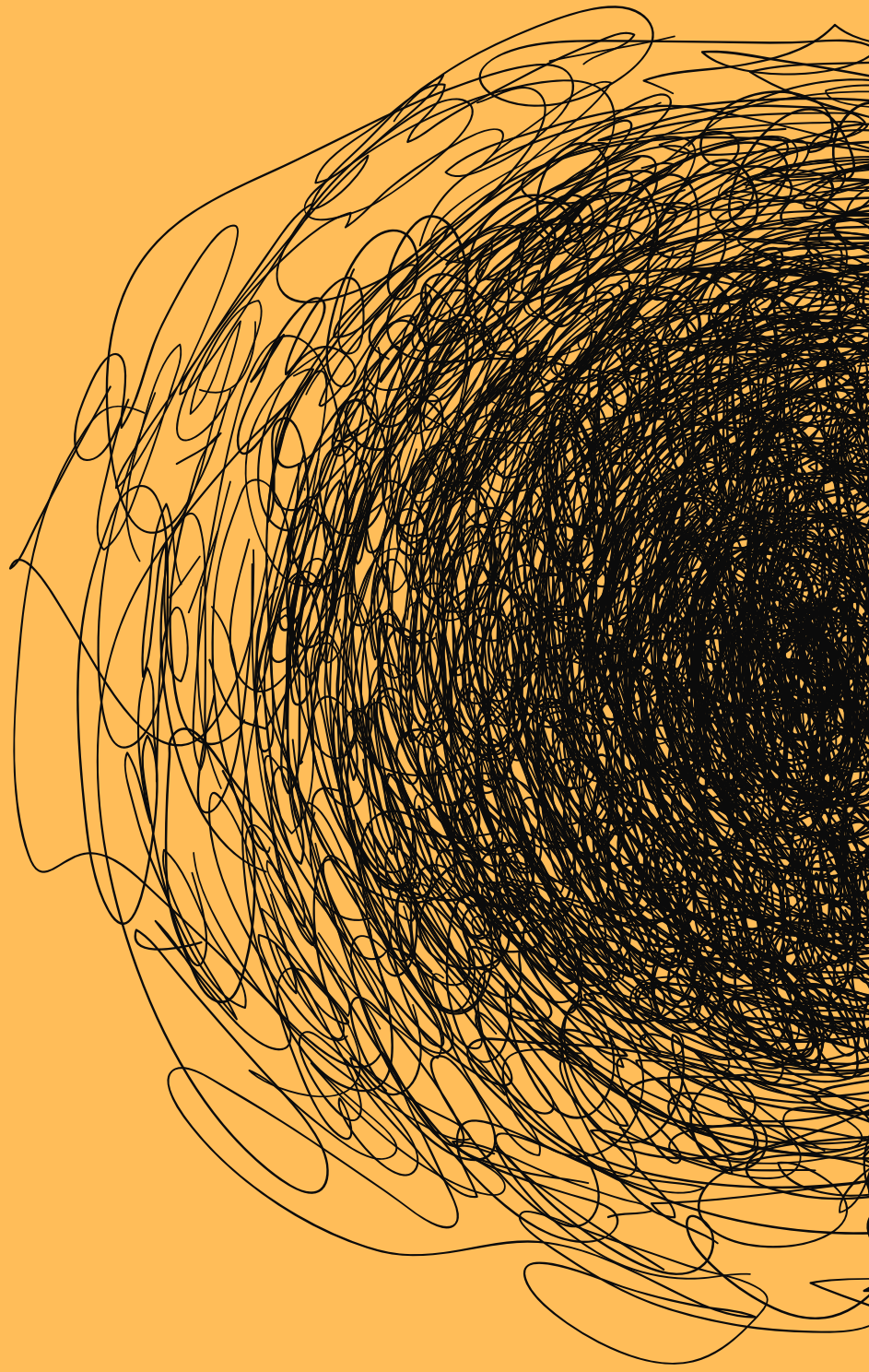


ANNUAL REPORT



2020-21

PEOPLE'S RESOURCE CENTRE

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ABOUT PEOPLE'S RESOURCE CENTRE

People's Resource Centre (PRC) is a project of **India Institute for Critical Action Centre in Movement (CACIM)** and it has emerged from discussions and interactions among social workers, engaged scholars, communities and citizens defending their commons and advocating for a different, people-centric model of 'development'. The need for support organisations and resource centres is an idea often voiced by the groups and networks trying to implement the government schemes, rights-based legislations or articulating new demands from the State.

PRC members have been involved with many such networks and alliances in the country and are thus trying to fulfil this demand. The dominant paradigm of development and "modernity" which translates concretely into the construction of mega infrastructures projects and subsequent land & ocean grabbing, massive displacements, the destruction of the environment, commodification of the commons, or in urban areas in the gentrification of cities and privatization of public space, is throwing up new challenges for us in the light of the unfolding climate crisis. Thus, we intend to work towards building alternative thinking on the development model and simultaneously coming up with ideas, concepts, solutions which will prepare communities to deal with the consequences of the crisis, resulting in irregular weather patterns, increased natural disasters, disruptions in crop cycles and so on.

In a time of increased regressive thinking on the environment and sustainability over the push for unlimited growth at the cost of pro-people initiatives and massive transformation of territories, we need to make an effort not only to stop those, but also to take a step-back from day to day reactions and invest time to think, reflect, nurture exchanges, contribute to elaborate alternatives and facilitate people's genuine control over decision-making processes, formulation of public policies and accountability/respect of their rights. It is essential to address these trends in a systematic and holistic way, going beyond traditional dichotomies: rural/urban, conservation/inclusion, scholar expertise/citizen knowledge, resistance/alternative or observation/participation, to name a few. No doubt it is an ambitious plan but a lot of resources are already there with social movements, communities, activists and scholars.

MISSION

PRC intends to build conditions and infrastructures so that a fairer, better system emerges out of the existing one. Apart from conducting action-oriented research and community-level interventions, PRC publishes resource material on politics of resource appropriation. PRC is also working towards republishing a series of forgotten/less-known texts of relevance to contemporary movements.

PRC is a CATALYST in the process of social transformation

Monitor and Watch

PRC is developing a knowledge hub, a platform for collecting existing data and research on policies and projects related to appropriation of resources, conflicts and agitations around control over resources, and implementation and manipulation of laws governing these developments. Researchers at PRC consolidate such knowledge, analyse and put their efforts into making the knowledge accessible to a large audience.

Research and Documentation

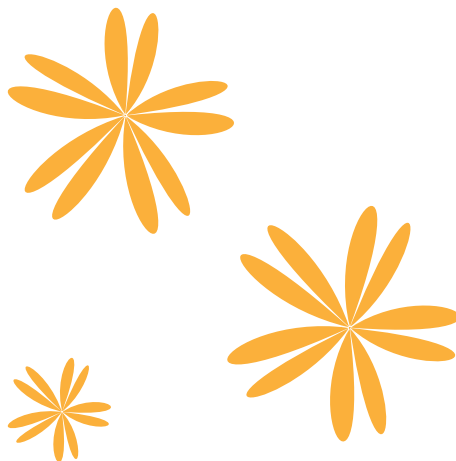
PRC conducts primary research on emerging policy issues, methodological approaches and less discussed issues of systemic nature. Research work at PRC lies at the intersection of democratization of access to resources, livelihood, gender, quality of life, self-reliance, localization and decentralization- all geared towards building alternative models and imaginations of organizing society. Research work at PRC is planned collectively and participatively, and it always aims to generate such research outputs that can only support people's knowledge, not appropriate it.

Public Outreach and Knowledge Dissemination

PRC disseminates information through its website, social media accounts, newsletters, papers, articles, books and booklets- all of them under creative commons licence so as to ease universal access to PRC's contributions. Seminars, public events, itinerant workshops/sharing sessions and digital contributions are some of the ways we share the knowledge and give it back to people to remain accountable to them. We will also pay attention to involve young activists and researchers in order to nurture a cross-generational learning experience.

Support to Movements

PRC is a companion of people's movements and its contributions are aimed at extending solidarity with the disadvantaged, providing tools for fighting injustice and experimenting with alternatives at the community level. Cultivating the necessary skills within movements is critical which is why we invest in long-term capability building of communities and catalyse the process of them becoming politically autonomous.



PHILOSOPHY

These are the core values that we have adopted to guide us during the long journey that awaits. This array of ideas is the sole moral compass to keep our collective thinking in an order even in the most chaotic situations and in the most complex dilemmas.

Justice with Freedom

Class, Caste and gender hierarchies are structural and historically institutionalized. PRC is committed to fighting these structures of power and to building institutions for liberation of all. Internal organizing of PRC is also exemplary of its philosophy and our workplace is organized horizontally wherein members from diverse backgrounds can and do participate freely in every stage of its activities- from inception and planning to execution and presentation.

