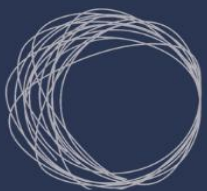


ANNUAL REPORT  
2020 - 2021



INDIA INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL ACTION-  
CENTRE IN MOVEMENT (CACIM)

## Table of Contents

1. CACIM.....	03
2. Covid 19 Pandemic and CACIM.....	04
3. Engagement with Marginalised Communities- Waste Pickers and Sewer Workers in Delhi.....	06
4. Engagement with the Fishing Communities.....	07
5. Engagement with Migrant and Local Labourers in Patna.....	08
6. Engagement with Adivasi Groups in MANDLA, Madhya Pradesh.....	09
7. Engagement with Urban Futures.....	10
8. Environment Conservation and Community Resource Management in the Himalayas.....	16
9. Engagement with Communities, Civil Society, Social Groups on Financial Accountability.....	20
10. World Social Movement Discuss.....	23

## CACIM

CACIM (the India Institute for Critical Action - Centre in Movement) was founded in 2005 to promote a culture of critical reflexivity, thought and action in public life and activity. Our programmes are part of the larger effort to create spaces where dialogue can happen among people on the margins, academia and social groups. Through critical action, our attempts are to contribute broadly and more effectively for transformational social power.

CACIM grew out of an experimental informal association named Critical Action (CA) that existed during 2001-05 between scholars and organisers 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. Having started with a primary focus on the project of democratisation and active citizenship, we gradually expanded into the areas of environment, urbanisation, marginalities, active citizenship, and financial accountability.

### Mission

CACIM strives to strengthen the capacities and effectiveness of social organisations and their members and of their supporters, through helping them develop a deeper than usual analysis of broader political, social, and economic structures and dynamics that underlie various problems. Our mission is to stimulate multiple learning centres across disciplines and cultures, and support and encourage all those involved in different ways with social organisations – organisers, researchers, teachers, professionals, artists, composers, and thinkers, both mature and young, and to promote criticality in socio-political processes and actions. A related goal is to help social organisations to build mutually supportive alliances instead of operating alone on single issues.

**Focus of our work:** CACIM has envisioned and planned its key areas of engagements across:

- A. Strategies and Cultures of Movement: movement dynamics, social transformation processes and the role of alliances and networks

- B. Rights, Resources and Accountability: community rights over natural resources, access to rights, accountability of state and non-state actors
- C. Marginalities, Democracy and Power

## Key Processes

CACIM attempts to be critically reflective in all its work and processes, as well as all times, promote critical thought, engagement, and action, also learning from other initiatives and processes. Our core activities are:

- research and documentation resulting in publications in different languages
- building awareness and strengthening capacities through organising workshops, seminars, and other meetings
- networking and outreach collaborations with the community groups and organisations across the country
- educational initiatives and courses for young people inside and outside the colleges and universities
- disseminate and promote all publications through the use of list serves, websites, and other new media

## COVID -19 Pandemic and CACIM

The period from March/April 2020 to March 2021 was distinctly marked by the global pandemic and uncertainties. The COVID 19 disease itself, the subsequent lockdowns, regulations and the restriction of movement for public safety and health had limited the organisational outreach and ability to directly work with the communities. Nevertheless, CACIM responded swiftly and primarily for providing relief measures for migrant workers during the initial phase of the pandemic. While some of our activities involved direct intervention and support to the marginalised communities and the public at large, many others involved coming together through online consultations, webinars, and meetings with different groups of the communities and civil society. Rural and urban communities, diverse occupation groups, women, students, labour representatives, health activists, social leaders came together online to have conversations and to deeply gauge the multiple dimensions of the impact of

COVID 19 on governance, economy, trade, finance, labour, human rights, public health, situation of Dalits and Adivasis, gender dimensions, environment, climate change, technology and privacy etc.

As an organisation our belief is in collaborative work and working with the community organisations across the country, since they are the ones who have presence on the ground work tirelessly to uplift the situation and conditions of the people. In COVID, we collaborated with many such community organisations working with the waste workers, sewer workers, migrant workers, forest dwelling communities and others.

## **Engagement with Marginalised Communities- Waste Pickers and Sewer Workers in Delhi**

- Covid 19 Relief Work- April, May and June 2020: CACIM has been able to provide monetary assistance to 650 families and dry ration to 200+ families living in Delhi during the month of April, May and June, joining hands with various civil society and peoples groups.
- On the occasion of World Human Rights Day, 12 December 2020, CACIM participated in a seminar organized by Bhagwan Valmiki Foundation and DASAM (Dalit Adivasi Shakti Adhikar Manch) which discussed and



- contemplated on the topic 'Covid 19 Pandemic Challenges to Human Rights' CACIM team mentioned accidents and deaths during the cleaning of sewer



/ septic tanks during Covid-19 pandemic, the lackadaisical behavior of state agencies towards cleaning staff, the untimely clearing staff salaries, dearth of security equipment, lack of laws and guaranteed financial support by government agencies and private companies when accidents occur.

- In collaboration with community groups we held meetings with waste workers and sewer workers on a regular basis throughout Delhi from December 2020, in the following locations: Manak Pura, Connaught Place, Wazirpur, Gujarati Market, Bhalaswa Dairy, and Meethapur.
- On 3rd January, 2021, in various settlements of Delhi, during Savitribai Bai Phule's Birth anniversary, social awakening program was organized with the communities living at the margin of society (sewer workers, nut community, domestic workers and laborers etc.)
- We have also started a survey to understand personal, social and economic status of contractual sewer workers throughout the North Zone Delhi from January, 2021 in the areas of Pritampura (Mongolpuri), Kasabpura, Sadar Bazar, Sultanpuri, C block, Begumpur Village, Sangam Park, and Ashok Vihar. This survey is being done with the help of the community groups and their leaders working in these areas.
- On 2nd February, 2021, UNION BUDGET 2021-22 analysis from the lens of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was conducted by the team, which looked at the welfare measures of the government for this section of the society.



