT on credit access is more prominent for larger firms and for women-owned firms.

This study contributes to three multiple strands of literature. First, we contribute to the literature on firm financing by highlighting how the adoption of ICT can improve both access to finance as well as the amount of finance available to firms. Determining what can reduce the credit constraints of firms, especially in developing economies is important for both firms as well as policymakers. We also add to the literature on economic effects of ICT by documenting a positive effect of ICT for firms. The study contributes to the literature on enterprise behaviour in developing economies by focusing on South Asia, a region that harbours geographically neighbouring countries that are similar and yet unique in several aspects.

Publication Status : First draft ready

‘Firms are greener on the side of ICT adopters- An analysis of firms in South Asia’

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Firms play a critical role in the endeavour of reducing carbon footprint and slowing the pace of climate change across the world. Their decision to adopt sustainable practices are not only for environmental concerns but also for financial, regulatory as well as competitive reasons. The early view of sustainable practices at the firm level was that firms adopt such practices owing to regulations (Li, 2014). However, there is evidence that firms may also

³ We explain the measurement of these variables in a detailed manner in future sections



end up adopting sustainable practices if stakeholders like customers and suppliers are concerned about sustainability and have environmental concerns (Horbach et al., 2022). On the other hand, firms may also adopt sustainable practices to remain competitive (Hart and Ahuja, 1996). Even though the literature has focused on several determinants of sustainable practices of firms, the role of information and communication technology (ICT) is rather unexplored. In this study, we focus on whether the adoption of ICT by firms is related to the firm-level energy management practices, an important aspect of sustainable practices.

There exists a multitude of ways through which ICT can influence the adoption of energy management practices by firms. First, firms using ICT can have access to better information and may end up being more aware of sustainable practices. Better awareness among ICT adopters can, in turn, increase their likelihood of adopting energy-efficient practices. Second, firms that use ICT can directly facilitate the implementation of energy-efficient systems within the firm such as paperless policies and smart electricity sensors. ICT can also enable the tracking and management of energy use by firms. Moreover, ICT can be related to innovation, which in turn can also induce firms to innovate and embrace energy-efficient practices. The usage of ICT can also affect profitability and access to financial resources, which are critical precursors of the adoption of costly energy management practices.

Notwithstanding such benefits, it is also possible that the use of ICT can be energy intensive and can negatively affect the energy efficient practices at the firm level. Hence, the net impact of ICT on the energy management of firms remains an empirical question. We focus on the role of ICT as the last few decades have seen very rapid adoption and diffusion of ICT devices. Whether this rapid penetration of ICT has created higher pressures on energy usage, making it inefficient, or led towards green technology adoption and cleaner production processes paves the way for an empirical investigation. We use South Asia as our study area.

Focusing on South Asia is warranted on several accounts. First, the South Asian region has countries that are similar in their economic structures, evolution of ICTs, and institutional context. Second, Ghani (2010) and Aggarwal (2023) describe South Asia as a development paradox- despite growing at the fastest rates among the other seven regions globally⁴, the region lags behind in human development and poverty. Further, persistent structural challenges in this region pose a threat to sustained, resilient growth as well, hindering the ability to create jobs and respond to climate shocks⁵. The lack of structural transformation with 48% of the population still depending on agriculture with only less than a fifth of contribution to GDP exacerbates the development paradox (Aggarwal, 2023). The region is in dire need of infrastructure development along with a strong industrial base. Thus examining the role of ICT across countries in this region seems a reasonable exercise.

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

⁴ The World Bank divides all countries into seven regions across the World. Source:

<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

⁵ Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/sar/overview>



rise in energy consumption is faster thus raising questions on energy efficiency⁶. Thus, better energy management may be an integral part of the energy transition story in this region. Against this background, we attempt to examine the impact of ICT on energy efficiency of firms in South Asia. There are eight countries in South Asia region according to the World Bank classification- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We focus on four countries in this paper- Nepal, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh⁷. This question is even more pertinent in this region due to the predominance of developing economies that are not early achievers in ICT adoption or in energy efficiency management.

In this regard, it is important to highlight that despite being geographically clustered, these economies vary greatly in terms of energy efficiency and conservation policies and initiatives. In other words, these countries are placed at different points on the path to attaining overall energy efficiency thus leading to different levels of institutional preparedness to reach the goal. We focus on India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal as discussed previously. According to Shreshtha (2021), while countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan have some authority or regulatory bodies to promote renewable energy and related activities, Nepal has very recently launched a government institution to develop energy efficiency measures in the country. In contrast, India is the only one with a formally dedicated nodal agency that focuses exclusively on energy efficiency and conservation measures and evaluates effectiveness of programs and policies related to it. Further, India also has a dedicated public sector institution, namely, Energy Efficiency Services Limited, that is leading the development of the market for energy efficiency across different core sectors. Similar patterns of variation are observed in existing rules, policies, and financing arrangements across these countries.

In this study, we consider the most recent waves of the World Bank Enterprise Survey for the four countries of South Asia and find that ICT adoption is positively related to the adoption of energy management practices at the firm level⁸. Moreover, these results are robust to addressing the endogeneity concerns surrounding the ICT variable and several sensitivity checks. Our country-level analysis highlights that the results are more prominent for India and Pakistan. Our further analysis highlights that the positive effect of ICT on energy management is concentrated among exporting firms and firms with quality certification. On exploring the possible channels, we find that better profitability and lower credit constraints, which improve the resources of the firms, are possible means through which ICT positively affects energy management practices. We also provide evidence that ICT is linked to innovation, which can directly impact the adoption of innovative energy management solutions. Finally, ICT adoption is related to firms having a more gender diverse workforce, which can be conducive to having a broader stakeholder perspective.

The study makes several contributions to the literature. First, we contribute to the literature on climate studies and sustainable practices by providing evidence that ICT is one of the

⁶ Source: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/endpovertyinsouthasia/energy-efficient-technology-can-help-modernize-south-asias-economies#:~:text=South%20Asia's%20energy%20consumption%20per,year%20over%20the%20past%20decade>.

⁷ This is due to data availability concerns and we discuss it in detail in Section 4. The rest of the discussion in this paper also pertains to the four countries in our analysis.

⁸ We focus on India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal in South Asia due to availability of data. We discuss this in detail in Section 4 on data.



means of fastening the pace of adoption of sustainable practices at the firm level. Second, we contribute to the literature on ICT for development. We provide evidence that ICT has a positive impact on firms' energy practices, which is critical for sustainable development. Third, we also contribute to the literature on emerging market studies by focusing on South Asian economies.

'To license or to cross-hold? An Analysis of Partial Passive Ownership and Alternate Forms of Technology Licensing'

Rajit Biswas, Aishwarya Desai and Neelanjan Sen

This paper develops a model of technology transfer and cross-holdings in an oligopolistic market with three firms. In contrast to Ghosh and Morita (2017), we assume that the efficient firm can own crossholding in other firm's profit share and can also license its technology to one of the inefficient firms. If the cost difference is lower, technology will be licensed always via a fixed fee and no cross-holding will be chosen, while for a higher cost difference royalty licensing will be chosen and cross-holdings may or may not be held. Free knowledge transfer is never chosen by the firms. Consumer surplus and welfare always increase, not only when the firms undertake only technology licensing, but also in the presence of both cross-holding and technology licensing.

New Research Studies

'Industrial concentration and firm performance: Comparative analysis between formal and informal sector in India'

Chandra Shekar K

'Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in mobile phone manufacturing in India: A preliminary assessment'

Chidambaran G Iyer

PLI scheme encourages firms to enhance their domestic manufacturing by offering incentives on incremental sales for products manufactured over a five-year period. This short paper (around 2000 words) is a preliminary assessment of the impact of PLI in mobile manufacturing in India.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Completed Studies

'Imperatives of regulating the Knowledge and Technology driven Industries in India'
Beena P L

Antitrust policy analysis especially after mid-1990 is dominated by the post-Chicago school methodologies instead of the structure-conduct-performance analysis proposed by Harvard school (Budzinski, 2008). With the rising regulatory challenges facing the technology markets, there has



been a growing debate in recent years on what should be the core focus of antitrust regulation which could facilitate healthy competition, improve the welfare of consumers and workers and spur economic growth (Shapiro 2019; Khan 2017;2019). In some jurisdictions, including the US, the focus has been on consumer welfare in line with the Chicago school of antitrust analysis with its less interventionist approach. This makes regulating the high technology market even more challenging where the ‘consumers’ do not directly pay a price for using the platforms (Khan, 2017;2018;2019;). Antitrust issues related to innovation and competition have attracted scholarly attention especially after the emergence of the new digital economy, which is controlled by the US and China. US and China account for 50 percent of the world’s hyperscale data centres, 70 per cent of the world’s top AI researchers, the highest rates of 5G adoption, 94 per cent of all funding of AI start-ups in the past five years and almost 90 percent of the market capitalization (UNCTAD,2021). The world’s largest digital platforms firms such as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), Facebook, Tencent and Alibaba have been able to strengthen their dominant position in the digitalised economy and control the global data value chain (UNCTAD, 2021). Given this context, this study is devoted to analyse the pattern of mergers and acquisitions in the technology and knowledge driven sectors during 2004 to 2022 and its impact on the market structure & performance of acquiring firms. The study further examines the effect of M&As on innovation efforts & competition and the antitrust implications under the new IPR regime.

‘Informality, innovation, and firm performance: evidence from World Bank Enterprise Survey in India, 2013–2014 ‘

Chandra Shekar K.

Informality is a pervasive feature of economies in developing countries, including India, where it significantly influences economic activities and firm-level dynamics. The rise of informality can be attributed to various factors, one of which is the 'structuralist' perspective. This perspective states that the informal economy is intrinsically linked to the formal economy, and understanding this relationship is crucial to understanding the broader economic activities that cover the vast majority of the Indian population, especially in the context of firm-level innovations. The boundaries between formality and informality are fluid, often blurring distinctions between the two. For instance, formal enterprises may engage in informal practices, such as concealing sales or evading employee benefits, while informal firms may adhere to certain regulations or pay taxes. This perspective challenges the binary categorization of informality, emphasizing that it exists along a spectrum of compliance and non-compliance (Williams, Martinez, 2014). Traditionally, informality has been negatively associated with economic growth and is often seen as a hindrance to development and innovation (Mendi & Mudida, 2018). Furthermore, a firm’s initial informality has been found to negatively affect innovation outcomes, with investments in R&D and employee training playing a mediating role in mitigating these effects (Assefa et al., 2022). Also, studies show that informal firms, with limited access to resources such as financial services and R&D investments, face challenges in introducing innovation. The competition from informal firms can stimulate product innovation, especially in cases where formal firms adapt to competitive pressures created by their informal competitors (Miocevic et al., 2022). However, this view has recently been challenged by emerging evidence that highlights the potential benefits of the informal sector, including its role in fostering innovation, generating employment, and contributing to economic empowerment (Shekar & Joseph, 2022; Shekar & Paily, 2019). This paper contribute to this ongoing debate by reconsidering the relationship between informality, innovation, and firm performance.



Specifically, this examines whether informality, defined here as the unregistered status of a firm, is associated with higher levels of innovation and better firm performance. To achieve this, we use empirical data from the World Bank Enterprise Survey for the period 2013–2014.

Publication Status: Published; Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 14(1), 17.

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

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. The aim of this paper is to use a standard database and empirically capture production strategies that induce process innovation, an impact few papers have focussed on. Keeping in mind the firm specific nature of process innovation, we build a panel data set for three years through which we control for firm level characteristics. We construct two groups, firms that do not have registered R&D units, and firms that have registered R&D units. Our empirical strategy consists of two steps, data envelopment analysis to compute firm efficiency followed by a second step that empirically verifies the impact of production strategies that induce process innovation. Our contribution to the literature is two-fold, this paper uses a standard database to empirically establish the presence of production strategies that induce process innovation in Indian pharmaceutical industry. Our results show that firms that do not have registered R&D departments have higher dependence on such production strategies.

Publication Status : Under peer review

‘Technology transfer impact of two biomedical products developed in Kerala’

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Studies that focus on economic impacts of technology transfer are rare in India, a lacuna that this study tries to fill in. In the 1980s and 90s, when the medical device ecosystem was non-existent in India, a government lab in Kerala embarked on a technology transfer process for two medical devices – blood bag and heart valve. This paper traces out the impact of these technology transfers on the industry and the economy. Using the contingent effectiveness model, we analyse the individual processes pointing out few similarities and dissimilarities between them. The paper not only brings out the market impact and economic development of the two processes 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 too mushrooming of blood bag factories across the country, reducing imports and creating more forward and backward linkages. Policy insight from the analysis of the two individual processes is that for industrialization and creation of economic opportunities, policy should aim for domestic development of products or processes that have the potential to create higher demand.

Publication Status : Comments solicited from well known scholars before manuscript is submitted to a journal.

'Policy implications from diffusion of two digital payment technologies in India'

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Use of better technologies should lead to higher productivity; however, in many cases, diffusion of technology is not automatic. Given its resource constraints, policy makers would like to support those technologies that not only have the maximum diffusion potential but also the highest productivity. A range of competing technologies vying for support makes this ex-ante decision harder. Cash payments impose a huge cost on the economy; with an aim to reduce this, in the last few years Indian government has been encouraging digital payments (card payments, net banking, mobile banking, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) etc.), it has been observed that each technology has diffused at different rates. Over the period 2017-2022, UPI's value and volume share has increased drastically while for card payments value share has slightly increased while volume share has dropped considerably. This article explores the reasons behind the exceptional performance of UPI vis-à-vis card payments.

Publication Status : Submitted to ICSSR for publication in its Newsletter

Ongoing Studies

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

Beena P L

This proposed research is devoted to answering two questions: Primarily, it is meant to understand the institutional challenges which are plaguing the Indian antitrust ecosystem, especially when it comes to high-tech firms. Second, the authors aim to look into the antitrust challenges faced when dealing with knowledge-based startups, particularly when it comes to the acquisitions of such firms. The study would assess the nature of antitrust enforcement in India, especially in high-tech sectors, using CCI cases as a reference; It further analyse the trends and patterns of startup acquisitions in Indian high-tech sectors and evaluate how the aspect of innovation is handled in the Indian antitrust framework. Based on the comparative analysis of the prevailing laws, its analytical framework, judgements, decisions undertaken by each jurisdiction in US and EU against the abuse of dominance, this study will discuss what changes can be made to better regulate the selected sectors proposed in this study. Such analysis is also important in the context where there is



a growing trend towards imbalances of power between leading digital firms with individuals, smaller firms and governments globally.

'Impact of Digitalisation on Financial Inclusion and Firm Performance of Informal Sector in India: Pre and Post COVID analysis'

Chandra Shekar K.

Sponsorship, if any: OH-31

The informal sector serves as a critical component of economic activity in developing countries. However, enterprises operating within this sector often face considerable obstacles in increasing productivity and achieving financial inclusion. The rapid advancement of digitalisation presents a promising avenue for addressing these barriers and fostering greater financial inclusion and increased productivity in the informal sector. Therefore, this study analyses the impact of digitalisation on firm performance and financial inclusion among informal enterprises in India by considering after and before the COVID outbreak. The study used pseudo panel data constructed using pre and post COVID rounds of the NSSO unincorporated non-agricultural survey (2016 and 2023) and employed a PSM-DID method to ascertain the impact of digitalisation on financial inclusion and firm performance among informal enterprises in India. This study found that the digitalisation significantly enhanced financial inclusion and firm performance immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the significant effect of digitalisation appears to fade over time and it has been uneven across enterprise types and sectors. This points that the initial gains from adopting digital tools may not be sustained in the long run and highlights the need for targeted interventions to sustain the benefits of digital adoption and ensure long-term productivity gains across different sectors of the informal economy.

Publication Status: Published as CDS Working paper Series No.519

'Bivoltine Sericulture in India: An Innovation system perspective'

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Compared to Indian silk yarns, Chinese yarns are lighter and smoother with less winding breakage thus lending itself well to power looms. China is also the leading supplier of raw silk in the world, no wonder power looms prefer Chinese silks to the more durable but less dependable Indian silk. Assuming other things are the same, there is a need to make Indian silk more reliable in terms of availability as well as quality. Improvement in productivity and quality of silk largely depends on genetic potential of silkworm genetic resources. The genetic resources in India have already been fully exploited, as a result there is very little scope for improvement in silk productivity and quality with the locally available genetic resources. Hence, efforts are being made by research institutions to procure better silkworm breeds with desired traits from other sericulture practicing countries like Japan, China, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan and Brazil. This is not an easy task, as such silkworm breeds from other countries are susceptible to infections and high level of heat, both prevalent in the southern silk growing states of the country. The bivoltine sericulture cluster promotion programme is an example of the effort to introduce such better varieties in the country. In this paper, using the innovation systems perspective we understand the bivoltine



sericulture cluster promotion programme. Initial findings suggest the importance of capabilities of the downstream users of the innovation in the success of the innovation generated upstream. We are in process of collecting data from various NSSO surveys to support a demand side argument.

Expected date of completion: December 2025

Research Plan

‘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?

‘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.



LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Completed Studies

‘Youth Unemployment in India: Do Aspirations Matter?. ‘

Basit Abdullah, Vinoj Abraham and Ritika Jain

An often discussed but less researched dimension of youth unemployment is voluntary unemployment caused by the mismatch between available opportunities in the labour market and employment aspirations. In this paper, we attempt to explore this misalignment between employment aspirations and the jobs in the labour market as a factor responsible for higher incidence of unemployment among youth. We build a measure of relative occupational aspirations based on the premise that aspirations are shaped by the socio-economic context and educational attainment of an individual. Our analysis provides evidence for a lack of employment opportunities that satisfy the employment aspirations of the youth. The mismatch between aspirations and opportunities measured as relative occupational aspirations gap, is particularly high among youth with tertiary education, and female youth have higher aspirations gap compared to males. Based on our analysis, which includes both multinomial probit and instrument variable (IV) probit models, we find that youth with higher aspirations gap are more likely to be unemployed. We argue that increasing educational levels raise job-related expectations and aspirations. The lack of quality employment opportunities matching the aspirations could be a contributing factor to higher unemployment among youth. An effective policy approach requires the creation of better-quality jobs that align with the aspirations of young, educated labour force.

Status: Abdullah, B., Abraham, V. & Jain, R. Youth (2024) Unemployment in India: Do Aspirations Matter?. Ind. J. Labour Econ. 67, 883–908 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-024-00510-8>

Ongoing Studies

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

Thiagu Ranganathan, Praveena Kodoth and Tirtha Chatterjee

This paper probes the interconnected nature of structural and cultural constraints on the employment of higher educated mothers using a primary survey of 67 women from a rural and an urban ward in Ernakulum district, Kerala. Respondent narratives indicate that their employment trajectories were typically interrupted by breaks due to marriage, health risks of pregnancy, child care responsibilities, care demands of family members, and pursuit of higher studies. Consequently, even though 94% of women had participated in the workforce at some point of time in their lives, only 46.3% of the sample respondents were in paid employment at the time of survey. Despite interruptions, most women aspired to be employed and many had returned to participate in paid work, sometimes after multiple breaks. Women sustained and pursued their aspiration to remain employed as they spoke of jobs providing them with much desired autonomy, bargaining power, exposure to outside world, knowledge and satisfaction. However, these aspirations were contingent and forged in association with infrastructural and institutional lacunae that constrained them to find



jobs 'suitable' to them. In many instances though, these higher educated women preferred to accept unprotected, low paid jobs over being confined to household work.

Expected date of completion: June 2025

New Research Initiatives

'Structural Transformation and Employment in India'

Vinoj Abraham

MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Completed Studies

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

M. Parameswaran and Pulapre Balakrishnan

Inflation has been a concern for policy makers globally in the past few years, following the onset of COVID-19 and, subsequently, the war in Ukraine. India too has had high inflation during this period, but with a difference. Inflation in India accelerated before the pandemic had set in and has remained elevated since, even as it has declined dramatically in the major OECD economies. This paper investigates the dynamics of inflation in India, provides evidence on its distributional impact and points to what needs to be addressed by policy for it to be controlled.

Published as working paper and submitted for journal publication.

'Economic Growth in India: A longer view'

M. Parameswaran and Pulapre Balakrishnan

Publication Status: Coming as chapter in a book titled "75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts" published by the Springer Nature.

Ongoing Studies

'Demand-led growth, education and wage inequality'

Gogol Mitra Thakur and Pintu Parui

We propose a simple three-class model of growth and distribution in the post Keynesian/neo-Kaleckian tradition consisting of capitalists, educated workers and uneducated workers. Capital stock is owned by capitalists, educated workers supply skilled labor and uneducated workers supply unskilled labor. Output is demand constrained but requires capital, skilled and unskilled labor as complementary inputs. Supply of unskilled



labor is perfectly elastic but skilled labor is scarce. Supply of skilled labor increases overtime as uneducated workers acquire education and transform into educated workers. Education is provided by the government, which employs a fraction of educated workers by taxing profits for the purpose. Long-run dynamics involves evolution of skilled-wage premium and the ratio of skilled labor to capital overtime. This paper is intended to fulfil a gap in the heterodox theoretical literature on growth as connections between demand-led growth, education and inequality remain unexplored. In particular, we are interested in highlighting the role of public education system as a source of autonomous demand and examine the effects of expansion of public education on growth and distribution.

'Analysis of the Finances of State of Kerala'
A Report Prepared for the 16th Finance Commission

M. Parameswaran, Hrushikesh Mallick and C Veeramani
Sponsorship: 16th Finance Commission

This study 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.

Expenditure trends reveal persistent dominance of revenue expenditure over capital outlays, with committed expenditures (salaries, pensions, interest, subsidies) absorbing around 58% of revenues. Fiscal space can be created by pruning low-priority programmes, consolidating overlapping schemes, improving expenditure efficiency, and enhancing capital outlays in infrastructure and social sectors.

Revenue and fiscal deficits remain elevated, with borrowed resources financing current consumption rather than investment. Outstanding liabilities have risen from 26.7% of GSDP in 2012-13 to 40.3% in 2020-21, before declining to 35% in 2023-24, but are projected to increase moderately. Debt composition is skewed toward market borrowings, with high interest costs.

Challenges are compounded by loss-making State public enterprises, particularly in utilities such as KSEB, KSRTC, and KWA, which erode fiscal health. Strengthening decentralised institutions, reforming subsidies, and ensuring compliance with FRBM targets are critical. A sustainable debt roadmap requires mobilising additional tax and non-tax resources while rationalising expenditures to restore fiscal stability.



Expected date of completion: May 20, 2025

New Research Initiatives

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

Gogol Mitra Thakur and Rajiv Jha

We are interested in examining a growth process where consumption expenditure and exports increase with quality of products but production of higher quality products necessitates a higher share of imported capital goods in investment expenditure.

MIGRATION

Completed Studies

'Patterns and Determinants of International Student Migration from Kerala'

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

Sponsorship: Research Unit on International Migration, at CDS

The international migration cycle from Kerala has entered a new phase. The temporary labour migration to the gulf is slowing down, while permanent labour migration to the western countries have increased. In the rising tide to the west, care givers have become prominent. And a new migration stream has become prominent, namely, student migration. Very less is known about the various dimensions of student migration, though the issue has become a sensitive one, with much political slugfest on the causes for such student migration.

There are indications currently that a sizable number of students go abroad annually for education and possibly for employment afterwards. There are reports that claim an annual exodus of about 20000 to 30000 from Kerala alone⁹. The Minister for Education in Kerala claimed that only about 4% of the Indian student migrants were from Kerala¹⁰. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, 30,948 students from Kerala travelled abroad in 2019. However, there are no reliable accounts of the extent of this migration. It is estimated that around 12% of graduates from Kerala's universities continued their education abroad (George and Pious, 2023). A very visible infrastructure has also emerged over the past decade to facilitate this migration. Notable among these are consultancy-based companies targeting students interested in study abroad programmes (Joseph, 2023) and educational loans being offered by banks for international students. Another dimension of international student migration is the change in course preferences overtime. Previously, while nursing and health care was the most preferred educational streams for Kerala, students are getting

⁹ <https://www.onmanorama.com/career-and-campus/top-news/2022/10/27/migration-youths-foreign-education-lasting-impact-kerala-society.html>

¹⁰ <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/thiruvananthapuram/only-4-of-indian-students-abroad-from-kerala-says-education-minister-bindu-8427481/>



into fields that are more diverse.

What drives student migration? There are multiple angles to this question. Anecdotal evidences, newspaper articles, social media interactions, all point to the possibility that migration by the college going age group for higher education is only a partial driver. They seem to be poised to enter the European labour market in an otherwise restrictive environment in Europe. Also many seem to view this as a liberating experience, to be in new cultures. In this study we focus on these questions. Specifically, we try to understand who are the aspirants, what motivates them and how prepared the students were to fulfil their aspiration.

A primary survey was conducted among nearly 2000 college students from randomly selected colleges across various educational streams in Thiruvananthapuram district. The survey showed that more than 70% of the students had aspired to be a student migrant at some point in their life, and about 20% of the students were currently actively trying to go to a foreign country for higher education. This study would discuss the results of this survey.

Publication status: Project report published

‘The Covid 19 Pandemic and Employment Vulnerability in Kerala, India: Does Migration Status Matter?’

Ritika Jain, Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham

Is employment related vulnerability during a shock such as the pandemic differentiated by migration status? In this paper, we examine this and related questions using primary data from a Census of Kadakkavoor, a village in south Kerala that has experienced large scale migration to the Middle East for over half a century. Employment vulnerability is conceptualised in terms of loss of jobs and / or loss of incomes both of which may have been a partial loss or full loss. Econometric analysis confirms that current migrants, those who were overseas or at home on vacation from their jobs during the time of data collection, face a lower likelihood of adverse impact to both work and income/salary as compared to non-migrants. This may be because current migrants possess certain advantages that gives them access to migration in the first place as represented by their relatively higher education levels and the lower representation of workers from marginalised social groups among them or it may be on account of the working conditions at the destination place. Second, we find that return migrant workers, including those who returned in the wake of the COVID pandemic, are more vulnerable to adverse impacts on their work and income as compared to the non-migrant category. Notably the COVID 19 returnees were virtually hived off from the category of current migrants as it was immediately before the pandemic and fared worse than other returnees fared. In summary, COVID-19 employment vulnerabilities are highest among return migrants and lowest among current migrants. This directs attention to pre-existing advantages, which may act as employment cushions during unusual times. We explore various channels to examine the pathways to explain these findings. Current migrants were found to be more educated, richer and to have better migration-based networks as compared to non-migrants and return migrants. These findings shed some light on the complex intertwined relationship between migration and employment vulnerabilities during an unusual event like the pandemic. We document that the highest adverse impacts are those on the most vulnerable social groups thereby exacerbating their pre-existing vulnerabilities.



Publication Status : CDS Working Paper Series 515

'From Asia to the Middle East: State Policies, Gender Politics and Women's Labour Migration'

Praveena Kodoth

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

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

Notably, the experiences of Filipina workers illustrates the strengths and limits of a model of state-supported migration. Beginning in the 1970s, the Philippines invested in skills and



training programmes for migrant domestic workers as well as infrastructure at the destination to support workers. While the strategy paid off in achieving a high rating for Filipina workers on the labour markets in the Middle East, workers struggle to deal with abusive employers. They are constrained by the lack of employment opportunities at home and must deal the challenges of social reproduction especially as mothers.

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

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

Status: For a Sage handbook on gender

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

Praveena Kodoth

For over five decades now, paternalism and vilification of migration brokers have gone hand in hand in constituting the Indian policy establishment's response to the problem of abuse of migrant women domestic workers (MDWs) in the Middle East. Brokers actively assist women to migrate as paid domestic workers in defiance of state restrictions. Scholars note that their demonisation is a problem not because they do not exploit migrant workers –they do - but because they operate in and profit from the same regulatory frameworks and social contexts that constitutes labour migration. As Portes and Haller observe, the relationship between state regulation and informal activities is paradoxical because increased regulation expands the informal economy by creating opportunities for profitable violation of rules. The informal economy catering to international migration comprises an array of actors, processes and practices that help to obtain documents and / or provide services that enable border crossing. In this light, I wish to probe how the informal economy responds to and interacts with paternalist (gendered) governance in shaping the nature of women's labour migration to the Middle East focusing especially on recent changes in the regulation of women's cross border migration. In particular, I ask how do women migrate in the wake of a government order issued in August 2016 (henceforth, the 2016 GO) that bans all forms of private brokerage of women's labour migration allowing only specified state-run agencies to recruit women in the Emigration Check Required (ECR) category. More broadly, women's labour mobility to the Middle East is governed by repressive rules that are not



applicable to professionals, male workers or workers going to most other parts of the world. These include a minimum age of 30 years and recruitment exclusively by specified state-run agencies. Private recruitment even through close relatives is prohibited. A paternalist approach to governance fosters control over the mobility of women who are predominantly from resource-scarce and oppressed caste households but has failed to advance the protection of rights of women migrant workers. With material generated through field work in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala in 2013 and 2019, the paper probes the vexed relationship between paternalist (gendered) governance and informality which generates tacit spaces for border crossing and enables women to take up employment in the Middle East but at increased risk. In generating increased risk for women migrant workers, the state, through paternalist governance, merely performs 'protection' and is at best ambivalent about irregular migration.

Publication Status: For a special issue of Sociological Bulletin.

Ongoing Studies

'The Care Regime through the Lens of Migrant Labour'

Praveena Kodoth

Unpaid work and care gained traction in India as an explanation for the stubbornly low women's work participation rates over the past two decades but they are facing a push back with a renewed emphasis on employment deficits (see Deshpande and Singh, 2021, Agarwal, 2022, Desai, 2023). The argument for expansion of care infrastructure needs to be reiterated from the perspective of poor working women who are, for the lack of it, forced to take children to their work places or leave them at home in unsafe conditions. Gendered familism, which is foundational to the care regime in India, norms the male breadwinner family and sees women / mothers implicitly as being available to organise, manage and / or provide hands on care and by default suggests that other kinds of families are deviant (Palriwala and Neetha, 2011). In my presentation, I wish to probe the care regime through the lens of migrant labour families and children drawing on material from field work in migrant clusters in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. I take up the ICDS and public schooling to illustrate how the care regime operates through gendered familism to structure the exclusion of children of migrant labour and to displace responsibility for this exclusion on to migrant families and the children themselves.

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

Ritika Jain, Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham

Though India is the largest source of emigrants worldwide and the largest recipient of remittances, scholarship on return migration is scarce.¹¹ 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

¹¹ With nearly 18 million emigrants, India received more than USD 111 billion in 2022, the first country to reach and exceed the USD 100 billion mark (McAuliffe and Oucho eds. 2024).



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.¹² 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 analysis 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.¹³ 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

¹² In 2008, 60 % of the stock of return migrants were from the Middle East (Dhar and Bhagat, 2020).

¹³ Compared to 96 % of people who were employed continuously in the base period, 2018-19, only 61% were employed prior to, during, and post the lockdown in March 2020 (Abraham et al., 2022).



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.¹⁴

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).¹⁵ 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.

Publication Status : Looking for a journal

New Research Initiatives

'Impact of Reintegration Schemes (NDPREM and Pravasi Bhadratha - Pearl) of NORKA: Phase I'

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Vinoj Abraham, Beena P. L., Jijin P

¹⁴ Large inflows of remittances to receiving regions of India have had negative consequences for the goods producing sectors, leading to reduced employment generation (Parameswaran, 2020).

