



**JAIN**  
DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY

CENTRE FOR  
RESEARCH IN  
SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND EDUCATION



## **THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE**

NEWSLETTER FROM THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH  
IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3, JULY 2023

# Table of Contents

1	3
2	4
3	8
4	12
5	16
6	18
7	21
8	22
9	27

## EDITORS' DESK

*All tools have intrinsic politics and technology is the new tool of now."*

—Godfrey Reggio



The efficient use of science and technology could be leveraged to avoid war and the conduct of international politics, particularly foreign policy, as has been demonstrated during the cold war decades. Technology cannot per se be considered to yield positive or negative impact but the way in which the users determine the real impact of the technology.

The post-Cold War period has witnessed growing economic globalisation with a major increase in the use of information and communication technology (ICT). This has been dominating the political and corporate agenda since then. The coexistence of cooperation and competition is the new paradigm that every society and nation must confine to. This calls for the effective exercise of diplomacy and priorities based on effective procurement and usage of science and ICT in the international relations and geopolitical front.

The prevailing effort of the nations in addressing global challenges like climate change, human security, human rights, security in outer space and cyberspace, etc. have scientific and technological facets. These kinds of global issues cannot be addressed by a nation on its own. Therefore, the strategies used by the nation to frame its foreign policies are required to adapt to these changing international dynamics in the increasingly complex world of science and technology.

The cooperation between the scientific community and policymakers would facilitate political negotiations. It is hence important to facilitate the relationship between the two communities as it would benefit both communities alike. The scientist would be informed about the realities in policy making and the policymakers about the roles and limitations of science in policy. Moreover, it can also help in building trust between and among nations as the scientific values of rationality, transparency and universality are the same all over the world.

We, at CeRSSE, committed to our social responsibility of inculcating social awareness among our readers, are bringing to you a selection of editorial articles, also, presenting our interdisciplinary social approach reflected through our various activities. This is the tenth edition of TSSP covering the period between April and June 2023. The introductory piece analyses the refugee burden in India following the coup in Myanmar to capture The World Perspective. The other original articles cover issues of relevance such as implications of the Karnataka assembly election results, and also its impact on the religious minorities in India Matters; an insight into environmental sustainability in India through the green budget in Climate Matters; the tales of the Tibetan refugee women in Bylakuppe, Karnataka in the Gender Perspective; a reflection on the experience of a student's PhD journey in Approaching Research and a book review of Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind", by Yuval Noah Harari. Apart from this, the newsletter also incorporates event reports to showcase the centre's best practices. This issue also includes a section on Faculty Achievements to highlight the work that the faculty have been involved in during this period. We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we took pleasure in curating it for you.

**- Priyanca and Rubina**  
Editors, TSSP

# THE WORLD PERSPECTIVE

Post-Coup Myanmar and its Refugee Burden in India: Tales from New Delhi



**Priyanca Mathur**

Head and Associate Professor, CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru



**Sanjay V Gathia**

Independent Analyst and Advocacy Strategist in the Asia region and Founder of Borders and Broader Conversations Initiative



**Ananya Kundu**

Country Coordinator for India at Women's Regional Network and Co-Chair of the Climate Change Working Group at WCAPS (Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security and Conflict Transformation)

India is a non-signatory to international refugee protection laws, yet has consistently provided sanctuary to thousands of refugees since achieving independence in 1947. However, India lacks a domestic law or policy specifically addressing refugees whereby the latter fall under the purview of The Foreigners Act, 1946, originally intended for voluntary entrants – a categorically distinct group. This Act leaves no room to comprehend and respond to the specific challenges faced by refugees. Consequently, India can designate any group of refugees as “illegal immigrants” or treat them as defaulters under this act. Furthermore, it can deport any “foreign citizen” based on governmental discretion. The lack of appropriate legislation implies that India handles refugees arbitrarily, on a case-by-case basis, swayed by the prevailing political climate, the ruling political party’s objectives, and socio-cultural factors.

The responsibilities concerning asylum seekers are divided between the Indian government and the UNHCR, with the former shouldering the majority of the load. While the Government of India (GoI) directly manages refugees from neighbouring states, primarily Tibet and Sri Lanka,

the UNHCR is tasked with providing documentation and determining refugee status for arrivals from non-neighbouring countries, including Myanmar. Further complicating this issue is the fact that the GoI does not always acknowledge the UNHCR’s refugee status determination and documentation, leaving educational institutions, hospitals, and other individual authorities to decide whether to recognise refugees at their discretion (Shanker and Vijayaraghavan, 2020).

Refugees from Myanmar reside in this grey area, which leads to substantial protection gaps and shapes the refugees’ experiences. A long-standing history of migration exists between India and Myanmar (known as Burma during the colonial period). However, the influx of refugees from Myanmar to India following the 2021 coup has been met with indifference and resistance. India has cited national security concerns to impose stricter restrictions (UNHCR 2011), thereby jeopardising the fate of vulnerable refugee communities and persecuted groups from Myanmar, who had considered India a safe option for asylum (Khosla, 2022).

## Seeking Asylum in India

Most of these Myanmarese refugees have settled in North Eastern India, particularly in the four states—Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Manipur—that share borders with Myanmar, and in Delhi, India's capital. The lengthy, porous 1643 km border with India facilitates the bidirectional movement of people (Egreteau, 2012). Given the lack of infrastructure, employment opportunities, and resources in the North East, refugee groups often migrate to Delhi, undertaking informal work to earn a living. Possessing only the UNHCR refugee card as identification restricts their access to the informal sector, where income is unstable, low, and devoid of substantial social security. Furthermore, they endure attacks and abuse within these confined spaces; women from refugee groups have reported instances of sexual harassment by colleagues and locals, both in and outside their workplace. This hostility contributes to the marginalisation and spatial exclusion of refugee groups within urban areas, like New Delhi (Field et al., 2020).

The aftermath of the coup witnessed an influx of refugees from Myanmar into India, with the first wave starting in March 2021. The refugees, primarily consisting of students, teachers, activists, anti-coup protesters, lawmakers, civil servants, and defected police and army personnel, sought solace in the North-Eastern region of India. The impact of the military operations was most severe in the Chin State, Sagaing, and Kachin, which were home to armed groups resisting the military junta, resulting in significant displacement from these areas (Bhattacharjee, 2022).

Mizoram, sharing a 510 km unfenced border with Myanmar, was the first state to welcome refugees, predominantly from the Chin-Kuki ethnic groups. Concurrently, refugees also crossed over to Manipur via its 398 km-long border with Myanmar. On March 10, 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of India dispatched two advisory letters to the North Eastern states of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Mizoram. These letters warned the states about a potential influx of refugees from Myanmar, clarifying that state governments and union territories had no power to grant refugee status to any foreigner entering India. The advisory stated that the state governments and union territories had no power to assign refugee status to any foreigner entering India; the country is not a signatory to the Refugee Convention 1951 or 1967 protocol, and as a result, has no obligation to provide asylum (Naqvi, 2021). The advisories also directed law enforcement agencies to identify and deport illegal immigrants.

Following these advisories, Manipur's government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), advised its Deputy Commissioners to deny shelter and food to refugees. Contradicting their previous stance, the government instructed authorities to politely turn away refugees at

the border. This reversal came shortly after Myanmar's Ambassador to the United Nations appealed to the Government of India to provide refuge on humanitarian grounds. Community groups in Manipur, sharing ethnic identities and ancestry with the refugees, responded by offering food, shelter, and medical aid (Hangal & Sitlou, 2021).

Mizoram's Chief Minister, Zoramthanga, firmly rejected the Centre's advisory. He argued that the Chin community in Myanmar and Mizos shared ethnic ties and had maintained close relations since pre-independence, warranting their involvement in the crisis (Karmakar, 2021). In parliament, he urged the GoI to provide aid to help refugees during these critical times. Local NGOs, community groups, churches, international humanitarian organizations, and even some refugees coordinated to assist those entering Mizoram with shelter, food, and medical assistance. Mizoram's government started issuing temporary identity cards for refugees (Choudhury & Agarwala, 2022). The relief work and refugee aid in Mizoram and Manipur depended on donations, fundraisers, and funding from the Church.

The North Eastern states of India are already grappling with infrastructure inadequacies, such as insufficient roadways, hospitals, and colleges. The influx of refugees over the past two years has exacerbated these challenges, particularly in border regions lacking access to the existing infrastructure. Among the most pressing concerns is the shortage of medical assistance, compounded by the injured state of many refugees and substandard living conditions within refugee camps. NGOs and refugee doctors have set up camps to provide medical aid, but these services fall short in meeting the escalating demand. Linguistic barriers further hinder aid and resources access, with many refugees from China struggling to communicate in the local Mizo language (Sitlhou, 2022).

## Myanmarese Refugees in Delhi

With the advent of the 2021 coup in Myanmar, the fear amongst the existing Myanmarese refugee community in New Delhi intensified. The total number of these refugees in Delhi is unknown, although the Burma Centre Delhi estimated in 2014 that over 8,000 registered refugees from Myanmar were residing there. This number has presumably increased since then, with a significant portion belonging to the Rohingya community. By the end of 2021, the UNHCR registered over 22,000 refugees from Myanmar, including around 3200 Chin refugees (Rights and Risks Analysis Group, 2021). The Chin community, predominantly Christian, resides mainly in densely populated areas such as Vikaspuri, Chanakya Place, and Uttam Nagar.

Their living conditions are extremely poor, unhygienic, and inadequately maintained. These groups had trickled into India after the military takeover of 1989 and the

saffron revolution in 2007. Most of them were working as farmers and laborers back in their country. Not being educated or skilled at other work has led them to struggle to earn a livelihood in the fast paced city of Delhi. The women have continued to face sexual harassment, abuse, discrimination, and racism by locals. Lacking knowledge about their legal rights and fear of the police has further prevented them from accessing justice mechanisms (Mullen, 2013).

The UNHCR Refugee Card has only allowed them to obtain residence. They have been unable to access work in the formal sector, making them more vulnerable. In 2018, the UNHCR had declared that it would stop recognising the Chin community living in India as refugees since they assumed it was safe for the community to return to Myanmar. This led to great outcry, since it meant that the UNHCR Refugee Cards would become invalid by the end of 2019, forcing the community to return to Myanmar, where they would continue to face persecution. The UNHCR reversed its decision after news of worsening peace and security situations in the Chin state of Myanmar emerged (UNHCR, 2019). The pandemic further exposed the vulnerable condition of the community where the government's prescribed list of documents required to get the vaccine, made no mention of the UNHCR refugee cards as a result excluding the vast refugee community from its vaccination programme (Colney, 2021).

News of the military coup in Myanmar added additional fear and stress to the Chin refugees living in Delhi. The coup, followed by socio-political turmoil, means that their return to their homeland remains uncertain and out of reach. Distressed by the dismal situation, the community has been staging protests in New Delhi since 2021 against the coup and detention of NLU leaders. They have urged action from the international community and from India to restore democracy in Myanmar (Krishnan, 2021). In May 2021, seven Myanmar nationals, including journalists, legislators and anti-coup activists were given passage from Manipur and Mizoram to New Delhi to appear before the UNHCR to seek refugee cards. This happened after the Manipur High Court gave its judgment, making a clear distinction between illegal migrants and refugees who have sought asylum to escape violence and persecution in their own countries. The court extended them interim protection under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution that guarantees right to life and liberty (Naqvi, 2021).

As conflict and violence rages on in Myanmar, the number of Myanmarese refugees entering Delhi are expected to increase and more and more refugees will start moving out of the North East in search of work and sustenance. Till date, 5,092 individuals have approached UNHCR for registration in New Delhi, since February 2021 (UNHCR, 2023).

## Accessing Basic Services

**Housing** - Salai Cung from Chin Human Rights Organisation (CHRO) in New Delhi, stated that housing is the most important basic service needed by individuals fleeing Myanmar. He stated, "People come here with nothing. The most important thing they need is a roof above their heads." The church and pastors in Delhi play a crucial role in providing housing to newly arriving refugees from Myanmar in West Delhi, as when they first arrive, they have no money to pay rent, but the community collects funds to support them. The sense of community kinship is pivotal in their daily life.

**Food** - After shelter, the second priority for refugees was access to food. While UNHCR provides significant ration support to those with UNHCR cards, many refugees complained that the rations were not sufficient for large families. The CRC Office also supplied staples like rice and oil. While international and non-governmental organisations (INGOs and NGOs) provide aid, it is the community that comes together to pool resources and ensure that no one goes hungry.

