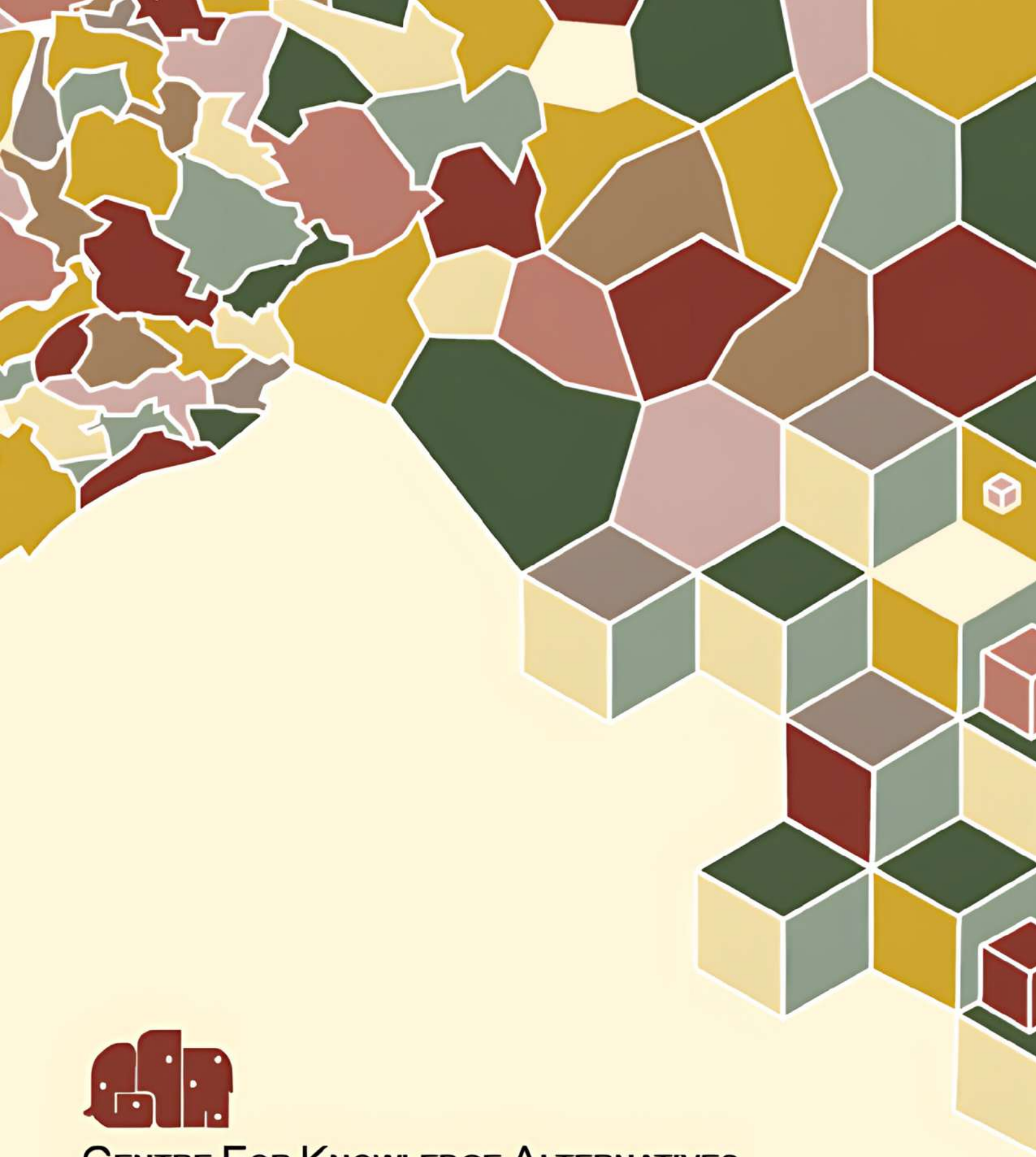




CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE ALTERNATIVES
FLAME UNIVERSITY



CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE ALTERNATIVES

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ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Centre for Knowledge Alternatives was founded by Dr. Yugank Goyal at FLAME University in August 2021. **The idea was to build a database of district-level cultures and statistics.** This work has taken magnificent shape now, thanks to the sheer energy, curiosity and obsession to build something new, amongst all of us who work at the Centre (including students).

We use social sciences to evolve new ideas and try the untested ones. **Our research products are relevant, interdisciplinary and go beyond the confines of academia.**

Our motivation is to advance an understanding of India that is not reliant on a prism glass of theory.

Unconstrained by theory-making goals, we suddenly open up a whole new world to us. Heisenberg, the famous physicist, famously remarked that *we see only that part of reality, which is open to our line of questions.* We do not conduct inquiry with any specific question in mind. We see things as they are, focusing on experiences and empirics.

We bring ourselves closer to the communities. And we learn so much more.

Basically, we work on public policy and its interface with economy and culture.

The inquiry therefore, is interdisciplinary. For instance,

in documenting local-level cultures and data we are creating voluminous intellectual repositories of Indian districts;

in experimenting new pedagogical tools with school children in India we are discovering the merit in ignoring Bloom's pyramid for them;

in extracting fresh materials from historical archives we are learning about the vast public administration policies in India's past;

in collaborating closely with various government officials we are participating in the art of public policy.

(The first one is our flagship project, which we dwell upon in detail in this brochure.)



We promote and encourage an interdisciplinary research culture, which attracts diverse fields of interests and inquiry.

We collapse the distinctions between academia and industry, pedigree and knowledge, research and design, science and art.

For us, complexity is the underlying phenomenon of the world, and therefore we try to adopt systems thinking in what we do. We like the idea of polycentric thinking and decentralized governance.

We rely hugely on trial-and-error and learning-by-doing.



The story behind our logo.

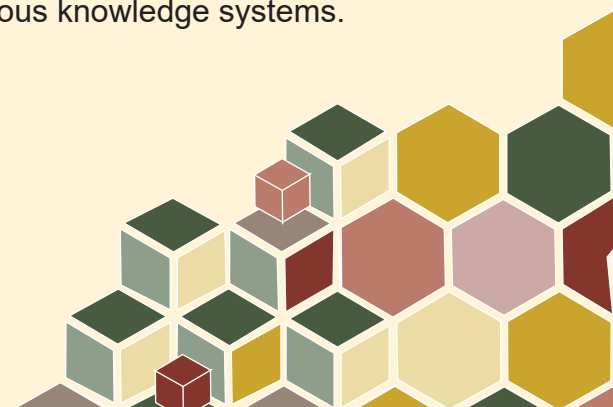
Our logo signifies the age-old story about the elephant and the blind men.

Each of the blind men touch different parts of the elephant and make a claim about what the object they touched is.

“Snake” said the one who touched the trunk. “Wall,” came another voice from the one touching the body. “Pillar,” yells him who was holding its leg. And so on. They disagreed with each other.

But each of them was correct and incorrect at the same time.

Knowledge monopolies are undesirable. We are all blind in some ways. Let us celebrate the plurality, diversity and coexistence of various knowledge systems.



A close-up photograph of a person's finger pointing to a line of text in a manuscript. The text is written in a medieval script, likely Gothic or similar, and is arranged in two columns. The parchment is aged and slightly discolored.

The image shows a close-up of a handwritten manuscript page. The paper is aged, yellowed, and has some creases and damage. The handwriting is in a cursive script, likely from the 16th or 17th century. The text is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. A person's hand is visible at the top right, holding the edge of the page. The page contains several lines of text, some of which are underlined. The text appears to be a list or a series of entries, possibly related to a historical record or a collection of items.

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely Persian or Urdu, on aged paper. The text is dense and flowing, with some words appearing to be in a different script or dialect. The page is numbered '886' in the bottom right corner.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Firstly, we believe that small is beautiful

(in the E.F. Schumacher way, but more in a Gandhian way). We believe that decentralized, polycentric thinking is the desirable attitude not only to understand, but also govern India. In fact, this is the primary motivation for us to go deeper into each district.

Secondly, we do not always only theorize.

India is not a theory-based culture. It is an empirical one. Lived-experiences are more important to understand the country than scholarly interpretations. When we try to document India, we document it as it is.

Thirdly, we are doing this for everyone,

not just for scholars or academics. Surely we write in academic journals, but that is not all that we do. We also work on projects that are relevant outside academia. For example, in the Chronicle Project we do not use anthropological frames or scholarly vocabulary to write about our lands, we do not italicize vernacular words, nor do we use Hunterian transliteration. For native cultural terms that most Indians understand, we also avoid translating them.

Fourthly, we believe that understanding both, statistics and culture is essential for policymaking and necessary for meeting developmental challenges in the contemporary world.



THE CHRONICLE PROJECT

One of the most known aspects about India is how little we actually know of it.

While it's easy to find information on its overall demography, developmental indicators, and popular traditions at the national and state level, there is very little of this information easily available for its small towns.

It need not be this way. Each city or a district has its own culture, stories and statistics, different from one another. With the rise of information technology, much of this information can be made intelligible and available for anyone to use.

While Wikipedia is one such effort, information there is quite scarce on most Indian districts and maybe sometimes without local participation. The government websites of the respective districts are inadequate.

We began thinking about what would it be like if there was an accessible, participatory and comprehensive encyclopedia about each place in India.

What would it be like to zoom in into a town and know its culture and its development indicators at the click of a mouse.

What would it be like to read about the food and festivals of the place and also know the number of vehicles being purchased there? What would it be like if we were to narrate stories and study statistics of Indian districts!

The result is the Chronicle Project. And the product, **www.indiandistricts.in**

We make sense of India, district by district.

What do we do?

We collect, synthesize and meaningfully represent information about Indian districts. Through this website, we disseminate our findings, visualizations and research free of cost to everyone.

For each district, we categorize all its information in two broad heads (twelve chapters in each), namely:

Cultures (markets, art forms, history etc.)

Statistics (health, education, agriculture etc.)

Why do we do it?

In all honesty, we are doing this because we like doing it and think its important. We are curious about India, and think many more are. So we do it, and make it public!

On a more scholarly note, we find it embarrassing how little we have mapped our own places. The British had undertaken a mammoth effort of writing **district gazetteers** of India, documenting every little detail about our local customs, geographies and administration. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary of independence, we need to dissolve the colonial frames of knowledge production and consumption, and curate new, diverse knowledge that reflect self-discovery.

When the British wrote about India, they were writing their experiences of India. We want to enable native, un-theorized and participatory accounts of India. We want to document knowledge in the way it is experienced.

This must be done locally. If decentralization is the future of governance, local-level knowledge and information is a prerequisite.



Beneficiaries

The website hopes to assist:

district and local administration, and governments for better policymaking, helping familiarize new bureaucrats and local officials with the district they govern and allowing for data based management of the district for better policy planning,

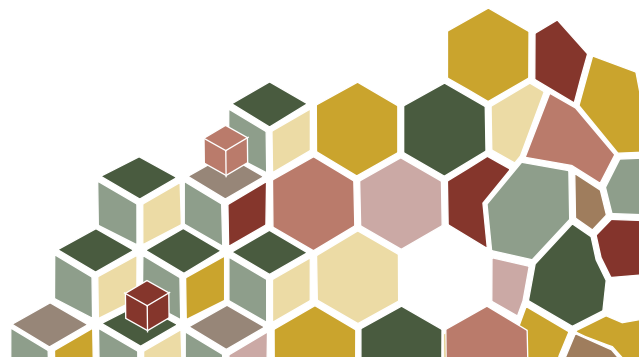
local entrepreneurs and businesses for richer market information, finding backward and forward linkages and identifying gaps and projections,

scholars and intellectuals who can use the information to build new and comparative ideas for constructing better futures, understanding micro-stories of growth and development and inspiring new research to emerge,

curious minds of ordinary citizens which will instill in them, pride for their own lands, its traditions and history, and who will become participants to even enrich it.