¹⁵ Caste as a system of social stratification in India gave rise to hierarchically ordered groups. After independence, to rectify the historical oppression faced by the Dalits and Adivasis, the Constitution recognised them under separate schedules, thus the terms, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; the OBC is a classification established to represent other socially and economically backward classes referred to under the constitution. The groups that enjoyed privileges under the system are referred to variously as 'general' category, privileged or unreserved castes.



This project is the first phase of a two-part study on NORKA's initiatives for reintegration of returned migrants in Kerala focussing on two schemes - NORKA Department Project for Returned Emigrants (NDPREM) and Pravasi Bhadratha (Pearl). Current study is based on administrative data sets for these two projects provided by NORKA. Since administrative data sets not collected for analytical purposes, the main effort involves cleaning and validating data sets provided by NORKA for both the schemes.

Research Plan 2025-26

'An impact-evaluation study of NORKA Department Programme for Returned Emigrants (NDPREM) [Phase II of the larger study on impact of NORKA's reintegration schemes]'

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Beena PL, Vinoj Abraham, Jijin P

Sponsorship, if any: Centre for Development Studies

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

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Amartya Paul, Jijin P

Sponsorship, if any: Centre for Development Studies

AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION CROPS

Completed Studies

'Risk and Vulnerability in Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra, India'

Thiagu Ranganathan, Sarthak Gaurav and Rahul Kumar Singh

Sponsorship: ICSSR

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

Publication Status : Gaurav, S., Singh, R. K., & Ranganathan, T. (2024). Labour Supply of Cultivator and Labour Households: Insights From a Longitudinal Survey in Vidarbha,



Maharashtra. The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, 67(4), 1117-1140.

‘Mechanisation and Gendered Labour Market Impacts: Evidence from Longitudinal Data in Maharashtra, India’

Thiagu Ranganathan and Himansu Sekhar Thapa, CDS

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

Keywords: Agriculture, gender, mechanisation, family labour, female labour in agriculture, farm operations.

Publication Status : Presented at ADBI Seminar; Accepted as a chapter in an edited book to be published by ADBI Institute

‘Ruptured Rural Transformation: From Non-farm to Mixed Households in Rural India’

Vinoj Abraham

Analysis suggests worsening of India’s rural transformation, aggravating from “being stunted” to a rupture. Labour movement from agricultural to non-agricultural sectors had weakened since the early 2010s. Signs of reverse mobility, from non-agricultural sectors to the agricultural sector are visible since the 2020s, with significant addition in unpaid family work. The drivers of rural non-farm employment, namely construction, agro-based manufacturing such as textiles, food and beverages, tobacco, and trade have declined. Trends in value added and wages in the RNFS also signal stagnation. Under such circumstances, households have adopted a risk-mitigating strategy of mixed employment, especially among the lower income groups. Such mixed households are replacing both non-agricultural and agricultural households.

Status: Published Abraham, Vinoj (2024) Ruptured Rural Transformation: From Non-farm



to Mixed Households in Rural India, Economic and Political Weekly Vol. 59, Issue No. 50, 14 Dec

Ongoing Studies

‘Country System Analysis for Land Restoration’

Ritika Jain

Sponsored by UNCCD

Different socio-economic and institutional factors impact land restoration in a country. These may include laws and their enforcement, economic incentives of people, which in turn are determined by national and international markets and government policies; actions of organisations that are involved in restoration, etc. Whether effective restoration in a context takes place or not depends on the aggregate impact of all these factors.

We examine the different manners in which land is degraded in a country. We try to modify the above systems framework by moving away from ownership based categorization of land. Instead, we propose to use the most prominent ways through which land degradation manifests itself in a specific country based on land use. As a next step, we try to examine the socioeconomic factors and their interlinkages with other factors and institutions in each of those categories. We build on the National Systems Analysis and also borrow elements from the DPSIR (Driver, Pressure, State, Impact and Response model of intervention) framework. The project spans across ten countries that have committed the highest amounts towards restoration of land in recent years. In each of these countries, land degradation patterns vary- for instance, in India, degradation of land had been low in forests due to state ownership. In contrast, Australia has lower land degradation driven by agriculture practices due to lower dependence on agriculture for lives and livelihood and better job prospects in other countries. In contrast, Brazil has had higher degradation in land despite mandated restoration on private land due to weaker enforcement of land related laws.

Hence, in order to make these country level reports comparable to each other, while ensuring uniqueness of each, we use the approach where we focus on how land degradation exhibits itself in the most pronounced manner. This is the basic conceptualization of manifestation of land degradation through each country level report. To summarize, the ten country reports are comparable in whether the key manifestations are similar or different for each country. Additionally, the role of socio-economic factors in how land degradation manifestations may be similar between the two countries but may have very different impacts because of presence or absence of certain factors. We attempt to bring this in our country reports and thus they have a unique role in degradation of land for each of these countries.

‘Tanker use and Resilience of Horticultural Farmers in Jalna District, Maharashtra’

Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. Rekha Bhangaonkar, University of Cambridge

This study analyses differential resilience among horticultural farmers in Maharashtra, India. Based on a primary survey of 290 farmers across four villages in Jalna district, we find



that farmers in the region shifted to grape cultivation over the past two decades as it provided a higher and more stable income compared to cotton. The recent years has seen depletion of groundwater table, a common pool resource and the primary source of irrigation for the farmers. In building resilience against groundwater risks, farmers resorted to water imports to satisfy irrigation requirements. With this background, we analyze the factors that affect tanker water use and the returns thereof. Our paper finds that intensity of tanker water use is inversely related to farm size indicating higher intensification of water imports among smallholding farmers. Our production function analysis indicates that both tanker use and expenditure on tanker water has no relation to horticultural production. Given the higher dependence on horticulture among the small and marginal farmers and that these farmers use tanker water extensively with no significant returns to production, our paper posits a case of differential resilience among farmers in the region. Publication Status : Presented at ICAE 2024 conference; To be submitted to Land Use Policy (Special Issue); Will be presented in Polish Academy of Sciences in September, 2025

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

Thiagu Ranganathan, Tirtha Chatterjee and Vinoj Abraham

Sponsorship: NRPPD

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

Publication Status : Working on a CDS Working Paper

New Research Initiatives

‘Estimating Heterogeneous Effects of Agricultural Cash Transfers on Livelihoods and the Environment with Computational Methods’

Thiagu Ranganathan and Lucie Maruejols, Kiel University, Germany

This project aims to answer three integrated research questions to gradually build understanding of the effectiveness and costs of cash transfers: from observing wide-scale changes to the farming sector and environment using remote-sensing data, to examining causal pathways with detailed ground surveys, to finally capturing indirect effects of the policy with computational modelling.

Specifically, we aim to answer:

RQ1: What are the long-terms large-scale effects of cash transfers on agricultural production and the environment? We aim to capture changes in land use (i.e. extension of agricultural areas or deforestation), cropping patterns, growing season patterns, yield, water usage, fertilizer usage.

RQ2: What are the wider implications for regional people, nature and the economy of hypothetical changes in the design of the cash transfer program?

RQ3: Conflicts over land holdings as well as incomplete land ownership records often limits and efficient targeting of beneficiaries. Research is sparse on how land record quality,



tenancy patterns, and informal sharecropping affect inclusion. Tenant farmers, women farmers, and landless agricultural workers are largely excluded from PM-KISAN — but the magnitude of this exclusion and its consequences are under-researched. In terms of policy design and the issue of mistargeting of beneficiaries that has often been highlighted, how has the spread of digital records modified the exclusion and inclusion into the scheme? For example, is the targeting more equitable and freer of political interferences than reported in prior schemes?

POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

‘Land Rights and Livelihood: Contextualizing the Forest Conservation Act, 2023’.

Abhilash T

This paper explores the recent trend in Kerala’s tribal marginality. Beginning with the two major watershed moments—mob-lynching of adivasi youth Madhu in Attappadi in 2018 and allegedly “human zoo” portrayal of Adivasis in Keraleeyam, a government organised public event held in the state capital in November 2023—in Kerala’s tribal world. These incidents reiterate the unvarying perception of the state and its civil society on adivasi developmental question in the state. Beginning with the post-colonial predicaments of the adivasi welfare dilemmas in the state this paper further explores the ongoing tribal land encroachment in Attappadi region by the powerful and politically connected non-tribals. It will also briefly discuss the popular tribal welfare scheme; the community kitchen in Attappadi. It will further discuss the recent issues regarding the dropout of adivasi children from higher education. This paper concludes by arguing that state’s perspective on adivasi welfare should go beyond monetary expenditure and should also focus on the effective societal progress achieved through implemented schemes and policies. Currently, the state seems to perceive tribal issues more as residential problems than a combination of land, livelihood and existential issues. It is essential to address these challenges directly rather than treating them as residual obstacles.

Publication Status: Journal: Accepted Artha Vijnana, Accepted for December 2025, Vol No. LXVII Issue No. 4

‘Tribal Rights and Kerala Model Development: Exploring New Trends (2024), Indian Journal of Political Science, 85(2), pp, 401-406’.

Abhilash T

This paper explores the recent trend in Kerala’s tribal marginality. Beginning with the two major watershed moments—mob-lynching of adivasi youth Madhu in Attappadi in 2018 and allegedly “human zoo” portrayal of Adivasis in Keraleeyam, a government organised public event held in the state capital in November 2023—in Kerala’s tribal world. These incidents reiterate the unvarying perception of state and its civil society on adivasi developmental question in the state. Beginning with the post-colonial predicaments of the adivasi welfare dilemmas in the state this paper further explores the ongoing tribal land



encroachment in Attappadi region by the powerful and political connected non-tribals. It will also briefly discuss the popular tribal welfare scheme; the community kitchen in Attappadi. It will further discuss the recent issues regarding the dropout of adivasi children from higher education. This paper concludes by arguing that state's perspective on adivasi welfare should go beyond monetary expenditure and focus on the effective societal progress achieved through implemented schemes and policies. Currently, the state seems to perceive tribal issues more as residential problems than a combination of land, livelihood and existential issues. It is essential to address these challenges directly rather than treating them as residual obstacles.

Publication Status: Published in 2024, Indian Journal of Political Science, 85(2), pp, 401-406.

'M Kunhaman (1949–2023) A Radical Academic Who Saw Things'

Abhilash T

This paper explores the academic contributions of Prof. M. Kunhaman, a radical scholar who provided unique perspectives on development, marginalization, and social exclusion in India, particularly Kerala. He critiqued existing frameworks of globalization from a subaltern perspective, arguing for a more nuanced view that recognizes elite groups across the global North and South, as well as marginalized populations within developed nations. He questioned how globalization impacted socioeconomic conditions for Dalit and Adivasi communities, and critiqued both supporters and opponents of neoliberal policies for failing to address fundamental issues.

A key contribution was Kunhaman's pioneering research on tribal economies in Kerala. His intra-regional economic analysis of tribal communities, likely the first of its kind in India, highlighted the importance of land rights and resource access for Adivasi mobility. This work is considered a watershed in Kerala's Adivasi historiography. Kunhaman emphasized the need to understand unique economic behaviors and values of subaltern groups that often operate outside market-oriented systems. In Dalit studies, Kunhaman criticized the static frameworks used and called for more dynamic, praxis-oriented approaches. He also provided a subaltern critique of the celebrated Kerala model of development, arguing it excluded certain marginalized groups like fisherfolk and Adivasis. Kunhaman foresaw potential issues with the emerging knowledge economy, questioning its inclusivity and impact on marginalized sections as the state withdraws from welfare provision. Kunhaman highlighted how knowledge commodification could exacerbate existing socioeconomic inequalities. The paper also argues that Kunhaman's focus on organizational forms and ideological foundations of Kerala's development model laid crucial groundwork for subaltern perspectives. His accessible communication style and ahead-of-its-time analyses on topics like Dalit entrepreneurship and social exclusion in higher education leave an immeasurable academic legacy, particularly for younger generations of Dalit and Adivasi scholars. Overall, the author positions Prof. Kunhaman as a scholar who consistently challenged hierarchies, re-examined existing theories from marginalized viewpoints, and strove to understand mainstream society from the periphery. His work provides important insights for addressing ongoing developmental challenges faced by marginalized communities in Kerala and India more broadly.



Publication Status: Published in Economic and Political Weekly (2024) 59 (5): 22-25.

'Geography of Electoral Support: The BJP and Congress Over Time'

Suraj Jacob

Why does political party support vary over space and what it is about a state or region that affects a party's electoral fortunes there? The question of electoral geography leads to fundamental questions about democracy: What might be the consequences of a 'national' party receiving a very low share of votes in some regions? Can such a party, despite its national status, be considered as truly representing the country? Will that party's legitimacy be weakened? Does it raise questions about the unity of the nation? The chapter describes and maps changes in the geography of electoral support for India's two leading parties (BJP and Congress) over time. Not only are there dramatic changes in geographical spread over time, but the two parties also differ in the nature of the spread. For the BJP, the chapter distinguishes specific groups of states based on electoral support. The four states UP, MP, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, constituting as much as a third of the Lok Sabha, form its historical core. A second core accounting for a fourth of the Lok Sabha emerged later but with different histories (Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Bihar). The northeast has also rapidly moved closer to the BJP, driven considerably by Assam. At the other end of the spectrum are blocs of states in the south (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana) and the east (West Bengal, Odisha)—together constituting almost a third of the Lok Sabha—where the BJP has had much less electoral success. By disaggregating electoral support for the two major parties over space and time, the reported patterns can help construct potential explanations for electoral support (or lack of it). More generally, explanations of electoral behaviour proposed in the literature will have to square with the spatial variations explored in the chapter, and engage with the questions regarding democracy mentioned at the start.

Status: Chapter titled "Geography of Electoral Support: The BJP and Congress Over Time" in forthcoming (2025) book Contemporary Context of State Politics edited by Yatindra Singh Sisodia and Pratip Chattopadhyay (Routledge)

Ongoing Studies

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

Abhilash T

Sponsorship: ICSSR, New Delhi

Birsa Munda's life, agitation, and ideals have significantly influenced numerous tribal communities across India, with some achieving notable socio-economic mobility. The Mala Araya community in Kerala exemplifies this phenomenon. Examining the mobility of such communities is crucial when commemorating Birsa Munda. Tribal communities in India exhibit considerable heterogeneity in their cultural, social, and economic perspectives, which substantially impacts their development and inclusion. Many studies erroneously treat tribal groups as a homogeneous category, obscuring the nuances of their socio-economic milieu. Furthermore, research on tribal groups often neglects their occupational



categories, which can be broadly classified into three groups: settled agriculturists, hunter-gatherers, and wage laborers. In Kerala's tribal landscape, settled agriculturist groups have generally been somehow able to capitalize on affirmative action policies, state-sponsored developmental initiatives, and market economy benefits. Several factors contribute to their mobility, including reduced land dispossession and alienation, and early access to educational development in the state. However, hunter-gatherers and wage laborers continue to face challenges in benefiting from state-sponsored developmental initiatives. This study aims to explore the intergenerational mobility of the Mala Araya, a settled agriculturist tribal group in Kerala. It will also investigate the factors contributing to their potential upward mobility and assess the community's ability to sustain this progress. Additionally, the research will examine the struggles of individuals within the community who, like Birsa Munda, played crucial roles in mobilization efforts during the post-independence period. By analyzing the developmental experiences of the Mala Araya, this study seeks to derive insights that may inform policy formulations for other socially disadvantaged groups in the state.

Expected date of completion: October 2025

New Research Initiatives

'Caste, Class and Politics of Human-wildlife Conflict in Kerala'

Abhilash T

This study investigates the lived experience settled agriculturists adivasi communities—Malayaraya, Muthuvan, Mannan and Oorali—in the western ghat region of Kerala in the context of evolving human-wildlife conflict. Focusing on how participation, voice and agency intersect in the collective articulation of rights in the context of human-wild life conflict. Focusing on one hamlet, which experience increasing wildlife incursions, it argues that these the community, already marginalized within the socio-economic and political order, are experiencing a further loosening of control over their livelihoods, exacerbating their alienation. This process of alienation extends beyond daily subsistence, impacting kinship networks, everyday sociality, and their sense of self-worth as they lose control over remaining land to wildlife encroachment and dysfunctional institutional mechanisms. This alienation also manifests a complex intersection of environmental, social, and political factors that have rendered the indigenous communities vulnerable to wildlife incursions and systemic neglect by the state and its institutions. This study will employ qualitative ethnographic approach in which participant observation, in-depth interviews, field notes and reflective journals. Ethnography will be used to enable a nuanced understanding of the socio-cultural, ecological and livelihood contexts of the human-wildlife conflict. The qualitative approach allowed for capturing the perspectives of affected families and examining the interplay between institutions and the community.



OTHER STUDIES

Completed Studies

'Lived Cosmopolitanism'? Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma and Her Challenge to Malayali Modernity'

J Devika

Recent discussions of late 19th and early 20th century Malayali modernity have underscored the manner in which it was shaped not merely by an indigenous 'Renaissance' but also by strong extraneous forces, notably cosmopolitan cultural and political currents. Dilip Menon, for example, reflects on the intellectual labours of Kesari A Balakrishna Pillai whose interest in continental philosophy and literature and knowledge unfiltered by liberalism of colonial origins, which undeniably revolutionised Malayalam literature, triggering the earlier phase of modernist critiques of society in Malayalam literature. Indeed, despite early criticisms of Balakrishna Pillai in the middle decades of the twentieth century, he was reclaimed and celebrated by even his Stalinist critics as the exemplary figure of modern Malayali intellectual life. In this paper, I reflect on the writings on Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma who was Kesari's contemporary and a prominent figure in reformist and nationalist circles and public sphere discussions in the early twentieth century decades. Amma's life stands in sharp contrast with that of Kesari's. From their writings they appear to be full-fledged modern selves capable of exploring their complex emotions and turning a critical eye on them; both are critical of received social mores and practices. Nevertheless, K K Amma's 'lived cosmopolitanism' – which was evident in her determined effort to cope with life through building far-flung friendships and travel – seems to have extracted from her an enormous price – so high that in sharp contrast to Kesari, she was wiped out of public memory and history and suffered social ignominy as well. Amma's experience as recounted by her self-reflexive autobiography opens up a window to both critique the gendered exclusions of cosmopolitanism in Malayali modernity, and reflect on the curious way in which the emergent modern Malayali social world seemed to have rewarded modern women who were 'moderate' in their modernity and was determined to punish women who seemed to draw 'excessively' on the modern. Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma's life seems to have been a very difficult one, from both her autobiography, and the memories of those who knew her well. She suffered considerable defamation, social isolation, much false accusations and betrayal at work, and even a jail sentence on trumped-up charges. It appears, then, that both the desire for a cosmopolitanism that was not merely professed, but actually lived, and the very impossibility of it among the first-generation of modern educated and individuated women in the early twentieth century (as Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma's tortuous life shows us), lays bare the patriarchal underbelly of modern social reform and the much-celebrated era of the 'Navoddhaanam' in early twentieth-century Kerala. This paper also criticises recent efforts by some historians of modern Kerala to elevate Kesari A Balakrishna Pillai to the status of a 'local cosmopolitan', which fail to recognize that such a life was also the sole privilege of the modern-educated man with sufficient social and economic capital – while committed to a critique of early Malayali modernity, this history writing continues to leave alone the blindspot by which the travails of a woman who sought a similarly unfettered life was rendered invisible.

Publication Status: To appear in an edited volume.



'The Difficult Life of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma: Gender and Loneliness and the Unconventional Thinking Life'

J Devika

This reflection on the life of the thinking woman Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma (K K Amma) as retold in her autobiography revolves around the following broad questions: how should feminists approach the question of radical and path-breaking women thinkers of the past? Should they be perceived as women who sought and/or had a public life of ideas? Or should women who led 'thinking lives' – women who were deeply self-reflexive about their lives should also be counted? What could have been the possible consequences for women who were both of these? How must feminists of the present perceive the lives of such women, especially when these lives were of suffering and patriarchal punishment? Should we raise them up into visibility as foremothers and/or martyrs? How are they to be historically placed? Within well-defined traditions, with the unruly bits of their lives trimmed?

This reflection is not about retrieving lost voices in the tradition of abstract or social thinking in Malayali society, though it does acknowledge the vital importance of such a project. Rather, it leans towards work that examines the lived lives of women intellectuals – towards the lives of creative women in early twentieth-century Kerala who turned back often to think about, examine, their lives self-reflexively. I hope to combine identification with critical distance – offer 'critical love' to the life writings of K K Amma. What is at issue in my reflection is not just knowledge about K K Amma's life and life-writing, but making sense of and surviving the extremely hostile and punitive worlds that the Malayali feminist intellectual battling power seems to find herself in. Indeed, my identification with Amma can only be 'critical love' precisely because what counts as 'feminism' in her time appears highly limited in mine. Yet many in the newest generation of Malayali feminists and some in my generation may still identify with her struggles. . In this reflection, however, my focus is particularly on the critical woman thinker in twentieth-century Malayali society, the woman whose thinking went against the grain of dominant thought explicitly or implicitly, even when they placed themselves within broad streams of thinking.

In this paper, I reflect on the context of early twentieth century Malayali society, dwelling on the literary public that took shape in the interface between the modern Malayalam public sphere and public education in the region. I argue that the first-generation modern-educated Malayali women were not passive absorbers of modern ideas; many of them probed, reorganised, critically rewrote modern ideas from their own locations. This was a risky venture for sure, but not all of them paid the same price. I want to explore this claim by comparing the critical responses to Malayali modernity, and the lived lives, of mainly two female contemporaries from the early twentieth century, Lalitambika Antharjanam, Malayalam's first woman to kind success in modern fiction, and K K Amma herself. In the conclusion, I circle back to V Geetha's thoughts about the potentials of 'women thinking' and rescuing women thinkers from the lives of anguish they seemed to be condemned to in pervasively-misogynist societies and intellectual cultures.

Publication Status: To appear in an edited volume.



'The Translator's Practice in the Early Twenty-first Century: Some Reflections'

J Devika

In this paper, I reflect on my own practice as a translator -- a role that is probably inherent in my location, as a feminist intellectual in the 'post-colony'. I turn self-reflexively towards the different layers of my practice as a translator. Translating literary texts from Malayalam to English and social science and social theory from English to Malayalam has been only one layer of my practice. The other layers have included translating between different registers of language in developing feminist discourse in Malayalam, and translating between the first-generation feminists in Malayalam and the anti-patriarchal mobilisations of the present. Each layer presents distinct opportunities and challenges, which make the work of the translator quite central to social democratisation and cultural inclusion in the present.

Not surprisingly, then, I understand 'translation' in a very broad sense – not only as the practice of taking a text from its source language to its destination language, but more as the practice of moving ideas from one kind intellectual and political context to another, in the process shaping them in ways that would render them both intelligible and pointed in the destination-context. Translation in general then involves the challenge of carrying the text or the idea from one context to another in such a way that its affective charge or political effectiveness is retained/refurbished. Here I wish to reflect on the experience of becoming a 'translator' in this sense. It straddles my experience of both literary translation as well, my work as a historian retrieving writings of women authors from the past.

Briefly put, my translation of the works of these historical literary authors whose writing could well be characterised as 'feminist' accompanied my own studies as a historian into their interventions in the literary, politics and philosophical debates of their specific times. These works, too, were 'double translations' – which were of course translations from one language to another, and also the 'translation' of the critical charge of each author in her time to the present. The second kind of 'translation' was rendered inevitable because patriarchal literary criticism had indeed obscured their anti-patriarchal content for decades. Indeed, the translation of women authors from Malayalam, I believe, continues to be a vital task in both senses. Translation in the ordinary sense is vital: moving their texts to another language, they escape patriarchal literary criticism at least partially by becoming part of a larger literary public where multiple readings are possible. 'Translation' in the second sense – of the retrieval of the political charge of these writings through the translator's strong contextualisation of these works – and very importantly, translation in the first sense is highly dependent on 'translation' in the second sense. I end the paper by pointing to some of the serious challenges that faces the translator in the present, in which the publishing industry and commercial publication has not only taken a keen interest in translations from the Indian languages into English, but is also setting the terms under which it takes place. This, I believe, poses new dilemmas that the translator has to necessarily negotiate.

Publication Status: To appear in an edited volume.



'Healing History, Healing histories'

J Devika

This short piece is a personal reflection, as a historian, about how professional historians may effectively counter the recent barrage of attacks on them by the proponents of the so-called votaries of 'public histories' which the publishing industry has been promoting. The reason for the proliferation of loose, low quality historical writing that circulates in Whatsapp groups and other social media, which is not only false but also hugely divisive, according to the advocates of 'public history', is the inaccessibility and elitism of academic historians who primarily write for each other and rarely step out of their ivory towers. The right-wing version of this complaint is mostly false, because Indian historians have actively engaged in public debates at least from the early 1990s, and they have used idioms that cannot be called exclusivist. But more importantly, it is important to take apart the academic/public history binary. Not only does 'academic' history have its own academic public, 'public history' in India addresses several different publics, not a unified, English-speaking-reading one. The very idea of 'public history' in a regional context such as the Malayalam intellectual sphere is different from that which has emerged in the present debate. And this notion has changed, in the peripheries of the nation, over the course of the twentieth century. If in the early decades of the twentieth century the notion of 'public history' in Malayalam referred to history-writing directly critical of nationalist historiography ensuring from the vantage-points of fixed caste or class identities, towards the end of the century, the public histories of identities treated them as necessarily malleable and changing, and so turned towards the histories of the processes of identity-emergence. I reflect on my own interventions into public history-writing in Malayalam in the early decades of the new century, especially on two distinct efforts.

These include, first, my Malayalam work on the history of gender in Kerala that addressed a lay readership, which did not rely on the academic/'public' binary and sought to work as a book that 'bridged' academic discourses and those outside it, English and Malayalam, general history and the history of gender. In other words, this worked not by rendering academic research and argumentation invisible through engaging storytelling, but by demystifying academic research and writing for a lay readership and attempting 'histories of the present'. However, though this experiment got past the limited publics offered by the Malayalam publishing industry through 'copy-lefting' the book, letting a free online pdf version of the book circulate, and by wikifying it, it still relied mostly on readers already part of established reading publics – students, youth, women readers. Secondly, my attempt to write 'intersectional history-writing', focused on specific places mostly excluded from the larger history of the region. Such places are all over – to be found in city peripheries, in slums, coastal villages, tribal hamlets – and they are all marked not only by economic deprivation but also by social isolation and stigma. These are places outside both academic and 'public' histories precisely because they are perceived to be non-publics, dangerous, disorderly places. Like in the bridge-book experiment, this one too involved dialogues with people who built these places and the research questions arose from these exchanges.

Publication Status: To appear in an edited volume.



‘Wayfarer-Woman and the Wayside Lamps: Autobiography of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma’

J Devika

Translation of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma’s autobiography in Malayalam, Pathikayum Vazhiyorathe Manideepangalum.

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

‘Power, Gender, and the Birth of the Modern Malayali Family’

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

In this chapter, we propose to make a preliminary effort towards a ‘history of the present’, through which the ahistorical solidity attributed to the modern Malayali family may be problematized and the rationalities of power that shape it may be exposed. Another important lacuna has been that the history of the non-elite family has been generally poor in Malayali feminist history-writing, with some remarkable exceptions. Seeking a history that allows us to recognize the extent to which the Malayali family has been continuously-renewed as idea and institution in the service of power forces our, in a way, to the divergent histories of the family in elite and non-elite social contexts. In the substantial sections of this paper, we present a longer account of the shifting rationalities of power in the Malayalam-speaking regions in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It explores the manner in which the imagination(s) of the modern family and their actualization were constructed by and implicated in these developments. We claim that the historical trajectories of elite and non-elite Malayali families and women remain distinctly different, informed differently by sovereign, disciplinary, and governmental powers. This has had important implications, we feel, on the manner in which twenty-first century patriarchy impinges on the lives of women in elite and non-elite Malayali families. We draw largely upon the history of Travancore for the nineteenth and early twentieth century. As mentioned at the outset, ours is a preliminary effort which seeks to generate new questions for the social history of Kerala, and is not a comprehensive account.

Our arguments about the modern family in Kerala challenges the standard accounts. Though it claimed to replace caste-based sovereign power, the modern elite family was indeed placed within the new caste-community formations which ultimately rested on the blood-ties given by endogamy. The premium on women’s virginity rose as the sexual and reproductive potentials of their bodies were to be ceded to husbands as conjugal marriages and patrilineal, patrifocal family ideals became increasingly universal. In other words, sovereign power remained central to both the modern elite communities and families, even though it no longer wielded the power to take life. Social ejection of women who transgressed endogamy, then, became more a possibility than for men, who were often permitted to return. The spreading practice of dowry transactions at marriage bolstered endogamy and reinforced the power of the husband in the marital arrangement. The discourse of binary gender adapted to the ends of such community formation provided the foundation of female compliance: the ideal woman was she who was highly individuated and accomplished, but who would willingly submit her body and soul to the modern man of her own caste/community, and more implicitly, to the generational recreation of ‘pure



blood'. Precisely such an institution was found absolutely necessary as the site of governmental power too; in other words, far from being opposed to each other, the reduced and refined deployment of fatherhood (devoid of the disposition towards physical violence against subordinate members of the family and accepting of the responsibility to materially support the family unit fully) was found necessary for the grounding of the latter. Governmental power was to be grafted on to such families through the medium of the mother/housewife, who was expected to supervise the bodies and minds of other family members towards the end of transforming them into productive and hardworking community members/citizens

Publication Status: To appear in the volume, *Entangled Sovereignities: Making and Contesting Modernity in Kerala, South India*, eds F Osella, J Devika, V J Varghese, and S Santhosh, forthcoming from OUP.

Embedded Morality: Understanding the Problem of Many Hands through Samaritan's Curse

Thiagu Ranganathan, Anirban Kar, IIM Kozhikode; Raunak Sil, KPMG Global services

This paper introduces and develops a framework for embedded morality—the socially shared norms that specify what counts as praiseworthy—aligning with Adam Smith's (1759) theory of moral self-regulation. The framework of embedded morality effectively analyses the problems of moral ascription in collective action which are similar to the problems of many hands. We demonstrate the competence of the notion of embedded morality by resolving the dilemma posed in the moral paradox of Samaritan's curse (Basu, 2021). Moreover, our paper exhibits that embedded morality offers more nuanced analyses of real-life problems of moral ascription while situating itself within the tenets of normative methodological individualism. By doing so, embedded morality, as a concept, provides a compelling framework that allows to model individual behaviour not merely as static expressions of private preferences, rather as emergent phenomena shaped by context-dependent social norms.

