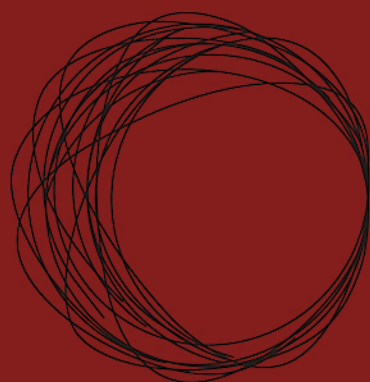


Annual Report

2016-17



Critical Action
Centre In Movement

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ABOUT CACIM

CACIM (the India Institute for Critical Action - Centre in Movement) is an initiative towards cultivating and nurturing a culture of critical reflexivity and action in individual and public work. The work of CACIM aims to build and maintain real and virtual spaces for fundamental research and critical reflection, exploration, action, and creation in the field of movement.

CACIM grew out of an experimental informal association named *Critical Action* that existed during 2001-5 between scholar-activists in different parts of the world; and of several years prior to that, of research into and direct involvement in the history and dynamics of social and political movement, by several CA members.

CACIM was formally established in 2005 as a transnational, intercultural, and interdisciplinary organisation.

MISSION

CACIM's work is about promoting criticality in socio-political action and movement. It sees critical thinking and reflection, and critical engagement, and through this critical action, as contributing to broader and more effective transformational social power.

CACIM works to strengthen the capacities and effectiveness of movements, and of activists in movements and of their supporters, through helping them develop a deeper than usual analysis of the broader political, social, and economic structures and dynamics that underlie the problems.

A related goal is to help movements to build mutually supportive alliances instead of operating alone on single issues.

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CRITICAL DOCUMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL PROCESSES:

The social movements in India have a long history of struggle and have been inspired by numerous thinkers, activists and martyrs. Each movement put forward an idea, perspective of liberation and freedom and has been inspired both by social reformers and political thinkers and activists.

Every year for the past six years Intercultural Resources, an organization based in Delhi, has been producing a social movements annual calendar. For past years as part our work on documenting the social movements / processes history, we have collaborated with them in production of two social history calendars.

The dam on river Narmada has been the site of the struggle by tribals and farmers affected by the dam, which became one of convergence of environmental, financial and social struggle of our times.

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
1990 - Bombay-Agra National Highway blocked at Khalghat bridge on Narmada by more than 10000 protestors for 28 hours 1990 - Baba Amte joins NBA		2006 - NCA gives clearance for construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam up to 121.92 m		1992 - Oustees from Malu rehabilitation site go back to their original village, Vadgaon, Gujarat 2008 - MP HC hears PIL by NBA & forbids punitive action against PAPs. Orders response on cases of corruption in rehabilitation		2004 - NCA permits raising height of Sardar Sarovar Dam from 100 m to 110.64 m
						
1994 - Pro-Dam hooligans attack NBA office in Baroda	2005 - Review Committee of NCA suspends SRP (Cash for Land) programme in line with SC verdict of March 15 2005		2000 - GRA of MP established			1992 - 500 police with bulldozers, trucks and guns enter Manibeli; brutally beat up villagers and arrests them
2009 - SC upholds MP HC judgment on Right to Peaceful Protest and Right to Life. Directs GoMP to compensate Rs. 5000 to each of 92 <i>satyagrahis</i> whose fundamental rights were violated	1990 - Dharna and fast by Arundhati Dhuru, Ramabhai and others in front of Mumbai Vidhan Sabha against submergence in Maharashtra villages		1993 - World Bank withdraws from the project 2009 - Massive corruption unearthed in rehabilitation process in several areas; NBA files first set of interim application before MP HC	2004 - CAG Audit reports corruption of Rs. 5.63 crore. Uncarths scam by NVDA in rehabilitation works in MP		
						

CAG – The Comptroller and Auditor General of India; GoMP – Government of Madhya Pradesh; GRA MP – Grievance Redressal Authority of Madhya Pradesh; HC – High Court; MP HC – Madhya Pradesh High Court; NCA – Narmada Control Authority; NVDA – Narmada Valley Development Authority; PAP – Project Affected People; PIL – Public Interest Litigation; SC – Supreme Court; SRP – Special Rehabilitation Package

We provided research support and collaborated with them to support the publication of the calendar commemorating 30 years of the struggles around the Narmada dams. This received critical acclaim and praise for bringing an educational material and providing a glimpse in to the history of one of the acclaimed social movements of the country, which redefined our understanding of the development processes.

