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ANNUAL REPORT



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

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CACIM or the India Institute for Critical Action - Centre in Movement

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

Annual Report 2021-2022: Introduction

The pandemic with all the waves which passed by has caused us irrevocable losses. The period of 2021-22 witnessed many events and to mention a few would be the deep economic downturns for the country, unemployment escalated at a never-seen-before alarming rate, the informal sector further being invisibilized and on the verge of being decimated, and with the rising inequality wherein the rich got richer using the pandemic as an opportunity.

As an organisation our belief is in collaborative work and in working with the community organisations across the country, since they work tirelessly on the ground to uplift the situation and conditions of the people. During the lockdown, many of our staff were engaged in relief coordination efforts during the peak of it, by helping in home care, hospitalization, awareness building seminars and distribution of dry rations. With this reality and the looming threat of the next wave of the pandemic any time, our organisation has seen very deep shifts in work areas and work styles within the team during the last year. While we leveraged the time spent at our homes during national lock-downs with desk research, online meetings and webinars, we could never restrict the opportunities which came by directly engaging with peoples groups and communities, through physical meetings and community visits. Hence this year too, we collaborated with many such community organisations working with the waste workers, sewer workers, migrant workers, forest dwelling communities, coastal communities and others.

Community Organisation and Action towards Access to Justice and Good Governance

Covid Relief and Coordination Work

The second wave of the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown was harsher than the first occurrence. Not being able to pull out of the already impoverished and oppressed system, the marginalised found it excruciating to survive with bare minimum and dignity of life. We felt it was our duty to continue our last year's relief related work, also especially due to the onset of the third wave of Covid 19 in India. In Delhi NCR, on 3rd January, 2022, 75 kits of dry ration kits and triple layer masks were distributed to the families of sewer workers. On 7th January, 2022, 40 kits and 200 triple layer masks were distributed to sewer worker families.

Thousands of families who have been uprooted from Khori villagers of Delhi-Haryana border live on rent in Okhla Mod Basti and V P. Singh Camp in very difficult conditions. We also could contribute Mask and thermometer distribution in labor settlements of Delhi and Haryana border - Bara Quarter, Mahalaxmi Dera Basti, Peer Baba Dera, in Faridabad district of Haryana. Along with masks, thermometers of families were also given where necessary. The thermometer gives families a chance to understand the disease not only in the case of corona but also other seasonal fevers.

During our team's field visits, it was found out that the children of these settlements are not educated and that these settlements are deprived of any kind of government facilities. People live in their own way. Despite hard work, they barely manage to live day-to-day life. They do not have any kind of social security. These people come from different parts of India for livelihood. A short film Corona Warriors was also made which tells the ground situation of these settlements.

In Uttarakhand, thermometer masks were also given in Haridwar district, Chamoli district, Pauri district and Uttarkashi district. In Haridwar, where there are resettlement sites for people displaced by Tehri Dam, thermometers were provided through Anganwadi and ASHA workers so that they could be given to families as needed in Uttarkashi district.

Meanwhile in Himachal Pradesh, we supported ASHA frontline workers in Chamba, Sirmaur and Mandi and provided more than 100 COVID kits which included 2 oximeters, 2 thermometer, 2 bottles of sanitizer, surgical gloves, masks, face shield and a backpack.

In Bihar, there was an acute shortage of hospital beds in Bihar especially in Patna where most of the major hospitals were located during the pandemic peak. Our team located at Patna helped caregivers and patients find plasma donors and gave them information about availability of beds in hospitals in Patna. The team was also involved in spreading information about covid vaccine to communities and helped with coordinating their registration on CoWin Portal at Araria, Katihar and Saharsa districts, along with distribution of blankets and food. Hundreds of calls were made at the team's centre at Patna and over 200 people were registered with the centre's support.

Complimentary to this, we could help workers register for e-Shram cards online in Araria, Katihar and Saharsa districts in Bihar. About 100 people were helped with eShram registration.

