



# CHRONICLE 4

Quarterly

Newsletter

2005

FROM THE DIRECTOR / MILESTONES	01
WORKSHOPS	02
SEMINAR	06
LAW & ECONOMICS PROGRAMME AT CDS	06
FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK	07
LIBRARY NEWS / CAMPUS NEWS	08
PUBLICATIONS	09
OUTREACH	10
FIELD NOTES/MEMORY	11
POLICY POINTERS	12
INTERFACE	13

The logo for CDS CHRONICLE, with 'CDS' in a stylized blue font and 'CHRONICLE' in a standard blue font.

Volume 1. Issue 4. October - December 2005

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

J. Devika (Editor), A.P. Philroy, Tilak Baker, P.R. Gopinathan Nair  
K.T. Rammohan, Praveena Kodoth, V. Ushadevi, M.S. Harilal, Amarendra Das

Published by the Director, Centre for Development Studies  
Prasanth Nagar Road, Ulloor  
Medical College P.O, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 011  
Phone: 0471 2448881-84 Website: [www.cds.edu](http://www.cds.edu)

Printed at St. Joseph's Press, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014

For Private Circulation only

---

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am happy to present the fourth issue of the *CDS Chronicle*. Its content, coverage and presentation have improved over time.

In all these issues, we have been doing our best to keep our readers informed of the most important activities and events at CDS in each quarter. Our idea is to develop this newsletter into a medium of communication that will link us to the scholarly community, policy makers, social activists, the public, and all those who have been connected with

us in the past. I would like to request our readers to send us comments and suggestions so that we may improve the content, coverage and quality of the *Chronicle*.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the editorial team for the excellent effort they have been making to bring out the *Chronicle* regularly.

K.N. Nair

## M I L E S T O N E S

In the beginning there was a single-line display microcomputer—in the beginning of the computer age at CDS. The computer was still a mystery those days, and access to that machine was restricted to a select few. Besides this, an IBM punched card machine was also in place. Data/programmes used to be typed on a deck of cards and carried to the University of Kerala's computer centre. We had a few huge cupboards with small shelves for storing card decks, now probably lying idle somewhere in the storerooms.

That era soon faded away. Though the practice of punching ended, the designation of computer-cum-punch operator remained unchanged till about a couple of years ago!

During the mid-eighties came a couple of PCs, heralding a new era in computing culture. Students could type their theses themselves on WordStar; this infused in many a sense of empowerment. Also, the spreadsheet package Lotus 123 proved an instant hit among users, which included faculty and students. Sometime during this period, I

acquired a copy of the word-processing software WordPerfect (WP), and it soon became CDS's primary word processing software. Though history now, some users still ask us to load WP in their machines! Once the popular statistical package SPSS arrived, the deadly trio of WP/Lotus/SPSS made the computer an essential tool overnight.

The UNFPA-sponsored programme, which came after the mid-eighties, was another watershed. The then director T.N. Krishnan, who favoured IT-enabled research, supported Chandan Mukherjee in setting up reasonably good computer infrastructure. The leap from a single -room 32 KB micro-computer to 20 odd PC ATs (an obsolete PC model) in a spacious building was certainly phenomenal. If I remember correctly, the price of a PC was then around Rs. 60,000 (quite unbelievable today). We also procured a UNIX- based mini computer and allied equipment like line printer, plotter etc. The computerisation of the library began with the purchase of a library package.

Then came such services as web browsing and

e-mail messages in mid-nineties. Looking back, our e-mail service history seems amusing. CDS had a common e-mail box (remember the address cdsedp@vsnl.com?). Anyone sending mails to the members of the CDS community had to specifically mention the recipient's name. Mails were picked up, printed, sorted and distributed by the staff of the Computer Centre. Pigeonholes labelled Faculty, Students etc., are still in the Computer Centre, relics from those days. Yes, it was a highly mechanical way of e-mail distribution. But it worked pretty well and we lived with that for quite some time.

The second large-scale expansion took place during 2000-02 when structured cabling-based campus-wide network was commissioned, 24-hour Net access with leased line Net link was established,

and high-end PCs were installed at faculty rooms. Also, web sites were hosted on on-campus/off-campus servers.

In recent times, a tremendous shift has taken place: the user base now comprises almost all sections of the CDS community. The proportion of savvy users in the user mix is increasing. Efforts are on to create more computing capacity to meet the growing demand effectively. Net bandwidth expansion, conversion of the current library information system to a web-based one, and building a CDS information repository with data/information products generated by CDS are on the anvil.