**Healthcare** - Accessing healthcare was a problematic issue, regardless of whether they had UNHCR cards. They have difficulties in accessing good quality private healthcare due to the lack of identity documents and financial constraints. The absence of proper identity cards also created a discriminatory approach from medical officials, who often refused to treat refugees. Insufficient infrastructure and physical accessibility were additional issues faced in government hospitals located far away. **Mental Health** – Nearly all of them in Delhi talk about their family members suffering from psychological trauma and mental health issues. However, due to security concerns, seeking help from psychologists or therapists was not considered safe. Mental health issues often took a backseat compared to the immediate needs of shelter, food, and education. Financial constraints further limited their access to therapy.

**Education** - Although government schools in West Delhi and Sitapuri are welcoming to refugee children, language barriers and bullying by local students are reported. Despite all challenges, the refugee families prioritise education, and most of them receive help from their church or pastors to secure admission in government schools. Those with more financial resources enrol their children in private schools in the neighbourhood.

## Conclusion

Thus what is seen is that in Delhi, the informal community protection system plays a significant role in assisting refugees. Respondents acknowledged that the first people to help them unconditionally were not the government or

UNHCR but members of the church and the community, their own ethnic brothers and sisters who had been living in West Delhi for many years. Community leaders and church leaders worked to help newly arrived families find housing and sources of income in the informal sector. Food rations were also provided by the community. The community's support was often quicker than that of UNHCR. The role of the church, in particular, was highlighted by the respondents.

Formal protection measures for recent refugee arrivals in Delhi came primarily from UNHCR and its associated NGOs and implementing partners like BOSCO. However, the waiting time for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews and obtaining UNHCR identity cards was too long for the new refugees. UNHCR cards were crucial for the refugees as a means of formal protection, as they helped them stand out less as outsiders and facilitated access to healthcare. However, some refugees expressed concerns about the temporary under consideration certificate, feeling that it was not sufficient to build their lives and provide adequate protection. The value of formal protection provided by UNHCR cards was recognised, but refugees also emphasised the importance of looking towards their future and improving their lives. There is thus still a lot that can be done by the international protection regime, national and state governments, and civil society at large for the refugee community that is escaping violence in Myanmar.

## References

- Bhattacharjee, K. (2022) 'Treat our people as refugees: Myanmar's democracy leader urges Government of India'. *The Hindu*. Available at <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/treat-our-people-as-refugees-myanmars-democracy-leader-urges-government-of-india/article66227432.ece> (accessed December 20, 2022)
- Choudhury, A., & Agarwala, T. (2022) 'How Mizoram has set up a de facto asylum regime for Myanmar refugees'. *The Indian Express*. Available at <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/how-mizoram-has-set-up-de-facto-asylum-regime-for-myanmar-refugees-8189791/> (accessed December 20, 2022)
- Egreteau, R. (2012) 'Burma in Diaspora: A Preliminary Research Note on the Politics of Burmese Diasporic Communities in Asia'. *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, 31(2), 115-147.
- Colney, K. (2021) 'How India and the UNHCR failed to provide healthcare and vaccination for Chin refugees'. *Caravan Magazine*. Available at <https://caravanmagazine.in/health/how-india-and-the-unhcr-failed-to-provide-healthcare-and-vaccination-for-chin-refugees> (accessed December 21, 2022)
- Field, J., Tiwari, A. D., & Mookerjee, Y. (2020) 'Self-reliance as a Concept and a Spatial Practice for Urban Refugees: Reflections from Delhi, India'. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 23(1), 167-188.
- Hangal, N., & Sitlou, M. (2021) 'Manipuris Help Myanmar Refugees, Ignoring BJP Order To 'Politely' Turn Them Away – Article 14'. Article 14. Available at <https://article-14.com/post/manipuris-help-myanmar-refugees-ignoring-bjp-order-to-politely-turn-them-away> (accessed December 20, 2022).
- Karmakar, S. (2021) 'Not acceptable to Mizoram: CM Zoramthanga writes to PM Modi on Myanmar refugees'. *Deccan Herald*. Available at <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/east-and-northeast/not-acceptable-to-mizoram-cm-zoramthanga-writes-to-pm-modi-on-myanmar-refugees-964309.html> (accessed December 20, 2022)
- Khosla, M. (2022) 'The Geopolitics of India's Refugee Policy – South Asian Voices'. *South Asian Voices*. Available at <https://southasianvoices.org/the-geopolitics-of-indias-refugee-policy/> (accessed December 20, 2022)
- <https://www.eastmojo.com/mizoram/2021/03/11/myanmar-dont-allow-migrants-to-cross-home-ministry-writes-to-border-states/> (accessed December 20, 2022)
- Naqvi, S. (2021) 'Myanmar nationals given 'safe passage' to Delhi to seek UN refuge'. *Al Jazeera*. Available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/4/myanmar-nationals-given-safe-passage-to-delhi-to-seek-un-refuge> (accessed December 20, 2022)
- Rights and Risks Analysis Group. (2021) 'India : The Status of Refugees 2021'. *Rights and Risks Analysis Group*.
- Samaddar, R. (2003) 'Refugees and the State: Practices of Asylum and Care in India, 1947-2000' (R. Samaddar, Ed.). *SAGE Publications*.
- Shanker, R., & Vijayaraghavan, H. (2020, November 4). Refugee recognition challenges in India. *Forced Migration Review*. Retrieved May 17, 2023, from <https://www.fmreview.org/recognising-refugees/shanker-vijayaraghavan>
- Sitlou, M. (2022) 'On a remote Indian border, Myanmar's refugee doctors battle growing needs'. *The New Humanitarian*. Available at <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2022/09/07/Myanmar-India-border-refugee-health-crisis> (accessed December 20, 2022)
- Sitlou, M. (2022) 'Mizoram's predicament over Myanmar refugees'. *Mint Lounge*. Available at <https://lifestyle.livemint.com/news/big-story/mizorams-predicament-over-myanmar-refugees-111664461046718.html> (accessed December 19, 2022)

UNHCR. (2011). India Report. UNHCR. Retrieved December 14, 2022, from <https://www.unhcr.org/4cd96e919.pdf>

UNHCR. (2019, March 14). UNHCR says ethnic Chin refugees may require continued international protection as security situation worsens in Myanmar. UNHCR. Available at <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/3/5c8a31984/unhcr-says-ethnic-chin-refugees-require-continued-international-protection.html>

UNHCR. (2022) 'UNHCR: Global displacement hits another record, capping decade-long rising trend'.

UNHCR. Available at <https://www.unhcr.org/news/unhcr-global-displacement-hits-another-record-capping-decade-long-rising-trend>(accessed December 12, 2022)

UNHCR. (2022) 'Asia and the Pacific Regional Trends - Forced Displacement 2021'. UNHCR data portal. Available at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94372> (accessed December 20, 2022)

UNHCR. (2022) 'Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 14 Nov 2022) - Myanmar'. ReliefWeb. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/map/myanmar/myanmar-emergency-overview-map-number-people-displaced-feb-2021-and-remain-displaced-14-nov-2022> (accessed December 18, 2022)

UNHCR. (2023). Global Appeal 2023. UNHCR Global Focus. Retrieved May 17, 2023, from <https://reporting.unhcr.org/globalappeal2023>



## INDIA MATTERS

### Implications of the Karnataka Assembly Election Results



**Prof. Sandeep Shastri**

National Coordinator  
Lokniti Network, New Delhi and Director  
Academics, NITTE Education Trust

The Karnataka Assembly Elections of May 2023 attracted nation-wide attention. This was for multiple reasons. It was an election where the BJP and the Congress were in a direct fight. The BJP was also defending its governance record in the only state south of the Vindhya's, where it was in power. Given the distinctly different trends emerging in

national and state level elections, one would need to be cautious in extrapolating the Karnataka trends to national politics. The Congress victory is a morale booster for the party not just at the state level but to reinvigorate it nationally. For the BJP, the Karnataka defeat is a political setback in its efforts to expand its political footprints in



the southern part of India. For the third player in Karnataka – the JD(S), the results have pushed the party to a distant third position in the electoral contest.

What are the major implications of the Karnataka verdict? It reinforces a four-decade old trend in the state, of a ruling party not securing a clear majority in the next elections. One could assess the verdict from four different perspectives. Firstly, the election saw competing narratives seeking public endorsement. One was the narrative of the BJP that focused on national issues and depended on the charisma and perceived popularity of its national leadership. Though in power in Karnataka, the BJP preferred not to highlight, its state governments record. It did not declare a Chief Minister candidate in spite of having an incumbent Chief Minister. The Congress party on the other hand focused on a strategy that was exclusively entrenched in the local. The entire campaign of the party revolved around issues relevant to the state with a special focus on attacking the performance record of the state government. Its national leaders too, focused their campaign speeches on local issues and desisted any temptation of bringing national level issues to the forefront. Being a state assembly poll, the voter in the state appeared to endorse the strategy adopted by the Congress. This has important lessons for state elections across the country.

Secondly, the battle in Karnataka was essentially in its distinct regions. It may be important to note that the BJP saw a sharp fall in its seat share though its vote share remained more or less intact. The true story emerges if you delve into the vote share of the BJP (and the Congress) in the regions of the state. The Kittur Karnataka and Central Karnataka region saw a sharp fall both the vote and seat share of the BJP. The beneficiary was the Congress party. In Kalyan Karnataka region too, there was a fall in the BJP vote share and the Congress gained both in terms of votes and seats. Though the BJP, retained most of the seats it won in the Udupi and Dakshina Kannada regions of Coastal Karnataka its votes share saw a decline. On the other hand, the BJP improved its vote share in Bengaluru and the Old Mysore region. Yet this increase, had different consequences in the two regions. In Bengaluru, it led to a larger number of seats it won while in Old Mysore in spite of an increase in vote share, it won a reduced number of seats compared to last time. What explains the trend in the Old Mysore region? While the BJP vote share increased, its vote across constituencies did not cross the threshold that was required to beat the Congress in a straight contest. What increasingly happened in Old Mysore was the retreat of the JD(S). This led to several direct fights between the Congress and the BJP. In the process, even though the BJP vote share increased, the Congress share of votes remained higher. The weaker performance of the BJP across regions (save Bengaluru and Coastal Karnataka) and the improved performance of the Congress (in all

regions save Bengaluru and Coastal Karnataka) explain the final results. An important implication for both the national polls and state level elections, is the need for a more granular analysis of the performance across regions.

Thirdly, both BJP and the Congress attempted to build a rainbow social coalition. The BJP hoped to retain its Lingayat vote, add to its Vokkaliga vote, secure a fair share of the OBC, Dalit and Tribal vote. Lokniti-CSDS survey data indicates that there was a dip in its Lingayat vote, no significant increase in its Vokkaliga vote, a decline in its support among Dalits and Tribals and its inability to perform better among the OBCs. On the other hand, the Congress increased its share of votes among both the Lingayats and Vokkaligas, greatly consolidated its support among the OBCs, Dalits, Tribals and Muslims. Thus, it was clear that the Congress was more successful in creating a rainbow social coalition as compared to the BJP.

Finally, the Karnataka poll is witness to a clear class divide. While the BJP did secure a fair share of the Upper- and Middle-class vote, it secured limited support among the poor. The gap in support between the Congress and the BJP among the poor was much wider than the overall gap in the vote share of the two parties. This could well have a lot to do with the five major promises made by the Congress parties if voted to power. These included free electricity supply (200 units), unemployment allowance to graduate and diploma holders, financial support to women who are heading a household and subsidized rice to each BPL family. This explains the urgency demonstrated by the new government, in formally announcing the implementation of these promises.

If one were to use a cricketing analogy, no semi final is a predictor of the way the finals would go. Even if the Karnataka polls were to be seen as a semi-final (with the state assembly elections at the end of the year being the second semi-finals) before the 2024 Lok Sabha finale, the factors that impact the semi-finals and final could well be very different. Karnataka has led the trend of making a distinction between the state and national elections. In the 2013 assembly polls, the BJP was routed and the Congress was voted to power. The very next year - in 2014, the BJP got a majority of the seats from the state, in the Lok Sabha poll the BJP won a majority of the seats. In 2018, the BJP was unable to secure a clear majority in the state assembly polls. In the very next year – in 2019, the won 25 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, the implication is clear - a victory in the state assembly elections is no guarantee for success in the Lok Sabha polls. This is what puts greater pressure on the Congress leadership in Karnataka to perform well in the Lok Sabha polls from the state. Much would depend on the performance of the state government and of course developments in national politics in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

## Karnataka Assembly Elections 2023 and Religious Minorities



**Dr. Azhar Khan Chikmagalur Akbar**  
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law (FoL),  
PES University (PESU), Bangalore

The sixteenth legislative assembly elections in the south Indian state of Karnataka were held on May 10, 2023. The election results were declared on May 13, 2023. Several national and regional political parties contested the elections, including the Indian National Congress (INC), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Janata Dal (Secular) [JD(S)], the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)], the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), and the All India Majlis-E-Iththadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

The 2023 Karnataka Legislative Assembly election was contested for a total of 224 seats. The INC won 135 seats, the BJP won 66 seats, the JD (S) won 19, and others won 4. The INC formed the government as it won the most seats. The overall voter turnout in this election was around 73.19 per cent reportedly the highest so far in any of the legislative assembly elections in Karnataka. It shows the significance of the assembly election and the increased interest generated among the larger electorates. This election was contested on a wide variety of issues, such as corruption, unemployment, inflation, communal polarisation, reservations, handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and farm laws. Parties also pitched their manifestos revolving around other themes such as the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), National Register of Citizens (NRC), infrastructure, transportation, electricity, health, and ration.