In addition, we also supported the research for year 2017 calendar focusing on the dalit struggles in the country. The year 2015-16 saw a revival of an assertion by the dalit communities. Historically, dalit movements have been inspired by the ideology and works of Phule and Ambedkar, and have gone through its own trajectory.

The recent upsurge has to be placed rightly within the history. Hence, we collaborated with ICR to look at the trajectory of dalit struggles in the country and provide students and researchers a document and reference material in an easy to digest calendar format and resource handbook. The work was completed by three young student volunteers from universities in Delhi and was supported by us.

Chronicle of a struggle retold

by Shiv Visvanathan

(Excerpts)

Calendars are symbolic favourites of regimes. In fact, revolutions love to create new calendars to reset the time of history. Yet, occasionally, time produces inversions, and the defeated, unable to stand the silence of defeat, produce their own mnemonic of resilience. The Narmada Bachao calendar for 2015 is one such act and deserves to be talked about.

The battle over the Narmada dam reflects a journey, a pilgrimage, and a recollection of 30 years of resistance. Numbers alone cannot make sense of it because it demands a different kind of storytelling. This struggle is about a collective history of a people challenging the official history of a nation state. It is symbolic of all marginal struggles of the displaced, the landless, and that which is tribal. The calendar becomes an invitation to this new citizenship of memory. Because of the new 'enthusiasm' for development, which borders on fetishism, one forgets that the Narmada dam is an act of sacrilege across one of the most sacred of India's rivers. This calendar is about both a visual protest and a peoples' history created as footnotes to be inscribed over an official history. Protest notes mingle with dates of committee decisions to create a mix that reminds you that the dam is, was and will continue to be a site of contestation.

The Hindu, August 6, 2015

Full text: <https://goo.gl/X7xrPy>

‘TEHRI-2015’ :

Film on displacement and environment issues around Tehri dam after 10 years of the dam commissioning.

Tehri dam one of the tallest dam in India was completed in 2006 and 18000 families were rehabilitated to facilitate the development of the dam. CACIM went back to the communities after 10 years of the dam commissioning documenting the experience of people on environment and rehabilitation issues.

Unfortunately the problems are still the same in rehabilitation sites as they were 35 years ago and these were documented as peoples’ voices portraying the problems faced by the people during the rehabilitation from the old Tehri to new Tehri city. It was also found that there were issues with the processes of EIA and officials failed to take public opinion into account.



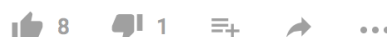
YouTube

Search



Bandh Katha-15 Tehri 2015 Ten Years of Injustice

634 views



RESEARCH ON THE LAND LAWS, DISPLACEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:

The struggle of people against displacement has resulted in debates and demands for a progressive act on rehabilitation and resettlement. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Minister for Rural Development, Mr. Birender Singh on February 24, 2015. The Bill amends the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (LARR Act, 2013).

CACIM facilitated a detailed study of the 2013 land acquisition act and the rules framed by all the state governments were compiled. Awareness materials were prepared and distributed across diverse community groups. A regular update and tracking on the developments around the land issues is being done which facilitates constant understanding for students, researchers, community leaders and others.

