

MAHANIRBAN CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP

Annual Report for 2005-2006

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1. Programmes of the CRG:

1.1. WINTER COURSE : The Third Winter Course on Forced Migration successfully concluded in December 2005. As in the previous years the course was guided by the recommendations of an Advisory Body. The course succeeded in broadening the participation, organizing field visit to new area, including new issues of concern in the curriculum and having a more diversified faculty that included members of CRG, experts of India and other countries of South Asia and from other regions. For the first time the course had participation from Africa. It succeeded in improving its standard, corrected past mistakes and was able to highlight certain issues as perennial concerns of the programme such as statelessness, trafficking, violence, right to return and the quality and nature of humanitarian work. The course highlighted the lessons of the Tsunami relief work. The other noticeable improvements in the course are: (a) the course is able to develop the links with new institutions in India and abroad; (b) deserving participants are helped to carry on their work even after the course is over as part of the programme; (c) The course shows promises of developing into a full fledged programme with different segments; (d) the distance segment of the programme is on the way to become an innovating and compact phase in the course.

Dr. Paula Banerjee, Coordinator of the Course, handled all the activities smoothly and efficiently with the help of Ms. Shreyashi Cahudhuri, the Programme associate.

The programme was supported by the Government of Finland, UNHCR and the Brookings Institution. The detailed report on the course has been printed and widely distributed (**Annexure - I**) Already posted in our website www.mcrg.ac.in/rp.htm

1.2. **Programme on the IDPs** : The programme on IDPs during the year under consideration was divided into two parts - research and advocacy. In the research segment CRG carried out a South Asian study of the Voices of the IDPs in various camps in different parts of India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The reason for conducting the study was to find out the opinions of IDPs and their awareness regarding national and international instruments of protection of the IDPs, propose ways of policy formation in which the voices of the IDPs could find adequate space. The study is complete and the preliminary report is ready. CRG now plans to publish the detailed report in form of a volume.

The preliminary report is attached as **Annexure - II**. Already posted in our website www.mcrg.ac.in/rp.htm

The study was conducted under the leadership of : Dr. Asha Hans (Santa Memorial Rehabilitation Centre, Bhubaneswar, Orissa); (ii) National Peace Council of Sri Lanka, (iii) Suraya Begam & Meghna Guha Thakurta, (Research Institute of Bangladesh and Dhaka University); (iv) Nepal Institute of Peace, Nepal; (v) Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi); (vi) Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal (Kashmir Times); (vii) Dr. Paula Banerjee (CRG); (viii) Madhuresh Kumar, CRG and (ix) the Director.

Under the Advocacy segment the CRG continued its work of translating and publishing in different languages the UN Guiding Principles. Two more translations came out - in Bodo and Meitei. Initiative has been taken to publish this in Hindi also. An Urdu translation of the CRG book in internal displacement in South Asia will be also published.

As part of the Advocacy work the CRG organized three lectures by Robert Kogod Goldman. Robert Kogod Goldman is the Professor of Law & Louis C. James Scholar; Co-Director, Center For Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C., USA. He delivered lectures on “The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement”; “The Principles’ Normative Status” and “The Need For Effective Domestic Implementation” in Kolkata, Pune and Delhi in collaboration with respectively the West Bengal Political Science Association, Bhowanipur Education Society College, Kolkata, and Indian Society for International Law, Delhi.

There is plan to institute such public lectures more in future. The CRG also held intensive workshop on the lessons of relief work after the Tsunami. The report of the workshop was circulated widely. (The report is enclosed as **Annexure III**). It was authored by Paula Banerjee and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhuri. The members can see the report on the website of CRG (in the Archives section). The Tsunami workshop was supported by Brookings Institution and the journal, “Forced Migration Review”. An abstract of the report was published in the Forced Migration Review. Dr. Paula Banerjee represents the CRG in the advisory board of the FMR.

Three other segments of the programme of the IDPs remain to be completed: (a) a website on IDPs in Nepal; (b) holding a workshop on the IDPs in North-east; (c) a workshop on the IDPs situation in Burma. The CRG will have to take immediate steps to successfully complete the programme.

Dr. Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhuri and Maduresh Kumar had at different stages participated in the implementation of the programme. Dr. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhuri is now in charge of the programme. The IDPs programme is fully supported by Brookings Institution.

