

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

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VISION OF VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

The CSD-Hyderabad team, led by Dr. C. Rangarajan completed a project that developed a new index-based framework to measure fiscal-monetary policy coordination in India, addressing a key gap in existing research. The study finds that such coordination is largely reactive and occurs primarily during crisis periods driven by demand shocks, it also observe that fiscal policy shows significant cyclical shifts which create signalling challenges. Further the study identifies inflation-targeting phases as “high K regimes,” where active monetary policy leads to more effective coordination outcomes compare to fiscal policy. Overall, the project highlights the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms and treat policy coordination as an explicit objective for achieving improved macroeconomic stability.

The CSD-Hyderabad and CSD-Delhi teams contributed to a wide range of research and policy discussions aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, addressing key issues in education, employment, agriculture, and social inclusion. While the Hyderabad team focused on challenges in higher education, youth employment transitions, agricultural development through GIs, gender inequalities, and inclusive policy frameworks such as rehabilitation and resettlement, the Delhi team emphasized agrarian change, labour dynamics, and social protection, including studies on farm labour, land tenure, gig workers and studies focusing on out of school children, girls and vulnerable groups. Together, this work combines empirical research with policy-oriented insights, further strengthened by expert lectures on GST reforms, governance, and leadership, reflecting a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to India's development challenges.

PROJECTS

Completed Project - CSD Hyderabad

Submitted an invited chapter titled 'The Necessity of Policy Coordination: From Normative Ideal to Policy Target' by Deba Prasad Rath and Rewanth Raichooti for the concluding section "Rethinking Fiscal Architecture for India" of the forthcoming Handbook of Indian Public Finance to be published by Routledge in 2026 (editorial team led by Dr. C. Rangarajan).

EVENTS

CSD Delhi

- 8th Social Change Annual Lecture 2026, titled "The Female Voice: Reinstating Life," hosted by the Council for Social Development (CSD) in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC) and Sage Publications.
- The Social Development Forum (SDF), Council for Social Development, New Delhi, organised a book launch and panel discussion on "Caste-Communal-Politics Nexus in Higher Education Policy: The Case of Southern States and Maharashtra" by A. Mathew on 26 February 2026.

CSD Hyderabad

- "National Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Policy Coordination in Emerging Markets: Monetary, Fiscal, and GST Perspectives" on January 6-8, 2026
- The RBI Chair, CSD, Hyderabad organised a public lecture on 'Monetary Policy in India - Issues and Challenges Going Forward', by Shri Indranil Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India on January 6, 2026
- The RBI Chair, CSD, Hyderabad organised a Policy Round Table Discussion on 'Socio-Economic Impact of GST - Its Introduction and Reforms: Consumption Patterns and Influence on the Middle Class and Neo-Middle Class' on January 8, 2026

Council for Social Development Newsletter

January – March, 2026

PROJECTS

Ongoing Projects - CSD Delhi

- ***Towards Holistic Education and Empowerment of Adolescents: Evaluation of 25 Years of the Doosra Dashak Journey in Rajasthan (Sponsored by Foundation for Education and Development) by Poornima, Ramandeep Kaur, Gitesh Sinha and Jaya Lekshmi Nair***



This study assesses the transformative 25-year journey of the Doosra Dashak initiative across nine blocks in Rajasthan, highlighting its impact on adolescents from marginalized rural communities. With a strong focus on out-of-school children, girls, and vulnerable groups such as the Garasia, Bhil, and Saharia communities, the study examines key interventions, including life skills education, residential and non-residential camps, Ikhvelo centres, social empowerment efforts, and livelihood opportunities. Fieldwork has been

completed in seven blocks of Rajasthan. A key strength of the study lies in its extensive field engagement across difficult and remote terrains, enabling meaningful interaction with communities that are often underrepresented. Through in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions with women's collectives, Ikhvelo in-charges, beneficiaries in residential camps, and non-beneficiaries, as well as carefully documented case studies, the study captures diverse perspectives. By incorporating control groups, the research aims to generate evidence-based insights and actionable recommendations for scaling and strengthening the programme, contributing to sustainable, equitable, and inclusive development.



- ***Baseline Survey of a Four-Year Project in Rajasthan by Poornima, Ramandeep Kaur and Gitesh Sinha***

This study undertakes a baseline survey of beneficiaries of the Doosra Dashak programme across four blocks in Sirohi and Pindwara districts of Rajasthan.

Covering 100 respondents, the study captures the current status of education, social empowerment, livelihoods, and digital skills, with a focus on out-of-school children, girls, and marginalized communities, including the Bhil and Garasia groups. A notable feature of this effort is the extensive field engagement in remote and challenging terrains, ensuring that voices from underserved regions are meaningfully represented. The data generated will serve as a critical benchmark for assessing long-term impact, with a follow-up endline survey planned for 2028. The survey has been successfully completed, and data analysis is currently underway. A leaflet report is being prepared to disseminate key findings.



- ***Knowledge Management and Communication Activities in the Central Semi-Arid and Indian Coastal Region Landscapes (sponsored by TERI - UNDP) by Susmita Mitra, Nitya Nanda (Advisor), Dhiman Debsarma,***

Jayanti Saha, Sourindra Mohan Ghosh, Jaya Lekshmi Nair and Gitesh Sinha



In a context where grassroots environmental evidence is vital for shaping policy and practice, this project enhances knowledge management and impact dissemination across diverse ecological regions in India. It focuses on GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) supported 47 grassroots initiatives implemented in semi-arid and coastal landscapes, aiming to systematically document, synthesize, and communicate their environmental and livelihood outcomes. The project also promotes cross-learning and the exchange of best practices through case studies, targeted communication materials, and stakeholder capacity-building.

