

MAHARINBAN CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP
Annual Report - (2014-2015)

The report is divided into four sections:

- (a) Projects
- (b) Public lectures, publications, and library
- (c) Office: staff, staff pattern, service conditions, etc.
- (d) Society related issues: membership, new tasks, etc.

A. Projects

1. *First Research Workshop on Forced Migration Studies*: CRG in collaboration with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Indian Council of Social Science Research and Taft Foundation, organised the first research workshop on forced migration studies in Kolkata between 16 and 21 March, 2015. The workshop entitled 'Interrogating Forced Migration' covered four major topics: Concepts and Methods in Forced Migration Studies; Violence in the Borderlands and Forced Migration: Central and West Asia; Violence in the Borderlands and Forced Migration: West Bengal-Bangladesh Border; and Birth of a Stateless Community: Rohingya Refugees in India. The 6 days research workshop had 26 participants from India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and United Kingdom. The participants were from academic background and some had experience in human rights work. The faculty members were also from many countries with varied backgrounds and expertise. Each module had a keynote lecture and a special lecture delivered by leading experts in the field such as Md. Jalal Abbasi Shavazi, Ozlen Celebi, Sreeradha Datta, Ranabir Samaddar, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Prasanta Ray and so on. There were also resource persons who conducted lectures and demonstrations on films and other audio visual material. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Professor S. Parasuraman, Director TISS, and the Valedictory Panel deliberated on the theme 'Resource Crisis and Migration'. The workshop was envisioned as an interactive space for academics and practitioners, policy makers and activists, students and young professionals. This was the first research workshop, built on the lessons of the bridge programme last year, which helped the transition from the Orientation Programme on Forced Migration to an annual programme of research workshop on forced migration studies. Atig Ghosh with the help of Sucharita Sengupta, and Madhura Chakrabarti coordinated the programme. Members can access the CRG website to get the details of the report (http://www.mcrg.ac.in/WC_2015/Final_Report_on_Interrogating_Forced_Migration.pdf). It is important to note that the orientation programme on forced migration has many followers and admirers throughout the world. Inquiries on the programme are still made at CRG. Members should think as to how to institutionalize the research workshop in a similar way.

2. *Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India Initiative*, funded by the IUCN and in collaboration with Bangladesh partners, aimed at preparing a reader on the subject of Ecosystem of life in the Ganga – Brahmaputra- Meghna basin and organising a workshop for journalists of India and Bangladesh to introduce the reader. In this project we tried to understand the relations between ecology, politics, resources, and survival in deltaic Bengali and India's Northeast mainly in the context of rivers in the

region. The need for this kind of study stemmed from the prevailing situation where sharing of water of a trans-boundary river has become a persistent issue of conflict. Also, the research drew attention to a much neglected but crucial issue—the issue of the growing destruction of the river systems. The purpose of preparing a Media Reader was to help the media persons understand the issues at stake in a broader context so that the people at large could take part in discussions on revival, ecology, and resources equipped with more information. In today’s world of “breaking news” where primacy is given to chaos over credibility, a balanced understanding of the situation or realities was felt to be of utmost important. An emphasis on the scientific findings like reports and test analysis had to be complimented with voices of the affected people, existing ground realities, and other reports that at times contradicted the mainstream analyses and reports. The aim was thus to help journalists so that they could access a whole lot of information, analysis and experts’ opinions on a subject that was not readily available to them. The work was done for nearly seven months. Several workshops were held. Intense field visits were made several districts in West Bengal and North east. Thirteen researchers worked in it. The project ended in October 2014. CRG has drawn up plans to develop two books, one in Bengali and another one in English, based on the findings of this project. The one in English is to be edited by V. Ramaswamy, Atig Ghosh and Suhit Sen and another one in Bengali is to be edited by Rajat Roy, Milan Dutta, Sutirtha Bedajna and Madhurilata Basu. Hopefully these will be published in 2016. There was a plan to bring out some of the research findings in form of CRG research papers. This plan failed. We also failed in widely circulating our report. The project however resulted in several archival additions to CRG’s documentation centre. The list is available on CRG website. An executive summary of the findings is also there (http://mcrgr.ac.in/IUCN/IUCN_concept.asp). Plan should be made to publicise the findings in many ways as possible. Rajat Ray and Madhurilata Basu were in charge of the programme.