Non-violent Direct Democracy

PRC envisages people's direct control over management of collective resources and, thereby, of their social lives through the methods of non-violent of agitation and democratic prefiguration. As Murray Bookchin had judiciously remarked - "Power to the people can only be put into practice when the power exercised by social elites is dissolved into the people."

Evolutionary Learning, Experimentative Praxis and Extensional Solidarity

PRC does not subscribe to any political, philosophical or cultural orthodoxies. Strictly guided by its other two principal values, PRC will update and evolve its theoretical position by regular exchanges of knowledge and opinion among its members and friends. Experimentative praxis is essentially about attempting the "impossible" and discovering the "unthinkable", and it will support 'actionable research', the underlined objective of PRC. 'Extensional solidarity' conveys the idea of how PRC's activities should ideally conclude. Research, discussions and other activities of PRC aim to activate the process of spheres of solidarity being continuously extended to the extent that a counter-power starts to emerge.

PROGRAMMES

Climate Justice

While the climate change and the consequent threats on existence of life on earth are now getting wider attention, the issue of justice in the climate action remains mostly side-lined. People's Resource Centre is generating and spreading knowledge on climate justice- not only with a post-colonial global south perspective but also derived from an intersectional approach that is sensitive to the conditions of vulnerable social groups including women, children, indigenous people, Dalits, fisherfolks, pastoralists, small farmers and tenant farmers, and so on.

Infrastructure

While a lot has been researched about land issues and the land relations has been explored and continues to get explored by academicians, journalists and civil society actors, an in depth understanding of land acquisition processes and practices is needed. With changing land relations and developments surrounding land laws it is of immense importance to see how land acquisition is being performed in everyday affairs by land acquisition and revenue bureaucracy.

Urban Futures

We synthesize the ideas and scholarly research on alternative models of development, systematize the state of the art, update theories with recent findings in the global south region, and publish cohesive proposals and commentaries to help create conditions wherein egalitarian and resilient urban systems can take shape.

PROJECTS

Harmonising River-City Relationship

The rivers have been the key facilitators of urbanisation. River and its ecosystem provide resources which are essential for the existence of cities. But, rapid and haphazard urbanisation in the modern India has happened at the cost of ecological flow of rivers which have become sink for sewage and chemical effluents. It is ironical that the rivers which gave birth to most ancient cities are dying because of overgrowth of urban centres. The question really is whether it is possible to build and sustain cities without encroaching upon the rights of and killing the rivers.

Various state governments are planning for river management/ redevelopment/rejuvenation plan. These projects straighten and narrow down the river channel by concretisation on the river bank and pose heavy risk of urban flooding, hindrance to groundwater discharge and disruption in local hydrological cycle. The riverfront development projects commonly include construction of concrete embankments, promenades, irrigation-intensive parks, multi-storey residential complexes and car parking spaces by ravaging the natural space of the river. Central Government is moving forward with the Urban River Management Plan prepared by Niti Aayog which will lead to transfer of management of urban stretch of various rivers into the hands of governments and private corporations and will dispossess the communities which are dependent on and have been defending the river for centuries.

This is the departure point of ongoing research and action by People's Resource Centre on River-City Relationship project. We are studying the environmental impacts, including the damage to the crucial ecosystem that homes vast biodiversity of flora and fauna along with supporting natural processes, chances of escalating extreme weather events such as flash floods and droughts, the likely loss of livelihood, shelter, culture and knowledge of the communities which depended on the river.

Aim

- To present a comprehensive understanding of the impacts of the riverfront development in selected case study cities,
- To initiate a discussion around the findings of the research in public discourse and create public awareness regarding this

Activities Conducted

People's Resource Centre initiated the study on river-city relations, starting with the riverfront project in Patna and Ahmedabad, in January 2021. Field excursions were conducted by our research team and we have published reports and articles in media based on the preliminary findings. A webinar was also organized to collect experiences from various groups and people working on river-related issues in different cities.

Riverfront Development in Patna

Three field visits were conducted at different time intervals to interact with communities, researchers, activists in Patna and Ahmedabad to learn from them their views on Patna and Sabarmati Riverfront. In an exploratory visit to the Patna riverfront in the month of January 2021, the research team interacted with local people and researchers to understand their view of the project. The research team covered the entire stretch of riverfront project (22 kilometres) from Digha to Deedarganj.



It gave a fair idea of the actual condition of the riverfront and unravelled discrepancies related to land ownership, compensation, rehabilitation and other claims mentioned in the Environmental Impact Assessment report of the project and the conditions on the ground. The interaction with the local communities and other resource persons brought new insights into the project-related concerns of impact on communities and environment.

The Sabarmati Riverfront

The Sabarmati Riverfront is the first such development project of its kind in India which seems to have inspired similar projects in other cities. Therefore, it is important to review the outcomes of the project while also revisiting its historical and political background. In a field visit in the month of February, the research group gathered important data from researchers, activists, representatives of impacted communities, movement groups and displaced people themselves.



Diyara (river islands) in Patna

One of the forgotten features of Ganga in Patna is the river islands, locally known as Diyara. There is a series of such islands on Ganga which, contrary to the popular belief, are inhabited by a large number of people but support a vast population that is spread across various panchayats. These Diyaras are also the resource hotspots, facilitating a range of high-value economic activities such as sand mining, animal raising, dairying, horticulture, and most importantly, the abundant land resources that have caught the eyes of the government and private builders for undertaking various mega infrastructure projects. To understand the everyday life, recent infrastructural projects coming up in the diyara and the politics behind its resource appropriation, a field visit was conducted in the month of March where aspects mentioned above were studied for a number of villages in the diyaras, including Kasim Chak, Vishunpur, Danapur, Ganghara, Patlapur.

Riverfront Development in Varanasi and Kanpur

Multimodal terminal for National Waterways-1, construction of roads and beautification of ghats are some of the ongoing projects on the riverbank in Varanasi. The team visited the area accompanied by a group of city-based social workers and covered the entire stretch of the riverbank. The local communities informed the team that the terminal was being constructed at the cost of a very old Govardhan Temple complex and about 400 slum households were demolished in the middle of Covid pandemic. Many more colonies are planned to be demolished. Ferry boat operators have suffered serious loss and many of them can hardly make single trip per week after the changes in the rules and regulations came in place with a token-based system.

During the visit, research team interacted with a group of social activists and community organizers who shared with us their understanding of the ongoing developments. More meetings are planned in the next year, depending on the public health situation.

Discussion/Webinar

On the occasion of International Day on Action for Rivers on 14 March 2021, an online dialogue on the theme "Sinking Cities: River, City and Politics of Water" was organised by PRC to understand the responsibilities of a cities towards the rivers and holding them more accountable for their actions. The discussion focused on the critical evaluation of planning & development along the urban stretch of the rivers, particularly the mega infrastructure projects in the city, especially on the riverbanks, including riverfront projects and concretisation in general that have had a widespread negative impact in the form of flash floods, water crisis, among many other. It also focused on exploring the best possible alternatives for sustainable management for the rivers (Please see Appendix for a summary of discussion).

Reports and articles

The primary research on the Patna riverfront and an online discussion on river-city relations resulted in multiple reports and articles published in magazines. Based on the Patna riverfront field visit, a report titled 'Emerging fronts, Dwindling Ganga: Exploring Patna Riverfront' has been published. The report describes the history of riverfront projects, their changing goals and the current status of Patna Riverfront project.

Due to shifting course of Ganga, several ghats face wide stretches of dry land and narrow streams. The existing ghats are poorly maintained and are not even close to look like what is claimed in the government advertisements of the beautification project. Also, a failed attempt was made to bring back Ganga, which resulted in a drain. Owing to this, ghats that used to be crowded with devotees have lost significance. Closely linked with this is Ganga Pathway Project, a 21.5-kilometre-long expressway built inside and along the Ganga in the name of connecting eastern and western ends of Patna. With all the heavy piling work along the whole urban stretch of Ganga in Patna and many farmers losing their land without any compensation, the combined impact of these two projects on social ecology of the floodplains is immense. There is an added threat to river islands which would submerge if the plan to concretise both sides of the floodplains get materialised. The river is the only source of livelihood for people living in these diwaras, who operate boats and ferry, do farming and animal rearing. Several other infrastructure projects are either being planned or being constructed such as National Inland Waterways Terminal on Gaighat, JP Setu, Gandhi Setu, etc. This is a clear case of communities losing control over urban commons in the name of development.



Members of the research team, Archana and Rajendra Ravi, have also written about these issues in an article for Down to Earth magazine ('The Ganga Pathway Project: An Expressway Sold as Marine Drive'). In the article, they discuss how the stubbornness of the to fulfil the dream project of the CM of Bihar gave rise to one of the most disastrous urban infrastructure projects on the river Ganga.

