

**MAHANIRBAN CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18**

The Annual General Report of 2016-17 gave the members an idea of the activities/events undertaken by MCRG and highlighted the fact that there were various issues that needed to be addressed, particularly the problem of funding.

The present report (2017-18) is divided into the following sections:

1. Research programmes
2. Events
3. Lectures and meetings
4. Publications
5. Distinguished Chair Report
6. Library, website and assets
7. Academic and administrative staff
8. Concerns and Call for Collaborations
9. Roll of CRG members

**SECTION ONE
RESEARCH PROGRAMMES (Completed)**

1.1 Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor – Issues of Violence and Social Justice

This research programme, supported by the Ford Foundation, was begun in 2014. After completion of the first two years the funding for the project was interrupted though research in CRG continued. Funding restarted in 2017 and the project was completed in December 2017. The project was guided by Ranabir Samaddar with the help of Ritam Sengupta as the Research and Programme Associate. The research was based on three big cities (Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai) and one small town (Siliguri) in India. It focused on a comparative approach towards the issues of city planning, migration practices, and social justice for the urban poor. Attention was given primarily to the formation of the category of migrant workers and the various identities and locations of their existence within the city space. As part of the programme, a public lecture, the Sixth Critical Studies Conference and a workshop was organized in 2017. Details of the programme can be found at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Rural_Migrants_Concept.asp

Third Public Lecture: The Third Public Lecture under the project was held on August 23, 2017 at Swabhumi. It was delivered by Subir Sinha, SOAS, London. The title of his lecture was 'Separation, Mobility and the Ordinary City: On Migrants' Subjection and Subjectivity'.

Sixth Critical Studies Conference: This was organized on the theme *Refugees, Migrants, Violence and the Transformation of Cities* from 23-25 August 2017 at Swabhumi, Kolkata. Report of the Sixth Critical Studies Conference is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/6thCSC/Final_Report_6th%20Critical_Studies_Conference.pdf

A Workshop to reflect upon the state of research on emerging non-metropolitan urbanity and urban activism in India and beyond was organized as the final workshop of the project, on the theme *Towns and Migrants: Explorations of an Urban Future* between 26- 27 December 2017 at Swabhumi, Kolkata. The report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Ford_Final_Report.pdf

Reports

- a. Report of the Final Year of the Research & Dialogue Programme on *Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor – Issues of Violence and Social Justice* is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Ford_Final_Report.pdf

- b. Report of the Sixth Critical Studies Conference is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/6thCSC/Final_Report_6th%20Critical_Studies_Conference.pdf
- c. Hindi translation of the Report on *Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor* is in Press.
- d. Bengali translation of the Report on *Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor* is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Rural_Migrant_Bengali.pdf

The volume based on the research has been published as Ranabir Samaddar (ed.) *Migrants and the Neoliberal City*, Orient Blackswan, 2017.

1.2 Experiences, Aspirations and Struggles: A Study of the New Middle Class in Two Indian Cities

CRG was approached by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, to take part in the ICSSR funded project on *Experiences, Aspirations and Struggles: A Study of the New Middle Class in Four Indian Cities*. It was later decided by the Advisory Committee of the project to focus on two Indian cities—Mumbai and Kolkata. The aim of this study was to understand lived experiences of the middle class and describe these experiences through examination of identity, exclusion and the processes associated with consumerism and its purported shift to a new lifestyle. TISS conducted research in Mumbai while the segment on Kolkata was done by CRG. CRG appointed Somdatta Chakraborty as Research and Programme Associate for the project, who in addition to looking into primary and secondary literature, conducted a series of interviews to add depth to the study. She completed and submitted the project as per TISS requirements.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES (ONGOING)

1.3 Data Centres in India

This is a collaborative project with Western Sydney University. The work continues in the wake of the attention devoted by CRG and University of Western Sydney to the problematic of logistics as a governing mode in contemporary capitalism. The project sought to study data centres and some of the select dimensions of data management in India in five ways: (a) Inquiry into the evolution of public data management in India in terms of regulatory mechanisms and standards (b) Mapping Belapur in Navi Mumbai that houses a cluster of data centres of various financial institutions (c) Examination of a state government data centre in West Bengal that will tell us of the informational fields of local trade, health, taxation, security, and most importantly, land, land revenue, and land utilization records (d) Study of the Unique Identity of India Authority (Aadhar project) as an instance of public-private partnership in generation and management of data about transactions between the residents and various public and private entities, at the national scale, and the shifting modes of public-private data management it imagines and engenders (e) issues of data secrecy, government guidelines on IT infrastructure, duplication, piracy, etc. The research was conducted under the guidance of Ranabir Samaddar with Ritam Sengupta as the Programme and Research Associate. The details of the research undertaken are as follows:

Professor Manish Jha: *Data, Society and the City: Technology, Territory and Population*

Ritajyoti Bandhyopadhyay: *Towards a History of Data at the Time of Big Data*

Ritam Sengupta: *Counting loss: An ethnography of recently introduced data management schemes in West Bengal, India, and Mobilising Data, Localising Economies: Data Protection as a governmental concern in contemporary India*

A panel discussion on the theme has been arranged for 2 September 2018 as part of the international conference on *Infrastructure Across Frontiers*.

1.4 Social and Political Mapping of Popular Movements, Logistical Vision and Infrastructure of India

The project began on January 1, 2016 and developed into a three year project funded by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung. For the concept note, list of researchers and experts, events and publications, see http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_PML_Home.asp

This project has the following two segments:

(i) *Popular Movements in Bihar and Bengal* -This developed into a detailed study of mobilizations in Bengal --- the refugee movement, the food movement, the anti tram fare hike and teachers' movements during the 1950s followed by the Naxalbari movement and other popular movements in the districts of Bengal during the 1960s and early 70s. The segment on Bihar raised the issue of social justice as the core of popular politics with two research segments--- the backward caste movements led by Karpuri Thakur and the JP movement. In the last two year 9 researchers have worked on these themes, but more significantly, the research segments have been reviewed and debated by 33 experts. These research segments will be published this year in a book edited by Professor Samaddar and published by the Social Science Press.

(ii) *A Social Mapping of Infrastructure Logistics and India's Look East Policy* -This project examined how Look/Act East, essentially a policy of fostering ties to the regions on the Southeast of India, become linked to a domestic policy of governance, with the Northeast as its intermediary, to project new logistic opportunities in an increasingly interconnected world. Envisaged as a natural bridge between Southeast and East Asia and India, the Northeastern region was sought to be seamlessly integrated within a new paradigm of development with the presupposition that linkages to a wider Asian region would elevate the region out of its underdevelopment and consequent insurgency to a new era of advancement through a network of connectivity, communication and trade. The research focuses on logistical governance in India's Northeast and its linkage to networks in Southeast Asia. It contends with the politics and economics of routes in the Asian context, issues of global logistical governance, and finance capital and infrastructure in the Indian scenario but situated within a broader Asian and global context. An advance contract for publishing the research segments has been signed with Routledge, and will be edited by Ranabir Samaddar and Anita Sengupta.

This is the final year of the project and the research agenda for 2018 was to organise collaborative workshops and conferences for the purpose of dissemination of research beyond the confines of Kolkata.

One collaborative workshop on *Logistics, Global Governance and India's Look East Policy* was organized in association with the Department of Political Science with Rural Administration, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore on 20 March 2018. Detailed report of the workshop is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_L/Collaborative_Workshop_Report_CRG-RLS-VU_2018.pdf

A second on *Resistances and their Interfaces* was organized in association with the West Bengal State University Barasat, in collaboration with the Department of History of the University on 22 June 2018.

For a detailed report see http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_PM/Report_Collaborative_Workshop_Programme_Popular_Movement_2018.pdf

SECTION TWO

Events

2.1 Sixth Critical Studies Conference on 'Refugees, Migrants, Violence and the Transformation of Cities', 23-25 August, 2017

Refugees, Migrants, Violence and the Transformation of Cities

The Sixth Critical Studies Conference was held over the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of August, 2017, and was organized by CRG in collaboration with the Ford Foundation. The theme of the conference was *Refugees, Migrants, Violence and the Transformation of Cities* and it featured a keynote address, a plenary session discussing key texts of urban studies, a film screening, and eleven panels of presentation. Cities world over are attracting increasing numbers of people fleeing villages, small and big towns, other countries and continents to escape conflicts, wars, violence, environmental degradation and natural disasters. Political, economic, social and cultural reasons have combined in this phenomenon of massive and mixed migration. Displacements being protracted, immigrants arrive

often to stay. Cities are facing the brunt of this development and are imperceptibly or radically being transformed. In this background, the Sixth Critical Studies Conference was an interdisciplinary attempt to map in a comparative framework, the restructuring of cities under the impact of refugee and migration flows. It explored cityscapes in various parts of the world as inbuilt destination spaces of refugee and population movements, such as irregular and subsistence labour as guest workers, trafficked victims, smuggled women and children, immigrant workers in care and entertainment industry, and above all masses of urban refugees and environmental migrants. The conference sought to understand how with refugees and migrants as inbuilt components of their formation, today's cities constitute and contest at the same time the parallel scales of the local, national, and the global; how as migrant spaces, cities become the battleground of discourses on rights, security, economy, citizenship, populism, and culture; and yet how cities can develop as public spaces and spheres of participation in which varied actors negotiate diversity including race, class and gender. With this broad aim, this research conference brought to light in historical and comparative perspective the urban experiences of restructuring.