J.Murali

## W O R K S H O P S

### **Workshop on Proposed Education Research Unit**

25 July 2005

The workshop was organised to discuss the possibilities of the research unit on education that CDS has been contemplating. Eminent researchers and educationists from all over India were invited. D. Narayana, CDS, chaired the meeting. The design, objectives, research priorities, and monitoring of the unit and the details of its organisational set up were discussed. Also, issues regarding the linkages of the unit with other institutions came up in the discussions. It was generally agreed that the unit should be multidisciplinary in its orientation, and that undue stress on economic aspects should be avoided. The importance of disseminating findings and linking up with policy makers to ensure implementation of recommendations was also

pointed out. The proposed research unit, it was hoped, will work as a nodal agency in South Asia with wide linkages with other research units and global agencies.

Amarendra Das

### **Workshop on India in the Global Cashew Commodity Chain**

**Coordinator: K.N. Harilal - 15 October**

CDS; MIDS Chennai; IIED London.

The workshop held at Kollam saw fruitful academy-industry interaction. It aimed at eliciting feedback from the industry on the findings of a joint research project on 'Trade Policy, Gender and Livelihood: The Cashew Industry in India'. Leading exporters, representatives of the Cashew Export Promotion Council and eminent commodity analysts participated.

The project traced the global cashew value chain to generate better understanding of problems faced by the industry in India, especially in Kerala, in the larger global context. Significant changes of the past two decades in marketing channels in western countries, especially of food products, have led to the growing power of large retailers and other dominant actors located downstream, in value chains. In the global cashew value chain, retailers, roaster/salter companies and importers in the North set and implement rules regarding transactions between nodes and actors. Quality and safety standards for food imports into western countries and reforms in India also put more pressure on upstream nodes. In this context, processors try to transfer the burden of competition to workers by informalising production and casualising work. Speakers offered many suggestions to check the 'race to the bottom' among exporting firms and countries, valuable to policy and industry.

Bharathan Pillai, former chairman of the Export Promotion Council, inaugurated the workshop in a session chaired by K. Narayanan Nair, Director, CDS. K.N.Harilal, CDS, Nazneen Kanji, and Jayaranjan presented the findings of the study. K.Narayanan Nair, Padmini Swaminathan and Mridul Eapen chaired various sessions.

M.S. Harilal

---

**Workshop on Care of the Aged: Gender, Institutional Provisions and Social Security in India, Netherlands and Sri Lanka**

**Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan - 7 November**  
CDS; Leiden University; Marga Institute

The workshop addressed issues related to social security for the aged defined broadly in terms of

health care, work, living arrangements and property rights, against the backdrop of a comparative study focused on the Netherlands, Sri Lanka and India, of the diverse experiences of ageing in different cultural contexts. The relevance of the study lies in the concern with institutional failures underlying the vulnerability of the aged, particularly women, and thinking of ways in which social policy could foster a more informed public engagement with gender and ageing.

The Indian study analysed secondary data, apart from conducting a large-scale sample survey of the elderly in Kerala. It threw light on issues like living arrangements, work participation, property rights and asset ownership, and health status among the elderly. The Sri Lankan study presented separately by Carla Risseeuw and Myrtle Perera, pointed out the absence of a national policy on ageing and measures to assist the aged and their families in Sri Lanka, as against the situation in India. The researchers also discussed issues like health, living arrangements and support systems of the elderly, emerging from a sample survey and FGDs conducted in Sri Lanka. The studies examined the existing provision of residential care arrangements for the aged. The workshop helped to draw considerable insights from the comparison of changing family structures and choice of care providers in the Netherlands, Sri Lanka and India.

Sreerupa

---

**Workshop on Healthy Ageing in India**

**Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan - 2 December**  
CDS; The Indian Academy of Geriatrics;  
Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

The workshop presented the preliminary findings of a major collaborative study on 'Promoting Healthy

---

Ageing through Community Development in India' to researchers, health service providers, and policy makers. The Shastri Applied Research Project funded the project, and it focused on the determinants of healthy ageing in Kerala.