Rights and Welfare of Sewer Workers

The year which passed by was difficult not just for the organisation alone, but for the communities who we engage with and work for as well, especially the oppressed communities of sewer workers. Delhi NCR although capital of India is home to several slums dwelled by the most marginalised communities, mostly scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The sewer workers come from marginalised communities and are often neglected in such emergency situations and have to risk their life to feed their families. Our team surveyed temporary sewer workers working under contractors in many areas of Delhi. In this survey, it was found that many of them do not get any kind of safety gears, soap, oil, etc; they neither have any kind of identity card nor work permit; there is caste discrimination with them at work place; If the contractor has a tender contract for six months, he pays wages to the sewer worker only for four months. Even from the wages which are given to the workers, 25%- 35% is deducted by the contractor; the contractor neither gives weekly off nor gives any holiday on government holidays. If he does not go to work on holidays or on medical emergencies, then money is deducted from the monthly / daily wages; diseases related to sewer cleaning are long-term and fatal, which comes under the category of occupational health disease. But due to non- availability of facility of insurance, ESI and PF to the sewer workers, they get deprived of it; the pressure of the contractors is so much that the sewer worker is not able to speak openly to neither the government nor any organization.

As continuation of our previous years efforts with them, this year too we held multiple fact finding missions, meetings which included awareness meetings, safety training workshops, press conferences, and a roundtable discussion bringing state officials and all stakeholders together for dialogue.

Action research surveys in the North, South, and East zone of Delhi were conducted for 12 months. Multiple fact-finding missions were undertaken, as and when we received the news on the accidents and incidents, detailed documentation. Whenever the communities required, we initiated intervention and engagement with the police, municipal officials, government department and human rights, SC/ST, and safai karmachari commission for the sewer worker communities.

Some of the programmes we held together with the sewer worker communities were:

1. A meeting for raising awareness about deaths in sewers on 3rd August, 2021
2. A Press Conference was held to address the caste atrocity which occurred in Delhi University August, 19th, 2021 and to reach out to public for support for the victim.
3. Sewer workers throughout Delhi came together along with Worker Unions and Government bodies came together for a roundtable on 21st August, 2021 Tahirpur, Delhi. The workshop was attended by more than 100 sewer workers.
4. Residents from various sectors of Gurugram and from surrounding villages expressed disapproval of the 'waste to energy plant' and its expansion from 15mw to 25mw. And hence, a Citizens Raise Voice- Say 'No' To Waste Energy Plant was held on 31st August, 2021.
5. A national convention seeking justice for caste atrocity victim at was held in Constitution Club, New Delhi on 29th September, 2021 to demand speedy justice, to ensure strict implementation of the SCs & STs (PoA) Amendment Act, 2018, to remind the need to end caste and gender violence and to come together to annihilate oppressive casteist forces.
6. A workshop with waste workers was organised in ITO New Delhi on 28th September, 2021 with a focus on the health effects of Covid 19 on the waste pickers and precautions for the third phase. The workshop was attended by more than 100 waste workers which included both men and women.
7. A Community Roundtable was organised to deliberate upon the concerns and mechanisms of sewer workers and their work on 2nd October, 2021. The Roundtable was attended by more than 100 waste pickers which included both men and women.
8. Three capacity building workshops with sewer workers were organised on 30th October, 13 November and 20th November, 2021 at Nand Nagri, Rohini and Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi to make them aware of their rights and also to know the problems they face in this occupation.

9. A Press Conference was held on 18 November 2021 to inform our survey findings before the Chairman of Delhi Safai Karamcharis Commission and for hearing under Right to Information (RTI).
10. A second roundtable with sewer workers was held on 27th November, Saturday, 2021, which was deemed necessary and is organized where victims of manual scavenging and other sewer workers could come together and be heard.
11. A press conference was organized where a brief analysis of the budget from the perspective of Dalits and Adivasis was presented on 02 February 2022.
12. We celebrated International Waste Pickers Day on 1 March, 2022 with the communities.
13. Awareness programmes were formatted as webinars and presented as follows: Rising Sewer 'Deaths': Voices From The Ground- 10 April 2022, Legal & Institutional Violations, Current Challenges & Role Of The State- 17 April 2022, Building Wider Solidarity To End The Oppression Of Inhuman, Caste-Based Occupations- 24th April 2022.

