From the Director’s Desk....

The first half of 2021 has been quite eventful on the campus, notwithstanding the on-going pandemic caused by the COVID 19 virus and the onset of the deadlier second wave. I am happy to report that all ISEC faculty, staff and campus residents remained strong and healthy, and academic and co-curricular activities progressed undaunted. In this we were assisted by vaccination drives conducted on site, with the cooperation of the BBMP, which enabled all ISEC students, faculty and staff to receive both doses of the vaccine.

At the outset I am happy to inform you that our doctoral training programme, which has long been a source of pride for us, has been resumed after a hiatus of nearly three years. ISEC admitted 28 students to the PhD programme in November 2020 after a rigorous screening process, and teaching commenced in January 2021. Both faculty and students have had to learn how to function in online classrooms as the second round of the lockdown meant that campus was closed down for a period of about two months. This virtual aspect of interactions has become a reality of our times.

During this period many events were conducted, majority via online media. The Founder’s day celebrations were held on January 20th in two-fold ways, on campus with residents honouring Dr VKRV Rao, our founder, and virtually with the conduct of the annual lecture. This year the lecture was delivered by Professor Kunal Sen, current Dr VKRV Rao Chair Professor, on the topic of ‘Finance, Gender and Entrepreneurship: India’s Formal Sector Firms.’ Further, the ISEC seminar series continued apace with talks given online by eminent scholars on topics which included Sustainable Development and lessons learned from the pandemic.

In other ISEC news, on the research front, ISEC faculty and students have been conducting multi-disciplinary research in social science. The outcome of this engagement is a large number of research studies and reports on various contemporary issues, many of which relate to the COVID 19 pandemic. Thirteen research projects were completed and ten new projects were commenced by ISEC faculty. Research work has been published in the form of eleven working papers, nine in ISEC working paper series and two external. ISEC has brought out five Policy Briefs in this six-month period increasing the visibility of the excellent research work done at the institute. Three books and numerous articles in journals and edited books were published by faculty and students. At the same time, members of ISEC community have been actively participating in conferences and seminars online. Three students were awarded their doctorate degrees. Six students presented pre-submission seminars, and are well on their way to completing their doctoral training.

Last but not least, I am happy to announce that ISEC has been in discussions with the Department of Planning, Government of Karnataka, to collaborate on the way forward in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the state. The multi-disciplinary expertise of ISEC faculty and research staff will go a long way in supporting evidence based policy making with the identification of challenges faced by the state in enabling sustainable development. ISEC researchers can provide expertise in identifying the dimensions of social development in which the state is lagging and help make policy to achieve the goals.

D Rajasekhar
Director
The Founder's Day of the Institute was celebrated on January 20, 2021. Participants included distinguished Members of the Board of Governors, Founder / Life Members of the ISEC Society, academicians, administrators, ISEC residents, faculty, staff and students of the Institute. Professor S Madheswaran, Director, ISEC, inaugurated the celebration by garlanding the statue of Dr VKRV Rao. The annual Founder's Day lecture was held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To commemorate the occasion, the 17th Dr VKRV Rao Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Kunal Sen, the current Dr VKRV Rao Chair Professor, ISEC, on 'Finance, Gender and Entrepreneurship: India’s Informal Sector Firms’. Professor Sen is Director of UNU-WIDER and Professor of Development Economics, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester.

During the occasion, seven books authored by ISEC faculty members were released. Also, Mr M Mallaiah, who had completed 25 years of service in

Orientation and Distribution of Scholarship to Social Science Talent Search Scheme Students

The Social Science Talent Search (SSTS) is an ongoing programme since January 2009, with the Orientation with Scholarship distribution programme included in 2011. The SSTS is undertaken in collaboration with Bangalore University and Christ University. While the two universities have been kind enough to sponsor scholarships to meritorious students, the programme has been receiving financial support from the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) as part of its support to academic and scholarly initiatives at ISEC. The Programme is an initiative to inspire interest among student fraternity in social science subjects. Students at Plus Two level write a competitive exam and 25 students from Bangalore University, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bengaluru who qualify are provided Orientations on Social Science Scope and Relevance and Scholarship. Two Orientations are conducted on Social Science Scope and Relevance in every academic year during August and January, along with the Scholarship Distribution for selected students during their three years’ tenure as undergraduate students in social science courses and a Talent Search Examination for selecting new students for those who are studying at second-year PUC level every year.

As part of this initiative and in continuation of the earlier such presentations, half-yearly Orientation and Scholarship Distribution Programmes were conducted at ISEC on January 30-31, 2020 (On-line) and March 06-07, 2021 (Off-line) along with an Annual Examination, 2021 on February 28, 2021. Dr Venugopal K R, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University, Bengaluru, Professor S Madheswaran, Director, ISEC, Bengaluru, Professor M Siddananda, Visiting Professor, Dept. of PG Studies in Economics, National College, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, Professor H K Moulesh, ISEC, was felicitated. Professor Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairperson, Board of Governors of ISEC, presided over the function. Dr Sanjiv Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Chief Electoral Office, was the Guest of Honour. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Professor Meenakshi Rajeev.
Campus Highlights

Former Professor & Head, Department of Sociology, National College, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru and Controller of Examinations, SSTSS, ISEC, Bengaluru and Dr K G Gayathri Devi, Former Faculty, CEENR, ISEC and Advisor cum Co-coordinator of SSTSS have participated in distributing the scholarships and addressed the students. In both the online programs, various resource persons, viz., Professor R S Deshpande, Former Director, ISEC, Bengaluru, Professor Shailaja Shastri, Consultant Psychologist, Founder-Director of Training and Research Initiatives (TRI) – a Psychological Solutions Company and Mental Health Resource Hub, Former Professor & Head, Department of Psychology, Jain University, Bengaluru, Professor Siddananda, Visiting Professor, Department of PG Studies in Economics, National College, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, Professor H K Moulesh, Prof. of Sociology (Rtd.), National College, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru & Controller of Examinations, SSTSS, ISEC, Bengaluru, Professor D Rajasekhar, Professor, CDD, ISEC, Bengaluru and several other experts have addressed the students despite busy in their work being week-end holidays. Nodal officers from the different colleges and parents of the students have attended all the two programmes. The ongoing flagship programme of the SSTSS at ISEC is coordinated by Dr M Lingaraju, Faculty, Centre for Human Resource Development, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru.