Using a mixed-methods approach, the study combines field visits, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and structured surveys with a review of project reports and monitoring data. Between January and March 2026, the team developed a suite of knowledge products—including newsletters, YouTube videos, case studies, policy briefs, and

photo stories—to ensure that project insights are accessible, engaging, and useful for informing policy and practice.

As the knowledge partner, the CSD team also worked with the SGP-India team at TERI to organize a thematic session at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2026 in New Delhi on “Women at the Frontlines of Climate Action, Biodiversity and Land Restoration.”

- ***The Role of Caste and Gender in Defining Employment and Earning Outcomes in Gig Economy in India (Ongoing Project) by Akhil Alha***

Caste and gender have long shaped labour market outcomes in India, influencing access to work, mobility, and earnings. The rise of the platform or gig economy is often seen as reducing such hierarchies through algorithmic allocation of work. This study examines whether platform capitalism has weakened caste and gender inequalities or reproduced them in new digital forms. It analyses how pre-labour market conditions—such as education, digital access, and social networks—shape participation and returns in gig work, and assesses the extent of autonomy and flexibility, particularly for women. The study also reviews emerging labour codes and policy initiatives aimed at extending social protection to platform workers.

Completed Project - CSD Hyderabad

- ***Submitted an invited chapter titled ‘The Necessity of Policy Coordination: From Normative Ideal to Policy Target’ by Deba Prasad Rath and Rewanth Raichooti for the concluding section “Rethinking Fiscal***

Architecture for India” of the forthcoming Handbook of Indian Public Finance to be published by Routledge in 2026 (editorial team led by Dr. C. Rangarajan).

While coordination between fiscal and monetary policies is widely recognised as essential for optimal macroeconomic outcomes, efforts to measure this coordination are limited in the Indian context. To address this gap, we developed a new framework to quantify policy coordination using an index-based method. We find that policy coordination in India is mostly reactive, happening mainly during a few crisis periods marked by aggregate demand shocks. On the fiscal side, significant cyclical changes in the fiscal stance create a signalling issue by widening the gap between structural and baseline coordination gaps. On the monetary side, we describe regimes with inflation-targeting frameworks as a ‘high K regime,’ where active monetary policy tends to produce better coordination outcomes than active fiscal policy. In this context, although policy coordination is generally seen as beneficial, we suggest that the institutional framework should evolve to treat it as an explicit policy goal.

It was forwarded to the editorial committee on 15 March, 2026; it is presently under editorial process.

Ongoing Projects - CSD Hyderabad

- ***Advancing a Gender-Just Future in Odisha: A Longitudinal Study of Inclusive Parity Frameworks within the Vision of Viksit Bharat (Sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi) by Sujit Kumar Mishra, Prajna Paramita Mishra***

(Hyderabad Central University), B. Sudhakar Reddy (Osmania University, Hyderabad) and Sujit K.S. (Christ University, Bangalore)

The Government of India has made substantial investments—both material and intellectual—through a broad range of policy measures and programmes aimed at advancing gender equity and promoting inclusive development. Yet, the persistent marginalization of women across key development indicators raises critical questions regarding the efficacy, implementation, and reach of these initiatives. This study seeks to critically explore why, despite sustained policy attention and considerable investment, SDG 5 has not been able to secure a position within the high-performance cohort in Odisha. It argues for a more granular, intersectional, and context-sensitive approach to gender mainstreaming. Against this backdrop, the study has initiated preliminary work by analyzing secondary data on gender budgeting, child sex ratio, women's labour force participation, average wage rates, gender-based violence, and associated reporting mechanisms.

• *Political Geography and Structural Change: Status of Women in India Extractive Industry (sponsored by Institute of Eminence, University of Hyderabad) by Prajna Paramita Mishra and Sujit Kumar Mishra*

The ongoing study seeks to assess the multifaceted impacts of natural resource extraction on local women by examining how mining activities reshape their social, economic, and cultural realities. It aims to understand the social construction of mining spaces and the rapid societal

transformations that accompany the establishment of mines, particularly in relation to gender relations, community dynamics, and shifts in livelihoods. The study further explores how women experience, negotiate, and adapt to these transitions within changing social and environmental contexts. The study is currently nearing completion, and the preliminary findings have already been disseminated across various academic and policy platforms.

• *Gender Inclusive Infrastructures in Schools and Educational Outcomes among Girls in Telangana (sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi under OH-31 grant and Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sujit Kumar Mishra, Soumya Vinayan., Sunder Raj, D. Sammaiah and B. Srinivasa Reddy*

The ongoing study aims to examine the status of infrastructural facilities—particularly water, sanitation, and hygiene—in girls' and co-educational schools across Telangana. It assesses the functionality of toilets, with specific emphasis on girls' sanitation facilities, and analyses the implications of non-functional infrastructure for girls' enrolment, attendance, dropout rates, and health outcomes. Furthermore, the study seeks to map and evaluate existing interventions designed to strengthen infrastructural and learning environments, with a focus on improving water, sanitation, hygiene, enrolment, and the overall educational experience of girl students. Data collection for the study has been completed, and the work is currently in the analysis stage.