Welfare of Natural Resource based Communities

Our work for people's access to land, resources, welfare, rights and justice for natural resource based communities is spread across the mountain states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the plains of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, and the coastal belt of Kerala.

Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are the mountain states whose more than 90% of the population is dependent on natural resources for their livelihood needs. In Himachal Pradesh, only less than 12% of total geographical area is under private ownership and 2/3 of this is under Commons where local communities have traditional access and usages but the ownership and management lies with the forest department. The objective of our engagement with the villages through our project was to build the capacity of local communities through awareness and training programs on various legal provisions of the Government available to them, in order to establish and secure the communities' access, traditional usages and management of natural resources which will lead to strengthening of the natural resource-based livelihoods.

We are working in 5 districts i.e. Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Sirmaur, Chamba and Kangra of Himachal, where in partnership with Community Based Organisations we are conducting awareness meetings and training programs for the local community. The past year we have carried out village meetings, training programs and distribution of resource material in the 6 regions of Himachal Pradesh. Altogether the project team could hold 75 village meetings and 25 training programmes. Through these programs we were trying to raise the awareness of various acts and legal provisions which helps in securing the community tenure over the natural resources and legally empowers them to protect and manage their natural resources. Prior to this, we had Carried out intensive field surveys in 20 villages of Lahaul valley to bring out and highlight the role and efforts of local communities, especially Mahila Mandals in protection and management of their forests. The findings and learnings of this study helped in strengthening the community management of forest in other areas.

We also assisted communities in preparation of community forest resource use maps to ascertain their resource use boundaries through training.

While in Mandla in Madhya Pradesh, the efforts for helping forest dwelling communities access justice continued the past year as well. Regular follow up meetings are conducted with the villagers applying for revenue land. A few major meetings and their findings are detailed below:

1. A meeting regarding the implementation of the rights of the forest dwelling communities was organized in July 2021.

2. In August 2021, a mass dialogue program was organized between the community and public representatives, in which regional MLA were present and assured to take it up with state officials.. 13 women and 85 men from 8 villages were involved. Subsequently, the Government ensured people got water for irrigation, three phase electricity, rights of occupied revenue land, settlement of pending claims made, access to road from one village to another, increasing working days in MNREGA, one of Chubhawal Panchayat.
3. In September and November 2021, a review meeting was held to review the implementation of rights of forest dwelling communities and the rights of revenue land. 103 men and 18 women participated in these two meetings.
4. Organic farming and cadre training program was organized in December 2021. The state government has also decided that on the banks of Narmada, organic farming will be promoted in three thousand villages of 16 districts, due to which chemical fertilizers and pesticides will not be available in Narmada. Through cadre training, the village workers were given information related to Right to Information and PESA Act. 51 men and 19 women were involved in the above meeting. An awareness campaign was launched.
5. From January-March 2022, meetings and campaigns were organized regarding rights, social security scheme and occupied revenue land. Under this process, individual claims were filed, follow up done and information of legal provisions under Mohgaon block were disseminated. The people of the villages Banjhdih, Surajhar, Ghughra and Khisi were involved in environment conservation activities too.

Similarly, support is extended to communities staying at Alaknanda Valley along River Tons in Uttarakhand, where Network Mori hydroelectric project construction is threatening the natural balance of the ecosystem there. Rehabilitation policies for the communities were prepared for the affected families here. The rehabilitation policy for people affected by Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project has been unsuccessful since some families were not ready to leave their old habitats and because their new habitation was not at all planned. Struggle for compensation for families affected by Srinagar HDP is still ongoing and consistent support is provided to the families to access proper compensation.

In the south, our engagement with natural resource based coastal communities has seen a new turn. The Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in insurmountable losses to coastal communities and the fisheries sector at large. The Planning Commission of Kerala has estimated a loss of more than 1300 crores in two months of their review in the fisheries sector. It is also noted that the fish vending women is one of the most marginalised communities that were greatly affected by the pandemic. There has been a huge onslaught on the livelihood activities of women in the coastal communities, with the closure of urban spaces for vending and with the displacement of traditional spaces for fish vending. Since the economy functions through efficient marketing of the fish catch, the Covid 19 lockdown guidelines implied that the markets remain closed and transportation networks getting suspended. Subsequently, fish markets were the first ones to be closed as it involved close interaction between the buyer and seller in proximity spaces.