Mr S Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, IIPA-KRB and Dr Parmod Kumar, Director-in-Charge, ISEC, in their Introductory Remarks, observed that the document being discussed is a Road Map of
the Government of Karnataka for realizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on equity, efficiency and sustainability. The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Chaya Degaokar, Additional CEO, Karnataka Evaluation Authority. She stated that the Road Map for realizing the SDGs was prepared through rigorous inputs from domain experts who served in 16 Working Committees. The strategies and action plans were developed through assessing the present status of the State in these goals and meticulous planning required for attaining the targets set for 2030. The focus is on attaining the targets in five critical goals like No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Gender Equality, Industry Innovation and Infrastructure and Clean Cities and Communities. Five discussants responded to the document, in terms of identifying missing links, grey areas, gaps and deficits, they were:

1. Dr D Rajasekhar, Professor & Head, Centre for Decentralization and Development, ISEC;
2. Dr Sunil Nautiyal, Professor & Head, Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources, ISEC;
3. Dr Channamma Kambara, Assistant Professor, Centre for Research in Urban Affairs, ISEC;
4. Dr M Balasubramanian, Assistant Professor, Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources, ISEC; and
5. Ms Kathyayini Chamaraj, Executive Trustee, CIVIC, Bengaluru.

Dr A Ravindra, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka chaired and moderated the webinar. He identified several areas of concern which needed to be looked at carefully by the Government of Karnataka, to ensure that the SDGs were realized within the time frame. There is a continued neglect of the Aspirational Districts of North Karnataka. He called for an in-depth analysis of the factors responsible for the continued backwardness of the northern region over the decades, particularly Kalyana Karnataka. In fact, the poor performance of these districts seems to be bringing down the ranking of the State at the national level. He specifically referred to the lack of capacity, including the large number of vacancies in the northern districts which need to be addressed urgently. Whereas Kerala and Tamil Nadu seem to figure at the top of any index among the Southern states, why is Karnataka always lagging behind them? We seem to be high in economic growth but low in Human Development. Public Health continues to be a matter of serious concern. Dr D Jeevan Kumar, Secretary, IIPA-KRB welcomed the dignitaries, speakers and guests. Dr V Anil Kumar, Head, Centre for Political Institutions, Governance and Development, ISEC proposed a vote of thanks.

The Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources (ISEC, Bengaluru) collaborated with GIZ (New Delhi) to undertake a study on ‘Household Carbon Footprint in India’ as part of a bigger project—‘Supporting the Institutionalization of Capacities on Climate Change Studies and Actions’ implemented by Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India and GIZ, New Delhi. This research study aims to investigate household consumption and related environmental impacts in terms of its contribution to global climate change. In this regard, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) organised two workshops cum Focus Group Discussions (FGD), one in collaboration with Sacred Heart College (January 19, 2021, in the Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur) and the other in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha (MPVS) (January 29, 2021, in the Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha, Raisen Road). The motive behind the programme was to comprehend perceptions and motivators that will trigger people to follow an eco-friendly path. The details of the workshop are listed below.
Workshop 1

Workshop cum Focus Group Discussion on ‘Household Carbon Footprint’ at Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur

The workshop cum focus group discussion held in Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur had wide participation from students, farmers and members of SHGs. The discussions highlighted some unique features which should be considered when planning for sustainable development. The recommendations for policy formulations which are an outcome of the workshop and FGDs will be put forward to the concerned authorities. Highlights of the recommendations include various traditional methods used to curb emissions. Sunil Nautiyal, Professor and Head, CEENR, ISEC convened this workshop and Dr. A. Xavier Susairaj from SHC was the local host. Rev. Dr. D. Maria Antonyraj, Principal, SHC delivered the inaugural address.

In his keynote address on Household Carbon Footprint and its various dimensions, Professor Nautiyal emphasized that youth could help the country to reduce HCF while putting little efforts in making conservative use of the resources in day-to-day life.

Workshop 2

Workshop cum Focus Group Discussion on ‘Household Carbon Footprint: Perceptions and Suggestions for Low Carbon Lifestyle’ at Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha

The workshop cum focus group discussion held Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha included approximately 150 participants from different walks of life. The findings of the discussion indicate that majority of people are ready to adopt eco-friendly measures to reduce carbon footprint, given that they are provided with assistance and knowledge to do so for sustainable development. Highlights of the recommendations include various traditional methods and willingness of people to reduce emissions. Sunil Nautiyal, Professor and Head, CEENR, ISEC convened the workshop and delivered a lecture on ‘Household Carbon Footprint: Perceptions and Suggestions for Low Carbon Lifestyle’ in the inaugural session of the workshop. Mr S R Azad, Head (MPVS) was the local host. The influence of affluence on the environment received great attention in Bhopal. Participation from Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha Bhopal, Central University Sagar, Barkatullah University, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest Department, MP Govt., Jagran Lakecity University, KVK Sehore, Bansal Group of Institutes Bhopal, and independent organizations had given new heights to the scientific discussions. Dr. Mrinalini Goswami provided an overview of the entire Workshop cum Focus Group Discussion. Special thanks to the Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha Bhopal for extending support in the successful organization of this academic event.
ISEC Webinar Lecture Series


ISEC Webinar Lecture – 14: ‘Governance, Policy Decisions and Lessons on How to Manage a Pandemic’ - Professor Ashish K Jha, Dean, School of Public Health Brown University (June 14, 2021).