• ***Impact and Effectiveness of One Stop Sakhi Centres in Telangana: A Study in Telangana (sponsored by Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sujit Kumar Mishra, D. Sunder Raj, B. Srinivasa Reddy and D. Sammaiah***

The ongoing study seeks to assess the utilization and accessibility of One Stop Service Centres (OSSCs) in Telangana, examining the extent to which these centres effectively serve women across urban, semi-urban, and rural contexts. It aims to identify the barriers women face in accessing these services, including social stigma, limited awareness, and infrastructural constraints. The study further analyses the impact of OSSCs on survivors' recovery and reintegration, with a focus on mental health, economic empowerment, and social inclusion. Drawing on these insights, the research intends to offer evidence-based recommendations to strengthen policy frameworks and enhance the operational effectiveness of OSSCs in addressing women's needs and supporting holistic rehabilitation. Data collection for the study has been completed, and the work is currently in the analysis stage.

• ***Social Development Report 2026: Status of Health in Telangana (sponsored by Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sujit Kumar Mishra, Rahul Mishra, Pullanna Vidyapogu and Langa Dolma Samuel***

The ongoing study aims to analyze the overall health status of Telangana, with a particular focus on the availability, quality, and accessibility of healthcare facilities. It

examines the per capita availability of healthcare professionals—including doctors, nurses, and technicians—and highlights disparities between urban and rural areas. The study also evaluates the effectiveness of health information dissemination and its implications for public health outcomes, addressing key themes such as health infrastructure, workforce distribution, service accessibility, public health programmes, and quality of care. In addition, the study proposes to undertake primary-level investigations on critical issues such as age at marriage, teenage pregnancy, and related health and social outcomes.

• ***Saving Potentials of Agricultural Households—A Study (Based on Survey Data from Telangana) (RBI Chair Corpus Fund) - by Deba Prasad Rath and Sunder Raj***

This study aims to examine the potential to save among rural agricultural households in Telangana, based on primary survey data collected across diverse zones. Despite steady improvements in financial inclusion, rural saving behaviour remains poorly understood—particularly the gap between income levels and actual saving capacity. The study will identify key factors influencing saving potential, including landholding size, cropping patterns, income diversification, access to formal credit, and financial literacy. Using both descriptive statistics and regression analysis, the findings are expected to reveal significant heterogeneity in saving potential, often shaped by institutional access and household decision-making patterns. While many households may report low or no savings, the data may suggest considerable latent capacity to

save when appropriate financial instruments, risk mitigation tools, and advisory services are available, particularly for households with non-farm income sources and better integration into value chains. The study seeks to throw light on developing region-specific savings mobilization strategies, integrating digital tools, and strengthening cooperative and self-help structures to convert saving potential into actual financial resilience.

• *Financial Inclusion and Women Entrepreneurs: An Impact Study of Mudra Yojana in Telangana (A Comprehensive Primary Data) (RBI Chair Corpus Fund) - by Deba Prasad Rath and Sunder Raj*

Despite various initiatives, women in India continue to face significant barriers in accessing formal credit and entrepreneurial opportunities. Mudra Yojana was launched to address this gap by providing collateral-free loans to micro and small entrepreneurs, with a special focus on women. Telangana, with its active self-help group movement, offers a unique context to assess the grassroots impact of the scheme. This research is motivated by the need to empirically evaluate whether financial inclusion initiatives like Mudra truly translate into economic empowerment for women. This study seeks to examine the impact of the Yojana on financial inclusion and the entrepreneurial growth of women in Telangana. By leveraging data collected from diverse districts across the state, the research seeks to investigate how access to microcredit under Mudra Yojana has influenced the socio-economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs. The study will assess key indicators such

as income generation, business sustainability, access to formal financial institutions, and overall improvement in quality of life. Findings may suggest that while the scheme has enabled many women to initiate and expand micro-enterprises, challenges such as limited financial literacy, collateral constraints, and inadequate follow-up support remain, highlighting the role of institutional mechanisms and financial education in enhancing the effectiveness of such schemes, offering recommendations for more inclusive and impactful policy interventions.

• *Assessing the Business-Level Effects of the Goods and Services Tax Reforms: A Telangana Perspective (RBI Corpus Fund) by Deba Prasad Rath and D. Sunder Raj*

The study aims to comprehensively examine the business-level effects of Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms in Telangana. Specifically, it seeks to analyze the impact of GST on key business performance indicators such as cost structures, profitability, compliance costs, and investment decisions among firms. It also assesses changes in the ease of doing business from the perspective of local enterprises and examines sectoral differences in the response to GST reforms, particularly across manufacturing, services, and small businesses. In addition, the study identifies major implementation and compliance challenges faced by firms and proposes policy-oriented recommendations to strengthen GST implementation and better support regional business growth. The scope of the study is focused on Hyderabad and selected major business clusters across Telangana,

covering a diverse range of enterprises including micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), large firms, and service providers. The analysis spans the pre and post-GST period, broadly covering the years from 2016 to 2025, to capture both transitional and longer-term effects of the reforms. A mixed-methods approach is adopted, combining quantitative analysis based on primary survey data and firm-level financial indicators with qualitative insights drawn from interviews with business owners, managers, and tax practitioners, enabling a nuanced and context-specific understanding of GST's business-level impacts.