Urban Agriculture

In the year 2020-21, People's Resource Centre conducted a detailed qualitative study of urban farming in Delhi, resulting in a book, more than seven booklets, several media articles and public webinars. These have helped in turning the narrative around urban farming in Delhi by highlighting its different aspects. However, since urban agriculture is absent from planners and Delhi's decision-makers, it is challenging to quickly get it recognised by the decision-makers and civil society. A year's work of a small group has successfully brought attention to practices and the importance of urban farming.

In 2020, People's Resource Centre published a 6-month long research study titled "Report on Urban Farming in Delhi," which gave an overview of the agricultural activities in the urban and peri-urban parts of NCT of Delhi. The study was qualitative in nature and documented the practice as well as other allied activities like fishing, animal husbandry, animal herding, etc., to get the scope of agriculture. The aim was to get an overview as well as a microscopic view of the urban agriculture community. The study was analysed by mainly following the concepts like urban commons, collective memory, etc. and engaging with the literature on urban agriculture in other parts of the world. The intention was also to provide a starting point to open up the possibilities of food sovereignty, a self-reliant city, and reimagine a different development trajectory for the city of Delhi.

Series of Bilingual Graphic Booklets on Urban Agriculture

It is important to not let the findings of a research limited to just a few discussions. To make the research on urban farming in Delhi more accessible for all, we published smaller thematic booklets based on our book 'Paridrishya Se Adrishya Hoti Kheti'. We identified seven themes to cover the aspects of diversity, food needs, the role of women and migrant labourers, fisherfolks, and relation of urban farming with waste management. A significant amount of secondary research was also added while preparing booklets, thus making them a complimentary reading along with the book.

The booklets have been made available to the public in the softcopy format on our website along with hardcopies being available for private circulation (see Appendix for more details).

Our team members published several articles on this subject in various newspapers and magazines which can be accessed at one place on our [website](https://prcindia.in).

Memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

The members of People's Resource Centre (PRC) had shared their concerns and suggestions regarding the agricultural activities in the urban and peri-urban parts of the NCT of Delhi with regards to the ongoing process of preparing the Master Plan of Delhi-2041. A detailed memorandum citing the findings of our research, government data, surveys and supporting the continuation of agriculture in Delhi was drafted and sent via email to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and other concerned authorities.

The memorandum highlighted that the order for the removal of agriculture is based on several false assumptions regarding the contamination of vegetables, the effects of farming on the floodplains and disregards the huge contribution of agriculture to food security and the possibilities of food sovereignty, agroecology, etc. lying in it. It was urged that including agriculture as land use in the MPD 2041 is not only beneficial for the floodplains, city, and the people but will protect the livelihoods of the farmer community and also resolve many of the urban issues being faced by Delhi.

The idea behind this initiative was to reach out to the key decision-makers with our suggestions to demand justice for farmers who have been serially left out from all the planning decisions regarding the management of floodplains.

Farming the city - 2021



After the success of Farming the City-2020, the idea was to build on the discourse with an increased focus on social and ecological issues. The convention consisted of talks, panel discussions, research paper presentations, case studies, video presentations and photo exhibitions

focusing on the degradation of the urban and global environment, food sovereignty and food security, public health, waste, the role of women, labourers, and land use. More than 250 people joined on different days, and participation was not limited to India. 20+ speakers from different backgrounds including practitioners, researchers, and activists from various communities and disciplines presented during the six sessions of the convention. Many new people were added to the urban agriculture community and participants appreciated the fact that they got introduced to new initiatives and practices in urban agriculture such as intervention in the school curriculum, community-led initiatives in cities of India as well as in other parts of the world.

FTC-21 served as a platform to showcase the ongoing research work of PRC in various cities of India. The recordings of all the sessions are made available on our YouTube channel for easy access. A mailing list has been running to sustain the discussions beyond the convention. A report summarising the discussions is likely to be out in the next few months.

Beejpatra

The inaugural edition of Beejpatra, a quarterly urban farming periodical, was launched in 2020 after we organised the first edition of Farming The City convention. The idea behind the periodical was to provide a space for the urban farming community to present, talk about and propagate different ways in which citizens can make cities beautiful, socially just, more self-reliant, and free.

The first leaflet focused on the possibilities lying within urban agriculture in making cities sustainable and self-reliant. It featured articles on the possibilities of introducing urban farming in curriculum through educational interventions, stories from practitioners, and PRC's own experiences from the research study conducted in Delhi.



Subsequently, the second leaflet was published in March 2021 which brought examples from the different parts of the world like Syria, Palestine and Lebanon, where urban farming has become the means to challenge the overarching structures of power and resist the occupation of land, indigenous knowledge and culture. The leaflet also showcases the ongoing efforts of the PRC team to expand and grow the urban farming community. The work on the third leaflet is underway. The quarterly publication currently has **more than 850** regular subscribers.

Urban Agriculture Research Fellowship

PRC offered a research fellowship to conduct case studies on urban farming in six Indian cities - Patna, Ranchi, Bodhgaya, Pune, Mumbai and Indore. This became an opportunity to learn and document existing practices and emerging trends in urban and periurban farming in multiple cities. Through this we also expanded the existing network of PRC and brought the agenda of urban and peri-urban agriculture to the attention of a larger group of people. The studies were conducted using extensive field research, relying on interviews, photographs, video testimonies, detailed field diaries. The research outcome of this fellowship gives us evidence to support urban farming as a systemic alternative in different cities to address the questions of food scarcity and ecological footprint. make cities and urban communities more resilient and self-reliant. The research reports are available on our website.



Another City is Possible

It is not enough to bring the drawbacks and impacts of various developmental projects to the public attention. People's movements have the responsibility to present an alternative urban vision in harmony with nature, and one which is rooted in the social conditions of the local habitat. PRC members have been working on various urban issues like environment, livelihood, mobility, education, health and water system, etc. Over the years, it has been realized that these fragmented initiatives, though important, must also be weaved into a coherent framework for people-friendly, ecological cities.

At PRC, our belief is that cities themselves are not the problem and urbanization can be a welcome process. However, it will only be possible when the growth of cities will not happen in order to satisfy the unending greed of the rich but would be grounded in the social conditions of the ordinary people. People, not profit, should be at the centre of the urban planning and all the decisions related to development of cities. In that sense, we argue that creation and conservation of urban commons is essential for any substantial progress towards sustainable, inclusive and democratic city.

A new vision of urbanism rooted in Indian context can only be crafted through people's participation and claiming the power of communitarian self-management. We have put our efforts in presenting urban alternatives which emphasise on this with a synthesis of useful technological advancements and the indigenous knowledge resources. PRC is working towards further decentralisation of decision-making power to communities by building capacity for an informed urban governance with global concerns and consciousness.

In this context, People's Resource Centre organised a webinar titled "Democratizing Urban Governance," part of the "Another City is Possible" series. This webinar explored the state of urban governance in India and explored ideas for decentralised, participatory, and inclusive urban politics (See Appendix for more details).





More sessions have been planned as part of this discussion series which aims to become a regular space for civil society groups and people's movements to think more systematically about what alternatives in cities are possible and how we can achieve those by building people's power.

We are also working on a series of publications from across the parts of Indian and the world to bring the sketches of 'another city possible' to the attention of communities and movements.



WEBINARS AND MEETINGS

Webinars organised by PRC

Sinking Cities: River, City and Politics of Water

S P E A K E R S

MUDITA VIDROHI
She is the Programme Coordinator of Gujarat Lok Samiti. She Successfully stalled hazardous chemical waste disposal plants for fertile farmlands in Bhal, Gujarat

MAHENDRA YADAV
He is the founder of Koshi Navnirman Manch & National convener of National Alliance for People's Movement

SARANG VAMAN YADWADKAR
He is an Architect and a Technical Consultant. Member of planning committee for Pune's City Development Plan. Filed cases in NGT against riverfront development projects in Pune.

AKSHITA RAWAT
She is a researcher at People's Resource Centre. She is currently studying urban farming and food sovereignty in Delhi.

ANANT MARINGANTI
He is the Executive Director of Hyderabad Urban Lab. His research and teaching interests centers on urban innovations and globalisation from south Asian perspectives

PANEL DISCUSSION
SINKING CITIES
River, City and Politics of Water
14-March-2021
3-5 PM
Zoom Meeting ID: 8131-6053-597

MODERATION
ARCHANA SINGH
She is a researcher at People's Resource Centre. She is currently studying the impact of riverfront projects on river ecology

A webinar was organised on the occasion of International Day of Action for Rivers on March 14, 2021. The theme of the discussion was "Sinking Cities: River, City and Politics of Water". The discussion focused on the critical evaluation of planning & development along the urban stretch of the rivers, particularly the mega infrastructure projects in the city, especially on the riverbanks, including riverfront projects and concretisation in general that have had a widespread negative impact in the form of flash floods, water crisis, among many other. It also focused on exploring the best possible alternatives for sustainable management for the rivers.