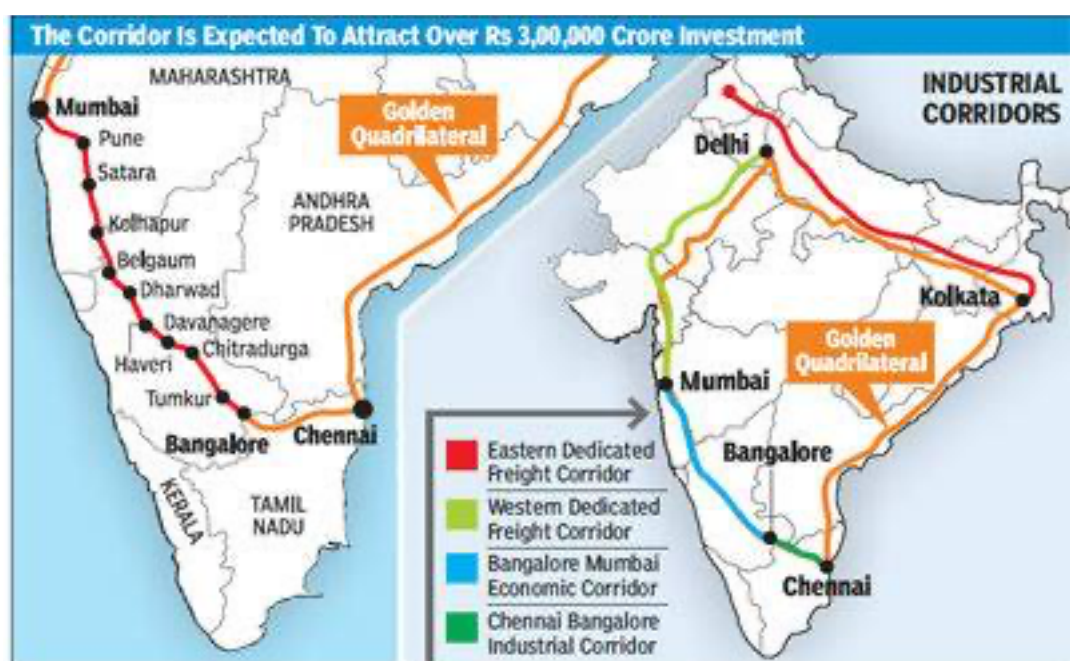
The research group constantly monitors changes around the development of big infrastructure projects such as industrial corridors, ports, special economic zones, smart cities, etc. and studies its impacts on the environment and livelihoods. In this regard we have helped set up working groups and organized two national level meetings in Delhi to understand the evolving paradigm of infrastructure based development in the country and what impact does it have for the general populace.



RESEARCH ON INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR

The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor spans across the six states of Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra and involves indiscriminate acquisition of agricultural land, massive displacement, undermining sovereignty of Gram Sabhas and colossal loss of life and livelihood. Four more Industrial Corridors viz Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor, Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor and East Coast Economic Corridor are being planned. A National Industrial Corridor Authority, with its headquarters in Pune, is being set up to coordinate the development of all industrial corridors with an initial corpus of 100 crores.

In-depth research is being conducted on the various aspects of the developments around industrial corridors. A comprehensive archive of new articles published in various mainstream and alternative media is being maintained. New status reports, other background information from offices of various stakeholders is also being archived.



Google Mailing List is active with 60 members, exchanging information around the topics mentioned above regularly. A blog www.dmaicindia.wordpress.com serves as the official bulletin for the group and a platform to engage with public. Original content in the form of researched articles is published in the blog.

The Delhi working group networks largely with community groups across India who are spearheading programmes in their respective locations and provide them with necessary information, literature, mass support and further their efforts by spreading awareness of people's movements among general public and media.

A research dossier on Industrial corridors and smart cities was brought out this year with details on the industrial nodes, smart cities, financiers, agencies, and plans for each corridor.

REAL INDIA FELLOWSHIPS

CACIM offers various fellowships to students and young organisers to visit social movements and learn from them. These include visit fellowships, short-term internships, short-term support fellowships and long term fellowships.

In the year 2015 -2016, 67 students / young people availed visit fellowships and travelled to social movements / meetings to learn, interact, share and understand from the perspectives of the people. Students visited Narmada Bacho Andolan, interacted with leaders from across the social movements in the country through National Alliance of Peoples Movements.

Short-term internship was given to four people who worked on research support, organising and empowering communities.

Long term support goes to one person who work for empowering communities suffering due to the recurring floods in Kosi river in Bihar. The work in area supported the starting up of a school for the children living in the flood affected areas of Kosi river in Bihar. These children live in an area which gets inundated every year by the floods and remains affected for six months nearly, in the remaining six months they occupy the land between two embankments. Government has not opened a school there. CACIM supported setting up of a Jeevanshala (life school) in collaboration with one of our fellows. This is an extension of our fellowship work in the same area in the year one of the project.

Oral History Fellowships

1. *Chronicling / Archiving Narmada Struggle*: CACIM gave two fellowships: one to digitize 30 years of visual photographs of the Narmada Bachao Andolan and, second to prepare a Narmada Calendar, chronological history of the Narmada movement over three decades.
2. *Chronicling Life Histories of Domestic Workers*: Coordinator of the National Domestic Workers Union was awarded the fellowship to document the stories of women from Jharkhand who were trafficked and were kept captive in the new emerging work spaces. This was done in collaboration with a feminist activist – scholar.
3. *Stories of Migration and Contractualisation*: Fellowship was given to a young student engaged in organizing the contract labourers working in various colleges / hostels of the Delhi University.