Seminars by Faculty

Modernity and Democracy in India – Dr V Anil Kumar, Associate Professor, CPIGD, ISEC, Bengaluru (January 8, 2021).

Urban Decentralization and Accountability Structures: Case Study of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)– Ms Shankari Murali, PhD Scholar, ISEC, Bangalore (January 1, 2021). (Pre-thesis submission seminar)

Seminars by Students

An Economic Analysis of Financing Higher education in India– Mr Ramanjini, PhD Scholar, ISEC, Bangalore (January 19, 2021). (Pre-thesis submission seminar)

Organised Food Retail Chains in Fruits and Vegetables in India– Mr Kedar Vishnu, PhD Scholar, ISEC, Bangalore (January 21, 2021). (Pre-thesis submission seminar)

Agrarian Change Migration and Caste Politics in Bihar – Mr Prashant Kumar Choudhary, PhD Scholar, ISEC, Bangalore (January 22, 2021). (Pre-thesis submission seminar)

Demographic Change and Urbanization: Evidence from India – Mr Raju Sarkar, PhD Scholar, ISEC, Bangalore (June 19, 2021). (Pre-thesis submission seminar)

Caste Discrimination in Agricultural Credit Market in India – Mr Karthick V, PhD Scholar, ISEC, Bangalore (June 21, 2021). (Pre-thesis submission seminar)

Research Projects

Completed Projects

1. Lockdown Distress and Government Response: A Study in Rural Karnataka (Professor D Rajasekhar and Dr R Manjula) (Sponsor: Oxford University and London School of Economics)

2. Interest Subvention in Agriculture Credit: Does it serve the Purpose? (Professor Meenakshi Rajeev and Ms B P Vani) (Sponsor: Reserve Bank of India)

3. Mapping Civil Society Movements Inter-sectionality: Dalit, Women’s and Environmental Movements in Contemporary Karnataka (Dr V Anil Kumar, Co-PI: Dr Ambuja Kumar Tripathy) (Sponsor: ISEC Project)

4. The Prevalence of Tuberculosis: A Comparative Study Across States in India (Professor C M Lakshmana) (Sponsor: Ministry of H & FW, GoI)

5. Children’s Migration and Health of their Older Parents in India (Dr T S Syamala and Madhu Bidari) (Sponsor: Ministry of H & FW, GoI)

6. Contraceptive use Among Young Women in India (Dr Lekha Subaiya) (Sponsor: Ministry of H & FW, GoI)

7. Factors Associated with Hypertension and Diabetes among Women in India (Dr Lekha Subaiya) (Sponsor: Ministry of H & FW, GoI)

8. Impact Evaluation Study of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in India (Professor Parmod Kumar Dr A V Manjunatha, Dr K B
Ramappa, Dr Elumalai Kannan, Dr M J Bhende, Dr Komol Singha)

9. Alternate Arrangements of Farm Land in India – An Analysis of Institutions and Governance (Dr A V Manjunatha and Professor M G Chandrakanth)

10. Seed Mini-Kits of Pulses and Other Crops – Its Relevance and Application/Distribution Efficiency – Karnataka (Professor Parmod Kumar)

11. Study of Functioning of DBT at Retail Points – All India (Professor Parmod Kumar and Dr Ramappa K B)

12. Third Party Evaluation (TPE) of Planning, Management and Policy Formulations (PM&PF) Scheme (Professor I Maruthi)

13. Situational Analysis of Education and Nutrition Status of Children of Migrant Workers in Bengaluru (Dr Channamma Kambara, Dr Malini L Tantri and Dr S Manasi)

New Projects

1. Third Party Evaluation (TPE) of Planning, Management and Policy Formulations (PM&PF) Scheme (Professor I Maruthi) (Sponsor: DES, Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, MoA, New Delhi)

2. Prospects for Enhancing Circular Economy; Strategies for Policy Inclusion and Green Finances: A Case Study in Peri-urban Landscape of India (Professor Sunil Nautiyal) (Sponsor: NIDM, Govt. of India)

3. Conversations on Ageing in India – An Online Event (Dr Lekha Subaiya, Dr T S Syamala and Ms B P Vani) (Sponsor: Partnership Fund, United Kingdom)

4. Structural and Functional Attributed of Field Margin Vegetation towards Sustainable Social-Ecological Development of the Rural-Urban Interface (Professor Sunil Nautiyal) (Sponsor: Department of Bio-technology, GoI)

5. Online Marketplaces: Are they Offline for Rural Women: The Case of Women Entrepreneurs in India (Professor Meenakshi Rajeev) (Sponsor: Asian Development Bank)

6. Importing Export Zones: Replication of Chinese-Style Special Economic Zones and the Implications for India’s Urban Development (Dr Malini L Tantri and Dr S Manasi) (Sponsor: The British Academy)

7. Gender and Identity – with Reference to North Eastern Migrant in Bengaluru (Dr Channamma Kambara and Dr Malini L Tantri) (Sponsor: ICSSR)

8. Ageing and Receipt of Care in India (Dr Lekha Subaiya) (Sponsor: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)

9. Female Headed-Households and Socio-economic Vulnerabilities in India: An Investigation (Dr T S Syamala) (Sponsor: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI)

10. Perspectives on COVID-19 Vaccination in India (Dr T S Syamala and Dr Lekha Subaiya) (Sponsor: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI)

STUDENT NEWS

Students’ Biannual Seminar Series

The forty-second bi-annual seminars were held during January 11-15, 2021. In all, there were 14 presentations and four students presented pre-thesis colloquium, three students presented pre-submission seminars and 8 students submitted their theses. The PhD programme related activities were held seamlessly despite the pandemic.