The session was joined by four distinguished speakers from around the country, two in-house speakers from PRC, and participants from across the country. The discussion included case studies from several Indian cities, including Ahmedabad, Delhi, Patna, Pune and Hyderabad.

Mudita discussed the grim reality of the riverfront projects through the Sabarmati riverfront, which serves as a role model for other such projects in the cities. She pointed out how the seasonal river was downgraded to a cemented pool in the process of beautifying the river; the communities were thrown kilometres away in the most deserted sites, lacking even the basic facilities for living. Also, the riverfront sources water from the Narmada River and to hold it within the limits of the riverfront, the Vasana barrage is constructed at the end of it. Downstream from here, the water body ceases to exist, only untreated sewage flows.

Mahendra focused on the recurring events of flash floods seen in Patna city in recent times. He pointed out that the events have intensified since the construction of the Farakka barrage and the recent infrastructural developments to make Patna a smart city. The large-scale concretisation in the city, infrastructures that are not complementary to an already existing structure can prove to be unsustainable in the long run. Therefore, integrated development is the only way to control the problem of flash floods.

Akshita discussed the role of urban farming in protecting the Yamuna. Farming has long been a primary activity on the Yamuna floodplain, practised in harmony with the river. Off late, there have been official claims that agriculture is polluting the Yamuna and therefore needs to be discontinued, despite official studies proving otherwise. The real threat to the Yamuna, i.e., sewage and industrial waste, government-approved mega structures on fragile floodplains are not held accountable. Moreover, other structures like the riverfront, biodiversity parks are proposed on the floodplains.

Sarang discussed the plan of the Pune riverfront, which is leading towards the demise of the Mula-Mutha river. According to the project, the width of the river would be narrowed down; concrete embankments would be built, the floodplains would be sold off to private builders for commercial gains. Moreover, barrages would be built on all sides to hold the water within the city limits. He also discussed the newly proposed Urban River Management Plan on Ganga.

Anant focused on the causes of flash floods in Hyderabad. According to him, rivers aren't the cause of floods in the city. It is the haywire system of lake-tank drainage that is the cause of flood in the city. The older tanks meant to support agriculture have been filled to construct residential and commercial complexes over it. Moreover, water is imported from downstream, which is ultimately released into the city as wastewater. Therefore, floods are intensified in Hyderabad mainly due to rapid urbanisation and unsustainable infrastructure and intellectual capacity to

regulate our lands.

Archana focused on mega infrastructure projects like the Patna riverfront and Ganga pathway project in Patna and their impact on the river, city, and the people. The worst consequence of it can be seen on the river, which has been forced to change its course due to piling, large scale concretisation and sand mining. Many such projects are underway, following the same pattern, which would cause further damage to Ganga and Patna.

Seeds of Resistance and Hope: A Conversation between Environmental Activists and Practitioners of Urban Farming in India, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine

The poster is for a webinar titled "SEEDS OF RESISTANCE AND HOPE" organized by the People's Resource Centre. It features a red background with white and blue text. At the top, it says "People's Resource Centre invites you to". Below the title, it states "A conversation between Environmental Activists and Practitioners of Urban Farming in India, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine". The Zoom Meeting ID is 852-2074-7860. The date and time are listed for four locations: Delhi (6:00-8:00 PM), Beirut/Palestine (2:30-4:30 PM), Baghdad (3:30-5:30 PM), and Paris/Berlin (1:30-3:30 PM). The speakers are Lina Isma'il (Environmental Activist, Palestine), Khaled Hammoud (Architect, Environmental Activist, Lebanon), Serge Harfouche (Farmer, Environmental activist, Lebanon), and Abdallah Alkhatib (Palestinian-Syrian Human Rights Activist). The hosts are Nishant (People's Resource Centre) and Rajendra Ravi (People's Resource Centre). The moderators are Ansar Jasim (Activist & Researcher, West Asia) and Madhuresh Kumar (National Alliance of People's Movements).

People's Resource Centre
invites you to

SEEDS OF RESISTANCE AND HOPE

A conversation between Environmental Activists and Practitioners of Urban Farming in India, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine

ZOOM MEETING ID | 852-2074-7860

DATE AND TIME : DECEMBER 2, 6:00 - 8:00 PM DELHI | 2:30 - 4:30 PM BEIRUT / PALESTINE | 3:30 - 5:30 PM BAGHDAD | 1:30 - 3:30 PM PARIS / BERLIN

SPEAKERS

- Lina Isma'il**
Environmental Activist, Palestine
- Khaled Hammoud**
Architect, Environmental Activist, Lebanon
- Serge Harfouche**
Farmer, Environmental activist, Lebanon
- Abdallah Alkhatib**
Palestinian-Syrian Human Rights Activist

HOSTS

- Nishant**
People's Resource Centre
- Rajendra Ravi**
People's Resource Centre

MODERATORS

- Ansar Jasim**
Activist & Researcher, West Asia
- Madhuresh Kumar**
National Alliance of People's Movements

In a unique collaboration, People's Resource Centre organised a webinar titled 'Seeds of Resistance and Hope' in which various people working with communities and practitioners of urban farming in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, namely Lina Isma'il, Khaled Hammoud, Serge Harfouche, and Abdallah Alkhatib, shared their knowledge and experiences. The webinar brought together people of various countries and attempted to give space, and listen and learn from the experiences of people working in the field, in a direct conflict with the State, and how through the use of urban farming, they are able to move towards food sovereignty and resist colonial and neoliberal forces.

In this conversation, people from Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine joined and threw light upon how the people of these conflict-ridden states are going back to their roots, using local and indigenous seeds and practices of farming to resist the occupation by the State and other forces, become self-reliant, inculcate a feeling of community, revive the lost tradition, and most importantly survive in the face of overt oppression. The webinar also acted as a platform for us to share our work with them, build global solidarity for the people's movements, and leave space for future collaboration.

The learnings were documented in a report where we shared our understanding of urban farming in its social, political and cultural context in Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and India. A short booklet was released online, and a few copies were published for private circulation to disseminate knowledge and help bring more attention to the centrality of urban farming in various urban regions.

Another City Is Possible: Democratising urban governance



another city is possible
DEMOCRATISING URBAN GOVERNANCE

04 - April - 2021
3 - 5 PM IST
Register at : is.gd/AnotherCityPossible

Mohan Hirabai Hiralal
Convener, Vrīkshamitra
Member, Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini

Varsha Vidya Vilas
Co - Convener, Sadbhawana Sangh.

Eleanor Finley
Writer, Activist and PhD candidate at the
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Raju Bhise
YUVA Mumbai and Sadbhawana Sangh.

MODERATOR
Nishant
People's Resource Centre

People's Resource Centre organised a webinar titled "Democratizing Urban Governance," part of the "Another City is Possible" series. This webinar explored the state of urban governance in India and explored ideas for decentralised, participatory, and inclusive urban politics.

The speakers spoke about the ways in which urban local bodies can be strengthened for exercising more autonomy in decision-making and managing their finances and urban resources. The discussion also briefly touched upon the idea of Nagar Swaraj, the 74th constitutional amendment act, the need for establishing decentralised institutions and the

background of the ongoing global movements for direct democracy.

Mohan Hirabai Hiralal suggested that the representative democracy model should be followed at the centre and state levels, but direct participative democracy should be practised at the village, neighbourhood and municipal levels. At the local levels, people should directly participate in the decision making, and everyone should have an equal voice. People have a right to make decisions regarding issues that concern them, and this structure can only be successful when individualism is replaced by communitarian spirit.

Varsha Vilas spoke about the ongoing experiments with setting up Area Councils in Maharashtra as part of the movement for Nagar Raj bill to ensure transfer of decision-making power to community. She said that citizens should not be treated as consumers but as participants; only then this will be real democracy for people.

Eleanor Finley provided a brief background of the ongoing municipalist movements in different cities across the globe and stressed on the need to start creating international alliances to give more power to all local experiments led by communities everywhere.

Raju Bhise suggested that education is essential for transformation in how we think ourselves in relation with the city. Child protection provisions can be implemented at the ward level and play an essential role in educating through the child protection committee. We also need to inculcate the values of decentralised governance in children so that they can play an active role in the future. The foundation of the city should not be exploitation but equity and non-violence.



Webinars organised in Collaboration with other CSOs

The poster features a stylized city skyline at the top with a person on a bicycle. The title 'RE-IMAGINING THE FUTURE: PEOPLES' AGENDA FOR A POST COVID ECONOMY' is prominently displayed. Below the title, the date and time 'June 30, 2020 (Tuesday) 11-1 pm IST' are listed. The topic 'URBAN SUSTAINABILITY: Practice, Challenges & Way forward' is highlighted. A purple box contains the Zoom Meeting ID (993 6645 7517) and Password (REIMAGINE). The poster also lists the introduction by Rajendra Ravi, speakers Prof. Geetam Tiwari, Nishant, and Raju Bhise, and the moderator Madhuresh Kumar. Registration links for the website and Facebook are provided at the bottom, along with a note about Hindi translation availability. Decorative elements include a small building icon on the left and a tree icon on the right.