The IDPs programme partially got encouragement from another programme of CRG under which a workshop on rights and globalisation was held in Guwahati in April 2006.

1.3 **RESEARCH WORK ON AUTONOMY:** The Ford Foundation supported research programme on “Autonomy in India” ended in September 2005. It was a two year programme which began in 2003. The last year’s Annual Report (2004-05) mentioned the progress of the project. The highlight of the programme was (a) certain theoretical findings on the relation between autonomy and democracy; (b) a comprehensive critical enquiry into different aspects of the political constitutional arrangements for autonomy in India; (c) and two major publications. We are expecting one more publication out of this programme. A detailed report is attached herewith as **Annexure -IV**. The report has also been put on CRG’s website. Another important aspect of this programme is that it attracted international attention. The Director was invited by Columbia University, Cornell University and Bochum to discuss our research work. The

Director was also invited by the University of Uppsala to speak on the Indian experiences of autonomy. The Compendium that CRG brought out as a part of this work has earned special appreciation. There is a suggestion to revise the compendium and have a second edition to be published by a well known international publisher. It has to be followed up. Dr. Samir Kumar Das and Dr. Sabyasachi Basu Roy Chaudhury were the joint-coordinators of this programme and the success of this programme owes a lot to them.

1.3. **SOCIAL JUSTICE IN INDIA** : The research programme on Autonomy evolved into a research work on research and dialogue programme on the dynamics of Social Justice in India. This programme too is supported by the Ford Foundation. While the structure of the programme is in many ways similar to the preceding one. It will have more emphasis on collective research, field work, ethnographic studies, and wider participation base and more dialogues. Members will get to know the progress of this programme in next year's Annual Report. They will also be kept informed of the progress of the programme on regular basis. Between the commencement of the programme (1 March 2006) and 15 July 2006 we have held two consultative dialogues on research design and possible significant themes - one of these two concentrating the experience of West Bengal. Dr. Samir Kumar Das is the Coordinator of this programme.

1.4 **RESEARCH ON "Regional Initiative of the Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and the Enabling of Social and Political Participation"**: This is a collaborative South Asian Project led by the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Sri Lanka. The main part has been completed in the calendar year of 2005 (Report on this programme is available from the last year Annual Report - 2004-05).

As part of the programme there was one major research article by Madhuresh Kumar, a data base of relevant institutions and activities and the successful completion of the task of developing an educational package for the training of rights as indicated by the research theme. The design developed by CRG has been appreciated widely and adopted by all the partners of the programme. For implementation of the educational design an intense workshop in Guwahati was held on 22-23 April 2006. The programme has entered into its last phase. At least one more similar workshop will be held to improve the design of the educational package after which it will be published for wider dissemination. Members are requested to visit the CRG website (<http://mcrg.mcrg.ac.in/research.html>) for the report of the Guwahati workshop. The programme was run by Madhuresh Kumar whose dedication deserves appreciation. The programme has huge potential and members are requested to think of how to carry forward CRG's work in the context of rights and globalization. In fact this programme will help CRG's research and advocacy work on displacement, also the work on the issues of social justice.

1.5. **Rehabilitation of Women Affected by Erosion and Flood in West Bengal** : The project was sanctioned by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi. Ms. Krishna Banerjee is coordinating this project under the guidance of the Project in-charge Dr. Paula Banerjee. An interim report was sent to the National Commission for Women. The work is still continuing. However there has been delay in completion of the work. Final research report will have to be completed soon. (Interim report is enclosed as **Annexure - V**).

1.6. **MEDIA RESEARCH WORK** : In order to continue CRG's work in the field of Media, Gender and Human Rights, two proposals were sent : to WACC on (a) "Electoral, Ethnic and Resource Politics - Masculine Images in the Media" and to the American Centre (b) "Gender, Media and Justice in South Asia". In the case of the WACC the proposal was approved long back (October 2005) but the fund is yet to come; and in the second case the approval is still awaited.