PhD Degree Awarded

The following ISEC scholars were awarded the PhD degree by the University of Mysore during this period:

Dr Basavarajehwari K (Economics): ‘Local Government Finances: A Study of Selected Grama
Panchayats in Karnataka’ (Supervisor: Professor M Devendra Babu).


WORKING PAPERS

1 Working Paper No. 509: ‘Policy and Performance of Agricultural Exports in India’ by Malini L Tantri


An Overview

In the paper titled Policy and Performance of Agricultural Exports in India (WP 509) Malini L Tantri provides a detailed analysis of the trends and characteristics of agricultural exports in India and critically evaluates the trajectories of agriculture policy making in India. The exercise analysis so carried out helps to argue that undoubtedly the Agricultural Export Policy (2018) is intended to improve India’s position in agricultural export. Nevertheless, in the making of the policy, many threads are left out, which need immediate attention.

Medicines constitute a significant part of out-of-pocket (OOP) medical expenditure in India. While OOP medical expenditure continues to be high for all diseases in India, cancer treatment needs special attention due to the increasing burden of cancer as compared to other diseases. This paper critically examines the drug pricing policy and drug cost containment measures in India in the light of the spending on and price variations of cancer drugs. In the paper titled The Abysmal State of Drug Cost Containment Measures in India: Evidences from Expenditure on Cancer Medicine (WP 510) Sobin George, Arun Balachandran and Anushree K N utilize the 71st and 75th rounds of NSSO Data on health expenditure to analyse the cost of medicine for in-patient and out-patient cancer care. Data on newly approved cancer drugs and drug prices were obtained from the Central Medicines Standard Control Organisation and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority respectively. Results show that medicines held the highest share in the OOP cancer medical expenditure in private and public sectors and it was more pronounced in the private sector. Further, the increase in spending on cancer medicines was the highest for older persons and children below 14 years for both in-patient and out-patient care. Another significant finding of the paper is the price variation of
recently approved anti-cancer medicines across brands, both under and outside price control. These findings confirm the ineffectiveness of price control measures for cancer drugs under the market-based pricing policy in India and the inadequacy of the existing cost containment measures. This calls for the rolling back of cost-based pricing of medicines and adoption of other cost containment measures which include expanding the scope of all forms, types and severities of cancer and anti-cancer medications under health insurance and adoption of a uniform treatment protocol across both private and public sectors.

India is well-known for introducing a decentralized system of reforms, and there is a considerable literature that has investigated the impact of decentralization on local development, reduction of poverty, and delivering of essential services such as health and education. However, within India, the frontier and conflict-affected erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has not received much scholarly attention in spite of having the unique distinction of introducing decentralized development reforms much prior to the introduction of such reforms at the national level or in other states. A central aim of the paper titled Peace-Building and Economic Development Through Decentralization: The Pre-Bifurcation Jammu and Kashmir Experience (WP 511) by Sardar Babur Hussain is to provide a historical background of decentralization in the erstwhile state of J&K and to assess the present working of decentralization as a peace-building strategy. The paper situates the working of decentralization within the protracted conflict situation and explores the outcomes related to local community participation and specifically on the devolution of funds and taxation powers. In the paper, the author argues that the panchayats in the region have failed to act as instruments of change and development as they have been mainly used to promote a discourse of peace and normalcy, and important aspects such as credibility and timely conduct of panchayat elections, devolution of funds, and their taxation powers have been sidelined and have been of secondary importance.

Malini L Tantri and Sanjukta Nair evaluate the trajectory of industrial policies in Karnataka and their performance at both aggregate and disaggregate levels in the paper The Policy and Performance of Industrial Sector in Karnataka (WP 512). While doing so, they also highlight the key challenges faced by the sector in terms of infrastructure and doing business. The analysis is based on secondary data and supplemented by insights obtained during some of the field observations.

Adequate availability and easy access to infrastructures have positive implications for people’s livelihood conditions. In the study entitled Infrastructure Led Livelihood: A Comparative Analysis of Hill and Valley in Manipur (WP 513) T Thangjahao Haokip and Marchang Reimeingam focus on economic infrastructures such as road transportation, communication, and electricity to draw out the impact on livelihoods in the state utilising a multi-stage sampling technique. Three districts each have been selected from the hill and the valley regions of Manipur based on the availability of infrastructure in the selected districts. Better access to road transportation in the valley region has resulted in the production of a larger quantity of agricultural products when compared to the hill region, where available roads were mostly un-surfaced. Unreliable telecommunication services in remote areas of the hill region served to isolate the people, a concern which has been unable to draw the government’s attention. In the valley, usage of electricity was higher for commercial purposes due to the regularity of its supply which in turn promotes better livelihood conditions. Consequently, the average income from the livelihood activities of the hill region was lower than that of the valley. Therefore, adequate availability of infrastructure is needed for the sustainability of livelihood conditions.

The objective of the paper entitled Indian Startup Ecosystem: Analysing Investment Concentration and Performance of Government Programmes (WP 514) by Fakih Amrin Kamaluddin and Kala Seetharam Sridhar is to assess the concentration of investment in the Indian startup ecosystem and to assess the performance of the government programmes launched in order to benefit startups in the country. Descriptive statistics have been used to explain trends in investment while the Startup India website and RTIs were used to gather information on the performance of government programmes. The authors find that investment is concentrated in platform business model startups. The performance of government programmes
meant for startups is limited. The acceptance rate under Startup India is 5% to 7%. Many of the centrally-sponsored schemes listed on the Startup India hub do not maintain separate data on startup beneficiaries showing limited benefits to startups. The study contributes to scant academic literature available on investment trends and performance of government programmes related to Indian startups. It highlights the huge spatial and sectoral investment concentration that exists and the poor performance of government programmes.