3. *Making Women Count for Peace* addressed the role of women in local governance and politics particularly in the context of peace and security processes. The research focused mainly on Northeast Indian experiences and a comparative look at Nepal. This was a collaborative effort of PRIO and six partner institutions in Nepal in India and Nepal: Malaviya Centre for Peace Research (MCPR) at Banaras Hindu University, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG), WISCOMP in New Delhi, North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC) in Assam, Nambol L. Sanoi College in Manipur, and National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South in Nepal. The goal was to investigate what women’s empowerment might mean in different contexts, i.e. in protracted conflict without third party mediation in Northeast India, and a post-conflict setting with heavy multilateral and international involvement in Nepal. By contextualising and tracing manifestations of gendered political power in conflict as well as post-conflict settings the project aimed at contributing new knowledge on processes of ‘disempowerment’ and ‘empowerment’ in conflict and peace building. A three day Conference under this project was organized in Kolkata by CRG and PRIO from 6-8 November 2014. CRG organised a special issue of the EPW on this theme. Two research papers were prepared under this project by Paula Banerjee and Ranabir Samaddar in collaboration with Anjuman Ara Begum. These research papers came out in a special number of EPW (October 2014, special number on women’s studies) - dedicated to the theme of the project. The special issue was presented to the conference. It was guest edited by Paula Banerjee. The full report of the conference has been published. The report is there on CRG website (http://mcrgr.ac.in/M_Women/A_Report_Making_Women_Count.pdf). The project ended in May 2015.

Paula Banerjee and Ranabir Samaddar piloted CRG's work. Debarati Bagchi helped in the work of the conference.

4. *Violence and Humanitarian Aspects of Lives on the West Bengal-Bangladesh Border* was a research project that had three components: (a) Violence in the borderlands and related issues; (b) Long and undue detention of immigrants from Bangladesh in West Bengal jails and sub-jails; and (c) Distress of inhabitants of border enclaves. Sucharita Sengupta, Atig Ghosh, and Paula Banerjee were the researchers. The study was facilitated by a small grant from the ICRC. In association with the ICRC, CRG also organized a one day workshop on 17 December 2014 in Swabhumi, Kolkata, to take note of the legal analysis and advice, advocacy, capacity building, media awareness and network building on the relevant issues. The workshop mainly centered on three research papers on the theme mentioned above. Dr. Ms. Mary Wentz, Head of Regional Delegation, ICRC and Ms. Indrani Sinha, Executive Director, Sanlaap, joined the workshop. The workshop ended with a round table discussion on "Experiences of Border Violence: Bengal and Beyond" by eminent human rights activists. The draft studies have been published in form a CRG research paper (PP 68), and CRG is planning to publish a co-authored compact volume on the basis of these studies. Paula Banerjee and Sucharita Sengupta coordinated the research. The project ended in March 2015. The link to the report is - http://mcrq.ac.in/Indo_Bangladesh_Border/Report_on_Indo_Bangladesh_Border.pdf

5. The project, *Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor – Issues of Violence and Social Justice* is based on three big cities (Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai) and one small town (Siliguri) in India and focuses on a comparative approach towards the issues of city planning, migration practices, and social justice for the urban poor. Attention is given primarily to the formation of the category of migrant worker and the various identities and locations of their existence within the city space. One study in particular explores the patterns of migration from the flood-prone areas of Bihar to big metropolises. The project has six researchers from Kolkata (Samir Kumar Das; Iman Kumar Mitra; Debarati Bagchi; Sabir Ahmad; Kaustubh Mani Sengupta; and Madhurilata Basu), four from Delhi (Amit Prakash; Ishita Dey; Madhuresh Kumar; and Mithilesh Kumar), and five from Mumbai (Manish K. Jha; Pushpendra Kumar Singh; Ritambhara Hebbar; Mahuya Bandyopadhyay; Mouleshri Vyas; and Simpreet Singh) with Ranabir Samaddar as the coordinator.