As we move from one century to the next, we must shed anxieties about our futures and the ignorance about our past. The project hopes to achieve that.

In moving the focus from India as a whole to Indian districts, it hopes to promote and foster a culture of producing shared knowledge at the local level.





Method

We find people with an insatiable curiosity about India, and give them freedom to excavate. This is where the magic starts. What they do is map the length and breadth of the district, by means of both primary and secondary data collection.



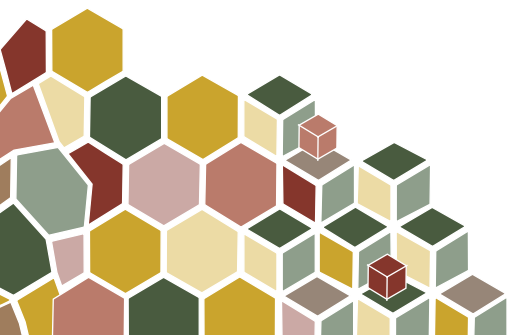
Qualitative

For qualitative information, we spend time in the respective districts, undertaking extensive fieldwork collecting stories and narratives. We explore vernacular texts and study old gazetteers. We also work with local partners and intellectuals who are storehouses of knowledge about their lands. We also spend time talking to people on the streets, snowballing into new networks and information.

We do not go with a question in mind. Nor do we test any hypothesis. We allow the place to open itself to us on its own, and collect experiences of people from a diverse milieu in the district. We return enriched and inspired. This is a humbling process, not just a discovery of the place, but of oneself too.

Quantitative

For quantitative work, we rely on data from the government. India has comprehensive systems of data collection in place. We synthesize government survey data at the district level (including Census, NFHS, PLFS, AISHE, U-DISE, HMIS, NJDG etc.) as well as publicly available data found in various reports and commissions. We sieve through this vast swathe of data, work closely with district level officials and painstakingly (okay, joyously!) work with it. We collect this raw information, translate it, clean it, integrate it, and develop usable spreadsheets. Finally, the data is graphically and spatially visualized.



USER PARTICIPATION



The Project is an ongoing, collective autobiography of India. Therefore, it needs to have as many writers as possible.

It is one thing to produce knowledge and another to produce knowledge about ourselves.

That is why the project cannot be true to its purpose without involving those who we experience the knowledge we document. We bring the aspirations, experiences and stories of people by engaging with local citizenry and local administration.

But it doesn't end there. An important part of the Project is to allow for user generated content.

We welcome user participation in helping grow and enrich their own stories on our website.

People can actively send us new material about their towns that we may have missed.

Each page has a link to supply new information where anyone can send us statistics, stories, images or anything else worth putting up. After quality assurance and a due diligence mechanism, we populate the contribution on the Website.

The Website will be an ever-growing repository. The Project is never over; it is always a work-in-progress. New information will continue to be added, errors rectified and new imaginations will keep evolving. It is profoundly participative.

(In the next pages, we show a few snippets from some of the categories on the Website.)

DISTRICT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

User participation was best achieved through the District Fellowship Program in Maharashtra. Since the **most authentic understanding of a region's culture comes from its locals**, the center launched this initiative, inviting high school and college students to apply as District Fellows.

The Fellowship application process involved **two rounds, with around 600 applications** received. To identify students passionate about creating a cultural inventory of their district, we used engaging questions such as “Tell us about your local Gram Devta” or “Narrate a story from your childhood shared by your grandparents.” After the second round, nearly 60 students were shortlisted.

These selected Fellows embarked on their journey for three months, engaging with local residents, visiting cultural sites, and collecting stories of their towns and talukas.

We are now hoping to expand it to other states.



The Fellows were invited to FLAME University Campus for a 3-day Training Program during 8-10 May, where they underwent rigorous engagement covering surveying techniques, data collection methods, communication, and the application of relevant social science and technological tools



Dr. Dilip Balsekar, Executive Editor, Gazetteers Department, Ministry of Culture, Maharashtra, addressing the Fellows



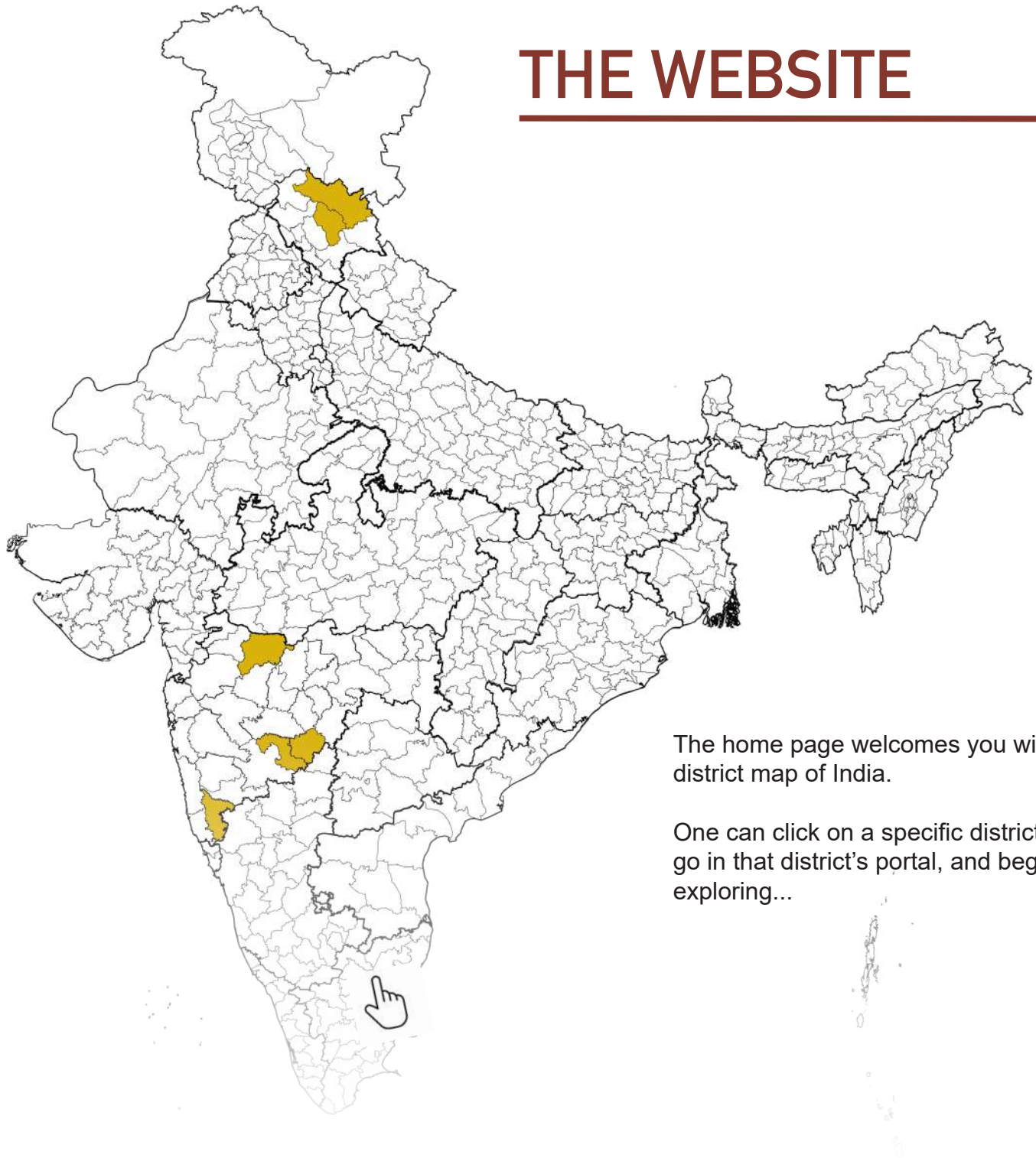
District Fellows on the field



District Fellows working on group activities during the Training Program



THE WEBSITE



The home page welcomes you with a district map of India.

One can click on a specific district, go in that district's portal, and begin exploring...

www.indiandistricts.in



There are 24 categories through which we document the district. Topics within these categories however, are interwoven with each other. For instance, sugarcane and jaggery would be linked across the categories of Food, Markets, Agriculture and Industry.

‘Culture’ carry stories and images while ‘Statistics’ have detailed, interactive graphs.

We see some samples in next few pages.





ARTFORMS (Kolhapur)



In Kolhapur, Kumbhars have been making murtis for generations. From December onwards, the Kumbhars start preparing for the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi, celebrated every year in the month of June. For Diwali, they make killas or forts and idols of Chattrapati Shivaji.

The murtis are made of Plaster of Paris. Each murti needs to be worked on at least ten times, for three to five months. The process includes putting the plaster in moulds, drying it out, carving designs several times, filling them with hay, adding layers of POP, and finally painting them. The murtis are exported to Karnataka, Goa, and other districts in Maharashtra.

[See more...](#)



POLITICAL HISTORY (Dharashiv)

Naldurg Fort, located in Tuljapur taluka, was built by Nal Raja in the 5th century, from whom it got its name. The fort was then given to the Chalukya dynasty, thereafter to Adil Shah, after which it was captured by the British and then given to the Nizam. After the Nizams' rule ended, the Archaeological Survey of India and the central government took charge of maintaining the fort. The fort plays an important part in the district's political history and has 114 watch towers, one of which is 100 ft tall with 77 stairs.

[See more...](#)





FAIRS & FESTIVALS (Dharashiv)



Vel Amavasya is celebrated in Osmanabad in the harvest season (December/January), reflecting the cultural connections with Karnataka from where it seems to have come. Popular for its food preparations, ambil (a spiced buttermilk with some amount of bajra), unde (small steamed balls made of wheat, jowar and bajra) and bhaji (vegetable preparation of ghevda, brinjal, carrots and spices) are the highlights of the meal. Unde are dipped in the ambil and relished. Other dishes include bharit (stuffed brinjal), dal, kheer and a type of ambat (sour) khichadi, made of wheat, rice, and dal. People also relish shenga (peanut) poli, made of jaggery. Vel Amavasya gets its name from a Kannada word elu, meaning seven. The festival is celebrated on the seventh amavasya (new moon day) since the beginning of sowing season.

[See more...](#)

Most know about the Tujabhavani temple in Osmanabad, but very few know about Ter and Dharashiv Caves. Osmanabad is a treasure trove for archaeologists and historians with coins and jewellery from Satvahan period (around 4th century). Northern black pottery and other articles found in the village show that there was frequent trade with the Romans. Ter was part of many trade routes from Baroch to Machalipatnam, Rome and Pataliputra. Traders halted overnight at the nearby Dharashiv caves which consist of seven caves. The first three caves have Buddhist-inspired designs and the last four have Jain-influenced architecture. The structure of one of the Buddhist caves is modelled after the Vakatak caves at Ajanta, Maharashtra.

[See more...](#)



CULTURAL SITES (Dharashiv)





SPORTS & GAMES (Kolhapur)



Apprenticed traditionally in 'Taleems' or wrestling stables, kushti has significant presence in Kolhapur and attracts people from all over the country including Rajasthan and Haryana. Interestingly, the word Taleem in urdu means education. Getting admitted and trained in the Taleems is a big deal for so many young Kolhapuris – it adds to their status. Taleems admit pupils based on their build, weight, strength, capability. They undergo strict training including weight-training (the taleem had two weight-training machines), rope climbing and running and diet regimen including pure, whole foods eggs, chicken, fish, daal, rotis, fruits, vegetables, desi ghee, milk (no wonder dairy is so popular in Kolhapur). Kushti has had a long history in the district, with massive support from the Marathas- some people say that even Shahu Maharaj played the sport.