In the study, Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Rural Non-farm Self-employed in India: Does Skill Make a Difference? (WP 515), Indrajit Bairagya examines the importance of skills, especially through vocational training, for the rural non-farm sector in overcoming the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The difference-in-differences technique has been used to assess the differential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the earnings of skilled and unskilled self-employed activities. Primary data has been collected from 880 Rural Non-Farm Self-employed (RNFS) individuals spread over different regions of Karnataka. Although every section of the rural non-farm activities has been adversely affected due to the pandemic, the impact is more severe on unskilled individuals as compared to skilled individuals. A difference-in-differences analysis across different income quantiles shows that imparting skill through formal vocational training is critical to every section of the RNFS. Even though skill plays an important role in promoting RNFS businesses, a large number of self-employed individuals do not show an inclination to participate in formal vocational training programmes. The author argues that policymakers need to pay attention to enhancing the provision of formal vocational training for rural non-farm self-employed individuals on a grander scale.

Buildings are responsible for at least 40 per cent of energy use in most countries, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions (World Council for Sustainable Development). IIPC estimated that by 2050, buildings are projected to emit 3,800 megatonnes of carbon. With the rapid growth in the real estate and construction sectors, it is crucial to promote green buildings. Green buildings are designed to minimize the demand for non-renewable resources and maximize the utilization efficiency of renewable energy sources. Against this backdrop, S Manasi, Hema Nagaraj, Channamma Kambara, N Latha, O K Remadevi and K H Vinaykumar review the initiatives taken in India towards promoting Green Buildings and constraints in diffusing the concept of green buildings in the paper Promoting Green buildings towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals: A Review (WP 516).

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the major source of external financing to developing countries and it plays a major role in economic growth. Attracting FDI with flexible policies has therefore become a major task in emerging markets. FDI brings large capital inflows across the industries. In this study, Indian Civil Aviation Industry: Analysing the Trend and Impact of FDI Inflow (WP 517) Priyanka Saharia and Krishna Raj examine the trends and patterns of FDI inflow to the Indian civil aviation industry. The period of the study is from 2008 to 2017. Data is taken from secondary sources for all the selected variables. Selected variables of the study are FDI inflow to the air transportation industry, employment of airlines, and output of the industry. Statistical tools such as CAGR, average annual growth rate, ANOVA, Pearson’s correlation coefficient and simple linear regression have been applied for analysis. The authors find that FDI alone cannot work as a game-changer for the Indian civil aviation industry. Relaxing the norms of FDI policy does not always help to bring more inflow to the industry. They argue that Indian policymakers should focus more on the financial health of the industry.

**POLICY BRIEFS**


**Books Published/Edited**


**Articles Published in Journals/Edited Books**


Kumar, V Anil – ‘District-level Urban Governance Policies in India: Cities of Neglect?’. *Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics*, 17 (4) (Fuller version).

(Continued on page 14)
Social media regulation must ensure fair-play

The government should regulate social media platforms, but not to the extent that it is difficult for them to do business in India.

Vamahkara

The recent spate of agitation by farmers during the protest against the three farm laws is a cause for concern. The protests have drawn considerable attention, with millions of people participating in the nationwide strike. The government has introduced several measures to bring the situation under control, but the issue remains unresolved.

BGSBU organizes national webinar to celebrate World Environment Day, 2021

Srinagar: World Environment Day, 2021 was celebrated at the Environmental Sciences Centre, Centre for Biodiversity Studies, Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with WWF-India, Field Office, Walchowk. The event was attended by scientists from various universities and institutions.

Discussion on Sustainability

The event focused on sustainability and the role of technology in addressing environmental challenges. Experts discussed the importance of sustainable practices and the need for collective action to combat climate change.

Take Care of Healthcare Now

Expert view: Dr. Sunita Verma, head of the Department of Public Health, said that the healthcare system is facing a crisis due to the pandemic. She urged citizens to take necessary precautions and follow health protocols to prevent the spread of the virus.

Economic distress, tech behind rackets: Experts

A number of experts have come forward to highlight the role of technology in creating economic distress. They have attributed the rise in economic distress to the rapid advancement of technology and the growing use of automation.

Suicides touched 11-year high in 2020; experts blame Covid

According to recent data, suicides in India reached a 11-year high in 2020. Experts attribute this surge to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused significant stress and strain on individuals.

Say Loneliness, Financial Woes Led to Mental Health Issues

Mental health experts have attributed the rise in suicides to loneliness and financial woes. They have emphasized the importance of addressing these issues to prevent further cases of suicide.

End of an era

The passing of Ambedkar marks the end of an era. His contributions to the society and the country are immense, and his legacy will continue to guide us towards a just and equitable society.

People’s poet couched pain in Chaplinesque comedy

Kanhaiya, the poet who died of Covid complications last Friday, was known for his unique style and thought-provoking poems.
Articles Published in Journals/Edited Books

(Continued from page 11)


Working Papers Published Outside ISEC


**Keynote/Presidential Addresses**

**Gayithri, K**

**Nautiyal, Sunil**


**Raj, Krishna**
Delivered an inaugural address at the online International Workshop on Interdisciplinary Applications and Innovations in Research Methodology, jointly organised by the Adama University, Kolkata and Forum for Interdisciplinary Research Methods, June 9, 2021.

**Rajeev, Meenakshi**
Keynote speaker on ‘Role of Farm & Non-Farm Sector in Achieving $10 Trillion Economy of India by 2030’ as part of National conference, organised by Department of MBA, KLS GIT, Belagavi, Karnataka, April 20, 2021.

**Papers Presented at Conferences/ Workshops/Seminars**

**Bairagya, Indrajit**

(with S Manasi, ChannammaKambara and K Hamsalatha) Do Special Intervention Aid in Leadership Skill among School Children? Capturing the Stakeholders’ Perceptions; at the National Webinar on Perspectives and Practices on School leadership, organised by National Centre for School leadership, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, March 23-24, 2021.