1.7. **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH** : The CRG has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International College de Philosophy, Paris, for a joint research and seminar programme on mutually agreed upon issues. As part of the MoU the first conference will be held in Paris on 2-4 November 2006. The CRG has also relation of cooperation with the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (MSH), Paris, on the basis of which in February 2005 a Conference was organized on the theme of "Conflicts, Law and Constitutionalism". A CRG-MSH volume based on the proceedings of the conference has been planned. On the basis of that understanding the Director of the CRG was invited to France and Tunisia last year. A bigger international network has been formed. CRG is a part of it. In this connection members will be happy to know that the CRG has now research connection with several reputed universities abroad. As a result of this growing cooperation several reputed personalities have visited the CRG, attended its dialogues and have given public lectures.

2. 1. **PUBLICATIONS:**

Books :

In the year under review the CRG published the following books.

- (i) **Peace Processes and Peace Accords** (second volume of the South Asian Peace Studies Series : -ed. by Samir Kumar Das, (Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2005)
- (ii) **The Politics of Autonomy: Indian Experiences** ed. by Ranabir Samaddar Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2005)
- (iii) **Indian Autonomies: Keywords and Key Texts**, eds. by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Samir Kumar Das, Ranabir Samaddar, (Sampark, Kolkata, 2005)

Beside these three books the volume on internal displacement was also published in January 2005.

Research Paper Series : (Policies and Practices)

- 8. Examining Autonomy: The 73rd Constitutional Amendment in Assam/Sujata Dutta Hazarika**
- 9. Democracy, Autonomy, and the Community Media/Abhilaksh Likhi**
- 10. Women and Forced Migration / Paula Banerjee**

Journal : **Refugee Watch** - The journal 'Refugee Watch' is now being used as study material in the Winter Course. Dr. Paula Banerjee was editor till 2005. She relinquished the editorship of the journal with the publication of a combined issue (Special Issue Nos. 24 - 26 December 2005) and Director, Dr. Ranabir Samaddar is now the editor of the journal. A new advisory team has been constituted.

The journal "Refugee Watch" publication is supported by the fund available from the Winter Course. The volumes on Autonomy have been supported by the Ford Foundation. Publications

under the Research Paper Series are supported by the funds available under the distinct research heads.

In this connection it is important to note that CRG book publications have received wide attention and have been reviewed widely in different journals and newspapers. Some of these reviews are available in the office and if the members are interested may kindly go through it.

3. **Website** : One of the most notable features of the CRG is its website and the information dissemination structure. The website was designed indigenously after several experiments and now it is recognized as an exhaustive database of CRG activities. The website has data information on all its research, conferences, dialogues, publications and orientation and training programmes.

The website is important as an interactive site also in the distance education phase of the Winter Course. The website contains the complete archives of all issues of Refugee Watch and has a special section called 'Refugee Watch Online'. The CRG does not have contrary to the usual procedure of any specially designated Webmaster to run it. The maintenance of the website is done primarily by Samaresh Guchhait with the advice of the Director and inputs from other members. Also Mr. Ayan Mukherjee and Mr. Madhuresh Kumar put in huge efforts for the construction of the website. Thanks are due to them.

Though the website has earned appreciation from all quarters yet there is distinct scope for improvement. For instance, 'Refugee Watch Online' can be improved and turned into an interacting, opinion expressing forum of different views. Similarly the archive section can be improved. All members are requested to come forward to take greater responsibilities relating to the maintenance and improvement of the website.

The website is maintained by the fund available from the grant from the Ford Foundation and the CHA.

4. **Seminars and Public Lectures:**

The following seminars and public lectures were organized by the CRG during the period under report: -

- (i) **Robert Goldman**, Professor, Co-director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the Washington College of Law, American University, USA, "Forced Displacement UN Guiding Principles, and The International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law", 16 August 2005.
- (ii) **Claude Markovits**, Directeur de Recherche at CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), Paris, France, "The Great Calcutta Killing Revisited: A Political Massacre", 31 August, 2005
- (iii) **Bruno Clement**, Director of the International College of Philosophy, Paris, France, "Jean Paul Sartre", 5 November, 2005.
- (iv) **Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu**, *Executive Director, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka*, "Conflict Sensitivity and Subsidiarity: Transforming

the Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement and Forced Migration", 1 December, 2005