- ***Establishing Inclusive and Integrated Systems for Promoting Geographical Indications (GI) Tagged Rice Varieties in India: A Longitudinal Study of Innovations and Technological Advancements in Building Resilience and Sustainability of Farming Communities (funded by ICSSR, New Delhi) Project Team: Soumya Vinayan, N Laitha (Retd, GIDR), P K Viswanathan (ASB-Amritapuri), M Padmavati (IIT-KGP), Vishnu C R (IIT-T) Associated Staff: Parnika Saha and Sithara Sinin (CSD, Hyderabad)***

The study focuses on the cultivation of rice varieties that are GI tagged and examine the impact of registration on livelihoods, income and the challenges in achieving the potential thereof. The exploratory study visits completed in 23 sites across nine states (May 2025–January 2026) have thrown light on interesting facts. Irrespective of the geographical location, it was found that these rice varieties were grown in very limited quantities with the

exception of Kalanamak (Uttar Pradesh) and Gobindobhog (West Bengal). Social and cultural significance of consumption of such varieties especially for festivals, marriages held paramount relevance and farmers took pride in continued cultivation and preserving the heritage. Progressive farmers through formal and informal institutional mechanisms have better access to markets and remuneration while small, marginal farmers continued to grow it for self-consumption. The impact of GI tagging was varied, most visible in the case of Kalanamak and Gobindobhog. However, there remained a significant gap between legal recognition and ground-level impact. Farmers report limited direct gains from the GI premium, with much of the value addition being absorbed by intermediaries in the supply chain. The GI status has strengthened branding, but not necessarily farmer income security. Recent registrations include two homonymous rice GIs (Chinnor) filed from Maharashtra (Bhandara district) and Madhya Pradesh (Balaghat district), which are contiguous districts across the border, grown on the banks of the Wainganga river. Kalanamak has been used in the production of value-added products while Marcha (Bihar) is exclusively consumed as *chivda* (flattened rice) rather than rice.

- ***A Study on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund in Telangana (sponsored by Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sunkari Satyam***

The study focuses on the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)—the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Telangana. While Adivasis (STs) remain geographically isolated, the SCs,

though part of the mainstream social system, continue to face segregation, discrimination, and exclusion, limiting their access to resources, education, healthcare, and governance. The research critically examines the development paradigms and implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund in Telangana, assessing whether the programmes align with the real needs and aspirations of these communities. The study's main objectives are to evaluate the relevance of the programmes, identify institutional and implementation challenges, understand community expectations, and analyze the gaps between people's needs and government interventions. Adopting a process evaluation approach, it employs standard social science methods, including case studies, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with both community members and officials from sectoral departments. Progress so far includes the collection and analysis of secondary data on fund allocations and expenditures, along with revisions to the questionnaire and research framework based on pilot findings. The current stage involves detailed analysis of the latest datasets to gain deeper insights into the socio-economic impact and policy effectiveness of the development funds.

• *Navigating Precarity: Social Security and the Lives of Construction Workers at Tolichowki Labour Adda, Hyderabad by Pullanna Vidyapogu and Langa Dolma Samuel (Working Paper)*

In India, the unorganized sector employs a significant majority of the working population, exceeding 90 per cent,

encompassing diverse roles from construction to domestic and farm work (Naveenkumar, 2022). This vast workforce, despite its critical contribution to the nation's economic and physical infrastructure, frequently operates under conditions marked by vulnerability and limited protection. Construction workers, in particular, face insecurities, including inconsistent employment, hazardous work environments, and a marked absence of comprehensive social security provisions such as health insurance, pensions, or accident compensation (Srivastava & Sutradhar, 2016). The central government and Telangana state government have introduced various schemes to assist unorganized workers, however, most of the implementation and outreach have only been delivered to actual workers, and the benefits do not flow through to workers in places such as Tolichowki. This research will consider how workers at Tolichowki Labour Adda grapple with the everyday realities of insecure work and job precarity as well as access to social security or social protection. Our research will examine their conditions of work, safety and health measures, registration with welfare boards, and barriers to accessing benefits.

• *Status of Employment and Unemployment in Telangana 2024 (sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi under OH-31 grant and Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sivakumar Danyasi*

The report discusses employment and unemployment trends in Telangana from 2004 to 2024, with a focus on young people aged 15–29. While economic growth has dominated regional policy,

employment and inequality have become critical developmental priorities, and employment played a major role in the statehood movement. Using national sample survey and PLFS data, the analysis examines labour force and work participation, sectoral distribution, and educational status by gender, social group, and region. One key finding is that youth labour force participation has declined, especially among rural female youth, and unemployment is rising due to a mismatch between skills and job opportunities. Marginalized groups, including Scheduled Tribes and Castes, face severe exclusion, and although educational achievements have improved, many rural women remain in insecure, unpaid self-employment. Urban youth have better access to stable, formal jobs, highlighting deep inequalities along gender, social, and regional lines. With the demographic dividend expected to shrink by 2036, the report urges gender and caste-sensitive policies, targeted skilling, rural job creation, urban job formalization, and improved education alignment with market needs to ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Telangana.