Publication Status: Under Review (Philosophy and Public Affairs)

Research theme: Game Theory

Dynamics of Inequality of Opportunity in Wage Earnings in India: A Machine Learning Approach

Thiagu Ranganathan and Gayathri Panampilly, CDS

This paper estimates the Inequality of Opportunity (IoP) in wage earnings in India using a machine learning approach. We capture nonlinear interactions among selected circumstance variables- parental education, parental occupation, social group, sector, and gender using conditional inference trees and forests. Our novelty lies in leveraging machine learning techniques to compare inequality of opportunity over two years based on wage earnings in the Indian context. In addition, the paper also addresses sample selection bias that might arise from usage of only co-resident parental data through Inverse Probability Weighting (IPW) technique. Using the nationally representative data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the years 2018-19 and 2022-23, we find that parental education is the critical circumstance variable influencing IoP, accounting for more than



32% of IoP in wage earnings in 2018-19 and nearly 29% in 2022-23. This is followed by parental occupation explaining 25% and 20% variance in IoP in 2018-19 and 2022-23 respectively. The findings also indicate that importance of gender has risen post-COVID. Keywords: Samaritan's Curse, Embedded Morality, Conferred Morality, Praiseworthiness, Normative Methodological Individualism

Status: To submit in journals on inequality and income

Research theme: Inequality and Social Mobility

Does parental involvement improve the learning outcomes of children? Evidence from India

Thiagu Ranganathan and Rajalaxmi Singh, CDS

In recent decades, parental involvement has been gaining attention to overcome the learning crisis faced by children, particularly in the global south. In this context, our paper examines whether parental involvement improves the learning outcomes of children in India and helps to reduce the learning disparities faced by disadvantaged children, particularly those enrolled in government schools. Using the second round of the Indian Human Development Survey conducted in 2011-12 and employing both Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) and Instrumental Variables (IV) regressions, we find that parental involvement is positively related to learning outcomes. Specifically, children tend to perform better when parents attend PTA meetings, discuss schoolwork with teachers, and supervise homework. These results are mediated by reduced absenteeism in school and increased time spent on homework. Additionally, we find that children in government schools benefit more from parental involvement. However, our findings also suggest that parental involvement is higher among children who already experience privileges due to their socio-economic status, which may contribute to widening achievement gaps among children. Keywords: Parental Involvement, Learning Outcomes, Children, Ordinary least square, Instrumental variable regression, India

Publication Status : To submit in journals on inequality and income distribution Oxford Development Studies (Revise and Resubmit)

Forest Restoration in Uttara Kannada

Thiagu Ranganathan and S Krithi

Sponsorship: ICIMOD

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



how these differences could play an important role in determining effectiveness and distributional outcomes of afforestation policy.

Publication Status : Ranganathan, Thiagu & S Krithi, Heterogeneous Interests and Monetary Payments for Afforestation: Findings from a Framed Field Experiment (FFE) in Uttara Kannada, India, Environment and Development Economics, Revise and Resubmit.

Research theme: Environment and Development

'Process tracing'

Suraj Jacob

'Mechanism' and 'process' are concepts from the realist tradition of social studies. This tradition eschews universal theories and covering laws and focuses instead on middle-range theorising. A mechanism or process links observable events through recurring causal patterns. Process tracing is an research approach to link events to construct narratives and explanations. The chapter introduces process tracing, discusses the different considerations involved, and nests it in narratives. It discusses how to identify relevant processes, assemble links for those processes, and marshal evidence for those links. The evidence can be of different types—for instance, both qualitative and quantitative. Process tracing, especially in diagrammatic form, can be overlaid with a historical timeline to give a sense of the different temporalities involved in the different links; this is complicated by the presence of overlapping temporalities. Process tracing can be used in the context of interventions and organisations, but also outside them, as shown by the two detailed cases discussed in the chapter.

Research theme: Methodology

Status: Chapter titled "Process tracing" in forthcoming (2025) book An Introduction to Qualitative Research edited by H. K. Dewan and Vimala Ramachandran (Azim Premji University, ISBN 978-93-5002-912-1)

Ongoing Studies

Social Mobility among Scheduled Castes: a jati level analysis in Tamil Nadu

Thiagu Ranganathan

Sponsorship: ICSSR OH31

Category (any one of the research themes given on p.3): Inequality and Social Mobility

My proposed research will collect data and inquire into inter-generational social mobility among scheduled castes (SCs) in a district of Tamil Nadu. In particular, the data collection and analysis will be at the level of jatis (sub-groups of castes). In terms of analysis, the proposed research will address the following research questions:

1. What is the extent of intergenerational social mobility among different jatis within the SCs in the study region across a district in Tamil Nadu?
2. How does the village social structure and the associated dynamics (composition of households belonging to various jatis in the village, the dominant caste in the village, the



economic power differences among the dominant jatis and other jatis in the village, and so on) affect social mobility among SCs in the study region?

Publication Status : Working on a CDS Working Paper for submission and submit to the journal Social Indicators Research

Research theme: Inequality and Social Mobility

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

Thiagu Ranganathan and Amartya Paul, CDS

Sponsorship: ICSSR OH 31

The proposed research aims to analyse the nexus between economic growth and inequality in the Indian context over the last decade. The research will examine the distributional consequences of economic growth, with a particular focus on income inequality. In this context, the study plans to lay out a detailed profile of income inequality across states, sectors, and social groups. It also attempts to assess (whether it is 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.

Research theme: Inequality and Social Mobility



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 517 working papers and 47 books brought out under the CDS programme. This year three working paper were published. A total of two books have been published by the faculty, 35 research articles by faculty and students in professional journals. 5 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

Beena P L

- Beena, PL. and Thiagu Ranganathan 2025. (Eds). *'Kerala Transforming Labor and Trade Mobility in times of Pandemic'*, Routledge.

J Devika

- *'Satyavaadiniyum Swatantryavaadiniyum: J Devikayude Gaveshana Prabandhangal 2018-24'*, D C Books, Kottayam [Research-based articles in Malayalam.]

**M A Oommen**

- *'Theranjedutha Lekhanangal'* a curated collection of articles by Professor M A Oommen (Malayalam book), edited and published by the Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP), Kannur.
- *'Indian Development and its Discontents'* (Ongoing) A book project for Orient Blackswan (under Review)

Sunil Mani

- Mani, Sunil, *India's Industrial Policy and the Rise of High-Technology Industries: Strategies, Challenges, and Pathways*

(b) JOURNAL ARTICLES

The Institute published 30 research papers and articles in Journals during the year 2024-25.

Beena P L

- L T Abhinav Surya and PL Beena (2025) Labour Market Relations across Technology and Size class categories in India's Organised Manufacturing Sector, *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 2025, Springer (paper under review process).
- Hrushikesh Mallick, Beena PL and Ritika Jain (2025) Dynamics of Energy Consumption, Economic Growth and Carbon Emission in a Sub-national Economy of India: Evidence from Kerala, *Green and Low Carbon Economy*.
- L T 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.

Chandra Shekar K

- Shekar, K. C. (2025). Informality, innovation, and firm performance: evidence from World Bank Enterprise Survey in India, 2013–2014. *Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, 14(1), 17.

Chidambaran G Iyer

- Iyer C.G. (2024). 'Mobile manufacturing path for India: Lessons from other Asian countries' *Indian Public Policy Review* 5(4): 105-128, <https://doi.org/10.55763/ippr.2024.05.04.005>



- Iyer, C.G. (2024). 'Diffusion of Digital Payments in India: A tale of two technologies' *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Economies* (Sage), DOI: 10.1177/23939575241292940.

J Devika

- 'Tiding Over Pandemic-Induced Vulnerability: Reflections on the Experiences of Two Groups of Cleaning/Domestic Workers in Kerala, India', with Anamika Ajay, [<https://doi.org/10.1080/13552074.2024.2410057>]
- 'Where is the Love? Thoughts on Kamala Surayya's Affective Politics', *Journal of the History of Women Philosophers and Scientists* Vol 3, 2, 113-34, Published, 15 July 2025., https://brill.com/view/journals/jhwp/3/2/article-p113_002.xml [<https://doi.org/10.1163/2666318x-bja00024>]

Hrushikesh Mallick

- S Pal, MK Mahalik, H Mallick, A Heshmati(2024) *Does Financial Development Induce Total Factor Productivity Growth in an Emerging Economy? The Role of Gender Human Capital*, *Journal of Public Affairs* (Wiley)
- G Patel, M.K Mahalik, H Mallick(2024) *Asymmetry Effects of International Trade Components on Environmental Quality in BRICS Economies: Implications for Sustainable Circular Economy*, *Circular Economy and Sustainability* (Springer)
- John Kujur, Udaya Shankar Mishra, S. Irudaya Rajan & Hrushikesh Mallick (2024) *Marginals within the Marginalised: Exploring the Changes in Occupational Pattern among Adivasi Women in the context of Land Alienation in India*, *World Development*, Vol.182
- S Pal, M K Mahalik, H Mallick, G Patel, A Heshmati (2025) *Does Age Composition Influence Financial Sector Development in Sub-Saharan African Region? The Role of Economic Globalization*, *Journal of Economic and Administrative Sciences* (Emerald)
- S Pal, M K Mahalik, H Mallick(2025) *Unveiling the factors shaping innovation: a comparative analysis of emerging and advanced Asian economies*, *Asia Pacific Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship* (Emerald)

Ritika Jain

- 'Too risky for businesses? Examining the relationship between crime and firm registrations in India' (Shreya Biswas and Ritika Jain), *Economic Notes: Review of Banking, Finance and Monetary Economics*

Suraj Jacob

- "The Scholarship of K N Raj: Humanist Vision, Grounded Theorising, and Focus on Institutional Context" (2024), in *Economic & Political Weekly* 59:47, 40-47



Thiagu Ranganathan

- Ranganathan, Thiagu, Kodoth, Praveena, and Chatterjee, Tirtha (2025). Contingent Aspirations and Employment Dynamics among Higher Educated Young Mothers in Kerala, *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol 60, Issue (26 & 27), 14-19.
- Gaurav, S., Singh, R. K., & Ranganathan, T. (2024). Labour Supply of Cultivator and Labour Households: Insights From a Longitudinal Survey in Vidarbha, Maharashtra. *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 67(4), 1117-1140.

C. Veeramani

- C. Veeramani (2025). "External Sector Outlook and 2025–26 Union Budget." *Economic and Political Weekly*, 60(16).
- C. Veeramani and Garima Dhir (2024). "Dynamics and Determinants of Fragmentation Trade: India in Comparative and Long-term Perspective." *Economic and Political Weekly*, 59(34), 24 August.
- C Veeramani (2024), "Strategically reforming India's role in global value chains" *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, Vol.16, No.2 April–June 2024 49.
- C. Veermani (with Sugata Marjit and Anwesha Basu), "Growth Gains from Offshoring", *Journal of Policy Modeling*, Volume 46, Issue 1, 2024,(Impact factor 3.1)
- 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.

Vinoj Abraham

- Abraham, Vinoj (2024) Ruptured Rural Transformation: From Non-farm to Mixed Households in Rural India, *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol. 59, Issue No. 50, 14 Dec
- Abraham, Vinoj (2024) Deepening Disconnect : The Case of Rubber Growers and Producer Organisations in Kerala, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 59, Issue No. 43, 26 Oct
- Abdullah, B., Abraham, V. & Jain, R. Youth (2024) Unemployment in India: Do Aspirations Matter?. *Ind. J. Labour Econ.* 67, 883–908
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-024-00510-8>

Journal Articles by Honorary Fellows

M A Oommen

- 'Reorienting Public Finance with Reference to Local Governments' –Lecture 1, published in *Kerala Economy* , Vol. 5, No.2., (April-June 2024) Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Trivandrum.



- 'Reorienting public finance with reference to local governments' - Lecture II *Kerala Economy*, Vol. 5, No.3, (July-September 2024) Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation Trivandrum.
- 'A Reserve Bank of India Study on Gram Panchayat Finances Much Needed, but Disappointing' *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol.59; No.36 - 07 Sep. 2024.

Sunil Mani

- 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](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spacepol.2025.101692)
- Mani, S (2024) The Impact of New Technology on Employment in India's Manufacturing Industry: Examining the Diffusion of Multi-Purpose Industrial Robots, *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-024-00525-1>
- Mani, Sunil (2024), The Death Knell to Pre-grant Opposition in Light of Patent Amendment Rules 2023, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.59, Issue no: 52, pp 18-21
- Mani, Sunil (2025, forthcoming), 'Evolving Strategies in India's Technological Self-Reliance: A Study of Patent Policies, R&D Incentives, and Human Resource Development', *Economic and Political Weekly*

Journal Articles by Students

Basit Abdullah

- 'Youth Unemployment in India: Do Aspirations Matter?', (with Vinoj Abraham and Ritika Jain) Published in *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, September 2024 (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41027-024-00510-8>)
- 'A Brief Discussion on Street Vendors in India' (with Satyaki Dasgupta) Published in *Economic and Political Weekly*, July 2024 (<https://www.epw.in/journal/2024/30/commentary/brief-discussion-street-vendors-india.html>)

(c) CHAPTER(S) IN BOOKS

J Devika

- 'Carceral Feminism and the Punitive State in Kerala State, India' in Mary Caputi and Patricia Moynagh (eds), *Research Handbook on Feminist Political Thought*, Cheltenham and Northampton: Edward Elgar, 2024, 193-217.
- 'A Gendered History of the Neo-savarna in Twentieth Century Kerala' in Nissim Mannathukkaren (ed), *Hindu Nationalism in South India: The Rise of Saffron in Kerala*, Routledge, London, 2024, 112-145.



- ‘Reflections on the History of Childhood and the State in Kerala’, in John, M.E., Lotz, B., & Schömbucher, E. (Eds.). (2024). *Querying Childhood: Feminist Reframings* (1st ed.). Routledge India. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003465256>, 80-103.

Suraj Jacob

- ‘State Action, Autonomy and Electoral Democracy in India’ (2024), in Yatindra Singh Sisodia and Pratip Chattopadhyay (eds.) *Electoral Narratives of Democracy and Governance in India* (Routledge)

Thiagu Ranganathan

- Thapa, Himansu Sekhar, and Ranganathan, Thiagu, Forthcoming. Accepted for Publication. *Mechanisation and Gendered Labour Market Impacts: Evidence from Longitudinal Data in Maharashtra, India*. In Wanglin Ma (Eds). *Mechanization of Small-Scale Farms in Asia: Current Status, Impacts, and Future Prospects*.

(d) OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Chandra Shekar K

- Shekar, K. C., 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

Chidambaran G. Iyer

- Chidambaran G. Iyer, ‘For mobiles, PLI is not enough’, *The Hindu BusinessLine*, 10 October 2024.

J Devika

- ‘Satyavaadiniyum Swatantryavaadiniyum : J Devikayute Upanyasangal, 2018-2024. Malayalam book of nineteen research essays written during 2018-24, some of these are co-authored with Anamika Ajay, DC Books, Kottayam, 2024.
- ‘Caregiver vs. Citizen? Reflections on Ecofeminism from Kerala State, India’, in P Billimoria and A Rayner (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Indian Ethics*, New Delhi: Routledge India, 322-35.
- Sammatham (Translation of Nilofer Kaul’s ‘Consent’), Published by Goosebery Books, Thrissur, 2024.

Suraj Jacob

- “Economic Growth and the Hubris of Glory” (2024), in *Economic & Political Weekly* LIX:20, 30–32



Thiagu Ranganathan

- Bhangaonkar, Rekha, and Ranganathan, Thiagu (2024). Tankers and Differential Resilience in Horticultural Farming: Evidence from Maharashtra, India. Presented at the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) held in New Delhi, 2-7th August. Available at <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/344391/>

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: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts*. Springer.
- C. Veeramani and Anwesha Basu (Forthcoming). "Strategic Trade Policies for Catalysing India's Economic Transformation." In Charan Singh and Arvind Virmani (Eds.), *India's Economic Evolution Towards Inclusive Development: Exploring the Bhartiya Model*. Springer.
- C. Veeramani and M. Parameswaran (Forthcoming). "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.
- C. Veeramani (Forthcoming). "India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to Growth and Industrial Upgrading." *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies*. Wiley
- C. Veeramani (Forthcoming). "India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to Growth and Industrial Upgrading." *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies*. Wiley.

Vinoj Abraham

- Ritika Jain, Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham (2024) 'The Covid 19 Pandemic and Employment Vulnerability in Kerala, India: Does Migration Status Matter?' Working Paper: 515, Centre for Development Studies

Other Publications by Honorary Fellows/ Visiting Professors

M A Oommen

News Paper Articles

- Carrots & sticks in the Finance Commission's hand | 25/04/2024 | The New Indian Express
- The Need to Empower The Third Tier | 26/06/2024 | The New Indian Express



- The budget & jobs: Prescriptions without diagnosis |22/09/2024| The New Indian Express
- Shrinkonomics of South Needs Nation's Focus |30/10/2024 | The New Indian Express

Sunil Mani

- 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>
- Mani, Sunil (2025), 'From Bangalore to Brainport: High-Skilled Indian Migration to the Netherlands', *Global Indian Times*, March 15, <https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/jobs-netherlands-32025>
- Mani, Sunil (2024c), 'Can Indian Companies Build Global Mobile Phone Brands', *Global Indian Times*, December 08, https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/mobile-phones-122024?utm_source=publication-search
- Mani, Sunil (2024b), 'K.N. Raj Helped Shape India's Post Independence Economic Policies', *Global Indian Times*, November 01 https://www.globalindiantimes.com/p/india-development?utm_source=publication-search
- Mani, Sunil (2024a), 'India's Space Economy aims high with a focused approach'. *Indian Newslink*, <https://indiannewslink.co.nz/indias-space-economy-aims-high-with-a-focused-approach/>
- Preparing a paper with Professor Franco Malerba on Sectoral System of Innovation in late industrializing countries This will eventually be a chapter of a Handbook on Innovation being edited by Professor Lundvall
- Prepared a note on **Nowcasting methodology for estimating R&D** for South Africa's Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators

Other Publications by Students

Rajalaxmi Singh

- Rajalaxmi Singh with Ricardo Sabates, University of Cambridge, UK, (Blog) 'Understanding Parental Perceptions and Their Involvement in Children's Learning Through the Lenses of Accountability: Evidence from Rural India', UKFIET, 30 May, 2024



(e) Working Papers

The faculty staffs of the Institute have published 3 working papers in the year 2024-25. The details are given below:

1. Ritika Jain, Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham (2024), *The Covid 19 Pandemic and Employment Vulnerability in Kerala, India: Does Migration Status Matter?* (Working Paper No. 515), CDS. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/WP515-Covid19Pandemic.pdf>
2. Libitha C (2025), *Caste and Income Mobility in India: With Special Focus on Kerala and Tamil Nadu* (Working Paper No. 516), CDS. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/WP516-Libitha.pdf>
3. Pulapre Balakrishnan and M. Parameswaran (2025), *Inflation in India: Dynamics, Distributional Impact and Policy Implication* (Working Paper No. 517), CDS. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/WP517-ProfPulapre-ProfMParameswaran.pdf>

(f) Policy Brief

The faculty staffs of the Institute/Institute have published 2 policy briefs in the year 2024-25. The details are given below:

- National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) Policy Brief, April-July 2024
 - o <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/NRPPDPoilyBrief-April-July2024.pdf>
- National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) Policy Brief, August-October 2024
 - o <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/NRPPD-PolicyBriefAUG-OCT24.pdf>
- NRPPD Policy Brief, October-December 2024
 - o https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/NRPPD_Oct-Dec2024.pdf
- NRPPD Policy Brief, January-March 2025
 - o <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/PolicyBriefJan-Mar2025.pdf>

(g) GOOGLE SCHOLAR CITATION

Abhiash T

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

P L Beena

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

Chandra Shekar K.

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



Chidambaran G. Iyer

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=47HAm8AAAAJ>

J. Devika

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

Gogol Mitra Thakur

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

Hrushikesh Mallick

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

M. Parameswaran

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

Rajit Biswas

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

Ritika Jain

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

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>



(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 2024–25. A total of 45 Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures were conducted, which included 4 international events, 36 national-level events, and 5 public lectures. In addition, the Centre held 5 training programmes and workshops aimed at capacity building and skill development.

International Seminars

The institute has organized four International Seminars in the year 2024-2025. The details of the seminars are given below:

- 1) 3 days Seminar on Monsoon School on Inequality 2024 Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) during 20th to 22nd July, 2024.
- 2) One day seminar on 'Climate Change and Food Security'. The main presenters were Dr. Lucie Maruejols, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kiel and Mr. Biagio Rosso, University of Cambridge. The programme was conducted during 31st July, 2024.
- 3) Two days conference on UNCCD Land and Ecosystem Restoration in Kerala during 2nd to 3rd Jan, 2025 organised jointly with The G20 Global Land Initiative
- 4) Two days Seminar on "Language and Culture in a Changing Society – Research to Support Kerala's School Education System" organized jointly with Vakkom Moulavi Foundation Trust and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences during 14th to 15th Jan, 2025.

Seminars/ Webinars

The Institute has scheduled 36 Seminars/ Webinars in the year 2024-25.

- 1) Seminar on "What ails the Rubber Producer Societies in Kerala? An institutional Exploration" by Professor Vinoj Abraham, CDS delivered on 12th April, 2024.
- 2) Public Discussion on "Politics and Gender Justice in India": R. Rajagopal, Editor-at-large, The Telegraph conducted by the ICC on 9th May, 2025.
- 3) Seminar on "Do farmers benefit from joining producer collectives? The case of Rubber growers in Kerala" by Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Ministry of Commerce Chair and Professor at CDS delivered on 10th May, 2024.
- 4) Book Discussion on "Accidental Gamblers Risk and Vulnerability in Vidarbha Cotton" by Dr. Sarthak Gaurav, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan, Professor, CDS on 28th June, 2024.
- 5) Discussion on "Whole numbers and half-truths what data can and cannot tell us about modern India" by Rukmini S on 22nd July, 2024.
- 6) Public Talk on "Financial Stability" by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), headed by Mr. R Ayyappan Nair, General Manager, Financial Stability Department, and Mr. Kush Sharma, Assistant Advisor on 24th July, 2024.



- 7) Seminar on *"Informal Economies in Transition and Public Debt Dynamics"* by Mr. Nandu S. Nair, Ph.D Scholar in Economics, Tuscan University Ph.D at the University of Florence, Pisa and Siena on 2nd August, 2024.
- 8) Students Initiative Seminar on 'The Wayanad Resilience Series: Addressing Climate Change Challenges in India' by Dr. Sajeer-KFRI on 12th August, 2024.
- 9) Panel Discussion initiated by CDS students on 'Development at the Crossroads: Wayanad Pasts and Futures' by Dr. Srikumar Chattopadhyay, Dr. K. Soman, Mr. Sridhar Radhakrishnan on 14th August, 2024.
- 10) Seminar on *"Inflation in India: Dynamics, Distributional Impact and Policy Implication"* by Dr. M. Parameswaran, Professor, CDS on 16th August, 2024.
- 11) Seminar on *"Caste Violence, Electoral Politics and Local Democracy in Tamil Nadu"* by Dr. Jayaseelan Raj, Associate Professor in Anthropology and Development, School of Global Affairs, King's College on 21st August, 2024.
- 12) Students Initiative public talk on *'The Wayanad Resilience Series: Addressing Climate Change Challenges in India'* by Prof. T. Jayaraman, Senior Fellow, Climate Change, MSSRF on 22nd August, 2024.
- 13) Discussion on *"Labour Rights Violations in the Malayalam Cinema Industry: Revelations of the Hema Committee Report and Remedies"* by Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan on 2nd Sept, 2024.
- 14) CDS students Initiative Panel Discussion on *"Policies and Experiences of Disaster Management in Kerala and India"* by Dr. Praveena Kodoth on 5th Sept, 2024.
- 15) One day NRPPD Webinar on *"Palate's Paradox: The Vegetal Agency of a Spice"* by Ms. Anu Krishna, Ph.D, Postdoctoral Fellow at Ruhr, University Bochum, Germany on 6th Sept, 2024.
- 16) Inauguration Programme of Prof K N Raj Memorial Lecture Series at HHMSPB NSS College for Women, titled *"Familialism in Kerala's Social and Welfare Policy- A Historical Critique"* by Prof. J. Devika on 10th Sept, 2024.
- 17) Seminar on the topic *"Ideology and the Indian Rural Economy: What can we learn from K. N. Raj"* by Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan on 27th Sept, 2024.
- 18) CDS students Initiative "The Wayanad Resilience Series"-Fifth session a Documentary Screening and public Discussion titled *"Climate Resilience: Life as Told by Women"* by Bindu Sajan on 4th Oct, 2024.
- 19) CDS students initiative -Panel Discussion titled *"Wayanad Through a Sociological Lens: Community and Change"* by Dr. Anoop Thankachan K and Dr. Najeeb V. R on 8th Oct, 2024.
- 20) Seminar on *"An introduction to Game Theory and some of its applications in economics"* by Dr. Rajit Biswas on 7th Nov, 2024.
- 21) Seminar on *"In the age of Artificial Intelligence and powerful Internet Search Engines do we still need Ph.Ds in the Social Sciences and the Humanities?"* delivered by Professor Rohan D'Souza, Kyoto University, Japan on 15th Nov, 2024.
- 22) Seminar titled *"Determinants of Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Sector: A sector and State Level Analysis"* by Mr. Papaiah Koppula on 25th Nov, 2024.



- 23) Seminar titled *"Has Poverty Declined in India? : Approximation of Rangarajan Committee's Method"* by Mr. Abhinav Surya L. T on 4th Dec, 2024.
- 24) Lecture on the topic *"Aspirations for Higher Education and Student Migration from Kerala"* by Prof. Vinoj Abraham on 5th Dec, 2024.
- 25) Seminar on *"Free Trade Agreements India and the World"* delivered by Dr. V. S. Seshadri, Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group & Former Ambassador, Indian Foreign Service delivered on 8th Nov, 2024.
- 26) One day Prof. M. Kunhaman Memorial Event titled *"Reflections on His Intellectual Legacy"* Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan on 13th Dec, 2024.
- 27) Seminar on the topic *"Unpacking Indian Policy Processes"* by Prof. Suraj Jacob on 16th December, 2025.
- 28) Students initiative Public lecture on *"Thinking Future Kerala: Demographic Transition and Digital Transformation"* delivered by Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy on 03rd Jan, 2025.
- 29) Seminar on *"Who Lends to The Indian State?"* by Dr. Manish Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, IIT Roorkee on 8th Jan, 2025.
- 30) 3rd Birsa Munda Memorial Lecture organised by SC-ST Cell titled *"Unveiling the lives of Tribal Women in Urban Spaces"* delivered by Dr. Gomati Bodra Hembrom, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia University on 10th Jan, 2025.
- 31) Seminar on *"From Protection to Competition: Assessing the Impact of De-reservation on India's MSMEs and Exporting Enterprises"* delivered by Mr. Rahees K A on 9th Jan, 2025.
- 32) Seminar titled *"How does Migration of females affect their labour participation decision? Evidence from a survey in South India"* delivered by Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Prof. Praveena Kodoth and Ms. Mufeeda N, CDS on 28th Feb, 2025.
- 33) Seminar on *"Labour and Production across Technology and Size classes In India's Organized Manufacturing Sector"* delivered by Mr. Abhinav Surya L.T on 7th Mar, 2025.
- 34) Seminar organised by ICC in connection with the International Women's Day celebrations on the topic *"Perspectives on Intersectionality"* by Prof. Ajailiu Nuimai: Sociologist and former Head, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP) from the University of Hyderabad (UoH) and Ms. Shalin Maria Lawrence: Intersectional feminist, author, and a Dalit rights activist on 8th Mar, 2025.
- 35) Seminar on *"The Kerala Maritime Communities Project (KMCP): Brief History, Project Aims, and Initial Results"* by Prof. Thomas F. Tartaron, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA and Prof. P. Sanal Mohan, Former Professor, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam delivered on 14th Mar, 2025.
- 36) One day NRPPD Webinar titled *"Political Economy of Land, Labour and Production in Tea Industry"* by Prof. Vinoj Abraham delivered on 26th Mar, 2025.



Public Lectures/ Memorial Lectures

1. 6th Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture titled "*Democracy and Social Justice: Reading Ambedkar in Our Times*" by Dr. Sambaiah Gundimeda, Associate Professor in the Politics Division at the School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences (SIAS), Krea University delivered on 3rd May, 2024.
2. First Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Public Lecture on "*Multinational Corporations and Technological Change in Host Countries: An Indian Perspective*" to be delivered by Prof. Rakesh Basant, Professor of Economics (Retd.) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad on 23rd August, 2024.
3. 13th Foundation Day public Lecture on "*The Nehru Development Model: History and Its Lasting Impact*" delivered by Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Chairman 16th Finance Commission, Professor of Economics and Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University on 11th Dec, 2024
4. 15th B. G. Kumar Memorial Public Lecture on "*Universal Health Coverage in India: A Continuing Journey*" by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Principal Advisor, NTEP, MoHFW, Govt. of India, Chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai and Former Chief Scientist, WHO on 12th Mar, 2025.
5. 14th Dr P K Gopalakrishnan Memorial Public Lecture titled "*Harnessing the Economic Potential of Indian Cities*" delivered by Dr. Rana Hasan, Regional Lead Economist for South Asia on 24th Mar, 2025.

Workshops/ Training Programmes

During the academic year 2024–25, 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:

One-day Workshop on Fiscal Decentralization

📅 8th April 2024

A one-day workshop on Fiscal Decentralization was held at the Centre, chaired by Shri. K. N. Balagopal, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of Kerala. The session was welcomed by Prof. Veeramani and Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman, CDS. The workshop focused on the challenges and pathways for strengthening fiscal decentralization in India.

CDS PhD Colloquium Workshop – Crossroads 2025

📅 20th – 22nd March 2025

The three-day PhD colloquium brought together research scholars from across the country to present and discuss their work-in-progress. The event provided an engaging platform for academic exchange, mentorship, and interdisciplinary dialogue.

Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development

📅 3rd – 14th November 2024

Organized by the National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD), this two-week training focused on key development issues in the plantation sector, with sessions covering sustainability, labour, trade, and policy frameworks.



ICSSR-SRC Sponsored Capacity Building Programme on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub-plan and Sub-classification

6th – 7th February 2025

This two-day programme focused on the evolution, policy relevance, and implementation of SC/ST Sub-Plans, with particular emphasis on sub-classification and equitable resource allocation.

Workshop on Database on Indian Economy

17th – 23rd February 2025

Coordinated by Prof. Vinoj Abraham, this intensive workshop trained researchers in accessing and analyzing key economic datasets including NSSO, PLFS, ASI, CMIE, NFHS, and IHDS. The workshop covered diverse themes including employment, trade, public finance, inequality, and innovation.

First Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies

13th – 18th March 2025

Organized by the RBI Endowment Unit, this workshop explored advanced topics in open economy macroeconomics, with a focus on integration dynamics and policy challenges in emerging markets.

Workshop on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues

24th – 28th March 2025

Conducted by the International Migration Unit, this workshop offered theoretical and methodological training to researchers studying migration. Sessions included survey design, data analysis, fieldwork, and policy linkages.

Major Events

Workshop on Fiscal Decentralization

The Workshop on Fiscal Decentralization held at CDS on **April 8, 2024**, was evidently a significant gathering of prominent figures in the field of governance, finance, and academia. Prof. C Veeramani, Director, CDS, welcomed the gathering and Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman, CDS chaired the session. Shri. K N Balagopal, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Govt. of Kerala inaugurated the programme. followed by a presentation by Dr. M Parameswaran, CDS. Other notable speakers who addressed the gathering include Shri. K M Chandrasekhar, IAS (Retd), Shri. Rabindra Kumar Agarwal, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Finance, Govt. of Kerala, Prof. Haseeb Drabu, Former Finance Minister, Jammu & Kashmir, Shri. V S Senthil, IAS, (Retd), Shri. R Srinivasan, Planning Board Member, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Prof. Abhay Pethe (online), Former Professor, University of Mumbai, Prof. Kavi Kumar (online), Madras School of Economics, Prof. M A Oommen, Honorary Fellow, CDS, Shri. R Mohan, IES (Retd), Shri. G Vijayaraghavan, IAS (Retd), Prof. K J Joseph, Director, GIFT, Prof. K N Harilal, Former Professor, CDS, Dr. Surajit Das, JNU and Prof. Pinaki Chakraborty



Prof K N Raj Centennial Celebrations

In honour of the birth centenary of Professor K. N. Raj, the visionary founder of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), the Institute organized a series of commemorative events to celebrate his enduring legacy and intellectual contributions. These events reflected Professor Raj's deep impact on economic thought, policy, and institution-building in India, and reaffirmed his relevance in today's rapidly changing world.