- (v) **Michael Cernea**, Research Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs, George Washington University and Senior Adviser, GEF / World Bank, USA, "Development - Caused Internal Displacement & Norms of Resettlement", 12 December 2005
- (vi) **Ben Rogaly**, Senior Lecturer in Human Geography and a member of the Sussex Centre for Migration Research and the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, University of Sussex, Sussex, UK, "Labour Migration, Forced Migration, and the Need for Protection", 13 December, 2005
- (vii) **David Newman**, Professor, Department of Politics and Government, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel, "Open Borders - Closed Borders: The Impact of 9/11 on the Migration Process", 15 December 2005
- (viii) **France Bhattacharya**, Emeritus professor of University of Paris, and Director, South Asia Programme, Maison Des Sciences De L'Home, Paris, "Popularizing Bengali Literature in Foreign Land, 22 February 2006
- (ix) **Shreyashi Chaudhuri**, Research Scholar, Department of South and South East Asian Studies and Programme Associate, Calcutta Research Group, "Trafficking of women in India, Nepal & Bangladesh, 5 April 2006
- (x) **Ranabir Samaddar**, Director, Calcutta Research Group, "The Final Immunity of Law", 2 May 2006
- (xi) **Jyrki Kakonen** *Professor*, Tampere University, Finland, visited the office of the Calcutta Research Group and discussed possibilities of cooperation between the University of Tampere and the CRG ; he also addressed gatherings in Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies and Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, respectively on the themes of "Environmental Issues in European Politics" and "*Role of European Union in Asia*". 14 June 2006

Conference:

A two-day Conference titled "The First Conference on Critical Studies" was held in Kolkata on 29-30 July 2005. The theme was " WHAT IS AUTONOMY?" It was held with the participation of academic and researchers from different parts of the country and abroad. The CRG plans to hold each alternative year such a conference on critical thinking.

Similarly the CRG holds dialogues and meetings as parts of its various programmes. These meetings have been reported in the relevant places of this report under specific programme description.

5. SCHOLARS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF

In the year under review, the Governing Body offered new contracts to its academic and administrative staff. The Director's tenure was also renewed.

Details of the activities of the members of the research staff are given below:

5.1. SCHOLARS

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury

Special training

- Participated in the First International Course on the *Law of Internal Displacement* held from September 13-17, 2005 at San Remo, Italy and organised by the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Office of the UN High Commission for Human Rights, The Brookings Institution-Universitat Bern and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

Participation in seminars/symposia/conferences/workshops

International:

1. Presented a paper on "Being and Belongingness: Democracy and Citizenship in South Asia" in an international conference on *Revisiting Euro-Asia: Cultures, Connections and Conceptualizations* jointly organized by the Centre for the Study of Mid-West and Central Asia, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India, Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence, University of Tampere, Finland and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG) held in Chandigarh on 15 February 2006.
2. Resource Person in an International Workshop on *National Human Rights Institutions and Internally Displaced Persons* held from October 26-28, 2005 in Colombo and organised by the National Human Rights Commission, Sri Lanka, Brookings Institution and the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions.
3. Was a Discussant on a panel on the "Laws of Autonomy" in an international conference on *What is Autonomy?* organised by the Calcutta Research Group at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata on 30 July 2005.

National:

- Participated in a national-level Roundtable on *Migration and Circles of Insecurity* held on August 26, 2005 at the India International Centre, New Delhi and organised by the WISCOMP.

Refresher course lectures:

1. Two lectures on "Democratic Theories" on February 2, 2006 in the UGC Refresher Course organized by the Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta.
2. Four lectures on "Democracy and Autonomy" on 23 and 24 November 2005 in the UGC Refresher Course organized by the Department of Political Science, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya.

Other lectures:

1. Delivered a lecture on "Indian Foreign Policy in the post-Cold War Era" in the Department of Political Science, Seth Anandram Jaipuria College (Morning) on 17 March 2006.

Other activities of relevance:

- Member of the Textbook Development Committee in Political Science established by the NCERT, Government of India since August 2005.

Books/Monographs

1. Edited a book with Samir Kumar Das and Ranabir Samaddar entitled *Indian Autonomies: Key Words and Key Texts*, Sampark, Kolkata, 2005.

Articles/Book reviews/review articles

1. "Human Rights and International Relations Theory", in Kanti Bajpai and Siddharth Mallavarapu (eds.), *International Relations in India: Bringing Theory Back Home*, Orient Longman, New Delhi, 2005, pp. 351-366.
2. "Autonomy's International Legal Career" in Ranabir Samaddar (ed.), *The Politics of Autonomy: Indian Experiences*, Sage, New Delhi, 2005, pp. 114-138.