Report of the Sixth Critical Studies Conference is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/6thCSC/Final_Report_6th%20Critical_Studies_Conference.pdf

2.2 Roundtable on Étienne Balibar & Immanuel Wallerstein's Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities

Jointly organised by Calcutta Research Group & Rabindra Bharati University in collaboration with Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, this roundtable—organized twenty-five years after the publication of the English-language edition of the collection of essays by Étienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein, *Race, Nation, Class (RNC) 1*—turned out to be a continuation of the discussions in and around India, about the issues the book raised, which had begun almost as soon as it was published. The participants were Professors Paula Banerjee (Sanskrit College & University, Kolkata), Pradip Kumar Bose (Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata), Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty (Rabindra Bharati University (RBU), Kolkata), Anup Dhar (Centre for Development Practice, Ambedkar University, Delhi), and Mary E. John (Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi). Their observations were supplemented by comments from Professor Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Rabindra Bharati University) Professor Ranabir Samaddar (Distinguished Chair, CRG, Kolkata), Professor Bankim Chandra Mandal (Rabindra Bharati University), as well as faculty members, and students from other universities and their collaborators. The roundtable, ended up becoming a historically informed dialogue from several locations across India, predictably also one that sought to enquire about the role of the insights generated in discussing specific Indian concerns and questions. The final Report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Race_Nation_Report_11_2018.pdf

2.3 A Conference to Commemorate the 150th year of the Publication of Karl Marx's Capital (Volume One) - Capital in the East

The first volume of Karl Marx's *Capital* (Volume one), published in 1867 was considered for long throughout the world as the most important guide to understand the ills of capitalism, the origin of the working class, and the materiality of the exploitation of the workers. The book was translated worldwide in numerous languages, and arguably became the most important book in the last two centuries. Then in the last three decades, as socialism collapsed and neoliberal capitalism spread to various corners of the globe, *Capital* became a redundant treatise to many. Its analysis was held outdated, fit for only intellectual consumption and curiosity. However, the world financial crisis of 2008 brought *Capital* to renewed attention of critical theorists, social scientists, and progressive movements. Its analyses are being considered even more relevant today. Newspapers have focused attention on the contemporary relevance of many of its arguments. In the developing world, the drive towards developmentalism, expansion of market, financialisation, weakening of state's welfare services, rampant privatisation, and boundless exploitation of natural and human resources have become major issues of concern. In this milieu, *Capital* has returned to attention. The conference

aimed to discuss this return of Capital to attention and enquire the new questions in this light. The Conference was held jointly by several institutions and in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung. For the conference report see http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/Capital_Report.pdf

2.4 Krishna Memorial Lecture and Award Ceremony

The Fifth Krishna Memorial Lecture and Award Ceremony was organized on 16 February 2018 in collaboration with CRG. The programme was held in the EZCC Aikatan Auditorium. This year the awardees were Sarada Kalyan Bhandar, Medinipur, working for women's (particularly girl child) education and Suchandra Dutta, 24 Parganas (South), Activist, working for disability rights group. Bharati Chowdhury Memorial Award was introduced this year and was conferred on Avantika Sanyal, Educationist. This was followed by the memorial lecture delivered by Dr Asish Kumar Kundu, who spoke on The Fifth World.

The Fourth Krishna Memorial lecture by Abhijit Chowdhury was published. It is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/krishna_trust/Fourth%20_krishna_Memorial_Lecture.pdf

SECTION THREE

Lectures and meetings

3.1 Public Lectures

Liza Schuster, *Department of Sociology, City University of London*, "Returning Refugees to Conflict Zones ", 5 February 2018

Livio Boni, *Université de Toulouse Jean Jaurès*, "The Generic City: meta-political remarks on the future of the city at the time of absolute capitalism", 26 December 2017

Ranabir Samaddar, *Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group*, "The Urban Turn", 26 December 2017

Sanjay Barbora, *Associate Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences(TISS), Guwahati*, "Peasants, Students, Insurgents and Popular Movements in Contemporary Assam", 28 November 2017