The 2023 Karnataka Legislative Assembly election significantly impacted the state and the national level. The electorate in Karnataka has a history of not returning the incumbent party to power, and this trend continued even in 2023. The BJP, despite its massive election campaign and star campaigners, was unable to retain power. The INC and other opposition parties focused on the major issues and problems faced by the people and created a serious setback for the incumbent ruling party. The opposition capitalised on the dissatisfaction of the public over several issues and came to power, which is seen as a resurgence of the INC in Karnataka.

Religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians, have been an important factor for all political parties in Karnataka, regardless of their ideological positions. According to the 2011 census, Muslims and Christians make up around 12.92 and 1.91 per cent respectively of the state's total population. This is a significant number for state governments and political parties to consider. This percentage would have increased by 2023, when the elections were held, making minorities even more significant. Furthermore, the interface between the state government and minorities was neither cordial nor welcoming from 2018 to 2023. This created a sense of alienation among minorities, who felt that their concerns were not being addressed by the government and therefore they were both discriminated against and disempowered. Additionally, the cohesive society and politics of Karnataka were already way ahead in becoming divisive (*Assadi, 2017*).

## Minorities in Karnataka have faced several challenges and barriers, namely

- a. Religious discrimination, wherein they have been targeted for their religious beliefs and practices, such as the wearing of the hijab, the call to prayer (*Azaan*), and the slaughter of animals for halal meat.
- b. Economic marginalisation, as they are economically weaker than the majority population, and face discrimination in employment, credit availability, and access to both public and private resources (*Aziz, 2018*).
- c. Political disenfranchisement due to underrepresentation and non-representation in governments and decision-making bodies right from gram panchayat to state legislative assembly and thereby less access to political power (*Japhet, 2015*).
- d. Social exclusion as they are often excluded from mainstream society, ghettoisation, alienation and face prejudice and discrimination in day-to-day life.

The discontinuation of state welfare schemes and programmes directed towards the welfare of minorities wherein these schemes provided necessary services to minorities, such as education, employment, skill development, training, healthcare, and economic development. The termination of these programmes and schemes has harmed the lives of several minorities, particularly those who are trying to secure a meaningful education and employment. Most significantly, the cancellation of reservations in public employment for Muslims and their OBC status was a big dent in the promotion and protection of minorities. Affirmative actions are a significant path to ensure that minorities secure equal opportunities in both the domains of education and employment.

All these challenges have significantly impacted the lives of minorities in Karnataka, and have made it difficult for them to achieve their full potential. It is very much pertinent to address these challenges to ensure that all citizens of Karnataka have equal opportunities, irrespective of their social, economic, and religious identities. Moreover, these challenges have led to a sense of alienation and distrust among minorities, and they have made it difficult for them to be aware, participate, and represent fully in society. The election results in Karnataka point out that these challenges are having a significant impact on the political, social, and economic landscape, and they are likely to continue to be a major issue in upcoming future.

Additionally, the importance of minorities in Karnataka politics is likely to continue in the future. As the state's population grows, so too will the number of minorities. This means that political parties as well as state governments will need to pay significant attention to the larger concerns of minorities to be more successful and gain the trust of the minority communities.

The 2023 Karnataka Legislative Assembly election saw a slight increase in the number of Muslim and Christian party candidates who won, with nine Muslims and one Christian elected. However, this is still far less than the population proportion of minorities in Karnataka. According to the 2011 census, at least 29 Muslim and 4 Christian MLAs should have been elected (*Khan, 2022*). While the winning candidates represent a positive signal, they represent only a small fraction of the minority community. The state government and ruling political party have a lot of responsibility to fulfil their promises, missions, and visions, and thereby empower the vulnerable sections of society. The most precedence task at hand is to rebuild trust and confidence between the minority communities and the state government. The second priority is to restore the cohesiveness of politics and society in the state of Karnataka found many decades earlier (*Manor, 1989*). The third prime concern would be to broaden and deepen democracy (*Raghavan & Manor, 2009*) to empower the vulnerable sections of society.

## References

- Assadi, M. (2017). "State, Society and Identity Politics in Karnataka: Shifting Paradigms" in Himanshu Roy, M. P. Singh, and A. P. S. Chouhan (Ed) *State Politics in India*. Delhi: Primus Books. 387-408.
- Aziz, Abdul (2018). *Karnataka Muslims: A Study*. Bangalore: Directorate of Minorities, Government of Karnataka
- Japhet, S. et al. (Ed) (2015). *Socio-Economic Conditions of Religious Minorities in Karnataka: A Study Towards Their Inclusive Development*. Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department: Government of Karnataka.
- Khan C. A., Azhar (2022). *State Policies Towards the Development of Religious Minorities: A Study in Karnataka* [Unpublished Doctoral Thesis]. University of Mysore (UoM), Mysore and Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore.
- Manor, James (1989). "Karnataka: Caste, Class, Dominance, and Politics in a Cohesive Society" in Francine R. Frankel and M. S. A. Rao (Ed) *Dominance and State Power in Modern India*, Volume 1. Delhi: Oxford University Press. 322-361.
- Raghavan, E., and James Manor (2009). *Broadening and Deepening Democracy: Political Innovation in Karnataka*. New Delhi: Routledge

# CLIMATE MATTERS

## India's First Green Budget- A Move Towards Environment Sustainability



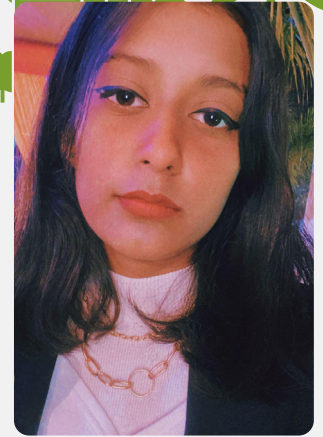
**Dr. Rubina Pradhan**

Assistant Professor, CeRSSE,  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University),  
Bengaluru



**Shatabdee Kalita**

Student, MAPPA, CeRSSE,  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University),  
Bengaluru



**Riya Itisha Ekka**

Student, MAPPA, CeRSSE,  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University),  
Bengaluru

### Introduction

Environmental sustainability is a concept that has gained significant attention in recent years as societies grapple with the pressing challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion.<sup>1</sup> It refers to the responsible and balanced use of natural resources, ensuring their preservation for future generations while minimizing negative impacts on ecosystems and the environment (Microsoft, n.d). The urgency to achieve environmental sustainability stems from the recognition that human activities have significantly altered the planet's ecosystems, causing unprecedented environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity. Climate change, in particular, poses an existential threat to human societies and ecosystems worldwide, necessitating immediate action to mitigate its impacts and adapt to the changing climate patterns. Furthermore, environmental sustainability is closely intertwined with social and economic dimensions.

The implementation of international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, reflects the global commitment to environmental sustainability. Additionally, innovative technologies, policy frameworks, and public awareness campaigns are driving transformative change towards greener economies and more sustainable lifestyles. India has implemented several measures to address

environmental issues and promote sustainability. One notable initiative is the introduction of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), which aims to improve sanitation and hygiene practices across the country (United Nations, n.d.). This program has had a significant impact in reducing open defecation, improving waste management, and promoting cleanliness in both rural and urban areas. India's dependence on fossil fuels, particularly coal, has had adverse effects on environmental sustainability. The burning of coal releases greenhouse gasses and air pollutants, contributing to climate change and poor air quality. The extraction and transportation of coal also have detrimental impacts on ecosystems and local communities. Hence it can be stated that India's reliance on non-renewable energy and, large-scale Greenhouse Gas emissions due to fossil fuel combustion has increased the phenomenon of Climate Change and other environmental challenges in the country.

To address this, India has been gradually shifting towards cleaner alternatives. The government has incentivised renewable energy projects, implemented emission reduction measures for industries, and introduced policies to promote energy efficiency (Biol & A'Kant, 2022). While challenges remain, such efforts have helped reduce emissions and pave the way for a cleaner and more sustainable energy sector. One major way to act more responsibly and consciously towards environmental

1. This article contains a section of the project paper submitted by the students of Master's in Public Policy and Administration programme, Semester II as a part of a Project course on 'Government Budgeting -Impact on Public Affairs', under the guidance of Dr. Rubina Pradhan and Dr. Debangana Chatterjee, Assistant Professors, Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru.

sustainability is the adoption of a 'Green Budget' in the country (Girota, 2023). The Green Budget in India plays a crucial role in advancing initiatives, policies, and technologies aimed at reducing the country's dependency on non-renewable energy sources (Sinha, 2022). It focuses on allocating funds for sustainable development projects, renewable energy research and development, and the promotion of clean technologies.

### **Green Budget—Meaning and Overview**

Green budgeting means using the tools of budgetary policy making to help achieve climate and environmental goals. Green budgeting entails a systematic approach to assess the overall coherence of the budget relative to a country's climate and environmental agenda and to mainstream an environmentally-aware approach across all policy areas and within the budget process (OECD, 2021, p.5). It consists of 6 pillars which are Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability, Resource Allocation for Environmental Sustainability, Planning and Coordination, Evaluation and Monitoring, Transparency and Accountability, and Policy Signals for Green Initiatives (TERI, 2022).

The discussion about "green budgeting" in recent years reflects how countries have given importance to using the budgeting process to help achieve environmental and climatic goals. Our earth, society, and the global economy are all being impacted by climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation. Nations have taken proactive measures to protect the environment and combat climate change by setting national objectives and pledging to accomplish them. Effective budgeting plays a crucial role in prioritizing and financing government initiatives, significantly influencing the speed at which these goals are realized. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries are at the forefront of promoting green budgeting, providing assistance to nations in utilizing budgetary instruments that enable decision-makers to fully grasp the environmental and climate consequences of their budget-related decisions (OECD, 2021). At the annual meeting of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, all OECD nations reaffirmed their commitment to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and their commitment to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gasses (Blazey & M'Lelong, 2022). The Paris Agreement sets forth a new International legal regime aimed at strengthening the global response to climate change (Horowitz, 2015). The Paris Collaboration on Green Budgeting was established by the OECD and collaborated closely with governments and experts to co-design practical and realistic strategies. It is a nationwide and cross-sectoral effort to budget sustainably (OCED, 2018). The OECD Paris Collaboration on green budgeting was formed in 2017 as a means to help countries with the integration of climate and environmental objectives into

budgeting (Blazey & M'Lelong, 2022). It aims to create a platform for countries to exchange experiences on the construction of new and innovative tools.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) resulting from the 2015 Paris Agreement should be transformed into precise and granular government policies in order to implement budgetary policies successfully (Gonguet et. al, 2021). In light of this, governments should consider the climatic components of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) when determining their development goals, long-term planning, and annual budget allocation decisions. The SDGs reflect a large portion of India's development goal and are an integral element of India's rich tradition and heritage. One of the goals in the SDGs is to address climate change and its effects, and under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, financial aid is given to the states and union territories to do so (Sustainable Development Goals, 2020). The National Action Plan on Climate Change outlines actions that advance our development goals and produce cost-benefit analyses for effectively combating climate change. It proposes a variety of actions to concurrently progress India's development and goals for adaptation and mitigation to climate change. India's stance on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is being held at the Conference of the Parties (COP26), India pledged to reach net-zero emissions by 2070 (BBC News, 2021). It's a huge step in the right direction toward India's goal of becoming net zero by 2070 and green budgeting is one such mechanism to realise this goal.

### **India's Effort towards Environmental Sustainability- Implementation of Green Budget**

India has been making serious efforts to implement green budgeting of which the Green India Mission (GIM), a program of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) is one of them (PIB, 2022). About 10 mega hectares of open, moderately dense, scrubby grasslands, mangroves, wetlands, croplands, and urban areas will be restored and reforested as part of the Mission's several sub-missions during the period (Roy and Fleischman, 2022). While the primary emphasis of the Mission is on mitigation and adaptation efforts to address climate change, the adaptation component is not adequately addressed. In the Green India Mission (GIM), the term "green" pertains to both adaptation and mitigation measures that aim to enhance ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and storage (in forests and other ecosystems), hydrological services, and biodiversity. It also includes the provision of essential resources like fuel, fodder, small timber, and Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs). The Mission seeks to combat climate change by enhancing carbon sinks in sustainably managed forests and other ecosystems, increasing the resilience and

capacity of vulnerable species and ecosystems to adapt to climatic change, and facilitating adaptation of local communities that rely on forests in the face of climatic variability (Ministry of Environment and Forest, 2010).