COVID-19 Pandemic and Primary Education in India: Does it Cause More Inequality between Public and Private Schools?; at the National webinar on Impact of COVID-19: A Black Swan
of Indian Economy, organised by Department of Economics, Providence Women’s College, Kerala in collaboration with Department of Economics, Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts College, Puducherry, March 27-28, 2021.

**Balasubramanian, M**

Valuation of Ecosystem Services and their Impactions for Accounting for Natural Capital in Karnataka; at the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES), organised by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, New Delhi collaboration with United Nations Environmental Programme, European Union, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, January 14-28, 2021. (Poster presentation through Virtual).

Valuing Ecosystem Services Evidences from the Global Biodiversity the Western Ghats, India; at the World Conference on Natural Resource Modeling Tipping Ecological –Economic Systems towards Sustainability, organised by German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Germany, May 31-June 4, 2021. (oral presentation through virtual).

**Lakshmana, C M**

Health Infrastructure and Functioning of NCD Clinics: A Comparative Study in Selected Two Districts in Karnataka; at the 5th Knowledge Dissemination Workshop of Population Research Centre, organised by Population Research Centre, Department of Economics, University of Lucknow, UP, March 1-2, 2021.

**Manasi, S**

(with Indrajit Bairagya, Channamma Kambara and K Hamsalatha) Do Special Intervention Aid in Leadership Skill among School Children? Capturing the Stakeholders’ Perceptions; at the National Webinar on Perspectives and Practices on School leadership, organized by National Centre for School leadership, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, March 23-24, 2021.

**Raj, Krishna**

Paper presented at the International webinar on The Role of Banks in Atmanirbhar Bharat, organized by the Society for Empowerment, February 27, 2021.

Climate Change and Its Impact on Agriculture and Water Resources: Present Challenges and Opportunities; at the One-day workshop on District Level Climate Change Awareness Workshop, organised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, March 22, 2021, at SIT, Tumkur.


**Rajasekhar, D**

Capacity Development for Good Governance in Panchayats; at the Seminar on Panchayat Raj, organised on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day at Department of Local Governance, RGNiYD, April 24, 2021.

Localising Sustainable Development Goals – how far did we succeed?; at the webinar on Sustainable Development Goals: Vision 2030 strategies and Action Plans for Karnataka, organised by ISEC and IIPA (Karnataka), April 29, 2021.

**Rajeev, Meenakshi**

(with Dipankar Dasgupta) Covidonomics or the Curious Case of a Supply Constrained Keynesian Equilibrium; at the Seminar on Impacts of COVID 19: Challenges and Policy Options, organized by Planning and Development Unit, Jadavpur University, (NITI Aayog), March 5-6, 2021.

**Subaiya, Lekha**

(with N Kavitha, P Prabhuswamy and T S Syamala) National Quality Assurance Standards Certification of Health Facilities in Karnataka: Enablers and Barriers; at the 5th Knowledge Dissemination Workshop of PRCs, organised by PRC, Lucknow and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, March 1-2, 2021 at University of Lucknow.

**Syamala, T S**

(with Lekha Subaiya, N Kavitha and P Prabhuswamy) National Quality Assurance Standards Certification of Health Facilities in Karnataka: Enablers and Barriers; at the 5th Knowledge Dissemination Workshop of PRCs, organised by PRC, Lucknow and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, March 1-2, 2021 at University of Lucknow.
Tantri, Malini L
(with C Nalin Kumar and Varadurga Bhat) Trade Irritants and Non-tariff Measures between China and India; at the 13th All India Conference on China Studies (AICCS), organised by Institute for Chinese Studies and Indian Institute of Technology Madras, January 28-30, 2021.


Bairagya, Indrajit


Gayithri, K

Gowda, Chandan

Sridhar, Kala S
(with Paavo Monkkonen) Lecture on ‘The Spatial Structure of India’s Cities’, at Lusk Center for Real Estate Research Seminar Series, Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California, June 22, 2021.

(with Paavo Monkkonen) Lecture on ‘The Suburbanisation of India’s Cities, at Department of Economics, San Jose State University, June 23, 2021.

Honours/Awards/Fellowships

Kumar, V Anil
Received best paper award for the following paper presentation: ‘Modernity and Democracy in India’ in Jindal Centre for Global South International E-Conference, December 2020.

Nadkarni, M V
Was felicitated at the Inaugural Session at the International Workshop on Green Growth Strategies for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, at ISEC, organised by the CEENR of ISEC, and the National Institute for Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, November 26, 2020. The three-day workshop was held in honour of Professor M V Nadkarni.

Awarded with Dr Anamitra Saha Prize for the best article published in the Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics (IJAE) titled ‘Reconciling Conservation of Forests with the Forest Rights Act 2006’ (with Khalil Shaha), October-December 2019. The Prize was announced at the 80th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics at TNAU, Coimbatore, February 12, 2021.

Nautiyal, Sunil
Ranked in the list of top three authors/scientists at the national level among all the research institutions (ICSSR, Govt. of India) for the research publications/ citations/ h-index. This evaluation is done for the period of 2011-2020 by NAASDOC.

Voluntarily appointed to serve as a member of editorial board of International Journal of Ecology and Environmental Sciences.

Sridhar, Kala S
Visited UCLA’s Luskin School of Public Affairs as Fulbright Nehru Fellow, May-June 2021.
**Office Held in Academic/Professional/Administrative Bodies in Other Institutions**

**Bairagya, Indrajit**  
Member, Research Committee, Sir M V Economic Research Centre, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), Bangalore.

**Gayithri, K**  
Member, Nominations Committee, Shastri Indo Canadian Institute.

Member, Technical Advisory Group, UNICEF project on Capacity Building and Research on Public Finances for children in Karnataka state undertaken by the Fiscal Policy Institute.

**Gowda, Chandan**  
Member, Academic Council, Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru.

Member, Advisory Board, Nehru Research Centre, Mangalore University.

Member, Board of Studies, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Christ University, Bengaluru.