Three meetings with the researchers from each of the cities have been held in the last one year. The details of their research were discussed in these meetings. The first research workshop for the project took place in Kolkata on August 1 and 2, 2014. The researchers in the project presented their abstracts and plans of research during the workshop. The presentations have been followed by discussions by eminent scholars and activists from different parts of the country. A public lecture by Simpreet Singh has also been held under the project on the theme 'Politics of the Civil Society and Civility of the Political Society' on July 31, 2014, in University of Calcutta.

The second and final research workshop for this project will be held in Kolkata on August 21 and 22, 2015. This time the researchers will present their works done in the last one year. Once again we are inviting eminent scholars and activists to discuss and review the progress of the project. We are also planning to organize two sessions of dialogue with academics and activists in Hyderabad and Patna on the theme of this project. There is also a plan to bring out a special number of EPW on the basis of our

research papers. Iman Mitra is handling the desk work of the project. The Ford Foundation is supporting the programme. Details including the reports on the progress of the work are posted on: http://mcrq.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Rural_Migrants_concept.asp

6. *Birth of a Stateless Community: Rohingyas in India*: In this project four colleagues have been working on the issue of forced migration with particular focus on the Rohingya community in India. Madhura Chakraborty, and Suchismita Majumder have been based in the Kolkata office of the Calcutta Research Group and have been working in West Bengal. Sahana Basavapatna is based in Delhi and is working on Rohingyas in the northern region particularly Delhi, Jammu, Haryana and Rajasthan. She has had prior experience of having worked with Rohingyas in Jammu. Priyanca Mathur Velath is based in Bangalore and is working on the Rohingyas in Hyderabad. She has been assisted by her student Kriti Chopra. All four have prepared draft papers on their research areas to be presented on 19 March at the 'Interrogating Forced Migration': A Research Workshop. In West Bengal Suchismita has worked on collecting testimonies of Rohingyas imprisoned in correctional homes in Balurghat, Behrampore and Jalpaiguri. In Kolkata Madhura Chakraborty has interviewed seven Rohingya children and their caregivers at the Sanlaap Shelter Home in Narendrapur. Madhura Chakraborty and Suchismita Majumder have both done background research and interviewed experts in the field as well as members of charitable organisations working with the Rohingyas. Unfortunately Suchismita subsequently left the project. However Sucharita Sengupta joined the research team later. Suchismita also completed her assignment. In the next phase of the research Madhura Chakraborty and Sucharita Sengupta visited Bangladesh in July 2015. The purpose was to learn more on the Rohingya refugees there. ON 13-14 August there will be the final researchers' workshop in Darjeeling. A comprehensive report on the basis of five studies will be prepared by September and will be released in October 2015. CRG is doing this work with a grant from the Taft Foundation. The goal is to enrich forced migration studies with this research on the emerging issue of statelessness. The research should produce also a series of articles. The work is being jointly handled by Sucharita Sengupta and Madhura Chakraborty.

7. *The Fifth Critical Studies Conference* was organized in association with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, (RLS), from August 21 to 23, 2014, in Kolkata. The theme of the conference was "Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism." The programme of critical studies conference (usually held biennially) is designed to promote critical thinking and investigations into significant themes of our time, particularly in countries like India, and develop a transnational community of critical thinkers and activists. The idea has always been to promote critical thinking and exchange of arguments, rationales and experiences. This year, too, the conference seems to have served its rationale faithfully and attained its goals. In the inaugural session held on August 21, Paranjay Guha Thakurta (independent journalist and educator), Samita Sen, (Vice-Chancellor, Diamond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal) and Parimal Ghosh (Professor, Department of South & South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta) elaborated on the relevance of the theme in today's context. The session was chaired by Ranabir Samaddar (Director, Calcutta Research Group) who also expressed his views on the subject. In the following two days, participants from different countries including Australia, Italy, Sri Lanka and the United States of America presented their papers on five sub-themes including "Finance Capital, Extraction, Resource Crisis", "Race, Caste, Gender and Indigenous Peoples as Multiple Axes of Post-Colonial Capitalism",

“Cities and Migrants”, “Law, Ethics, Infrastructure” and “Bio capital”. Two books on the theme (*Beyond Kolkata: Rajarhat and the Dystopia of Urban Imagination* by Suhit K. Sen, Ranabir Samaddar and Ishita Dey and *Capital, Interrupted: Agrarian Development and the Politics of Work in India* by Vinay K. Gidwani) were critically discussed by Annapurna Shaw (Professor, Public Policy and Management, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta), Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay (Assistant Professor, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta) and Samir Kumar Das (Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Calcutta) in a separate session. Some of the papers presented in the conference have been published under the series “Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism” in *Policies and Practices* (nos. 64, 65, 66, and 67). Besides, there is a comprehensive report on the conference - <http://mcrg.ac.in/5thCSC/5thCSC.htm> . Plus, there is a plan to bring out a volume on the theme to be edited by Samita Sen, Iman Mitra, and Ranabir Samaddar. Atig Ghosh coordinated the desk of the conference.