In this regard, our intent was study the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the lives and livelihoods of coastal women, help them organise and strengthen to continuously demand for relief and social security measures from the State, apart from the ongoing interventions that could help the Covid 19 affected community demand schemes and policies for restoring their livelihoods and lives. This will include a survey, group discussions with vending women and village level interactions wherein the results of the study will be circulated in the form of a report which would help state, trade unions and civil society organizations to understand the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on fish vending women and help demand schemes and policies which would provide relief and support. The survey will be held among Covid 19 affected fish vending women from Poonthura, Beemapalli, Cheriyaathura, Valiathura and Valia Veli fishing villages in Thiruvananthapuram district, the places where the project could engage with during previous project period too. It is proposed to conduct village meetings and strengthen fish vending women collectives in these same villages in order to strengthen the women fisher collective, which would help collectivise demands and articulate issues.

Gender Work in Mountain Communities

It was increasingly observed that there is a need for a larger public discourse on the issue of gender based violence but it required wider outreach and mobilization that we need to make a central goal of the organization. Even the process of decision making and dialogue within any collective needs to be further streamlined. Case related follow up and professional counseling training should be extended to women associates to further strengthen their trauma response role. Further, there was the absence of a shelter or any kind of physical space to provide immediate relief to survivors, professional counseling services and free legal services that are pro-survivor and sensitive.

Keeping this in mind, a new project was begun last year to initiate creation of an active core group of women that have been significantly empowered and sensitized to be able to identify gender justice and trauma related issues in their own lives, their neighborhoods and village environments and to respond collectively to these crises. The associates themselves are also survivors of violence or maybe experiencing difficulties negotiating space for themselves within the family, bringing up new issues for them as they take on leadership roles. The women associates went through a year of regular meetings and capacity building workshops in the region around Baijnath, Kangra of Himachal Pradesh.

The team could hold two capacity building programmes, three residential trainings, two in house day long workshops towards this. The outreach and mobilization work happened through village level meetings with Mahila Mandals in 27 villages of 16 Panchayats to make initial contact and talk about the need to strengthen women's collectives to extend support to survivors of trauma and violence; co-ordination, liaisoning, advocate with and sensitize relevant state departments - social welfare, women and child development, health and others to strengthen the violence, disability and trauma response mechanism and push for implementation of existing schemes. Also, a legal resource centre in Kandwari village was activated to provide free legal advice in select cases of violence. Documentation of survivor testimonies on issues of violence, trauma and discrimination has begun and data on 'suicide' and state response through the Right to Information route is being collected. The publishing and communication would be in the 2022-23 period.

Knowledge and Resource Sharing towards Empowerment of Youth, Students, Communities, Civil Society Organisations

CACIM, through its diverse projects, has attempted to undertake multiple actions for developing briefing material and content to foster understanding and engagement of students, activists, civil society, communities and researchers on complex issues of urban agriculture, cities' riverfronts, global and national financial architecture, especially related to that of economy and development. Our team developed content based on action and desk research on diverse dimensions of the mentioned areas, and they were published as briefing materials, reports, primers, articles; undertook field visits wherever possible to deepen engagement with communities; organised multiple webinars; engaged in solidarity support to communities and peoples groups by providing technical inputs to strengthen their struggles.

Action Research

Some of the major areas covered by the organisation on **finance** in 2021 were G20, Infrastructure financing, Petrochemical and Plastics financing, Private investments in Infrastructure, Mapping of Investments in Protected Areas and National Monetization Pipeline.

G 20: As India will host the summit of the high-profile G20 grouping in 2023, it was imminent that CFA, along with the civil society organizations and those concerned with civic action also understand the implications of decisions taken in such meetings. To build understanding on these issues, CFA organised three workshops for CSOs, students and activists. These workshops were an attempt to understand the G20 club's history and evolution over the years and also decipher what the 2023 presidency holds for India and what are impending issues as the countries all over the world try to recover from the pandemic. Focusing on the relevance of G20 for economy, financial regulation, trade, and financial flows, briefing notes were published and G 20 Fellowships was initiated. The fellowship will bring in perspectives on a number of issues including debt, climate, trade finance, gender etc. The essays will be published as a compendium, which will be useful in the following years moving towards 2023 and more importantly bring out robust analysis of the G20 intervention in various sectors.