Sayantana Saha Roy, *University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology*, " Thinking about Rights in India: Life and/or Liberty ", 14 September 2017

Subir Sinha, *SOAS, London*, " Separation, Mobility and the Ordinary City: On Migrants' Subjection and Subjectivity ", 23 August 2017

Alexa Franczak, *McGill University, Faculty of Law*, "The Exclusion of Women's Interests in the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act ", 19 July 2017

Rama S. Melkote, *Author and former Professor of Political Science, Osmania University*, " Women in the Telangana Movements: Then and Now", 14 July 2017

S Akbar Zaidi, *Eminent Political Economist from Pakistan*, "Has China Taken Over Pakistan?", 9 June 2017

Kanak Mani Dixit, *Eminent Journalist from Nepal*, " Nepal: Gateway Into and Out of South Asia", 9 June 2017

Manoranjan Byapari, *Noted Writer and Pioneer of Dalit Writing in West Bengal*, "His Life as a Bengali, Dalit Refugee", 12 May 2017

3.2 Meetings

Collaborative Workshop for dissemination on Resistances and their Interfaces, West Bengal State University, Barasat, West Bengal, 22 June 2018. Detailed report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_PM/Report_Collaborative_Workshop_Programme_Popular_Movement_2018.pdf

Collaborative Workshop for dissemination on A Social Mapping of Infrastructure Logistics, and India's Look East Policy, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal, 20 March 2018. Detailed

report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_L/Collaborative_Workshop_Report_CRG-RLS-VU_2018.pdf

A Workshop to Reflect upon the State of Research on Emerging Non-metropolitan Urbanity and Urban Activism in India and beyond on the theme *Towns and Migrants: Explorations of an Urban Future*, Swabhumi, 26- 27 December 2017. Detailed report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Ford_Final_Report.pdf

Research Workshop on Beyond Infrastructure and Logistics: Reconnecting with the Peoples and Societies in the North East, Swabhumi, 29 November 2017. Detailed report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/Report_November_2017.pdf

Research Workshop on Popular Movements in Bihar and Bengal, Swabhumi, 7 September 2017. Detailed report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_PM/Report_Research_Workshop_7Sep2017.pdf

Research Workshop on A Social Mapping of Infrastructure, Logistics and India's Look East Policy, Swabhumi, 6 September 2017. Detailed report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_L/Report_Research_Workshop_6Sep2017.pdf

Consultative Meeting on Research Abstracts for A Social Mapping of Infrastructure, Logistics and India's Look East Policy, Swabhumi, 7 March 2017. Detailed report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_L/Consultative_Programme_Report_7_March_2017.pdf

Consultative Meeting on Research Abstracts for Popular Movements in Bihar and Bengal, Swabhumi, 6 March 2017. Detailed report is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/RLS_PM/Consultative_Programme%20Report_6_March_2017.pdf

SECTION FOUR

Publications

4.1 Journal: Refugee Watch

CRG's journal was founded in 1998 to document the flows of forced migration with a focus on South Asia. Innovative in its creation, *Refugee Watch* continues to be an important space for the discussion of displacement and forced migration. Two issues of *Refugee Watch* were published in 2017: No 49, June 2017 on Migration and Borders of Citizenship (an issue guest edited by Ravi Palat&ShaliniRanderia) and No 50, December 2017. In 2018, *Refugee Watch* will share a platform with *Refugee Watch Online* as it becomes more dynamic and mostly an online journal.

4.2 Online Journal: Refugee Watch Online

CRG maintains an online co-publication of *Refugee Watch*, which presents brief news, reports, views, and comments to draw political and social attention to the human rights of the forcibly displaced.

4.3 Research Papers: Policies and Practices

CRG publishes a series of research papers with the aim of disseminating important work and findings for discussion among scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and activists. The following were published.