[See more...](#)

Sugarcane is the most important crop in Kolhapur, bringing a lot of wealth to the district. A sugarcane auction takes place every day in the APMC.

The sugar market in Kolhapur has existed for over a hundred years and jaggery is sold in boxes of one kg, five kgs and ten kgs. Depending on their quality, they are split into grades of A, B, C and D. Organic jaggery is quite expensive. Jaggery is sold as solid blocks, powdered grains, and liquid (kakavi) gur. About 25,000 farmers and workers employed by them are involved in jaggery production.

[See more...](#)



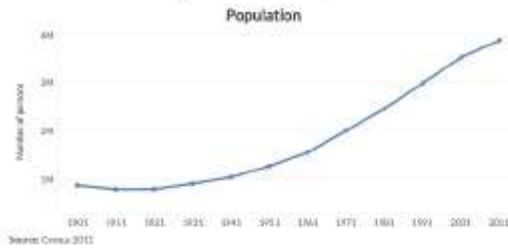
MARKETS (Kolhapur)



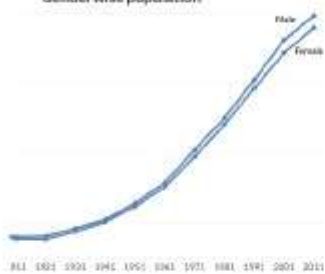


DEMOGRAPHY (Kolhapur)

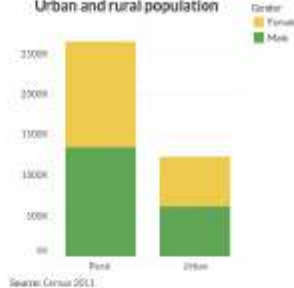
Population of Kolhapur



Genderwise population



Urban and rural population



Population distribution

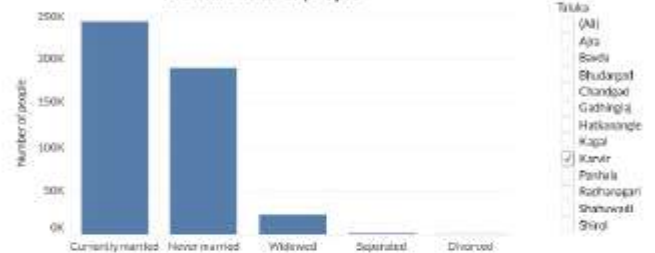
Top 10 languages spoken



Source: Census 2011

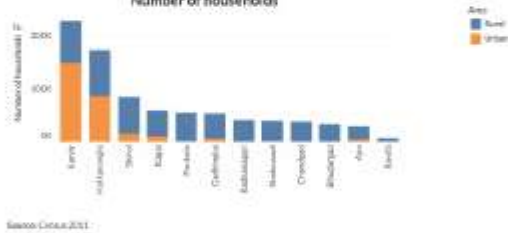
Demographic characteristics

Marital status of people

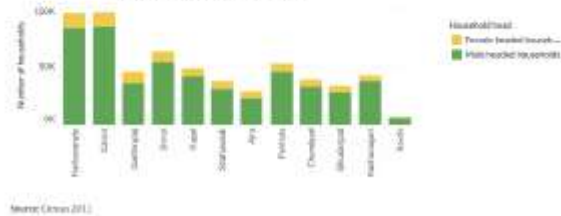


Households composition in Kolhapur

Number of households

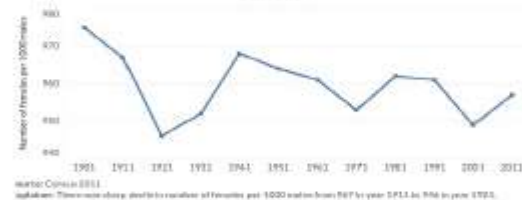


Genderwise household head

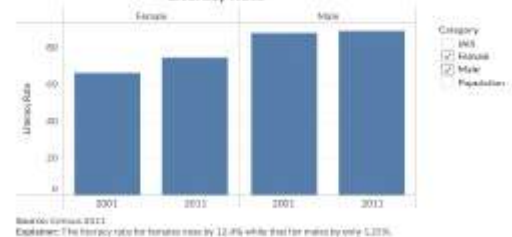


Demographic characteristics

Sex ratio



Literacy Rate

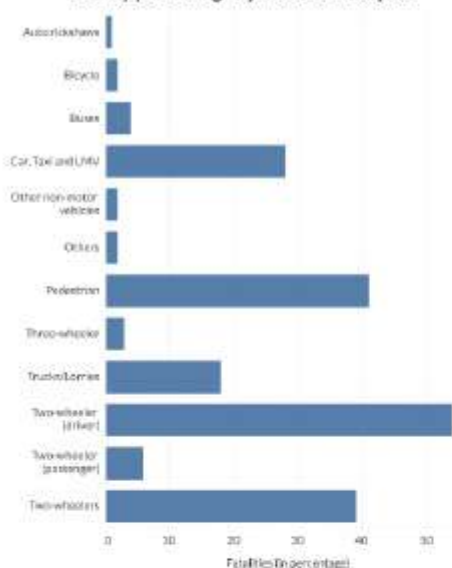




TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION (Dharashiv)

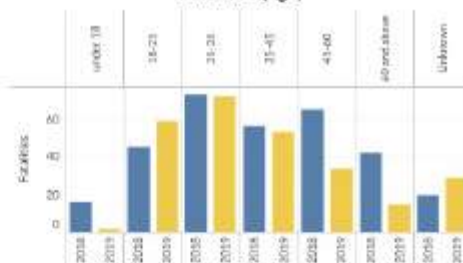
Fatalities

Fatality percentage by mode of transport



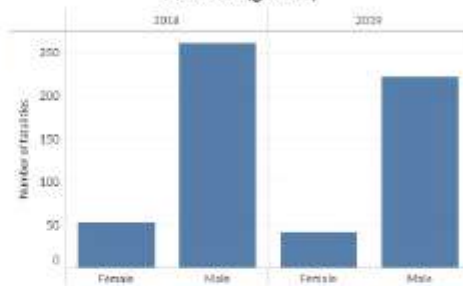
Source: Road Accidents in Maharashtra Reports
 Explainer: In 2020, two-wheeler drivers or passengers were most at risk of dying in an accident.

Fatalities (age)



Source: Road Accidents in Maharashtra Reports
 Explainer: Those in the 25-35 age group are most likely to die in an accident. Meanwhile, those under 18 or above 60 have the lowest likelihood.

Fatalities (gender)



Source: Road Accidents in Maharashtra Reports
 Explainer: Males are more likely to die in an accident than females are.

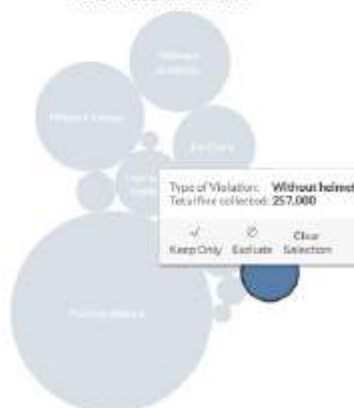
Licenses, Violations and Fines

Traffic violations in 2020



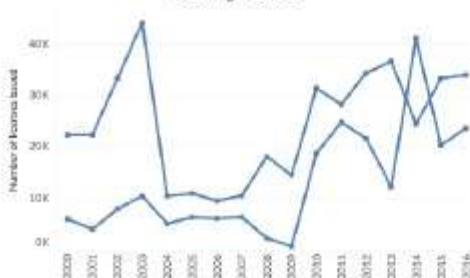
Source: Road Accidents in Maharashtra Reports
 Explainer: Parking offences were the greatest violations in 2020.

Fines collected in 2020



Source: Road Accidents in Maharashtra Reports

Driving licenses



Source: Maharashtra Transport



EDUCATION (Dharashiv)





PEOPLE

Patrons



Mr. Vallabh Bhanshali

Chairman, ENAM Securities
Founder, Desh Apnayein
Governing Body Member, FLAME University

Mr. Vallabh Bhanshali is a well-known thought leader, mentor and visionary investor businessman of India who has devoted his life to range of social, national and spiritual fields. He is the Co-founder of ENAM Securities, the reputed investment Banking and Investment Group. His non-profit, Desh Apnayein Foundation works with Government and private schools to inculcate active citizenship at young age. He also started the platform - Truth Talks to highlight the practical benefits of a truthful life. He has served on the Board of Reserve Bank of India and on several policy making advisory committees.



Mr. Monik Sameer Koticha

Managing Director, Fortress Group
Founder & Trustee, Plaksha University

Mr. Monik Sameer Koticha is part of the promoter family of ASK Group. Monik is also the managing director of Fortress Group (Family office of Sameer Koticha, Founder & Chairman of ASK Group) and oversees the investments in equity, real estate & private equity for the firm. He is an avid investor with a focus on bottom-up investments. He is also responsible for family and corporate philanthropic initiatives and is actively involved with several causes in the areas of education, housing & nation building.



Prof. Yugank Goyal

Associate Professor in Public Policy
Ph.D. (Law & Economics), Erasmus University
Rotterdam, University of Hamburg
LL.M., University of Manchester

Founding Director

Yugank joined FLAME University with a vision to build the Centre for Knowledge Alternatives and document India, district by district. He pursued Masters and PhD in law and economics from Europe as an Erasmus Mundus scholar. He was one of the founding members of O.P. Jindal Global University, and the Indian School of Public Policy. His research interests include law and development, institutional economics, knowledge frameworks and psephology.



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PhD (Electrical Engineering: Satellite Remote Sensing), University of Central Florida, USA