Petrochemical and Plastics Financing in India: The team initiated work on Oil and Gas in April 2021. This decision was driven by the increasing investments in the petrochemical and plastics industry, whose roots lie in oil and gas. The first 9 months were spent on researching and documenting experiences of people living in and around oil and gas exploration and refining regions, petrochemical and plastics manufacturing industries with the intention of evolving a 3-year strategy on interventions around the financial aspects of the oil and gas industry. Our three areas of research and engagement are petrochem landscape, plastic parks and waste to energy. This research on plastics has also indicated to us that we need to broaden our focus beyond the plastic parks and study the plastic manufacturing ecosystem that largely comprises about 30,000 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).

Monitoring Infrastructure finance related developments: The infrastructure sector continues to be a key driver for the Indian economy. The sector would be responsible for propelling India's overall development and enjoys intense focus from the Government as well as international financial institutions, bilateral agencies and private investors for

initiating policies that would ensure time-bound creation of world class infrastructure in the country here have been major policy changes and announcements being made to boost infrastructure projects like Development Finance Institution (DFI), National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), expansion of National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), etc.

Our team monitors the latest developments around infrastructure financing trends with various important issues happening in terms of infrastructure projects in various sectors, National Infrastructure Pipeline, railways privatisation, renewables, digital infrastructure, Chennai Bangalore Industrial Corridor, National Monetization Pipeline, and Port Industrialization. This includes publishing studies, reports, briefings and regular monthly updates. Two case studies under Smart City Mission have been undertaken for Tumakuru (Karnataka) and Bhubaneswar (Odisha) cities.

Mapping of infrastructure projects in protected areas: A detailed mapping of infrastructure projects near and within protected areas has been done during this period. This included linear projects like roads, highways, railways, irrigation, mining, etc. This also looked into the various entities that are implementing these projects and their roles, especially the financial institutions. The mapping resulted in an analysis of the infrastructure projects and investments in protected areas, along with giving the reader a sense of the labyrinth of infrastructure projects spread across the protected areas of the country. The report also highlighted the issue of diversion of forest land along with highlighting some of the key infrastructure projects affecting the protected areas.

Simultaneously, 10 case studies have been commissioned for detailed documentation of infrastructure projects in tiger reserves spread across the country. The case studies have been documented by researchers, activists, and experts working on similar issues. The case studies are being finalised and will be brought out in the form of a compendium in 2022.

Private Investments in the Infrastructure sector: The mapping exercise covered a period of 5 years from 2016 - 21. The data from various publicly available sources was collected and analysed under this exercise. Private investment under this included from several sources like private equity funds, mutual funds, sovereign wealth funds, infrastructure funds, etc.