SL NO.	Title	Author	Date of Publication
96	The Urban Turn	SubirSinha, LivioBoni and RanabirSamaddar	February, 18
95	Capital Value and Translation	PranabKantiBasu& Jon Solomon	February, 18

94	Population and Rent in Capital	Ranabir Samaddar & Iman Mitra	February, 18
93	People Politics & Protests- VIII	Atig Ghosh	December, 17
92	People Politics & Protests- VII	Atig Ghosh & Anwasha Sengupta	December, 17
91	People Politics & Protests- VI	Manish Kumar Jha & Mithilesh Kumar	December, 17
90	People Politics & Protests- V	Subharanjan Dasgupta	December, 17
89	People Politics & Protests- IV	Ranabir Samaddar	December, 17
88	Logistical Spaces- IX	Paula Banerjee & Sucharita Sengupta	December, 17
87	Logistical Spaces- VIII	Soma Ghosal & Snehashis Mitra	December, 17
86	Logistical Spaces- VII	Iman Kumar Mitra	December, 17
85	Logistical Spaces- VI	Anita Sengupta	December, 17
84	Logistical Spaces- V	Priya Singh	December, 17

4.4 Books

CRG has published an impressive and extensive range of books, including monographs, readers, and edited volumes. Three much awaited volumes have been published.

- Ranabir Samaddar (ed.) *Migrants and the Neoliberal City*
- Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ranabir Samaddar (eds.) *The Rohingya in South Asia: People Without a State*
- Madhurilata Basu, Rajat Roy and Ranabir Samaddar (eds.) *Political Ecology of Survival: Life and Labour in the River Lands of East and North East India*

4.5 Reports

- Report of the Final Year of Research & Dialogue Programme on *Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor – Issues of Violence and Social Justice* is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Ford_Final_Report.pdf
- Hindi translation of the Report on *Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor* is in Press.
- Bengali translation of the Report on *Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor* is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Rural_Migrant_Bengali.pdf
- Report of the Sixth Critical Studies Conference is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/6thCSC/Final_Report_6th%20Critical_Studies_Conference.pdf
- Conference Report of Capital in the East is available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_PML/Capital_Report.pdf

SECTION FIVE

Distinguished Chair Report

- In the year under consideration, Ranabir Samaddar continued his research on "Visiting the Postcolonial Age of Migration", provisionally built around the theme of interrogating Stephen Castles' (co-authored) classic "The Age of Migration". The projected work will have eight to nine chapters: (a) Reflection on Stephen Castle's work and methods by revisiting "The Age of Migration";

- (b) postcolonial interventions in methods of studying forced migration; (c) historical reflections on late nineteenth century to early twentieth century immigration flows; (d) ecological migration and precarious labour; (e) refugee labour, immigrant economies, and global capitalism; (f) power, responsibility, and humanitarianism; (g) transitional justice in the context of forced migration; (g) Current metaphors of migration - "waves", "crisis", "autonomy", "exception", etc.; (h) states, nationalised citizenship, and statelessness.
2. He has most of the projected chapters, they have to be thoroughly revised, and the introductory chapter has to be written. Besides working at CRG on this book, for further research, he accepted two visiting fellowships in the year in consideration: O'Brien Residency at McGill University, Montreal (October-December 2017) and Visiting Fellowship at the IWM, Vienna (March-April 2018).
 3. The work will need one more year to complete. It started in 2016.
 4. Besides giving public lectures at CRG programmes, he also presented his research findings at McGill University, Montreal, York University, Toronto, Binghamton University, New York State, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, Goethe Centre, Hyderabad, TISS, Patna, The Apatride Society of the Political Others, Athens, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Port Labour Cooperative, Genoa, Carl von Ossietzky University, Oldenburg, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, and the University of Connecticut, Connecticut.
 5. He helped various CRG programmes as and when requested by colleagues and the Director.
 6. In the year in consideration, he published *Karl Marx and the Postcolonial Age* (Palgrave MacMillan), and few papers -
 - (a) "The Difficult Subject of Refugee Economies", *Conversation*, Paris, 2018 - <https://theconversation.com/the-difficult-subject-of-refugee-economies-98435> ; (b) "Histories of the Late Nineteenth to Early Twentieth Century Immigration and Our Time", *Current Sociology*, Volume 66, No. 2, March 2018; (c) "Repertoires and Politics in the Time of Naxalbari", *Frontier*, Volume 50 (31), 4-10 February 2018 (d) (co-authored) "Workers' Struggles and Autonomy: Strategic and Tactical Considerations" in Dario Azzellini and Michael G. Kraft, *The Class Strikes Back: Self Organized Workers' Struggles in the Twenty-First Century* (Leiden: Brill, 2017); (e) "Borders of Labour and Refugee Economies", *Refugee Watch*, 50, December 2017; (f) "The Ecological Migrant in Postcolonial Time" in Andrew Baldwin and Giovanni Bettini (eds.), *Life Adrift: Climate Change, Migration, Critique* (London and New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2017); (g) "The Logistical City", *IIC Quarterly*, Special Issue on "The Contemporary Urban Conundrum", Winter 2016-Spring 2017; (h) "Power and Responsibility at the margins: The Case of India in the Global Refugee Regime", *Refuge*, Volume 33, No 1, 2017; (i) "Une critique post coloniale de l'accumulation contemporaine du capital" (French translation of "A Postcolonial Critique of capital Accumulation Today", *Actuel Marx*, 61, 2017.
 The details are available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Distinguished_Chair.asp