8. *Digitizing the CRG Resource Centre* was the last project undertaken in the year under consideration. CRG has been developing its Resource Centre since April 2010 and from April 2014 it started digitizing the primary material/documents collected under various research programmes run by the Institute. The idea is to procure further material and transform them into a rich archive which would be open to only registered users at CRG. Aiming this, CRG had proposed a detailed work plan to be ensued and completed within a year, from April 2014-2015. The main categories under which CRG wanted to classify its digital archive are – (a) Displacement, conflict, and migration (b) Environment, resource crisis and trans-border resource sharing, and (c) Labour. Under this, cataloguing and digitization of work done in the last 11 months are given below: Documents on Dalits and Partition in West Bengal; Documents on Forced Migration; Documents on Statelessness; Documents on Human Rights; Documents on Food Rights; Documents on Child Rights; Documents on Gender; Documents on Transit Labour in Rajarhat; Documents on Bihar; Documents on Autonomy; Digitization and Cataloguing of News of North-East India and cover pages of major journals that CRG has like *Durbar Bhabna*, *Index of International Migration Review* and *Mizimma*; Digitization and Cataloguing of Ecosystems for Life : A Bangladesh-India Initiative (E4L) [A project under the guidance of IUCN]; Digitization and cataloguing of the documents on Railway Strike; Listing and archiving reading material like module notes, reading lists etc circulated in the last eleven years of Winter/Annual Course on Forced Migration. Sucharita Sengupta and Rajat kanti Sur were involved in the project. The number of pages digitised is 69,449. The digitization work was undertaken with the help of ICSSR (Eastern Region).

B. Public lectures , publications, and library

9. *Public Lectures:*

- Manabi Majumdar, *Professor*, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, “Meyeder Shikkha: Byaktir Pachanda Banaam Samajer Angikar”, 26 February, 2015. (Second Krishna Memorial Lecture).
- Prafulla Chakraborty, *Trade Union Activist*, “Lessons on Autonomous Labour Movement in West Bengal”, 20 February 2015 (Fourth Jayanta Dasgupta Memorial Lecture).

- Debasis Poddar, *Assistant Professor of Law*, National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, Jharkhand, "One Hundred years of War and peace Since World War I: A Juridical Trajectory", 16 January 2015.
- Immanuel Ness, *Professor of Political Science, Brooklyn College, The City University of New York*, "Autonomy of the Trade Union Movements", 25 August 2014
- Simpreet Singh, *Housing Rights Activist based in Mumbai*, "Politics of the Civil Society and Civility of the Political Society", 31 July 2014
- Peter Grbac, *McGill University, Faculty of Law*, "Accessing Refugee: India and its 1971 Refugee "Problem" ", 25 July 2014
- Sujata Dutta Hazarika, *Deputy Director, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Guwahati*, "Global Initiative for Sustainable Development and Planning: Engaging a Discourse in Natural Resource Management and Conflict Resolution in North East India", 18 July 2014
- Ranabir Samaddar, *Director, Calcutta Research Group*, "Policing a Riot-torn City: Kolkata 16-18 August 1946", 6 June 2014
- Itty Abraham, *Associate Professor, National University of Singapore*, "Technology, Body, and Law: The Antinomies of Rights and Governmentality", 25 April 2014 (*Second Sage-CRG Lecture*)
- Annemiek Prins, *University of Amsterdam*, "The Plight of Dwelling : East-Bengali Migrants and the Struggle for Land in Kolkata", 11 April 2014

10. Publications

(Policies and Practices)

- 68: West Bengal Bangladesh Border: Humanitarian Issues (2015)
- 67: Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism-IV: Mobile Labour and the New Urban (2014)
- 66: Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism-III: The Arab Question in Post-Colonial France (2014)
- 65: Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism-II: War, Debt, and Reconstruction of Economy(2014)
- 64: Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism-I: An Overview (2014)
- 63: Body/Law/Technology: The Political Implications of Society as Apparatus. (2014)

Plus, a special issue of the *Economic and Political Weekly* on the theme of women, conflict and peace was published.