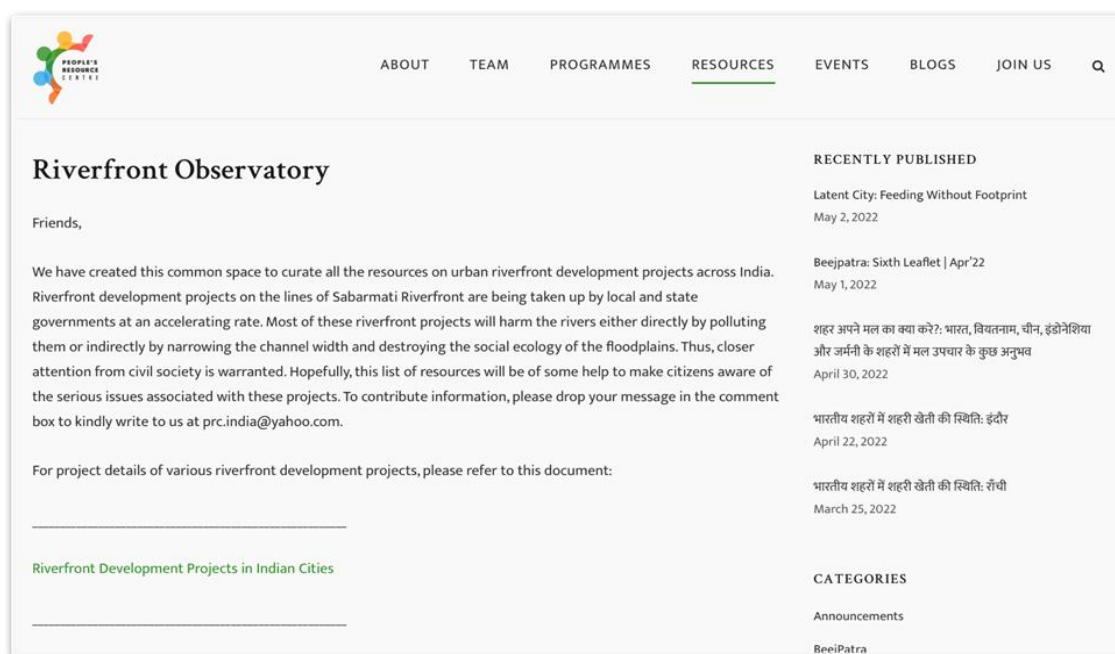
Meanwhile, the *Tata Mundra case* in the US Court continued in 2021. After the victory in 2019 where the US Supreme Court gave the judgment that International Financial Institutions do not enjoy absolute immunity against lawsuits, the case went back to the lower courts to decide whether IFC is immune or not in this particular case. The lower Courts gave the decision in favor of IFC. A petition had been filed in 2021 in the US Supreme Court to challenge the decision of the lower courts. Prominent economic, legal, diplomatic, and civil society experts – including Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, and former Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank – submitted amicus briefs urging the United States Supreme Court to hear the case. Early this year in April 2022 the US Supreme Court rejected the petition and denied community's lawsuit against the IFC for its role in the Tata Mundra power plant. Though seemingly it seems disappointing, the fight for change in law has been a significant one is what we believe.

Our research work undertaken for **Urban Agriculture** included riverfront study of Yamuna, Patna, Ahmedabad and produced a short film on the Sabarmati riverfront, “Riverfront: How Ahmedabad Lost Sabarmati”, which revisits the project that mainstreamed riverfront development in India.

Policy on urban agriculture in Delhi: We have been working on the policy aspects of urban agriculture in Delhi. In order to make the process participatory, people from different civil society organisations, independent researchers and academicians came together to form a Working Group for Urban Agriculture Policy of Delhi. Over a few months, several meetings and presentations were made by the group members and based on the suggestions and comments, a draft structure of the UA Policy in Delhi was formed. Further, stakeholder consultations with farmers in urban and peri-urban parts of Delhi was held online and offline. Findings from our quantitative study on urban agriculture in Delhi were included in the draft policy.

Riverfront observatory: The team created a common space to curate resources on urban riverfront development projects across India. It consists of information on state wise status of riverfront projects, relevant court orders by the

NGT, media articles covering the various issues related to urban rivers at the national and state level, research and technical reports, events, public statements, petitions and government guidelines and reports related to urban river management and planning. The observatory can be accessed from the official website of the project.



Yamuna Riverfront Study: The team studied the cultural, social, and ecological impact of the upcoming Yamuna Riverfront Project. The study was exploratory in nature and was shaped by the interactions with people who will be or have been directly affected by the developments on the floodplains. The focus remained on the ecological and social impact of the changes in the topography of the floodplains, how a new “public” space is being created for the elite by displacing the urban poor, and the way a city’s commons are diminishing to make way for such mega-projects.

Riverfront development in Patna and Ahmedabad: In the year 2020-21, the concerned project initiated the study of riverfront projects in Patna and Ahmedabad. Based on an exploratory field visit, a report was published on the Patna riverfront. In continuation with the previous year’s research on the Patna riverfront development project, a follow-up field visit was conducted in August 2021. The research team explored phase II of the project, which centres mainly around Patna Sahib Gurudwara and Kangan ghat. Since phase II is still in the concept phase, aspects like current activities on the river bank like boating, livestock rearing and crop farming; land ownership; land acquisition and damage due to floods were explored. The escalating floods in Patna during the field visit also provided a close view of the impact of floods on the riverfront project. The ghats, promenade and other public facilities built under the project were inundated and, contrary to the claims of the project, were unsafe and inaccessible for public use.