Our Lives Our Tales / Archiving Oral queer histories

CACIM through its gender project is engaged in archiving oral queer histories. This is based on the understanding that people who are in their 20's or people who have not been involved in queer activism as much might have never heard about collectives, the people involved and the lives they led. Through this initiative, discussions and talks have been documented and would be published through YouTube Channel.

These discussions captured the NALSAR Judgement of 2014, the earlier queer movement in Delhi, and looked into Fundamentalism and our lives.

LEARNING WORKSHOPS AND SHORT COURSES:

CACIM collaborated with Sambhaavana, an institute for public policy based in Himachal Pradesh to offer learning workshops and short term courses. A five day educational course for the young students and youth on Cities, labour and Politics from March 27 - 31st 2015. The workshop was attended by 35 students, community



organisers, and young activists and supported by 13 resource persons, which included trade union leaders, professors, researchers, development practitioners and activists.

Again in collaboration with Sambhaavnaa, CACIM organised a five day residential programme on “Land Rights and Politics” in Kandbari, Himachal Pradesh from February 25th- 29th, 2016. The programme explored past and ongoing debates over land and its different forms of struggles along with the various campaigns operating around these struggles. The programme also looked at the various issues of land reforms post independence, anti farmer land ordinance, forceful land acquisition, and urban land ceiling among other topics in the view of public private partnerships, land pooling, state land acquisition rules and bills and private negotiations which deprive people from safeguards.

The programme over five days comprised of a series of lectures, conversations and experiences shared by renowned scholars, activists and practitioners in the field of land rights discourse. The course was attended by 25 young students, researchers, and activists.

A three day youth workshop

Case study of Shivy

19-year-old transgender person Shivy, a citizen of India but a resident of the United States of America was illegally confined in his grandparents’ home in Agra when he came with his parents to visit them in the summer. While he was a victim of domestic abuse by his family even in his California home, on this visit to India his passport and green card were confiscated by his family and he was forced to remain in Agra under their control. Even under this duress, Shivy managed to contact queer feminist resource group and other queer rights activists and request their help to come to a safe space in New Delhi.

Despite leaving a note informing his family that he was living of his own free will, his parents filed a missing person’s complaint with UP Police, who harassed, surveilled and threatened the activists who helped Shivy, illegally entered their homes without search warrants on September 21, and abused and threatened people in their homes and offices. The UP Police were enabled and supported by UP Crime Branch and Delhi Police. Subsequently lawyers Menaka Guruswamy and Arundhati Katju, Shivy and the LGBT activists moved the Delhi High Court on September 22 seeking protection for Shivy, his friends and well wishers from harassment, intimidation and coercion, and to ask for the return of his passport and green card from his family.

In a remarkable interim order, Delhi High Court judge Siddharth Mridul granted Shivy and LGBT activists’ protection from any harassment by the police. Quoting playwright and activist late Safdar Hashmi who had talked about how our expression is based on the experience that we have, Justice Siddharth Mridul commented on how it was that people are so quick to pass judgment on things they know little about, that may not be their own experience, like sexual orientation. He noted that this was nothing but bigotry, though this is supposed to be a tolerant country.

was organized from May 15 -17, 2015 in collaboration with the Narmada Navnirman Abhiyan in Dhule, Maharashtra. Forty young community organisers associated with social action groups were exposed to different issues related to development, government policies and societal processes.

A two day Peoples Dialogue on Cities, Challenges of democratic and equitable cities was organized on April 26 – 27, 2015, in collaboration with Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS) at Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi. The programme was attended by more than 100 people over two days including community organisers, social activists, students, and young people and served as a necessary platform to bring together issues facing the urban movements, question of resources for the cities and relationship between rural and urban movements.

CACIM also conducts workshops on gender and sexuality to students in colleges and schools. Workshops were conducted in 6 Delhi University colleges and one school in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Community in Action

CACIM help organisations, groups and individuals to be sensitive and recognise issues of LBT people and address them in their work discourse and to create an environment, which is inclusive, safe and affirmative for LBT people.

Different organisations approach for help through the helpline for counseling support to LBT people. One major success last year was to rescue and provide safe shelter to transman Shivy. A case was filed on behalf of Shivy with help of lawyers from the queer community. Delhi High Court in a remarkable interim order on 22nd September, the Delhi High Court directed the Delhi Police to provide protection to 19-year-old Shivy and LGBTQ activists supporting him from the harassment, intimidation and coercion they are facing by his family, Uttar Pradesh Police and Delhi Police.