UNION BUDGET 2021-22						
(Analysis from the lens of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes)						
परिभाषाओं में उलझा विकास: Development entangled in definitions:						
Year	Budget Estimate	Exp.	GDP Advance Estimate	Revenue Foregone	Interest Payment	Fiscal Deficit = Borrowing
2008-09	7,50,884	8,83,956	53,21,753	4,58,516	1,90,807	1,33,287
2009-10	10,20,838	10,24,487	61,64,178	4,82,432	2,25,511	4,00,996
2010-11	11,08,749	11,97,328	78,77,947	4,59,705	2,48,664	3,81,408
2011-12	12,57,729	13,04,365	89,12,179	5,31,583	2,57,986	4,12,817
2012-13	14,90,925	14,10,372	100,28,118	5,66,235	3,19,759	5,13,590
2013-14	16,65,297	15,59,447	113,55,073	5,72,923	3,70,684	5,42,499
2014-15	17,94,892	16,63,673	126,53,762	5,89,285	4,27,011	5,31,177
2015-16	17,77,477	17,90,783	135,67,192	6,11,128	4,56,145	5,55,649
2016-17	19,78,080	19,75,194	150,65,010	3,02,104	4,92,670	5,33,904
2017-18	21,47,000	21,41,973	168,47,455	1,94,984	5,38,952	5,46,532
2018-19	24,42,213	23,15,113	187,22,302		5,82,648	6,49,418
2019-20	27,86,349	26,86,330	211,00,607		6,12,070	7,03,760
2020-21	30,42,230		224,89,420		7,08,203	7,96,337
2021-22	34,83,236		222,87,379		8,09,701	15,06,812
Total	232,62,643	199,53,02	1,701,04,59	47,70,89	54,31,11	67,01,374

लोगों से टैक्स वसूल कर देश के विकास के लिए बजट तैयार किया जाता है। उपर दिए गए टेबल से स्पष्ट है कि प्रति वर्ष टैक्स की वसूली बढ़ रही है, खर्च भी बढ़ रहा है, सकल घरेलू उत्पाद भी बढ़ रहा है, कंपनियों एवं कुछ अन्य एजेंसी के लिए टैक्स माफ़ी (Revenue Foregone) भी बढ़ रहा है जो वर्ष 2016-17 के बाद कॉर्पोरेट टैक्स की दर 30% से घटाकर 25% करने से लगातार घट रहा है। वर्ष 2015-16 में टैक्स माफ़ी की राशि ₹ 6,11,128 करोड़ थी जो कॉर्पोरेट टैक्स की दर 30% से 25% करने के बाद वर्ष 2016-17 में ₹ 3,02,104 करोड़ हो गयी। सरकार ने अब तक जो कर्ज लिया है उस कर्ज के ब्याज के चुकातन की राशि भी लगातार बढ़ रही है और सरकार का प्रतिवर्ष वित्तीय घाटा भी बढ़ रहा है।

The road map of the country's development is prepared with the taxpayers money. The above table articulate that every year tax collection is increasing, expenditure is increasing, GDP is increasing, Revenue Foregone is also increasing for companies and some other agency which has been steadily decreasing since 2016-17, it has come down from 30% to 25% in corporate tax and continuing to go down. Tax amnesty amounted to ₹ 6,11,128 crore in the year 2015-16, which decreased to ₹ 3,02,104 crore in the year 2016-17 after reducing the corporate tax rate from 30% to 25%. The amount of interest payment of loans has been taken by the government so far is also increasing and the fiscal deficit of the government is also increasing every year.

Page no. 1

- On 28th February, 2021, a Public Hearing on Waste Workers was organized at Village Tilla Shebazzpur, Loni, Bhopura Road (Ghaziabad, U.P.) where more than 100 Waste Workers deposed before a panel of experts.
- On 7 March, 2021, a Dialogue on Contractual Sewer Workers Issue was held at Ravidas Mandir Trust, Haiderpur where more than 45 workers attended and shared their grievances.



**PUBLIC HEARING  
ON WASTE WORKERS**

**On 28th February 2021**  
Village Tilla Shebazzpur  
Loni, Bhopura Road (Ghaziabad, U.P.)  
Landmark - (Opposite) BPCL LPG  
Bottling Plant

**PANELISTS:**

Dr. Shyamala Mani- Consultant Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) & former professor (NIUA)  
Mr. Dunu Roy- Director, Hazards Centre  
Mr. Atin Biswas- Program Director at Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)  
Dr. Jitendra Nagar- Dept. of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi  
Dr. Somjita Laha- Fellow - Institute for Human Development (IHD)  
Mr. Debendra Kumar Baral- President, Bal Vikasa Dhara President  
Mr. Piyush Mohapatra- Sr. Programme Coordinator, Toxics Link  
Ms. Sweta Celine Xess- Research Scholar, JNU

**Organised by:**  
Dalit Adivasi Shakti Adhikar Manch (DASAM); National Alliance of People's Movement (NAPM); Delhi Solidarity Group (DSG); Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS); Ambedkarvadi Lekhak Sangh (ALS); People's Resource Centre (PRC); National Domestic Workers Union; Shehri Mahila Kaamgar Union; Basti Suraksha Manch (BSM); Magadh Foundation; Bal Vikash Dhara (BVD)  
Mob. 9540928915, 8178959197 E-mail:- dashaktimancho@gmail.com

## Engagement with the Fishing Communities

The fishing community was also hit hard due to the lockdown. The fisherfolk were prohibited from fishing during the first COVID-19 induced lockdown. Providing them extensive support and helping them revive was also a main focus of the process. Apart from the capacity building, support, and training to the community, efforts were made to protect mangroves, help the community fight pollution and ensure industrial compliance.