The centenary celebrations included four major events:

2-Day National Conference (21–22 October 2024): This academic conference brought together leading economists and scholars to reflect on how Professor Raj's work continues to address contemporary economic challenges. Discussions focused on how modern economic research can draw from his insights and values.

Commemorative Souvenir: A special publication capturing the life, work, and legacy of Professor K. N. Raj, including reflections from colleagues, students, and contemporaries, was released as part of the centenary celebrations.

K. N. Raj Memorial Lectures: A statewide lecture series conducted across colleges and universities in Kerala aimed at introducing younger generations to the ideas and influence of Professor Raj. These lectures served to extend his intellectual legacy beyond CDS and into the wider academic community.

CDS Alumni Meet (19–20 October 2024): Held as part of the centenary observances, the alumni meet brought together CDS alumni from across the globe. It served as a vibrant platform to celebrate the legacy of the Institute and its founder, while also strengthening the CDS alumni network.

The centenary celebrations held from October 19 to October 22, 2024, and began with a grand homecoming of CDS alumni from around the world on October 19 and 20. An alumni association has been formed to strengthen the ties between CDS alumni and the institute. Apart from this, CDS faculty would be delivering K N Raj memorial lectures across different universities and colleges in Kerala.

The conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan on October 20 at 10a.m. CM called for CDS to observe February 10 as **Development Researchers Day** by organising seminars with the participation of experienced and young scholars. The Chief Minister also launched a Souvenir commemorating K.N. Raj's contribution to Indian economic development. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman of CDS and Prof. C. Veeramani, RBI Chair and director of CDS, given the welcome address. The following were also spoken at the session: Prof. V. K. Ramachandran, Vice Chairman of the Kerala State Planning Board; Prof. Ram Singh, Director, DSE, GB member of CDS representing ICSSR, Government of India; Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac, a distinguished CDS alumnus and former Finance Minister of Kerala; and Shri K. M. Chandrasekhar IAS (Retd.), former Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India and former Chairman of CDS. Prof. Beena P L, convener of the conference organising committee delivered the vote of thanks.

After the inauguration, the first extended session (afternoon of Oct 20) had three talks: Prof. Suraj Jacob on Raj's humanist vision and grounded theorising, Prof. K.P. Kannan on Raj's life and times; and Dr. Sanjaya Baru on Raj's work in political economy of governance. Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac, Prof. K. L. Krishna, and Prof. Chiranjib Sen, respectively, were chaired the



sub-session for each talk. The talks were interspersed with reminiscences and reflections from Prof. Mridul Eapen, Prof. M. A. Oommen, Dr. A. V. Jose, and Dr. Rammanohar Reddy. The session concluded with Prof. J. Devika discussing the commemorative Souvenir.

Conference proceedings on the 21st commenced with a session chaired by Prof. Gita Sen and a keynote address by Prof. Pranab Bardhan on the theme of empowering workers in a world of inequality. Prof. Bardhan is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley and has contributed enormously to the understanding of economic development, including many of the themes highlighted by K. N. Raj. Separately, at the end of the 21st, Prof. Bardhan was also discussed his recent autobiography, *Charaiveti: An Academic's Global Journey*, in a session chaired by Prof. Sudipto Mundle.

The remaining academic sessions of the event on the 21st and 22nd featured distinguished economists, scholars, policymakers, and CDS alumni discussing topics closely aligned with Raj's research interests: I) poverty, inequality, welfare, II) Gender and labour market inequalities, III) the rural economy IV), trade, industrialization and growth, V) public finance and macro economy VI) Decentralisation and Governance.

The conference would also feature two important panel discussions:

- On the 21st there was an interactive panel of farmers' representatives and scholars of agricultural economy including Prof. R. Ramakumar, Prof. P. S. Vijayshankar, Ms Aarathi L R, Prof. S. Mohanakumar and Prof. Vinoj Abraham. Smt. Minu Anwar from NABARD was the moderator.
- On the 22nd there was a panel discussing Kerala's development experience and future directions, chaired by Prof. John Kurien and featuring the scholars Prof. P. K. Michael Tharakan, Prof. K. J. Joseph, Prof. K. N. Harilal, Prof. Manjula Bharathy, Dr. K. Ravi Raman, Prof. V. Santhakumar, and Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan.

The Wayanad Resilience Series: Addressing Climate Change Challenges in India

As part of a student-led initiative, the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) launched *The Wayanad Resilience Series: Addressing Climate Change Challenges in India*—a platform of lectures, talks, and discussions commemorating the victims of the Wayanad tragedy and celebrating the resilience of its people in the face of a devastating natural disaster.

The series seeks to foster critical dialogue on climate change, environmental governance, and disaster preparedness, with a focus on the unique challenges faced by regions like Wayanad.

The inaugural talk in the series was held on 12th August at the Joan Robinson Hall, featuring Dr. T.V. Sajeev, Chief Scientist at the Kerala Forest Research Institute. His lecture, titled "*The Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committee Reports: All We Wanted to Know and Forget*," delved into the ecological and policy debates surrounding the Western Ghats and the implications of expert committee recommendations.



The series also featured lectures by several eminent scholars and experts, including:

- Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, Director of the G20 Global Land Initiative at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Prof. T. Jayaraman, Senior Fellow, Climate Change, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)
- Dr. Anoop Thankachan K, Associate Professor, P.G. Department of History, N.M.S.M. Government College, Kalpetta
- Dr. Najeeb V. R., Social Scientist and Research Coordinator, Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Research Centre, Kozhikode

These sessions brought together students, researchers, and the broader academic community to engage with critical environmental issues, contributing to a deeper understanding of resilience, sustainability, and inclusive development in disaster-prone areas.

(III) NETWORKING

(A) PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY IN CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS ELSEWHERE

OUTSIDE INDIA

Devika J

- Presented a paper titled 'Janma-capital and Multiple Effeminisations: Twenty-first century brahmanical patriarchy in Kerala, India' by online at the Kerala Studies Symposium, Annual Conference on South Asia held at Centre for South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison on 30 Oct, 2024.

Suraj Jacob

- Raising Learning Outcomes in Education Systems (RLO) Grantholder Event, 11-13 November 2024, Nairobi (Kenya); organised by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, UK

Thiagu Ranganathan

- 'Mechanisation and Gender: Evidence from Longitudinal Data in Maharashtra, India' (Himansu Sekhar Thapa and Ranganathan, Thiagu (2024)). Presented at the Virtual International Conference "Mechanization of Small-scale Farms in Asia: Current Status, Impacts, and Future Prospects" Hosted by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, Japan on 23-24 April, 2024.

**C. Veeramani**

- Paper presentation titled 'Why is Labor Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India? Role of Trade, Technology and Market Share Reallocation' at the Asian Economic Panel meeting held at Keio University, Japan, 3-4 September 2024
- 'Policy Approaches to Growth and Supply Chain Resilience: India's Integration into GVCs and Lessons from Mobile Phone Manufacturing', Supply Chain Policy Roundtable, EABER (ANU) and CSIS (Indonesia), 29 October 2024, Jakarta
- 'Connectivity and Regional Value Chains', 8th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks, Singapore, 7-8 November 2024
- 'Global Value Chain: A New Paradigm of Agri-food Trade' jointly by BIMSTEC, IFPRI and RIS, Bangkok, 3-4 October 2024
- 'Global Value Chains A New Paradigm of Agri-Food Trade', Capacity Strengthening Program on Agri-Food Trade Policy in Bangladesh, jointly organized by Policy Research Institute and IFPRI, Dhaka 27-28 May 2024

Vinoj Abraham

- Presented the paper "Migrant Workers and Rising Temperatures: Exploring the links between Urbanization and Thermal Justice in Thiruvananthapuram (South India)" at the Conference on Cities and Climate Change: Temperature, Energy and Air Quality for Urban Habitability in South Asia at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS), Kyoto University, Japan, July 10th, 2024.

Amresh Senapati

- Participated and presented a paper titled 'Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India' at the Rethinking Economics Summer School Switzerland 2024 on the 'Back to Utopia: Transforming Labour, Power and Institutions from a Pluralistic Perspective', held from 03-09 August 2024 at the Grand Hotel Chandolin, Chandolin Valais, Switzerland, organised by the Plurale Okonomik Zurich and friends, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

IN INDIA**Beena P L**

- 'Employment and Wage Pattern across Technology and size class categories in India's organised manufacturing sector', Invited speaker - Economics Department of Lady Doke College, Madurai on 21 st February, 2025,



Chandra Shekar K

- Annual Conference on Industrial Transformation, ISID, New Delhi
- Lecture on building in innovation eco system in Kerala at NSS Hindu College, Chenganaserry

J Devika

- 'The Translator's Work in the Twenty-First Century: Some Thoughts', Plenary talk in conference on "Translating the Literatures of Global South: Challenges, Questions and Debates", 18 -- 20 July 2024, Department of English, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar.
- 'Lived Cosmopolitanism : The Life of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma', Plenary talk in the conference Rethinking South Asian Modernities: Trajectories, Contexts and Debates, 27-29 January, 2025, The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad
- 'Healing History, Healing Histories', at the workshop 'Meanings and Mutations of History and Historiography', India International Centre, New Delhi, 5 December 2024, Max Weber, Forum for South Asian Studies, Delhi (MWF Delhi).
- 'Towards An Intersectional Method in Writing the Histories of Subaltern Places', Golden Jubilee Writing Workshop, Dept. of History, University of Hyderabad, 21-22 November, 2024., Dept. of History, School of Social Sciences.
- 'The Difficult Life of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma: Gender and Loneliness and the Unconventional Thinking Life.', Keynote at the conference Tracing Modes of Gendered Thinking: Ideation and Philosophy from the Global South, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 4-6 December, 2024, Dept. of Political Science, BHU; ICSSR, Journal of the History of Women Philosophers.
- 'Revisiting the Tragic and Triumphant Life of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma', Hridayakumari Endowment Lecture, 19 March 2025, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 'Recovering Malayali Feminist Thought from Malayalam Literature: Some Reflections', Bhasha Literatures and the Conceptual Imagination : An Exploratory Workshop, 20-21 March, 2025, KREA University, AP.
- 'Familialism in Kerala' Social and Welfare Policy: A Historical Critique', The First K N Raj Memorial Lecture, 10 Sept. 2024, NSS College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram.

Gogol Mitra Thakur

- Invited seminar presentation on 'Short-run Impacts of Floods: Case study from India' organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Science, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati on 22nd May 2024



Hrushikesh Mallick

- A Fresh Investigation on the Issue of Fiscal Policy Sustainability in Kerala, Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI), 22-23 Oct 2024.

Praveena Kodoth

- 'The Indian care regime through the lens of migrant labour at a Convening on the Indian care debates: taking stock, reimagining work, rights and social reproduction', Feb 20-21, 2025, at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bangalore
- 'They are not like us': Defining the exclusion of migrant labour in Kerala', session at Government Arts and Science college, Kozhikode, on February 16, 2025, as part of a Three-Day International Literature Festival on the theme of "Shadows of Survival: Words Confronting Trauma" on February 14, 15 and 16
- Conducted a session on Gender and Migration at the second learning workshop on Migration, Informality and Development, on March 6, jointly organised by Work Fair and Free (WFF), Aajeevika Bureau, and the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) from 3rd to 7th March 2025 in Bangalore.
- Special lecture on 'Performing Protection: Governance of women's migration as domestic workers to the Middle East', on March 13, 2025, at Mar Thoma College, Tiruvalla, Post Graduate and Research Department of English, In Association with Department of Malayalam, Borders, Belonging, and Beyond: Exploring Mobility and Migration in Literature and Media
- 'Gender politics, state policies and women's labour migration from south India to the Middle East' paper presented at a symposium on The Future of Migration: Issues and Challenges, 13th-14th November | 10:00h IST Conference Hall, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad
- Refresher course: 'Women's labour migration to the Middle East', Refresher course, UGC, MMTTC, University of Kerala, Dec 11, 2024

Ritika Jain

- Conducted a two day international workshop for the inception of the UNCCD CDS project on land restoration (Jan 1st and Jan 2nd)

Suraj Jacob

- June 13, 2024, One-Day Workshop on Designing Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes, Loyola College, Trivandrum
- June 24 - 25, 2024, Seminar on Rights and Justice in Disaster Recovery, Loyola College, Trivandrum
- July 20, 2024: talk at Monsoon School on Inequality 2024 (Intersectionality, Inequality, and Fraternity: India's Experience); organised by INET, CDS, Economiga, and Young Scholars Initiative
- August 11, 2024, Seminar on Own Resource Mobilisation for Panchayats,



Rayamangalam Grama Panchayat (Ernakulam)

- October 10, 2024, Coordinator for Springer Nature India Research Tour @ CDS
- December 3, 2024, talk at MG University, Kottayam ('Development' Beyond Welfare)
- December 11, 2024, talk at Workshop on Qualitative Research in Social Science ('Foundations of Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences'), University of Kerala
- December 16, 2024, K N Raj Memorial Lecture, CUSAT, Ernakulam (Unpacking Indian Policy Processes)
- December 20, 2024, talk at seminar on 'Enhancing Quality of Life: Contributions of Dr. K. N. Raj to Governance and Development of Kerala' at the C. Achutha Menon Foundation
- January 3, 2025, participated in Inception Workshop on Country Systems Analysis for Land Restoration Project, organised by G20 Global Land Initiative of UNCCD
- January 14, 2025, talk at seminar on 'Language and Culture in a Changing Society: Kerala's School Education System' organised by Vakkom Moulvi Foundation Trust, TISS, and CDS (Reading proficiency in lower primary education in Kerala – findings from ASER)
- January 27, 2025, K N Raj Memorial Lecture, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam (Economic Wellbeing through the Vortex of State & Market)
- February 7, 2025, chair of session at capacity building programme on 'Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub-plan and Sub-classification', organised by ICSSR and CDS
- March 11, 2025, session chair at conference on Kerala and the World Economy @ CDS
- March 18, 2025: Workshop on Governance and Social Change in India's Small Towns and Urban Peripheries (IIC, Delhi); organised by the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania
- March 20, 2025, talk at Crossroads CDS PhD Colloquium (Beyond the Buzzword: What Really is Policy?) @ CDS
- March 21, 2025, session chair at GIFT conference on Rethinking Public Finance for Emerging Development Challenges
- March 22, 2025, discussant and session chair at Crossroads CDS PhD Colloquium @ CDS

Thiagu Ranganathan

- Ranganathan, Thiagu, Chatterjee, Tirtha, and Kodoth, Praveena (2025). Employment Dynamics and Contingent Aspirations among Higher Educated Mothers in Kerala. Presented at the Kerala and World Economy Conference held in CDS from 10th -11th March, 2025
- Ranganathan, Thiagu (2024). Climbing Up, Sliding Down: Social Mobility among Dalits in Tamil Nadu. Presented at Seminar on Inequalities and Mobilities in Rural India: Recent Trends & Methodologies Challenges. Held CSH, New Delhi held on 25th – 26th November 2024.
- 'Ideology and the Indian Rural Economy: What can we learn from K. N. Raj?', 2nd KN Raj Memorial Lecture at Government Arts and Science College, Kozhikode, September 27, 2024



C. Veeramani

- 5th Review Meeting - Make in India & Atal Innovation Mission by ICSSR on 3rd April 2024
- Chintan Shivir Organised by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India at Kolkata on 26th April 2024
- Meeting for a Comprehensive Review of the RBI Professorial Chairs and Corpus Fund Scheme at Lonavala on 30th April 2024
- Meeting at RBI 20th June 2024
- Participated as a resource person on “Global Value Chain: A new paradigm of agri-food trade” at the two-day ‘Capacity Strengthening Program on Agricultural Trade Policy Analysis’ at Dhaka, Bangladesh from June 26 to 27, 2024 organised by Policy Research Institute (PRI) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Chaired a seminar on “Horizontal Devolution: The Tyranny of Income Distance” at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Trivandrum on 8th July 2024
- Invited to PhD Presentations at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics on 9th July 2024
- Policy brief presentation at an interactive session of eminent economists with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the theme "An Agenda to Accelerate Growth and Employment Across Regions & Sectors" On 11th July, 2024
- Invited to Budget Discussion at Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) at Kochi on 24th July, 2024
- Assessing the impact of agri-global value chain participation on production diversification: A forensic analysis at the International Conference of Agricultural Economists in New Delhi, India on August 6, 2024.
- Invited to Southern Regional conference of the 16th Finance Commission as an expert to State of Kerala “Funding Disaster Management and Other Issues: Kerala Perspective” at IIM Visakhapatnam on 12th August 2024
- Invited to a meeting of the study group created for preparing reports on various topics to be included in the memorandum to the 16th Finance Commission with Hon'ble finance Minister, Govt. of Kerala on 19th August 2024
- Invited to a lecture at Institute of Management Kerala as a Chair for the Technical Session “Globalisation & Climate Change” at Karyavattom Campus, University of Kerala on 23rd August, 2024
- ELI Committee meeting of the EXIM Bank on 27th August, 2024
- Attended a lecture series at ISID New Delhi on 6th September, 2024
- Attended 16th Finance Commission Drafting Committee meeting at Kerala Financial Corporation organised by the Govt. of Kerala on 11th September 2024
- Invited to one-day conclave of Chief Ministers, Finance Ministers, Finance Secretaries and eminent Economists to discuss the issues before the 16th Finance Commission including challenges to fiscal federalism organised by the Govt. of Kerala on 12th September 2024
- Attended a meeting as a member of the External Peer Review Committee for the Department of Economic Sciences, IISER Bhopal on 17th September, 2024
- Attended 3rd Kautilya Economic Conclave and presented a paper on “Industrial Policy in the Era of Global Value Chains” on 4 – 6 October 2024, New Delhi
- Attended a meeting of the Survey of Economic Impact Review Committee (SEIRC) to study the Economic Impact of DRDO on 15th October, 2024
- Organised K N Raj Centennial Celebration at CDS during 20-22 October, 2024



- Delivered Prof. K K Subrahmanian Memorial Lecture 2024. Topic: Industry Policy in an Era of Global Value Chains” at St. Aloysius College, Thrissur on 25th October 2024
- Invited to 8th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks, and presented a paper on “Connectivity and Regional Value Chains” at Singapore on 7-8 November 2024
- Invited to a meeting of the Board of Studies in Economics, Goa Business School, Goa University on 15th November 2025
- Invited to Second National Conference on India’s Industrial Transformation and presented a paper on “Policy Approaches to Harness the Potential of FDI, Trade, and Supply Chain Restructuring” organised by ISID New Delhi during 21-23 November, 2024
- Invited to IEG Symposium on Towards a Resilient Economy and presented a paper on Global Value Chains at Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), 6-7 December, 2024
- Invited to Pre-Budget session with the Hon’ble Finance Minister of India organised by the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India at New Delhi on 6th December, 2024
- Invited to a meeting organised by the Govt. of Kerala with Chairman, 16th Finance Commission, Chief Minister, Finance Minister of Kerala and other ministers, officers in connection with Finance commission team visit to the State Government on 10th December 2024
- Invited to Global Economic Policy Forum organised by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and presented a paper on “Crafting Synergies: Industrial, Investment, and Trade Policies for India in the GVC Era” at New Delhi on 11-12 December, 2024
- Invited to Faculty Induction Programme as a Resource Person organised by UGC Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Central University of South Bihar, Gaya, Bihar on 14th December, 2024
- Attended Research Institute’s RIC Meeting at ICSSR, New Delhi on 17th December, 2024
- Invited to Policy Roundtable on Inclusive Agricultural Transformation, jointly organized by Department of Agriculture and Farmers’ Empowerment (DAFE), Government of Odisha (GoO) and IFPRI, Bhubaneshwar and presented a paper on “Global Value Chains: A New Paradigm of Agri-Food Trade” at Bhubaneshwar on 20 December 2024
- Invited to John Matthai Memorial Lecture and National Conference and presented a paper on “Why is Labour Receiving a Declining share of Income in India? Role of Trade, Technology, and Market Share Reallocation” at the John Matthai Centre, University of Calicut, Thrissur on 9th January 2025
- Invited to a meeting as a member of the Advisory Committee for the scheme Special Call for Collaborative Research Projects on Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 under the theme Economic Prosperity and Inclusive Social Development organised by ICSSR, New Delhi on 13 January 2025
- Invited to International Conference on Globalization & Sustainable Development and presented a paper on “Global Value Chains and Modern Industrial Policy: A Pathway to Growth, Jobs, and Economic Resilience” at the Department of Economics & Politics, Visva-Bharati (A Central University) at Santiniketan, Kolkata during 20-21 January 2025
- Invited to inaugurate Two-day national conference on Public Policy and Development and deliver K N Raj Memorial Lecture at Nirmalagiri College, Kannur on 23rd January 2025
- Invited as Chief Guest for the convocation ceremony of Post Graduate Programme at Nehru Arts and Science College, Kanhangad, Kasaragod on 7th February 2025.
- First Development Researchers Day at CDS and presented a paper on “Industrial Policy in the Era of Global Value Chains” on 10th February 2025.



- Invited to a webinar on “Budget 2025: New Initiatives to Drive Growth” organised by Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (Iibf) on 10th February 2025
- Attended EXIM Bank Quarterly meeting of forecasting India's Export on 12th February 2025
- Invited to deliver Prof C Z Scaria Memorial Lecture 2024-25 at the Department of Economics, St. Berchmans College, Changanassery on 28th February 2025
- Invited to EGROW Webinar, Egrow Foundation, and delivered a lecture on “Tariff walls and India” on 7th March 2025.
- Presented a paper on “Emerging Issues in International Trade” at the Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies” RBI Endowment Unit, CDS, on 16th March 2025
- Invited to Trade and Environment Conference 2025, Department of Economics, Shiv Nadar University, New Delhi and presented a paper on “Do Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?” on 21-22 March 2025.

Vinoj Abraham

- Keynote address “Youth Unemployment and Aspirations” on the theme of youth unemployment in India in the international conference “ *The Elephant in the Room: Generating Jobs and Imparting Skills for the Future: In the Context of India’s Labour Market*’ organised by Centre for Public Policy and Governance, Goa Institute of Management, Goa during 13th and 14th June 2024
- Presented the paper “Migration of females and their labor participation: Evidence from a large-scale survey in Kerala and Tamil Nadu” at the International Conference on Enabling Sustained Growth in Emerging Asia (ESGEA), 7-8 February 2025 at the University of Hyderabad, India
- Special lecture on “Labour and Employment in Tea Plantations in India” in the national conference on “*200 Years of Tea Plantation Economy in Assam: Problems & Prospects*” organised by Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, during 24-26th June 2024
- Presented the paper “Structural Changes and Rural Non-farm Sector: A State level Analysis” at the *Workshop on Agro-ecological Approaches for Just Transitions: An Indian Lens*, organised by by Nation for Farmers, Delhi Science Forum, Sustainable India Trust, Gene Campaign, FGS, PEACE during December 12-14, at 2024, USO House, USO Marg, 6, Special Institutional Area, New Delhi-67
- Presented the paper “Can Migration affect female labour participation decision? Evidence from Kerala and Tamil Nadu” at the 65th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru 9-11 January 2025.



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

Amresh Senapati

- Presented a paper titled 'On Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India' at the 16th Doctoral Thesis Conference, held from 09–10 May 2024 at Indian Business School (IBS), Hyderabad.
- Participated and presented a paper titled 'Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India' in the PhD Doctoral Colloquium held from 13–15 September 2024 at Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai.
- Participated in the IEG Winter School on Causal Inference and presented a research poster titled "The Relationship between Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India" in a Symposium titled "Towards a Resilient Society", organized by the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi, India, held from 24th November-07th December 2024.
- Presented a paper titled 'The Relationship between Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India' at the INET-YSI South Asia Regional Conference on Social Change, held from 24–27 February 2025 at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru.
- Participated in the 5-Day IDSJ Capacity-Building Workshop on 'Dealing with Large Scale Data', organized by the IDS Jaipur, India, held from 3-7 March 2025 at Institute for Development Studies, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Ashraful Khalq

- 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 March 19–21, 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), on March 10–11, 2025.

Ayana Krishna

- Presented a paper titled 'Save Alappad' Movement: An analysis of the Nuanced Perspectives', Tenth Annual Conference by Oral History Association of India 2025 on 'Coastal Histories: Stories of Resistance & Resilience', 24 - 26 January 2025

Basit Abdullah

- Presented a paper titled 'Non-Agricultural Self-Employment and Structural Transformation in India: An Analysis of Earnings Determination', Second National



Conference on Industrial Development, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, 21–23 November 2024

- 'Non-Agricultural Self-Employment and Structural Transformation in India' (Poster Presentation), 19th International Conference on Public Policy and Management, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore, 27–29 August 2024

Pawan Kumar

- Presented a paper titled "Impact of Climate Change on the Horticultural Sector in Himachal Pradesh" in a seminar "Climate Change and Food Security" organised by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS-JNU), Kerala, on 31st July 2024
- Presented a paper titled "Market Dynamics of Walnut in Jammu and Kashmir" in the "84th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE)" held at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute (PAJANCOA & RI), Karaikal, Puducherry, from 11th to 13th November 2024.
- Presented a paper Titled "Navigating Climate Change: The Dynamic Role of Technological Innovation, Green Finance, and Institutional Quality in the Asia-Pacific Region" in the "59th annual conference of the Indian Econometric Society (TIES) " held at the Department of Economics, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, from 3rd to 5th March 2025.
- Participated in "Monsoon School On Inequality 2024" Organised by the Centre for Development Studies, Economiga, the Institute for New Economic Thinking, and its Young Scholars Initiative, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, from 20th to 22nd July 2024
- Participated in a three-day workshop on "Environmental and Climate Data Analysis Using R" Organised by the Department of Geography, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, from 23rd to 25th September 2024.
- Participated in a seven-day workshop on "Database on Indian Economy" Organised by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS-JNU), Trivandrum, Kerala, India, from 17th to 23rd February 2025.

Rajalaxmi Singh

- Participated and presented a paper titled "Parental Perception of Children's Learning Abilities and School-Based Involvement: Evidence from Rural India" at the Advanced Graduate Workshop (8th–20th July 2024) held at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, organized by Azim Premji University, Bengaluru and the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET)
- Presented paper titled "Can parents make a difference? Parental Involvement and Learning Outcomes of Children in India" in the International Seminar- Reimagining Education: Philosophical Perspectives on Contemporary Education (28th November, 2024) held at India International Centre, New Delhi, organised by Centre for Policy Research and Governance (CPRG) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)
- Presented paper titled "Parents' perception of children's learning abilities and school-based involvement: Evidence from an experimental survey of low-achieving learners in



Uttar Pradesh” in the International Conference on Social Identities, Institutions, and Economic Development in South Asia (17th-18th January, 2025), held at Azim Premji University, Bhopal, organised by Azim Premji University, Bhopal and INET-YSI

- Presented paper titled “Parents’ perception of children’s learning abilities and school-based involvement: Evidence from an experimental survey in low-achieving learners in Uttar Pradesh, India” in the 8th SANEM Annual Economists’ Conference, Bangladesh (21st -23rd February, 2025)

Participation by Honorary Fellows

Outside India

Sunil Mani

- Enhancing solar photovoltaic technology in India: limits to domestic industrial policy in a Globalised world, Department of Global Economics and Management, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, January 14, 2025
- Driving Change: Government Strategies and Technological Innovations in India’s Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Sector, UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, The Netherlands, February 20, 2025

National

Sunil Mani

- Presented a paper at the K N Raj Centennial Conference at Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, October 22, 2025
- Lecture on ‘R&D Funding in India’, Training programme, Graduate Certificate Course in Public Policy, Takshashila Institute, Bangalore, February 8, 2025 (online)
- Lecture on ‘Economic Implications of high skilled migration from India’, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, March 26, 2025 (online)

M A Oommen

- Presented a paper ‘Rewards, Performance and Penalties: Revisiting the Intergovernmental Transfer System Drawing Lessons from the State of Kerala’ at the Seminar on the 16th Finance Commission and the Indian states: A focus on Kerala on 18/10/2024.
- International Conference on “Rethinking Public Finance for the Emerging Development Challenges” organized by GIFT and MSE in partnership with Thapar University Patiala, Fiscal Policy Institute, Bangalore, KEA, and the ICSSR from 18 to 21 March 2025.



(D) SERVICES TO ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

(a) REPRESENTATION IN COMMITTEES/ TASK FORCES/ ADVISORY BODIES

Abhilash T

- Chair SC/ST Cell, CDS
- Member, Committee to formulate guidelines for consultancy and training programmes
- Member, PhD Advisory Committee
- Member, Library Committee

Beena P L

- Chairperson, IT Committee, CDS
- Member, Committee to formulate guidelines for consultancy and training programmes
- Member, Staff Council
- Member, Faculty Committee
- Member of Executive committee of Kerala Economic Association

Chidambaran G Iyer

- Doctoral committee member for Mr.Jibin J.K., PhD scholar at the Humanities and Social Sciences department, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Refereed paper for the Economic and Political Weekly
- Refereed paper for the Indian Growth and Development Review
- Refereed paper for the Journal of Social and Economic Development
- Refereed paper for the Vision: The Journal of Business Perspective
- Team member in CDS study team on “evaluation of the economic impact of DRDO’s research” led by Prof. Sunil Mani. Worked on computing defence R&D from 2014 till 2024 for the study proposal.
- For Kerala Urban Policy Commission's study on ‘Growth Drivers for Urbanization in Kerala’, worked on the possibility of leading a sub-study on growth drivers and analysis on a) Knowledge-based Economy, b) Startup Ecosystem, and Skill Development in Kerala.
- Guided Ms Elsa Jose, MA Economics, St. Thomas College, Pala, through her one-month internship on ‘Using technology to reduce cost: Mapping few efforts of Kochi Metro.’
- Guided Mr Sonu Udayan, MA, Economics, University College, Trivandrum, through his internship work on ‘Emerald evolution in oil and gas elevating environmental excellence through green technology impact.’
- Member of Institutional Academic Integrity Panel, CDS
- Member of Campus Management Committee, CDS
- Member of Advisory Committee to the Research Programme on International Migration from Kerala, CDS

**J Devika**

- Member of CDS Governing Body
- Chair of Internal Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment (till Jan 2025)
- PhD coursework Coordinator,
- Chairperson of Campus Committee,
- Member of Staff Welfare Fund Committee, CDS.

Gogol Mitra Thakur

- Chair of the Logistics and Daily Operations Committee for the Training Programme Unit
- Member of the Steering Committee of the Training Programme Unit

Hrushikesh Mallick

- Nominated to attend 16th Finance Commission Conference for Southern Indian States in Kerala, Organized at Indian Residency by GOK on 12th Sept 2024.

M. Parameswaran

- Chairman, Sub-committee for SNA 2025 update constituted by the National Account Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- PhD Advisory Committee Coordinator
- Academic Programme Committee Convener
- Hostel Warden
- Cafeteria Management Committee Chairperson.