• ***Sustainable Livelihood and Resource Extraction: The Impact of Mining Activity in Odisha (Sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi under Post-Doctoral Fellowship) by Amiya Kumar Sahoo***

The mineral-rich districts of Odisha have emerged as focal points for intensive extraction activities, significantly altering landscapes and impacting indigenous livelihoods. This project builds on global scholarship regarding dispossession, environmental harm, cultural disruption,

and public health risks associated with mining. It investigates the local manifestations of these pressures and explores emerging pathways to justice and sustainability. This study examines the effects on livelihoods, land tenure, social relations, cultural heritage, health, public services, and economies from an anthropological perspective. A mixed-methods design directs the research: household surveys to track socio-economic change; in-depth interviews and focus-group discussions to capture lived experiences and priorities; participant observation to comprehend negotiations regarding resource access; and environmental assessments to record exposure and risk. This research examines counter-discourses and resilience movements, emphasizing community-led initiatives that challenge extractive governance and shape forest policy.

Expected results comprise evidence-based recommendations aimed at protecting indigenous rights, enhancing local institutions, and ensuring that extraction practices align with sustainable development objectives. The project prioritizes community voices and field data to guide policy, corporate practices, and civil-society initiatives, ensuring that development in Odisha promotes dignity, equity, and ecological stewardship, while facilitating sustainable livelihoods for current and future generations.

• ***Rural Transformation: Structural Changes in Agriculture (Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by P. Raghupathi***

Agriculture is the backbone of Telangana's economy, supporting the livelihoods of

nearly 55 per cent of the state's population. In recent years a number of economists have focused on agriculture's "contributions" to economic development, an approach that is useful in countering the tendency of many development economists to neglect the agricultural sector. Within the agriculture sector three different dimensions, namely field crops, vegetables and fruits and livestock are dominating farmers' economic development. Cultivators who solely depend on field crops appear to have experienced low yield and less or loss of income and a majority of them appeared to be fall in the same trap as well. Contrary to this, a smaller number of farmers paid attention to multiple crop cultivation along with livestock rearing which enables them to enhance their annual income consistently. In fact, Telangana state, the value of livestock also increased to 35 per cent followed by milk and meat i.e. 20 per cent. Remarkably, the value of paddy and pulses has sharply declined from 40 per cent to 20 per cent. Changing dynamics of field crops, livestock and fruits and vegetables play a significant role at the grassroots level in order to assess the farmers' income improvement levels.

Such dynamism will slowly lead to change of farmers' psychology of choosing multiple agricultural occupations simultaneously. This emerging phenomenon has given rise to a change in the existing agriculture sector's income structure which ultimately led to enhancing farmers' income on the one hand while a few farmers' incomes have also been stagnant, on the other. The housing listing survey is completed, and a structured questionnaire has been

finalized. A household-level survey will be completed in April.

Events - CSD Delhi

• Social Change Annual Lecture, 2026

The 8th Social Change Annual Lecture 2026, titled "The Female Voice: Reinstating Life" was hosted by the Council for Social Development (CSD) in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC) and Sage Publications. This lecture, held on 3 February, 2026, was delivered by the esteemed Prof. Veena Das, Professor Emerita in Anthropology at the John Hopkins University, Baltimore, chaired by Shri K.N Shrivastava, Director IIC. The event was attended by more than 400 participants, with at least 300 participants attending in-person.

Coordinator: Social Change Team



• **Book Launch**

The Social Development Forum (SDF), Council for Social Development, New Delhi, organized a book launch and panel discussion on “Caste–Communal–Politics Nexus in Higher Education Policy: The Case of Southern States and Maharashtra” by A. Mathew on 26 February, 2026.

The session began with a welcome address by Prof. K.N. Shrivastava and was chaired by Prof. R. Govinda.

The author presented key arguments from the book, highlighting the intersections of caste, communal politics, and higher education policy.

The panel discussion, featuring Prof. Shyam Menon, Prof. Zoya Hasan, Prof. N.V. Varghese, and Prof. Rajesh Kumar, offered valuable insights on issues of equity, governance, and social justice.

The event was attended by 35–40 online and offline participants comprising academics, researchers, and students, which was followed by an engaging discussion.

Coordinator: Poornima M.



Events - CSD Hyderabad

• **“National Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Policy Coordination in Emerging Markets: Monetary, Fiscal, and GST Perspectives” on 6-8 January, 2026**

As a sequel to the first workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics in Emerging Market Economies (EMEs), 21–24 January, 2025, the RBI Chair organized the concluding phase of the workshop,



titled “National Workshop on Open Economy Macroeconomics and Policy Coordination in Emerging Markets: Monetary, Fiscal, and GST Perspectives” on 6-8 January, 2026. The sessions were carefully curated to cover both theoretical foundations, such as the trilemma, inflation targeting, and exchange rate dynamics and applied policy issues, including monetary policy operations,



fiscal research in the RBI, foreign trade policy, balance of payments, and GST implementation. It focused on critical and contemporary themes that shape macroeconomic policymaking in an open economy context. The final phase will delve into four core areas: (1) the Operating Procedure of Monetary Policy and the Transmission Mechanism of Monetary Policy, (2) Co-ordination between Monetary Policy and Fiscal Policy, (3) the Challenges of Conducting Monetary Policy in an Open Economy, and (4) Public Policy Formulation in an Open Economy Framework. These sessions offered in-depth discussions on central banking operations, the design and effectiveness of monetary transmission channels, and the role of coordinated policy responses in achieving macroeconomic stability. Emphasis was placed on the complexities of policymaking in a highly interconnected world, where domestic economic conditions are significantly influenced by international financial markets and volatile capital flows. The workshop explored how global shocks, exchange rate fluctuations, and trade linkages impact monetary and fiscal policy effectiveness in EMEs. By



bringing together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, this final phase aimed to foster dialogue on the evolving nature of macroeconomic management in open economies and generate insights for more resilient and responsive policy frameworks.