1. Working with local groups in Kachchh: Being from the rural areas, the groups needed to be constantly connected and updated with the world beyond Kachchh and their village. The legal updates about the various projects and amendments proposed in law, projects proposed etc. were constantly updated to the community.

2. However, during the second COVID-19 induced lockdown, the fishing was not prohibited but the local police staff would not allow smooth weighing and transport of the fish from the fish landing bundar to the market or to the railway station. Due to this, the fisherfolk had to incur losses. Through CACIM-supported work, representations were submitted to the fisheries department and the team ensured coordination between the fisheries department and the police department, so that there could be a smooth transport of the fishes to the weighing machines/ centres, railway station and/or to the markets. The beneficiaries were not limited to the Kutch fish producer company but all fisherfolk and fish dealers of the region benefitted through the process.
3. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a greater fear of the hospitals, which were seen as a site of infection. The local groups we worked with in the region helped in spreading information and the volunteers helped the sick, who needed medical admission to get admitted in the hospitals. The team also, through local communication and word of mouth, tried to spread awareness about COVID-19.

## **Engagement with Migrant and Local Labourers in Patna**

As the national lockdown was announced there were millions of migrant workers who were stranded in other parts of the country. Given, there is a large Bihari migrant population who were stranded, we stepped in to provide assistance in getting them back home and provide relief wherever needed. The team in Patna attended round-the-clock calls from the stranded workers and tried to connect them with local groups, provide food and any other assistance locally. The team also helped them get information about transport from their place of work to Bihar. It fetched information published by various state governments to help the stranded workers.

The community centre in Patna helps social workers and ordinary poor people who come to Patna for medical check-up and treatment. Several people from various organisations were given medical assistance and also a place to stay during their treatment.

**Covid related work:** The team was involved with Covid relief work. A lot of it was done in collaboration with various groups. CACIM's community centre



became one of the centres for coordination. Some of the work taken up by the centre were:

1. Coordinating travel of labourers from Bihar stuck in different cities of India during the lockdown
2. Coordinating travel of labourers from other states stuck in Bihar during the lockdown.
3. Providing direct relief to needy people in Patna.
4. Coordinating delivery of food to people in need required lot of coordination. This was made even more challenging by the restrictions around movement of people and vehicles. Those areas that were quarantined posed greatest challenge. Phone was the only means of communication. Often workers were unable to give their address properly. Many were illiterate and could not type their names and addresses. Many did not know where exactly they were situated. Usage of WhatsApp call, voice message and video calls did help wherever they could.

## **Engagement with Adivasi Groups in MANDLA, Madhya Pradesh**

In line with the work in Himalayas, our work in the southern Madhya Pradesh in district Mandla is with the Adivasis who are on the margins for the development and social policy. We work with the local community and their organisations to ensure access to government policies, schemes, programmes and explore livelihood opportunities.

The Mandla district is classified in the fifth schedule. There are 9 development blocks and 4 Tehsils in this district which is surrounded by Narmada River. Intensive work is being done by the project team in 12 villages of Mohgaon development block. These 12 villages have 4 panchayats. After surveying by the team, the number of women in these villages was found to be 5200 and the number of men is 5074. The total number of families are 3007 in which there are 2234 tribal, 218 scheduled caste, 515 backward class and 40 other community families.

Among the disadvantaged, there are 71 differently abled, 47 single women, 113 widow women and 22 abandoned women. The main occupations of the villagers

are farming, cattle rearing, labor etc. They also migrate from time to time for employment. Basania and Raghavpur Dams are proposed to be built on the Narmada River in this area. Due to this the local community is apprehensive about their displacement.

The villagers were trained in rights and resources of villages and forests, Panchayat Upahan Act 1996 and organic farming. During 2020-21, three trainings were conducted in which 15 women and 160 men participated. Two workshops on organic farming were organized in which 17 women and 116 men participated. 14 women and 78 men participated in two workshops on PESA law. After this program, people are taking further action by meeting in their respective villages regarding the rights of forest-dwelling communities. In the villages of the work area, they are cultivating the government revenue land for the last 40 years. But the rights of the said land has not been received, due to which they do not get the benefit of government schemes. Efforts are being made to coordinate with the institutions and organizations working on the issues.

Out of 14 eligible people, only 2 people have been able to be linked to the pension scheme. The age of the rest of the people has been entered in the Aadhar card. A certified document of age is sought for correction in Aadhar, which they do not have. 42 families of 5 villages did not have ration card. Food grains have been provided to that family by preparing eligibility list.

## **Engagement with Urban Futures**

People's Resource Centre (PRC) is a project of CACIM and it has emerged from discussions and interactions among social workers, engaged scholars, communities and citizens defending their commons and advocating for a different, people-centric model of 'development'. Apart from conducting action-oriented research and community-level interventions, PRC publishes resource material on politics of resource appropriation. PRC is also working towards republishing a series of forgotten/less-known texts of relevance to contemporary movements.