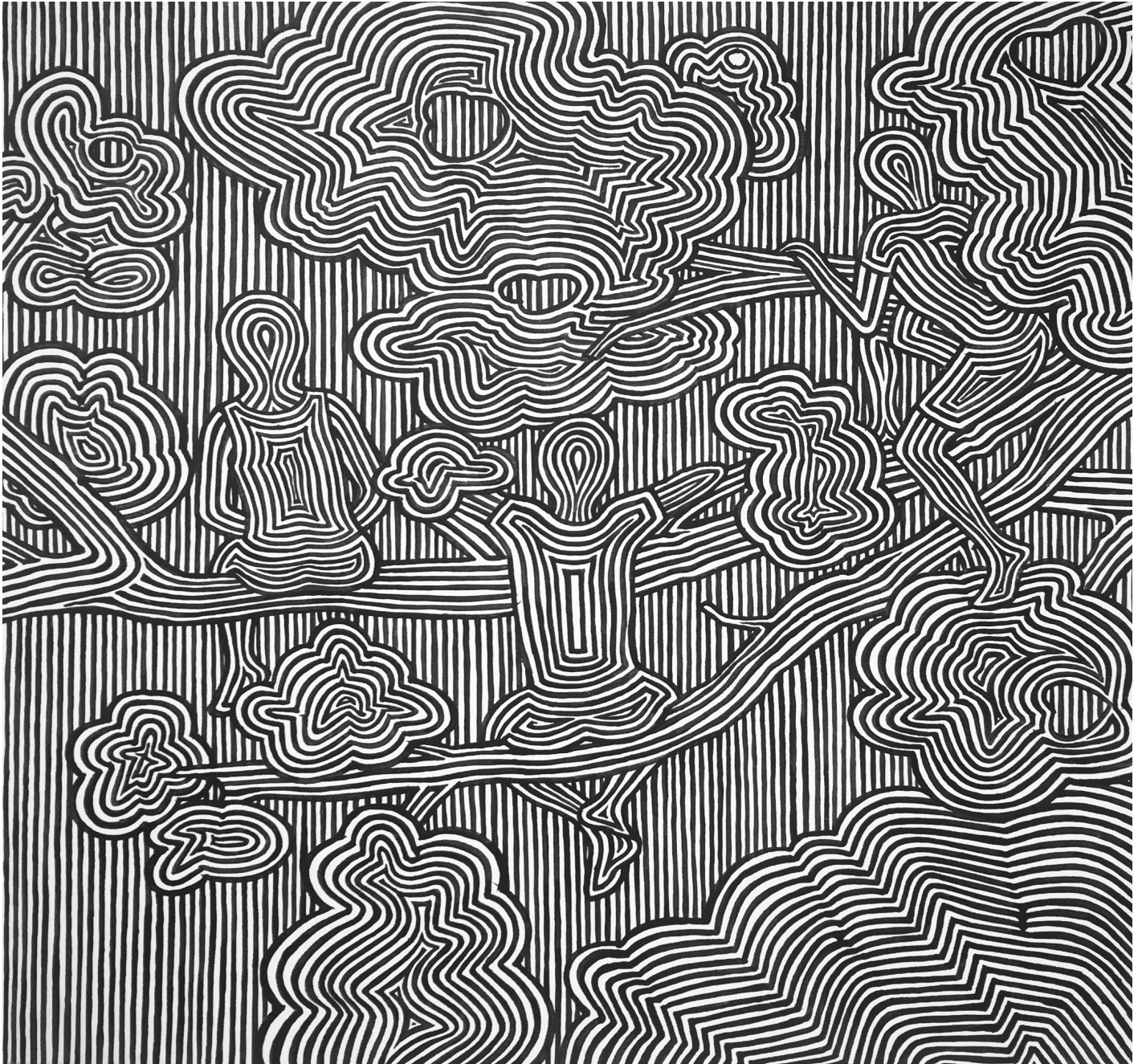
Prof. Amit Jena

Assistant Professor

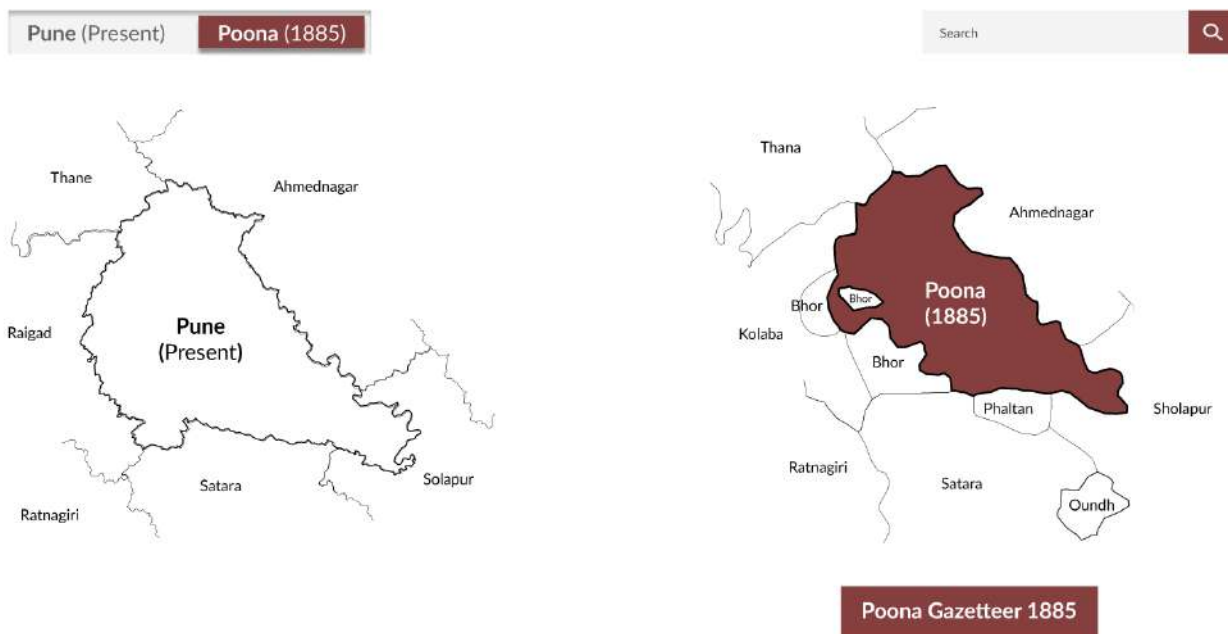
PhD (Data Visualisation), IITB-Monash, Mumbai (ongoing);
MTech (Computer Sc. & Engg.), IIIT Bhubaneswar;
MSc (Mathematics) Central University of Jharkhand

PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

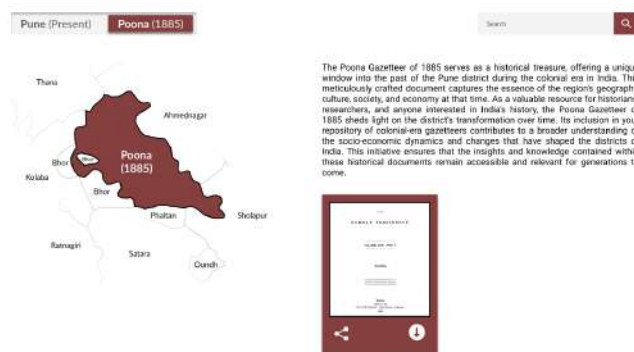
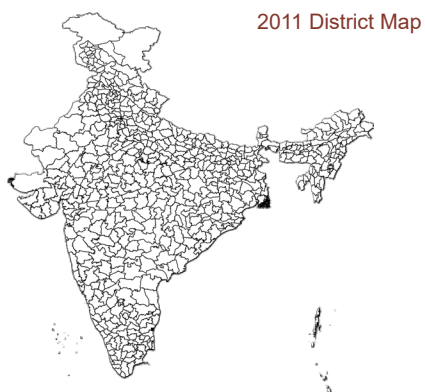
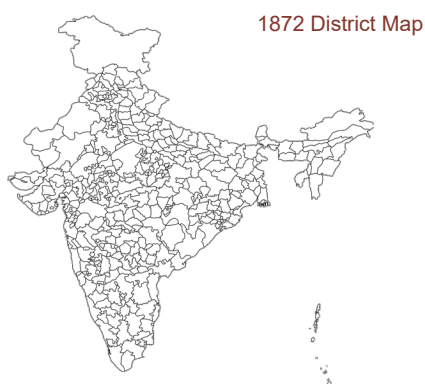
Centre engages in broad range of **research partnerships** and curates new **research projects** projects through its work. The idea is to respond to **policy-level challenges** and also develop new, **relevant** knowledge and products for larger dissemination.



Creating a Repository of Colonial Gazetteers: District Gazetteers of India



You can compare Pune present district boundary and Poona 1885 district boundary



Download or share the Poona Gazetteer 1885.

We are building a repository of all district gazetteers of India published during the colonial period, through extensive cataloging and archiving for public use.

This allows us to recognize the socio-economic trajectory and transformations in the districts of India over time, as the boundaries of districts have evolved.

Indian Knowledge Systems, Ministry of Education: Gyan Gunjan: Discovering the Bharatiya Jeevan Darshan



The project aims to compile a repository of Bharatiya Jeevan Darshan, by gathering local narratives that reflect deeply held philosophies across diverse regions and cultures of India.

We collect information through **hundreds of Fellows** across the country, to make it truly a people's account of our lands.

The idea is to **discover what binds us as Indians**, despite the enormous cultural diversity we witness all around us.

These narratives will encompass three key elements:

Gyan/Parampara - Knowledge Transmission
Vigyan/Laukik Prayojana - Practical Utility
Jeevan Darshan/Drishti - Life's Philosophy

The outcomes of the project will be reflected in **movies, books as well as research compendiums**.

Department of Gazetteers, Ministry of Culture, Maharashtra: Knowledge Sharing and Gazetteer's Conference

The Center is signing an **MOU** with state's Gazetteer Department as an effort to advance joint research projects.

In this context, the National Seminar titled **Gazetteers: Past, Present and Future** is being organized on 5-6 August 2024. This seminar will be a pioneering event, featuring participation from the **heads of various states' gazetteer departments** from across the country.



Directorate of Census Operations and Civil Registrations, Uttar Pradesh: The Chronicle Project

After Maharashtra, the Centre's **research is engaging with other states**.

In this connection, the Centre presented the Maharashtra pilot of its flagship Chronicle Project at the offices of Directorate of Census Operations and Civil Registrations, Lucknow.



TATA Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad: Uttar Pradesh District Statistics

The Centre collaborated with TISS Public Policy (Hyderabad), for **developing** large-scale, usable spreadsheets of district level statistics of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Masters students of TISS public policy program curated a significant **district-level datasets**, and developed the data visualization through this program. This cultivated a thinking of **data-based policy approach** in them, but more importantly, helped build a district-level encyclopedia for the state.

Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Government of India: History of Public Administration in India

The Centre is working with the CBC (Mission Karmaypji) to research on the **History of Public Administration in India**. The idea is to develop an account of a range of **administrative innovation** of ancient, medieval and even modern India.

We have also signed an MoU with the CBC on a range of prospective initiatives.



Landstack, Bhubaneswar and IIM Ahmedabad: Food and Land Governance and Policy Evaluations

The Centre is taking active interest in **land-related policy research**. In this connection, a collaborative project was initiated with scholars from ILDC (part of Landstack) and IIM Ahmedabad.

This is an ongoing research conversation now, with several projects coming out of it.

Developing a holistic measure of sustainability: Global Sustainability Index

The Centre is collaborating with faculty member from IIM Kozhikode, on developing large-scale data-driven insights on sustainability. The idea is to build **a rigorous, composite index on sustainability**, one which is able to capture a broad range of variables to reflect a holistic understanding of sustainable practices in countries around the world.

The result will be a Global Sustainability Index, which will rank countries through a comprehensive assessment of more than fifty interdisciplinary variables.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations: Indian Cinema and Soft Power Seminar

In March 2022, the Centre organized a Seminar on **Indian Cinema and Soft Power** with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Raj Bhavan and Films Division, Mumbai, under the aegis of the Governor's Office of Maharashtra.

Various foreign policy experts and those in film studies area spoke on themes like cinematic colonialism, Indian cinema music, regional languages cinema and technology.



The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Rajat Gupta, Chairman FTII; Mr. Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Former Governor of Maharashtra; Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of ICCR.

EVENTS



The Centre organizes various knowledge dissemination events regularly.

Initiating Conversations

We provide insights and recommendations for development projects through collaborative discussions among policymakers, civil society, and experts to address policy challenges.

Promoting Public Discourse

Our events raise awareness and engage the public in policy debates, generating new ideas from a variety of stakeholders.

Recognizing Cultural Knowledge

Our events highlight the contributions of our communities and social groups which advance cultural and intellectual inventory of the country.

Through these initiatives, we aim to bridge academia, policymakers, civil society, and the public, facilitating collaborative problem-solving.



Advancing India's Cultural Enterprises: Two Roundtables on India's Cultural Enterprises



The First Roundtable on Cultural Enterprises (“From Preservation and Protection to Promotion and Prosperity”) held in December 2022 brought several cultural entrepreneurs and policymakers to the same table and brainstormed on a range of ideas to evolve a new way of thinking about cultural entrepreneurs.

Founders and representatives of Zouk, LiveHistory India, GoCoop, Indic Inspirations, Hearth Ventures, faculty members from academic institutions and people like Rajeev Sethi and Vinay Sahasrabuddhe also participated.