**Kumar, V Anil**  
Member, Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (ASEN), UK, (2021-22).

**Raj, Krishna**  
Member of the Board of Studies in Economics, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru.

Member of Board of Studies on Basavalingappa Chair, Bangalore University, Bengaluru.

**Rajasekhar, D**  
Member of Selection Committee in NIRD.

**Rajeev, Meenakshi**  
Member of expert committee, IIT Bangalore.

Faculty Selection committee member, IIT Kanpur.

**Subaiya, Lekha**  
Member of the Subcommittee on ‘Determinants of Health’, Karnataka Health Vision Group, Ministry for Health and Medical Education, Government of Karnataka.

**Syamala, T S**  
Member, Board of Governors, Praxis India, New Delhi.

Member, Academic Advisory Council, IIHMR, Bangalore.

Editorial Board, *Demography*, India.

**Tantri, Malini L**  
Member of the Subcommittee on ‘Determinants of Health’, Karnataka Health Vision Group, Ministry for Health and Medical Education, Government of Karnataka.

**Newspaper Articles/Media**

**Gowda, Chandan**  

‘Farewell, Mr Shanbhag’. *Deccan Herald*, May 9, 2021.


**Lakshmana, C M**  
Participated as Resource Person in the discussion of Karnataka State Budget 2021-22, presented by the honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri B S Yadiyurappa, which was broadcasted in *Akashavaani*, Bangalore at 3 pm, to 4 pm, March 8, 2021.

**Nautiyal, Sunil**  


News in *WaytoBarak* (Newspaper), Assam, Silchar, June 6, 2021.
**Raj, Krishna**

Expert views for the TV9 Kannada programme Manthana on ‘Climate change and Natural disasters’.

Expert views for the TV9 Kannada program Manthana on ‘Indira Canteen’.


**Rajeev, Meenakshi**


‘Marginal Increase in Farm Credit in Budget 2021’. Policy Circle, February 27, 2021. www.policycircle.org


**Sridhar, Kala S**

Quoted in the Deccan Herald, in the news item ‘Will car autopilot mode work here?’, January 29, 2021. (https://www.deccanherald.com/)


**Bairagya, Indrajit**


Reviewed a Post-doctoral research proposal of ISEC on ‘Governance of Quality in Integrated Teacher Education Programme: A Survey Study’.

Participated in the Research Committee Meeting of Sir M V Economic Research Centre, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), Bangalore, March 2, 2021.
Coordinated the paper ‘Basic Statistics’ in the PhD coursework.

Reviewed a manuscript for the *Vikalpa: The Journal for Decision Makers* (Sage publication), IIM-Ahmedabad journal and

Guided two intern students.

**Co-coordinator of the PhD programme.**

**Balasubramanian, M**
Attended Board of Studies Meeting, Department of Economics, Lady Doak College, Madurai, March 9, 2021.

Visited Department of Management Studies, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, February 19, 2021.

Supervised one intern student.

**Gayithri, K**
Reviewed articles for *Current Science Journal (IISc).*

Guided four students from Bangalore Ambedkar School of Economics have been pursuing their internship.

Evaluated a thesis for Christ University and conducted the Viva.

Evaluation of three PhD dissertations and conducted two PhD Viva-voce Examinations

Attended the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting on Public Finance for Children in Karnataka, March 26, 2021.

**George, Sobin**

Co-supervisor of two PhD students outside ISEC, one from MAHE and the other from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.


Supervised two ISEC interns.

**Gowda, Chandan**


Organized ISEC webinar Series on ‘Governance, policy decision and lessons on how to manage a pandemic’, delivered by Ashish Jha, Professor and Dean, School of Public Health, Brown University, June 14, 2021.

Organized and Moderated the The People’s Poet: Remembering Dr Siddalingaiah, a session of tribute at Bangalore International Centre, June 22, 2021.

**Kumar, V Anil**
Reviewed 3 articles for *Journal of Social and Economic Development*, 2 for *Urban India* and 1 for JIAS.


Coordinated the collaboration with IIPA Karnataka Regional Branch.

Guided three interns under the ISEC internship programme.

Course work coordinated for the course ‘Perspectives on Social and Economic Change’.

Course work coordinated for the course ‘Governance and Development’.

**Lakshmana, C M**

**Manasi, S**
Guided an intern student from BMS College of Engineering and two students from Christ College.

**Manjula, R**

Guided two interns as a part of ISEC summer internship programme.
Nautil, Sunil

Adjudicated a PhD thesis of a student from the School of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Central University of Gujarat, January 2021.

Adjudicated Master thesis of a student from the Department of Natural Resource Management, College of Forestry, Sirsi, Karnataka State, January 2021.

Presented research finding in the meeting organised by GIZ, India office on Household Carbon Footprint and across the ecological regions in India, January 23, 2021.

Attended 24th Executive Committee Meeting of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) chaired by the Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (DM), GoK and represented our Director ISEC, Professor S Madheswaran, February 11, 2021.

Conducted the final Viva-Voce of a PhD student from School of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Central University of Gujarat (January 2021), as an external examiner, February 13, 2021.

Adjudicated a PhD Thesis of a student from the Department of Board of Studies in Environmental Sciences, the University of Mysore, February 2021.


Attended the Board of Studies (BOS) meeting of Department of Environmental Sciences, HNB Garhwal University (A Central University), February 13, 2021.

Participated as a member of Examiner Committee for Karnataka State Eligibility Test (KSET) – Environmental Science (ES), University of Mysore, February 17-18, 2021.

Attended 104th meeting of the Executive Committee meeting of Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST), March 31, 2021.

Attended 7th AGM of KSNDMC at Vikassaudha / Webex online platform as a representative, April 8, 2021.