PRC conducts primary research on emerging policy issues, methodological approaches and less discussed issues of systemic nature. Research work at PRC lies at the intersection of democratization of access to resources, livelihood, gender, quality of life, self-reliance, localization and decentralization- all geared towards building alternative models and imaginations of organizing society. PRC disseminates information through seminars, public events, itinerant workshops/sharing sessions, website, social media accounts, newsletters, papers, articles, books and booklets- all of them under creative commons licence so as to ease universal access to PRC's contributions.

Designed across three verticals of urban futures, infrastructure and climate justice, the main activities undertaken during 2020-21 were:

### **New Research**

- **Urban Agriculture Research Fellowship:** PRC offered a research fellowship to conduct case studies on urban farming in six Indian cities - Patna, Ranchi, Bodhgaya, Pune, Mumbai and Indore. Through this we also expanded the existing network of PRC and brought the agenda of urban and peri-urban agriculture to the attention of a larger group of people. The studies were conducted using extensive field research, relying on interviews, photographs, video testimonies, detailed field diaries. The research reports are available on our website.
- PRC studied the environmental impacts of Sabarmati riverfront development projects in Patna and Ahmedabad, including the impact on the crucial ecosystem that homes vast biodiversity of flora and fauna along with supporting natural processes, chances of escalating extreme weather events such as flash floods and droughts, the likely loss of livelihood, shelter, culture and knowledge of the communities.

### **Webinars, Conferences and Public Meetings**

- **Farming The City-21:** The convention consisted of talks, panel discussions, research paper presentations, case studies, video presentations and photo exhibitions focusing on the degradation of the urban and global environment, food sovereignty and food security, public health, waste, the role of women, labourers, and land use. More than 250 people joined on different days, and participation was not limited to India. 20+ speakers from different backgrounds including practitioners, researchers, and activists from various

communities and disciplines presented during the six sessions of the convention. Many new people were added to the urban agriculture community and participants appreciated the fact that they got introduced to new initiatives and practices in urban agriculture such as intervention in the school curriculum, community-led initiatives in cities of India as well as in other parts of the world. FTC-21 served as a platform to showcase the ongoing research work of PRC in various cities of India. The recordings of all the sessions are made available on our YouTube channel for easy access. A mailing list has been running to sustain the discussions beyond the convention. A report summarising the discussions is likely to be out in the next few months.



- **Sinking Cities: River, City and Politics of Water** was organised by PRC to understand the responsibilities of a cities towards the rivers and holding them more accountable for their actions. The discussion focused on the critical evaluation of planning & development along the urban stretch of the rivers, particularly the mega infrastructure projects in the city.

### S P E A K E R S



**MUDITA VIDROHI**  
She is the Programme Coordinator of Gujarat Lok Samiti. She Successfully stalled hazardous chemical waste disposal plants for fertile farmlands in Bhal, Gujarat



**MAHENDRA YADAV**  
He is the founder of Kashi Navnirman Manch & National convenor of National Alliance for People's Movement



**SARANG VAMAN YADWADKAR**  
He is an Architect and a Technical Consultant. Member of planning committee for Pune's City Development Plan. Filed cases in NGT against riverfront development projects in Pune.



**AKSHITA RAWAT**  
She is a researcher at People's Resource Centre. She is currently studying urban farming and food sovereignty in Delhi.



**ANANT MARINGANTI**  
He is the Executive Director of Hyderabad Urban Lab. His research and teaching interests centers on urban innovations and globalisation from south Asian perspectives



PANEL DISCUSSION

## SINKING CITIES

River, City and Politics of Water

14-March-2021  
3-5 PM  
Zoom Meeting ID: 8131-6053-597

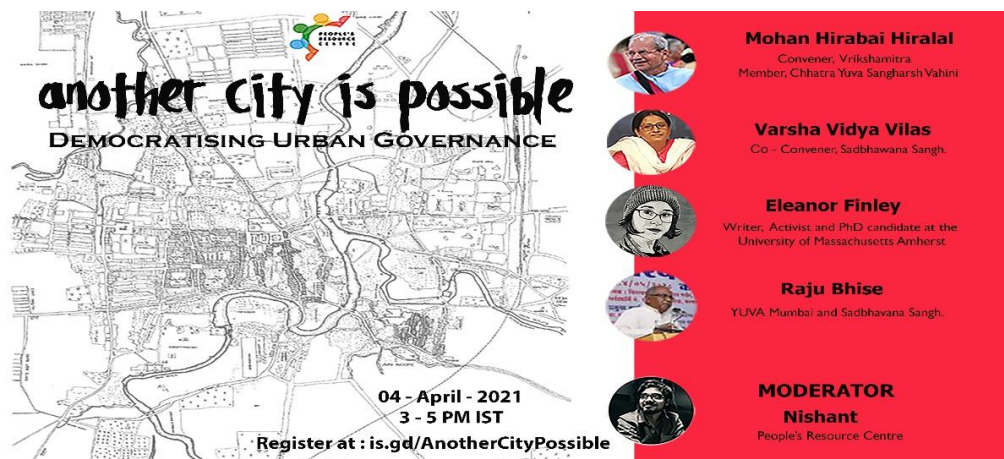


**MODERATION**



**ARCHANA SINGH**  
She is a researcher at People's Resource Centre. She is currently studying the impact of riverfront projects on river ecology

- People's Resource Centre organised a webinar titled '**Democratizing Urban Governance**' part of the "**Another City is Possible**" series. This webinar explored the state of urban governance in India and explored ideas for decentralised, participatory, and inclusive urban politics.