Praveena Kodoth

- Member, CDS Governing Body
- Member, Faculty Committee
- Member, Finance Committee/ Investment Committee
- Chairperson, Internal Complaints Committee
- Chairperson, Guest House Management Committee
- Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC)

Rajit Biswas

- AT Madras School of Economics for PhD students and also evaluator for MA dissertations at MSE
- Reviewed journal articles at Journal of Economics and International Journal of economic Theory
- Convener, Academic Committee
- Seminar Coordinator, CDS
- Member, Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee



Ritika Jain

- Member of the Committee of Academic Futures
- Associate coordinator of Ph.D. programme (coursework)
- Convener of the steering committee of TPU
- Member of the infrastructure committee of TPU
- Chairperson of the Library Committee
- PR and social media Committee
- Member of the ICC Committee
- Warden of the CDS hostel

Suraj Jacob

- Board Trustee, Seva Mandir, Udaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.sevamandir.org/>)
- 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
- Joint Coordinator, K N Raj Centenary event (Oct, 2024)
- Joint Coordinator, PhD Colloquium (Mar, 2025)
- Coordinator for developing research project on Unlocking Regional Potential (including write-up and presentation for Niti Aayog)
- (voluntary role) organising regular interactions & reading groups of PhD scholars & faculty members

Thiagu Ranganathan

- MA Coordinator
- Member, SC/ST Cell
- Member, Staff Committee
- Member, Committee of Academic Futures

C. Veeramani

- Member, “RBI’s Empowered Committee on External Commercial Borrowings and Overseas Direct Investments”, January 2018 - onwards
- Invited participant at the “Pre-Budget Consultation Meetings with the Hon’ble Finance Minister of India”, December 6, 2024
- Member, Memorandum Drafting Committee of the Govt. of Kerala to the Sixteenth Finance Commission, 2024
- Invited participant at the “Pre-Budget Consultation Meetings with the Hon’ble Finance Minister of Kerala”, 2024
- Contributed to a policy note for the Government of Kerala on the announcement of schemes for “Global Capability Centers” (GCCs), as outlined in the 2025–26 Budget Speech. The note informed strategic directions and program design for enhancing Kerala’s role in the global knowledge services sector., 2024
- Chair, Study Group on “E-Governance” constituted by the Hon’ble Finance Minister of Kerala for the preparation of the State’s Memorandum to the 16th Finance Commission. Led the drafting of the thematic report providing policy



recommendations to strengthen digital governance and public service delivery 2024.

Vinoj Abraham

- Member, Board of Studies, Dept. of Economics, St. Thomas College, Palai, 2024
- Coordinator, National Workshop on Plantation and Development at CDS, 4th-13th November 2024
- Coordinator, National Workshop on Database on Indian Economy, 2025 February 17th to 23rd 2025, at CDS funded by ICSSR
- 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

Honorary Fellow

Sunil Mani

- Continued as the vice chair of the International Advisory Committee of the Centre for Science Technology Innovation Indicators, Human Sciences Research Council, Republic of South Africa
 - Journal Refereeing
 - Research Policy, Elsevier
 - Space Policy, Elsevier
 - Asian Journal of Technology Innovation, Taylor and Francis
 - Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Springer
 - Economic and Political Weekly
 - a. Evaluating a PhD thesis of IIT- Roorkee
 - b. Member of the faculty selection board of the School of Public Policy, IIT-Delhi: Selection meeting on April 16, 2025

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

Chandra Shekar K

- Conducted Kerala and World Economy Conference
- Indian Industry Data Handling: Conducted training on NSSO, ASI, and Prowess databases during the Workshop on Database on Indian Economy, Centre for Development Studies, 19 February 2025.
- Invited Lecture: Delivered a talk on Building a Holistic Innovation Ecosystem in Kerala at the seminar on Entrepreneurship Development in Kerala: Prospects and Challenges, NSS Hindu College, Changanassery, 10 February 2025.
- Conference Presentation: Presented a paper on Digitalisation, Financial Inclusion and Firm Performance at the Second National Conference on India's Industrial Transformation: Towards Competitive, Inclusive and Sustainable Manufacturing



(SWETCOR), Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, 21–23 November 2024.

- Discussant at the International Conference on Rethinking Public Finance for Emerging Development Challenges, jointly organized by the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) and the Madras School of Economics (MSE), 18–21 March 2025.

Chidambaran G. Iyer

- Iyer, C.G. “Coffee sector in India: A study of few selected issues” presented in Research Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development on 6 Nov 2024 at CDS
- Iyer, C.G. “Technology, Research and Development” in the CDS Workshop on Database on Indian Economy on 19 Feb 2025 at CDS.

Devika J

- Presented a paper titled “Textual Sources in the Study of Migration”, Workshop on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues, 24 -28 March, 2025.

Gogol Mitra Thakur

- Presented a paper titled on ‘Short-run Impacts of Floods: Case study from India’ in 2025 Kerala and the World Economy Conference held in March 2025

Praveena Kodoth

- Presented a paper with Thiagu Ranganathan and Tirtha Chatterjee at the KIWE seminar, CDS, March 11
- Part of a panel on international migration at the KIWE seminar on March 10

Ritika Jain

- Taught few sessions in various training programmes in the Centre

Suraj Jacob

- July 7, 2024, discussant at book talk by Rukmini S. @ CDS
- August 14, 2024, Moderator of event in Wayanad Resilience Series @ CDS
- August 21, 2024, Chair of seminar by Jayseelan Raj @ CDS
- October 4, 2024, Moderator of event in Wayanad Resilience Series @ CDS
- November 6-8, 2024, Workshop on Qualitative Research @ CDS (sessions on Student Presentations; Coding, thematic analysis and transcription; Introduction to Participatory Research Methods; Research writing)



- February 10, 2025, Coordinated Development Researchers Day event @ CDS

Thiagu Ranganathan

- Reviewed for the journals, Journal of Quantitative Economics, Economic and Political Weekly, IIMB Management review, Women's studies international forum
- Organised and Chaired the 6th Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture Democracy and Social Justice: Reading Ambedkar in our Times by Dr. Sambaiah Gundimeda, Krea University held on May 3, 2024.
- PhD Colloquium – participated as a discussant and a chair

C. Veeramani

- Organised K N Raj Centennial Celebration at CDS during 20-22 October, 2024
- First Development Researchers Day at CDS and presented a paper on “Industrial Policy in the Era of Global Value Chains” on 10th February 2025.
- Presented a paper on “Emerging Issues in International Trade” at the Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies” RBI Endowment Unit, CDS, on 16th March 2025
- Chairperson of various programmes conducted in the Centre

Vinoj Abraham

- Open Seminar at CDS on the topic “What ails the Rubber Producer Societies of Kerala? An Institutional Exploration, April 12th Friday, 2024
- Open Seminar at CDS on the topic “Do farmers benefit from joining producer collectives? The case of rubber growers in Kerala” May 10th Friday, 2024
- Open Seminar at CDS on the topic “Can Migration affect female labour participation decision? Evidence from Kerala and Tamil Nadu”, March 28th 2025

(c) AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Dr. Ritika Jain Receives the Award for Performing Assistant Professor

Dr. Ritika Jain has been awarded a cash prize of ₹50,000/- for being the Best Performing Assistant Professor in terms of publications during the biennium 2021–2023. The award was presented during the CDS Foundation Day Lecture, held on 11th December 2024 at 3:00 PM, by **Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Chairperson, Finance Commission of India.**



4

TEACHING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

(a) DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN ECONOMICS

The Doctoral Programme at the Centre allows scholars to register under either JNU or the University of Kerala. Of the **270** scholars who were admitted during 1975-2024, **125** scholars have been awarded PhD Degree: 116 from JNU and 9 from KU. 35 scholars discontinued from the programme and others are in different stages of their doctoral research. 6 theses are under evaluation.

Overview of the Year

2024 admission:

PhD Programme:

12 students joined the PhD Programme in 2024.

As on 31st March 2025, six theses are under evaluation at JNU:

- *Credit Availability and the Performance of MSMEs in India*
VIDYARANI K., 2018-2024, UGC Fellowship
Supervisor: Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick
- *Analysing Public Private Partnerships In Indian Infrastructure Sector*
PAPAIAH KOPPULA, 2018-2024, UGC Fellowship
Supervisors: Dr. Ritika Jain & Prof. Vinoj Abraham
- *Caste and Economic Mobility in India:
With Special Reference to Kerala and Tamil Nadu*
LIBITHA C., 2014-2024, GoK Fellowship
Supervisor: Prof. Vinoj Abraham
- *Agricultural Insurance and Farmer's Behaviour: An Analysis from Behavioural Economics Perspective*
BINOD KUMAR BEHERA, 2019-2024, UGC Fellowship
Supervisors: Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick & Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan



- *An Assessment of Energy Poverty in India: Dimensions and Correlates*
KRISHAN, 2017-2024, UGC Fellowship
Supervisors: Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick & Prof. U. S. Mishra
- *Analysis of Non-Farm Self-Employment in the context of Economic Development in India*
BASIT ABDULLAH, 2020-2025, UGC Fellowship
Supervisors: Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Dr. Ritika Jain

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

- *Interstate Labour Migration in India: A Comparative Study of Gujarat and Kerala*
MADHUSUDAN NAG, 2016
Supervisors: Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick & Prof. (Retd) S. Irudaya Rajan

The world we currently live in is commonly referred to as the "era of migration", highlighting the prevalence and significance of global migration. Within this context, internal migration outweighs international migration significantly. Further, historically, internal labour migration has held a crucial role in facilitating the transformation of economies by enabling the efficient distribution of labour to sectors and regions. India, as the world's most populous country experiencing rapid urbanisation, labour mobility, particularly towards urban areas, is expected to increase. However, the interplay between national and regional perspectives, influenced by competitive federalism coupled with rising nativist politics, poses challenges to migrant workers' constitutional rights.

This comparative study examines interstate labour migration in urban areas of India, focusing on Gujarat and Kerala. The thesis concerns the destination perspective of labour migration. Drawing on literature pertaining to urbanisation, informal vulnerability, precariousness of migrant labour, and subnational governance, this study explores the destination perspective of labour migration. The thesis adopts a mixed-method approach, with its core based on extensive fieldwork of migrant workers in Surat (Gujarat) and Kochi (Kerala). The major secondary data source of the study includes the Census of India and NSSO. The research questions revolve around trends and patterns of labour migration, the influence of destination attributes on migrant choices, the extent of economic and civic integration at the destination, and the experiences and perceptions of migrant workers before and during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The findings reveal that Gujarat and Kerala experience significant interstate labour migration, albeit with distinct patterns. Kerala has seen a notable increase in migration since the early 2000s, driven by declining working-age population, urbanisation, and growth in the construction sector. Gujarat remains a prominent destination for migrants, fuelled by its sizeable informal sector manufacturing units, construction activities, and high urbanisation. Migration patterns align with the urbanisation patterns of the respective states, with Kerala migrants dispersed across urban agglomerations, while migrants in Gujarat concentrate in large urban centres like Surat and Ahmedabad.

The study further investigates the factors influencing destination choices among migrants. By utilising the Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) method and qualitative data, the study



found that labour market prospects, including job availability and wage rates, emerge as crucial attributes attracting migrants to Surat (Gujarat) and Kochi (Kerala). Specifically, we found migrants in Kochi are primarily enticed by wage rates, while migrants in Surat are influenced mainly by job availability and ease of finding employment. The presence of social networks also plays a significant role in the decision-making process. Additionally, migrants' personal and group identities, such as language, education, caste, and religion, shape their choices.

Regarding integration at the destination, a multilinear regression model and qualitative data analysis demonstrate that a longer duration of residency in Surat and Kochi leads to higher levels of integration for migrant labourers. While Surat exhibits greater civic integration, Kochi demonstrates stronger economic integration. However, the integration process is influenced by personal characteristics, group identity, and local dynamics. Migrants in Kochi face challenges in civic integration due to language and cultural barriers, while labour union opposition affects job opportunities. In Surat, migrants belonging to minority religious groups encounter difficulties accessing suitable employment, affecting their economic integration.

The experiences and perceptions of migrant workers before and during the COVID-19 lockdown are also examined. The study finds that both cities present challenges for migrants in integrating into the local community. However, a paradoxical observation arises, with more migrant workers in Kochi expressing a sense of outsider feeling despite intending to work in Kerala for a longer duration. In contrast, migrants in Surat do not perceive themselves as outsiders but report a low desire to work in the city long-term due to unfavourable working conditions and low wages.

The study also reveals negative changes in working and living conditions for migrants during the COVID-19 lockdown. Migrants in Surat experienced a decline in wage rates, increased encounters with the police, and worsening living conditions. In contrast, migrants in Kochi witnessed improved wage rates, better interactions with the police, and relatively better living conditions. However, overall, the support provided by the destination locations during the pandemic was deemed insufficient by the migrants.

Overall, this study provides valuable insights into the dynamics of interstate labour migration in India, particularly in the context of Gujarat and Kerala. It sheds light on the factors influencing migrant choices, their integration experiences, and the challenges they face before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings contribute to the literature on labour migration and provide important implications for policy and decision-making to enhance migrants' welfare and integration in destination regions.

Keywords: Interstate Labour Migration, Migrants Integration, Destination Choice, Urbanisation and Informal Sector, Gujarat, Kerala and India.

- Essays on Multidimensional Poverty: Sequential Ordering, District-Level Measures and Spatial Association

VAIDIK CHAKRABORTY, 2019

Supervisors: Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick & Prof. (Retd) S. Irudaya Rajan

This thesis is dedicated to make a distinction between dimensions of poverty, based on their importance to society. We develop an ordering based on their importance to human life and



survival. We follow this with developing a deprivation model for the ordered dimensions of poverty, based on ordered 'intersectionality', to categorize households based on their 'intensity of deprivation'. We capture the outcomes of deprivation on a 'headcount'-based system of measurement, developed exclusively for the thesis. To check the robustness of the measure, we test our measure with the *Axioms* of the Sen-Foster framework (Foster, 2006). Finally, we calculate the improvements in terms of level-sensitive headcounts at the district-level, from 2015 to 2019 and spatially, with the local Moran's I statistic and local indicator for spatial autocorrelation (LISA), we try to locate these clusters of high-improvements (or, low-improvements/deteriorations) at the district-level, to identify regional 'hotspots' (or, 'cold-spots', respectively) vis-à-vis indicating responsive policy actions or, complementing spillover effects.

In Chapter 2, we distinguish the different dimensions of welfare and their prevalence among different societies, based on their scale of development. Here, we have gone ahead with the binary categorization of economies, as 'developing' or, 'developed'. Based on this categorization, we predicate a duality order for a welfare dimension. Thus, leading to the assumption of incompleteness in the ordering of welfare dimensions. Hence, we develop an *Axiom of Strict Partial Ordering of Deprivations in Welfare Dimensions (P)*. Based on this axiom, for a monotonically increasing deprivation function, we find a single solution for a partially ordered set from the 'core' to 'peripheral' dimensions, for all 'developing' and 'developed' economies. Among other things, the proof of this axiom, entails an important assumption of 'welfare satiation', among the 'core' dimensions of the 'developed economies'. However, from the Godel's Incompleteness Theorems, there arises a deterministic error in our axiomatic framework, when discerning the dimensions from within the system from 'core' to 'peripheral', in that order. Thus, making the determinations of the dimensions in order of 'core' to 'periphery' as per *Axiom (P)*, becomes exogenous in nature, that should be dependent upon study of literature and judicial soundness of the researcher. Based on these, we order the welfare dimensions for this thesis, from 'core' to 'periphery' in order of – Nutrition (Dimension for Survival), Health (Dimension for Sustenance), Education (Dimensions for Dignified Living) and Standard of Living (Dimension for Economic Prosperity). Then, on this ordering of dimensions from 'core' to 'periphery, we introduce 'intersectionality' of these dimensions on a sequential stage-wise approach. We introduce the multi-staged 'Sequential Deprivation Model (SDM)'. Each of the stages are exclusive in nature and within each stage, so are the multiple groups. Each stage covers up the entire sample size of the data provided and each household in that sample space based on the 'intensity of deprivation' is assigned to each group, within that stage. We run our study based on the district-level data for Indian Standard DHS 2015-16 (NFHS-4) and DHS 2019-21 (NFHS-5).

In Chapter 3, we develop a specific a multi-layered 'headcount'-based system of measurement for this thesis. First, we calculate the district-level headcount percentages of the people deprived for the respective measures, based on region (rural or, urban areas) and survey years (2015 and 2019). Then, the districts, facing deprivation beyond the district-level upper quartiles, for the respective regions and survey years, are said to be suffering from 'extreme deprivation' in the respective measures. Next, for comparison over time, as the upper quartiles would change as we change the survey years, we fixed the 2015 upper quartiles as the base year for comparison, separately for both the rural and urban areas. Based on that we categorize the regions of the districts, that are suffering from 'extreme deprivation' in 2015 or, 2019, as having 'escaped extreme deprivation', 'entered extreme deprivation' or, 'remained in extreme deprivation' from 2015 to 2019, for the



respective measures. Finally, using a multi-level filtering technique we prove the robustness of our system, based on the the Invariance Axioms, Dominance Axioms, Continuity Axioms and the Sub-group Axioms of the Sen-Foster framework.

In Chapter 4 of the thesis, we detail a nutrition-based level-sensitive measure, based on binary outcomes. We generalize this system for the respective groups of the SDM. Next, for all the districts and their respective regions, we calculate the level-sensitive improvements for all the SDM groups/measures, from 2015 to 2019. Based on the outcomes of the level-sensitive improvements, we generate a spatial-association index, normalized from the global mean with a weight matrix defining border-wise contiguity. For this we use a specific Moran's I statistic, where the spatial-association index is defined as a scalar product of the local measures. Based on this, we check for spatial autocorrelation for formation of significant regional clusters at the district-level, forming regional 'hotspots' or, 'cold-spots', for the respective measures.

Here forth we discuss some of the interesting results unearthed. We find with higher 'intensity of deprivation', lower is the rate of deprivation across districts. The rate of deprivation among the SDM groups, indicate a trend of higher deprivation among rural areas over urban areas. Also, deprivation rate shows a trend of decline over time, from 2015 to 2019, except, for the measures inclusive of educational deprivation. Educational deprivation has risen from 2015 to 2019, specifically among rural areas. We find a steady rise, for children not attending school, between the age-group of 6-14 years. A phenomenon observed across most states. The primary reason for this is the adverse condition of public educational infrastructure, which unfortunately for some states have risen from 2015 to 2019. For health deprivation, we find an overall improvement across all the states. Regional 'hotspots' in terms of level-sensitive improvements in the measure, are more prevalent in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand. For Bihar, it could be attributed to the steady decline in child mortality rate from 2015 to 2019 and for Jharkhand it's the improvements in the condition of public health infrastructure. For higher degree deprivation in standard of living, we find clusters of improvement prevalent in the state of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. For Uttar Pradesh this improvement, can be attributed to the improvements in usage of cooking fuel, sanitation facility and electrification of households and for Madhya Pradesh, the major improvements have been in proper sanitation facility, household electrification and provision of safe housing. For the measure of nutrition, specific for urban areas, we find clusters of improvements prevalent in the state of West Bengal, as malnutrition among households shows a steady decline in the state from 2015 to 2019.

▪ *Globalization and Income Concentration in BRICS: The Role of Technology*

SANJAY KUMAR ROUT, 2019

Supervisor : Hrushikesh Mallick

Improvement of Exports, current account position, resource distribution, and technological development serve as crucial goals of developing economies characterized by a large population base and low per capita incomes. A persistent and remarkable export growth, sound current account position, equitable resource distribution, and technology development are in line with building up a solid macroeconomic fundamental of an economy. However, a turnaround of these situations may indicate a weak macroeconomic fundamental for the developing economies. In this context, the BRICS is a group of developing economies with large population base and low per capita incomes crucial from



the perspective of greater expansion of exports, maintaining a favourable current account position, equitable distribution of resources, and technological development. Specifically, a proliferation in exports signals better macroeconomic performance, which is a crucial determinant of economic growth. Export acceleration boosts up economic growth and is a significant determinant of other positive macroeconomic outcomes, specifically for developing economies. For instance, it improves capacity utilization, employment, labour productivity, allocation of resources, current account balance, accumulation of foreign exchange, and exploits economies of scale, thus, increasing the country's overall welfare.

Similarly, the current account is a critical indicator of current and future macroeconomic performance. It is also a leading indicator of the external balance of a globalized economy. Nevertheless, the current account is critical for two reasons: (i) current account deficit or surplus, and (ii) it shows the source and utilization of national income. Notably, the current account position of BRICS exhibits a dramatic variation over the last three decades. For example, China and Russia face a persistent current account surplus, while Brazil, India, and South Africa most often experience a deficit. Apart from exports and current accounts, income concentration has dramatically increased and remained alarmingly high among the BRICS economies. High-income concentration enforces serious consequences. For instance, high-income concentration weakens aggregate demand and hinders economic welfare and growth. It also affects macroeconomic stability and seriously hampers accessibility to medical facilities, food and nutrition, energy, education, water, and sanitation.

Corresponding to increased exports, variation in the current account balance, and income concentration, technological innovation and diffusion have substantially amplified in BRICS over the last three decades. For instance, the level of technology (measured by patent applications) has been augmented from 27.53k in 1990 to approximately 1.6M by 2020. It has remarkably increased by 5784.27% between 1990 and 2020. Innovation and technology diffusion have reached a new milestone during the same period. Nevertheless, technology (innovation and diffusion) affects aggregate output and employment and, thus, may impact many other crucial dimensions, such as exports, current account position, and income concentration. Overall, the BRICS have experienced tremendous changes in their macroeconomic dimensions.

However, despite the appreciable change in macroeconomic dimensions and technological innovation and diffusion, little is known about the distribution of macroeconomic dimensions and whether innovation & diffusion affect exports, the current account balance, and income concentration. Exploiting secondary data, scatter plot analysis, and macro panel models, the present analysis strives to examine; first, the distribution of macroeconomic development dimensions across the BRICS, and second, whether technological innovation and diffusion are blessed or cursed for exports, current account balance, and income concentration in the BRICS during 1990 to 2019. First, focusing on the distribution of macroeconomic development dimensions, our investigation confirms that macroeconomic dimensions were less asymmetrically distributed across the BRICS in the 1990s. However, the distribution has worsened over time and became more asymmetric by 2019-2020. Growing asymmetric distribution of macroeconomic development dimensions among the BRICS due to the dramatic development of the Chinese economy, which captures a significant proportion of macroeconomic development outcomes of the BRICS.

Second, our analysis concludes that the sum total of all kinds of innovations, particularly domestic innovation significantly improves the BRICS economies' exports. It is domestic innovation rather than foreign innovation that significantly improves exports of goods and



services (% of GDP). Foreign innovation has no significant impact on exports. Technological diffusion significantly stimulates exports. Comparing domestic innovation and diffusion, the latter plays a much more positive and catalytic role compared to the former. Third, analysis confirmed that total innovation, particularly foreign innovation significantly deteriorates the current account balance. In contrast, domestic innovation and technology diffusion significantly improve the current account balances. Technology diffusion significantly relatively improves the BRICS economies' current account balance more than domestic innovations. Foreign innovation may stimulate imports while domestic innovation and technology diffusion stimulate exports in the BRICS. This, in turn, foreign innovation worsens the current account balance, whereas domestic innovation and technology diffusion improve the current account balance.

Fourth, the study found that total innovation, particularly foreign innovation proves to be a curse as opposed to producing a positive impact on the fair distribution of income in the BRICS. It implies that total innovation, especially foreign innovation significantly aggravates income concentration, whereas domestic innovation and technology diffusion are blessings for the distribution of income. It demonstrates that domestic innovation and technology diffusion significantly reduce income concentration in the BRICS. However, the degree of reduction in income concentration due to diffusion is much higher than domestic innovation. Finally, Brazil, Russia, and South Africa must undertake various macroeconomic reforms to accelerate their macroeconomic performance and maintain equitable economic power in BRICS. Further, technology diffusion indeed has crucial implications which are beyond just innovation. Policymakers in BRICS must focus on the domestic innovation development and dissemination of technology across entities which can significantly help to improve exports, current account balance, and income distribution in the BRICS.

Keywords: BRICS; Current Account Balance; Exports Performance; Globalization; Income Concentration; Technological Innovations; Domestic Innovation; Foreign Innovation; Technological Diffusion; Macro panel model; FGLS and Driscoll & Kraay's approach

JEL Classification: D3, F0, O3, P5, Y4

■ **Social Exclusion and Its Impact among Older Persons: Experiences from Tamil Nadu**

MAHESHKUMAR T., 2019

Supervisor : Dr. Abhilash T. & Prof. (Retd) S. Irudaya Rajan

Social exclusion limits participation in various domains and affects the quality of life in old age. Unlike younger age cohorts, older people undergo multiple forms of social exclusion, which are typically related to age-related characteristics of illness, low income, poverty, and deprivation. Nevertheless, the studies are scant on old-age social exclusion in developing countries, especially in the Indian context. Specifically, the changing demographic and socio-economic situation leaves large scope for studying the issues of older people in the state of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, this study examines the risk factors for social exclusion and its impact on the health and well-being of older people, focusing on the severity of exclusion across domains such as social relations, economic and material resources, and social activities. We used secondary data from various sources, such as the Census of India (2001–2011), the National Sample Survey 60th round (2004), the 68th round (2011–12), and the



71st round (2014), and the Tamil Nadu Migration Survey (TMS) (2015), for profiling the demographic, socio-economic, and health status of older people. In addition, using secondary data from the Building Knowledge Base on Population Ageing in India (BKPAI) 2011, we constructed the multidimensional social exclusion measure by applying factor analyses. We employed bivariate descriptive and multinomial logistic regression models to evaluate the risk factors for old-age exclusion. And further, we executed the logistic regressions to analyse the impact of social exclusion on the health and well-being of older people.

The trends and patterns of the socio-economic position of older people were assessed in the second chapter. This chapter revealed that as people get older, they become more vulnerable to social, economic, and health risks. This vulnerable situation varies by district in Tamil Nadu and is prevalent regardless of age, gender, and sector. In terms of socio-economic and health factors, older people are more disadvantaged. The higher rate of widowhood among older women makes them more dependent and vulnerable. Gainful employment is also more open to men than women, who are withdrawn from active employment and engaged more in domestic activities. Similarly, the older people are no longer part of the workforce, possess valuable assets, and a major share of them are not entitled to the pension. Furthermore, the disadvantage has appeared in health and the coverage of the health expenditure support scheme; in particular, the larger share of older people with chronic diseases is not covered by the insurance support scheme. Thus, the vulnerability or disadvantaged status of older people is primarily associated with inadequate opportunity or access to resources and their inability to participate in various socio-economic domains. Along with those constraints, these deterioration trends in demographic, socio-economic, and health have the collective potential to increase the risk of exclusion of older people, which affects their quality of life.

A multidimensional measure of social exclusion was constructed in the third chapter, which comprises various domains including social relations, economic and material resources, and social activities. The results revealed that older people in their later ages, particularly women, those residing in rural areas without schooling, living alone, without work, and having poor physical health, were more prone to experiencing severe levels of total social exclusion than their respective comparison groups. Domain-wise, the results revealed that those with poor physical and mental health faced severe levels of exclusion from economic and material resources. On the whole, older people have encountered severe level of exclusion from two domains such as economic and material resources and social relations in the state of Tamil Nadu. The study confirms that risk factors for old-age exclusion vary across the domains, emphasising the significance of micro-level factors for effective policy interventions. Notably, it underscores the need to prioritise risk factors like place, education, and health when formulating ageing policies, particularly at the subnational level.

The evaluation of the impacts of social exclusion on older people's health and well-being is covered in Chapter 4. In this chapter, it became evident that exclusion has adverse effects on the health and well-being of older individuals in Tamil Nadu. Poor health was significantly associated with the older people who had moderate and severe levels of exclusion compared to those who were not excluded. Additionally, compared to individuals with good mental health and subjective well-being, those with poor mental health and subjective well-being were found to have a much higher level of poor health. Especially



among older individuals experiencing a moderate level of exclusion from economic and material resources, a higher likelihood of reporting poor health was observed, predominantly stemming from insufficient savings and material assets. Poor wellbeing was identified among the older people with moderate and severe exclusion, even after adjustment for socio-demographic and economic characteristics. But when we added the health variables, particularly poor mental health, which were equally affected as exclusion variables, this suggests that older people with exclusion and poor mental health were more likely to experience poor well-being than their comparison groups. This infers that they may face greater risk of poor well-being if they experience exclusion and poor mental health. Inadequate material assets most significantly contribute to the exclusion of economic and material resources, which primarily impacts the well-being of older people.

Also, the higher effects of a lack of communication from family members, participation in religious meetings, and having someone to trust and confide in were significantly associated with poor well-being. These are the most important indicators to ensure their basic economic needs and make them financially independent in any critical situation. It was also revealed that the older people who did not visit their friends and relatives also reported a significantly higher level of poor health than those who did. These findings suggest the incorporation of micro-level social and economic indicators other than traditional income and household-centric indicators into the policy ambit. The aforementioned findings emphasise the importance of interrelationships and social connections between older people with their families and society, respectively. Improving interrelationships and social connections would result in an inclusive environment both in and outside the family. Consequently, it provides them with confidence and life satisfaction, which would result in a better quality of life. These findings have theoretical relevance and significant policy implications, particularly reducing social and economic exclusion, which will result in greater cohesiveness and a better standard of health and well-being.

Keywords: Social exclusion, older people, risk factors, social relations, economic and material resources, social activities, health, well-being, Tamil Nadu.

- **Multinationals: Relative Performance and Spillovers- A Study of Indian Manufacturing**
RAJESH P., 2000
 Supervisors : Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick & Prof. K. J. Joseph

The liberalisation-induced surge in inward foreign direct investments (FDI) and the proliferation of multinational enterprises (MNEs) since 1991 have raised several concerns among policymakers and academia about the effects of MNEs, both direct and indirect, on the growth and development of Indian industry and the economy. This study investigated this issue by analysing the relative efficiency and export performance and the spillover effects of MNEs in the Indian manufacturing industry during the post-global financial crisis. The study specifically sought to compare the technical efficiency and export performance of multinationals and domestic firms and examine the prevalence and nature of efficiency and export spillovers from the MNEs to the local firms in the Indian manufacturing industry.

The study was based on an unbalanced firm-level panel data set for India's ten major two-digit manufacturing industries from 2009–10 to 2018–19, mainly sourced from the CMIE's Prowess database. The firm-specific technical efficiency of foreign and local firms was estimated using the fixed-effect panel stochastic frontier model by within-transformation



introduced by Wang and Ho in 2010. A four-pronged approach consisting of independent sample t-tests, regression analysis, propensity score matching, and mixed-design ANOVA was used to compare the efficiency and export performance of foreign and domestic firms. The dynamic panel data modelling methodology, i.e., the system-GMM method, was used to analyse efficiency spillovers. Export spillovers were estimated using random-effects linear regression with the endogenous Heckman selection model. Our methodology for measuring efficiency, comparing performances, and estimating efficiency and export spillover was a substantial advancement over the widely used traditional methods.

The empirical evidence from this study revealed that, *despite* inter-industry differences, the foreign firms were, in general, technically more efficient than domestic firms in the Indian manufacturing industry. From this finding, we can conclude that multinationals directly contribute relatively more to the output growth in the Indian manufacturing industry. The study discovered that, notwithstanding inter-industry variances, the export performance of foreign firms, as measured by export propensity, export intensity, and export volume, was superior to that of domestic firms in Indian manufacturing. The empirical evidence on the relatively better export performance of the foreign firms demonstrates their more significant direct contribution to the country's balance of payments.