The budget for 2023-24, according to the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, could be regarded as the “First Green Budget of India” aimed at achieving a goal of net-zero emission by 2070 under the Net Zero pledge (Mint 2023). Green budgeting is a relatively new approach in India, though aspects of it were mentioned in the union budget since 2017 (IGNOU, n.d). The primary goals were to encourage sustainable growth and lessen the nation’s carbon footprint. Budget for 2018–19, with a focus on green projects to counteract growing air pollution levels in the nation’s capital. With what was referred to as a “green budget” with many projects for promoting electric vehicles, lowering air pollution, and boosting afforestation, the center boosted the budgetary allocation for the Environment Ministry for the following fiscal year, 2019–20 (Ministry of Finance, n.d). Also allocating funds for pollution management initiatives like the National Clean Air Program (NCAP), which aims to create a pollution-free India. The following year, 2020-21, the budget allocation to pollution abatement and climate action plan further declares that states should be supported in developing and carrying out plans to ensure cleaner air in cities with populations greater than a million (The Economic Times, 2020). The Union Budget for 2021–22 then offers a structured plan to put our nation on the path of a green recovery following the Covid–19 pandemic (Ministry of Finance, 2021). The current budget of the Budget includes a long-term vision for environmental sustainability. It is distinguished by carefully considered investments in the reduction of air pollution, the provision of potable water, the preservation of deep-sea biodiversity, and the promotion of renewable energy. The fact that the environment is a key component of many of the Budget’s pillars reflects these actions. The management of air pollution, waste, pollution control, and investment in the provision of drinkable water supplies are all included in the “Health and Wellness” pillar (Ministry of Finance, 2021). This creates a strong momentum for India to fulfill its obligations under the Paris Agreement.

One of the focuses of the Budget (2021-22) is to move towards using renewable energy to meet India’s energy needs (PIB, 2021). With its sustained investments in non-fossil fuels, India may lead the way in the development of green power sources. This creates a strong momentum for India to fulfill its obligations under the Paris Agreement. In order to improve our understanding of ocean depths, the government will launch the Deep Ocean Mission (The Hindu, 2021). This project will map concerns related to biodiversity and climate change, enable technology research for ocean exploration, and implement actions to safeguard species. The Government of India has now

joined the green sovereign club and has a new way to finance its climate aims and green ambitions in the fiscal year 2022–2023 thanks to the introduction of the sovereign green bond (The Economic Times, 2022). The finance ministry has completed the formulation of a structure to issue internationally recognized sovereign global bonds. As part of the borrowing plan, the government aims to raise 16,000 crore rupees through the issuance of green bonds (Times of India, 2022). Even though they were late entrants into the global thematic bond market, sovereign green bonds are quickly becoming a crucial tool in the sustainable finance toolbox designed to assist governments in shifting funding on a large scale in line with their Paris and SDG commitments. One of the seven key priorities of the Union Budget 2023–24 is green growth, which aims to usher in the country’s green industrial and economic transition as well as ecologically friendly agricultural and sustainable energy sources. The Green Hydrogen Mission, Energy Transition, Energy Storage Projects, Renewable Energy Evacuation, Green Credit Program, PM-PRANAM, GOBARdhan Scheme, Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres, MISHTI, Amrit Dharohar, Coastal Shipping, and Vehicle Replacement are just a few of the projects and initiatives included in the Union Budget 2023–24 (PIB, 2023).

The advancement of modern reforms and the identification of answers to present problems, it is intended to increase the impetus for green growth in the nation. The budget’s green energy measures are crucial in making India a major player in the world’s green energy market.

### **Future Trends**

The green budget of India has a dynamic nature. The comprehensive strategy the government has used recently shows a firm commitment to tackling environmental issues while simultaneously fostering economic growth. The green budget has been essential in promoting a culture of sustainability in India, and to anticipate that it will continue to push the nation in the direction of a greener and more affluent future. Given the magnitude of the difficulties posed by climate change and the need for ongoing attention and efforts, it is crucial to maintain support for and build upon the successes of the green budget.

Much is spoken about Environmental Sustainability—the causes and impacts of increasing environmental degradation and the need for approaches to address the issue. Reflecting upon the important role of a ‘Green Budget’ towards environmental sustainability, a proper implementation strategy needs to be developed. The practical ways of reducing the damage and bringing up effective policies in a holistic way need more discussion and much wider policy approaches.

## References

BBC News (2021). COP26: India PM Narendra Modi pledges net zero by 2070, 01.11.2021, Accessed on 10.3.2023, URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-59125143>

Birol, F., Kant, A. (2022). "India's clean energy transition is rapidly underway, benefiting the entire world", Times of India 10.01.2023, Accessed on 06.04.2023, URL: <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/india-s-clean-energy-transition-is-rapidly-underway-benefiting-the-entire-world>

Blazey, A., & Lelong, M. (2022). "Green budgeting: A way forward". OECD Journal on Budgeting, 2022, (2). DOI:10.1781/dc7ac5a7-en

Girota, M., (2023). Sitharaman unveils India's first green budget, Mint, 02.02.2023, Accessed on 04.04.2023, URL:<https://www.livemint.com/opinion/columns/sitharaman-unveils-india-s-first-green-budget-11675277286030.html>

Gonguet, F., Wemding, C., Aydin, O., Battersby, B. (2021). "Climate-Sensitive Management of Public Finances- "Green PFM"". IMF Staff Climate Note 2021/002. URL: [https://Climate-Sensitive Management of Public Finances- "Green PFM"; August 11, 2021 \(afritacouest.org\)](https://Climate-Sensitive Management of Public Finances- )

IGNOU (n.d). Contemporary Approaches to Budgeting (Green Budgeting and Gender Budgeting). Egyankosh. <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/82424/1/Unit-7.pdf> (Retrieved on 16th April, 2023)

Microsoft (n.d). Environmental Sustainability: A Commitment To A Better Future. URL: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/sustainability/learn/environmental-sustainability> (Retrieved on 13th April, 2023)

Ministry of Environment and Forests (2010). National Mission for A Green India. Government of India. <http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/green-india-mission.pdf> (retrieved on 15th April, 2023)

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (2022). Targets Set Under Green India Mission. Public Information Bureau. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1813175> (retrieved on 12th April, 2023)

Ministry of Finance (n.d). Union Budget. Government of India. <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/> (Retrieved on 12th April, 2023)

Mint (2023). "Sitharaman unveils India's first green budget", Mint, 02.02.2023, Accessed on 08.06.2023, URL:<https://www.livemint.com/opinion/columns/sitharaman-unveils-india-s-first-green-budget-11675277286030.html>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2018). "Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting: Using the tools of Budgetary policy-making towards the implementation of SDGs". High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development- Side Event United Nation, New York. URL:<https://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/paris-collaborative-on-green-budgeting-hlfp-side-event-july-2018.html>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2021). "Green budgeting: Towards Common Principles". Publication office of the European Union, 2021. DOI:10.2765/51675

PIB Delhi (2023). PM Addresses Post Budget Webinar on 'Green Growth'. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1901622> (Retrieved on 17th April, 2023).

Roy, A and Fleischman, F (2022). "The Evolution of Forest Restoration in India: The Journey From Precolonial to India's 75th Year of Independence". Land Degradation & Development, 33 (10), 1527- 1540. DOI: : <https://doi.org/10.1002/ldr.4258>

Sinha, S., (2022). "Clean, Green and Go! A Budget needed for India's historic energy transition, The Economics Times", 31.01.2022, Accessed on 04.04.2023, URL: <https://m.economictimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/clean-green-and-go-a-budget-needed-for-indias-historic-energy-transition/articleshow/89242716.cms>

Sustainable Development Goals (2020). International Center for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED). URL: [https://www.intosaicomunity.net/document/articlelibrary/Budget\\_of\\_India\\_2020-2021\\_and\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goals.pdf](https://www.intosaicomunity.net/document/articlelibrary/Budget_of_India_2020-2021_and_Sustainable_Development_Goals.pdf)

TERI and ADRI (2022). "A Primer on Green Budgeting". The Energy and Resource Institution (TERI) and Asian Development Research Institution (ADRI) URL: [https://wsds.teriin.org/2023/green-budgeting/files/Primer\\_Green\\_Budgeting-web.pdf](https://wsds.teriin.org/2023/green-budgeting/files/Primer_Green_Budgeting-web.pdf)

The Economic Times (2022). Budget 2020: Environment Ministry gets Rs 3100 crore in 2020-202. The Economic Times. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/budget-2020-environment-ministry-gets-rs-3100-crore-in-2020-21/articleshow/73848344.cms> (Retrieved on 18th April, 2023)

The Economic Times, (2022). India to Launch Sovereign Green Bonds, Here's How They Work. The Economic Times. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-to-launch-sovereign-green-bonds-heres-how-they-work/articleshow/89267005.cms?from=mdr> (retrieved on 13th April, 2023)

The Hindu (2021). India To Launch Deep Ocean Mission. The Hindu. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-approves-proposal-to-roll-out-project-to-explore-deep-ocean-for-resources/article34830803.ece> (Retrieved on 18th April, 2023)

Times Of India (2022). Finance Ministry Finalises Framework for Sovereign Green Bonds. The Times of India. (Retrieved on 15th April, 2023)

United Nations. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission). Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Assessed on URL: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/swachh-bharat-abhiyan-clean-india-mission>

# THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

The Tibetan Buddhist Refugee Women in Bylakuppe, Karnataka, India



**Ms. Roshni Sharma**  
Ph.D Research Scholar in Political Science,  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University),  
Bengaluru

## Introduction

Forced Migration has become a global phenomenon especially in the twentieth and early twenty first century. People are forced to leave their nation, their identity and relocate to a place/space unknown to them. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) defines a forced migrant as any person who migrates to 'escape persecution, conflict, repression, natural and humanmade disasters, ecological degradation, or other situations that endanger their lives, freedom or livelihood' (Hugo, 2005). It has affected the lives of people across age, gender, and social backgrounds. However, gender is a critical factor that shapes the experiences and outcomes of forced migration. This article, based on the interview conducted with the Tibetan Buddhist refugee women, will explore the causes and experiences of forced migration from a gendered perspective, highlighting the differential impacts on these women, who seek refuge in the Bylakuppe region of Karnataka, India.

## Causes of Migration – Case of Tibetan Buddhist Refugee

The Tibetan refugee, the majority of whom have lived in India, is one group that has experienced prolonged displacement since 1959. The invasion of Chinese inside Tibet, in the early 1950s, reduced the latter into a colony, labelling the independent people of Tibet as 'second class citizens.' Since then, the autonomy of Tibet has remained a contentious and emotionally charged topic. However, China's position remains steady claiming Tibet to be an inalienable part of it (Sperling, 2004).

The mass departure of the ethnic Tibetans began in 1950 as a result of the Chinese occupation of Tibet and the accompanying genocide (Roy, 2001). The continuous abuse of human rights by People's Liberation Army (PLA) compelled the Tibetans to seek asylum in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. After 1959, Chinese powers drastically reduced Tibetans' chances for development and stopped the flow of Tibetans into Nepal and India. By doing this, the



Chinese border police prevented Tibetans from fleeing to India to escape persecution during the time when Chinese authorities subjected Tibetans to the most blatant violations of order and human rights, which occurred from the middle of the 1960s to the late 1970s. However, a period of relative liberalisation in China began in 1979 with the passing away of the leader Mao Zedong, the cessation of the social turmoil (Tibet Justice Centre, 2011).

As a result of this, many people fled their homeland to join their relatives and associates in India, where they could eventually enjoy considerably greater opportunity, security, and human rights, education despite the fact that they needed recognised legitimate status. Some of the respondents from the community crossed border only a decade and half ago. They narrated their lived experiences of Tibet and how life has been different and much better in India. However, the fear of staying in a different country and not having the 'citizen' identity always daunts them.

### **Tibetan Refugee Women – Agents of Change**

The Tibetan Buddhist women refugees relatively hold a strong position, unlike many South Asian communities. This is because of the matriarchal and matrilineal patterns of descent that has been followed by the community in certain regions (Wang et.al., 2019). Having almost equal say within the community, the Tibetan refugee women challenge the dominant representation of refugee women as marginalised, having no voice of her own and alienated in both her native and host country. They along with sharing their stories of vulnerabilities have also been active agents of transformation (Bose, 1997). They have been able to empower themselves within the constrained spaces available to them in exile and the role of Tibetan Women Association (TWA) is significant in this regard.