A key objective of the workshop was to expose participants to the institutional perspectives of policymakers alongside academic viewpoints.

•The RBI Chair, CSD, Hyderabad organised a public lecture on ‘Monetary Policy in India – Issues and Challenges Going Forward’, by Shri Indranil Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India on 6 January, 2026

In this lecture, Shri Bhattacharyya offered participants a rare combination of theoretical clarity and practical insight into the complexities of policymaking in a large and diverse emerging market economy.

In this lecture, Shri Bhattacharyya provided a detailed overview of India’s



contemporary monetary policy framework, focusing particularly on the transition to the Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) regime. Shri Bhattacharyya traced the intellectual and policy debates that culminated in the formal adoption of inflation targeting, emphasizing the need for a nominal anchor in an economy historically prone to inflationary pressures. He explained that the FIT framework was designed not as a rigid rule but as a flexible, forward-looking system capable of accommodating growth concerns and

supply-side shocks. By committing to a clearly defined inflation target while allowing for short-term deviations under exceptional circumstances, the framework seeks to anchor inflation expectations without constraining the central bank's ability to respond to cyclical fluctuations.

He elaborated on the institutional architecture underpinning the framework, particularly the role of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The establishment of the MPC marked a significant institutional reform aimed at enhancing transparency, collective decision-making, and accountability. Shri Bhattacharyya highlighted how the publication of minutes, voting patterns, and forward guidance has strengthened policy credibility and improved communication with markets and the public. He reflected on the policy experience since the adoption of FIT, noting that despite unprecedented shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic and global commodity price surges - the framework has helped maintain medium-term inflation stability and reinforced confidence in India's macroeconomic management.

A substantial segment of the lecture was devoted to the mechanics and challenges of monetary policy transmission.

- ***The RBI Chair, CSD, Hyderabad organised a Policy Round Table Discussion on 'Socio-Economic Impact of GST – Its Introduction and Reforms: Consumption Patterns and Influence on the Middle Class and Neo-Middle Class' on 8 January, 2026***

The Policy Round Table Discussion was Chaired by Prof. R. K. Mishra, Former Director & ONGC Subir Raha Chair, IPE, Hyderabad and participated by Shri Anshuman Kamila (IES), Dr. Prabhas Kumar Rath (SEBI), Prof. Deba Prasad Rath (RBI Chair Professor), Dr. Reena Rath (SBI), Ms. Upasana Sharma (RBI),



Shri M. R. Vikram (Chartered Accountant), Prof. K. S. Sujit (Christ University), Dr. Atulan Guha (IIM Kashipur) and Dr. Sidharth Rastogi (IIM Indore).

The Policy Round Table Discussion was organized as a focused platform to deliberate on key policy issues of contemporary relevance and their broader socio-economic implications. The discussion brought together policymakers, academics, and practitioners to exchange perspectives grounded in both research and practical experience. It aimed to encourage evidence-based dialogue on policy design, implementation, and outcomes. The round table format enabled interactive and



constructive engagement among the participants. Diverse viewpoints helped enrich the understanding of complex

policy challenges. The session also highlighted the need for coordination between institutions and stakeholders. Emphasis was placed on translating policy insights into actionable recommendations. Overall, the discussion contributed meaningfully to informed policy discourse and public understanding. laced on translating policy insights into actionable recommendations. Overall, the discussion contributed meaningfully to informed policy discourse and public understanding.

Publications - CSD Delhi

Social Change Journal

Volume 56 Issue 1, March 2026 (Online).

Social Change Annual Lecture

8th Social Change Annual Lecture by Professor Veena Das on “The Female Voice Reinstating Life” (5 February, 2026)

Faculty Activities - CSD Delhi

Publications

Poornima, M., Mitra, S., Kaur, R., & Samariya, A. K. “Has PMGDISHA Enhanced the Digital Skills and Expanded the Freedoms of Rural Citizens? Exploration Through the Capability Approach”, *Social Change*, Vol. 56 (1)

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00490857251413419>

Paper Presented

- Presented paper titled “Labour Deployment, Redundancy and Earnings in Agriculture: Mining the Cost of Cultivation Data” at the 66th Indian Society of Labour Economics Annual Conference held on 19–21 January, 2026 by Prof. Sarthi Acharya and Dr. Ankita Goyal.

- “Evolving tenurial relations and agrarian change: Evidences from four villages in Rajasthan”, National Seminar on the state of Agriculture and Allied Activities, Dept of Economics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 20–21 February, 2026 by Dr. Akhil Alha
- “Platform and Gig based workers and social protection deficit: Lessons from the Union and State level initiatives”, 66th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics, Symbiosis International University, Pune, (19–21 January, 2026) by Dr. Akhil Alha.