Participated as Principal Investigator in Online Kick-off Programme of Department of Biotechnology Ministry of Science & Technology Government of India on Indo-German Collaborative Research Project (Phase-II), The Rural-Urban Interface of Bangalore: A Space of Transitions in Agriculture, Economics and Society, April 19, 2021 at Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor’s Office, Naik Bhavan, GKV, Bangalore.

Attended meeting, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, online Kick-off Programme of Indo-German Collaborative Research Project (Phase-II), The Rural-Urban Interface of Bangalore: A Space of Transitions in Agriculture, Economics and Society, April 19, 2021 at Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor’s Office, Naik Bhavan, GKV, Bangalore.
Attended meeting with University of Kassel on Structure and Function of FMV in socio-ecological sustainability, April 26, 2021.

Attended 21st Research & Training Advisory Committee meeting of EMPRI, June 22, 2021 as a subject expert and represented the Director, ISEC.


Supervised three intern students at centre, January-June 2021.

Nominated as Doctoral Committee Members for students from the Department of Studies and Research in Environmental Science, Karnataka State Open University, Mukthagangothri, Mysore, October 2020 onwards.

Initiated research collaboration with international organizations namely, MMU, UK, Queensland University Australia, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tribhuwan University Nepal and national organizations namely, NIDMPR-NERC Guwahati, Mizorum University, Aizawl, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, India, HNB Garhwal University (A Central University), Uttarakhand, Delhi University, Delhi, UAS Bengaluru, IWSTR Bengaluru, AZIM Premji University, Bengaluru, ATREE Bengaluru, IIST, Thiruvananthapuram, January-June 2021.

Initiated the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ISEC and JLU Bhopal, January-June 2021.

**Raj, Krishna**
Served as Chairperson for Ph D Viva-Voce in Economics, at the Department of Economics, Central University, Kasaragod, Kerala, January 20, 2021.

Reviewed 4 articles for different journals on invitation.

Evaluation of thesis of Kannur university.

Coordinated the paper on ‘Microeconomics’.

Evaluated 3 theses.

**Rajasekhar, D**
Reviewed two research papers for the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong.


Reviewed a book manuscript for Springer.

Reviewed a project report for Karnataka Evaluation Authority.

Guided two interns as a part of ISEC summer internship programme.

Evaluated PhD thesis for IIT, Indore (April 2021) and conducted Viva.

**Rajeev, Meenakshi**
Collaboration with Kassel University, Germany, this collaboration will include publication of papers as well as guiding PhD scholars for the Bangalore Rural-Urban Dynamics project.

Collaboration with Kassel University in a project on Socio-Economic Changes in Peri-urban Bangalore and Accra, Ghana will continue.

Reviewed an article for Journal of Peasant Studies.

Participated as subject Expert on Open Data Research at Centre for Open Data Research, Karnataka, Evaluation Authority [in collaboration with Planning Department].

**Reimeingam, Marchang**
Public Information Officer, ISEC, from April 30, 2021 for 2 years.

Reviewed articles for Fazl Ali College Journal and Environment, Development and Sustainability (Journal/ Springer).

Reviewed a book manuscript (17 Chapters) for Springer, March 8, 2021.

**Sridhar, Kala S**
‘Urban Primacy in Karnataka: Infrastructure, Policy and Dispersal of Jobs’, Presentation to the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation (KUIDFC), Government of...
Karnataka, April 15, 2021.

Reviewed articles for Urban Studies (January 2021); Cities (Elsevier) (January 2021); Journal of Housing & Built Environment (Springer) (March 2021); Urban India (March 2021); Area Development and Policy (April 2021); ISEC’s JISED (May 2021).

Guided an intern from Pune University, May-June, 2021.


Renewed ties with faculty at MIT, Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, Stanford University Urban Studies program, University of California San Diego’s 21st Century India Center, University of Southern California’s Price School of Public Policy, Yale University School of Environmental Sciences, University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Public Affairs, and San Jose State University Department of Economics, during her visit to UCLA.

Subaiya, Lekha
Participated in the centre level meeting to interact with DG (Statistics), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, organised at ISEC, Bengaluru, January 22, 2021.

Participated in the EQUIMOB Stakeholders Engagement Event on Mobility of the Senior Citizen and Transport Policy in the Post-Pandemic Period, organised by Professor Musleh Hasan of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), February 3, 2021.

Participated in the review meeting of Population Research Centres (PRC) conducted by the DG and DDG, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, April 23, 2021.

Reviewed articles for Journal of Social and Economic Development. and Plos One


Supervised two ISEC interns.

Syamala, T S

Reviewed a book proposal for Palgrave Macmillan.

Participated in a meeting with Director, NHM, Department of Health and Family Welfare Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore, February 19, 2021.

Participated in the academic advisory committee meeting of Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Bangalore, April 15, 2021.

Participated in the online review of meeting of Population Research Centres, organised by MoHFW, Delhi, April 23, 2021.

Participated in an online meeting on sustenance of NGOs in India, organised by Population Council, May 28, 2020.

Attended an online meeting with all Population Research Centres to discuss a quick study on Community Perspectives towards COVID-19 Vaccination in India, organised my Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, June 19, 2021.

Attended the Management Committee Meeting of Praxis India, June 30, 2021.

Evaluated the Ph D thesis on ‘Infertility among the Tribes of Palghar district, Maharashtra: Perception, Treatment Seeking Behaviour and Wellbeing’ by Mr Arvind S Jadhav submitted to IIPS, Mumbai.

Tantri, Malini L
Reviewed articles for Journal of Current Chinese Affairs and Food and Fertilizer Technology Center Journal of Agriculture Policy.

Supervising Two ISEC Interns from HCY.

One of the coordinators of Research Methodology Course for 2020-21 ISEC PhD students.

Collaborating with Kings College London for a Research Project from British Academy, United Kingdom.

Vani, B P
Articles were reviewed for Journal for Social and Economic Development; Social Indicators Research and Review of Development and Change.