W E D N E S D A Y

RE-IMAGINING THE FUTURE:
PEOPLES' AGENDA FOR A POST COVID ECONOMY

June 30, 2020 (Tuesday) 11-1 pm IST

Topic - URBAN SUSTAINABILITY:
Practice, Challenges & Way forward

Zoom Meeting ID: 993 6645 7517
Password: REIMAGINE

INTRODUCTION:
RAJENDRA RAVI, Institute for Democracy and Sustainability

SPEAKERS:
PROF. GEETAM TIWARI, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
NISHANT, People's Resource Centre
RAJU BHISE, YUVA / Right to Cities Campaign

MODERATOR:
MADHURESH KUMAR, NAPM / Resistance Studies Initiative, UMASS

For registration: www.cenfa.org/rtf
FB live: www.facebook.com/CenterForFinancialAccountability/
Hindi Translation is available.

PRC was one of the organizers of the webinar series 'Re-imagining The Future', a series of more than 30 sessions which run for more than four months.

PRC specifically organised the session dedicated to urban sustainability. Nishant presented the ongoing research of PRC on urban farming and alternatives.

vikalp vārtā

#20

Online dialogue series on alternatives for India



Urban Agriculture

Today, life in the city is full of comforts and challenges but there is no peace of mind. This restlessness in urban life is pushing people towards urban agriculture in search of relaxation, in harmony with nature. This is a new beginning as well as an opportunity to embark on an alternative path.

Join us for a conversation with



Aditi Deodhar



Priya Blüde



Rajendra Ravi

November 21, 2020
3:30 – 5:30 pm IST

Zoom ID #
875 2799 8470

 **VIKALP sangam**
www.vikalpsangam.org
www.vicoronatimes.blogspot.com
aevsangam@gmail.com

As part of the Vikalp Varta webinar series organised by Vikalp Sangam, PRC helped organise the session on urban agriculture.

Rajendra Ravi spoke about the research done in Delhi and other cities and emphasised that the deep problems of urban life can only be addressed by adopting practices such as urban farming which can provide relaxation in harmony with nature.

PRC Members as Invited Speakers in Webinars



Nishant was invited panelist in the session and he spoke on how the proportion of urban food supplies being sourced from distant rural regions continues to grow while the vast tracts of urban and peri-urban land is being consumed by speculative growth of rent-seeking real estate. He spoke at length about the need to fundamentally reorganize the relationship of cities with Nature, and how agriculture in an urban neighbourhood and the vicinity of the city is one such radical way to provide an alternative to the increasingly globalized, financialized and ecologically intense urban food systems. Session was moderated by Prof. Nitya Rao, University of East Anglia.

Is Metro the future of public transport? : Lessons from Delhi and Lucknow

PRC members have published and presented a lot of research to highlight the uselessness of metro rail projects in Indian cities.

In a public meeting organised by several city chapters of Fridays For Future, Nishant and Rajendra Ravi explained the myriad of deep seated issues associated with the strong and blind governmental push for development of metro rail systems in many cities, including Mumbai and Pune.



The presentations were primarily based on the publications 'Consumed by Demand' and 'Riding on Debt'- both by Nishant and Rajendra Ravi.

9th World Bicycle Forum, Nepal

Nishant and Rajendra Ravi spoke in the 9th World Bicycle Forum on 'Activating Grassroots Democracy for Policymaking' where Nishant talked about the experiences and learnings from the extensive three years-long process of drafting and advocating for a draft bill on cycle rickshaw prepared through a democratic and participatory process.

Rajendra Ravi moderated the session.



Webinar on 'The Prospects of Public Transport and NMT in a Post Covid-19 World'

Nishant, Rajendra Ravi and Ruchi Varma (all are PRC members) were panelists in this session.

Rajendra Ravi shared from his experience of working on the issues of city bicyclists and cycle rickshaw that the voices of the marginalised must come to the centre stage in any new vision for urban mobility.

Nishant talked about the need to bring transport planning back into the control of communities and everyday users of different modes. He shared experience of the ongoing 'Reclaiming The Bus' campaign in Delhi.



The poster features a light blue background with icons of a yellow auto-rickshaw, a blue train, a person walking, and a bicycle. The title is in bold black text. The date and time are in a white banner. The speakers are listed in a grid with their photos and titles. The Zoom ID and Passcode are at the bottom left, and the Greenpeace logo is at the bottom right.

THE PROSPECTS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND NON-MOTORISED TRANSPORT IN A POST COVID-19 WORLD

11TH OCTOBER 4PM ONWARDS

SPEAKERS

 Prof. Dr. Ashish Verma President, Transportation Research Group of India (TRG); Associate Professor, Transportation Systems Engg. (TSE)	 Rajendra Ravi Director, Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS); Member: SUMNet India
 Ruchi Varma Founder and chief executive officer of HumanQind	 Nishant PhD candidate at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and a member of Sustainable Urban Mobility Network (SUM Net) India

ZOOM ID: 99081958928
PASSCODE: 093000

GREENPEACE
जीनपीस

Meetings/Presentations/Workshops

Community Meeting with Main Bhi Dilli at Chilla Khadar

As part of the Main Bhi Dilli (literal translation: 'Me Too Delhi') campaign, of which PRC is also a member, a meeting was organised with the residents of Chilla Khadar. Farmers and farm laborers, including women, participated in the meeting. Akshita from PRC spoke about the need to involve farmers and farm laborers in the drafting process of Master Plan of Delhi-2041 to make it truly participatory and inclusive. Several suggestions from the community members were received by the campaign group as part of the documentation and putting forward a collective demand for recognition of existing communities in the area.

Public hearing on waste workers organised by DASAM in association with PRC and other CSOs

A public hearing was organised on Feb 28, 2021 at Village Tikka Shahbazpur, Ghaziabad to receive testimonies from people involved in waste work. In the day-long meeting, various concerns of waste workers were brought to the attention, including the complete lack of legal safeguards and absence of basic health necessities.

Yamuna Collective

Several online and physical meetings were organised as part of a new initiative of various CSOs in Delhi to work more closely with each other on the social and environmental issues related to the river Yamuna in Delhi. PRC took the lead in setting an agenda for inclusion of urban agriculture, fisherfolks and other marginalised communities along Yamuna.

Meeting with CSDS-Lokniti

Research team of PRC had a meeting with the Director, CSDS-Lokniti seeking suggestions and guidance regarding our proposed survey of urban agriculture in Delhi. Team members presented the key highlights of the findings from our qualitative research on UA across Delhi. A collaboration is being sought with Lokniti, who have decades of rich experience in conducting large and small surveys, to help the survey study in an advisory capacity.

National Consultation on National Waterways

We participated in a day-long consultation on national waterways and presented the findings of our research on multimodal port in Sahibganj (Jharkhand) and its linkages with increasing corporate control of resources. This consultation has helped us build new collaborations to make further progress with our research on waterways infrastructure and resource grab.

Residential Workshop on Agroecology and Agroforestry at Swayyam

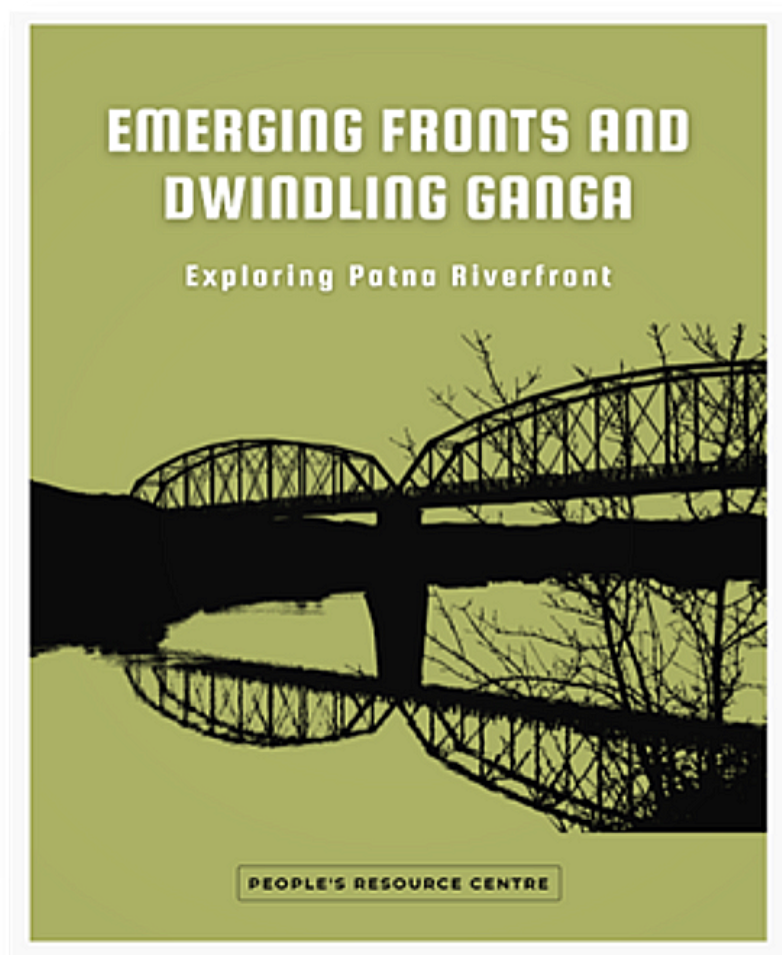
We also participated in a residential workshop on regenerative agroforestry organized by Swayyam, a grassroots collective working on sustainability and self-sufficiency. This was a rich learning experience which further expanded the horizon of activities PRC can take up to make the urban communities resilient and more self-reliant.