Moreover, the Tibetan government-in-exile taking the issue of women seriously, initiated a Women's Empowerment Desk (WED) in the CTA, which has been fully dedicated for empowering the Tibetan women. Amidst all the challenges that the Tibetan community faced during their plight and in exile, the Tibetan women played extraordinary role as they began to support their families by starting their own businesses, working for themselves, and engaging in a variety of entrepreneurial endeavours that could preserve their rich Tibetan culture. Also, the Tibetan women are politically active in exile. Though they have been assertive even before, but it has only grown and multiplied in the political domain. This also comes from the fact that the Constitution of the Government-in-exile, states equality among the sexes. They are highly active in the governance process, beginning from the grassroot level to the highest level in the Tibetan Parliament (Kashag).

Although Tibetan women have participated in politics and are members of a number of governmental, social, and political organisations, there are not many women

in leadership positions. It was only for the first time that three women were approved as Kalons (heads) of the 17th Tibetan Parliament, at Dharmasala. Further, out of the 23 camps in both the settlements in Bylakuppe, only two camps have women leaders. All the others are headed by men. It is believed that taking up such roles is not an easy task. This is also because of the conventional gendered roles that are assigned to the women of the community. This narrative became very clear during both the focus group discussions and the interviews. For instance, when enquired about becoming camp leaders during focus group discussion, a majority of them stated, that they would want women to take up such roles. However, they also stated that 'We would not be able to, since the position demands a lot of work and it's difficult to carry it out alongside the responsibilities at the home front.' Thus, the socially constructed gender roles and the economic aspect creates hurdles for women to take up these roles (Balasubramanian and Lathabhavan, 2017; Moua and Riggs, 2012).

Despite facing challenges, the Tibetan women are examples of both change and continuity. They have managed to keep their memories of Tibet alive and at the same time have become accustomed to the lives in exile. Though there is a sense of loss, of being uprooted but the community life and identity is what has made them feel India – a home away from home. As many of the respondents echoed how 'India has been their second home.' For these refugees, unlike many other, it is relatively trouble-free to maintain their allegiance and commitment to the places that they belong to and the one that they are in.

Though they all aspire to go back to Tibet, but the truth is that they all have made peace with their lives in India. Given the fact that the idea of home is determined by the continuous process of homemaking (Duyvendak, 2011; Smets and Snee, 2017). By staying in these camps, the community feels secured and have a sense of belongingness, similar to that of life in Tibet. In such cases, the community itself becomes home, being 'both a site and a set of meanings/emotions (Blunt and Dowling, 2006: 22).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, forced migration is a complex phenomenon that affects individuals and communities in diverse ways. Addressing the differential impacts of forced migration and its implication, Tibetan refugee women demonstrates resilience, resourcefulness, and the ability to adapt to new environments. It is thus, important to recognize and address the gendered implications of forced migration to ensure that the rights and needs of all individuals are met, regardless of their gender identity. The focus should be more on promoting their rights, education, health, and overall well-being.

## References

Balasubramanian, S. A. & Lathabhavan, R. (2017). Women's glass ceiling beliefs predict work engagement and burnout. *Journal of Management Development*, 36(10), 1125-1136.

Blunt, A., and Robyn Dowling. (2006). *Home*. London: Routledge.

Bose, S. (1997). Instruments and Idioms of Colonial and National Development: India's Historical Experience in Comparative Perspective. In F. Cooper and R. Packard, (eds), *International Development and the Social Sciences*. Berkeley, CA.: University of California Press.

Duyvendak, J.W. (2011). *The Politics of Home: Belonging and Nostalgia in Europe and United States*. Palgrave MacMillan.

Hugo, G. (2005). 'The New International Migration in Asia: Challenges for Population Research' *Asian Population Studies*. 1(1): 93-120. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441730500125953>

Moua, L. & Riggs, J. (2012). Navigating multiple worlds: A qualitative study of the lived experiences of Hmong women leaders. *Journal of Southeast Asian American Education and Advancement*, 7(1),1-26.

Roy, L. R. (2001). 'Journeys into exile: Tibetan women refugees and the migration experience' A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy in Development Studies at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand (Doctoral dissertation, Massey University).

Smets, P. and Karin Sneep. (2017). Tenure mix: apart or together? Home-making practices and belonging in a Dutch street. *J Hous Built Environ*. 32(1):91-106.

Sperling, E. (2004). 'The Tibet-China Conflict: History and Polemics' [http:// www.eastwestcenter.org/ fileadmin/ stored/pdfs/PS007.pdf](http://www.eastwestcenter.org/fileadmin/stored/pdfs/PS007.pdf)

Tibet Justice Center. (2011). 'Tibet's Stateless Nationals II: Tibetan Refugees in India.' A Report by Tibet Justice Center. <https://www.tibetjustice.org/reports/stateless-nationals-ii/stateless-nationals-ii.pdf> accessed on January 20, 2022.

Wang, Mengee, Guanglin He, Yiping Hou and Zheng Wang. (2019). Revisiting the Matrilineal lineages and hypoxic adaptation of highland Tibetans. *Forensic Science International Genetics Supplement Series* 7(1). 73-75. [https:// www.fsigenicssup.com/article/S1875-1768\(19\)30123-4/ fulltext](https://www.fsigenicssup.com/article/S1875-1768(19)30123-4/fulltext) accessed on September 10, 2022.

# APPROACHING RESEARCH

## My Ph.D Journey – A Reflection on My Experiments and Experiences!



**S Sivaram**

Principal

Compliance at BHP and Doctoral Research  
Scholar in Cultural Studies at  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru

*"Humility is the awareness that there's a lot you don't know and that a lot of what you think you know is distorted or wrong. This is the way humility leads to wisdom. Wisdom isn't a body of information. It's the moral quality of knowing what you don't know and figuring out a way to handle your ignorance, uncertainty, and limitation. Wisdom is not knowledge. It is knowing how to behave when perfect knowledge is lacking."*

– David Brooks  
*The Road to Character.*  
 (Lichtstein, 2021)

This epigraph profoundly summarises my research journey as it approaches the first milestone of completion of the doctoral degree program. These six years of transformational knowledge expedition are turning out to be nothing short of spectacular – a journey that witnessed three crucial aspects of research – unlearning-relearning to overcome ignorance, perseverance amidst uncertainty during the pandemic, and innovation impelled by limitation. These three aspects (learning continuum, determination, and demonstrating novelty) are fundamental to every phase of the research process, from conception to analysis to dissemination.

The first step in the journey was to consider the reason behind what prompted me to embark on a formal research program. In this context, it is important to recognize that inspiration can come from a variety of sources, including both formal and informal knowledge. My journey began with profound reflections on the climax of the famous 2008 movie 'Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,' which emphasized the valuable adage "knowledge is treasure." Indeed, this axiom is true given that genetic knowledge has a paramount function in the evolution of life, and cognitive knowledge is essential for maximizing the performance potential of the brain.

By linking this movie precept with the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad's mahavaakya (great saying), "asatoma satgamaya... motorman amrtam gamaya", I realized that knowledge is not only a treasure but the treasure that is eternally present. Essentially, a journey exploring knowledge is the same as navigating the infinite during our finite lifetime leading to contributions that can immortalize research – "...mrtyorma amrtam gamaya!"

The subsequent stage in the journey involved contemplating a suitable research inquiry that was inspired by episode ten (The Edge of Forever, 2011) of the Cosmos: A Personal Voyage television documentary series. Carl Sagan presented this program that was originally aired in 1980. This episode intriguingly explored the topic of cosmology as discussed in ancient Indian scriptures. The author of the television series Cosmos also released a book that was a companion to the show (Sagan, 1983,

pp. 283-85). Just as Cosmos popularly conveyed the intricacies of cosmology to a broader audience, the novel Origin (Brown, 2018) has similarly increased the appeal of the subject matter to a diverse readership. This novel not only addressed a pertinent subject matter but also served as a source of motivation for my doctoral research due to its perceptive analysis and literary composition.

The research question I selected was not only intriguing but also met the SMART criteria, which stands for strategic, meaningful, achievable, relevant, and transformative. Determining the topic was a crucial step as it dictated the chapter structure, the approach for conducting the literature review, the methodology, the data collection strategy, and the analysis. Remarkably, writing each chapter of the thesis involved the technique of deconstruction and reconstruction of the research topic for a precise narration, where mapping the research objectives and outcomes was demonstrable.

Notably, the first-year coursework assignments and regular contributions to the University newsletter were instrumental in getting me into the habit of original writing at an early stage of my research journey. Moreover, they also provided the stimuli needed for conference papers, publications, and thesis chapters. Recognizing and beginning the writing process early allowed me to acquire the art of research writing by anchoring on CNT – three pillars of research. Throughout the research journey, a meticulous focus on Collecting Information (C of CNT) resulted not only in the responsible citation but also in identifying opportunities for my doctoral study based on openings from the RoL.

Furthermore, my doctoral work could demonstrate originality in Noticing and Thinking of Information (N and T of CNT) – observations and inferences. One of the crucial experimental practices that I consistently employed at every stage of the journey was metacognition, a technique that facilitates deliberate reflection (T of CNT). Metacognition deals with 'thinking about thinking' and plays a central role in regulating cognitive processes and simplifying erudition. Thus, metacognition enabled a faster acquisition through extensive reading, high-quality learning, and expedient transformation of learning into knowledge. This iterative process led to a more efficient accretion of knowledge generated through my research. While introspective analysis using metacognition was essential for creating an engaging research narrative, rigorous documentation of the process was necessary to develop a coherent thesis. The key factor of research writing that I could unswervingly apply was balancing description, analysis, and interpretation – with description setting the tone, analysis, and interpretation brought out the unique value added by my research to the knowledge base. In order to powerfully present the research content,

it was imperative to learn and apply various tools and techniques. Process maps, which integrated techniques like classification, cross-referencing, information mapping, and workflow, were precious in organizing thesis chapters. One of the most memorable experiences in my research journey was publishing my first research paper in a SCOPUS-indexed journal. It was clear that the use of infographics in the paper helped in a favorable consideration by the Editorial. This experiment continued with all my papers, presentations, and doctoral thesis that used concept maps, mind maps, word clouds, and many conceptual models to present my research data pictorially. While these were valuable methods, learning what to include and ignore in the thesis proved equally valuable.

It will be surprising if a researcher has not felt sluggish, vulnerable, or drifting along the journey. Much worse can be self-doubt whether one has embarked on a mistaken destination. All these challenges can become more pronounced when life around becomes significantly tricky and odd with mere survival depending on various factors, such as during the pandemic. Such situations can disturb our internal harmony. Consequently, research productivity can reduce and impede the ability to come up with innovative ideas or inferences.

Despite many exciting and original outcomes, my research journey was no different, and I faced several challenges and limitations, many of which were resolvable and some insurmountable. One of the most challenging periods was managing the health situation during the pandemic. This was when constant support and encouragement from guides and mentors were crucial in understanding the value of perseverance, the most fundamental of all virtues required in an enduring research journey.

Another key feature during the pandemic that sustained the motivation to continue the journey was numerous webinars and online workshops conducted by the University. Information exchanged during these programs

ensued in a pensive disposition long after they concluded and offered another opportunity for the N and T of CNT. Finally, discussing another one-of-a-kind experiment I undertook during my journey is of the utmost importance. This experiment focused on honing the ways in which I thought by shifting my mindset through the application of insights gained from fields unrelated to the subject of my research. The reinvigoration of my outlook contributed favorably towards advancing my learning abilities, especially in recognizing patterns. The mindset transformation also led to improved resiliency, a speedier recovery, and an enhanced capability to reset my research drive anytime I found myself procrastinating.

Let us continue our research journey with a renewed curiosity and rediscover our potential! In this regard, it is worth reminiscing the seven mindsets that will transform the ways we think, be the polestar of our research journey, and prompt us to deliver an excellent quality research output – everything is possible, passion first, we are connected, 100 per cent accountability, attitude of gratitude, live to give, and the time is now.

#### **References:**

Brown, D. (2018). *Origin*. United Kingdom: Penguin Random House.