SECTION SIX

Library, website, and assets

6.1 Library: The Library and Resource Centre of the Calcutta Research Group (CRG) has a vast collection of resources which includes books, documents, journals, manuscripts, research papers, working papers, thesis, census reports, audio, video and data CDs. The library contains 4867 books and 151 CDs including audio, video, data and Lecture CDs relating to law, gender studies, forced migration, food, environment, urbanization, justice, autonomy, displacement, literary works, minority rights, media, advocacy material, child right, human rights, Northeast migration, and Look East policy. 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, and Economic and Political Weekly (EPW). The CRG library is digital, allowing research scholars, students, faculty members of

colleges, universities, research institutes and NGOs to avail the online catalogue. Approximately 408 registered users can access CRG digital library.

CRG has transferred its book holdings to HB 232 (Ground floor) where its library is now situated. At the moment, the library hours are restricted. Mr Rajkumar Mahato had been appointed as Library Assistant from 1 December on a part time basis with a salary of Rs 10,000. There is proposal to extend library hours and keep it open for the first half on Saturdays.

A Library Committee consisting of Ranabir Samaddar, K K Bannerjee, V Ramaswamy, Purna Banerjee and the Director was constituted for determining library rules and modes of operation. The Director will request the members of the committee to join and call for a library committee meeting at the earliest. Ranabir Samaddar noted that there was a possibility that the Paresh Chakraborty collection could be handed over to the CRG library. However, library committee members will have to decide whether given space constraints at the present location the entire collection can be accommodated.

6.2 Website: The website of the Calcutta Research Group (www.mcrg.ac.in) is a significant and informative site. It has a collection of information, resources and publications which helps researcher, teachers, media peoples, scholars, and human rights activists. It is designed for presenting papers, abstracts, relevant documents, online registration, notifications, and links while organizing conferences, dialogues, workshops and seminars, and promoting different upcoming programmes as well as advertising past ones. It is significant as an online distance education system. It hosts an e-source centre with basic and advanced search engines by which registered researchers, teachers, media peoples, scholars, and human right activists can access relevant documents, books, links etc. It also hosts the online co-publication of *Refugee Watch* "Refugee Watch Online". RW Online is updated and maintained by Samata Biswas. Samaresh Guchhait looks after the designing, development, and regular updating of the website with the help of Research & Programme Associates. He also works as system administrator to maintain the windows 2003 server, mailing system, and provides technical support.

A more enhanced and upgraded version of the website was uploaded by CRG in March 2018. It remains a work in progress given the large amount of data that had to be transferred from the old version of the website. We will be happy for inputs from members about broadening the utility of and access to the website.

6.3 Assets: Two new computers were purchased. Two tables were purchased, one for the library and another for Senior Fellows at the CRG office. Four steel almirahs were purchased for the library. Twenty chairs were purchased for the CRG conference room. For further information, CRG's Asset Register may be checked. It is updated regularly.

SECTION SEVEN

Research and Administrative Staff

7.1 Research and Administrative Staff

On 1 November 2017 **Anita Sengupta** joined as Director. Paula Banerjee who had held the post of Honorary Director from 2015 resigned as she joined as Vice Chancellor of Sanskrit University. In addition to her duties as Director, Anita Sengupta continued to coordinate the CRG-RLS project on *A Social Mapping of Infrastructure, Logistics and India's Look East Policy* and is now also coordinator of the CRG-RLS project *Research and Orientation Workshop and International Conference on The State of the Global Protection System for Refugees and Migrants*. Details about her are available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/BioNote/Bionote_Anita.pdf

During 2017-18, Sucharita Sengupta left to do her PhD at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva and Snehkish Mitra to do his PhD at School of Social Sciences, National

Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru. Somdatta Chakraborty and Ritam Sengupta left on completion of their projects. Priya Singh continued as Research and Programme Associate for the CRG-RLS project on *Popular Movements in Bihar and Bengal* and she continues to be primarily responsible for *Refugee Watch*. Two new Programme and Research Assistants Shatabdi Das and Ankita Manna joined for the CRG-RLS project *Social and Political Mapping of Popular Movements, Logistical Vision and Infrastructure of India* from 1 March and 1 February 2018 respectively. Apala Kundu joined as Research and Programme Assistant from 1 April 2018 for the CRG-RLS programme *Research and Orientation Workshop and International Conference on The State of the Global Protection System for Refugees and Migrants* and Aditi Mukherjee joined as Research and Programme Associate for the same programme from 1 May 2018. Atig Ghosh continues as our Honorary Research and Programme Associate.