M. Vijayanunni IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala inaugurated the workshop. Irudaya Rajan, CDS and Shanthi Johnson, Acadia University discussed the findings from the preliminary analysis of the large-scale field survey conducted among the elderly in Kerala by CDS. It covered a host of issues including perspectives on old age, social security system, economic position, health status and health care utilisation, and nutritional and behavioural factors. Health needs and health security emerged as the prime concern for the elderly along with familial support and economic security. High prevalence of chronic diseases and falls among the elderly, especially among women, suggested poor bone health and susceptibility to osteoporosis. The researchers advocated active ageing and health promotion initiatives among the elderly.

Eight papers were presented in the sessions that followed, centered on health policies for the elderly, health care financing, nutrition and elder abuse. The workshop also brought together researchers in medicine and social sciences working on health-related issues concerning the elderly.

Sreerupa

---

### **Workshop on Livelihood Crises, Coping Strategies and Institutions**

**Co-ordinator: K.N. Nair - 5, 6 December**

CDS; Department of Geography  
University of Zurich

The preliminary findings of the collaborative project funded by the National Centre of Competence in

Research (NCCR), Switzerland were presented at the workshop. The project involved carrying out micro-level studies on the above theme focused on the Wayanad, Idukki and Palakkad districts of Kerala. K.N. Nair, who explained the research context and the objectives of the workshop, opened the first session, chaired by D. Narasimha Reddy. T. M. Thomas Isaac delivered the keynote address, speaking on economic globalisation, decentralisation and poverty reduction in Kerala. Ulrike Muller-Boeker, Zurich University, outlined the NCCR research programme. In the second session P.S. George and Sanjith presented papers on macro trends in the product market, and the impact of trade-related conditions and restrictions at various levels. Urs Geiser, Zurich University, explained briefly the livelihood framework that broadly framed the case studies. Six case studies were presented in the following sessions. They focused on: livelihood insecurities and water conflicts (Plachimada panchayat, Palakkad); institutionally mediated coping strategies of the poor faced with agrarian crisis (two studies in Wayanad and one in Idukki); crisis ridden tea estates and the changing role of trade unions (Peerumedu, Idukki); rubber smallholders in a marginal environment; and coir co-operatives.

Experts from both within and outside Kerala discussed the case studies in detail, offering a number of suggestions for further improvement.

C.P. Vinod

---

### **Workshop on National Strategy for Manufacturing & Manufacturing Sector in Kerala**

**Co-ordinator: K. J. Joseph - 7 December**

CDS; Confederation of Indian Industries

In the context of the poor performance of Kerala's manufacturing sector, the need to examine the

---

effectiveness at the state level of the strategies identified by the Draft National Manufacturing Strategy Paper, produced by the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, became obvious. The workshop addressed the relevant issues, bringing together different stakeholders in the industry, government and the academia.

K.N. Nair, Director, CDS, addressed the gathering and K.J. Joseph, CDS, made the first presentation in the opening session chaired by T. Ravindran, Former Chairman, CII-Kerala, on the highlights of the National Manufacturing Strategy Paper. This was followed by presentations by P. Mohanan Pillai, CDS, on the poor performance of Kerala's manufacturing sector; Vijayaraghavan, Member, State Planning Board, on promoting IT hardware base; M. Radhakrishna Pillai, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Center for Biotechnology, on possibilities of translating biotechnology options; and P. Ganesh, MD, Elasto Tapes Ltd., on the potential of SMEs in Kerala.

In the second session on promotion of investment-led and innovation-driven growth chaired by A. E. Muthunayagam, Chairman, SCSTE, two papers were presented by Sunil Mani, CDS and V. Santhakumar, CDS, on strengthening investment in competitiveness-enhancing innovation, and building social and economic infrastructure, respectively. While C. Balagopal, MD, Terumo Penpol Ltd., presented an industry perspective on the industry-academia-government interface, the academic view on the same was presented by K. Mohandas, Director, SCTIMST.

T. Balakrishnan IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Industry, Government of Kerala chaired the concluding session. D. Narayana, CDS, summed up the discussion.

## Training Workshop on Technology Management

**Co-ordinator: K.J. Joseph - 9 December**

CDS; Consultancy Development Centre,  
Department of Scientific and Industrial Research,  
Government of India

The role of firm-level technological competence in sustaining competitiveness cannot be over-emphasised in the current context. Besides, intellectual property rights have gained immense significance, and are crucial to understanding and handling the intricacies of property rights and their linkages with the technology in use. This one-day training workshop, which aimed at the capacity-building of industrial units, dealt with various issues in the sphere of technology management, technology transfer and intellectual property rights.