Lectures

- Presented the keynote address titled ‘GST 2.0 Reforms and the Agriculture Sector’ at the National Conference on GST Reforms: Social and Cultural Impact co-organised by the Sri Venkateshwara University, Uttar Pradesh and Ministry of Education, Government of India on 27–28 February by Dr. Ankita Goyal and Prof. Prem Vashishtha
- Delivered a lecture on ‘Systems Mapping, Policy Research and Conscious Leadership’, organized by O P Jindal Global University, Sonapat, on 24th February by Dr. Susmita Mitra.



- Presented on “Decoupling Well-being from GDP” at Nalanda Development Dialogue (NDD), Nalanda University, Rajgir, 8–9 March 2026 by Prof. Nitya Nanda.
- Presented a paper on “Economic Structure, Technology Acquisition and Research and Development in India”, at Rethinking Development: Discourses and Inclusive Pathways- An International Seminar in Honour of Professor Deepak Nayyar 17-18 January, 2026; Pune, India by Prof. Nitya Nanda.

Lectures in Capacity Building Courses

‘State led Legislations for Gig and Platform Workers-I’, Training Programme on Gig and Platform Workers, VV Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, 13th February, 2026 (two lectures of 1.5 hours each) by Dr. Akhil Alha.

Invited Talks

‘High-Trust Networks and Low-Yield Access: Understanding Inequality in Indian Cinema’, Ashank Desai Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, 16 January 2026 by Dr. Akhil Alha.

Chair of Technical Session

National Seminar on the State of Agriculture and Allied Activities of the Indian Economy, Dept of Economics, BHU, 20–21 February, 2026 by Dr. Akhil Alha

Participation in Panel Discussions

- “Allocations for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes in Union Budget” (hybrid mode), Union Budget 2026–27 through the Prism of Inclusive Growth, Centre for Social Justice and Equity, Madras School of Social Work, 16 February, 2026 by Dr. Akhil Alha.
- “Few Reflections on Social Sector Expenditure in Union Budget 2026–27”, Panel Discussion on Union Budget 2026–27, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi, 5 February, 2026 by Dr. Akhil Alha.
- Panellist in a Session, “Industrial Policy at a Crossroad: WTO Rules and Developmental Constraints” at Industrial Policy and Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations at the WTO, RIS, 11 February 2026 by Prof. Nitya Nanda.
- Panellist in a Session on “New Landscape of Trade, Investment and Services: Global Perspectives” at E-Commerce Moratorium; and New Landscape of Trade, Investment and Services, RIS, 30 January 2026 by Prof. Nitya Nanda.

Faculty Activities - CSD Hyderabad

Publications

- Mishra, Sujit Kumar, Sourav Mohanty and Keyoor Pathak (2026): “Curtain of Hardship: Socio-Economic Realities of Jatra Practitioners in Odisha,” *Social Change*, Vol.56, No. 01, pp. 7–23.
- Amit Pawar, Mayank Gupta,

Abhinandan Borad, Subrat Kumar Seet and Deba Prasad Rath (2026): “COVID-19, Investor Diversification, and Sovereign Yields”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 61, Issue No. 2, 10 January

- Mishra, Sujit Kumar (2026): “Beyond the grandeur: Migrant workers’ struggles in the shadow of India Gate,” *The Migration Story*, January 20.
- Raghupathi, P (2026): ‘Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R & R) Package: Implementation and Performance in the Wake of “Viksit Bharat”’, *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews*, Volume.13, Issue.1, March, (E-ISSN No.2348-1269, P-ISSN: 2349-5138), pp.245–255.

Lectures

- “Who will be my Respondents in Social Science Research?” at the 2nd Indo-Swiss Research and Methods Festival organised by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi on 3 February, 2026 by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra.



- Panel Discussion titled “Advancing a Gender Just Future” as part of the International Conference on “Business

Innovation and Transformation” (ICfBIT 2026), organised by Christ University on 18 February, 2026 by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra.

- “Data Collection, Analysis (using tools like SPSS/R), Interpretation and Reporting” in a Five-Day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on “Research Methodology with AI Tools” being organised by the Research and Development Committee in association with IQAC, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar College, Baghlingampally, Hyderabad on 20 February, 2026 by Dr. Siva Kumar Danyasi.
- At the invitation of MPISSR, Ujjain, the RBI Chair Professor Prof. Deba Prasad Rath delivered an invited talk on “GST 2.0: Reform Trajectory, Macroeconomic Impact, and Federal Implications” in the Plenary Session of National Seminar on GST 2.0 Reforms in India: Relief, Simplification and Growth for Consumers on 26 February, 2026 (chaired by Prof. Ganesh Kawadia, Former Professor of Economics, Devi Ahilya University, and discussed by Prof. Surajit Das, CESP, Jawaharlal Nehru University, as Discussant. The presentation traced the evolution of GST to its current stage of consolidation and examined its key macroeconomic and fiscal implications, the later at the subnational level.
- At the invitation of TISS, the RBI Chair Professor Prof. Deba Prasad Rath delivered an online talk on ‘Seeing Policy through data: a beginners guide to evidence-based policy making’ for Spring School organised by School of Public Policy and Governance, TISS, Hyderabad on 20 March, 2026. It focused on the criticality of timely data

in formulation of evidence-based policy making and argued that the journey so far was satisfactory.