(Reports)

- Interrogating Forced Migration: A Research Workshop (March 2015)
- Making Women Count for Peace: Gender, Empowerment, and Conflict in South Asia (January 2015)
- Research on the Humanitarian Aspects along the Indo-Bangladesh Border (January 2015)
- Fifth Critical Studies Conference on Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism (October 2014)

(Books)

- *Government of Peace: Security, Governance, and the Problematic of Peace*, ed. Ranabir Samaddar (Ashgate, 2015)
- *Forced Migration and Media Mirrors*, ed. Sibaji Pratim Basu (Frontpage, 2014)

Hopefully within 2015 the CRG volume of statelessness in India, edited by Paula Banerjee, Anasua Basy Ray Chaudhury, and Atig Ghosh will be published by Orient Blackswan (publication project reported in previous year AGM). Besides, CRG has five more projects on the publication agenda on the basis of (a) revised papers of the social media and human rights workshop held in December 2013, to be edited by Atig Ghosh; (b) research done under the IUCN assisted project on ecosystem for life, to be edited by Atig Ghosh, V. Ramaswamy, and Suhit Sen; (c) research papers on the theme of post-colonial accumulation of capital, to be edited by Samita Sen, Iman Mitra, and Ranabir Samaddar; (d) research on violence along the West Bengal Bangladesh border, to be co-authored by Sucharita Sengupta, Paula Banerjee, and Atig Ghosh, and (e) research methods in forced migration studies to be edited by Paula Banerjee and Ranabir Samaddar

(Journal)

One issue of *Refugee Watch* (43-44), June-December 2014 came out in the year under review. Discussions are still underway between the editor, Paula Banerjee, and the Sage Publications.

11. *Library and Website*: The Library and resource centre of the Calcutta Research Group (CRG) include books, documents, journals, manuscripts, research papers, working papers, thesis, census reports, audio, video and data CDs. The Library contains 2791 books and 224 CDs including audio, video and data CDs relating to the law, gender studies, forced migration, food, environment, urbanization, justice, autonomy, displacement, literary works, minority rights, media, advocacy material, child right, and human rights. The CRG has an exclusive collection of newspaper clippings on northeast India and archival materials on forced migration. CRG is a regular subscriber of e- journals like JSTOR, Project Muse and Economic and Political Weekly (EPW). Now part of the CRG library is digital. Various research scholars, students, faculty members of colleges, universities, research institutes and NGOs can access get the online catalogue and number of various e-source materials which are collected from different sources and gifted by our researchers. The Library has some notable CDs. Those are on Educational Material on Sustaining Rights, Burma Human Rights Yearbook 2006, 2008, World Investment Report 2005, World Refugee Survey 2003, Brookings materials on IDP, UN Human Rights System 1999, 2000, 2002, Nepal Human Rights Year Book 2004, Ensuring Food Secure Future, Right to Land, and Report on Human Trafficking etc.

12. The website of the Calcutta Research Group (www.mcrg.ac.in) is a significant and informative site. It has a collection of digitised resources and publications which helped researcher, teachers, media peoples, scholars, and human right activators. It is designed for presenting papers, abstracts, relevant documents, online registrations, notifications, and links while organizing conferences, dialogues, workshops and seminar of the different upcoming programme and as well as past programme. It is significant for online distance education system. It has e-source centre with basic and advance search

engine by which register researcher, teachers, media peoples, scholars, and human right activators can get the relevant documents, books, links etc. It has a special blog section which is called “Refugee Watch Online”. It is regularly updated with information provided by Samata Biswas, Madhura Chakraborty, and Sucharita Sengupta. The editorial board of Refugee Watch Online is coordinated by Samata Biswas. Samaresh Guchhait looks after the design, development, and regular update of the website with the help of the research & programme associates. Samaresh Guchhait works also as system administrator to maintain the windows 2003 server, mailing system, and provides technical support. Rajat Kanti Sur and Sucharita Sengupta managing the library and archival resource centre. In the period under review CRG acquired new software for the development of the library and resource centre package.