The workshop, attended by senior officials of more than fifty industrial units drawn from both public and private sectors, was inaugurated by M. Radhakrishna Pillai, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram. K. N. Nair, Director, CDS, and S. V. Subbarao, CDC addressed the gathering. K. K. Subrahmanian, CDS, Babu Jacob IAS, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, and M. Baba, Director, CESS, Thiruvananthapuram chaired the sessions. Resource persons included Jyoti S.A. Bhat, Adviser, and Head, Technology Management Programme, DSIR, Vinay Kumar, Visiting Professor, IIT, Delhi, S. Suresh Kumar, Head, Planning, RRL, Thiruvananthapuram, and K. J. Joseph, CDS.

## S E M I N A R

**K.T. Rammohan**

**Tales of Rice** - 30 September

Rammohan's presentation dwelt upon the history of the shaping of the backwater region of Kuttanad into the major rice-producing area of Travancore between the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It attempted to capture both global and local dimensions of the process by bringing together world-systems analysis and the ethnography of rice farming in the region. It was argued that increased rice production from the area facilitated Travancore's integration into the world market by enabling the cheap production of plantation crops and industrial goods. The ethnographic analysis highlighted the difficulties in using homogenised

categories of conventional political economy to speak of the new exploitative relations of production that evolved here. It also represented an effort to focus intensely on the fullness of material life, than simply on the economic processes. The attempt was to trace 'parallel histories', instead of producing a totalising narrative.

Comments raised during the discussion centered upon the historiographic shifts indicated in the presentation. Certain omissions in the review of literature were pointed out, and questions were raised about aspects of capital mobilisation for land reclamation in Kuttanad, and the labour forms that came into existence there.

J. Devika

## LAW AND ECONOMICS PROGRAMME AT CDS

These are times in which the link between economic and legal matters has become too conspicuous to ignore. Several forces have served to bring economic and legal institutions closer. Now institutions, particularly legal ones, are recognised as an important determinant of economic growth. As globalisation proceeds apace, institutions are being increasingly formalised. For instance, the WTO-initiated international governance rules in trade-related aspects have formalised and indeed harmonised the rules governing intellectual property rights across the developing and the developed worlds. Therefore gaining a formal grounding in law and economics is now a tremendously valuable asset for economic researchers and analysts.

It is in this context that CDS has taken a conscious, cautious decision to diversify into research and teaching in the field of Law and Economics. A group of teachers and students has been working consistently towards this end over the past six months. A well-known researcher and analyst in this field, Professor Mitu Gulati, Georgetown University Law Center, has generously helped us in this endeavour.

The group has made three concrete gains. First, two one-credit modules comprising ten lectures have been prepared for the M Phil programme. These have been introduced as electives for the next batch commencing in August 2006. They are (a) Module 209: *Law and Economics*, to be offered in Course II; and (b) Module 409: *Legal Institutions, Empowerment and Economic Development in India*, in Course IV. The JNU Committee of Direction that met on 7 November 2005 approved the course outline and readings. CDS is now in the process of advertising its M Phil programme, which includes these two optional modules. Secondly a Law and Economics Study Group, which tries to acquaint the larger academic community here with some of the key concerns in the Law and Economics literature, has been meeting regularly. Its first session was on 31 October 2005 in which Santhakumar made a presentation on 'Economic Theory of Property'. On 12 December 2005, Larry Ribstein, University of Illinois College of Law, Champaign, lectured on 'Choice of Form and Network Externalities'. As a person with considerable experience in designing law and economics courses at the graduate level, his suggestions and guidance

have been extremely useful. M. Parameswaran and Sunil Mani will continue the lecture series in 2006 with presentations. Thirdly, Professor Gulati has helped us acquire some of the key readings for the modules. Professor Gulati's efforts have led us to be in touch with some of the key persons in the field of Law and Economics such as Judge Richard A. Posner, University of Chicago Law School, Thomas Ulen, University of Illinois College of Law, and Arti K.Rai, University of Pennsylvania Law School. We are extremely grateful to Judge Posner, Professor Ribstein, Professor Ulen and Professor Rai for their generosity.

**Professor Ribstein's Lecture**

Professor Ribstein's recent lecture at CDS (12 December 2005) on network externalities and choice of business forms was an eye-opener regarding the possibilities opened up in exploring the emergent interfaces of law and economics. Based on a paper written by him jointly with Brue Kobayashi and published in *William & Mary Law Review* 79 (2001), it provided detailed empirical analysis of firms' choice of organisational form in the USA.