Samir Kumar Das

(a) A brief report on the programme activities in the CRG:

- As Joint Coordinator of the Calcutta Research Group (CRG)-Ford Foundation Project on 'Constitutional Provisions for Accommodating Pluralism in India' I shared the responsibility along with other CRG colleagues for organizing the Conference on 'What is Autonomy?' in July 2005 and one dialogue on 'Social Justice' in Bhubaneswar. We are now in the process of editing the conference proceedings.
- As Coordinator of the CRG-Ford Foundation project on 'An Inquiry into the Conditions of Social Justice in India' I shared the responsibility along with other CRG colleagues for organizing two dialogues in Kolkata on 5 June and in Darjeeling on 25-27 June 2006.

(b) Publications:

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Book edited

1. Edited *Peace Processes and Peace Accords, South Asian Peace Studies II* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group/New Delhi: Sage, 2005).

Research Papers (in English)

1. 'Their Right to Migrate, Our Right to Home: Discourses on Migration and Rights in Contemporary North-Eastern India' in David R. Syiemlieh, Anuradha Dutta & Sirnath Baruah (eds.), *Challenges of Development in North-East India* (New Delhi: Regency/Shillong: Indian Council of Social Science Research, North East Regional Centre, 2006), pp.33-59.
2. 'Democracy's Middle Ground? The King, the SPA and the Maoists in Nepal' in *CNF World Focus*, 317, May 2006, pp. 17-22.
3. 'Where Do the Autonomous Institutions Come From?' in Ranabir Samaddar (ed.), *The Politics of Autonomy: Indian Experiences* (New Delhi: Sage, 2005), pp. 71-92.
4. 'Politics of Ethnic Groups' in Satyabrata Chakraborty (ed.), *Political Sociology* (New Delhi: Macmillan, 2005), pp. 229-247.
5. 'Globalisation, Ethnicity and Conflict Resolution: Proposals for a Paradigm Shift' in *North East India Studies*, 1(1), June 2005, pp. 85-92.

6. 'Civil Society and the Struggle for Self-Determination in Contemporary North-Eastern India' in Monirul Hussain (ed.), *Coming out of Violence: Essays on Ethnicity, Conflict Resolution and Peace Process in North-East India* (New Delhi: Regency, 2005), pp. 23-38.
7. 'The Ethnic Dimension' in *Seminar*, Special Issue on 'Gateway to the East: A Symposium on Northeast India and the Look East policy', 550, June 2005, pp. 65-69.
8. 'Situating the Self: Selfhood and Ethnicity in Contemporary Northeastern India' in C. Joshua Thomas (ed.), *Polity and Economy: Agenda for Contemporary Northeastern India* (New Delhi: Regency/Shillong: Indian Council of Social Science Research, North East Regional Centre, 2005), pp. 54-71.
9. 'Democracy in India's Northeast: Traditional and Modern - A Poser' in *Journal of North-East India Council of Social Science Research*, 29 (1), April, 2005, pp. 19-25.
10. 'Communities of Modern Times: A Note on the Political Anthropology of Modern Assam' in Rajat K. Das & Debashis Basu (eds.), *North East India in Perspective: Biology, Social Formation and Contemporary Problems* (New Delhi: Akansha Pub. House, 2005).

(in Bengali)

1. 'Abhibasan Ebang Aamader Purasamaj', [Immigration and Our Civil Society] in *Samajbadi Bhabna*, 18 January-17 March 2006.
2. 'Adhikar, Swadhinata, Samya Ebang Ain', [Right, Freedom, Equality and Law] in Dipak Kumar Das (ed.), *Rajneetir Tattwakatha*, vol. I (Calcutta: Ekushe, 2005), pp. 192-217.
3. 'Visvayan, Abhibasan ebang Aamader Naitikata', [Globalization, Immigration and Our Morality] in *Chaturanga*, 64 (2-3), May 2005, pp. 130-137.
4. 'Nijei nijer ghar bhengechhe bangali' (in Bengali) [The Bengalis have broken their homes themselves] in *Ekak Matra*, 5 (4), January 2005, pp. 15-20.

Project Reports, Occasional Papers, Mimeographs etc.:

'Violating Rights or Righting Violations? Notes on a Critique of Democratic Governance in Contemporary India', Papers on democratic Governance 1, UGC-DRS (Phase I) Programme, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, 2005, pp. 5-24.