The Second Roundtable on India's Cultural Enterprises (“Stakeholders and Market Designs”) held in January 2024 saw active discussions on the broad aspects of cultural entrepreneurship throughout the day.

The event was inaugurated by Sh. Chandrakant Patil, Minister, Textiles and Higher & Technical Education (Maharashtra), government representatives of Khadi Board, Invest India as well as attended by Padma Shri awardees and notable cultural entrepreneurs. The research projects emerging from the conversation are now beginning to take shape.



Analysing Voting Behavior Patterns in Maharashtra Lok Sabha Constituencies: Electoral Health Index

One of the research projects of the Centre was to use constituency-level electoral data to understand constituency-level patterns in voting behavior. The result was the Electoral Health Index—an in-depth analysis of Lok Sabha constituencies (of Maharashtra).

The Index benchmarks political participation, women's representation, candidates' records, and competitiveness in a constituency. The index aimed to understand how the constituency is performing – from the perspective of the electorate, not the political parties or the representatives – and to contribute to the advancement of electoral processes and democratic governance.

The Electoral Health Index Report is authored by Yugank Goyal, Tanya Chandra and Vrinda Mandovra. The launch event was held in May 2024, was attended by Maharashtra District Fellows, as well as students, professors, and scholars from FLAME University.



The launch of the Index and its coverage in Indian Express and Sakal.

RESEARCH ON 'HEALTH OF LS SEATS' ELECTORAL PROCESS

Nandurbar, Gadchiroli-Chimur, Hatkanangle 'most democratic' constituencies in the state

Rural & relatively less developed constituencies rank higher in the index than cities such as Mumbai or Pune

OVERALL INDEX RANK (OUT OF 100)		CONTESTANTS' PROFILES*	
Highest Ranked	Index Score	Highest Ranked	Lowest Ranked
Nandurbar (ST)	45.07	Mumbai North	18.50
Gadchiroli-Chimur (ST)	44.03	Kalyan	19.31
Hatkanangle	42.25	Satara	19.48
Yavatmal Washim	41.02	Jalgaon	22.97
Ramtek (SC)	41.91	Thane	25.64

Highest Ranked	Lowest Ranked
Hatkanangle	Kalyan
Bhandara-Gondia	Thane
Gadchiroli-Chimur (ST) Pune	
Kolhapur	Mumbai North Central
Beed	Bhawalindi

Highest Ranked	Lowest Ranked
Baramati	Bhawalindi
Mumbai North Central	Shirdi
Raver	Thane
Nandurbar (ST)	Mumbai South
Amravati (SC)	Pune

Highest Ranked	Lowest Ranked
Aurangabad	Mumbai North
Chandrapur	Jalgaon
Nanded	Kalyan
Parbhani	Thane
Raigad	Raver

*Contestants and Education: **How tight the contest is

लोकाशाहीचे स्वास्थ्य युवकांच्या हातात

चर्चासत्रातील सूर; भारतातील निवडणुकांच्या भविष्यावर चर्चा

पुणे, ता. १० : देशातील लोकाशाहीसमोर आज अनेक आव्हाने असली, तरी ती धोव्यात आलेली नाही. निरोणी लोकाशाहीत मतदारांनी लोकप्रतिनिधींची कामे जाणून घेणे गरजेचे आहे. त्या आधारे योग्य क्षमतेच्या व्यक्तींची निवड करायला हवी. आजची पिढी अनेक बाबतीत माहितीसंपन्न असून, त्यांच्याच हाती लोकाशाहीचे स्वास्थ्य आहे, असा सूर 'भारतातील निवडणुकांचे भविष्य' या चर्चासत्रात मुखबारी उघडला.

फ्लेम विद्यापीठात आयोजित या चर्चासत्रात गोखले राष्ट्रपती आणि अर्पणाव सल्लेचे कुटुंबात डॉ. अश्विनी रानडे, इंडियन एक्सप्रेसचे डेप्युटी एडिटर अमिताभ सिन्हा, पौअरसस लेखिस्ट्रेटिड रिसर्चचे सहसंस्थापक डॉ. प्रमोद शिंदे यांच्यासह अनेक मान्यवरांनी सहभाग घेतला.

फ्लेम विद्यापीठ, त्यावेळेस: 'भारतातील निवडणुकांचे भविष्य' या विषयावर चर्चा करताना मान्यवर, या वेळी राज्यातील प्रत्येक निवडणुकेचे प्रतिनिधित्व करणारे विद्यार्थी.

विकेडीकरण होणे गरजेचे असल्याचे मत डॉ. रानडे यांनी व्यक्त केले. ते म्हणाले, 'पंचासत राज कायद्यान्वरही देशात सल्लेचे विकेडीकरण झाले नाही. लोकाशाहीत महत्वाचा घटक हा राजकीय पक्षांची बदलती मानसिकता, ट्रेनिंग अर्मा आणि समाजातील विविधता आहे. त्यांचे नियमन आजही गरजेचे आहे. निवडणुकांचे भविष्य

'लोकांनी आपले मतदान बदलते तर राजकीय पक्ष उमेदवारी बदलतले,' असे मत डॉ. माधवन यांनी व्यक्त केले. केवळ सरकारकडे नाही तर राजकीय पक्षांची बदलती मानसिकता, ट्रेनिंग अर्मा आणि समाजातील विविधता आहे. त्यामुळे लोकाशाही पोषक

पाहून मतदान होत असल्याचेही त्यांनी सांगितले.

सिन्हा म्हणाले, 'आजच्या सरकारने केलेल्या अनेक गोष्टी आजवरच्या सरकारांनी कधी ना कधी केल्या आहेत. त्यामुळे लोकाशाही पोषक

एक नजर मतदारसंघांवर

पुणे, शुक्रवार, १४ मे २०२४

निवडणुकांच्या विषयात मतदारसंघांविषयी केला हा कवचाच पोहोची नेमकी माहिती मिळते. महाराष्ट्राच्या राजकीय क्षेत्रात कायदा प्रणालीनुसार अनेक मतदारसंघांची बाबी समोर आल्या आहेत. अशा प्रकारचे विश्लेषण देशात करण्याची गरज आहे.

मुलाक मोल, महार रक्षक

निवडणुकांच्या विषयात मतदारसंघांविषयी केला हा कवचाच पोहोची नेमकी माहिती मिळते. महाराष्ट्राच्या राजकीय क्षेत्रात कायदा प्रणालीनुसार अनेक मतदारसंघांची बाबी समोर आल्या आहेत. अशा प्रकारचे विश्लेषण देशात करण्याची गरज आहे.

अनेक तथ्यांवर प्रकाश

हा रंग अनेक तथ्यांवर प्रकाश टाकतो. निवडणुकांच्या विषयात मतदारसंघांविषयी केला हा कवचाच पोहोची नेमकी माहिती मिळते. महाराष्ट्राच्या राजकीय क्षेत्रात कायदा प्रणालीनुसार अनेक मतदारसंघांची बाबी समोर आल्या आहेत. अशा प्रकारचे विश्लेषण देशात करण्याची गरज आहे.

Health Statistics Challenges and Opportunities: 11th Annual Conference on Health Policy

The Centre presented some of their findings at the 11th Annual Conference on Health Policy held at FLAME University in January 2024. The conference focused on advancing research and communication in health policy where we presented the challenges and opportunities in understanding health statistics, drawn from the project's chapter on health (led by Karishma Shah). The attendees included government health officials and global scholars on public health.



MITRA, Dept of Economics & Statistics Meeting Presentation: The Chronicle Project

The Centre is collaborating with Department of Economics and Statistics, government of Maharashtra. In January 2024, we presented the Chronicle project and its features to the newly constituted Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA), World Bank officials in the presence of several senior bureaucrats.

Colonial Gazetteers of India: Stereotyping a Nation: TEDx

Prof. Yugank Goyal presented the work of the Centre at a TedX organised by Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, in March 2024, discussing the history of India's Gazetteers, and why we need to build new frameworks of knowledge.

During his talk, he highlighted the sources of many stereotypes of Indian communities in colonial gazetteers, and called for the need for a new vision and imagination to document our country.



Prof. Yugank Goyal at TEDx RGNUL

Accessing Democracy Conference: The Chronicle Project



Karishma Shah presenting the Revenue and Expenditure Chapter

At the Accessing Democracy Conference held during September 2023, Prof. Yugank, team members Karishma Shah, Tanya Chandra, and Narhar Rahekar presented the Centre's work on the district level Local Politics and Revenue Expenditure Chapter, highlighting the importance of data dissemination in terms of democracy.

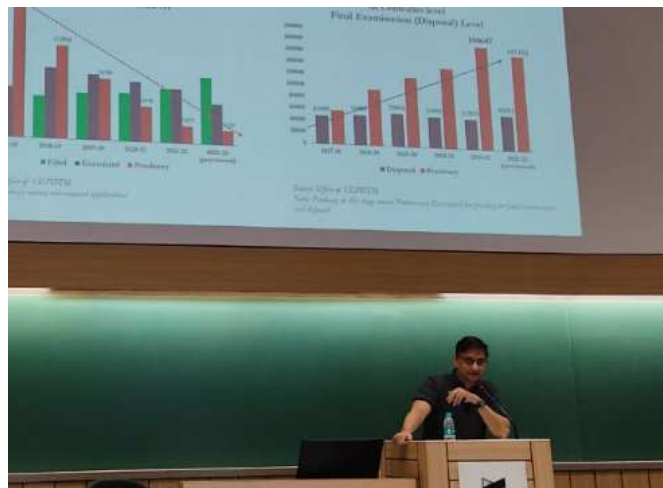
Participants included Uma Mahadevan-Dasgupta (Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Government of Karnataka); Arghya Sengupta; Aditya Prasanna and Naveed Ahmad from Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy; Apar Gupta from Internet Freedom Foundation; and Gaurav Godhwani and Nupur Gawde from CivicDataLab.

Understanding District Statistical Abstracts: YASHADA, Pune

The Centre presented different chapters across districts for comparison to the District Statistical Officers of Maharashtra at Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration in November 2023. The discussion emphasized the importance of the District Statistical Abstract in the Chronicle Project. This meeting is leading to several new local level research project.

Big Impact from Small Changes: Talk by Sanjeev Sanyal

The Centre organized a talk in November 2023 by Mr. Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. The lecture focused on the impact of small process reforms on a large scale and was attended by the CKA interns, as well as students, scholars, and professors from FLAME University.



Health Statistics Challenges and Opportunities: 7th India Land Development Conference



Mr. Vivek Singh (Development Commissioner, Bihar) had a private discussion with past and present researchers at CKA.

The 7th India Land and Development Conference (ILDC), organized by FLAME University, Center for Land Governance in Bhubaneshwar, and other partners, was held at the FLAME university campus in November 2023.

The Centre organised a panel discussion on states' success stories around Land Administration and Innovation. Mr. Vivek Singh (Development Commissioner, Bihar); Dr. Pradeep K Nayak (Revenue Judge, Govt. of Odisha); Mr. Aman Mittal (MD, Maharashtra Power Company Limited); Mr. Vinod Agarwal (Former Chief Secretary Telangana) participated.

This panel has now led to a larger research project on evaluating some land-related policies in the state of Maharashtra and Odisha.

Insights on the Philosophy of the Project: The Seen and the Unseen Podcast with Amit Varma

“Deep insights about education, elections, colonisation, politics, history, society. Yugank Goyal joins Amit Varma in episode 370 of The Seen and the Unseen to throw thought-bomb after thought-bomb at all of us.”