Apart from the above, several other smaller meetings were organised throughout the year to engage and learn from the communities we work with.



PUBLICATIONS

Emerging Fronts and Dwindling Ganga

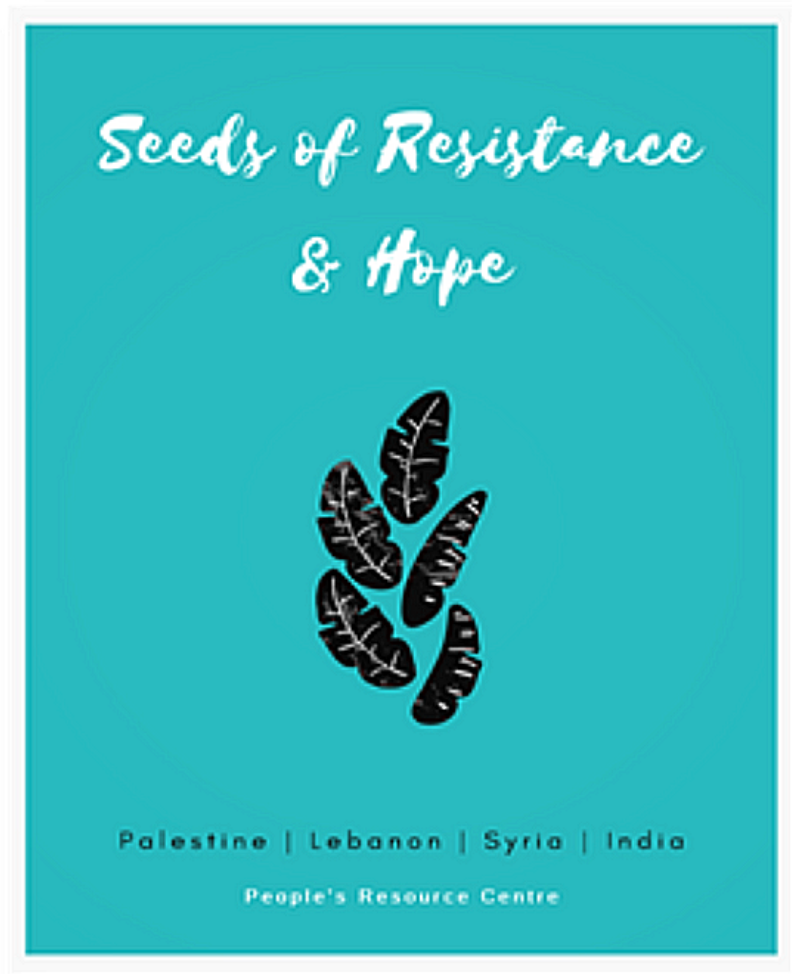


This report is based on exploratory field visits conducted in Patna in January 2021 as part of our ongoing research on urban riverfront development in Patna and other parts of India. The Patna riverfront project is poised to cause severe harm to the local ecology and bring changes in the regional hydrological cycles and thus ultimately affecting communities dependent on various riverine and common resources.

We hope that this publication will bring attention to the seriousness of risks posed by riverfront development and other mega infrastructure projects on rivers across India. To that end, we are also planning to bring a Hindi version of this report. We hope that the knowledge collected in this report will help bring more attention to the Patna riverfront and contribute to the larger discourse on how such projects may end up aggravating resource grab, commercialization, and privatization of shared resources.

Seeds of Resistance and Hope

This booklet should help understand the social, political and cultural context of urban farming in Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and India. This booklet is based on the discussions during a webinar organised by People's Resource Centre, titled 'Seeds of Resistance and Hope' in December 2020 and in which various people working with communities and practitioners of urban farming in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon shared their knowledge and experiences.



This publication is part of our ongoing initiative to disseminate knowledge about the significance of urban farming and allied activities all over the world. To that end, we are also planning to bring a translated version of this booklet. We hope that the knowledge collected in this booklet will help bring more attention to not just how prevalent and central urban farming is in various urban regions but help build global solidarity for the people's movements for food sovereignty and self-determination.

Paridrishya Se Adrishya Hoti Kheti

This book (available in Hindi but also being translated in English) presents the findings from year-long research on urban agriculture in Delhi. Despite restrictions and legal barriers, today Delhi is being cultivated on a large scale by different methods.

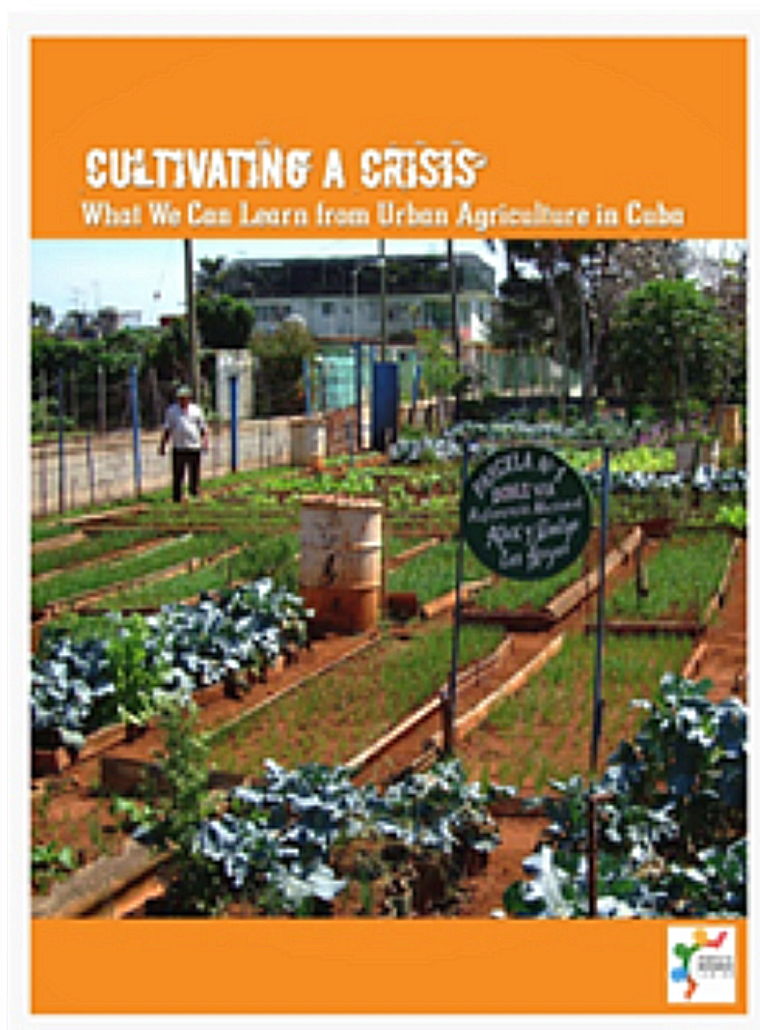
Along with traditional farmers, educated youth from new and modern institutions are engaged in agricultural work with new understanding and full dedication. Those who are called unskilled and uneducated in the dictionary of modernity are being given better opportunities and self-confidence in urban agriculture. In some places, people do agricultural work themselves by renting land. Migrant workers come to the city and help in completing the agricultural work every year according to the crop cycle.



The expulsion of agriculture from the urban planning has created a mountain of garbage in the cities. Many such mountains have grown in Delhi, which, as much as efforts are made to make them smaller, are constantly getting bigger. The solution to this problem is possible only by re-establishing the importance of agriculture. Urban agriculture can provide a way for cities to address countless challenges such as food security, sanitation, climate change, urban energy and infrastructure development, and pave the way for a new concept of urbanization.