**another city is possible**  
DEMOCRATISING URBAN GOVERNANCE

04 - April - 2021  
3 - 5 PM IST  
Register at : [is.gd/AnotherCityPossible](https://is.gd/AnotherCityPossible)

**Mohan Hirabai Hirallal**  
Convener, Vrikshamitra  
Member, Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini

**Varsha Vidya Vilas**  
Co - Convener, Sadbhawana Sangh.

**Eleanor Finley**  
Writer, Activist and PhD candidate at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Raju Bhise**  
YUVA Mumbai and Sadbhawana Sangh.

**MODERATOR**  
**Nishant**  
People's Resource Centre

- In a unique collaboration, People's Resource Centre organised a webinar titled '**Seeds of Resistance and Hope**' in which various people working with communities and practitioners of urban farming in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, shared their knowledge. In this conversation, people from Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine threw light upon how the people of these conflict-ridden states are going back to their roots, using local and indigenous seeds and practices of farming to resist the occupation by the State and other forces by making people self-reliant.



People's Resource Centre  
invites you to

**SEEDS OF RESISTANCE AND HOPE**

A conversation between Environmental Activists and Practitioners of Urban Farming in India, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine

ZOOM MEETING ID | 852-2074-7860

DATE AND TIME : DECEMBER 2, 6:00 - 8:00 PM DELHI | 2:30 - 4:30 PM BEIRUT / PALESTINE | 3:30 - 5:30 PM BAGHDAD | 1:30 - 3:30 PM PARIS / BERLIN

**SPEAKERS**

**Lina Isma'il**  
Environmental Activist, Palestine

**Khaled Hammoud**  
Architect, Environmental Activist, Lebanon

**Serge Harfouche**  
Farmer, Environmental activist, Lebanon

**Abdallah Alkhatib**  
Palestinian-Syrian Human Rights Activist

**HOSTS**

**Nishant**  
People's Resource Centre

**Rajendra Ravi**  
People's Resource Centre

**MODERATORS**

**Ansar Jasim**  
Activist & Researcher, West Asia

**Madhuresh Kumar**  
National Alliance of People's Movements



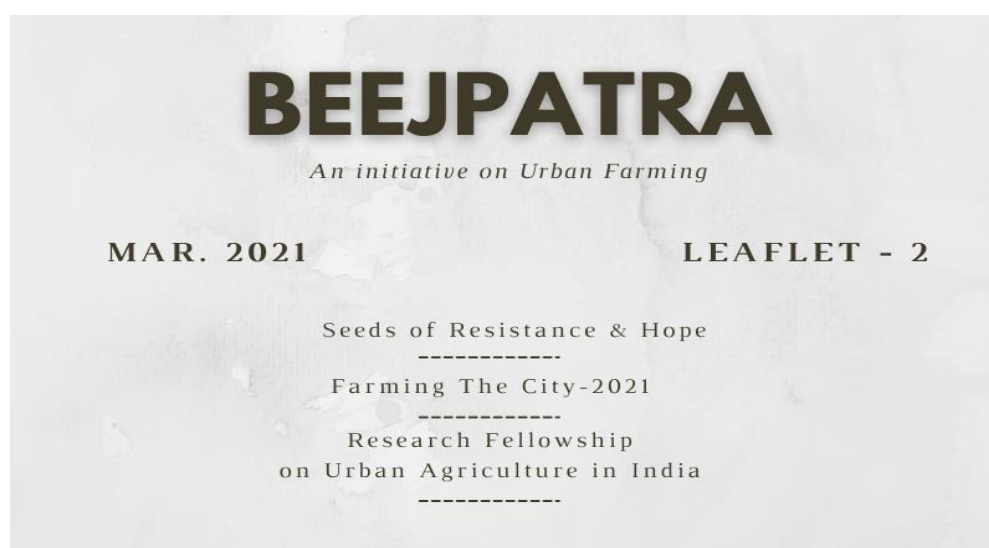
- PRC co-organised the webinar series '**Re-imagining The Future**', a series of more than 30 sessions in a span of more than four months. PRC anchored the session on urban sustainability.
- **Vikalp Varta** session on urban agriculture: PRC co-organised and presented the research on urban farming in Delhi and other cities and emphasised that the deep problems of urban life can only be addressed by adopting practices such as urban farming which can provide harmony with nature.
- **9<sup>th</sup> World Bicycle Forum**: A session on 'Activating Grassroots Democracy for Policymaking' was organised where PRC members talked about the experiences and learnings from the extensive three years-long process of drafting and advocating for a draft bill on cycle rickshaw prepared through a democratic and participatory process.
- **The prospects of public transport and non-motorised transport in a post-COVID-19 world** was organised by Greenpeace India on Oct 11, 2020 where PRC members were invited speakers.
- **Is Metro the future of public transport?: Lessons from Delhi and Lucknow** was organised by Fridays for Future (Mumbai and Pune) on Jan 25, 2021 and PRC members were invited as speakers.
- Paper presented in the session 'Growing Cities: Urban and peri-urban agriculture in the global south through a lens of sustainability and well-being' in the Urban ARC-2021 organised by the Indian Institute of Human Settlements.

## Publications

- '**Emerging fronts, Dwindling Ganga: Exploring Patna Riverfront**': The report describes the history of riverfront projects, their changing goals and the current status of Patna Riverfront project. Members of the research team, Archana and Rajendra Ravi, have also written about these issues in multiple magazines, including an article for Down to Earth magazine ('A Poor Replica' in 16-31 July, 2021).
- **Report on Urban Agriculture in Delhi** provides an overview of the agricultural activities in the urban and peri-urban parts of NCT of Delhi. The study was qualitative in nature and documented the practice as well as other allied activities like fishing, animal husbandry, animal herding, etc., to get the scope of agriculture.
- **Thematic booklets on urban agriculture** based on our book 'Paridrishya Se Adrishya Hoti Kheti'. We identified seven themes to cover the aspects of

diversity, food needs, the role of women and migrant labourers, fisherfolks, and relation of urban farming with waste management.