Lichtstein, D. M. (2021). Humility and Wisdom: A Reflection. *The American journal of medicine*, 134(8), 944. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjmed.2021.03.037>

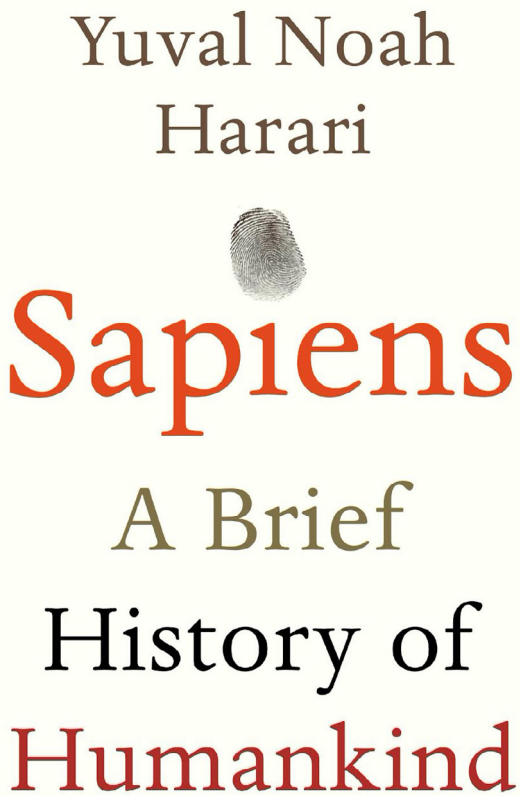
Sagan, C. (1983). *Cosmos*. pp. 283-285. United Kingdom: Abacus.

The Edge of Forever. (2011). Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* – Episode 10 – The Edge of Forever. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8ENNgO4z5c> (34:00 to 50:45 on Hindu Cosmology and 36:00 to 37:40 specifically on the Nasadiya Sukta of Rig Veda).

# BOOK REVIEW

Humankind: Diverting Energy from Biceps to Neurons

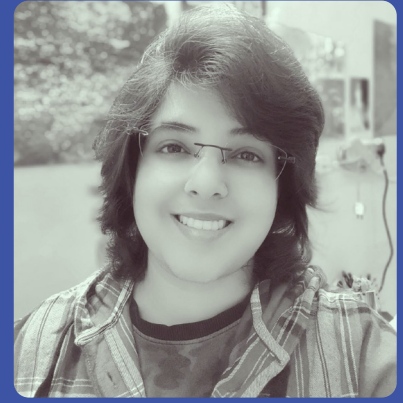
Book Review: "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind", by Yuval Noah Harari



Yuval Noah  
Harari

**Sapiens**

A Brief  
History of  
Humankind



**Suhasini Srihari**

Ph.D. Research Scholar in English  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru

Sapiens is a popular science book that was first published in 2011 in the Hebrew language and was later published in English in 2014. The time from then has simply added more gravitas to this magnificent work of art. Harari makes an empirical approach to tracing the history of 'humankind'. Spread across four parts, the book provides a sound understanding of the transition from cognitive to agricultural to religious to the scientific revolution. The elaborate discourse on the historiography of the evolution of humankind is immensely multi and interdisciplinary.

### **The Cognitive Revolution**

Foraging in new spaces, humans began their journey from being the lowest in the food chain. The ability to use and transform language for the purposes of communication and memories, humans have become unique in their physical and biological structure, which has catapulted them in only close to 2.5 million years to becoming the apex predator in the food chain. We have modified ourselves greatly as different regions and seasons demanded. We then created 'culture' and credited ourselves with ethics and morality.

### **The Agricultural Revolution**

The time and efforts that the sapiens invested in manipulating the lives of a few animals and plant species

changed the course of human events that were to follow. The very act of one's capability to grow varieties of grains and rear selected animals for meat truly became a revolution in the way humans lived. Harari refers to this juncture as "History's Biggest Fraud", for agriculture required a lot more commitment and hard work from people, yet today, it has become one of the significant aspects in terms of building blocks of any nation. This was the beginning of the barter system, which eventually metamorphosed into 'money'. It is imperative for one to also notice how the 'trap' of agriculture paved way for 'private property' and appropriation of materialistic wealth.

### **The Religious Revolution**

The birth of the nation of 'unification' of humankind began with a shared system of myths and beliefs that someone superior is present and is always watching our actions. The laws of religion assert that the result of human caprice is ordained by an absolute and indisputable authority. The agricultural needs in a manner paved way for the Gods to be created in humans' minds. Much of mythology is in fact a legal contract in which humans make a bargain with the imagined deity and make promises of devotion in exchange for mastery over plants and animals. The discourse of Sapiens also traces the history of how 'polytheistic' religions gradually got erased and how monotheistic religions started to prevail in the guise of civilisation.

### **The Scientific Revolution**

The current phase of humankind is the attempt to achieve success in the Gilgamesh Project, a quest towards attaining immortality. The many expeditions into faraway lands and many conquests led the empty maps to be filled with not just the coordinates of latitudes and longitudes but also with 'knowledge' of the lands and environment. Science and Empires grew together. Today, science has progressed farther than humans could have imagined, and this has fueled capitalism to rise to the brim. In order for

this to come to realisation, humans digitised data. Now, we speak in the language of 0 and 1, the binary coordinates.

Overall, the discourse provides a deeper insight into not just understanding the growth of humankind on this planet but also what human beings have made of themselves. Harari's Sapiens is a profound and a gripping narrative.

It invites a variety of readers belonging to different disciplines of study such as anthropology, history, humanities, and sciences. The book makes a really good read, especially given the pandemic situation, it offers different perspectives to see ourselves in a better light, and mull over the imaginary constraints that we have built for ourselves over centuries.

## EVENT REPORTS

### 35-Hour Online Certificate Course on Fundamentals of International Politics



**Jgi JAIN** CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

Presents  
**35-Hour Intensive Certificate Course (Online - Zoom)**  
on  
**Fundamentals of International Politics**

5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
Tentative date for certificate distribution- 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (Friday)

05:30 pm - 07:30 pm (Monday - Friday)  
11:00 am - 03:30 pm (Saturday)

(26 hours -Online Synchronous Sessions + 9 Hours - Asynchronous)  
3 Asynchronous Assignments which would require 3 hours each.  
The candidates will be given 3 Google survey forms periodically which would consist of 3 short essays each related to the topics. The final third form will include overall course feedback as well.

**Resource Persons**

 <b>Ambassador Deepak Vohra</b> Former Indian Ambassador to Armenia, Serbia, and Poland	 <b>Prof. Rajesh Rajagopalan</b> Professor Centre for International Politics Organisation and Disarmament (CIPOD) Jawaharbal Nehr University
 <b>Prof. Jayati Srivastava</b> Professor Centre for International Politics Organisation and Disarmament (CIPOD) Jawaharbal Nehr University	 <b>Prof. Shibashis Chatterjee</b> Professor Department of International Relations Jadrapur University
 <b>Dr. Soumitra Basu</b> Associate Professor Department of International Relations South Asian University	 <b>Prof. M. J Vinod</b> Professor Department of International Studies Political Science, History CHRIST (Deemed-to-be University)
 <b>Prof. Subh Chandran</b> Professor School of Conflict and Security Studies National Institute of Advanced Studies	 <b>Dr. Manoharan N</b> Director Centre for East Asian Studies CHRIST (Deemed-to-be University)
 <b>Dr. Nanda Kishor</b> Associate Professor Department of International Relations Pondicherry University	 <b>Dr. Sanchi Rai</b> Assistant Professor School of Liberal Arts and Sciences RV University
 <b>Dr. Sheeja Biswas</b> Assistant Professor Department of Political Science St. Joseph's University	 <b>Tajal Khanna</b> Assistant Professor GITAM School of Humanities and Social Science GITAM University (Bengaluru)
 <b>Dr. Rubina Pradhan</b> Course Co-coordinator & Assistant Professor Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE) JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)	 <b>Dr. Debangana Chatterjee</b> Course Coordinator & Assistant Professor Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE) JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

### Report

Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) has successfully conducted the second edition of the short-term Certificate Course, titled Fundamentals of International Politics between 5th April and 20th April. Coordinated by Dr. Debangana Chatterjee and Dr. Rubina Pradhan, Assistant Professor at the Centre, the course has immensely garnered the attention of scholars from various parts of the country. While the course's first edition, The Theoretical Aspects of International Politics, was conducted in August 2022, this edition incorporated the feedback received at the end of the last edition.

This time, the number of participants was 56 and they hailed from various disciplinary backgrounds from across the country. Among the participants, 22 hailed from outside Karnataka. There were 28 bachelor's students, 17 master's students, four PhD scholars, three faculty members and one professional among the participants.

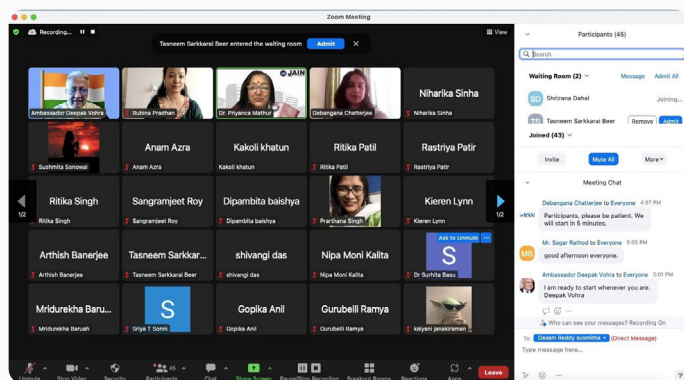
These participants were shortlisted out of 93 registrations. Among them, 51 successfully fulfilled all the criteria and were certified. The successful participants made it through the attendance criteria of attending a minimum of 70 % of the live sessions but also successfully submitted all the assignments which included three Google forms with a total number of 12 subjective questions on the relevant topics based on the sessions. Candidates were expected to spend at least three hours for the submission of each Google form making it a total of 9 asynchronous hours. A small-scale learning management system (LMS) was curated by using Google Drive to allow easy access to the resource materials and recordings.

This time, Amb. Dr. Deepak Vohra, Chaired the certificate course. The course included a total number of 14 sessions including the introductory remarks by Amb. Vohra and the concluding Panel Discussion, where alongside Amb. Vohra, Prof. Shibashis Chatterjee, Professor, Dept. of IR, Jadavpur University, graced as a special guest for the session. There

were 12 full-fledged learning sessions spanning 2 hours each with 12 resource persons from across the country including Professors from JNU, South Asian University, Pondicherry University, National Institute of Advanced Studies, St. Joseph's University, RV University, CHRIST, GITAM, and of course, JAIN. These sessions included various themes, e.g.- different theoretical perspectives of international relations, human rights, globalisation, third-world politics, area studies including Asian IR, gender, migration, and Indian foreign policy.

Based on the feedback received from all the participants, an overwhelming 96 per cent of them found the course beneficial. Based on the feedback, the course was overwhelmingly lauded for its well-crafted design and well-mannered conduct. While all the resource persons were highly rated by the participants, the LMS created for the course was appreciated for its well-structured and timely dissemination. The participants sought more future courses from the Centre in the areas like- International Political Economy, Climate Politics, Diplomatic Negotiations, and so on. The course has become one of the major steps in introducing interdisciplinarity in higher education.

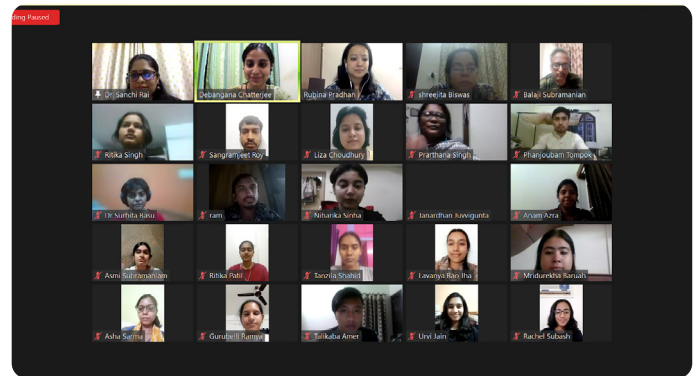
On 28th April between 3 pm and 4 pm, a certificate distribution ceremony was held to felicitate the successful participants and express gratitude towards the esteemed resource persons for sharing their valuable knowledge. The online event was presided over by the honourable Vice-Chancellor of JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) and was joined by Dr. N. V. H. Krishnan, Registrar, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University). During the event, Dr. Singh spoke extensively on the need for an interdisciplinary approach in higher education and the certificate course is a step towards that. As the world grapples with multiple complexities, courses like this will benefit not only the experts in specialised fields but also the common citizens whom international affairs affect at various levels.