13. Members will be pleased to know that the documentation centre has a rich and valuable collection of documents, a large part of which has been digitized. Government reports, private organizations’ reports, court cases, and some other important reports and source material collected from Housing and Industrial Development Corporation (WBHIDCO) on New Town-Rajarhat have already been digitized. The resource on the 1974 Railway Strike contains news clippings from various national and regional newspapers from Calcutta, Allahabad and New Delhi; documents from different labour organisations; parliamentary and assembly debates and private papers and a huge number of interviews of the leaders and workers participated on the strike. All these have been digitized. Besides, the documentation centre has a valuable collection of news clippings on the Hill movement in Darjeeling during 2006-07. These clippings too have been digitized. Likewise there is a collection of reports, notices, letters, and news clippings on Kosi river floods of 2011 in Bihar. Apart from that, CRG has a collection of some of the past issues of important journals, such back issues of *Forced Migration Review* (1998-2015), which have been digitized and kept in the documentation centre. Issues of *International Migrations Review* (1984-2008) and some issues of *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (2006-2009) are also in the documentation centre. For the full list members may kindly consult the library webpage.

14. Current number of registered users of the library stands at 364. Members are requested to become registered users of the library. There is a token registration fee. There is a fee for accessing the archive.

C. Office: staff, staff pattern, service conditions, and other related issues

15. *Research and programme Staff:* Among the project and programme staff Debarati Bagchi and Suchismita Majumdar left CRG – Debarati Bagchi in November 2014 and Suchismita Majumdar in February 2015. However both remained associated with the research work in which they were involved. Madhurilata Basu’s tenure came to an end in November 2014. She too is involved in a research project. Sucharita Sengupta earlier working on a part-time basis was given an appointment on a regular basis to the post of Research Assistant for a period of one year on the recommendation of an Expert Committee. Madhura Chakraborty joined the CRG as a Research Assistant in December 2014. Iman Mitra, Research and Programme Associate, and Rajat Kanti Sur, Part-time Research Assistant, are continuing their work. Mithilesh Kumar, who had left for Western Sydney University for Ph.D studies rejoined as research associate in April 2015. Besides, CRG had 4 bright interns in the year under consideration, (Peter Grbac, V. S. Aswin, Maria Philip, and Chiara Arnavas). They gave seminars and their research assignments have been published or under publication process.

26. *Administrative and Finance Staff:* As in previous years, the services of Ratan Chakraborty, M. Chatterji, Asok Kumar Giri, and Samaresh Guchhait were retained. The part-time service of R. K. Mahato as typist was also retained.

27. Members will be happy to know that as per the recommendation of the Governing Body, the administrative and research staff members of CRG were given an additional 10% raise in their salary with effect from April 2015. This was done towards development of the skill of the CRG office and research staff and on the basis of a plan for utilising half of the annual interest accruing from the CRG corpus fund. Besides this, one time contribution of Rs.5000/- was granted towards their social security. In addition they received as usual office contribution to their respective PPF accounts and reimbursement of their medical insurance expenses. In this year under report Samaresh Guchhait and Iman Mitra were awarded Ph. Degrees in their respective fields. To encourage this kind of achievement of its staff CRG granted an additional increment to these two staff members.

28. *Assets:* In this year under report three external hard disks for the office and resource centre, two speakers, one hard disk 500 GB, one server computer, library software, etc., were purchased to strengthen and upgrade its database, work stations, and network. Details are available in the Asset Register. The Asset Register is maintained on regular basis and the updated register is open for inspection.

29. In order to implement the decision to have a new Director in 2015-16 in a way so that smooth continuity of work and leadership is maintained, the Director took appropriate steps in accordance with the advice of the Governing Body. The process for appointing the New Director was also finalised by the Governing Body. The new Director will assume office on 1 September 2015. The present Director has assured the Governing Body that he would help the new Director in every possible way to ensure smooth transition, and efficient functioning of the CRG.