Cultivating A Crisis: What we can learn from urban agriculture in Cuba

The urban farming culture in Cuba arose from a deep crisis at the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union and its learnings bear more relevance than ever at the time when we are making our way through another global crisis precipitated by a virus. The collapse of the Soviet Union had created conditions that coerced the Cuban government to rethink their urbanization agenda and agricultural policy. Backed by confident government policies, people in Cuba led the transition from a machine- and petroleum-based agriculture and food transport system to a localized food system driven by traditional knowledge and powered by animal and manual labour.



We present here a short collection of two articles analysing the emergence and aspects of Cuba's urban agriculture. The original article 'Urban Agriculture in Havana' by Sinan Koont and the review article by Christina Ergas were both originally published in the Monthly Review magazine in 2009 and 2013 respectively. We are highly indebted to Ashish Kothari for generously accepting our invitation to write a foreword. Ashish is a founder-member of the environmental group Kalpavriksha and currently coordinates the Vikalp Sangam (Alternatives Confluence) process.

This publication has grown out of our desire to disseminate the transformative learnings from Cuban experiments in urban agriculture, reorganization of their food system, and unorthodox planning of cities.

Fishing in the Shadow of a Megacity: Delhi and Its 'Unseen' Fisherfolks



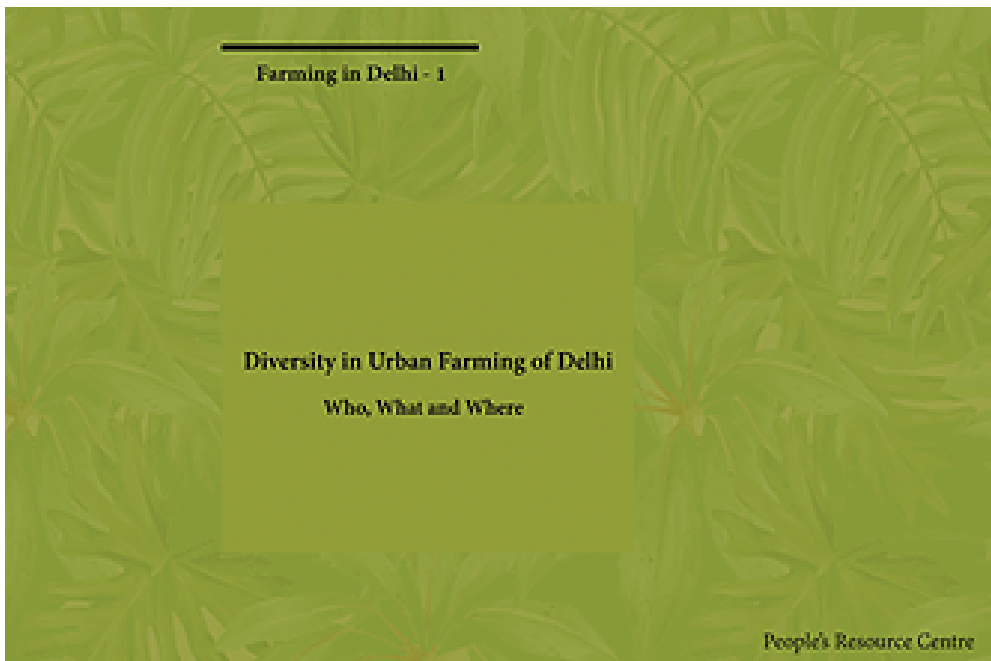
Like all city-regions in the world, modern-day Delhi has also evolved on the banks of a river, The Yamuna. The river has been a source of life for thousands of years, providing drinking water, resources for food, livelihood and a breeding ground for many aquatic organisms.

However, under pressure from forces of 'development', the river has been heavily exploited and become a sink where the city dumps anything that it cannot find a use for after producing. Despite various rejuvenation plans and multiple orders by courts and government bodies for the construction of sewage treatment plants (STPs), regulation of activities etc. the Yamuna is as polluted as it was years ago. The horrible exploitation of the river by the city people, more particularly by the elite, continues under the extractivist developmental regime.

Contrary to popular perception, not the whole 22 km-long span of the Yamuna which falls within the administrative boundaries of Delhi is polluted. The northern stretches of the river have been able to skip the ecological damages thrust upon it by the megacity as we describe later in this report. This difference leads us to the small community of fisher people living in the vicinities of the river. Though their livelihood strategies have helped protect the river from the severe ecological damages which would have otherwise occurred, one can hardly find any reportage on their present, past or future. This very brief report is an attempt in that direction.

Booklet Series on Urban Agriculture (Six bi-lingual booklets)

Though we published a detailed book on urban farming in Delhi, we realized that it is a difficult task to make the entire book accessible to masses. Therefore, our team selected six key aspects of urban farming in Delhi and started creating theme booklets on each of these.





A significant amount of new research has also been added while preparing these booklets. We have also given more space to the photographs in these thematic booklets and to make the booklets attractive for readers. We hope that these booklets will be helpful in taking forward the issue of urban farming. We have made these booklets available in both Hindi and English. All 12 booklets are available on our [website](http://prcindia.in).

PRC IN MEDIA

Fishing in the Shadow of a Megacity: Delhi and Its 'Unseen' Fisherfolks

Developmental priorities have played a direct role in the deterioration of the Yamuna and have made it consistently difficult for the fisher people to co-exist with the river.

Written by Akshita Rawat, this article was a result of the insights and suggestions provided by Radheshyam Mangolpuri, Rajendra Ravi, Nishant, and other members of People's Resource Centre.

Link to the article: <https://thewire.in/rights/delhi-fishing-yamuna-river>

ANALYSIS RIGHTS

Fishing in the Shadow of a Megacity: Delhi and Its 'Unseen' Fisherfolks

Developmental priorities have played a direct role in the deterioration of the Yamuna and have made it consistently difficult for the fisherpeople to co-exist with the river.



Fishing in the Shadow of a Megacity: Delhi and Its 'Unseen' Fisherfolks

Rosamma Thomas, an independent journalist and Urban Agriculture Research Fellow at PRC, wrote about the farming initiative of Afrin Kale in Pune. This was part of the research on urban agriculture conducted as part of the UA Fellowship.

Read it [here](#)

Vivek Gour Broome's food forest

This article by Rosamma Thomas presented the story of nurturer of a biodiverse food forest in the periurban Pune. The article was part of the research conducted as part of the UA Fellowship.

Read it [here](#)

MEMBERS

Aakiz Farooq has contributed to several research projects as part of his studies and internships with various civil society organisations. His areas of interest include subaltern studies, environment and environmental politics, urbanization and sustainable development, political philosophy especially critical theory, and democratic decentralisation of governance. He has graduated in political science from Jamia Millia Islamia.

Akshita Rawat holds a master's degree in sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University and a bachelor's degree in English literature from Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, University of Delhi. She had participated in the "Reaching the Real India" program (2019) and worked in a summer internship with People's Resource Centre. Since then, she has been collaborating with many NGO groups, media and web portals. Akshita is interested in education and pedagogy as well as different issues related to urbanization, more particularly urban agriculture and urban mobility.

Anita Kapoor is associated with Shahari Mahila Kaamgar Union (translated as Urban Women Workers Union) and has rich experience of community action and training. For the last three decades, she has been active in social, economic and environmental issues in many areas of Delhi-NCR. She has played a significant role in developing the leadership capabilities in female workers. Among other things, her initiative of Women's Savings Fund has made women workers in Delhi financially independent.

Archana Singh is an MPhil research scholar at the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. She joined PRC in December 2020 as a research intern and since then, she has been actively participating in various projects of the organisation but more particularly in the study of river-city relations. She is keen on exploring the subtleties of colourism, faced especially by women in Indian society. She is also interested in the politics of resource appropriation/management and gender & feminist geographies.

Arjun Singh has been active in the Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS) and the National Cyclists Union for many decades. He has played an important role in the creation of [draft cycle rickshaw law](#) with public participation in Bihar and Jharkhand. He is deeply engaged in organizational and welfare works among the communities.

Avikal is a student of media at MCRC, Jamia Milia Islamia. He regularly contributes to the activities of PRC, most recently as a visual research collaborator for the '[Invisible farming: Urban agriculture in Delhi](#)' project. He had earlier worked with People's Resource Centre as an intern under the 'Reaching the Real India' programme. He is also one of the organizers of '[Reclaiming the Bus](#)', an ongoing campaign for free, safe, and reliable bus-based public transport in Delhi. Avikal is interested in bringing out the narratives of people and their access to urban spaces, through films and images.

Magadhi Diksha was part of the organizing team of Farming The City webinar series. She is currently one of the editors of the newsletter 'BeejPatra', a collective initiative of the Urban Agriculture Community that came together during and after the webinar. She has a graduate degree in history she is interested in raising social awareness through publication of books and reading materials.