- **BeejPatra:** The inaugural edition of Beejpatra, an urban farming quarterly, was launched in 2020. The first leaflet focused on the possibilities lying within urban agriculture in making cities sustainable and self-reliant. Subsequently, the second leaflet was published in March 2021 which brought examples from the different parts of the world like Syria, Palestine and Lebanon, where urban farming has become the means to challenge the overarching structures of power and resist the occupation of land, indigenous knowledge and culture. The leaflet also showcases the ongoing efforts of the PRC team to expand and grow the urban farming community. The quarterly publication currently has **more than 950** regular subscribers.



## Outreach

- **Memorandum to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi:** The findings of our research, government data and surveys were collated in a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and other concerned authorities to support the continuation of agriculture in Delhi. The memorandum highlighted that the order for the removal of agriculture is based on several false assumptions regarding the contamination of vegetables, the effects of farming on the floodplains and it disregards the huge contribution of agriculture to food security. We also made a request to include agriculture as a land use in the Master Plan of Delhi-41.

## Environment Conservation and Community Resource Management in the Himalayas

CACIM's activities in Uttarakhand were highly restricted by the Covid pandemic, and the team could not hold meetings, field visits and workshops. The only communication mode for the team with the communities living river valleys was through phone calls. The team utilised this period for documentation and filing of various documents connected to the rehabilitation and resettlement of dam-displaced villagers near Alaknanda River and Pindar Ganga River.

The team conducted a ground study during December 2020 in the Netwar Mori Dam area and found that there was violation of environmental norms. The muck being removed from the tunnel of the dam has been dumped on the banks of the river. The muck poured on the banks of this river slowly gets washed away with the water of the river in rains or even on normal days, due to which the entire habitat of the river gets spoiled and the life of aquatic animals gets adversely affected. The team informed the findings of the field study with concerned state officials, especially related to Narwarmori Dam. Further, field visits during the end of the period happened along on the river bank of Supin River and Tons river, and met people in different villages.

For activities in Himachal Pradesh, the team decided to focus attention to the existing pandemic crisis and extend solidarity and support in the form of relief to those impacted most by it. Our engagement with migrant workers in the state, was one of the most meaningful experiences for the team this year.

### Covid Response

- Understanding the crisis and state response: In the month of April 2020, immediately after the first phase of the lockdown, looking at the various issues that were emerging in the state a 'Discussion Note' on the state government's response was made highlighting concerns for effective containment in a just manner. Based on the above a joint submission was made to the Chief Minister demanding actions on critical fronts. A webinar was organized on 'Mountain perspectives' in the context of the Covid crisis with Dr. Shekhar Pathak.

- Formation of Himachal Pradesh Workers Solidarity to facilitate/ provide relief to the migrant workers who were stuck/stranded in Himachal Pradesh during the lockdown. The relief work included providing/arranging/coordinating for ration needs with the local administration, advocacy and coordination with the state government and local administration to run trains and public transport for the Migrant workers and provide any other required facility. Co-ordination with civil society groups and nodal agencies of adjacent states for the travel of the migrant workers. A joint initiative called 'Highway Help', was formed with volunteers from states like HP, UP, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi. The aim was to provide travel assistance for shorter distances like 50 to 100 kms to the migrant workers and dropping them at relief points. Several submissions were made via this platform to nodal agencies and the state government for action on stranded workers. A report to highlight the conditions of migrant workers in HP during the lockdown.
- Covid Relief and Care in Chamba: Relief support in running quarantine centers at 8 panchayats of Chamba District where mostly pastoralist communities and workers working in industrial units were returning back and didn't have any financial backup to bear the cost of quarantine facilities managed by the panchayats. In addition assistance was given to the migrant workers in accessing dry rations either from the state government managed facilities or NGO's working in that area.
- On the Covid response front the strong advocacy with the State government and administration facilitated the relief and travel of the migrant workers from HP to their home states. We were able to bring to light to an issue that was completely invisibilised in the state by reports in the media.

We continued our engagement with the villagers on the issues of access to resources and rights for forest-dwelling communities.

### **1. Local Dialogues, Awareness programmes**

- Awareness programmes on village resources and access to rights of communities dependent on forests and natural resources continue in Chamba, Sirmour, Kangra, Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur and Mandi of HP. Meetings have happened in Kangra, Sirmaur, Chamba and Lahual & Spiti. In Chamba, these meetings were organized in collaboration with the district administration in 30 panchayats.

- In Spiti, Yatra meetings took place in 11 villages. In Sirmaur meetings took place in 6 villages (4 panchayats) of Shillai Tehsil. Awareness meetings were held in Gopalpur area of Kangra districts along with distribution of training material to the FRCs.
- An online zoom meeting was organized with about 15 representatives of two tribal districts to discuss and share the response to the COVID crisis; the challenges emerging in the face of the lockdown and future strategies on asserting tribal self-governance and resource rights.
- Meetings were held in October 2020 and March 2021 in Rajgarh tehsil of Sirmaur in collaboration with peoples groups on the issues of rights of villagers to land and forests, especially in context of landless Scheduled Caste Dalit communities.
- Follow up field meetings were held with grassroots workers in the following regions - Chamba, Sirmaur, Spiti, Lahaul and Kinnaur in order to understand the challenges faced over the year and make plans for trainings and awareness in the coming period.