Based on the most recent data and a more sophisticated methodology, this study yielded empirical evidence demonstrating the complete absence of efficiency and export spillovers from MNEs to domestic firms in Indian manufacturing. Multinationals' entry, presence, and operations in the Indian manufacturing industries had no efficiency or export spillover effects—horizontal or vertical—on domestic firms.

In a nutshell, we can conclude that the increasing inflows of FDI and the associated multinational enterprises directly benefit the Indian economy by contributing to equity capital, output growth, and the balance of payments of the country, but not indirectly through spillovers, as academicians and policymakers had anticipated.

- Implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and its Impact in India
KASHIF MANSOOR, 2017
Supervisor : Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Minimum wage regulation is an almost universally accepted instrument for regulating employment relations. The fundamental objectives associated with minimum wages are considered just and proper. However, there is far less agreement on whether minimum wages can achieve these objectives. Despite decades of research, policy debates about benefits and costs of minimum wages continue even to the present. Moreover, in developing countries, with high shares of informal workers, policy decisions are not only about setting the wage floor at a suitable level but also about strengthening enforcement and compliance.

India has a longstanding history of a complex minimum wage system. The minimum wage legislation, while a comprehensive labour law especially for informal workers, has harboured substantial controversy in relation to its fixation, implementation and enforcement. The fixation of minimum wages is contested, intricately woven with the dynamics of power, influence and strategy of social and political actors. The fixation debate has resulted in setting up of commissions and committees to ascertain the adequate levels.



In recent times, the passing of Code on Wages 2020 has rekindled the concern over whether there should be a statutory national minimum wage.

Against this background, the present thesis attempts to study the implementation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and its impact in India. The thesis tries to understand the issues concerning enforcement and compliance with minimum wages, and presents elaborate quantitative estimates on minimum wage compliance. Contributing to the existing studies examining minimum wage effects, we bring new empirical evidence from a developing country to show that minimum wages have policy potential to enhance workers' welfare especially in low-wage sectors. Additionally, the thesis, while borrowing from political economy literature and public policy, attempts to analyse the political dynamics surrounding the fixation of minimum wages in Indian states in order to understand the heterogeneous web of minimum wages.

Utilizing descriptive statistics, we uncovered two significant findings. Firstly, the Act's coverage is not universally comprehensive; it is more extensive in rural regions, for male workers, casual labourers, and the agricultural sector. Secondly, there are considerable variations in the minimum wage rates. These variations are noticeable among different industries within a given state, as well as between states for a specific industry. Notably, wage rates show no correlation with average wages, indicating that high-wage states often declare low minimum wages. Consequently, the values of the Kaitz index are notably low in many states. A trend analysis of real minimum wages reveals inadequate inflation indexing and revision. Minimum wages consist of two components: the basic wage rate and dearness allowance. It has been observed that many states neglect to revise the basic rate, opting instead for insufficient adjustments based on dearness allowance. This leads to a gradual erosion of the real values of minimum wages.

The thesis finds that, although noncompliance has declined over this period, it still remains high, exceeding 50 percent. Women, casual workers, rural workers, and low-educated workers experience higher levels of noncompliance. Our analyses also shed light on the prevalence of noncompliance across various industries in India. For instance, the agriculture & allied industry, covering approximately 42 percent of the workforce, shows a headcount noncompliance rate of 58 percent. Similarly, the combined workforce in the manufacturing and construction sectors, comprising around 40 percent, experiences noncompliance rates well above 50 percent. These findings highlight the concerning reality that over four-fifths of India's workforce receives wages below the mandated minimum wages. Furthermore, our examination of differential measures of noncompliance reveals that women, casual and rural workers face a double burden. In other words, not only are they more likely to be underpaid, the average shortfall for the underpaid is higher than their counterparts.

By analyzing the impact of minimum wages in India between 1999-00 and 2011-12, the study incorporates heterogeneous noncompliance into its empirical strategy. Utilizing state-time variations in minimum wages and noncompliance, the study examines their interactive effects on the weekly intensity and average daily wage of workers covered by the legislation. The findings reveal a positive and significant wage effect, but no significant impact on the number of days worked in a week. However, as noncompliance rates increase, the positive wage effect diminishes. In essence, our findings evince that in labour markets with noncompliance rates below 30%, workers can expect to receive almost the entire increase in the minimum wage. In markets with 50% noncompliance, workers would receive approximately 61 paise for every rupee increase in the minimum wage. In markets



with high noncompliance rates of around 70%, workers would only receive 28 paise for each rupee increase.

Further, the thesis makes the first of scholarly efforts in India to explain the minimum wage determination. We find that minimum wage fixation is driven by both economic factors and political factors. In particular, we find the evidence of the influence of political ideology on the determination of minimum wage. Compared to the right party, centre-right and centrist parties significantly fix higher minimum wages. However, we fail to find any significant effect of the left ideology on minimum wages. We however further find that the interaction of political ideology with union density reverses the ideological preferences of political parties.

Our findings suggest that labour market reforms in India can improve workers' living standards but only if accompanied by effective compliance. Higher minimum wages are unlikely to improve welfare if firms can simply respond by avoiding the regulation. When thinking about measures to increase compliance one can either focus on increasing the severity of the punishment associated with violations or focus on increasing the enforcement of the existing legislation. The Code on Wages 2020 has proposed to raise the penalty for violations with the minimum wages, and the severity of the penalty to increase as violations increase. The empirical findings presented in the thesis indicate that raising inspection at workplaces and strengthening the overall enforcement machinery act as significant factors in mitigating noncompliance.

Keywords: *Minimum wages, fixation, compliance, enforcement, employment, wage, political ideology.*

Current Studies

1. 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
2. Labour force participation and decision making power of women in urban India: The case of West Bengal
Annesha Mukherjee; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Praveena Kodoth & Prof. Vinoj Abraham
3. Empirical Analysis of Subnational Borrowing: A Study on Major Indian State
Ashraful Khalq; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick
4. 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
5. School education in India: An analysis from the behavioral economics perspective
Rajalaxmi Singh; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan



6. Revisiting the Migration-Trade Nexus for India: An empirical analysis
Sabeer V.C.; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. M. Parameswaran
7. **Suaid Ahmad Rather**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018- UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Srikanta Kundu
8. 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.
9. **Vishnu Ravi**; Integrated MPhil/PhD 2018-
Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Dr. Abhilash T.
10. Essays on Women's Empowerment and Son Preference in India
Amresh Senapati; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Vinoj Abraham
11. Essays on Globalization and Corporate Strategies: A Study of Indian Business Groups
Ashish Biswas; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Beena P. L.
12. Uncertainties, Investor Attention and Sentiment; A Study on Indian Stock Market
Devika Dileepkumar; 2020 – GoK
Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur & Dr. Srikanta Kundu
13. Equality of opportunity and unfair inequality in India
Gayathri P.; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Srikanta Kundu
14. Millet Production and Rural Livelihoods: A Study of Rainfed Districts in India
Himanshu Sekhar Thapa; 2020 - UGC NFOBC
Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan
15. Diversification Opportunities and Expected shortfall of India's Commodity Market
Rhythm Sparsh Narayan; 2020 - UGC NFSC
Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur & Dr. Srikanta Kundu
16. Women's Empowerment and Household Food Security: A Study on Dhenkanal District, Odisha
Shakuntala Ghadai; 2020 - UGC NFSC
Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Tirtha Chatterjee
17. The labour process of knowledge production. A study on Indian Software Industry
Shonima Nelliatt ; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Vinoj Abraham



18. An Analysis of Stability of Employment and Wage in India and their Determinants
Sita Majhi; 2020 - UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Vinoj Abraham
19. 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
20. Technical and Technological Progress in Small and Medium Manufacturing Industries in India
Abhinav Surya L. T.; 2021 - UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Beena P. L.
21. Exploring the Evolving Labor Process in Gig Economy: Insights from Gig Platforms in India
Mohammed Anfas; 2021 - UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Vinoj Abraham
22. Performance of Integrated Child Development Service Scheme in Maharashtra and Bihar: Perspectives from New Institutional Economics
Mayur Jeevan Kamble; 2021 –
Prof. Suraj Jacob
23. A Study of Migrant Workers of Assam in Kerala: Purpose, Networks, and Choice of Employment
Richa Baruah; 2021 – UGC JRF/SRF
Prof. Vinoj Abraham
24. Medium - high and High technology industries in India: A study of its evolution and growth
Sachin Varghese Titty; 2021 – ICSSR
Prof. Beena P. L.
25. Returns to Education and Higher Education Decision in Malappuram District
Ahsana ; 2022 – UGC JRF
Dr. Ritika Jain & Prof. Vinoj Abraham
26. Emerging Technologies and the loop of digital and social inequality
Anna Maria Abraham; 2022
Prof. Suraj Jacob
27. 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
28. Monetary Policy transmission and Bank Balance sheets of Scheduled Commercial Banks
Jayalakshmi T. A.; 2022 – UGC JRF
Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur & Dr. Srikanta Kundu



29. Embedded exchange and transactional spaces in cardamom markets
Kalayath Mohamed Shemil; 2022 – UGC JRF
#Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan
30. **Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies in the Horticultural Sector in Himachal Pradesh**
Pawan Kumar; 2022 – UGC JRF
Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan & Prof. M. Parameswaran
31. Food Price Inflation in India
Sangeetha Kethapaka; 2022 – UGC JRF
Prof. M. Parameswaran & Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur
32. 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
33. Economic Complexity and Regional Disparities In India
Bhatraju Jithin Sree; 2023 – UGC JRF
Prof. M. Parameswaran
34. **Mahitha K.**; 2023 – UGC JRF
35. Trade and Its Effects on Environment
Manish; 2023 – UGC JRF
Prof. C. Veeramani & Prof. M. Parameswaran
36. **Nafseena R.**; 2023 – UGC JRF
Dr. Amartya Paul
37. **Sarath U. V.**; 2023 – UGC JRF
Dr. Abhilash T.
38. **Subranil Nandi**; 2023 – NFOBC
Dr. K. Chandra Shekar & Prof. Beena P. L.



(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 2024 Admission

For Candidates from India

Total applications received -615					
General	OBC NCL	SC	ST	EWS	PwD
385	131	41	17	37	4

Candidates shortlisted for online interview - 197					
General	OBC NCL	SC	ST	EWS	PwD
65	56	32	16	24	4
Candidates attended the interview - 65					

- 27 students (25 Indian nationals & 2 SAARC nationals) joined for the MA Programme 2024. One Indian student discontinued during the second semester.

For Candidates from SAARC Countries

Two applications were received for MA Applied Economics Programme. The Committee interviewed the candidates and selected Ms. Nilima Bhowmik & Mr. Apu Kundu from Bangladesh for admission. Both of them joined the programme.

Now they are pursuing the third semester. Third semester classes started on 28th July 2025.

MA 2023 Batch

17 out of 22 students from the 2023 MA batch successfully completed their course.

MA 2022 Batch

Degree awarded from JNU



**Project Topics of MA Programme- 2023 batch
AE 208: project**

Sl No	Name	Project Title
1	Aditya Agarwal	Evaluation of PLI Scheme
2	Animesh Srivastava	Gandhian Economics
3	Ashwin Prakash	Tax Evasion and the Dynamics of Income Disclosure Schemes
4	Ayisha Abina S M	Co movement of commodity-based stock market indices and commodity prices
5	Chetan Dauthal	Inflation Signals at Crossroads: What CPIC-WPI Divergence Means for Indian Policymaking
6	Debabrata Ray	Return and Volatility Connectedness among Stock, Gold, and Oil Prices: A Quantile VAR Approach.
7	Faseen Gafoor K	Lifestyle Behaviors, Diet, and Obesity in India: An NFHS based Analysis
8	Ganesh Sandu Pawar	Gender and Caste wise disparities of credit accessibility in MSME
9	Kumari Deepanjali	Mining and Marginalization: Examining the Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts of Mining Activities on Tribal Communities and Children in Jharkhand.
10	Mohammed Sinan A	An Exploration of Factors Influencing Vulnerability to Poverty in India
11	Ponnu Bimal	Rising Educational Attainments and Women's Economic Outcomes in Kerala: A Knowledge Economy Perspective
12	Priyadas P	Make in India and its impact on the Indian manufacturing sector
13	Sandhya Lakra	Trends and Effects of Mergers & Acquisitions in the Steel Industry
14	Sawant Buddhesh Ashwin	Assessing the impact of Olympics on the Local economy of the host country
15	Shruti Kashav	Social Mobility
16	Soham Sen	Women's Fertility choice and Education
17	Subhashini Priya	Electric Vehicle Policies in India and Their Impact on EV's Growth
18	Surya K K	Economic Implication of ICT access: Gender wise analysis
19	Tarakh Mahesh Annasaheb	The effectiveness of two major water conservation programs in Maharashtra—Paani Foundation's Satyamev Jayate Water Cup and the Government of Maharashtra's Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan
20	Triditpal Kumar Terang	Impact of Automation and Technological Progress on Wages
21	Utkarsh Kumar	Impact of Skill Development Programs on Employment Outcomes in India



(c) SHORT TERM TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development

3rd -14th November 2024

Sponsor: NRPPD

Coordinator: Prof. Vinoj Abraham

The second edition of the capacity building programme on plantation development was conducted from November 3rd to 14th, 2024, at the Centre. The length of the workshop was extended to 10 days this year. Additionally, the workshop featured faculty representation from The Coffee Board, The Rubber Board, and Plantation Welfare Board.

The workshop also featured a book talk by Shri V S Seshadri (IFS) on 'Trade in Plantations'. This year we also featured interaction with large and medium planters and their associations. Apart from these the regular lecture sessions and participant interactive sessions were also conducted. Each day typically featured three lectures delivered by academics and researchers from various disciplines, including scientists, economists, sociologists, health workers, government representatives, and both small and large plantation owners. These sessions covered all aspects of plantation studies, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of the field.

The workshop accommodated 18 participants, selected by a committee of three faculty members, with a focus on maintaining regional and gender diversity. Participants hailed from different parts of the country, including Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Delhi, and Kerala.

ICSSR-SRC Sponsored Capacity Building Programme on 'Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub-plan and Sub-classification'

6th - 7th February, 2025.

Sponsor: ICSSR-SRC, Hyderabad

Co-ordinator: Abhilash T

A two-day workshop was conducted at the Centre on February 6-7, 2025. The programme focused on examining the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP), and potential impacts of sub-classification on vulnerable communities. It brought together community leaders, academics, researchers, and activists from SC and ST backgrounds. Key objectives of the programme was, first, to understand gaps in TSP and SCSP implementation, second, to evaluate challenges and possibilities of sub-classification for vulnerable SC/ST communities and third, to examine linkages between TSP, SCSP and sub-classification.

Structurally, on the day one programme focussed on introduction by expert on TSP implementation challenges. Around 27 participants shared experiences accessing welfare policies and discussed bureaucratic hurdles, awareness issues, resource adequacy. On the second day it focused on sub-classification of communities and analyzed its potential impacts on resource allocation and representation. The sessions critically examined if sub-



classification could deepen or alleviate inequalities. Participants of the programme were representatives from marginalized groups among SC and ST communities, civil rights activists, research scholars and lawyers. The resource persons were eminent lawyers, academicians and civil right activists.

The programme successfully met the stated objectives. It provided platform for in-depth discussions on the implication of sub-classification implications and gathered diverse community perspectives to inform future advocacy. It was successful in highlighting the need for empirical data to guide policy decisions and also created first academic platform in Kerala for stakeholders to reflect on sub-classification. The key insights from the programme was that the sub-classification viewed as potentially beneficial but challenging to implement. All were in agreement that most backward SC/ST communities need special care and the participants were largely critical of the current approach to reservation reforms and the significance of the recognition of persistent caste-based disparities. The programme successfully facilitated critical dialogue on complex issues affecting SC/ST communities in the country, laying groundwork for more targeted and effective policies.

Workshop on Data Base on Indian Economy February 17th to 23rd, 2025

Coordinator: Professor Vinoj Abraham

The Centre organized a seven-day workshop on “Database on Indian Economy” from February 17 to 23, 2025, aimed at equipping researchers with comprehensive knowledge of key economic data sources and enhancing their capacity to conduct data-driven research.

The workshop brought together 34 participants from across India, including doctoral scholars, faculty members, and early-career researchers in economics and related fields. Sessions were conducted by renowned academics and experts, covering a wide spectrum of topics such as poverty, inequality, trade, macroeconomic indicators, employment, public finance, health, industry, and innovation.

Key sessions included:

- Statistical Systems in India – Mr. Mohanan P. C.
- Poverty and Inequality – Prof. Himanshu
- Trade Indicators – Prof. Veeramani
- Macro-Economic Data – Prof. M. Parameswaran
- Industry Data (ASI & NSSO) – Dr. K. Chandra Shekar
- R&D and Innovation Data – Dr. Chidambaran Iyer
- Employment and NSS-PLFS – Prof. Vinoj Abraham & Mr. Basit Abdullah
- Financial Data – Ms. Devika Dileepkumar
- Public Finance and GST – Dr. Aswathy Rachel Varghese & Dr. Kiran Kumar Kakarlapudi
- CPHS & Nightlight Data – Dr. Kiran Kumar Kakarlapudi & Ms. Athira Karunakaran



- Household and Health Surveys – Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan & Dr. Balakrushna Padhi
- Wellbeing Analysis Using IHDS – Dr. Balakrushna Padhi
- Data for Natural Experiments – Dr. Amartya Paul
- Public Sector Indicators – Dr. Ritika Jain
- Online Resources for Economic Research – Mr. Sriram V

The sessions were highly interactive, with hands-on training in accessing, interpreting, and using various datasets. Participants appreciated the practical insights and methodological clarity provided by the resource persons.

The workshop concluded with positive feedback from participants, many of whom expressed that the training would significantly benefit their ongoing and future research projects.

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

24th to 28th March, 2025

Sponsor: International Migration Unit, CDS

Coordinator: Professor Praveena Kodoth

The Centre organized a five-day workshop on “Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues” from March 24 to 28, 2025. The workshop aimed to enhance the research capabilities of scholars and practitioners working on migration-related themes by familiarizing 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; 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:

‘Migration in India: Major issues and challenges for research’, ‘Using secondary data (PLFS) for research on migration’ (S. Chandrasekhar (IGIDR)), ‘Research on International Labour Migration: Review of Theories, Empirical Issues and Policy Contours’, ‘Referral wages in the context of migration’ (S K Sasikumar), ‘Qualitative methods in migration research’, (Jayaseelan Raj, King’s College, London), ‘Historical methods in migration research’, (V J Varghese, University of Hyderabad), ‘Studying migration with the Kerala Migration Survey data’, (Imran Khan, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS)), ‘Analysis of migration using the Census’ (Vinoj Abraham), ‘Textual sources to study migration’(J Devika), ‘Gender and Migration’(Praveena Kodoth), ‘Potential for research on migration using the IHDS data’, ‘Return Migration’ (Ritika Jain), ‘High-Skilled Migration from India - Economic Implications and Policy Perspectives’ (Sunil Mani).

The workshop brought together 21 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.

First Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies

13th – 18th March, 2025

Sponsor: RBI Endowment

Coordinator: Professor C. Veeramani

The Centre successfully hosted the First Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies from March 13 to 18, 2025. 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 22 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. Pallavi Chavan (RBI, Mumbai): *Macroeconomic Policy Research: Opportunities and Prospectus at RBI*

Dr. Ayyappan Nair (RBI, Mumbai): *Financial Stability Implications of Geoeconomic Fragmentation*

Prof. Pinaki Chakraborty (NIPFP, New Delhi): *Economic Uncertainty, Fiscal Rules, and Fiscal Prudence*

Prof. Saikat Sinha Roy (Jadavpur University, Kolkata): *Balance of Payment and Exchange Rate: Theory and Empirics*

Prof. Prachi Mishra (Ashoka University, Sonapat): *Global Economy and Financial Markets*

Prof. C Veeramani (CDS, Thiruvananthapuram): *Emerging Issues in International Trade*

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.

(d) RESEARCH AFFILIATION

Ms. Genevieve England, Doctoral Researcher at Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich has been granted research affiliation at Centre for Development Studies for her research work on "Social inequality and labour in rural Erode, India". Ms. Genevieve England academic activities while with the CDS will be guided Professor Thiagu Ranganathan. The affiliation is for a period from November 1st, 2024 to 31st October, 2025.



Ms. Mallory Rose Cerkleski, Doctoral Scholar at Scuola Normale Superiore, Faculty of Humanities, Piazza dei Cavalieri 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 Rose CERKLESKI academic activities while with the CDS will be guided by Professor J. Devika. The affiliation is for a period from January 31st, 2025 to 31st May, 2025.

Mr. Bavan Pushpalingam, Research Fellow, University of Toronto, has been granted research affiliation at 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 Agro ecological Alternatives". Mr. Bavan Pushpalingam academic activities while with the CDS will be guided Professor Thiagu Ranganathan. The affiliation is for a period from April 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2025



ENDOWMENTS

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. Over the years, this initiative has played a pivotal role in fostering high-quality academic work in these critical domains. The endowment continues to grow under the leadership of Prof. C. Veeramani, the current Director and Chair Professor at CDS.

As part of this enhanced collaboration, 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

First Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies

The Centre for Development Studies successfully hosted the First Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies from March 13 to 18, 2025. 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 22 participants from institutions across India took part in the workshop.

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Prof. Saikat Sinha Roy (Jadavpur University, Kolkata): *Balance of Payment and Exchange Rate: Theory and Empirics*



Prof. Prachi Mishra (Ashoka University, Sonipat): *Global Economy and Financial Markets*

Prof. C Veeramani (CDS, Thiruvananthapuram): *Emerging Issues in International Trade*

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. "Why is Labor Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India? Role of Trade and Market Share Reallocation", C. Veeramani (with Anwesha Basu), Asian Economic Papers, MIT Press Volume 24, Issue 3 (forthcoming) (Impact Factor: 5.3)
2. "India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to Growth and Supply Chain Resilience", C. Veeramani, Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies, Wiley, forthcoming (Impact factor 0.8)
3. "External Sector Outlook and 2025–26 Union Budget", C Veeramani, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 60, Issue No. 16, 2025
4. "Dynamics and Determinants of Fragmentation Trade: India in Comparative and Long-term Perspective", C. Veeramani (with Garima Dhir), Economic and Political Weekly, 59, 34, 2024
5. "Growth Gains from Offshoring", C. Veermani (with Sugata Marjit and Anwesha Basu), Journal of Policy Modeling, Volume 46, Issue 1, 2024, (Impact factor 3.1)
6. "Do Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?", C Veeramani (with Manish), Indian Economic Review, forthcoming
7. "Trade, FDI, and Growth: Overview and Evidence from India", C. Veeramani, 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, 2025 (forthcoming)
8. What You Import and Where It Comes From Matter for Growth: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives, C Veeramani (with M Parameswaran), In Rajat Acharya and Sugata Marjit (ed), Handbook of International Economics, Oxford University Press, forthcoming
9. "Unraveling the Complexity of Vertical Specialization and Fragmentation Trade: A Survey of Patterns, Drivers, Implications, and Evolving Dynamics", C. Veeramani, In Rajib Bhattacharyya and Debashis Mazumdar (eds), Contemporary Issues in International Trade: Challenges and Opportunities, Emerald, 2024
10. Strategic Trade Policies for Catalysing India's Economic Transformation, C Veeramani (with Anwesha Basu), In Charan Singh and Arvind Virmani (eds), India's Economic Evolution Towards Inclusive Development: Exploring the Bhartiya Model, Springer, forthcoming
11. "Evaluation of Finances of State of Kerala", C Veeramani (with M Parameswaran and Hrishikesh Mallick), Report Prepared for the 16th Finance Commission, 2025, completed
12. "Gains from Mobile Phone Manufacturing in India through Backward-Linked Participation in Global Value Chains: Impact on Domestic Value Addition, Exports,



Employment, and Wage Income”, C. Veeramani, Report prepared for Apple India, 2025 (completed)

13. “Effects of Backward GVC Participation on Labor Market: Micro-Level Evidence from India”, C Veeramani (with Deepali Gupta), IGIDR WP-2025-005

14. “Economic Policy Framework for Viksit Bharat”, C. Veeramani, Report Submitted to the Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India” 2024

In addition to this 5 international seminars, 24 seminars/ lectures/ webinars/ meetings were presented at the national level including

- Policy brief presentation at an interactive session of eminent economists with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the theme "An Agenda to Accelerate Growth and Employment Across Regions & Sectors" , NITI Aayog, New Delhi, July 11, 2024
- 'Industrial Policy in the Era of Global Value Chains', 3rd Kautilya Economic Conclave, 4 – 6 October 2024, New Delhi
- Paper presentation titled 'Why is Labor Receiving a Declining Share of Income in India? Role of Trade, Technology and Market Share Reallocation' at the Asian Economic Panel meeting held at Keio University, Japan, 3-4 September 2024
- 'Policy Approaches to Growth and Supply Chain Resilience: India's Integration into GVCs and Lessons from Mobile Phone Manufacturing', Supply Chain Policy Roundtable, EABER (ANU) and CSIS (Indonesia), 29 October 2024, Jakarta
- 'Connectivity and Regional Value Chains' , 8th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks, Singapore, 7-8 November 2024
- 'Global Value Chain: A New Paradigm of Agri-food Trade' jointly by BIMSTEC, IFPRI and RIS, Bangkok, 3-4 October 2024
- 'Global Value Chains A New Paradigm of Agri-Food Trade', Capacity Strengthening Program on Agri-Food Trade Policy in Bangladesh, jointly organized by Policy Research Institute and IFPRI, Dhaka 27-28 May 2024

The Chair Professor is member of several committees, advisory bodies at the international, national and state level.

- Member, “RBI’s Empowered Committee on External Commercial Borrowings and Overseas Direct Investments” , January 2018 - onwards
- Invited participant at the “Pre-Budget Consultation Meetings with the Hon’ble Finance Minister of India” , December 6, 2024
- Member, Memorandum Drafting Committee of the Govt. of Kerala to the Sixteenth Finance Commission , 2024
- Invited participant at the “Pre-Budget Consultation Meetings with the Hon’ble Finance Minister of Kerala”, 2024
- Contributed to a policy note for the Government of Kerala on the announcement of schemes for “Global Capability Centers” (GCCs), as outlined in the 2025-26 Budget Speech. The note informed strategic directions and program design for enhancing Kerala’s role in the global knowledge services sector., 2024
- Chair, Study Group on “E-Governance” constituted by the Hon’ble Finance Minister of Kerala for the preparation of the State’s Memorandum to the 16th Finance



Commission. Led the drafting of the thematic report providing policy recommendations to strengthen digital governance and public service delivery 2024.

Niti Aayog Endowment in Development Economics

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

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

A study '*Contingent aspirations and employment dynamics of young mothers in Kerala*' is currently ongoing. This paper probes the interconnected nature of structural and cultural constraints on the employment of higher educated mothers using a primary survey of 67 women from a rural and an urban ward in Ernakulum district, Kerala. A study '*From Asia to the Middle East: State Policies, Gender Politics and Women's Labour Migration*' will examine the dynamics of women's migration as domestic workers to the Middle East focusing especially (but not exclusively) on the experience of migrant women from two source countries, the Philippines and India, which have adopted contrasting strategies towards women's migration and have achieved very different outcomes. The paper will draw upon a sizeable scholarship that has generated a critical visibility for migrant domestic workers and brought into view the vulnerabilities associated with their migration and employment especially in the Middle East. The study will delve into the deployment of individual and / or collective resources by women migrants to navigate employment relations and to resist harassment and abuse. Another study '*Paternalist Governance, Tacit Accommodations: The Dynamics of Informality in Women's Labour Mobility to the Middle East*' will be published for a special issue of Sociological Bulletin.

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 for Development Studies (CDS), with the aim of advancing research on decentralization and strengthening local self-governance in the state. The Unit was initiated with a corpus fund of ₹3.70 crore, disbursed in two instalments—₹1.70 crore in 2005–06 and ₹2.00 crore in 2006–07. The primary objectives of the Unit are to conduct research, build research capacity, and disseminate research findings, particularly by linking research with training programs at institutions like the Kerala Institute of Local Administration. Currently Prof. M Parameswaran serves as the Chair Professor of the unit

RUSLG undertakes several key activities:

Organizing annual policy dialogues to foster inclusive and participatory local governance, with a special focus on the marginalized communities, Commissioning studies on critical issues such as ecological challenges and local government responses, Publishing a dedicated



series on Kudumbashree, Kerala's flagship poverty alleviation and women empowerment program, and Conducting concurrent assessments of various components of local self-governance across the state.

One study was completed under the project during the reporting year

Age friendly local governance in Kerala : The RULSG conducted a unique study on Aged-Friendly Governance in Kerala, which is an innovative effort in local self-government for the betterment of senior citizens. In Kerala, six grama panchayats—three from Thiruvananthapuram and another three from Palakkad district—had initially expressed interest in self-declaring as Vayojana Sowhritha Grama Panchayats or Aged-Friendly Grama Panchayats since 2014. Out of these, three grama panchayats from the Thiruvananthapuram district—Manickal, Vembayam, and Poovachal Grama Panchayats—were selected for the study. We have conducted in-depth interviews with grama panchayat officials, elected representatives, stakeholders, and beneficiaries of the scheme. The study has been conducted using qualitative and quantitative data. Manickal is implementing aged-friendly governance and has been declared an aged-friendly grama panchayat, and Poovachal is also implementing the same. Vembayam began with new initiatives, then slowed down its activities, and has revamped its activities over the last two years.

This study is a pioneering effort in the state in the context of the emerging issue of a rapidly growing elderly population, and it aims to provide deeper insights into the aged-friendly local governance that is useful for the different stakeholders, like State government, local self-governments and others interested in caring of old age citizens in the State. The study has been completed and is in the final stage of publishing it as book in Malayalam.

One study is ongoing under the unit

State of decentralisation in India: Comparison of Indian States: This report provides a detailed assessment of the status and progress on decentralization in India, as envisioned by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. This study highlights the present status of decentralization across Indian states over the last three decades. It evaluates the devolution of 29 functions to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), highlighting inter-state variations and trends over time based on the secondary data. The study primarily focuses on the status of functional devolution, financial devolution, transfer of functionaries, inclusiveness, and related aspects across states. It also presents data on fiscal transfers, local revenue generation, election status, inclusiveness, capacity building, etc. The role of the Central Finance Commissions in grant allocations, and the criteria used for equitable distribution across states, devolution of funds to grama panchayats by each state, etc., are also analysed. The status of each component of decentralized planning and its variation across states is analysed in detail. A comparative framework ranks states based on their decentralization achievements, including innovations and best practices. Even though the Constitution provides a strong foundation for local governance, the report shows that implementation varies widely across states, underlining the need to strengthen the fiscal, functional, and administrative capacities of local governments.



National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) Report for the period 2024-25

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

A. Publications and Reports

1. Vinoj Abraham (2024) Deepening Disconnect : The Case of Rubber Growers and Producer Organisations in Kerala, Economic and Political Weekly, Review of Rural Affairs, [Vol. 59, Issue No. 43, 26 Oct, 2024](#)

Abstract: Collective actions through rubber producer societies can overcome poor bargaining power and scale diseconomies for the fragmented, small, and marginal growers of natural rubber. Membership in these societies seems to benefit the growers, but they exhibit a widening chasm with the marginal growers. Set within the context of diminishing prominence of rubber as a livelihood choice in rural Kerala, dwindling funds, and weak infrastructure have deteriorated the services and reduced the autonomy of these societies. The relevance of the RPS is predicated.