Network externality has been defined as a change in the benefit, or surplus, that an agent derives from a good when the number of other agents consuming the same good changes. Hitherto, this idea has been used to explain the choice of a particular technology or standard. Ribstein and Kobayashi

extend the logic of this argument to the questions of choice of business form, and provide important empirical evidence to explain whether the choice of a form of ownership of a company depends on network externalities. The lecture focused on formations of limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and limited liability companies (LLCs) to examine the effect of various factors on firms' choice of business form. The empirical data provided important evidence against the network externality hypothesis.

The lecture thus provided an interesting example of combining legal and economic issues. It also brought home the point that there are various approaches to combining law and economics.

Sunil Mani

Saikat Sinha Roy and Babu P. Remesh have been awarded Ph D Degree by JNU. Saikat is now an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Babu is an Associate Fellow at the V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida. All of us at CDS warmly congratulate Saikat and Babu on this happy occasion.

Saikat's doctoral work at CDS was titled 'Factors in the Determination of India's Exports'. Babu's thesis was on 'Dynamics of Rural Labour in Kerala: A Case Study of Rubber Tappers in Small-Holdings'.

**From the Administrator's Desk**

The appointment of K.P. Kannan, CDS, as a full-time member of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, Government of India, has been extended upto 19 September 2007, when the Commission will complete its term.

N. Shanta and K. Navaneetham, Associate Fellows, CDS, have been appointed Fellows with effect from 1 January 2006 under the Merit Promotion Scheme.

M. Parameswaran joined CDS as Research Associate on 15 December 2005.

R.K. Rajasekharan Nair, Senior Assistant Administrative Officer, retired on 30 November

2005. He has been with CDS since 1974.

G. Chandran, Liaison Assistant, retired from the services of CDS on 31 December 2005. He has been with CDS since 1972.

**Library Automation**

Consequent upon the reorganisation of Library, steps have been taken to automate the services of Library. To facilitate speedy automation, an exclusive net server was installed for the Library. The net bandwidth is also being expanded from 128 kbps to 256 kbps. The Library management software has been upgraded into web-enabled software. Steps have also been initiated for bar coding of all acquisitions.

## LIBRARY NEWS

During the last quarter the Library acquired 221 books, 12 CDs and 581 Working Papers. The subscription to the database UN Comtrade has been renewed till December 2006. Reference membership was granted to 121 new members and membership with borrowing facility to 8 external and 6 internal members.

The Director has approved of the recommendations made by the Sub Committee on Library Rules and Regulations. Reference membership may now be extended to six months, allowing three renewals extending up to two years, and the fee for non-students has been enhanced to Rs. 100. The fee for students continues to be Rs. 50. The library deposit for borrowers has been enhanced to Rs. 1000 per ticket, but the fee for admission remains Rs. 50. It has also been decided that borrowing membership shall be given to users residing outside Thiruvananthapuram on recommendation by a reliable authority who will be responsible for timely return of books. Bureaucrats, politicians and retired academics may seek borrowing membership through the Director. The Director may recommend or reject such applications at his discretion. The project staff of CDS is now required to surrender project cards on expiry of their projects and obtain a non-liability certificate from the library before they receive the last instalment of their salaries. If the period of the project is extended the library is to be informed of it. The Ph D co-ordinator has also been asked to ensure that Ph D students inform the library if they leave CDS before completion of their doctoral work, and that they surrender all books borrowed. The new rules and regulations will come into effect from 1 January 2006.

M. Chidambaram Pillai, Librarian-in-charge, attended a three-day workshop on Institutional Repositories, held at M.O.P. Vaishnav College for

Women, Chennai, between 2 and 4 December 2005. It was organised by the Madras Library Association and the Computer Society of India.

M. Chidambaram Pillai

## CAMPUS NEWS

A grand party was organised to formally welcome the new M Phil batch on 4 September, after the completion of their foundation course. New entrants were invited to join the fun through lively games. The highlight this year, however, was the sitar recital that brightened the evening. A sumptuous dinner drew the perfect evening to a close.

Suresh Naik

There were three presentations in the Ph D Forum. On 7 September, Nathanael G.V made a presentation on 'Contract farming and labour processes'; on 6 October, Syam Prasad spoke on 'Some Issues and Concerns of the Aged in India'; on 18 October, Remya Prabha G discussed 'Internal Migration in Kerala'. All three are first year research students at CDS.