Papers Presented

- ‘Issues and Challenges of Higher Education under the National Education Policy 2020: Pathways to Viksit Bharat @2047, at National Seminar on Viksit Bharat @2027: The Strategies and Challenges (8–9 January, 2026), organized by The Faculty of Social Sciences, Nagarjuna Government College (A), Nalgonda (8 January, 2026) by Dr. Sunkari Satyam.
- “Bridging the Education–Employment Divide: Youth Transitions in Telangana for Viksit Bharat 2047” at the 66th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE), hosted by the Symbiosis International (Deemed) University (SIU), Pune during 19–21 January 2026 by Dr. Siva Kumar Danyasi (Co-author: Sujit Kumar Mishra).
- “Geographical Indications (GIs), Market Access, and Farmer Incomes: Evidence from India’s GI tagged non-Basmati Rice varieties” on 29 January, 2026 at Agri-



Vision 2026 (28–30 January, 2026) organised by Society of Agricultural Research Management, Cuttack, Odisha (Authors: Soumya Vinayan, P K

Viswanathan, M Padmavati, Vishnu C R, Parnika Saha).

- “Beyond the GI Act: Interlinkages with the PVPFR Act 2001 for the GI tagged rice in India” on 29 January, 2026 at Agri-Vision 2026 (28–30 January, 2026) organized by Society of Agricultural Research Management, Cuttack, Odisha (Authors: M Padmavati & Soumya Vinayan).
- “Participation without Protection? Gendered Labour Market Outcomes and the Limits of Inclusive Growth in Odisha (2018–19 to 2023–24)” at an International Conference on Business Innovation and Transformation organized by School of Business and Management, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, on 18–19 February, 2026 by Dr. Siva Kumar Mishra (Co-author: Sujit Kumar Mishra).
- “Extension Strategies for Bridging Gender Digital Divide” in the Session on “NextGen Research and Review Insights”



at the International Workshop on the Future of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services organized by MANAGE, Hyderabad, 24–26 February, 2026 by Ms. Parnika Saha.

- “Development without Agency? Youth Employment, Institutions and Educational Expansion in Telangana” at the TEA conference organized by the Department of Economics, Hyderabad Central University (HCU), on 14–15 March, 2026 by Dr. Siva Kumar Danyasi.

- “Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R & R) Package: Implementation and Performance in the Wake of “Viksit Bharat” in the Two-Day National Seminar on ‘Reinventing Policies for Social Inclusion and Empowerment of Marginalised Communities in the Wake of Viksit Bharat–2047’, organized by Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI), Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapuramu, 30–31 March, 2026 by Dr. P. Raghupathi.

Other Activities

- Dr. Soumya Vinayan attended the Udyan Utsav (January 3-11, 2026) at Rashtrapati Nilayam on 5 January, 2026 featuring GI tagged products organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare with MANAGE (National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management), Hyderabad.
- Dr. Sunkari Satyam chaired the Technical Session-IV at National Seminar on Viksit Bharat @2027: The Strategies and Challenges (8–9 January, 2026), organized by The Faculty of Social Sciences, Nagarjuna Government College (A), Nalgonda, 8 January 2026.
- Ms. Parnika Saha attended the National IP Yatra 2026 and Technology Exhibition held at ICRISAT, Hyderabad on 28–29 January, 2026.



- Dr. Sunkari Satyam participated in the International Faculty Development

Program on AI Tools and Techniques for Academic Writing and Research Methodology (Multidisciplinary) organized by Department of Visual Communication, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India in Collaboration with Cape Comorin Trust, India in Association Waves Research and Education, India (02–08 February, 2026).

- Dr. Siva Kumar Danyasi participated as a Panellist in the panel discussion on “Advancing a Gender Just Future”, held on the 18th of February 2026 at an International Conference on Business Innovation and Transformation organized by School of Business and Management, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, on 18–19 February, 2026.
- Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra attended the CAG-ICSSR Colloquium on State of Finance of Telangana and the Health Sector of Telangana on 25 February, 2026.



- Prof. Deba Prasad Rath chaired the Second Plenary Session on ‘Empirical Assessments and Structural Efficiency’ in the National Seminar on GST 2.0 Reforms in India: Relief, Simplification and Growth for Consumers organised by MPISSR, Ujjain on 26 February, 2026, where five technical papers were presented, in which Dr. A. Sri Hari Nayudu, National Institute of Public

Finance and Policy, served as Discussant.

- Dr. Soumya Vinayan attended Bharat GI Mahotsav (4–7 March, 2026) at Satyasai Nigamam, Hyderabad on 5 March, 2026 organized by K L Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre



in collaboration with Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises of India

- Dr. Sunkari Satyam as a Co-Supervisor for Ph.D. thesis submission, research topic: The Emergence of Political Consultants in Indian Polities: A Study on Political Consultancy Impact on Political Parties of Mr. Poola Devendra (Prof. M. Gopinath Reddy–Supervisor) thesis submitted (March, 2026).



About CSD

Since its inception in 1962, the CSD has functioned as an informal group of social workers and social scientists. An intellectual and social sciences academic hub, this non-partisan study group, worked under the leadership of the legendary freedom fighter, social activist, academician and planner, Dr Durgabhai Deshmukh.

Through its research and publication activities, CSD contributes to the knowledge on social issues, suggests changes and interventions needed to ensure that government policies and programmes result in moving towards a just, equitable and welfare-oriented social order, particularly in the amelioration of the socio-economic conditions of the poorest, deprived and marginalized sections of society.

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