## **2. Research, Documentation, Dissemination**

- Distribution of resource material and booklets in the various regions amongst community representatives and officials.
- Information received through the RTI route was analysed to understand the extent of occupations on forest land recorded in two districts of the state
- Field visits and submissions were made demanding response to claims filed, administration's initiative in the reformulation of village committees, distribution of training material and conducting training of the villagers coming under all the panchayats - Sirmaur, Chamba, Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti.
- Joint statement signed by 14 civil society groups issued against the unjust panchayat election candidature criteria which excluded those with 'illegal occupations' from contesting elections
- In December 2020, a state level consultation was held in collaboration with peoples groups working on land issues, to deliberate on the high powered state level multiparty committee formed to review land laws and disputes in the State. The meeting was attended by more than 25 people from different districts of Himachal Pradesh. In January 2021, a joint submission was made to the committee to look into the various land related issues and acts of Himachal Pradesh.



- Initial work – literature review and data collection - for research studies on gender and caste issues in natural resource ownership, protection, management initiated. Two research studies will be carried out in 2021-22 period.
- Amidst the pandemic, the central government came out with a draft, proposing change in the Environment Impact Assessment notification. Several community groups from Himachal Pradesh along with close to 40 signatories from other Himalayan states sent their submission to the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change highlighting the serious ecological ramifications of the dilutions.

## **Engagement with Communities, Civil Society, Social Groups on Financial Accountability**

With the emergence of the Covid crisis globally, MDBs like the World Bank, Asian Development bank, New Development Bank and Asia Infrastructure Development Bank have changed their gears and are focusing Covid relief financing. The Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA) programme of CACIM was invited to share its analysis by diverse groups on the financing by the MDBs particularly in the aftermath of Covid and how they suggest certain policy prescriptions. The interactions led to social groups deciding to register their concerns and suggest reforms particularly the likes of power sector reforms being pushed under the guise of COVID funding.

- Response to Economic Survey and Budget 2020: CFA brought out an analysis of the Economic Survey, which becomes the basis for policies/ schemes and corresponding budget allocation. This document helps civil society organisations, activists to understand the state of economy better. CFA also shared its analysis and comments on the Budget which pushed for privatisation through the failed PPP model in health, education, power and other sectors, pushed ahead the agenda of international financial institutions like World Bank ease of doing business, reforms in power sector, taxation, and in the name of respecting wealth creators, showered sops for the corporate sector, while the real wealth creators – the unorganised sector and the farmers – are left out.

- Response to Economic Lockdown: The work on engagement with national finance institutions took a position of engagement with the lock down process and to discuss the impacts of the same in various sectors, policies and vulnerable groups. It took the shape of a series of Webinars collectively called the “*Solidarity Series: Conversations during lockdown & beyond*”. This series of webinars were meant for civil society groups and individuals who wanted to explore the concepts in depth, develop conceptual clarity & understanding on some of the issues the public were grappling with.

The series began on March 31<sup>st</sup> till April 17<sup>th</sup> with Seventeen Webinars each attended by about a 100 people from various walks of life. The speakers were from diverse fields including economists, bankers, trade unionists, human rights activists, researchers, health professionals, environmentalists, activists, academicians, tribal and dalit leaders etc. The recording and details of this series of webinars could be accessed [here](#). The webinars were also transcribed and will soon be published as a volume.

- This was being followed up by another series of webinar named *Reimagining the Future: Peoples’ Agenda For A Post Covid Economy* which looks into specific sectors and the economic demands from those sectors which would later be consolidated for wider discussion and inclusion in civil society demand. The series is held twice a week on issues of Jobs, Employment & Livelihoods; Labour: Informal, Formal and artisans; Industry: Small, medium, large; Infrastructure; Banking, Finance and Financial Markets; Mineral Extraction; Energy; Urban Sustainability; Public Sector Units; Agriculture; Fisheries, Forest and Pastoral Economy; Environment and Economy.
- As part of the work on mapping, documenting and analysis of large infrastructure projects and energy projects:
  - *Smart city studies – Indore, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar.*  
Two case studies one of Indore and another on Bhopal was conducted. These were made possible through collaboration with local groups, civil society, academics, activists, journalists, etc. The studies document the projects, their finances, impacts and responses from the communities. The Indore case study has been published and is being translated into Hindi for wider dissemination while the initial draft of

Bhopal is out for review and finalisation. This will be published soon. A process has also begun in Bhubaneswar with local groups who sought our support in understanding the project and financiers.

- *Infrastructure projects in India – A landscape of financiers*

The mapping document which looks into the landscape of financiers was worked on last year but got published this year. This document provides an overview of the operational and financial mechanisms of some of the significant ongoing and proposed infrastructure programs like Smart Cities Mission, Industrial Corridors, Dedicated Railway Freight Corridors, Inland Waterways, Bharatmala and Sagarmala Programme. It also maps several projects financed by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) as well as bilateral agencies providing support to these mega projects in the country. The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor is also being documented looking at various aspects of the industrial corridors planned in India specifically the one connecting Delhi to Mumbai discussing the environmental, displacement, governance as well as financing of such industrial corridors.

- *A case study of mega solar project*

During this period a report has been drafted on one of the private mega solar power projects in India located in the eastern district of Rewa in Madhya Pradesh. The 750 MW project has been built on around 1500 acres of land in this district. The report looks at various aspects of the mega solar project in the context of land acquisition, financing from international financial institutions, private sector role, the power sector systems, as well as the impacts on livelihoods of the local adivasi community.