M.S. Harilal

The Poetry Club met on the evening of 7 November 2005. The meeting was made special by the presence of T. Gopi, a poet based in south Kerala. He recited poems from his two collections *Utpreksha* and *Kaithokku*. A dialogue in which Gopi shared his experiences as a poet with members followed.

M.S. Harilal

Students celebrated World Philosophy Day on 17 November, with a discussion on 'Economics and Philosophy'. The first speaker M. Venkatanarayana, who shared his thoughts on philosophy and the development of society, was followed by William Joe and A. D. Manikandan who spoke on 'Evolution of Institutional Change', and on Amartya Sen's philosophy in *Development as Freedom* respectively. A lively discussion followed.

Rathi Kanta Kumbhar

Deepavali and Christmas were celebrated enthusiastically on the campus. The hostel buildings were resplendent with lighted candles on the evening of Deepavali and sweets were shared. The campus kids took a lead in bursting crackers, though rain did play spoilsport! On 16 December a Christmas procession led by Santa Claus and a happily raucous hallelujah chorus of students visited homes on campus in honour of the approaching festival. Revellers shared the Christmas cake cut by Santa Claus. Gifts were exchanged at the dinner that followed, and diners were treated to the excellent culinary skills of CDS students, led by Lakhiram Hansda.

(photo credit: Suresh Naik)



## PUBLICATIONS

### Books/Monographs

Harilal K.N., D.N. Reddy, and J. Jayaranjan. 2005. *Understanding WTO: A Media Toolkit*, Kathmandu: Panos, South Asia.

Rammohan, K.T. 2005. *Krishnarajinte Patramargam* (Malayalam) (The Journalistic Mission of Krishnaraj), Kozhikode: Olive Books.

### Chapters from Books/Journal Articles

Das, Amarendra. 2005. 'POSCO Deal: Natural Resource Implications' *Economic and Political Weekly*, 29 October.

Devika, J. 2005. 'The Malayali Sexual Revolution: Sex, Liberation and Family Planning in Keralam', *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 39 (3), September-December.

Harilal K. N. and P.L. Beena. 2005. 'Reining in Rules of Origin Based Protectionism: A Critique of WTO initiatives', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40 (51), December 17-25.

Harilal K. N. and K.J. Joseph. 2005. 'Free Trade Area Accord between India and Sri Lanka: Implications for South India States', in Harshe Rajan and K.M. Seethi (eds.) *Engaging with the World: Critical Reflections on India's Foreign Policy*, Hyderabad: Orient Longman.

Joseph, K. J. 2005. 'Perils of Excessive Export Orientation', in G. Parayil (ed.) *Political Economy of Information Capitalism in India: Digital Divide, Development Divide and Equity*, New York: Palgrave.

Joseph, K. J. 2005. 'Transforming Digital Divide into Digital Divident: South-South Cooperation in ICTs' in *UNDP Cooperation South*.

Mani, Sunil. 2005. 'Epistemic Communities and Informed Policy making for Promoting Innovations: the case of Singapore', in Louk Box and Engelhard Rutger (eds.) *Dialogues at the Interface, Science and Technology Policy for Development*, The Hague: Directorate General of International Corporation, 60-71.

Mani, Sunil. 2005. 'Growth of New Technology-based Industries in India, the Contrasting Experiences of Biotechnology and Information Technology Industries', *International Journal of Technology and Globalization*, December.

Mani, Sunil. 2005. 'Charles Cooper: Institution Builder', *Development and Change*, 36 (6), 1209-1214.

Pillai, Mohanan, P. and N. Shanta. 2005. 'Kerala's Turnaround in Growth', *Economic and Political Weekly*, October 8.

Rammohan, K.T. 2005. 'Technology of Reclamation and Rice Cultivation in Southern India' in Helaine Selin (ed.) *Encyclopaedia of the History of Non-Western Science: Sciences, Technology, and Medicine* (Springer-Verlag).

Timothy, Rakhee and S. Irudaya Rajan. 2005. 'Awareness and Knowledge About HIV/AIDS in India: Evidences from RCH Survey (1998-99)', *Demography India* 33 (1), 61-84.