(c) Seminars presented, lectures etc.

1. *Served as the discussant of Panel I on 'The Birth of an Autonomous Subject' of First Critical Studies Conference on 'What is Autonomy?' organized by Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata on 29-30 July.
2. *Prepared the background paper on 'Minority conflicts in contemporary northeastern India' for discussion in the workshop on 'State Building Challenges in Asia' organized by East-West Center Washington at Marriott Georgetown University Conference Center, Washington DC from 31 November to 3 December.
3. *Served as a panelist in the forum on 'Northeastern India: Will State Policies lead to the Eventual Settlement of Conflicts?' organized by East West Center Washington and The Brookings Institution at the Stein Room, The Brookings Institution, Washington DC on 3 November.
4. Presented a paper on 'Ethnic Peace Accords in India's Northeast' to the Workshop on 'Rethinking Northeastern Conflicts' organized by Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi in Guwahati on 30 November-2 December.
5. 'Between South and Southeast Asia: Recasting India's Northeast in the Age of Globalization', paper presented to the national seminar on 'India's look East Policy: Issues and Dimensions' organized by the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University on 3 December.

6. Served as a panelist in the panel discussion on 'Hindu-Muslim Relations: Present Perspectives' organized by the Amanat Foundation Trust in Kolkata on 13 December.
7. *'Ethics of Care and Justice', lecture delivered at the Third Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration (1-15 December 2005, Kolkata) organized by Calcutta Research Group on 11 December.
8. 'Citizenship Movements in India: Two Case Studies', report presented to the Workshop on Field Trips organized by the UGC DRS Programme on 'Democratic Governance in Indian States' in the Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta on 20 December.
9. *'State Against Minorities: Challenges of State-building in Northeastern India', paper presented to the international seminar on 'Ethno-nationalism and Nation-Building in South Asia' organized by the School of Social Sciences, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (Punjab) on 19-21 January.
10. Served as a lead speaker in the panel on 'Region' in the workshop on 'Ethnic Conflicts in India' organized by the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, at the behest of Administrative Reforms Commission, Government of India in association with Kannada University, Hampi on 4-5 February.
11. *Presented a paper entitled 'Contesting Citizenship in the Age of Forced Migration: Two Case Studies from India' to the international conference on 'Revisiting 'Euro-Asia': Cultures, Connections and Conceptualizations' organized by the Centre for the Study of Mid-West and Central Asia, Panjab University and Jean Monnet Centre of European Excellence, University of Tampere, Finland and sponsored by the IGU World Commission of Political Geography in collaboration with Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group in Chandigarh on 13-16 February.
12. Presented a paper entitled 'Administering Conflicts in the Northeast: An Invitation to Policy Dialogue' to the workshop on 'Nation-Building and Armed Conflict: The North East Experience' organized by Delhi Policy Group at India International Centre in New Delhi on 13-14 March.
13. Presented a paper entitled 'Contesting the Nation: Borders, Ethnicities and International Relations in India's Northeast' to the national seminar on 'Culture and Identity in International Relations: Impact on Foreign Policy' organized the School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi on 16-17 March.
14. Presented a paper entitled 'Terrorism and the Democratic State' to the seminar on 'Terrorism: National and Global Perspectives' organized by Vidyasagar University, Midnapore on 22-23 March.

Paula Banerjee:

Acted as the editor of *Refugee Watch* for the consolidated issue Nos. 24-26. Also invited by University of Paris VII to accept the assignment of a Visiting Professor for a month. Worked as a Visiting Professor in the said University for October 2005 during the Puja Vacation. Coordinator for India for the Women's Programme on Post-Colonialism and Citizenship in Collaboration with Sonya Dayan-Hezbrun of University of Paris VII, France and Fatma Ossudik, University of Algiers, Algeria. Acted as the coordinator for the Third Annual CRG Winter Course on Forced Migration. Also acted as the coordinator of IDP Project on Voices of IDPs.