2. Report on the Study on the Performance of Rubber Producer Societies is now available.

B. Research Projects completed

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

2. Study on the Performance of Farmer producer organizations in Coffee: FPOs are an organisational innovation that is aimed at using the collective strengths at grassroots level and at the same time overcome the challenges of conventional cooperative system. Since the amendment of the Companies Act to include not for profit companies in 2018 farmer



producer companies (FPCs) became an organisational tool for collective efforts. Such efforts were supported by the government through subsidies and grants. FPCs were established in coffee sector as well under financial and technical support. While FPCs were reasonably successful in collectivising productive efforts in some regions such as Wayanad in Kerala, their performance remained lacklustre in other regions. The study tries to analyse such variations in the performance of FPCs across regions and their causes. The study was initiated in 2020 and was disrupted due to covid. The surveys were delayed. By 2023 early the surveys were completed. The report is complete and publications are being prepared. The study was led by Prof. Vinoj Abraham

C. Capacity building programme on Plantation and Development

The second edition of the capacity building programme on Plantation and Development was conducted from November 3rd to 14th, 2024, at the Centre. The length of the workshop was extended to 10 days this year. Additionally, the workshop featured faculty representation from The Coffee Board, The Rubber Board, and Plantation Welfare Board. The workshop also featured a book talk by Shri V S Seshadri (IFS) on trade in plantations. We also organised a panel discussion with large and medium planters, and interaction with planters associations. Apart from these the regular lecture sessions and participant interactive sessions were also conducted. Each day typically featured three lectures delivered by academics and researchers from various disciplines, including scientists, economists, sociologists, geographers, government representatives, and both small and large plantation owners. These sessions covered all aspects of plantation studies, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of the field. The workshop accommodated 18 participants, selected by a committee of three faculty members, with a focus on maintaining regional and gender diversity. Participants hailed from different parts of the country, including Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Delhi, and Kerala.

D. Compendium on Plantations:

The edited volume “Plantations in transition: Productivity, Prices and Employment-Exploring Economic Changes in Tea, Coffee, Rubber, and Spices Sectors of India” is under review with a leading publisher. Emerging from a chequered past marked by colonial resource extraction and exploitative monocultures, the plantation sector today stands at a crossroads - either continue as low-value adding nodes in global value chains, or to reclaim agency to command a greater share of the value they produce; either remain with weak fragmented bargaining power in market relations dominated by large multinational corporations or to garner better bargaining power through collective action; either persisting with unsustainable and extractive practices or embracing ecologically sound and socially just approaches to plantation development. The path ahead offers both a challenge and an opportunity: to reshape plantations not only as engines of production, but as platforms for empowerment, sustainability, and shared prosperity. This volume, *Plantations in Transition: Productivity, Prices and Employment*, seeks to explore these transitions focusing on the four major plantation crops of India—tea, coffee, rubber, and spices. The key themes of exploration in each of the crops mentioned above are area, production, and productivity; price trends and marketing structures; and the evolving nature of labour and employment across these sectors. It brings together contributions from scholars, policymakers, and practitioners, creating a unique blend that enriches the



analysis of India's plantation economy. The volume is expected to be published in the current financial year.

E. Data base on Plantations :

One of the critical hindrance that lie in the way of plantation research is the lack of consolidated data in a usable format. Most data for plantations are still available in PDF format that require much cleaning before it can be utilized. In order to overcome this challenge in plantation research the unit has embarked on a bold attempt to collate and digitize historical and contemporary statistics on various aspects relating to the plantation crops. The digitization effort requires much manual entry of data, scanning of data and cleaning of information. Further, creating continuity for various indicators also has been challenging. Our efforts have led to creating an online database for plantation crops. We have completed the work for area, production and yield by various dimensions and indicators for the four crops. The data is ready for public use and will be inaugurated in an appropriate manner soon. Further, as an ongoing process the data is being updated for newer information. We are also adding new dimensions to the data. Currently efforts are on to add the prices information and trade data.

F. Policy Briefs on Plantations:

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

- NRPPD Policy Brief, April-July 2024,
<https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/NRPPDPoilyBrief-April-July2024.pdf>
- NRPPD Policy Brief, August-October 2024,
<https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/NRPPD-PolicyBriefAUG-OCT24.pdf>
- NRPPD Policy Brief, October-December 2024
https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/NRPPD_Oct-Dec2024.pdf
- NRPPD Policy Brief, January-March 2025
<https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/PolicyBriefJan-Mar2025.pdf>

G. Webinar Series on Plantations :

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

1. NRPPD Webinar on "Palate's Paradox: The Vegetal Agency of a Spice" by Ms. Anu Krishna, Ph.D, Postdoctoral Fellow at Ruhr, University Bochum, Germany on 6th Sept, 2024.



2. NRPPD Webinar on “What ails the Rubber Producer Societies in Kerala? An institutional Exploration” by Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Centre for Development Studies, 12th April 2024.
3. NRPPD Webinar on “ Do Farmers Benefit from Joining Producer Collectives? The Case of Rubber Growers in Kerala” by Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Centre for Development Studies, 10 May 2024

H. Half day Webinar on Plantations:

NRPPD organized a half day webinar on plantations titled "Political Economy of Land, Labour and Production in Tea Industry" on 26th Mar, 2025. Three papers were presented in the webinar. The Webinar was moderated by Dr. Abdul Hannan, Sikkim University

1. Employment Dynamics in the Tea Industry- Prof. Vinoj Abraham, CDS
2. Abandoned Plantations in North Bengal- Dr. Bikash Das, Jammu University
3. Field Evidences of Closed Tea Gardens in Dooars- Ms.Radali Rajbangshi and Dr. Abdul Hannan, Sikkim University

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 organized a five-day workshop on “Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues” from March 24 to 28, 2025. The workshop aimed to enhance the research capabilities of scholars and practitioners working on migration-related themes by familiarizing 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; 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:

‘Migration in India: Major issues and challenges for research’, ‘Using secondary data (PLFS) for research on migration’ (S. Chandrasekhar (IGIDR)), ‘Research on International Labour Migration: Review of Theories, Empirical Issues and Policy Contours’, ‘Referral wages in the context of migration’ (S K Sasikumar), ‘Qualitative methods in migration research’, (Jayaseelan Raj, King’s College, London), ‘Historical methods in migration research’, (V J Varghese, University of Hyderabad), ‘Studying migration with the Kerala Migration Survey data’, (Imran Khan, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS)), ‘Analysis of migration using the Census’ (Vinoj Abraham), ‘Textual sources to study migration’ (J Devika), ‘Gender and Migration’ (Praveena Kodoth), ‘Potential for research on migration using the IHDS data’, ‘Return Migration’ (Ritika Jain), ‘High-Skilled Migration from India - Economic Implications and Policy Perspectives’ (Sunil Mani).

The workshop brought together 21 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.

During the reported period, four research projects were completed under the unit.

1. **Patterns and Determinants of International Student Migration from Kerala**

This study investigates the growing trend of student migration from Kerala. Evidence suggests that a significant number of students leave the state annually to pursue education abroad, often with the intention of securing employment overseas thereafter. A primary survey was conducted among approximately 2,000 college students, selected randomly from various educational streams across Thiruvananthapuram district. The findings revealed that over 70% of respondents had, at some point, aspired to migrate for education, and around 20% were actively pursuing opportunities to study abroad. The study presents and analyzes the insights gathered from this survey.

2. **The COVID-19 Pandemic and Employment Vulnerability in Kerala, India: Does Migration Status Matter?**

This study, published as *CDS Working Paper Series 515*, examines the differential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment in Kerala, with a particular focus on the role of migration status. It explores how the pandemic affected migrant and non-migrant populations differently in terms of employment vulnerability and economic resilience.

3. **From Asia to the Middle East: State Policies, Gender Politics, and Women’s Labour Migration**

This research analyzes the dynamics of female migration for domestic work to the Middle East, focusing primarily on India and the Philippines—two source countries with contrasting policy approaches toward women’s migration. Drawing on an extensive body of scholarship, the study highlights the gendered nature of state policies, the critical visibility gained by migrant domestic workers, and the persistent vulnerabilities they face, particularly in the Middle Eastern context.



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

Based on fieldwork conducted in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala in 2013 and 2019, this paper explores the complex interplay between paternalist governance and informal migration channels. It argues that while state mechanisms ostensibly aim to "protect" women migrant workers, in practice they often create ambiguous spaces that enable migration through irregular means—thereby increasing the risks faced by women. The study critiques the state's ambivalent stance, where the performance of protection coexists with tacit acceptance of informal migration pathways.

Ongoing Studies under the units are

1. **The Care Regime through the Lens of Migrant Labour:** This study seeks to examine the care regime by focusing on the lived experiences of migrant labour families and their children. Drawing on fieldwork conducted in migrant clusters across Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the study critically investigates how institutional structures—particularly the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the public schooling system—interact with migrant communities. It highlights how the care regime operates through **gendered familialism**, effectively structuring the exclusion of migrant children from essential services and shifting the burden of this exclusion onto the families themselves. The research aims to unpack the systemic factors that perpetuate these inequalities and question the narratives that individualize responsibility for structural neglect.
2. **'Return Migration and Employment Vulnerability during the COVID 19 Pandemic in India' :** This study explores whether employment vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic varied based on migration status—specifically among current migrants, returnees, and non-migrants. By examining who returned during the crisis, under what circumstances, and for what reasons, the study seeks to uncover deeper structural dimensions of vulnerability in the labour market. The research aims to shed light on how migration trajectories intersect with crisis-induced shocks, and how these interactions shape differential access to employment security and economic resilience during and after the pandemic.

Research Plan 2025-26

'An impact-evaluation study of NORKA Department Programme for Returned Emigrants (NDPREM) [Phase II of the larger study on impact of NORKA's reintegration schemes]'

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Beena PL, Vinoj Abraham, Jijin P

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

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Amartya Paul, Jijin P



P. Mohanan Pillai Endowment Fund

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. The event was presided over by Prof. K. J. Joseph, Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. C. Veeramani, Director, CDS, welcomed the gathering. The lecture was attended by members of the CDS academic community, Prof. Pillai's family, researchers, students, and invited guests.

Prof. Basant's lecture, titled 'Multinational Corporations and Technological Change in Host Countries: An Indian Perspective', explored the multifaceted ways in which foreign direct investment (FDI) affects technological progress in host economies. He highlighted how the presence of multinational corporations (MNCs) can reshape the competitive landscape while also offering opportunities for technology spillovers to domestic firms. These outcomes, he argued, are shaped by a range of factors including; The type and structure of FDI (greenfield, brownfield, M&A; wholly owned, joint ventures, alliances); The nature of MNC activities (R&D, manufacturing, distribution, etc.); The sector's technology intensity (high-tech vs. low-tech); The linkages between MNCs and domestic firms (backward, horizontal, forward); The absorptive capacity of local firms; The technology gap between foreign and domestic enterprises; And the institutional and policy context of the host country. Emphasizing the complex interplay of these dimensions, Prof. Basant argued that effective policymaking must take into account the nuanced ways in which MNC activity integrates with the host economy. He drew on recent data to illustrate these dynamics and outlined key policy imperatives to ensure that FDI contributes meaningfully to technological development in India.

The memorial lecture honored the enduring legacy of Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai, who 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.

P.K. Gopalakrishnan Endowment Fund

Dr. P.K. Gopalakrishnan, an eminent sociologist and economist has played a crucial role in formulating the Science & Technology Policy of Kerala in 1972 and in establishing the R&D institutes under it. He was one of the founder members of the Centre. He completed his Ph.D. in Economic Sciences from Amsterdam University, The Netherlands under Prof. Tinbergen, a noble laureate. Dr. Gopalakrishnan affectionately called 'PKG' had occupied many important positions in Government of Kerala. He was associated in different capacities with Cardamom Wage Board, Taxation Enquiry Committee, Labour & Industrial Bureau and



Backward Classes Reservation Commission. He was a Special Secretary to Planning & Economic Affairs Department during 1974-80. As a Policy Advisor and Secretary to the Government during the Chief Ministership of the late Shri. C. Achutha Menon, Dr. Gopalakrishnan provided excellent support in formulating a science and technology policy for the state. To perpetuate Dr. Gopalakrishnan's memory, his family instituted the endowment at the Centre.

The 14th Dr. P.K. Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Rana Hasan, Regional Lead Economist for South Asia at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), on 24 March 2025 at CDS, Thiruvananthapuram. The title of the lecture was "Harnessing the Economic Potential of India's Cities". Dr. Hasan highlighted the transformative role that urbanization can play in India's economic development. With India's urban population projected to grow by 400 million people by 2050, he underscored the urgency of enabling Indian cities to become engines of growth, job creation, and innovation. Dr. Hasan examined the key bottlenecks that hinder cities from reaching their economic potential. These include fragmented urban planning, inefficient land markets, and regulatory barriers that impede business activity and infrastructure development. He stressed the need for city-level economic visioning and master planning that integrates physical infrastructure with long-term economic goals. Drawing from international experiences, Dr. Hasan emphasized the importance of a multisectoral approach—one that combines improvements in governance, land use, infrastructure, and business climate. He advocated for significant capacity-building at the local level to effectively implement these strategies and create an enabling environment for economic growth, job generation, and rising incomes.

B.G. Kumar Endowment Fund

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

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

The 15th Dr. B. G. Kumar Lecture was held on **12 March 2025** at the Centre. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, eminent public health expert and Chairperson of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, who also serves as Principal Advisor to the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.



In her lecture titled “Universal Health Coverage in India: A Continuing Journey,” Dr. Swaminathan provided an in-depth overview of India’s evolving healthcare landscape and the critical challenges and opportunities on the path toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). She emphasized that while healthcare services are essential, achieving health for all requires addressing broader social, economic, and environmental determinants. Though the right to health is enshrined in India’s Constitution and reinforced by global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), governance challenges between the Centre and the States continue to hamper efficiency and policy coherence.

Dr. Swaminathan reviewed major national initiatives such as the National Health Mission (NHM), National Health Policy 2017, and Ayushman Bharat. She highlighted how these programs have strengthened primary care, expanded public financing, and improved access to healthcare through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)—the world’s largest public health insurance scheme. However, she noted that India’s public health expenditure remains at only 1.8% of GDP, well short of the 2.5% target, leading to high out-of-pocket expenses that push nearly 55 million people into poverty annually. She also addressed the growing threat of air pollution and climate change, which contribute to millions of premature deaths and disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, especially women and children.

A.D. Neelakantan Endowment Fund

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.

Chandrika Sharma Endowment Fund

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

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

Last year it was awarded to **Jayalakshmi T A** of the PhD Programme in Economics 2022 Batch.



Joan Robinson Endowment Fund

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

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

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

M.G. Kanbur Endowment Fund

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

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

The prize is awarded to the best performer in the quantitative courses of the MA (Applied Economics) programme. The M.G. Kanbur Prize for meritorious performance was awarded to **Ms. Ponnu Bimal (2023-25 Batch)**.



6

Support Services

(a) K N RAJ LIBRARY

K. N. RAJ LIBRARY

In October 2024, to celebrate the centenary of Dr. K.N. Raj, the library prepared an online bibliography of his publications. It is available online in this link.

URL: https://www.zotero.org/groups/5542435/knraj_collection/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 103 books, and 177 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 K.N.Raj Library subscribes to 15 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 EconLit (599 journals) and JSTOR (2400 journals) were 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 257 new members joined / renewed membership, out of which 212 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 1172 posts and has received 23652 visits. The following is the URL <http://knrajlibrary.wordpress.com/> of the service.

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.

Seven book displays were conducted during the reporting period. The works of and about Dr. B. R. Ambedkar available in the library were kept for from 15th to 19th April 2024. The works of Prof. C.T.Kurien available in the library are kept for display from 25th to 29th July 2024. The works of Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson (Joint winners of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for 2024) available in the library are kept for display from 15th to 18th October 2024. The works of Dr. K. N. Raj available in the library are kept for display 18th to 23rd October 2024. The works of Bibek Debroy (1955-2024) available in the library are kept for display from 4th to 6th November 2024. The works of Amiya Kumar Bagchi (1936-2024) available in the library are kept or display from 29th November to 4th December 2024. The works of Dr. Manmohan Singh (1932-2024) available in the library are kept for display from 27th Dec 2024 to 1st January 2025. All the displays were kept in the Circulation Area of K.N.Raj Library. They were useful for the CDS community and library users.



Online Training Session on Enhancing Authoring and Publishing Skills with EBSCO EBooks and EconLit Journals was organized for the CDS faculty and students on 14th November 2024. Mr. Nanda Lal T. S., Training Manager-South India, EBSCO Information Services was the resource person for the programme. The event was held on the Zoom platform. The users got the opportunity to seek clarification from the resource person for specific doubts about search and retrieval of EconLit and EBSCO e-Books that are provided by ICSSR and subscribed by the centre at <http://search.ebscohost.com> and also about using the mobile app of the EBSCO e-resources.

The 2024-25 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. 14 PG and 32 UG students along with 3 staff members of Department of Economics, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul visited the KN Raj Library on 20th February 2025. The participants of the CDS NRPPD Workshop visited the library on 4th November 2024.

External events by staff:

Name	Event	Date
V. Sriram	Open Access and Scholarly Communications. Online Lecture, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam.	20th April 2024.
V. Sriram	Software tools for checking plagiarism. Online lecture, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam.	4th May 2024.
V. Sriram	1. E-Resources for Social Science Research. 2. Citation Styles and Reference Management using Zotero. 3. Importance of plagiarism check in research reports. Research Methodology Course in Social Sciences, Public Policy Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram.	21 st June 2024.
V. Sriram	E-Resources for Social Science Research. Workshop on Effective use of e-Resources, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai.	10th July 2024.
V. Sriram	Reference Management Tool – Zotero. Short Time Programme on Academic Writing and Publishing, UGC – Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod. Kerala. India.	07th December 2024.
V. Sriram	1. One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) online databases 2. Using Online Databases Short Term Course in Academic Writing, Research Publication and Ethics, UGC – Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.	13th January 2025.
V. Sriram	Online Databases and Reference Management. Workshop of Database on Indian Economy, Centre	21st February 2025.



	for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala. India.	
V. Sriram	Reference Manager and AI: An Introduction to Zotero and AskYourPDF Plugin. 6-day Faculty Development Program (FDP) on “AI Applications in Modern Research: A Hands-on Approach”, Mar Baselios College of Engineering and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.	22nd February 2025.

(c) Computer Centre

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

IT infrastructure in CDS Campus

- CDS has its own data centre with state of the art facilities.
- Nine Juniper 3300 switches with 10 Gigabits uplink ports are installed in four buildings of the campus. Switches are distributed in nine locations on the campus.
- Fiber network connection from the computer centre to other buildings.
- Fortinet 200F UTM as a security device.
- Two HP Proliant DL 180 Gen-9 servers.
- One EMC VnXe 3200 SAN Storage
- One Polycom Video conferencing system.
- Virtualization of servers using VMWare.
- Zimbra based Email server for 200 users.
- KOHA software for library access.
- Active directory for 300 users.
- File server for storing and sharing data.
- 90 HP desktops for staff and student use.
- 60 Printers 6 Scanners.
- 100 Mbps NKN(National Knowledge Network) connectivity and 20Mbps NMEICT connectivity for internet facility in the campus.
- 300 Mbps KFON Kerala Fiber Optic Network



- 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 Gauss 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

Examination – Exam subject registration and Grade card

Feedback – submission of student feedback and various reports.

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

- **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.

- **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.

- **Classrooms**

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

Activities during 2024-25.

Four CCTV cameras installed at differct locations in CDS and NVR (Network video recorder) at the computer center for recoding.



(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 Shri Suresh Kumar S., Registrar, and Shri Suresh S., Senior Finance Officer, as members.

During the reporting period, six loan applications were approved. In addition, the Committee sanctioned a one-time, non-refundable assistance of ₹10,000 each to two last grade employees for medical purposes, based on their submitted applications.

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.

During the year, four children of employees received the Merit Award, which includes a certificate and the applicable cash prize. The awards were distributed during the Governing Body (GB) meeting held on 19 October 2024.

SlNo	Name of Children	Name of Staff	Course	Class/Grade
1.	Abhiram A K	Aanandh N R Campus Supervisor	10 th (CBSE)	First Class
2.	Arjun S Arun	Arun Hrishikesh Accounts Officer	10 th (CBSE)	Distinction
3.	Gaurav P	Praveen G P S to Director	10 th (CBSE)	Distinction
4.	Nayan B Nair	Lekha K Asst. Grade I	BBA	First Class



New Initiatives

Development Researchers Day

Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, declared February 10 as Development Researchers Day in honour of the death anniversary of CDS's founder, renowned economist Professor K. N. Raj. While inaugurating the Professor K. N. Raj Centennial Celebrations at CDS on 19 October 2024, the Chief Minister emphasized the significance of this day as a tribute to Professor Raj's pioneering contributions to development economics and proposed that CDS organize seminars and academic events.

The first such programme was held at CDS on 10 February 2025. This initiative will continue as an ongoing series, providing a platform for researchers focused on development studies from across India and abroad.

Training Programme Unit at CDS

As part of its efforts to expand its outreach and ensure financial sustainability, the Centre has established a dedicated Training Programme Unit. This unit focuses on designing and delivering high-quality training programmes that blend academic rigour with practical relevance, targeting a diverse range of stakeholders.

The following training programmes have been scheduled so far

Training Programme on BIG Data Analysis through Theory and Application will be held from 28 April to 02 May 2025. This programme aims to equip participants with a strong foundation in econometrics and machine learning techniques, specifically tailored for the analysis of BIG Data. It will blend theoretical insights with hands-on applications to enhance research and analytical capabilities.

Training Programme on Labour Codes and the Transforming World of Work: Implications for Employer-Employee Relations in the Organised Sector in India is scheduled from 06 – 10 October 2025. The target audience are trade union leaders from organised sector enterprises. This programme will explore the implications of recent labour code reforms and the changing dynamics of work, with a focus on employer-employee relations. It aims to foster informed dialogue and enhance the capacity of trade union leaders to engage with policy and institutional changes.



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 eJournals 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.

PhD Colloquium - Crossroads 2025

The Centre organized the inaugural edition of its PhD colloquium, titled **Crossroads 2025**, from March 20 to 22, 2025. The event 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 in a collegial environment. As the first of its kind hosted by CDS, Crossroads 2025 marked a significant step in nurturing a national research community among early-career scholars.

The colloquium received over 150 abstract submissions from doctoral scholars enrolled in various universities and research institutions across India. After a rigorous review process, 40 papers were selected for oral presentations and 15 posters for display. Selected participants represented a diverse range of institutions, including JNU, TISS, IITs, IIMs, central and state universities, and ICSSR research institutes.

Centre for Development Studies Alumni Association (CDSAA)

The *Centre for Development Studies Alumni Association (CDSAA)* has officially come into being and is now an active and dynamic organization. On **January 21, 2025**, the CDSAA was formally registered under Act XII of the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955, marking a major milestone in the collective efforts to establish a lasting and vibrant alumni network. Conceived as a platform to foster engagement, collaboration, and mutual support, the CDSAA seeks to bring together alumni, associates, and well-wishers of CDS from across the years and around the world. The Association encourages active participation from all members in the ongoing development of CDS—supporting its programmes, initiatives, and broader professional mission. At its core, the CDSAA is committed to nurturing a diverse, inclusive, and supportive community



that reflects the founding values of CDS, while promoting both professional excellence and personal growth.

A landmark moment in the journey of the CDSAA was the **Alumni Meet held on October 19, 2024**, as part of the **K.N. Raj Centenary Celebrations**. This memorable and well-organized gathering brought together approximately 350 alumni, spanning multiple generations of CDS graduates. The event was a celebration of the institution's enduring legacy and the invaluable contributions of its alumni in shaping its present and future.

A key outcome of the Alumni Meet was the formal formation of the Executive Committee (EC)—a vital step in organizing and institutionalizing the alumni network. The elected office bearers and members of the inaugural Executive Committee are as follows:

President-Sundari Ravindran, Vice President- Keshab Das, Secretary- Beena P.L., Jt. Secretary-Harilal Madhavan, Treasurer-Chandra Shekar K, Members are Meena Abraham Chacko, Prabhu Das, Dennis Rajakumar, Shakuntala G Rao, D. Tripathi Rao and S M Vijayanand

The Wayanad Resilience Series: Addressing Climate Change Challenges in India.

In response to the tragic events that unfolded in Wayanad, where extreme weather conditions led to widespread devastation and loss of lives, the students of the Centre have come together to initiate a thoughtful and action-oriented platform: "The Wayanad Resilience Series: Addressing Climate Change Challenges in India." The series is an expression of solidarity with the victims, a tribute to the resilience of affected communities, and an intellectual call to action to address the broader climate crisis that underpins such tragedies.

Seven programmes have been conducted so far under *The Wayanad Resilience Series*. The first talk was held on 12th August 2024, titled "*The Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committee Reports: All We Wanted to Know and Forget*", the lecture was delivered by Dr. T. V. Sajeev, Chief Scientist at the Kerala Forest Research Institute.

The series also featured lectures by several eminent scholars and experts, including:

- Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, Director of the G20 Global Land Initiative at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Prof. T. Jayaraman, Senior Fellow, Climate Change, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)
- Dr. Anoop Thankachan K, Associate Professor, P.G. Department of History, N.M.S.M. Government College, Kalpetta
- Dr. Najeeb V. R., Social Scientist and Research Coordinator, Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Research Centre, Kozhikode

Prof. P.Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture

Prof. P.Mohanan Pillai served the Centre with great distinction as a faculty member for about three decades during 1983- 2011. Thereafter he was serving as an Honorary Fellow



of the Centre. He has made an important contribution to the understanding of issues related to technology transfer in Indian industries. The family of late Professor Pillai has donated a sum of money to create an endowment in his memory. The CDS Committee of Direction had accepted this generous offer from the family. The 'P. Mohanan Pillai Endowment Fund' is created at the Centre on 20.12.2021. The annual interest income from this endowment will be used to organise special lectures in memory of Prof. Pillai once in two years.

The first lecture in this series was held on **23 August 2024**. Prof. Rakesh Basant, Professor of Economics (Retd.), Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) delivered the lecture on the topic titled 'Multinational Corporations and Technological Change in Host Countries: An Indian Perspective'.

New Admission Process for MA Programme at CDS

Starting with the 2024 admission cycle, the Centre has adopted a revised admission process for its MA Programme in Applied Economics. Admissions are now conducted through the **Common University Entrance Test (CUET)**, administered by the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**, replacing the earlier CDS-specific MA entrance examination. The selection to the MA Programme has been on the basis of CUET score and online interview. Candidates shortlisted on the basis of CUET score and called for interview.

Campus Renovation and Infrastructure Assessment at CDS

The Centre has embarked on a comprehensive infrastructure assessment and renovation initiative to upgrade and maintain its campus facilities. As part of this initiative, the Campus Infrastructure and Building Maintenance Committee decided to conduct a structural stability assessment of all buildings constructed prior to 2008, recognizing the need for preventive maintenance and long-term sustainability. This structural assessment was carried out by an expert team from the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram, and identified key issues related to leakage and spalling of ceiling concrete, which posed both functional and safety concerns. Following the assessment, the Committee of Direction (CD) reviewed the expert report alongside a detailed cost estimate prepared by the Estate and Engineering Section of CDS.

At the request of the Director, the matter was escalated to the ICSSR. In response, ICSSR advised CDS to apply for a one-time renovation grant, recommending that cost estimates be based on PWD or Central PWD rates. The major items included in the estimate are dismantling RCC, items for cutting reinforcement, plastering, painting, water proofing of ceiling and roof areas, trafford sheet roofing with GI tubular truss work for residential area car shed, scaffolding for repair works, mangalore tiling works etc. The total estimated cost of works as per DSR comes to Rs. 26,00,000/-. The ICSSR sanctioned 50% of the estimated cost, and the rectification works related to the leak proofing work of Library Main building First floor, leak proofing and repair work of H2 building, repair works on H12 quarters have been successfully completed.

Through this initiative, CDS aims to ensure the long-term safety, functionality, and sustainability of its campus buildings, while preserving the architectural and academic legacy of the institution.