26 Feb 2024

Episode 370: Yugank Goyal Is out of the Box



PUBLICATIONS

Economic & Political WEEKLY

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Electoral Contests in MP, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan

A Tale of Three Figures

Using poll data from the last four Vidhan Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan, three findings are distilled in this article. It is noted that the 2018 elections were of great significance in all three states in terms of breaking from the trend of the previous three elections, which makes 2023 even more consequential.

Commentary

Vol. 58, Issue No. 48, 02 Dec, 2023
Published on 20 January 2024

Yugank Goyal
Arun Kumar Kaushik
Tanya Chandra

The authors wish to thank Vrinda Mandovra for her excellent research assistance.

Three large Indian states are going to elections in November 2023. Together, the three large states of Madhya Pradesh (MP), Chhattisgarh (CH), and Rajasthan (RA) account for almost 13% of India's population, covering one-fifth of the area. While these figures are by themselves significant, since these are the most prominent Vidhan Sabha elections taking place a few months before the impending national elections, it makes them even more critical. Even though the idea that state elections impact closely held national ones is a matter of some debate (Chibber 2009; Goval and Kaushik 2022), the influence of these

Public Procurement in Medical Supplies The Case of the Nanded Tragedy

YUGANK GOYAL, RADHIKA PANDE, ANISHA MUTHANNA, MAHADEV P MENON

The Nanded government hospital tragedy is analysed in this article, and it is pointed out that there is a need to revisit the system of public procurement of medical supplies. Maharashtra moved from its old procurement system to the Medical Goods

Recently, the Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospital in Nanded witnessed a major tragedy—the death of almost 35 patients (including 16 infants) in two days. Following the Nanded event, reports of high mortality in the span of a day at the Ghati Hospital in Aurangabad (also known as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar)

Maharashtra are isolated events, particularly when COVID-19 forced the public health infrastructure in the country to plug gaping holes. There is some merit in considering the flaws in the procurement systems, particularly because Maharashtra had promulgated the Medical Goods Procurement Authority Act, in March 2023, overhauling the existing medical supplies procurement in the state.

To have several major hospital death events in the state taking place within a year of crucial legislation being passed calls for deeper examination. Newspaper stories bringing the procurement system to the centre of the debate must carry some veracity (Chakraborty 2023). One contributing factor to this crisis has been the failure to initiate necessary procure-



Regulating the Coaching Industry in India

Evidence from a Survey of Students

YUGANK GOYAL, GOYAM PITALIA, ATHARVA NAVANDER, TANVI CHHABRA, MAHADEV P MENON, KARISHMA K SHAH

Through a primary survey of 997 students in premier Indian engineering and law universities, the need to regulate the coaching industry is examined. The results reveal a significant social cost imposed by coaching firms on students' mental health, well-being, and holistic development, suggesting the need for stringent regulation of coaching firms. We also reflect upon the regulatory guidelines issued by the central government in 2024 in this regard.

India has become home to one of the fastest-growing coaching industries in recent years (Kishore and Sarin 2022). The total market revenue of the coaching industry in India is approximately ₹58,000 crore and is projected to reach 1.3 lakh crore by 2028 (Yadav 2022). A primary driver of this industry is the high demand for admission into select few reputed institutions through entrance examinations. For example, around 11 lakh, 20 lakh, and 60,000 candidates appeared for Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) Mains, National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) in 2023, respectively, with exceedingly low selection ratios of 1%, 4%, and 5%.

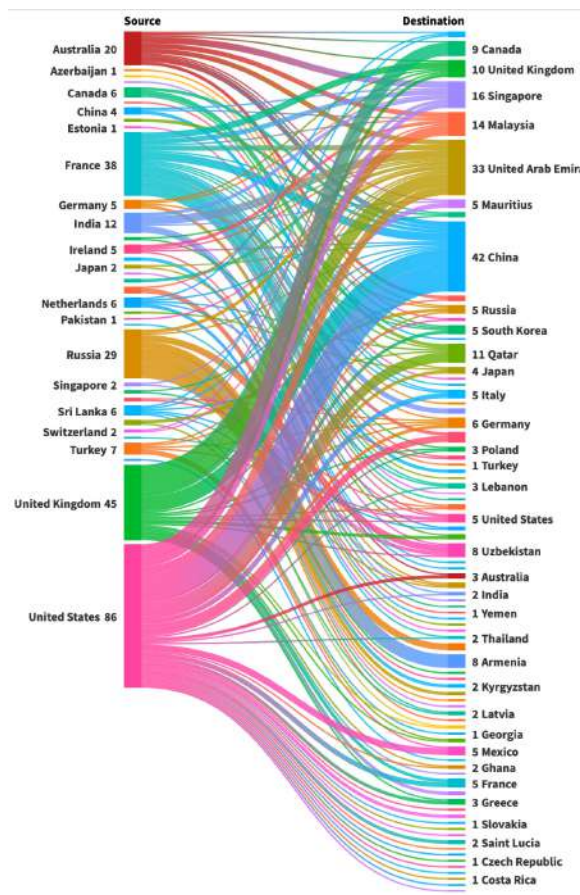


RESEARCH CENTRES FORUMS EVENTS ABOUT US

Foreign Universities in India: Lessons and Learnings from Global Experiences

Karishma K. Shah |
Yugank Goyal

In May 2023, India's University Grants Commission announced draft guidelines to allow foreign universities to establish operations in the country. This paper explores the potential outcomes of the decision by assessing the experiences of foreign institutions in China, the United Arab Emirates, South Korea, and Malaysia. The case studies highlight that only a few world-class universities are keen to establish campuses in foreign countries. As such, India should focus on forging collaborative campuses between foreign and local higher education institutions that foster a higher quality of learning and research, and develop local capacities.





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Land Use Policy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/landusepol



Informal land leasing in rural India persists because it is credible

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ARTICLE INFO

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Institutional Function

ABSTRACT

While insecure property rights are considered 'perverse' with respect to development, we examine what are the features most amenable for their persistence. Applying a Credibility Thesis framework in the context of rural land tenancy relations in India, that are largely held through private arrangements, we try to understand if there are inherent preferences to the existing informal structure of land leasing. An in-depth primary household survey across four states of India reveals that farmers rely on customary, informal mode of leasing arrangements because of their functionality in terms of no paperwork, easy accessibility, swifter modes of payment and prompt conflict resolution. Informality makes the existing institutional arrangement 'credible' in the eyes of both the tenants and owners. This raises the questions of whether policy prescriptions on intricate land related issues should entail appreciation of prevailing informal tenant customs, regulating them, or simply letting them be and realign agrarian support and delivery systems around this embedded informality.

RESEARCH ARTICLE | VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2, E24133, JANUARY 30, 2024

Household livelihood resilience of pastoralists and smallholders to climate change in Western Himalaya, India

Ratika Kapruwan • Alishaya Kumar Saksham • Vivek Singh Bhadoriya • Chitra Kumar • Yugank Goyal • Rajiv Pandey

Open Access • Published: January 09, 2024 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2024.e24133> •

Check for updates

Abstract

Keywords

Introduction

Conceptual framework

Method

Results

Discussion and policy implications

Conclusion

Data availability statement

Abstract

Smallholders and pastoralists are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to their high reliance on socio-ecological systems for their livelihood. Building their resilience to these adverse effects of climate change is crucial for mitigating their vulnerabilities, especially in remote and fragile ecosystems. This study aims to assess the climate change livelihood resilience of smallholders and pastoralists in the Indian Himalayas. We build a livelihood resilience index, using the three dimensions of resilience, namely assimilative capacity, autopoiesis and cognitive ability, and weighed using entropy-TOPSIS approach. The dimensions of resilience was estimated through indicators by a household survey of 289 randomly selected respondents across the three districts of Garhwal Himalayas. The results showed that the livelihood resilience of smallholders was greater than pastoralists. Among pastoralists, settlement brought positive changes to their livelihood, opening the gateway to access basic facilities. Key findings of the study indicate that public policy should focus towards information accessibility, encouraging environmental awareness and conservation, promoting social inclusion and cooperatives, and fostering grass root organization structures like forest-level organisation through informality to strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change.



We Shall Not Cease from Exploration: Why IP Protection May Harm Traditional Cultural Expressions

Chapter | First Online: 06 March 2024

pp395–406 | Cite this chapter

Yugank Goyal & Harini Shah

374 Accesses

Abstract

The conventional legal wisdom in the context of Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) is that TCEs need formal IP protection (through *sui generis* rights) to ensure that the indigenous communities have authority and rights over their works. We show in this paper that this claim is built on an incomplete understanding of TCEs (which is perhaps one of the reasons why countries have hardly adopted WIPO's framework). We advance three arguments, namely (1) IP protection discourages TCEs' usage, deepening the vulnerabilities of these communities, in fact TCEs evolve through a culture of openness and free flow of ideas, which is antithetical to IP regimes; (2) the demand for IP protection is hardly universal because it stems from distinct colonial experiences the Americas and Australia had with their indigenous communities, a history not shared by most of the world; and (3) there is a need to differentiate 'know-how' and 'knowledge', and since TCEs belong to the former, they will elude any IP framework, by definition.

Florent Thouvenin
Alexander Peukert
Thomas Jaeger
Christophe Geiger Hrsq.

Kreation Innovation Märkte – Creation Innovation Markets

Festschrift Reto M. Hilty

Springer

Governing Markets as Knowledge Commons

EDITED BY
ERWIN DEKKER
AND
PAVEL KUCHAR

Knowledge Commons, Social Infrastructures, and Informal Markets

The Case of Informal Trade Credit in India

Yugank Goyal*

7.1 THE VISIBLE STORY

Agra is the north-Indian city famous for the Taj Mahal. But beyond the beautiful structure of the Taj lie swathes of 'unstructured' markets of a particular item that Agra is more famous for in the local context – shoes. Agra is the most important centre of (leather) footwear manufacturing in India, and has remained so for centuries. The city produces for about 55 per cent of the Indian domestic markets and 22 per cent of total footwear exports from India (Hashim, Murthy, and Roy 2010). Around 40 per cent of the city's 1.7 million people are directly or indirectly involved with the footwear industry. The National Sample Survey Office (a government organization that collects large-scale sample surveys in India) reveals that Agra fares second in the share of population that is self-employed.¹ A good reason for this is the massive footwear cluster it has had historically.²

While there are huge export houses and medium-scale businesses, an overwhelming majority of work takes place in households, with traditional artisans making shoes by hand. These shoemaker artisans (also called *dastakaar*), who work in their homes with their family members making shoes by hand and selling their produce the next day in the wholesale market, employ a significant part of the city's population. By some estimates, more than two-thirds of manufacturing units are located in

* The author would like to thank the editors for their extensive suggestions on the earlier drafts which helped refine the argument greatly. Comments from the participants, particularly from Brett Frischmann and Terence Krale, at the Mercatus Center Workshop on Governing Markets as Knowledge Commons that took place in Washington DC in March 2019 were invaluable. The author also thanks Aseem Prakash, Pauline Westerman, Anuraj, Abhinandan Malik for the insights they brought to his work, and Shiv Swaminathan for the unending joint pursuits in trying to discern polycentricity around us.

¹ NSS 2004-05 suggests that for every 1,000 males, 603 are self-employed. The national figure is 395 per 1,000 people.

² Despite the importance of this cluster, it has escaped a scholarly scrutiny. Knorringa (1994: 1999a, 1999b) and Lynch (1969) are the only two reliable works on this industry till date.