- **Capacity Building of Students:** CACIM conducted 11 webinar sessions on various aspects of Development Finance to a group of students in JD College in Delhi with whom we were in regular touch. Apart from these, we conducted training to strengthen the social media skills of its staff and other selected civil society members who were interested in such a training to respond critically and effectively in the social media during the lock down period. Various existing platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and how to make best use of their features was explained in the session.

- **Engagement with US Exim Bank and Sasan UMPP:** On April 10, 2020, the fly ash dam for the Sasan coal plant in Singrauli Madhya Pradesh burst, causing a flood of toxic waste which ran through adjacent villages, washing through thousands of acres of land and destroying agricultural crops and killing six people, including two children. CFA facilitated the local group Srijan Lokhit Samiti along with the other civil society organizations to write to US Exim Bank as well as the OIG pointing towards the failures and urging them to take any relevant step and genuine steps to correct the situation or provide relief to the affected. The letter also, asks the Bank to correct these errors and immediately end its relationship with Reliance, and require the debts to be repaid in full. To put pressure on the US Exim Bank to take serious action we have had web meetings with Senate Banking Committee members (both Democrats and Republicans), House Financial Services Committee (Democrat), House Financial Services Committee (Republican and Democrat), and with the Exim Bank.. Due to the lock down in India, a lot of groundwork and field visit in Sasan has not been possible.
- **Energy Finance Conference 2020:** The second edition of Energy Finance Conference was held from December 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The conference was co-organised with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Madras) and with Climate trends as knowledge partner. The conference was held online from the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 over a course of 6 alternate working days beginning with the inaugural session and followed by 5 thematic sessions of 3 hours each on 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. The theme of this year was ‘The Political Economy of Energy Transition’. Thirty speakers including international ones spoke on various themes. The energy finance conference which started last year has become an annual one bringing together key stakeholders for discussions and deliberations on the many facets of energy economics. These include speakers and participants from the industry, banking, think tanks, executive, academia and trade unions along with researchers, climate justice activists and local community members.

## World Social Movement Discuss

The **WSMDiscuss** (World Social Movement Discuss) list continues to be active, with new members constantly joining us, and with a new initiative taken during the year: Re-imagining the future of the list. All the posts on the WSMDiscuss list are available at

<https://lists.openspaceforum.net/pipermail/wsm-discuss/>.

### Webinar in May 2020:

During the year, we took the initiative for the first time in the list's history - of organising a webinar. Co-hosted by Jai Sen, moderator and curator of the list, together with Gustave Massiah, a WSMDiscuss list member and former President of CRID (Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Développement, in Paris, France), the webinar - titled 'Looking ahead : Revisiting the World Social Forum' - took place on the Viral Open Space on May 23 2020. It was announced at

<https://www.viralopenspace.net/en/activities/looking-ahead-revisiting-the-world-social-forum> (accessed js on 23.05.2020), as well as on WSMDiscuss and other international listserves.

Gustave Massiah and Jai Sen co-wrote a Discussion Note for the event (May 2020a - 'A Note towards opening fresh discussion on the future of the World Social Forum, at this world-historical juncture'), and then a report on the event (May 2020b - 'The Relevance of the World Social Forum to the present historical moment: The Process and the Debate'). Our report was submitted by Gustave Massiah to the International Council of the World Social Forum for its consideration, during its ongoing review of the future of the World Social Forum.

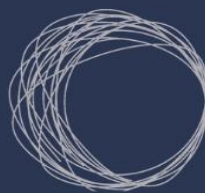
The current list World Social Movement Discuss (WSMDiscuss) is the successor to a list that we at CACIM established in January 2006 named World Social Forum Discuss (WSFDiscuss). On January 10 2021, we completed fifteen years of the list's life. To celebrate and commemorate this, the list admin Jai Sen did a post on the list January 10 2021 titled 'The birth of this list, fifteen years ago, January 10 2006', post on the WSMDiscuss (World Social Movement Discuss) list. The post received quite a wide range of responses, including some suggestions for looking ahead to the future of the



list. (Ref: Jai Sen, compiler, March 2021c – ‘Compilation of comments on list, on or in relation to the future of WSMDiscuss, January 2021’, dt March 10 2021. Original document March 10 2021, proofed and finalised June 18 2021.) Inspired by the range and nature of comments received, the list admin then took the further step of convening an online Consultation on the future of the list, which was held on March 12 2021. Towards this, he prepared a Discussion Note.

(Ref: Jai Sen, March 2021b – ‘Towards the future of WSMDiscuss: Re-imagining the list?’. A Discussion Note for a first Consultation on the future of WSMDiscuss. Original document March 4 2021, proofed and finalised June 18 2021.) The Consultation in turn set up a Working Group, to explore the issues discussed by the Consultation, and to report back to it. (Ref: shawna finnegan, March 2021 – ‘Towards the future of WSMDiscuss: First Consultation, March 12 2021, 15:30 – 17:00 UTC’, dt March 15 2021.)

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. In principle we expect to work in many fields, but our focus at the moment is on activism, research, and publication in relation to social and political movement. We primarily work by building and maintaining real and virtual spaces for fundamental research and critical reflection, exploration, action, and creation in the field of movement : Books, seminars, workshops, websites, listserves, and newsbulletins and action alerts. Initiated in India in 2005, CACIM is transnational, intercultural, and interdisciplinary in vision and culture.



INDIA INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL ACTION-CENTRE IN MOVEMENT  
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