8

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

(As on 31 March, 2025)

COMMITTEES

Governing Body

Chairperson

Prof. Sudipto Mundle
Senior Advisor, National Council of Applied Economic Research &
Visiting Faculty, Indian School of Public Policy, New Delhi

Member – Convener

Prof. C. Veeramani
Director
Centre for Development Studies
Thiruvananthapuram

Members

Prof. Mohanan Kunnummal
Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala
Senate House Campus, Palayam
Thiruvananthapuram 695 034

Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit
Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi

Shri Puneet Kumar IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Planning and Economic Affairs,
Govt. of Kerala & Member Secretary, Kerala State Planning Board
Thiruvananthapuram

Prof. Dhananjay Singh
Member Secretary
Indian Council of Social Science Research
New Delhi



Prof. Chiranjib Sen
Distinguished Professor of Economics & Public Policy, School of Liberal Studies
B M L Munjal University

Prof. Ramesh Chand
Member, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog

Prof. Ram Singh
Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics,
University of Delhi

Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti
Professor of School of Environmental Science
& Rector I, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil
Professor & Director
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Department of Commerce,
University of Kerala, Trivandrum

Prof. Praveena Kodoth
Professor,
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. J. Devika
Professor,
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. P. Sivanandan
Honorary Fellow,
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Prof. Amit Bhaduri
Honorary Fellow,
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Committee of Direction

Chairperson
Prof. Sudipto Mundle

Member – Convener
Prof. C. Veeramani

Shri Puneet Kumar IAS
Prof. Dhananjay Singh
Prof. Ram Singh
Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti
Prof. J. Devika

**Finance Committee**

Chairperson

Prof. Sudipto Mundle

Member – Convener

Prof. C. Veeramani

Shri Puneet Kumar IAS

Prof. Dhananjay Singh

Prof. Chiranjib Sen

Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil

Prof. Praveena Kodoth

JNU-CDS Committee of Direction for MA/MPhil/ PhD Programmes

Prof. C Veeramani, Director, CDS (*Chairperson*)

Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli (Dean/ SIS/ JNU, New Delhi)

Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma (Dean/ SIS/ JNU, New Delhi)

Prof. B. K. Pandey (Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management, Haryana)

Dr. Sanjeev Mishra (Chairman, Dr. Jagannath Mishra Institute of Economic Studies, Patna)

Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti (Rector II, JNU, New Delhi –Special Invitee)

Prof. M. Parameswaran (CDS)

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan (CDS)

Shri. S. Suresh Kumar, Registrar, CDS (*Convenor*)

Academic Committee

Prof. C Veeramani (Chairperson)

Dr. Rajit Biswas (Convenor)

All faculty (Members)

Registrar (Member)

Chief Librarian (Member)

Systems Officer (Member)

Shri. Mufeed P M (MA Representatives)

Ms. Surya K K (MA Representatives)

Shri. Manish Sharma (PhD Representatives)

Ms. Shonima Nelliath (PhD Representatives)

Academic Programme Committee

Prof. C Veeramani (Chairperson)

Prof. M. Parameswaran (Convenor)

All Faculty (Members)

Ph.D Advisory Committee

Prof. M. Parameswaran (Coordinator)

Prof. J. Devika

Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Prof. Suraj Jacob



Dr. Abhilash T.
Mrs. Lekha K. (Ex-officio Member)

MA Advisory Committee

Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan (Coordinator)
Prof. Beena P. L.
Dr. Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer
Dr. Ritika Jain
Dr. Rajit Biswas
Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur
Mrs. Lekha K. (Ex-officio Member)

Faculty Committee

Prof. C Veeramani (Chairperson)
Prof. J. Devika (Convenor)
Prof. Praveena Kodoth
Prof. Vinoj Abraham
Prof. P L Beena

Library Committee

Dr. Ritika Jain (Chairperson)
Shri. V. Sriram (Chief Librarian)
Dr. Abhilash T
Shri. S. Suresh Kumar (Registrar)
Shri. Sivakumar P
Shri. Amresh Senapathi (Student Representative)

IT Committee

Prof. Beena P.L. (Chairperson)
Shri. V. Sarath (Convenor, Ex-officio)
Shri. S. Suresh Kumar (Registrar, Ex –officio)
Shri. V. Sriram, (Chief Librarian, Ex –officio)

Investment Committee

Prof. C Veeamani (Chairperson)
Prof. Praveena Kodoth (Finance Committee Member)
Shri. S. Suresh Kumar (Registrar)
Shri. S. Suresh (Sr.Finance Officer - Convenor)
Internal Audit Officer (Member)

Staff Welfare Fund

Prof. J. Devika (Chairperson)
Shri. Suresh Kumar. S (Registrar)
Shri. S. Suresh (Sr. Finance Officer)

**Staff Council***Ex-officio Members:*

Prof. C Veeramani (Director)
Shri. S. Suresh Kumar (Registrar)
Shri. V. Sriram (Chief Librarian)
Shri. S. Suresh (Senior Finance Officer)

Representatives:

Prof. P. L. Beena (Academic Staff)
Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan (Academic Staff)
A.R. Ajikumar
(Convenor & Member, Administrative Staff)
Ms. Raji R.S (Member, Administrative Staff)
Mr. 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. Sajjan P. B, Joint Director, COSTFORD
Prof. Mitra D C, College of Engineering, Trivandrum (CET)
Prof. Biju V, College of Engineering, Trivandrum (CET)

Members

Mr. Suresh Kumar S, Registrar
Mr. Suresh S, SFO
Prof. Devika J
Prof. Parameswaran M
Prof. Hrushikesh Mallick
Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan
Dr. Rajit Biswas
Mr. Aanandh N. R, Campus Supervisor
Mr. Anoop Kumar P P, Asst.Campus Supervisor

Committee to formulate guidelines for consultancy and training programmes

Chairperson

Prof. Veeramani C, Director

Convener

Dr. Ritika Jain

Members

Prof. Vinoj Abraham
Prof. Beena P. L
Dr. Parameswaran M
Dr. Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer



Dr. Srikanta Kundu
Dr. Abhilash T
Dr. Gogol Mitra Thakur
Mr. Suresh Kumar S, Registrar
Mr. Suresh S, SFO – Member
Mr. Sarath V, Systems Officer

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. Gogol Mitra Thakur
Dr. Chandra Shekar K

Committee on Official Language

Chairperson
Mr. Suresh Kumar S

Members
Mr. Shareef H S
Mrs. Lekha K
Mr. Ajikumar A R

Hostel Wardens

Prof M. Parameswaran
Dr. Ritika Jain

SC/ ST Cell

Chairperson
Dr. Abhilash T
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

Chairperson
Prof. C. Veeramani
Members
Prof. J. Devika
Prof. M. Parameswaran



Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan
Ms. Krishnapriya V S, Special Invitee

Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)

Chairperson

Professor Praveena Kodoth

Members

Ms. Magline Philomena – External Member

Dr. Ritika Jain

Mr. Sriram V

Mrs. Lekha K

Ms. Shakuntala Ghadai

Mr. Rahul Kamal

Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC)

Chairperson

Prof. C. Veeramani

Members

Prof. Praveena Kodoth

Prof. J Devika

Prof. Vinoj Abraham

Prof.. M. Parameswaran

Shri. Suresh Kumar S -Registrar, Convener

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, (Associate Professor, CDS)

Dr. Jyothi Krishnan, (Associate Professor, Loyola College of Social Sciences, Trivandrum)

Mr. V Sriram, (Chief Librarian, CDS)

Communications and Outreach Committee

Dr. Ritika Jain – Chairperson

Mr. Ajikumar A R – Convener

Mr. Sriram V – Member

Mr. Sarath V – Member

Mr. Praveen G – Member

Mr. Emmanuel T. J – Member

Mr. Basit Abdullah – Member

Mr. Sachin Varghese Titty – Member

Seminar Co-ordinator

Dr Rajit Biswas

**Campus Committee**

Prof J. Devika (Chairperson)
Mr Suresh Kumar S, Registrar (Ex-Officio)(Convenor)
Dr Chidambaran Gurunathan Iyer (Member)
Mr Ajikumar A R (Member)
Mr Aanandh N R (Member)
Mr Anoop Kumar P P (Member)
Ms. Aiswarya Prakash
Ms. Sandhya Lakra
Mr. Mohammed Anfas
Ms. Ahsana

Canteen Management Committee (CMC)

Chairperson
Prof.M.Parameswaran
Convener
Mr. Sureshkumar S, Registrar (Ex-Officio)
Members
Dr.Ritika Jain, Warden (Ex-Officio)
Mr. Aji Kumar A R
Mr. Abdulla

Guest House Management Committee

Prof.Praveena Kodoth (Chairperson)
Shri. Suresh Kumar S, (Ex-Officio, Convener)
Prof.J Devika, Campus Committee Chairperson (Ex-Officio)
Shri. Anoop Kumar P P, Guest House Manager (Ex-Officio)

Right to Information Act

S. Suresh Kumar, Registrar
(Chief Public Information Officer)
Ajikumar A.R.
(Asst. Public Information Officer)
C Veeramani, Director
(Appellate Information Officer)



FACULTY

Director & RBI Chair Professor

C Veeramani

Ph.D in Economics
(CDS/JNU)

Research Area: International Trade; Industrial Economics; Foreign Investment; Labour Market

Professors

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

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

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

Ritika Jain

Ph.D in Economics
(IGIDR)

Research Area: Politics and Development, Industry and Trade, Innovation and Technology, Labour Employment and Social Security

Rajit Biswas

Ph.D in Quantitative Economics
(Indian Statistical Institute)

Research Area: Industry and Trade

Abhilash Thadathil

Ph.D in Political Science &
International Studies
(JNU)

Research Area: Politics and Development, Human Development, Health and Education, Labour, Employment and Social Security

Chandrill Bhattacharyya (On Leave) *Research Area:* Growth Theory and Other Studies
Ph. D in Quantitative Economics
(Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata)

Gogol Mitra Thakur

Ph.D,
(JNU)

Research Area: Growth and Development, Macroeconomics

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

S. Suresh Kumar
Shareef H.S.
Ajikumar A.R.

Registrar
Assistant Administrative Officer
Assistant Grade I (designated as PS to Registrar)

Director's Office
Praveen G.
Ajayanandam S

Senior Grade Assistant (designated as P.S. to Director)
Attendant

Academic Programme Office

K. Lekha
Raji R.S.
Arun K.C.

Assistant Grade I
Assistant Grade II
Assistant Grade II

Programme Office
Emmanuel T.J.

Assistant Grade I

Guest House

Anoop Kumar P.P.
Biju R.S.

Guest House Manager
Attendant

Finance

S. Suresh
Kiran K V
Arun Hrishikesh
Reeshma R.S.
Sumesh C.S.

Senior Finance Officer
Internal Audit Officer
Accounts Officer
Accountant
Attendant

Estate and Engineering

Aanandh N.R.
Anoop Kumar P.P.

G.Vijayan

Campus Supervisor
Assistant Campus Supervisor
(designated as Guest House Manager)
Attendant

Reception/ Despatch
Satheesh S.S.

Assistant Grade II

COMPUTER CENTRE / IT

V. Sarath

Systems Officer

K.N. RAJ LIBRARY

V. Sriram
Sivakumar P
Saibabu S.

Chief Librarian
Assistant Librarian
Attendant



9

RESEARCH TITLES

CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

1. *'Keep Calm and Carry On? The 'Post-Kerala Model' and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century' (Edited volume)*

J Devika J and V J Varghese

Status: To be published by Orient Blackswan, Hyderabad. Finalized ms after review to be submitted soon

2. *'Stirrings of collective conscience'*

Suraj Jacob

Status: "Stirrings of collective conscience" to be published in forthcoming (2025) book Being Earth by Amrita Nandy (Seva Mandir)

Ongoing Studies

3. *'Toilet Theory: State, Sociality, and Policy in India'*

Suraj Jacob and Balmurli Natrajan

Status: Book manuscript titled Toilet Theory: State, Sociality, and Policy in India (under review at OUP London)

DECENTRALISATION AND GOVERNANCE

Completed Studies

4. *'Age friendly local governance in Kerala'*

M. Parameswaran, Krishna Kumar C and Mohan Kumar

Status: Plan to publish in book form in Malayalam

5. *'K. N. Raj on the Economy, Governance, and Policy'*

Suraj Jacob

Status: Chapter in forthcoming book Social Theorizing in Contemporary India, edited by Ananta Kumar Giri (Routledge London)



Ongoing Studies

6. *'Gender and the History of Welfare Policy in Kerala : Some Preliminary Thoughts'*

Devika J and Anamika Ajay

Expected date of completion: October 2025

7. *'State of Decentralisation in India: A comparison of Indian States'*

M. Parameswaran and Mohan Kumar

Expected date of completion: October 2025

8. *'Governance Processes: The Making and Unmaking of Public Policies in India'*

Suraj Jacob and Babu Jacob

Status: Book manuscript titled Governance Processes: The Making and Unmaking of Public Policies in India (to be sent to CUP in early 2026)

New Research Initiatives

9. *Edited book on "Policy Histories and Decentralisation Possibilities in Water, Sanitation, and Waste Management"*

Suraj Jacob, N C Narayanan and team from IIT-Bombay

10. *'Policy Processes for Environmental Services: Solid & Liquid Waste Management in Kerala'*

Suraj Jacob and N C Narayanan

11. *Draft paper titled "Campaign style governance: Exploring a waste management initiative by state and local government in Kerala"*

Suraj Jacob and N C Narayanan and Ruth George

12. *Draft paper titled "Imagination, projection, and practice of decentralisation: The case of waste management in Trivandrum"*

Suraj Jacob and N C Narayanan and Ruth George

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

13. *'Debt, Discipline, and Gender in Twenty-first Century Kerala'*

Devika J and Anamika Ajay

Status: to appear in the special issue of Social Change, edited by Rowena Robinson and Sherin Sabu.

14. *Book : 'Family, Women, and Ill-being: A Critique of the Family in Twenty-First Century Kerala'*

Devika J and Anamika Ajay.

Publication Status: In press, to be published by Zubaan, New Delhi.



15. 'Child care and Educated Women's Labour Market Behaviour: Evidence from Kerala'

Thiagu Ranganathan, Tirtha Chatterjee and Praveena Kodoth

Status : Presented at Kerala and World Economy; Published an article in EPW as a part of Review of Gender Studies

Ongoing Studies

16. 'Between Aspirations and Vulnerabilities: Unorganised Retail Sector Women Workers in Kerala'

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Expected date of completion: September 2025

17. 'Welfare support vs. Inherited Wealth: Unequal vulnerabilities of women entrepreneurs located within and outside the Kudumbashree network in Kerala'

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Expected date of completion: December 2025

18. 'Multiple Effeminisations: Twentieth Century Brahmanical Patriarchy in Kerala'

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Expected date of completion: August 2025

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Completed Studies

19. 'Accountability for learning in contexts of fragile school attendance in India'

Suraj Jacob, Caroline Dyer and Archana Choksi

Status: Draft article "Accountability for learning in contexts of fragile school attendance in India" to be sent to journal in 2025

20. 'From Public to Private Without Guardrails: The Challenge of Sustaining Achievements in Education in Kerala, India'

Suraj Jacob, Suaid Rather and Sajitha Bashir

Status: Draft article titled "From Public to Private Without Guardrails: The Challenge of Sustaining Achievements in Education in Kerala, India" to be sent to journal in 2025

New Research Initiatives

21. 'Rural Diets, Consumption, and Livelihoods'

Suraj Jacob and Richa Kumar



Research sponsored by IIT-Delhi

22. *'Student Backgrounds and Food Choices: Life in an Indian University'*

Suraj Jacob and Richa Kumar

Research sponsored by IIT-Delhi

23. *'School Attendance and Learning Progression in India'*

Suraj Jacob, Caroline Dyer, Suman Bhattacharjea, and Archana Choksi

Sponsorship expected from ESRC, UK

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

24. *'For mobiles, PLI is not enough'*

The Hindu Business Line, 10/10/24, Investment and Capital-Labour Relations in India's Organized Manufacturing Sector

Chidambaran G Iyer

25. *'Competition and Extended Producer Responsibility induced Vertical Integration'*

Rajit Biswas, Muskaan Ahlawat and Neelanjan Sen

Status : Submitted to Journal

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

C. Veeramani

27. *'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 *Asian Economic Papers*, 24(3). MIT Press. (Forthcoming).

28. *'India's Integration into Global Value Chains: Policy Approaches to Growth and Industrial Upgrading'*

C. Veeramani

Status: *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies*. Wiley. (Forthcoming).

29. C. Veeramani and Manish (Forthcoming). *'Do Global Value Chains Clean or Harm the Environment?'*

Status: Published in *Indian Economic Review*.

30. *'External Sector Outlook and 2025–26 Union Budget.'*

**C. Veeramani**

Status: Published in *Economic and Political Weekly*, 60(16), 19 April.

31. 'Dynamics and Determinants of Fragmentation Trade: India in Comparative and Long-term Perspective',**C. Veeramani and Garima Dhir**

Status: *Economic and Political Weekly*, 59(34), 24 August.

32. 'What You Import and Where It Comes from Matter for Growth: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives.'**C. Veeramani and M. Parameswaran**

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

33. "Strategic Trade Policies for Catalysing India's Economic Transformation."**C. Veeramani and Anwesha Basu**

Status: In Charan Singh and Arvind Virmani (Eds.), *India's Economic Evolution Towards Inclusive Development: Exploring the Bhartiya Model*. Springer. (Forthcoming).

34. 'Trade, FDI, and Growth: Overview and Evidence from India.'**C. Veeramani**

Status: 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.

35. 'Strategically reforming India's role in global value chains'**C Veeramani**

Status: Published in *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, Vol.16, No.2 April–June 2024 49.

36. Effects of Backward GVC Participation on Labor Market: Micro-Level Evidence from India,**Deepali Gupta and C. Veeramani**

Status: Published as IGIDR Working Paper WP-2025-005.

37. 'Trade Liberalization, Productivity, and Markups: Evidence from India's Manufacturing'**C. Veeramani and Prachi Gupta**

Status: Submitted to a journal

38. 'What explains startup failure?'**Chidambaran G Iyer and Vinish Kathuria**

Expected date of completion: March 2026



39. 'Bridging the Credit Gap: Influence of ICT on Credit Access in South Asia'

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

Status : First draft ready

40. 'Firms are greener on the side of ICT adopters- An analysis of firms in South Asia'

Ritika Jain and Shreya Biswas

41. 'To license or to cross-hold? An Analysis of Partial Passive Ownership and Alternate Forms of Technology Licensing'

Rajit Biswas, Aishwarya Desai and Neelanjan Sen

New Research Studies

42. 'Industrial concentration and firm performance: Comparative analysis between formal and informal sector in India'

Chandra Shekar K

43. 'Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in mobile phone manufacturing in India: A preliminary assessment'

Chidambaran G Iyer

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Completed Studies

44. 'Imperatives of regulating the Knowledge and Technology driven Industries in India'

Beena P L

45. 'Informality, innovation, and firm performance: evidence from World Bank Enterprise Survey in India, 2013-2014'

Chandra Shekar K.

Status: Published; Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 14(1), 17.

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

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Status : Under peer review



47. 'Technology transfer impact of two biomedical products developed in Kerala

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Status : Comments solicited from well known scholars before manuscript is submitted to a journal.

48. 'Policy implications from diffusion of two digital payment technologies in India'

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Status : Submitted to ICSSR for publication in its Newsletter

Ongoing Studies

49. 'Competition, Innovation, and Startup Acquisitions: Evaluating Antitrust Trends in India's High-Tech Landscape'

Beena P L

50. 'Impact of Digitalisation on Financial Inclusion and Firm Performance of Informal Sector in India: Pre and Post COVID analysis'

Chandra Shekar K.

Status: Published as CDS Working paper Series No.519

51. 'Bivoltine Sericulture in India: An Innovation system perspective'

Chidambaran G. Iyer

Expected date of completion: December 2025

Research Plan

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

Chidambaran G. Iyer

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

Chidambaran G. Iyer

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Completed Studies

54. 'Youth Unemployment in India: Do Aspirations Matter?.'

Abdullah, B., Abraham, V. & Jain, R.

Status: Abdullah, B., Abraham, V. & Jain, R. Youth (2024) *Unemployment in India: Do Aspirations Matter?.* Ind. J. Labour Econ. 67, 883–908 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027->



024-00510-8

Ongoing Studies

55. 'Contingent aspirations and employment dynamics of young mothers in Kerala'

Thiagu Ranganathan, Praveena Kodoth and Tirtha Chatterjee

Expected date of completion: June 2025

New Research Initiatives

56. 'Structural Transformation and Employment in India'

Vinoj Abraham

MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Completed Studies

57. 'Inflation in India: Dynamics, distributional impact and policy implications'

M. Parameswaran and Pulapre Balakrishnan

58. 'Economic Growth in India: A longer view'

M. Parameswaran and Pulapre Balakrishnan

Status: Coming as chapter in a book titled "75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts" published by the Springer Nature.

Ongoing Studies

59. 'Demand-led growth, education and wage inequality'

Gogol Mitra Thakur and Pintu Parui

60. 'Analysis of the Finances of State of Kerala'

A Report Prepared for the 16th Finance Commission

M. Parameswaran, Hrushikesh Mallick and C Veeramani

Sponsorship: 16th Finance Commission

Expected date of completion: May 20, 2025

New Research Initiatives

61. 'Aggregate demand, product quality and capital goods imports in a developing country'

Gogol Mitra Thakur and Rajiv Jha



MIGRATION

Completed Studies

62. 'Patterns and Determinants of International Student Migration from Kerala'

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

Status: Project report published

63. 'The Covid 19 Pandemic and Employment Vulnerability in Kerala, India: Does Migration Status Matter?'

Ritika Jain, Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham

Status : CDS Working Paper Series 515

64. 'From Asia to the Middle East: State Policies, Gender Politics and Women's Labour Migration'

Praveena Kodoth

Status: For a Sage handbook on gender

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

Praveena Kodoth

Status: For a special issue of Sociological Bulletin.

Ongoing Studies

66. 'The Care Regime through the Lens of Migrant Labour'

Praveena Kodoth

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

Ritika Jain, Praveena Kodoth, M Parameswaran and Vinoj Abraham

Status : Looking for a journal

New Research Initiatives

68. 'Impact of Reintegration Schemes (NDPREM and Pravasi Bhadratha - Pearl) of NORKA: Phase I'

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Vinoj Abraham, Beena P. L., Jijin P



Research Plan 2025-26

69. 'An impact-evaluation study of NORKA Department Programme for Returned Emigrants (NDPREM) [Phase II of the larger study on impact of NORKA's reintegration schemes]'

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Beena PL, Vinoj Abraham, Jijin P

Sponsorship, if any: Centre for Development Studies

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

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Amartya Paul, Jijin P

Sponsorship, if any: Centre for Development Studies

AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION CROPS

Completed Studies

71. 'Risk and Vulnerability in Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra, India'

Thiagu Ranganathan, Sarthak Gaurav and Rahul Kumar Singh

Status : Gaurav, S., Singh, R. K., & Ranganathan, T. (2024). Labour Supply of Cultivator and Labour Households: Insights From a Longitudinal Survey in Vidarbha, Maharashtra. The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, 67(4), 1117-1140.

72. 'Mechanisation and Gendered Labour Market Impacts: Evidence from Longitudinal Data in Maharashtra, India'

Thiagu Ranganathan and Himansu Sekhar Thapa, CDS

Status : Presented at ADBI Seminar; Accepted as a chapter in an edited book to be published by ADBI Institute

73. 'Ruptured Rural Transformation: From Non-farm to Mixed Households in Rural India'

Vinoj Abraham

Status: Published Abraham, Vinoj (2024) Ruptured Rural Transformation: From Non-farm



to Mixed Households in Rural India, Economic and Political Weekly Vol.59, Issue No.50, 14 Dec

Ongoing Studies

74. 'Country System Analysis for Land Restoration'

Ritika Jain

Sponsored by UNCCD

75. 'Tanker use and Resilience of Horticultural Farmers in Jalna District, Maharashtra' Thiagu Ranganathan and Dr. Rekha Bhangaonkar, University of Cambridge

76. 'Mechanisation, Gender, and Collectivization: A Study of Small Tea Growers (STGs) in Tamil Nadu'

Thiagu Ranganathan, Tirtha Chatterjee and Vinoj Abraham

Status : Working on a CDS Working Paper

New Research Initiatives

77. 'Estimating Heterogeneous Effects of Agricultural Cash Transfers on Livelihoods and the Environment with Computational Methods'

Thiagu Ranganathan and Lucie Maruejols, Kiel University, Germany

POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT

Completed Studies

78. 'Land Rights and Livelihood: Contextualizing the Forest Conservation Act, 2023'.

Abhilash T

Status: Journal: Accepted Artha Vijnana, Accepted for December 2025, Vol No. LXVII Issue No. 4

79. 'Tribal Rights and Kerala Model Development: Exploring New Trends (2024), Indian Journal of Political Science, 85(2), pp, 401-406'.

Abhilash T

Status: Published in 2024, Indian Journal of Political Science, 85(2), pp, 401-406.

80. 'M Kunhaman (1949-2023) A Radical Academic Who Saw Things'

Abhilash T

Status: Published in Economic and Political Weekly (2024) 59 (5): 22-25.

**81. *'Geography of Electoral Support: The BJP and Congress Over Time'*****Suraj Jacob**

Status: Chapter titled "Geography of Electoral Support: The BJP and Congress Over Time" in forthcoming (2025) book *Contemporary Context of State Politics* edited by Yatindra Singh Sisodia and Pratip Chattopadhyay (Routledge)

Ongoing Studies**82. *'Intergenerational Mobility and Collective Articulation of Rights: A Case study of Mala Araya Tribal Community in Kerala'*****Abhilash T**

Date of completion: October 2025

New Research Initiatives**83. *'Caste, Class and Politics of Human-wildlife Conflict in Kerala'*****Abhilash T****OTHER STUDIES****Completed Studies****84. *'Lived Cosmopolitanism'? Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma and Her Challenge to Malayali Modernity'*****J Devika**

Status: To appear in an edited volume.

85. *'The Difficult Life of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma: Gender and Loneliness and the Unconventional Thinking Life'***J Devika**

Status: To appear in an edited volume.

86. *'The Translator's Practice in the Early Twenty-first Century: Some Reflections'***J Devika**

Status: To appear in an edited volume.

87. *'Healing History, Healing histories'***J Devika**

Status: To appear in an edited volume



88. *'Wayfarer-Woman and the Wayside Lamps: Autobiography of Kochattil Kalyanikkutty Amma'*

J Devika

Status: to be published by Zubaan, New Delhi.

89. *'Power, Gender, and the Birth of the Modern Malayali Family'*

J Devika and Anamika Ajay

Status: To appear in the volume, *Entangled Sovereignities: Making and Contesting Modernity in Kerala, South India*, eds F Osella, J Devika, V J Varghese, and S Santhosh, forthcoming from OUP.

90. *Embedded Morality: Understanding the Problem of Many Hands through Samaritan's Curse*

Thiagu Ranganathan, Anirban Kar, IIM Kozhikode; Raunak Sil, KPMG Global services

Status: Under Review (Philosophy and Public Affairs)

91. *Dynamics of Inequality of Opportunity in Wage Earnings in India: A Machine Learning Approach*

Thiagu Ranganathan and Gayathri Panampilly, CDS

Status: To submit in journals on inequality and income

92. *Does parental involvement improve the learning outcomes of children? Evidence from India*

Thiagu Ranganathan and Rajalaxmi Singh, CDS

Status : To submit in journals on inequality and income distribution Oxford Development Studies (Revise and Resubmit)

93. *Forest Restoration in Uttara Kannada*

Thiagu Ranganathan and S Krithi

Status : Ranganathan, Thiagu & S Krithi, *Heterogeneous Interests and Monetary Payments for Afforestation: Findings from a Framed Field Experiment (FFE) in Uttara Kannada, India*, *Environment and Development Economics*, Revise and Resubmit.

94. *'Process tracing'*

Suraj Jacob

Status: Chapter titled "Process tracing" in forthcoming (2025) book *An Introduction to Qualitative Research* edited by H. K. Dewan and Vimala Ramachandran (Azim Premji University, ISBN 978-93-5002-912-1)



Ongoing Studies

95. Social Mobility among Scheduled Castes: a jati level analysis in Tamil Nadu

Thiagu Ranganathan

Status : Working on a CDS Working Paper for submission and submit to the journal Social Indicators Research

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

Thiagu Ranganathan and Amartya Paul, CDS



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
ULLOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695011
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2025

(Amount in Ru.)

	Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
I	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
1	Members' Funds			
(a)	Members' Capital Account			
i)	General Fund	3	6,95,81,698	7,34,31,748
ii)	Endowment Fund	4(a)	77,60,09,734	71,08,79,668
iii)	Other earmarked Funds	4(b)	35,51,19,364	35,44,07,596
(b)	Reserves & Surplus			
			1,20,15,70,796	1,13,87,19,012
2	Non-current liabilities			
(a)	Long-term borrowings	5	-	-
(b)	Deferred tax liabilities (Net)	6	-	-
(c)	Other long-term liabilities	7	16,31,595	15,72,245
(d)	Long-term provisions	8	-	-
			16,31,595	15,72,245
3	Current liabilities			
(a)	Short-term borrowings	9	-	-
(b)	Trade payables		-	-
(c)	Other current liabilities	10	32,82,937	47,29,666
(d)	Short-term provisions	11	-	-
			32,82,937	47,29,666
	Total		1,20,64,85,328	1,14,50,20,923
II	ASSETS			
1	Non-current assets			
(a)	Property, Plant and Equipment and intangible assets			
(i)	Property, Plant and Equipment	12	6,80,94,548	7,25,84,598
(ii)	Intangible assets	13	-	-
(iii)	Capital work in progress	14	-	-
(iv)	Intangible asset under development	15	-	-
(b)	Non-current investments	16	1,12,15,09,804	1,05,57,82,792
(c)	Deferred tax assets (Net)	6	-	-
(d)	Long Term Loans and Advances	17	1,05,19,294	95,37,171
(e)	Other non-current assets	18	1,94,391	1,94,700
			1,20,09,18,037	1,13,80,59,261
2	Current assets			
(a)	Current investments	19	-	-
(b)	Inventories	20	53,261	48,058
(c)	Trade receivables	21	-	-
(d)	Cash and bank balances	22	54,75,530	69,06,303
(e)	Short Term Loans and Advances	23	-	-
(f)	Other current assets	24	38,500	7,301
			55,67,291	69,61,662
	Total		1,20,64,85,328	1,14,50,20,923
	Brief about the Entity	1		
	Summary of significant accounting policies	2		
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			

As per our report of even date.

For M.N.Sarma Associates

Chartered Accountants

CA Aruna Sarma, N

Partner, M.No-226/73

FIRN-0080195

UDIN: 252261700MCKXYF7870



For and on behalf of the Centre

Director

Director
Centre for Development Studies

Place: Thiruvananthapuram

Date: 30-03-2025

Place: Thiruvananthapuram

Date: 30-03-2025



CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
ULLOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695011
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2025

		(Amount in Rs.)		
	Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
I	Revenue from operations	19	58,66,988	13,50,890
II	Other Income			
(a)	Grant-in-aid	20(a)		
	From JCSSR		3,29,06,000	3,84,64,000
	From Govt of Kerala		4,91,49,000	4,00,83,810
(b)	Interest on Investment of Endowment Fund	20(b)	4,16,63,830	1,49,51,814
(c)	Sponsored Research/Fellowship/Projects (Contra)	20(c)	26,00,203	12,59,878
(d)	Faculty Cost & Recovery of Overheads (Contra)	20(d)	1,71,90,704	80,10,487
(e)	Transfer from General Fund (Depreciation - Contra)	20(e)	1,02,13,032	1,17,34,523
III	Total Income (I+II)		15,95,89,757	11,58,55,402
IV	Expenses:			
(a)	Cost of goods sold	21	-	-
(b)	Employee benefits expense	22	6,85,96,207	8,04,39,742
(c)	Finance Cost	23	-	-
(d)	Depreciation and amortization expense	24	1,02,13,032	1,17,34,523
(e)	Other expenses			
i)	Establishment Expenses	25(a)	2,36,79,053	2,37,35,496
ii)	Sponsored Research/Fellowship/Projects (Contra)	25(b)	26,00,203	12,59,878
iii)	Faculty Cost & Recovery of Overheads (Contra)	25(c)	1,71,90,704	80,10,487
iv)	Net Income from Endowment Fund transferred (Contra)	25(d)	4,16,63,830	1,49,51,814
	Total expenses		16,39,43,029	14,01,31,940
V	Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year before exceptional and extraordinary items (III-IV) - Deficit		-43,53,272	-2,42,76,538
VI	Exceptional items (specify nature & provide note/delete if none)		-	-
VII	Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year before extraordinary items (V-VI) - Deficit		-43,53,272	-2,42,76,538
VIII	Extraordinary Items (specify nature & provide note/delete if none)		-	-
IX	Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year (VII-VIII) - Deficit		-43,53,272	-2,42,76,538
	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. Rama Sarna, N
Partner, M.No-226770
PRN-0080185
UDIN: 25226770RMKXYF7070

Place: Trivandrum
Date: 30-03-2025



For and on behalf of the Centre

Director

Director
Centre for Development Studies

Place: Trivandrum
Date: 30-03-2025





3 days Seminar on Monsoon School on Inequality 2024 Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) during 20th to 22nd July, 2024.



First Prof. P. Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture delivered by Prof. Rakesh Basant, Professor of Economics (Retd.) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad on 23rd August, 2024.



15th B. G. Kumar Memorial Lecture by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, MSSRF, Chennai and Former Chief Scientist, WHO on 12th March 2025.



First Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Economic Integration in Emerging Market Economies by RBI Endowment Unit during 13th – 18th March 2025



14th Dr P K Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr. Rana Hasan, Regional Lead Economist for South Asia on 24th March, 2025.



CDS PhD Colloquium Workshop – Crossroads 2025: 20-22 March 2025.



Capacity Building Programme on Plantation and Development organised by NRPPD during 3 - 14 November 2024



Workshop on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues: 24-28 March 2025

Prof. K N Raj Centennial Celebrations

19-22 October 2024



CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

(Under the aegis of Govt. of Kerala and ICSSR, Govt. of India)

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