Winds of change in urban India that demand close investigation

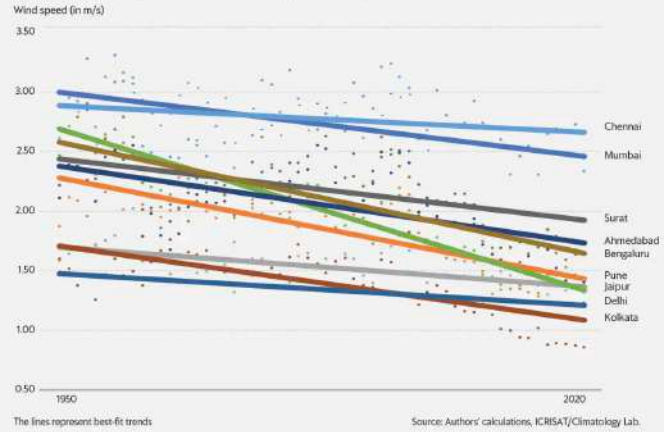
Date: 02 March, 2022

Smriti Jalihal, Yugank Goyal

Wind speeds in Indian cities have been slowing dramatically over the decades and the country must probe this phenomenon.

An invisible stillness

Winds in our urban spaces have been slowing consistently for more than half a century.



A better frame for us

Indian cinema's potential as soft power is still largely untapped

VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE AND YUGANK GOYAL

DAYS AFTER INDIA'S filmdom celebrated the 80th birthday of its current uncrowned king, Amitabh Bachchan, it would be pertinent to understand the soft power potential of Indian cinema.

The comparison, very understandably,

duction). Countries can't advertise and so branding has to happen differently, by creating an aspirational perception. Nye's proposed soft power comes from culture, political values and foreign policies. If a country or its people are regarded or admired more

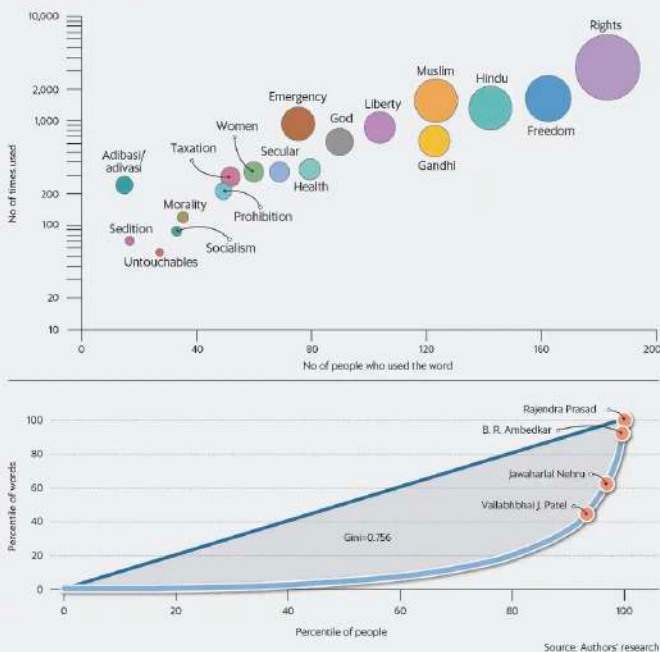
try where a vast majority of cinema is for domestic viewership. In other words, most of the world watches non-native cinema. There is no reason why Indian cinema can't have a more significant influence.

Despite being an interdisciplinary field

the Civil Aviation Minister. Fourth, Indian cinema has to go beyond the large diaspora. This means engaging, evolving strategies, events and partnerships that expand viewership. Fifth, technology in cinema is changing the way movies are made and distributed. Indian

Share of voice

Less than 6% of members spoke half of all the words uttered in the debates, with Rajendra Prasad and Ambedkar the most voluble. Women spoke less than 2%.



What our Constituent Assembly debates reveal of a vital process

Date: 25 November, 2021

Shivakumar Jolad, Yugank Goyal

A textual study of the Constitution of India's creation offers notable insights into the collective mind of the country's founders.

Question hour: Have opposition parties done well in Parliament

Date: 11 April, 2024

Yugank Goyal, Shreyas Ramkumar

Data analysis shows a difference in how the BJP and Congress made use of a mechanism devised to hold governments accountable. The ministries that were put to most scrutiny saw a shift after the BJP won power.

The right to question

In opposition, the BJP (and NDA) asked more Lok Sabha questions of the ruling Congress (and UPA) in 10 years than it was asked by the latter after the 2014 power switch, although the scale tilts the other way on queries in proportion to MPs

Lok Sabha	Percentage of questions by opposition	Opposition
14	67	NDA et al
15	63	NDA et al
16	31	UPA et al
17	51	UPA et al

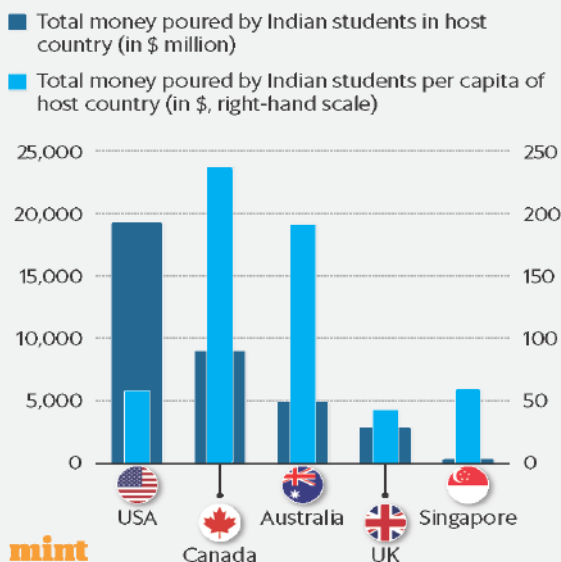
Lok Sabha	Party	Seats	Questions	Questions per seat
14	BJP	138	647	4.69
15	BJP	116	570	4.91
16	INC	44	276	6.27
17	INC	52	368	7.08
14	CPIM	43	210	4.88
16	CPIM	9	70	7.78
17	CPIM	3	23	7.67
14	SP	36	127	3.53
15	SP	23	72	3.13
16	SP	5	24	4.80
17	SP	5	1	0.20

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Source: Authors' research, Lok Sabha data

India's educational outflows

The money that Indian students spend on universities abroad amounts to a commercial bonanza for host countries and campus towns.



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All values are approximate

Source: Authors' calculations using ministry of external affairs data and other publicly available sources

Uni-buzz: Even Indian universities can boost local economies in student zones

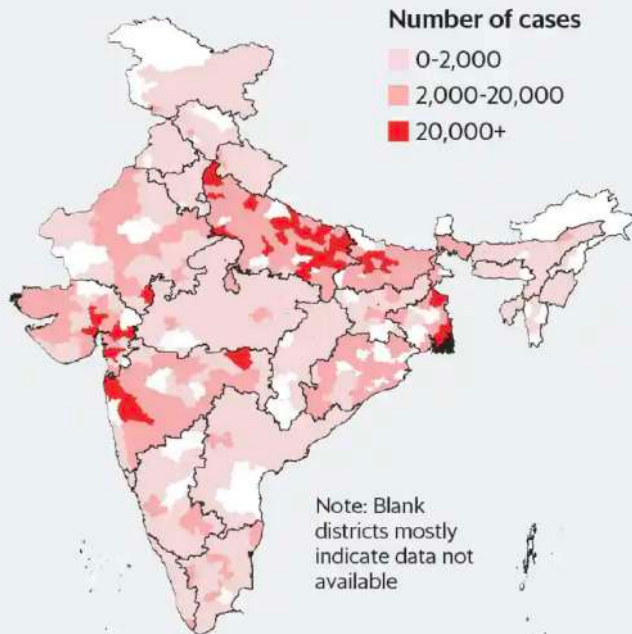
Date: 28 April, 2024

Yugank Goyal, Karishma K. Shah

India suffers from what we call a sizable international student deficit. More public investments in developing world-class institutions of learning would attract students and boost local economies.

Overburdened courts

District-wise spread of cases pending for more than 10 years in India.



Source: Authors' compilation of data from National judicial data grid

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Home / Opinion / Columns / Judicial delays and the need for intervention

Judicial delays and the need for intervention at the district level

Date: 22 May, 2022

Smriti Jaliha, Yugank Goyal

A geographical mapping of cases pending for over 10 years in India throws up a pattern that requires a well focused

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Home / Opinion / Columns / Judicial delays and the need for intervention

Election wins and losses: Margin analysis reveals a luckier Congress than BJP

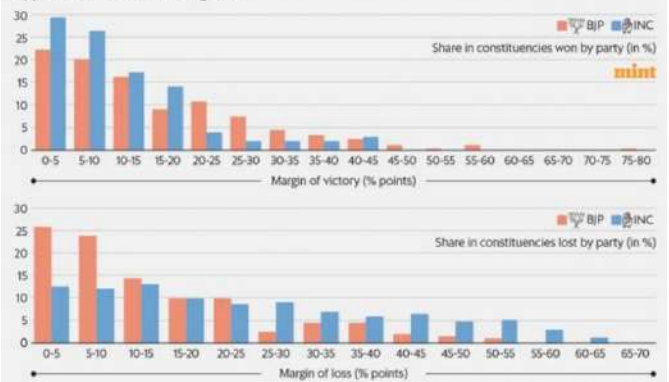
Date: 13 June, 2024

Yugank Goyal, Mahadev P. Menon

Understanding the margins by which losers lost in election is crucial for strategy formulation in a first-past-the-post electoral system. An analysis of the BJP's and Congress's winning and losing seats reveals BJP's bigger wins and closer losses, while the opposite is true of the Congress party.

Lucky victories and unlucky losses

The BJP had bigger margins in its Lok Sabha victories and smaller margins in its losses while the opposite is true for the Congress.



SATISH KUMAR/MINT

Close fights and big routs

The win and loss patterns of India's two main rival parties differ.

Margin less than	Seats won by party (first rank)		Seats lost by party (second rank or below)	
	BJP	INC	BJP	INC
10,000	8	6	8	4
50,000	47	28	48	28
100,000	90	53	91	49
200,000	145	81	141	96

Source: Author's calculations, Election Commission of India

Of Footwear Clusters, Community Ties, and Institutional Tenacity

YUGANK GOYAL

I. The *Hing Ki Mandi*

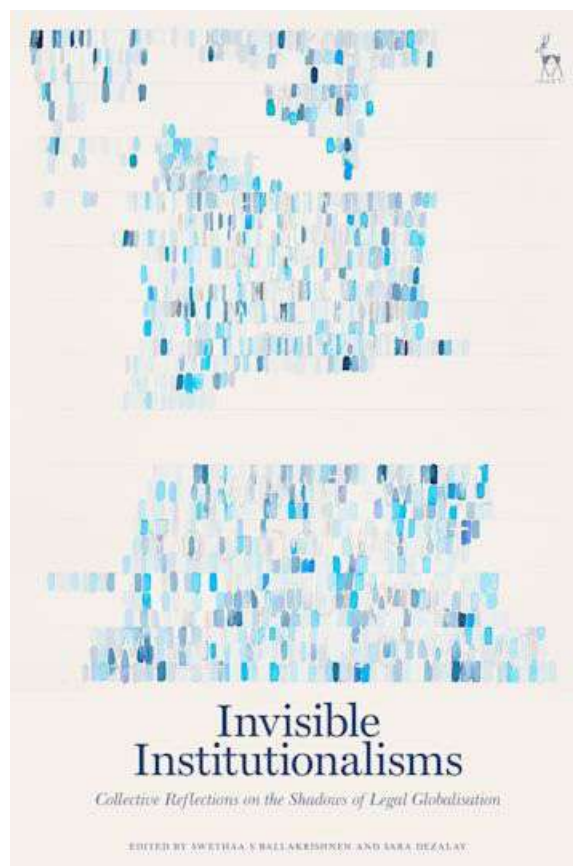
Most people in the north-Indian city of Agra do not draw their pride or livelihood from Taj Mahal. They rely on the bustling leather footwear clusters of the town. Behind the glistening, 'white' marble structure lie the 'unstructured', 'grey' markets where leather footwear has been manufactured and sold for centuries. This is the story of the *invisible* footwear cluster of Agra, which will take you beyond the scene of the *visible* Taj Mahal. And in doing so, this story will attempt to remove the parallax view¹ which confuses government with governance, the valid with the legal and perhaps order with globalisation.