Survey of Urban Agriculture in Delhi: The project conducted a Quantitative study of urban farming in Delhi in order to enhance the current understanding of the urban agricultural activities in the rapidly urbanising context of Delhi and also to understand the role of urban farming in meeting the food demands of urban households in Delhi. The research focused on identifying various socio-economic, production, distributional and migration trends in UA in Delhi. It tried to understand the socio-economic characteristics of urban and peri-urban farming in Delhi, seasonal variations in urban agricultural activities, including cropping, indigenous migration pattern, patterns of distribution of the urban agriculture produce and the connection of waste management with the regenerative patterns of urban agriculture. Surveys were conducted at various locations in the urban and peri-urban areas in Delhi, where a significant proportion of the population is involved in urban farming, animal husbandry, nurseries, fishing and agri-business. A sample size of 200 households was taken, ensuring geographical and socio-economic diversity.

Fellowships

Nagar Nadi Fellowship: The Peoples Resource Centre project of CACIM offered a research fellowship to study riverfront projects in six Indian cities- Mumbai, Indore, Pune, Varanasi and Surat. We received more than 120 applications from academicians, social workers, and independent researchers from varied professional backgrounds, including architecture, sociology, journalism and geography. After careful review, 20 applicants were shortlisted for interview, out of which 5 fellows were selected. The fellowship attempted to better understand and document riverfront projects by providing a holistic view (ecological, economic and socio-cultural aspects) of such mega infrastructure projects on the rivers. The studies were conducted using extensive field visits along with secondary research. We have published the initial findings of the studies in the form of photo stories on our social media platforms. The final reports would be made available on our official website soon.



Smitu Kothari Fellowships: In the memory of Smitu Kothari, a distinguished environmentalist and scholar-activist, in 2018, Centre for Financial Accountability established the Smitu Kothari Fellowship (SKF) to encourage young writers to critically look at the world of development finance beyond the lending and 'development'. The fellowship is open to the writers in English and vernacular languages, aged below 35 years. The three-month-long Fellowship, between mid-November and mid-February, entails writing comprehensive, well-researched, and investigative articles, photo essays or short documentaries on the specific area/projects. The fellows are mentored by Rakesh Dewan, editor of Sarvodaya Press Service, assisted by subject experts at CFA.

The first year saw five promising researchers writing on the themes of Financing of Smart cities and Industrial corridors, International finance on climate change, rising NPAs in the thermal power sector.

Following the increasing need for fellowship for young writers, CFA continued with the second call for fellowship in 2019 focusing on renewable energy, NBFCs, Infrastructure sector, Ease of doing Business and Inland Waterways. The writers selected for the year doubled this time, which was very encouraging for the team.

During the third year in 2020, calls were sent out for the themes on privatisation of infrastructure sector and banks, Indian coal sector and inclusive post covid recovery, and eleven writers were selected by the Fellowship committee.

The themes for 4th SKF in 2021 were Privatisation of Public Sector, Pandemic, Public finance and Public health, Energy Extraction and Renewables, Infrastructure Finance, State Preparedness and capacity to deal with the pandemic and Steps to revive the economy. Thirteen writers have been the opportunity to write on their selected themes.

All the 39 fellows come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and from different parts of the country.



Conferences and Webinars

Energy Finance Conference India (EFCI) 3rd Edition

The third edition of EFCI was jointly organized by the Indo German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS), IIT- Madras and Centre for Financial Accountability, with Climate Trends as Knowledge Partner and deliberated on the theme of “How Clean is Green Financing? Understanding the National and International Landscape, Investors & its Efficacy” with four sessions spread across four days from December 14-17, 2021. More than 150 people from different sectors including academicians, civil society leaders, policy experts, industry representatives and bankers participated in the conference. This conference held after COP 26 was well received.

Other major webinars organised by the project include a Session at People's BRICS, World Without World Bank Webinar, Inland Waterways Webinar.