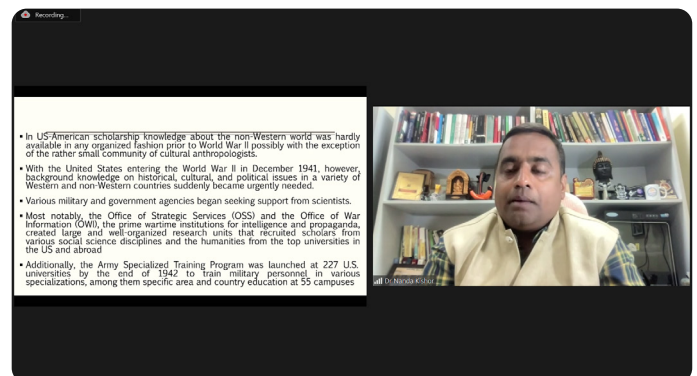
The introductory session with **Amb. Dr. Deepak Vohra**



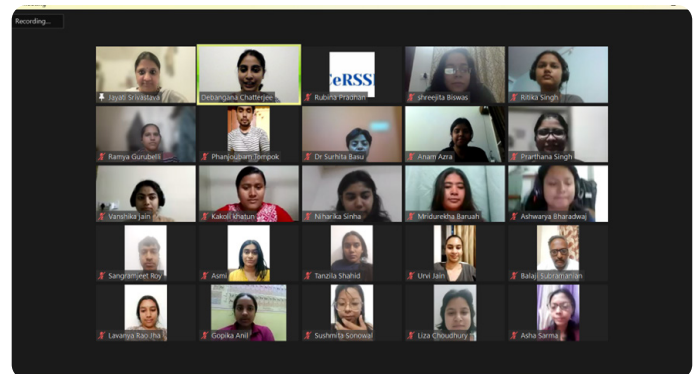
Session 1b with **Prof. Rajesh Rajagopalan** as the resource person



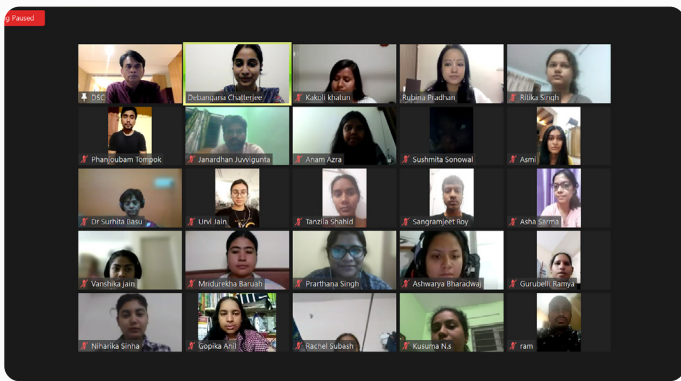
Session 2 with **Dr. Sanchi Rai** as the resource person



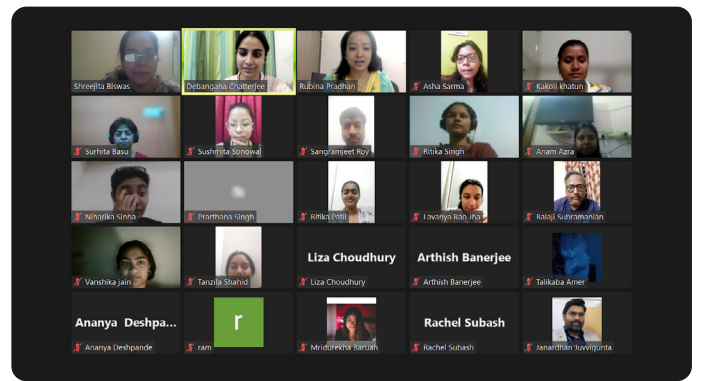
Session 4 with **Dr. Nanda Kishor** as the resource person



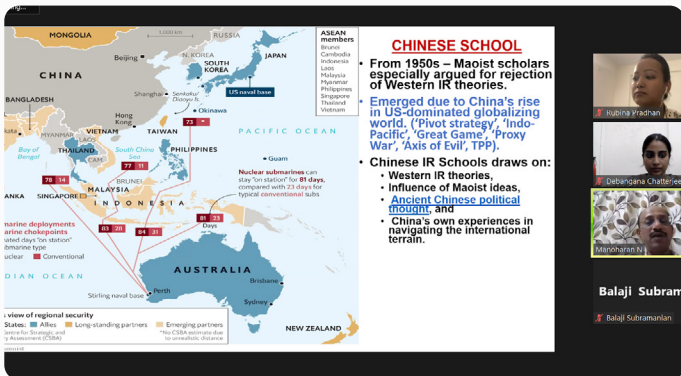
Session 5 with **Prof. Jayati Srivastava** as the resource person



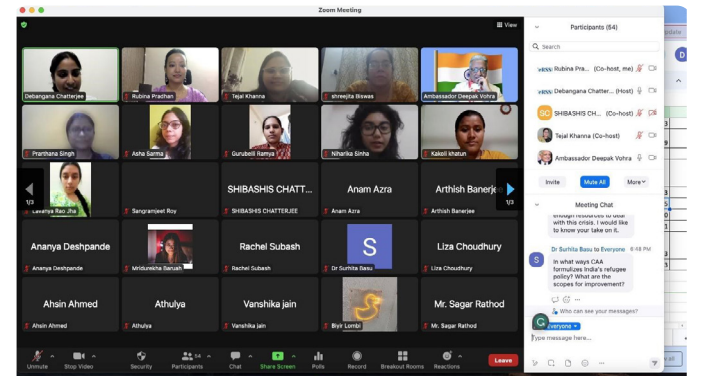
Session 6 with Prof. D. Suba Chandran as the Resource Person



Session 10 with Dr. Shreejita Biswas as the Resource Person



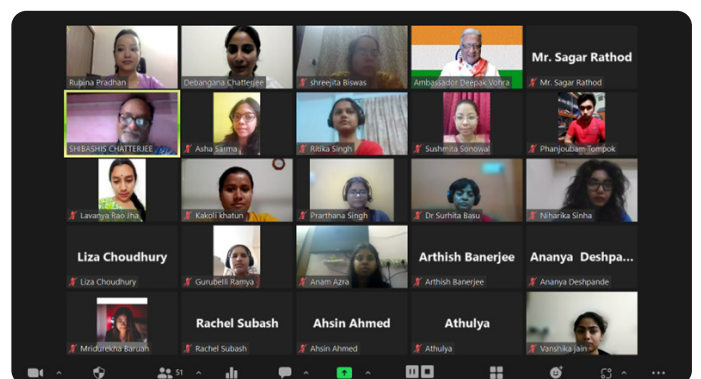
Session 7 with Dr. Manoharan N. as the Resource Person



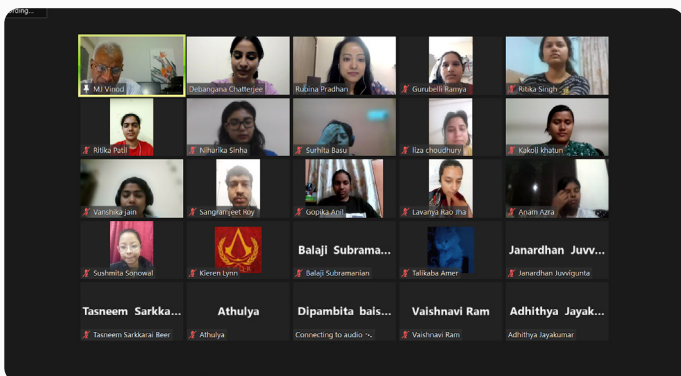
Session 11a with Dr. Tejal Khanna as the resource person



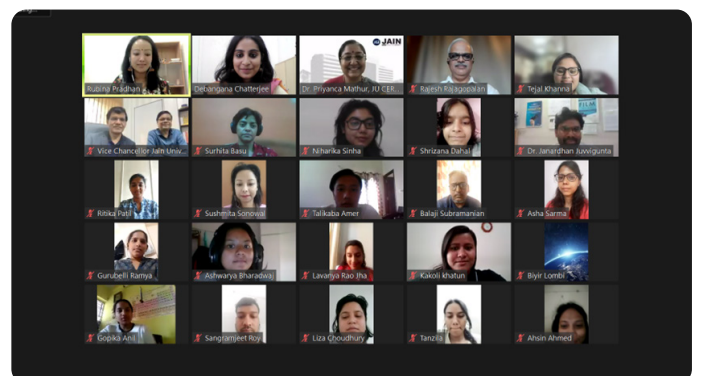
Session 8 with Dr. Soumita Basu as the Resource Person



At the end of the concluding session (Session 11b) on 20th April with Amb. Dr. Deepak Vohra and Prof. Shibashis Chatterjee



Session 9 with Prof. M. J. Vinod as the Resource Person

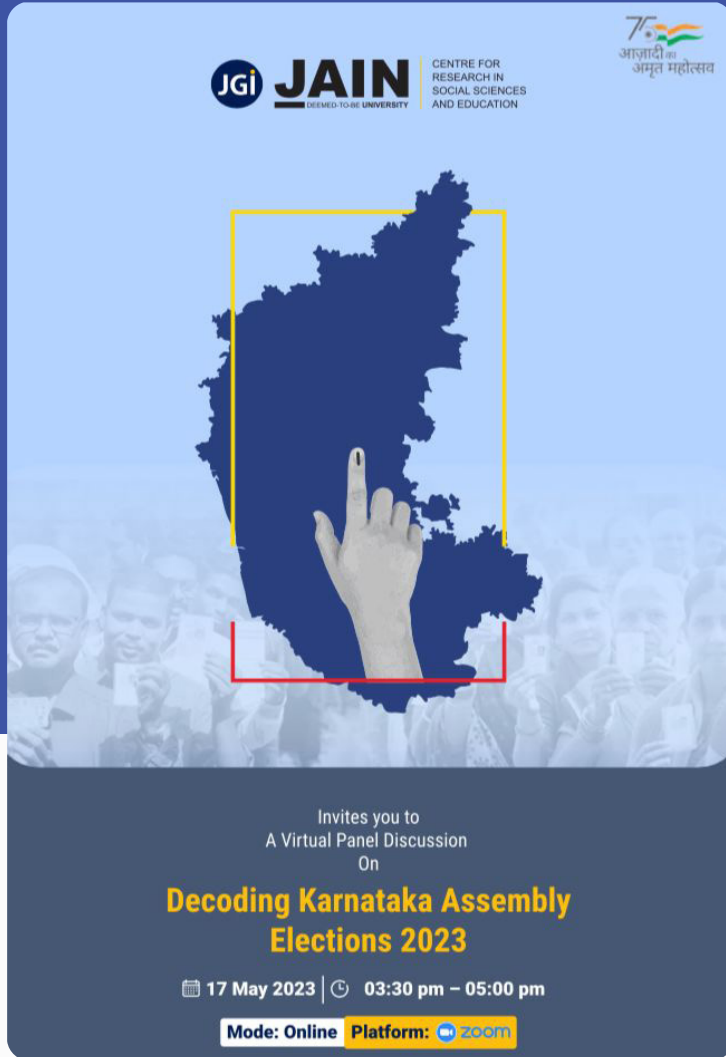


During the Certificate Distribution Ceremony on 28th April in the presence of Dr. Raj Singh, Vice-Chancellor, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) and Dr. N. V. H. Krishnan, Registrar, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)



## A Virtual Panel Discussion

On Decoding Karnataka Assembly Elections 2023



**Jgi JAIN** DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY  
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

75  
आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव

Invites you to  
A Virtual Panel Discussion  
On  
**Decoding Karnataka Assembly  
Elections 2023**

17 May 2023 | 03:30 pm – 05:00 pm

Mode: Online Platform: zoom



**Chair**



**Prof. P.S. Jayaramu**  
Former Professor of Political Science and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Bangalore University and former Senior Fellow, ICSSR, New Delhi

**Panellists**



**Naheed Ataula**  
Senior Journalist based in Bangalore



**Prof. Sandeep Shastri**  
National Coordinator, Lokniti Network and Director Academics, NITTE Education Trust



**Aditya Menon**  
Political Editor, The Quint

**Patrons**

<b>Dr. Chenraj Roychand</b> Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)	<b>Col (Hony.) Dr. N. Sundararajan</b> Pro Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)	<b>Professor (Dr.) Raj Singh</b> Vice Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
<b>Dr. Easwaran Iyer</b> Pro Vice Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)	<b>Dr. N. V. H. Krishnan</b> Registrar JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)	<b>Prof. K. R. Sridhara Murthy</b> Director - Academics and Planning JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

Register Now  
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMKuCrqTkvhNHabxH-REcxD0X4LUWSS-gW>  
Participation confirmation and meeting details will be sent upon successful registration  
E-certificates will be issued to the participants

**Webinar Coordinator**



**Dr. Rubina Pradhan**  
Assistant Professor  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)  
Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE)  
Email: rubina.pradhan@jainuniversity.ac.in

### Report

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) conducted an online panel discussion on 'Decoding Karnataka Assembly Elections 2023' on 17 May 2023 at 3:30 pm and ended around 5:00 pm. The event started with a welcome speech by Dr. Rubina Pradhan, Assistant Professor (CeRSSE) and webinar coordinator. The welcome speech also included an introduction to JAIN and CeRSSE along with a background brief on Election.