## Outreach

- Rathi Kanta Kumbhar, doctoral student, presented a paper titled 'The Process of Land Possession/Landlessness and Poverty: Understanding from Orissa, Kerala and West Bengal', at the Sixth Annual Symposium on Poverty Research, *Putting Land First? Exploring the Links between Land and Poverty* organised by the Centre for Poverty Analysis, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 22 - 24 November 2005.
- Sunil Mani has been appointed member of the Research Team on Innovation Systems and Innovation Policy in the five emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), at the Department of Business Studies, Aalborg University, Denmark. He was also a co-ordinator of the Kerala Global Support conference jointly held at Thiruvananthapuram on 13, 14 and 15 December by Stanford Centre for International Development and Asian School of Business.
- Sunil Mani presented two papers titled 'Keeping Pace with Globalisation: Innovation Capabilities in Korea's Telecommunication Industry', and 'The Dragon vs. the Elephant, Comparative Analysis of Innovation Capability in the Telecom Industry of China and India', at the conferences *Innovation and Technology in Korea*, at Vienna, Austria, October 6-7, 2005, and the Globelics 2005 Africa Conference, *Innovation Systems Promoting Economic Growth, Social Cohesion and Good Governance* held at Tshwane University of Technology, Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa, 31 October - 4 November 2005, respectively.
- K.J. Joseph presented a paper titled 'Hastening Catching up Harnessing Southern Innovation System' in the Globelics 2005 Africa Conference, held at Institute for Economic Research on Innovation, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, 31 October - 4 November 2005. He also made a presentation in the panel discussion on *Science, Technology & Inequality* in the same conference.
- K. J. Joseph has been appointed member of the Scientific Board of Globelics and co-ordinator of the Indian Research Team on Innovation Systems and Innovation Policy in the five emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) at the Department of Business Studies, Aalborg University, Denmark.

## FIELD NOTES

Fresh from our doses of development theory, we were waiting with bated breath for the experience of our first field survey in the remote villages of East Medinipur and North 24 Paraganas in West Bengal. UNICEF had authorised four of us (as a part of the UNICEF, India, Summer Internship, 2005) to make a thorough survey of the living conditions of the villagers, to evaluate their health awareness and sanitary practices. A close examination revealed that the village folk did not know how to use the newly-installed sanitary equipment. Interestingly, in most cases the concrete toilets were storage spaces for household utilities! But what struck us most was a picture in one small hut tucked away in the village, which made us rethink the entire discourse of the social sector development planning programmes of the State governments. There, the Panchayat- built toilet, which stood a few yards

away from the hut, served as a site for worship, with idols of deities consecrated within. We saw women crowding next to the sanitary fittings, offering prayers and flowers to their venerated deities!

Religious faith seemed to have converged with development here! When we inquired about this, the lady of the household proudly announced that the toilet built by the Panchayat was the only concrete structure that stood tall amidst the muddy terrain. Where else was she to venerate her deities, than within the newly built structure? We wondered at the manner in which one small village, immersed in its humdrum ways of life, mingles religious practice and development in its own very special way, as the forces of globalisation take the world by storm!

Tannistha Samanta

## MEMORY

A quarter of a century has gone by since I first came to CDS, and more than twenty-three years since I entered the professional world armed with an M Phil degree from here. Being briefly back for three weeks in March 2005, it was gratifying to be fondly remembered and greeted by the faculty and staff who are here after so many years.

I remember the years I spent here with equal fondness: meeting my life partner, growing to appreciate the importance of organised action, understanding the needs of the not-so-fortunate sections of workers, and developing a capacity to represent and write forcefully for these groups. The seeds of my understanding of poor, marginalised and informal workers were sown here by the eminent teachers of my time. As one of my professors put it to me later when I was experimenting with econometric techniques, "it is wonderful you can understand and use these tools, but don't forget the basic question you wish to

address". That was the essence of what CDS taught students, to reflect on issues and ask the right questions, an essential ingredient of democracy.

CDS today does reflect the population pressure and the changing age structure, and urbanisation has taken its toll of the pristine scenery of those years. Within CDS it is reflected in a larger student community and more buildings on the campus. The younger faculty members appear dynamic, with clear views and apparently considerable communication with the students. The student community also appears more organised, going by the long Women's Day Celebrations we witnessed during our brief stay.

I wish CDS and the CDS community all the best in the tough and changing world of social science today.