Agra is the most important centre of (leather) footwear manufacturing in India. The city produces about 55 per cent of the footwear sold in Indian domestic markets and 22 per cent of India's total footwear exports. Around 40 per cent of the city's 1.7 million people are directly or indirectly involved with the footwear industry. While there are huge export houses and medium-scale businesses, an overwhelming majority of shoemaking labour is self-employed. These are artisans (also called as *dastakaar*), who work in their homes with their family members, making shoes by hand and selling their produce the next day in the wholesale market. By not-so-old estimates, more than two-thirds of the city's manufacturing units are located in household artisan-dominated communities.²

The wholesale market is called *Hing ki Mandi*, a huge bustling bazaar with hundreds of trading shops and units where artisans come in the evenings with

¹ I borrow the usage of the term from S Žižek, 'The parallax view: Toward a new reading of Kant' (2004) 8 *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy* 235.

² P Khorringa, 'Agra: an old cluster facing the new competition' (1999) 27 *World Development* 1587.



Towards a Regulatory Framework for Higher Education Institutions

Yugank Goyal ¹, Karishma K. Shah ²

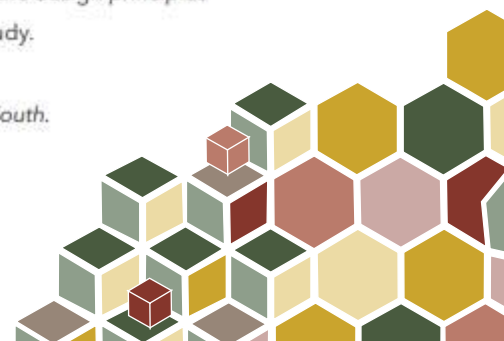
October 10, 2023

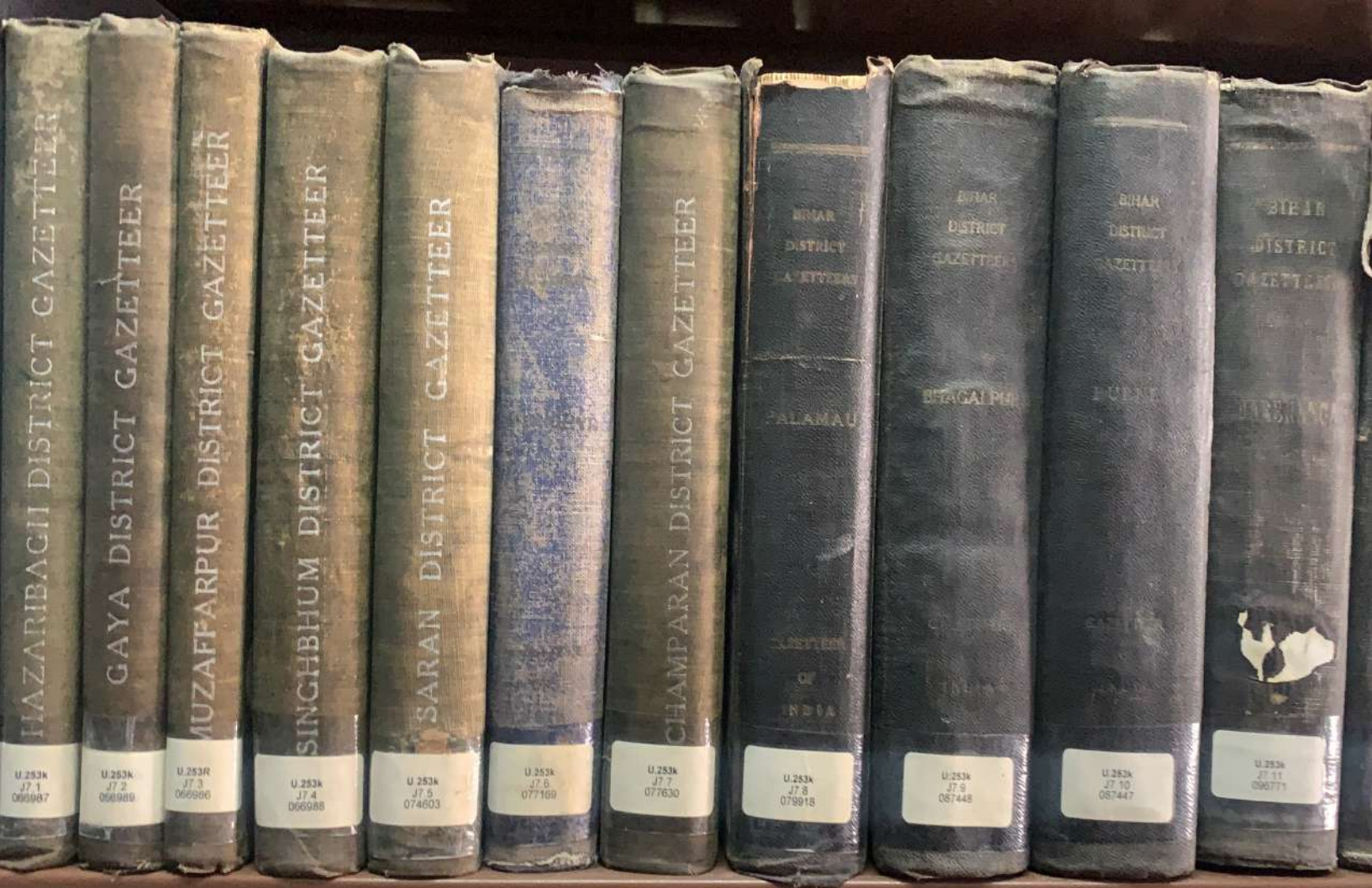
FLAME Working Paper Volume 1, Issue 1

Abstract

Today, research on higher education regulation is dominated by higher education scholars and not those working on the regulations itself. This leads to a limited regulatory understanding of higher education sector. As private universities mushroom across developing countries, an adequate understanding of how regulatory frameworks should be developed is important. By drawing ideas from pertinent taxonomy in regulatory studies (Gilad 2010) we evolve an approach through which higher education regulation can be benchmarked, examined and evaluated. To illustrate the design principles of the proposed framework, we use India's higher education sector as the case study.

Keywords: Higher education regulation, privatization of higher education, Global South.





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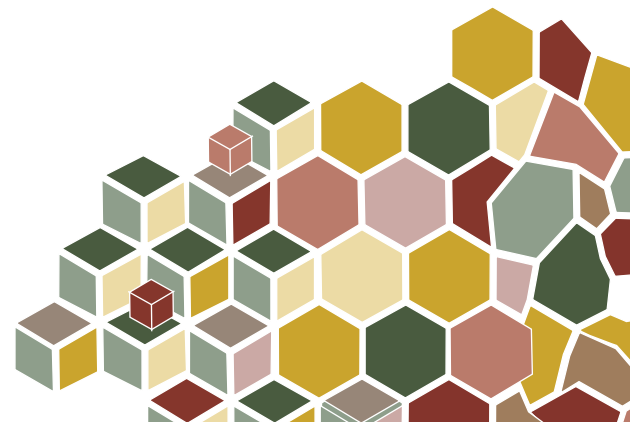
FLAME University has been established as a state private university vide the FLAME University Act 2014 (Maharashtra Act No. II of 2015) of the Government of Maharashtra. FLAME has been set up with an idealistic vision and a social commitment to contribute to society in a noble manner.

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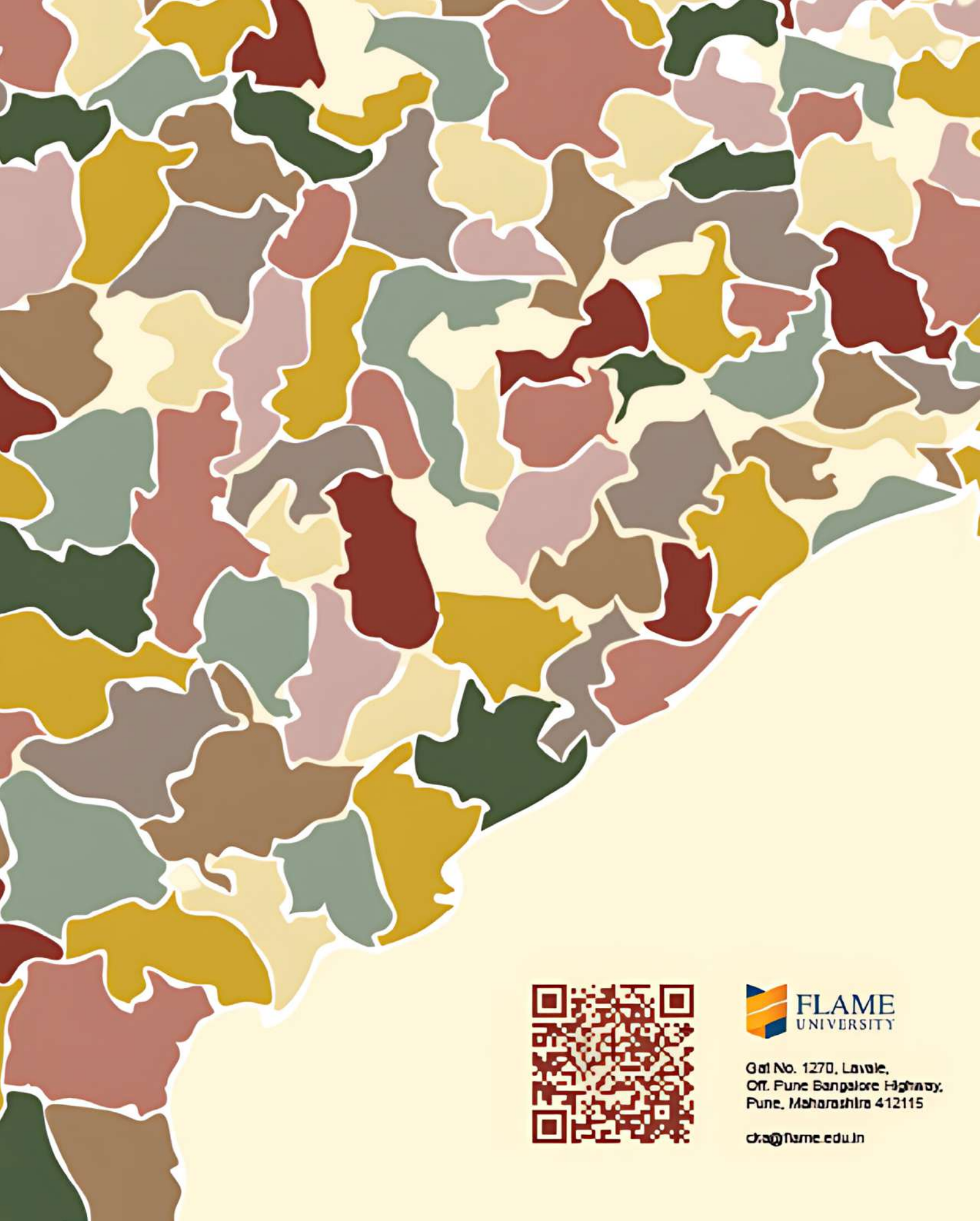
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