Priya Singh has been Research and Programme Associate at the Calcutta Research Group for the RLS-CRG project *Social and Political Mapping of Popular Movements, Logistical Vision and Infrastructure of India* since January, 2017. She has been assisting Professor Ranabir Samaddar with the *Popular Movements in West Bengal and Bihar* segment of the aforementioned project. In this context, she has been involved in the organisation of three collaborative workshops and two public lectures in 2017 and a collaborative workshop in 2018. She has prepared quarterly reports for the project in 2017 and continues to do so in 2018 in addition to the monthly reports that have been introduced in the current year. In addition, she has been a researcher in the *Social Mapping of Infrastructure, Logistics and India's Look East Policy* segment of the larger project on *Social and Political Mapping of Popular Movements, Logistical Vision and Infrastructure of India* and has published a working paper on *Representations of connectivity: the politics and economics of routes in the Asian context* (Policies and Practices, 84), another version of which is expected to be published by Routledge as a book chapter as part of the publication for the project. She is also an editorial assistant for *Refugee Watch*, the biannual, peer-reviewed journal of CRG. She has assisted in the publication of issue Nos. 48, 49 & 50 and the forthcoming issue on Rohingyas (No 51). She has contributed an essay entitled, *A Colonial, Modern and Urban Interface: Jaffa and the Politics of Exclusion* in issue no 50 of the journal. Priya also deals with the 'Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)' desk at CRG. She is a part of the team that handles the Facebook page of CRG for purposes of dissemination of its programmes. Priya is an Associate of the Distinguished Chair for Migration and Forced Migration Studies at CRG as well.

Aditi Mukherjee is a Research and Programme Associate working on the CRG-RLS project *Research and Orientation Workshop and International Conference on The State of the Global Protection System for Refugees and Migrants*. She is a final year PhD student at the Leiden University. Her doctoral research draws on ethnographic research conducted at different types of migrant dwellings in peri-urban Calcutta to address questions of different modalities of displacement and tiers of migrant/urban citizenship within third world metropolitan contexts. At MCRG she facilitates correspondence with participants, helps in formation of agendas for meetings related to the forced migration workshop and conference. She, along with other MCRG colleagues looks, into the logistical sides of the November event, e.g. booking of venue and accommodation.

Shatabdi Das has been working with Calcutta Research Group as Research and Programme Assistant for the CRG-RLS project *Social and Political Mapping of Popular Movements, Logistical Vision and Infrastructure of India* since March, 2018. She has worked on the compilation of summary report, editorial assignments for book publication and proofreading of CRG journal issues. She is entrusted with keeping minutes of meetings, circulation of workshop and conference notification. She has participated in collaborative workshops and has helped in preparation of participant feedback report, and has also written an article on the interview excerpts of a key speaker in the conference.

Apala Kundu is Research and Program Assistant at Calcutta Research Group for the CRG-RLS project *Research and Orientation Workshop and International Conference on The State of the Global Protection System for Refugees and Migrants* since April 2018. Her work profile includes communicating with the participants, responding to their queries and providing them with necessary information. In a general capacity, she also does rapporteuring, prepares posters and reports pertaining to CRG seminars and conferences, and does editorial work for CRG's publications. She has previously worked as Conference Assistant at CRG on the project 'Capital in the East: A Conference on Marx's Capital after 150 Years of Its Publication' wherein she communicated with the participants, prepared the poster, schedule, brochure and the final report of the conference, and continues to work with the editors to facilitate the publication of the conference volume.

Ankita Manna is Research and Program Assistant at Calcutta Research Group for the CRG-RLS project *Social and Political Mapping of Popular Movements, Logistical Vision and Infrastructure of India* since February 2018. Her work profile includes report writing, rapporteuring at seminars and conferences, poster design and various other works as assigned. She has written a report on the extent and causes of illiteracy and dropouts of women's education in Sundarban, Bali Island at the behest of Krishna Memorial Trust. She is the convener of Friday Lecture and is assigned with sending out lecture and conference invitations, creating database and other managerial work.