International Seminars and Workshops :

1. "Women in War and Peace in South Asia" - CEDREF, Paris, 2005
2. "New Paradigms of Conflicts in South Asia" - University of Paris VII, 2005
3. "Women, War and Displacement in South Asia" - GPPAC Meeting, United Nations, New York, 2005
4. "Constitution, Law and Constitutionalism" - Maison Des Sciences de l'Homme (MSH) Paris, 2005
5. "Women and Displacement" - College, de Philosophie, Paris, 2005

6. "Gender, Media and Human Rights" - WACC London, 2005

Publications

Book:

Internal Displacement I South Asia (Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2005) Co-editors Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Samir Das

Papers :

1. "Women's Autonomy: Beyond Rights and Representation" - in Ranabir Samaddar ed. Politics of Autonomy (Sage, New Delhi, 2005) pp.49-70
2. "Femme en Inde: Legislation et realities" - in Diogene 212, p.107-127
3. "Assamese Women: Victims or Actors?" - in Imdad Hussain ed., The Guwahati Declaration and the road to Peace in Assam (Akansha, New Delhi, 2005)
4. "Borders as Unsettled Markers" - Peace Studies Reader, Vol. I (Sage Publications, New Delhi 2004)
5. "Peacekeeping and Conflict Management: South Asia" - and "Peace Movements: South Asia" - Encyclopedia of Women in Islamic Cultures Vol.2 (Brill Publications, Netherlands, 2005)

Reports :

1. Report on the Status of Minorities in India (ICES, Colombo, 2005)
2. Debates on Women's Autonomy in India (CRG 2005)

Other Related Work :

Appointed as the Executive Editor of *Prachya*, a journal published by the Department of South Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta. Also appointed as one of the editorial board members of *Forced Migration Review* of Oxford University. Participated in at least ten National Seminars.

Innovations :

Helped to give a shape to the follow-up work of the Forced Migration. Currently two follow-up activities have been completed. Collaborated with NALSAR in Hyderabad to organize a public lecture of Ranabir Samaddar there. Also collaborated with the Department of Political Science, Panjab University to hold two panel discussions on *Nation, Migration and citizenship* in the context of Euro-Asia. Also helped the Director to organize collaboration with University of Tampere and Helsinki University, Finland. CRG is now recognized as a Centre for Excellence in Finland.

Also Helped to compile a collection of articles on Displaced Women from articles already published in *Refugee Watch*.

Helped in drafting a number of proposals and also in fund raising activities.

Incomplete Projects :

Working on the third volume of Peace Reader entitled 'Women in Peace Politics'.
The Bookings-Bern project on displacement is still one. Hope to complete these soon.

Ranabir Samaddar

As Director, Ranabir Samaddar directed all the programmes at CRG with the help of colleagues and the office staff.

Public Lectures/Seminars/Meetings :

Visited Sweden (University of Upsala) to give a talk on Autonomy and make academic contacts with institutions in Sweden. The visit was sponsored by SIDA.

As a key member of the South Asia initiative visited New York to participate in the UN Civil Society Conference on "*Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict*" between 18-22 July 2005.

Visited MSH, Paris in October 10-16, 2005. Gave lecture on forced migration and xenophobia in South Asia in a meeting in Cologne on November 10, 2005 and then gave a short course in Tampere University (12-19 October 2005) and then visited Bern University on 22-23 November. The short course was on Neighbours and Neighbourhood. Participated in UNDP organized conference in Pretoria as a key speaker of the conference on constitutionalism. Also offered a Visiting Professorship in Hyderabad Central University from 12-27 January 2006. During his visit he gave three public lectures - two in Hyderabad Central University and the third one in the Law University (NALSAR), Hyderabad. On 3rd February he gave an inaugural lecture in Mumbai SIES College Conference on South Asian Conflict and Peace. He attended a UN sponsored meeting in the school of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University and spoke on Autonomy as a mode of Conflict resolution. He attended a Working Group meeting in Bochum in Germany (18-25 March 2006) to discuss the progress of research on the theme of autonomy. Besides he had to visit Guwahati, Shillong, Kathmandu, Delhi, Bhubaneswar and other places in connection with CRG work.

Publications:

He resumed the editorship of Refugee Watch from January 2006.