Jeemol Unni  
M Phil Batch 1979-81

## POLICY-POINTERS

The service sector-led growth of Kerala's economy seems to lack linkages with production and manufacturing sectors, which guarantee sustainability in growth. Besides, such growth, when unaccompanied with expansion of the tax base, seems anomalous. The CDS working paper titled *Long-term Trends in the Growth and Structure of the Net Domestic Product in Kerala*, authored by **P. Mohanan Pillai and N. Shanta** (WP 376 October 2005) recommends the reexamination of Centre-State tax-sharing, suggests new avenues of State taxation, urging a rethinking of the possibilities of sustainable growth in Kerala's economy.

The shape of the anti-dumping regulation now in place, along with the increasing import of dumped products and the unsatisfactory performance of Indian industries prompts us to question the gap in the purpose and execution of trade regulations. These issues are discussed, along with possible policy implications, in the recent CDS working paper *Anti Dumping Duty as a Measure of Contingent Protection: An Analysis of Indian Experience*, authored by **Nandana Baruah** (WP 377, October, 2005)

The abolition of tenancy, counted among the major gains of land reform in Kerala, now seems to be challenged by the appearance of lease farming. The rising prevalence of tenancies seems to be working against the underutilisation of cultivable land in Kerala. Hence there seems to be reason to doubt the value of prohibiting tenancies, especially those which promote lease-farming, and which may be operated efficiently through SHGs at the Panchayat level. The CDS working paper titled *Lease Farming in Kerala: Findings from Micro Level Studies* authored by **K.N.Nair and Vineetha Menon** (WP 378, November 2005) examines available evidence from the field and highlights the need for a state-formulated legal framework towards for permitting suitable terms of tenancy that may help check the underutilisation of agricultural land.

U. S. Mishra

**Urs Geiser** is Senior Researcher with the Development Study Group, Department of Geography University of Zurich. He has written extensively on forest and natural resource management in South Asia, particularly, Pakistan.

He was recently at CDS for a workshop held as part of a collaborative project between CDS and the Department of Geography, University of Zurich. He spoke to **K.N. Nair** on geography, development studies and the use of knowledge produced in research.



*Usually, geography is not necessarily associated with development studies. How did you – as a geographer – enter this field?*

Yes, geography is often perceived as a more descriptive discipline. However, social geographers realised some time back that linking up with debates in social sciences can energise their own core research interest – the study of patterns and processes shaping human interaction with the environment. Personally, I followed these changes. Having been trained as a more ‘traditional’ geographer in the mid 1970s, gradually, I became interested in why land use changes, or forests vanish. I was able to learn a lot through new project involvements, including my first one in Kerala in the late 1980s – when we met for the first time for a study on the impact of the then Indo-Swiss livestock project. Later I decided to do my PhD in Social Geography with a focus on learning about an ‘actor-oriented’ approach that focuses on peoples’ agency but without neglecting structural issues and power relations.

*You are working in different countries; what is your experience in doing research in different contexts?*

Though funding for research on the South was not easily available in Switzerland, around 2000, Swiss development researchers organised and succeeded in obtaining funds for North-South research partnerships. This enabled me to deepen links with

CDS, and SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan. What I enjoy most is the enthusiasm with which colleagues in both places are willing to dialogue with me on both empirical and theoretical issues. I am also welcomed as partner and not as ‘donor’. In Kerala (and India in general), the network of researchers and academic debates is denser than in Pakistan. Access to the field for case studies are easier in Kerala than in the remote North-West Frontier Province. However, administrative issues are more complex in India. What I highly appreciate, and where I learned a lot, is the commitment of my colleagues in both places to not only do good research (and get it published), but also try to influence policy.

*How does your research feed into teaching in your own country?*

In the two courses I teach — on natural resource management and rural development — my own case studies are drawn as examples. Colleagues from the South are invited occasionally for lectures. In addition, we allow some of our students to do their Masters or doctoral research in our projects. My vision is to enable students from Kerala to do development research in Switzerland. There are many issues occurring in both contexts, for example, those of the the civil society -social policy interface, decentralisation and control of funds, or the plight of small farmers faced with accelerating globalisation – let us see!



## **CHRONICLE 4**

October - December 2005

### **CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

Prasanth Nagar Road, Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram 695 011, Kerala, India  
Tel: +91-471-2448412, 2448881 Fax: +91-471-2447137 Website: [www.cds.edu](http://www.cds.edu)

*Please send your contributions and responses to the editor: [devika@cds.ac.in](mailto:devika@cds.ac.in)*