7.2 Office Staff

In February 2018, our Office Secretary, Mrs Manjuri Chatterji suffered severe illness and was unable to rejoin office. Keeping in mind her long years of service at CRG, the finance sub-committee recommended an ex-gratia payment of one lakh to be given to her. Advertisement for appointment of a new Office Secretary has been made. Ratan Chakraborty was given additional charge of Acting Office Secretary from 1 April 2018 while continuing with his functions as Accounts and Administrative Officer. The services of Samaresh Guchhait and Ashok Kumar Giri were retained. The part-time service of R. K. Mahato as typist was also retained till November 2017. From 1 December 2018, he joined as part time Library Assistant.

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 when their service contracts were renewed. 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, a one-time contribution of Rs 20,000 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.

7.3 Other Office Matters

Finance Sub-Committee

Under the direction of the Governing Body, the Finance Sub-Committee was reconstituted. It now includes the Treasurer, V. Ramaswamy, the Secretary, Sibaji Pratim Basu, and Shyamalendu Majumdar, Arup Sen, Samata Biswas and Anita Sengupta as members.

Communications Committee

A Communications Committee was formed as per recommendation by the AGM in 2017. Under this a website committee was formed by the Governing Body consisting of Priya Singh, Samata Biswas, V Ramaswamy and Anita Sengupta who were instrumental in redesigning the website of CRG and are now engaged with merging Refugee Watch and Refugee Watch Online on a single platform.

SECTION EIGHT

Concerns and Call for Collaborations

CRG has entered the lean period of scarce funding. The Governing Body, the Finance Sub-Committee, and senior members are aware of the situation. CRG is taking steps to rationalise all its expenses. It is also taking measures to focus on 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 collaborate in fundraising in different ways. In view of the austerity measures required to be adopted, members are requested to volunteer for some of the work (for instance, helping with 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 can the institution grow amidst the difficulties. CRG is always happy to collaborate with and assist its members in any way possible. It would be required that its members also extend the same collaboration to CRG. In the AGM held in August 2015 (following the 35th meeting of the Governing Body held on 23 August 2015) it was decided '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'. While it cannot be imposed, we would, once again, request our members to keep this in mind.

SECTION NINE

Roll of CRG members

Members will be delighted to know that Samita Sen, our Board Member, has been offered the the Vere Harmsworth Professorship of Imperial and Naval History at Cambridge. Paula Bannerjee , our former Director has joined as Vice Chancellor of Sanskrit University and Sanjay Chaturvedi has been appointed Professor and Chairperson, Department of International Relations, South Asian University.

Last year three new members were offered membership – Nirmal Mahato, Iman Mitra and Mithilesh Kumar, all of who accepted the membership of CRG.

The present roll of members stands as follows. It will be subject to revision after the AGM on 1 September 2018.

1. Sabir Ahamed
2. Krishna Bandyopadhyay
3. Nirmalya Banerjee
4. Paula Banerjee
5. Sanjay Barbora
6. Sahana Basavapatna
7. Sibaji Pratim Basu
8. Sudeep Basu
9. Suthirtha Bedajna
10. Anjuman Ara Begum
11. Subir Bhaumik
12. Bharat Bhushan
13. Samata Biswas
14. Pradip Kumar Bose
15. Ananya Chakraborty
16. Anup Shekhar Chakraborty
17. Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
18. Sanjay Chaturvedi

19. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
20. Khesheli Chishi
21. Nasreen Chowdhory
22. Samir Kumar Das
23. Byasdeb Dasgupta
24. Jishnu DasGupta
25. Sumona DasGupta
26. Milan Datta
27. Ishita Dey
28. Atig Ghosh
29. Pallav Kumar Goswami
30. Ruchira Goswami
31. Asha Hans
32. Manish K. Jha
33. Kalpana Kannabiran
34. Rajesh Kharat
35. Madhuresh Kumar
36. Mithilesh Kumar
37. Pushpendra Kumar
38. Nirmal Kumar Mahato
39. Manabi Majumdar
40. Shyamalendu Majumdar
41. Ritu Menon
42. Iman Mitra
43. Bishnu Mohapatra
44. Dulali Nag
45. K. M. Parivelan
46. Amrita Patel
47. Amit Prakash
48. Roshan P Rai
49. V. Ramaswamy
50. Kumar Rana
51. Prasanta Ray
52. Uttam Kumar Ray
53. Sanam Roohi
54. Rajat Roy
55. Ranabir Samaddar
56. Arup Kumar Sen
57. Mandira Sen
58. Samita Sen
59. Simpreet Singh
60. Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya
61. Mouleshri Vyas