Election constitutes an important element in a democratic process that allows citizens to intervene directly in the political process, allowing them to express their political opinions and policy preferences. In India and across the world, the election process has been corrupted by misinformation, exclusion and forgery in electoral rolls, polarisation, violence, etc. These threaten the very essence of free and fair elections in a democracy. The election in Karnataka is a closely monitored affair as it would set a tone for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. As polling for the 224-member Legislative Assembly has already taken place in Karnataka, results announced with the Congress

Party winning the majority with 135 seats, the debate shifts to who will be crowned the next CM of Karnataka and how the politics would unfold in the state.

With this introductory speech, Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Head and Associate Professor, CeRSSE formally introduced the Chair and the Panellists. This was followed by Prof. P.S. Jayaramu taking over as a Chair and conducting the session. He started by giving a brief on the rules for a panel discussion. At the outset, he made a few observations on the topic. He observed that the results can be looked upon as a watershed event as it was not just about anti-incumbency, it is beyond that.

According to him, the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) failed to understand the pulse of the poor and marginalised, unemployed youth and rural-urban population affected by price rise/unemployment, etc. The second point he made was that Congress was able to monitor the social coalition and implement it.

After making these points, he handed over the space to Naheed Ataula to share her views. She made some

important points. She highlighted that the guarantees made by Congress touched the people's daily life in Karnataka. The memories of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' for 21 days in October made a huge impact. It covered 7 districts and 51 constituencies out of which Congress won in 37 districts. She also made a point that the blunder committed by the Bomai government in tweaking the reservation matrix and slashing the internal reservation among the SCs helped Congress gain support and win the election.

Professor Sandeep Shastri, then made some important observations. He started by commenting that "the Karnataka verdict was an authentic Kannadiga flavoured verdict" for which he laid out some factors. Firstly, he made a point that Karnataka distinguished between State and National verdicts. Secondly, the election this time was not a transitional election like it was, be it in 1984, 2004 or 2018. Therefore, we have a party getting a clear majority. Another point he made was that Karnataka saw the competition between two narratives: i) Congress narratives were clearly focussed on the state; ii) the narratives of BJP focussed on the protected national issue by national leaders.

Aditya Menon based his opinion agreeing to what other panellists had shared. However, he stated that Karnataka voted differently than the National Election. He highlighted P.M. Modi's popularity at the national level and this had a slight advantage also in Karnataka, especially in Bengaluru. However, he highlighted that his popularity cannot change the course of the election single-handedly. He also observed one important trend that there was no change in the BJP vote share in some areas.

The remarks by the panellist were followed by Prof. Jayaramu carrying forward the discussion by asking the panellist to discuss the points made by each panellist. This was then followed by the question and answer session. The session was very enriching with the plethora of questions posed to the panellists. Some of the questions asked were on the Bangalore voting pattern, religious and ideological polarisation, impact on next year's Lok Sabha elections, issues of the overall need of the people, power of democracy, impact on the middle-class tax-paying population, implementation of national schemes, to name some.

The panel discussion ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Rubina Pradhan and a virtual photo session.



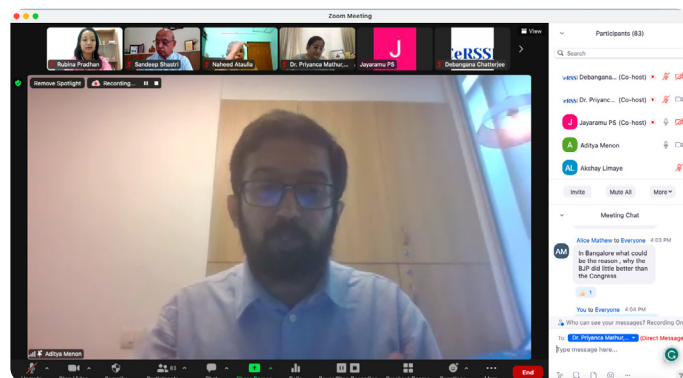
*Prof. P.S. Jayaramu sharing his views*



*Naheed Ataula sharing her views*






*Prof. Sandeep Shastri sharing his views*



*Aditya Menon sharing his views*

# FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

	<p>University of Georgia (UGA), United States [04:50 - 05:10 PM]  <b>Title:</b>Feminist Frameworks for Engaging in the Pursuit of Food Justice</p>	<p><b>Oral Presentation</b></p>
	<p><b>Priyanca Mathur</b>                  Jain University, India [10:30 - 11:00 AM]  <b>Title:</b>Gender and Forced Migration: The Politics of Silence and the Voice and Agency of Myanmarese Women Refugees in India.</p>	<p><b>Keynote Lecture</b></p>
	<p><b>Gabriela Balcarce</b>                  Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina [05:10 - 05:30 PM]  <b>Title:</b>Non-hegemonic feminisms: Latin American contributions</p>	<p><b>Oral Presentation</b></p>

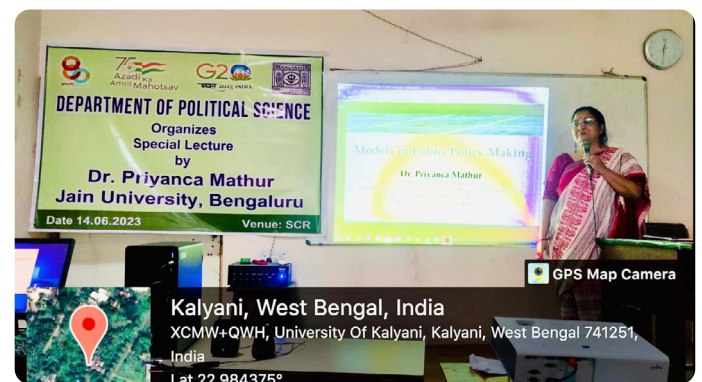
## Dr. Priyanca Mathur

1. *Delivered the Keynote Speaker Lecture on 'Gender & Forced Migration: The Politics of Silence & the voice of agency of Myanmarese Refugees in India' at the Fourth Edition of the Global Congress of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Organised by SCIINOV Group of Conferences. Place at which delivered: (Online) Hotel Ibis Budapest, Hungary  
 Date of the lecture: 13th June 13, 2023*



2. *Invited to Deliver Special Lectures on 2nd and 4th Semester Syllabi by the*

Title/Topic of the lecture: Models in Public Policy Making & Regionalisation of Indian Politics and Reorganisation of States  
 Organisation & Place at which delivered: MA Department of Political Science, University of Kalyani, West Bengal  
 Date of the lecture: 14th June 2023





Presenting a copy of our book *Discovering New India: Multiculturalism, Pluralism, Harmony* Published by Jain University Press to the Head of the Department, *Dr. Pratip Chattopadhyaya*



Bengaluru, Karnataka, India  
 #3 1st main, Basement Hotel Srinidhi SAGAR, Kempapura, Pampa Extension,  
 Hebbal Kempapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560024, India  
 Lat 13.050382°

### 3. Invited as a Member of the Board of Studies Meeting

Date: 24/6/2023

Venue: Department of Political Science,  
 Presidency College, Bangalore

### 4. PhD Awarded to Getahun Tolessa Dibissa, guided by Dr. Priyanca Mathur after his defence in an open viva -



**Getahun Tolessa Dibissa**, Ph.D. Scholar in Public Policy and Governance, will defend his Ph.D. thesis titled

**“FACTORS AFFECTING WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP POSITION: CASE STUDY OF OROMIA SPECIAL ZONE SURROUNDING FINFINNE, ETHIOPIA”**

in an open viva to be held on

**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 2 p.m.**

The External Examiners are

**Dr. M.K. Ramesh**  
 Professor, National Law School of India University,  
 Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**Dr. Manisha Madhava**  
 Head and Associate Professor,  
 Department of Political Science,  
 SNT Women’s University,  
 Mumbai, Maharashtra.

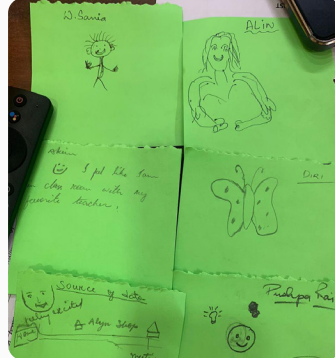
**GUIDE: Dr. Priyanca Mathur Velath**

This is a Public Viva being conducted online. Those who are interested in attending the Viva are requested to write to [phdsection01@jainuniversity.ac.in](mailto:phdsection01@jainuniversity.ac.in).

### 5. Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Head, CeRSSE, was in Delhi on April 15th and 16th conducting two workshops with migrant women from north-east India living in Kishengarh and Munirka colonies of Delhi. Around 20 women participated in the workshops which looked at What is Research and Advocacy? and How do you do Research and Advocacy in Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR).

These workshops were part of the 18 month Research Project that has been awarded to by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) to Women’s Regional Network, India. Dr Mathur is a Core Group member of WRN and Mentor in this project to the Lead Researcher, Ananya Kundu of WRN, India. This Project aims to empower a group of migrant women workers in Delhi from NE India on FPAR.

During these two workshops the participants were trained by Dr. Mathur and Ms Kundu to understand what is research, why one should learn about research, how research is relevant and important in our day to day lives. The participants learnt about the various tools of data collection like open-source research/desk research, interviews, media monitoring, surveys, focused group discussions; what do you do with this information; how do you use it to bring change; how to do advocacy. they also learnt how to collect data first through a survey to get quantitative information; how to use the survey tool, do in-depth interviews and focused group discussions; how to do documentation - recording, note taking, photographs and videos; what to keep in mind on ethics of research; and how to use this data for advocacy.



**Dr. Rubina Pradhan**

1. Invited as a *keynote speaker* at 2023 Penang International Conference of Project Management Theme: "The multiple Stakeholders' Contribution to Recovering Together and Recovering Stronger After Covid-19 Pandemic"

Topic: *Evaluating Public Policy Approaches to Women's Empowerment during the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Perspective from the Global South*  
Date: 23 June 2023 | Time: 8:45 IST onwards



2. Participated in the *5-day National Level Seminar Series* organised by the Department of Humanities, Presidency College, Autonomous, Bangalore. 15th -19th May, Time: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm



3. Delivered a lecture on the Topic: '*Human Rights in World Politics*' as a resource person in a 35-Hour Online Certificate Course on Fundamental of International Politics Date: 08.04.2023



## Editorial Team

### **Dr. Priyanca Mathur (Editor-in-Chief)**

Head and Associate Professor,  
Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE)  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)  
Bengaluru -560078, Karnataka  
Email: [mv.priyanca@jainuniversity.ac.in](mailto:mv.priyanca@jainuniversity.ac.in)  
Profile link: <https://www.jainuniversity.ac.in/about/social-science-perspective-cersse>

### **Prof. (Dr.) S. Y. Surendra Kumar**

Professor,  
Department of Political Science  
Bangalore University  
Email: [surendrajnu@gmail.com](mailto:surendrajnu@gmail.com)  
Profile link: <https://eng.bangaloreuniversity.ac.in/resume/pol-sc-dr-s-y-surendra-kumar/>

### **Prof. (Dr.) M. J. Vinod**

Department of International Studies  
Political Science and History  
School of Social Science  
Christ University, Bengaluru-560029  
E-mail: [mjvinod@gmail.com](mailto:mjvinod@gmail.com)  
Profile Link: <https://christuniversity.in/dept/faculty-details/NDg3Nw==/MzAy>

### **Dr. Pratip Chattopadhyay**

Associate Professor and Head  
Department of Political Science  
University of Kalyani, Kolkata  
Email: [pratipchattopadhyay@klyuniv.ac.in](mailto:pratipchattopadhyay@klyuniv.ac.in)  
Profile Link: <https://klyuniv.ac.in/professors/pratip-chattopadhyay/>

### **Prof. (Dr.) Piyush Roy**

Professor and Founding Dean  
School of Film, Media and Creative Arts  
RV University, Bangalore  
Email: [deansolas@rvu.edu.in](mailto:deansolas@rvu.edu.in)  
Profile Link: <https://rvu.edu.in/prof-dr-piyush-roy/>

### **Dr. Rubina Pradhan**

Assistant Professor  
Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE)  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)  
Bengaluru -560078, Karnataka  
Email: [rubina.pradhan@jainuniversity.ac.in](mailto:rubina.pradhan@jainuniversity.ac.in)  
Profile Link: <https://www.jainuniversity.ac.in/about/social-science-perspective-cersse>

Please send us your feedback, comments, and writings at [cersse@jainuniversity.ac.in](mailto:cersse@jainuniversity.ac.in)