D. Society related issues: membership, new tasks, etc.

30. Last year Simpreet Singh, Atig Ghosh, Uttam Kumar Roy, Sanam Roohi, Jishnu Dasgupta, Sutirtha Bedajna, Sanjay Barbora, Pushpendra Kumar, and Bishnu Mohapatra were invited to be members of the Society. All of them accepted the invitations. CRG welcomes them to the Society.

31. To strengthen CRG's work, in the last AGM two programmes were suggested by the members:

(a) A course on political economy: Accordingly CRG has planned to hold a one week certificate course (23-29 November 2015) on political economy for young research scholars and teachers on the theme of "Globalisation, Crisis, and Social Policy". Byasdeb Dasgupta is in charge of the programme. Iman Mitra is the joint coordinator.

(b) Sibaji pratim Basu had suggested a research and workshop programme on the theme of "Popular Politics and Popular Movements in West Bengal, 1951-2011". CRG sought collaboration from several sources, but has not succeeded so far. Attempts are still on to secure collaboration. The proposal has been improved upon also.

32. No member till date has applied for honorary fellowship based on the resolution passed in last AGM.

33. On the basis of donations from staff members and some sympathisers the society donated a sum of RS 35,000/ to Nepal Institute of Peace towards work for the earthquake victims in Nepal.

34. On the basis of the discussions, the Governing Body appeals the honourable members to take note of two issues: (a) In case of self-introduction on the occasion of any publication, meeting, etc., the CRG members are requested to inform others of their CRG identity too besides their professional identity; presently some members do it, some do not;(b) When taking up any assignment involving and affecting CRG a member should be aware of and avoid any possible conflict of interest, and should consult the Secretary accordingly.

35. CRG has entered the lean period of scarce funding. This was predicted two years back. We cannot say how long it will continue. The Governing Body, the finance sub-committee, and senior members are aware of the situation. The finance sub-committee is aware of the situation. CRG will rationalise all its expenses. It is taking measures to focus on domestic funding sources, publicise its work more, interact with policy community to a greater manner, and approach other funding agencies. Members are requested to come forward to help fundraising in different ways.

36. In view of the austerity measures required to be adopted, members are requested to volunteer for some of the work (for instance, help publications, preparing e-briefs, running e-bulletins, circulating information, etc.) currently being done by CRG office staff under extreme strain. Only with greater participation of CRG society members the institution can grow amidst the difficulties.

37. In the last AGM (2014) it was resolved that the Governing Body would be reconstituted next year (2015) and efforts will be made to give berths to new, energetic, and in particular younger members with some experience. In view of that the Governing Body will suggest under the appropriate agenda item as to how this can be done.

34. The present roll of members stands as follows:

1. Sabir Ahamed
2. Krishna Bandyopadhyaya
3. Paula Banerjee
4. Nirmalya Banerjee
5. Sibaji Pratim Basu
6. Sahna Basavapatna
7. Anjuman Ara Begum
8. Subir Bhaumik
9. Bharat Bhushan
10. Pradip Kumar Bose
11. Sudeep Basu
12. Samata Biswas

13. Sanjay Barbora
14. Suthirtha Bedajna
15. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
16. Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
17. Sanjay Chaturvedi
18. Nasreen Chowdhory
19. Khesheli Chishi
20. Samir Kumar Das
21. Soumitra Dastidar
22. Sumona DasGupta
23. Byasdeb Dasgupta
24. Jishnu DasGupta
25. Ishita Dey
26. Ruchira Goswami
27. Pallav Kumar Goswami
28. Atig Ghosh,
29. Asha Hans
30. Manish K. Jha
31. Kalpana Kannabiran
32. Rajesh Kharat
33. Madhuresh Kumar
34. Pushpendra Kumar
35. Bishnu Mohaparta
36. Manabi Majumdar
37. Shyamalendu Majumdar
38. Ritu Menon
39. K. M. Parivelan
40. Amit Prakash
41. Rajat Roy
42. Prasanta Ray
43. Sanam Roohi
44. Uttam Kumar Ray
45. Kumar Rana
46. Ranabir Samaddar (invited)
47. V Ramaswamy
48. Mandira Sen
49. Arup Kumar Sen
50. Simpreet Singh
51. Samita Sen
52. Anita Sengupta
53. Mouleshri Vyas