Janta Parliament sessions: Janta Parliament is a civil society initiative that critically evaluates the debates in the Parliament and also focuses on the issues and policy changes that should have been raised in the parliament but is missed. CFA has been a part of the Janta Parliament efforts both as part of the secretariat and facilitating the session on economy.

Nationalisation Day and Banking Crisis Series: July 16th is celebrated as the Bank Nationalization Day. Marking the 51 years of Nationalisation, Centre for Financial Accountability and People First organized a series of nine online meetings highlighting the importance of nationalisation, the need for public sector banks and why privatising public banks will not address the problems faced by the banks today. The series had a wide range of speakers from various walks of life - bankers, former bankers, trade unionists, civil society representatives, women's organisations, and youth.

Interrogating Recovery: Over the last few months of the past year, the media has been abuzz with claims of “rapid recovery” and “record growth” for the Indian economy. A four part discussion series was conducted in collaboration with Newslick. Paranjay Guha Takurta moderated the sessions. Each of the sessions looked into a particular question - first one interrogated several of these numbers, second on the government's steps towards "recovery", third on what "recovery" actually meant for the people and fourth and final session on what a genuine people centric recovery should have looked like.

Courses offered

Concurrent College Course at Janki Devi Memorial College, New Delhi: Following the previous years' success, 2021 also saw regular engagement with JD College. The team delivered 15 sessions and 10 assignments. Understanding Financial Institutions, How Finance influences policies and programs and Discussing current debates and discussions, Budget Analysis 2021', Farms laws and Agriculture reforms, Webinar on Privatisation and Discussion on Bank Charges were few of the topics delivered by our team.

Online course on Petrochemicals: The course was done in April-May 2021 in collaboration with Break Free From Plastic (BFFP) Asia Pacific, and the goal of this course was for participants to achieve a basic understanding of the linkages between fossil fuels, petrochemicals and plastics. Members of BFFP Asia Pacific and other organisations whose work challenges the petchem industry were the target audience for the course, and the list of participants was prepared based on the eagerness of participants and their current work-profile. The sessions were recorded and are used for building capacity of newer members of BFFP AP.

Online workshop with Sunderbans group: An online workshop in collaboration with a local group working in Sunderbans region of West Bengal was organized in July-August, 2021. Approx. 60-70 youth, volunteers and community leaders especially women participated in a workshop focusing on the larger issues of finance as how finance impacts the lives of the communities lives. The workshop also discussed the plans and methodologies for on the ground surveys for the purpose of ongoing studies in Sunderbans on socio-economic and livelihood changes in the region due to the ongoing development projects and their impacts.

Online courses on Smart Cities: A 5-day online **workshop** was conducted in October 2021. This workshop was specifically designed in Hindi to reach out to non-English speaking audiences from various states. The workshop aimed to reach small and medium town civil society organisations and activists with the objective to understand the various issues related to Smart City Mission, the shortcomings in its implementation, how it drives the urbanization process, the financiers behind SCM and enabling the participants to critically look into their own cities, sectors and the related transformations affect.

Workshop on Media and Communication: A three day workshop with three hour sessions each day was conducted from October 20 -22, 2021. The workshop was intended to develop communication skills and the sessions included - Art of communication, how to pitch media stories, sessions on enhancing skills of writing articles and press notes, learning basics of visual media, how to plan a digital campaign etc. The session used various interactive methods including interactive softwares for communication, lectures, hands on sessions etc. About 86 participants registered and the workshop was facilitated by senior journalists and media professionals apart from the CFA media team.

Workshop on Unpacking the WTO & Free Trade Agreements: A two-day workshop for Civil society and Regional Media was held on 26th and 27th November 2021 to enable to have a good understanding of the principles and fundamental contours of international trade (both from the an overarching institutional perspective and the bilateral agreement perspective) so that they can critically evaluate and comment on the various policy decisions and actions being taken by the government in trade related negotiations. The workshop was hosted by Focus on the Global South together with Center for Financial Accountability, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung South Asia, and Forum for Trade Justice.

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 action research, community engagement 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, and newsbulletins and action alerts. Initiated in India in 2005, CACIM is transnational, intercultural, and interdisciplinary in vision and culture.