His publications during this period are mentioned below:

(Co-authored) Partitions - Reshaping States and Minds (London: Frank Cass, 2005)

- (i) (Edited) The Politics of Autonomy (New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2005)
- (ii) (Co-edited), Indian Autonomies - Keywords and Key Texts (Kolkata: Sampark Pub., 2005)

- (i) "Identity Assertions as Contentious Acts" in Satish Saberwal and Mushirul Hasan (eds.), Assertive Religious Identities - India and Europe (Delhi: Manohar, 2006)

- (ii) “The Politics of Autonomy” in R. Samaddar (ed.), The Politics of Autonomy - The Indian Experiences (Delhi: Sage, 2004)
- (iii) “Formes de guerre et formes de justice” French translation of the lecture titled “Forms of War and Forms of Justice” and published in Guerre et Reconciliation (Paris: UNESCO, 2005), Proceedings of a round table on Philosophy Day, UNESCO, November 2003, Paris, 2005
- (iv) “Terror, Law, and the Colonial State”, text of a public lecture under the same title (Guwahati: Omeo Kr. Das Institute for Social Change, 2004); also translated and published in French as “Loi et Terreur: Le Constitutionnalisme Colonial”, Diogene, 212, Octobre-Decembre 2005; also published in Imtiaz Ahmed (ed.), Terrorism in South Asia - Beyond Statist Discourses (Delhi: Manohar, 2006)

5.2. Shreyashi Chaudhuri

Shreyashi Chaudhuri was selected and appointed to the post of Programme Associate to work for the Winter Course on Forced Migration and is handling all relevant work including research and administrative connected with this project. During this period she had also completed her M.Phil. from Calcutta University on the topic : “**Trafficking Situation in India Nepal and Bangladesh**”. She also presented seminars in Calcutta University and CRG.

5.3. Office Members :

Ayan Mukherjee, Administrative and Computer Assistant resigned from his post for a better offer from other organization. He left the MCRG in April 2006. Samaresh Guchhait joined the MCRG as Administrative and Accounts Assistant in May 2006. The services of Ratan Chakrabarty, M. Chatterji, Ashok Kumar Giri were reconfirmed with a revision of their salary. The part-time service of R. K. Mahato as Typist was also reconfirmed with an increase in honorarium.

6. ASSETS:

6.1. An Asset Register has been prepared of assets of the CRG including Library books. The Register is maintaining and updated regularly and it is open for inspection.

6.2 Library Holdings : The CRG library is now developing as a referral library for social science research which is equipped with books , documents, manuscripts , journals and CDs. Needless to mention, the library has been a source of support to various research activities of this centre, also various research scholars, students, faculty members of colleges, other research institutes, universities and NGOs. It contains around 676 books relating to mainly to gender, migration, displacement, autonomy, law, justice and literature. Among 676 books, 80 books are gifted by institutions and individuals.

CD section contains films on wide ranging topics like human trafficking, gender, ethnic conflict and violence, migration and about different folk traditions of the country. A very interesting CD is on exclusively Naga songs.

It has a rich documentation section where we keep the journals and magazines of various institutions. In the documentation section we have an exclusive collection of *monthly compilation of newspaper clipping on Northeast India*. We have various reports on socio economic conditions of displaced people of the Kashmir Valley.

7. **Network, partners, and collaboration**

The CRG's partners institutions with whom the CRG has relation in connection with its research and also the organizations providing grants for various projects will be found in the Website. It was also reported in the Annual Report of 2003-04. Besides new institutions also have been drawn in CRG's network through its public lecture programme and collaborative research work and dialogue programme. The prominent among the new institutions are Tampere University, Finland, Panos Centre, Guwahati, National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, OKD Institute, Guwahati and NALSAR, Hyderabad and International College of Philosophy, Paris.

8. **Membership:** The CRG's current roll of Members is as follows :-

Pradip Kumar Bose
Samir Kumar Das
Jayanta Dasgupta
Paula Banerjee
Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
Subir Bhowmik
Krishna Bhattacharya
Sarbani Sen
Krishna Banerjee
Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
Anita Sengupta
Mushirul Hasan
Prasanta Ray
Surajit Mukhopadhyay
Sanjay Chaturvedi
Asha Hans
Ranabir Samaddar (invitee)

The AGM has to decide if the current roll is to be followed and if CRG wishes to invite new members.

9. **Tasks for 2006-2007**

- (a) To increase its research strength;
- (b) To develop more focused outcome form its research work;
- (c) To broaden its grant base;
- (d) To gain academic recognition from Governments, and attain greater visibility;
- (e) To draw up a plan in order to acquire its own premises