Mohini Singh works as an independent writer and translator. Her fiction and non-fiction writings have been published by KavitaKosh, Lallantop, Rajkamal Prakashan, Janmat and Divya Marathi among others. She has been an invited speaker in public events organised by various institutions including Hindi Academy (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and Bharat Bhavan (Govt. of Madhya Pradesh). After graduating in Botany (Hons.) from Gargi College (Delhi University), she is currently pursuing a Masters in Development from Azim Premji University. Her interests include gendered perspectives in development and literature. Mohini has been associated with People's Resource Centre in multiple and varying capacities.

Nanhu Prasad has fought for and won the rights of unauthorized colonies of Delhi and the rights of their residents by forming an RWA. He is currently the chairperson of the RWA. Apart from this, he is also an active member of the National Cyclists Union and [National Alliance of People's Movements \(NAPM\)](#). He has played a key role in the process of developing the [draft cycle rickshaw law](#) with public participation in Bihar and Jharkhand.

Nishant has been associated with the People's Resource Centre since its inception and has been helping in carrying out their research and action work. He is currently a PhD candidate at IIT Delhi and aspires to bring radical changes in the conception of the city.

Pooja Tanna began working on environment and development issues as a volunteer with Greenpeace India in 2009. Over 5 years of on-ground grassroots level experience on diverse issues such as forest rights, renewable energy, and anti-GMO (Bt Brinjal campaign) allowed her to explore the environmental issues from different lenses. She has travelled across Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra to gain experience in sustainable agriculture, breed registration and breeders' issues, as well as in solid waste management in rural and urban areas. She has previously worked with many civil society initiatives such as [Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan \(KMVS\)](#), [Sahjeevan](#), [CARE India](#), [Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat \(KKPKP\)](#), [Know How Foundation](#), and [Jhatkaa.org](#).

Rajendra Bhise (Raju Bhise) has been active with [YUVA Mumbai](#) and Sadbhavana Sangh for more than three decades. Understanding and diagnosing the problems of the city through urban self-government and public participation is the central element of his thinking. Raju is also active with the Right to the City campaign.

Rajendra Ravi is the founding member and the current programme coordinator of People's Resource Centre. He has been conducting research on the intersection of urban politics and sustainability for more than three decades. He is the director of Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS Delhi), convener of [National Alliance of People's Movements \(NAPM\)](#), and a founding member of [Sustainable Urban Mobility Network \(SUM Net\) India](#). An author of several books, including the widely acclaimed *The Saga of Rickshaw*, he has been a regular columnist in prestigious newspapers and magazines and his writings have been published in journals like *Economic and Political Weekly*.

Shalini Sharma is an Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)-Pune. She is also the oral historian/trustee of the [Remember Bhopal Museum](#), India's first oral history-based museum which is also co-curated by those affected by the 1984 Bhopal industrial disaster. She was a Commonwealth Rutherford Fellow at the University of East Anglia in 2018-19, and Assistant Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India from 2013-18. She has a PhD in development studies from SOAS, London. Shalini is an interdisciplinary social scientist interested in city, culture and climate relations.

Sunita Rani is associated with the National Domestic Workers Union. She is also an active member of [National Alliance of People's Movements \(NAPM\)](#). For the last two decades, she has been striving for the recognition of the democratic rights of domestic women workers. She is a pioneer in the fight against forced labour and legal rehabilitation of domestic workers. She is active in many civil society networks working on urban issues.

ASSOCIATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

People's Resource Centre proudly claims camaraderies of many civil society organisations, social movements and academic institutions, and we are a member of many networks and associations. A consistent dialogue with our friend organisations helps us in sharpening our research and action, making our methods more sound and robust, and collective production of knowledge to better inform our findings.



List of organisation/networks

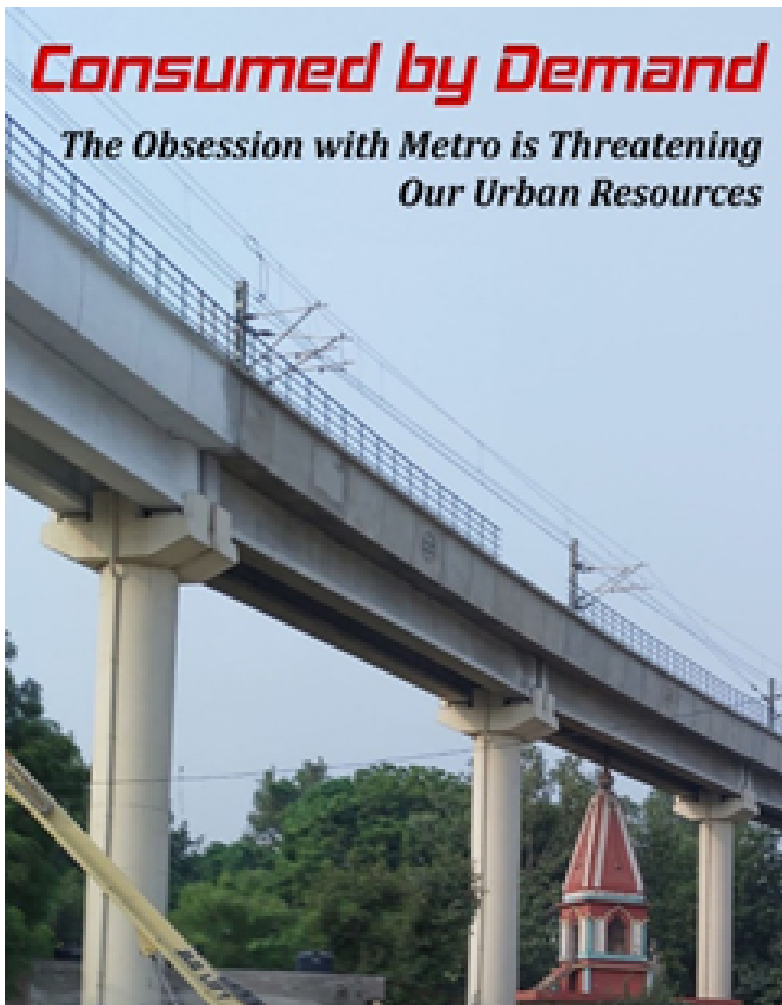
- [Institute for Democracy and Sustainability \(IDS\), Delhi](#)
- [Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme \(TRIPP\), IIT Delhi](#)
- [Main Bhi Dilli](#)
- [National Alliance of People's Movements \(NAPM\)](#)
- [Vikalp Sangam](#)
- [South Asian People's Action on Climate Crisis](#)
- [Greenpeace India](#)
- [Fridays For Future India and Mumbai](#)
- [Friends of the Earth India](#)
- [Sustainable Urban Mobility Network \(SUM Net\) India](#)
- [Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture as Green Infrastructure \(UP-AGrI\)](#)

APPENDIX

Brief summary of activities during 2019-20

The main activities undertaken and publications during the year 2019-20 were:

Consumed By Demand



The rail-based rapid urban transport system, popularly known as Metro, has captured the imagination of planners and politicians alike.

Despite the fact that operational metro projects are showing massive deficit from projected ridership estimates and the claimed environmental benefits are nowhere close to being realized, metro projects are already being pushed for another 30 cities.

In this context, a study titled "Consumed by Demand" was undertaken to evoke an interest in examining upcoming metro projects. It is expected that the experiences presented and the knowledge shared will help the community associations, media and citizen groups in understanding the futility with respect to the utility of metro projects.

Momentum Jharkhand: Unrestricted Plunder of Resources by the Corporate



This day-long public meeting was organised on March 18, 2019 where various issues surrounding the communities in Jharkhand, peoples' rights, natural resources, smart cities and self- reliant cities were discussed.

Gendered Cultures and Climate Justice: Rethinking Smart Cities and Infrastructure Corridors in India

This conference was jointly hosted by People's Resource Centre, University of East Anglia, UK, Savitribai Phule Pune University, with UNESCO C2C For World Natural Heritage Management and Training in Asia Pacific Region, India during July 26-28, 2019.

Various themes explored during the conference were Knowledge Politics of SMART, of Diversity, of Nature, of Financing Infrastructure, of Gender Justice and Climate Justice, and intervening in the Urban Knowledge Politics. Through this programme, we aimed to understand which strategies can help identify which knowledge and whose knowledge might provide better outcomes? How to dismantle the prevailing knowledge hierarchies, create civic action spaces to engage, and come out with alternative, informing urban planning and governance?



26- 28 JULY, 2019

Venue: Geography Department, Savitribai Phule Pune University

“Gendered Cultures and Climate Justice:

Rethinking Smart Cities and Infrastructure Corridors in India”

Conference jointly hosted by the University of East Anglia, the UNESCO C2C for World Natural Heritage Management and Training in Asia Pacific Region, People’s Resource Centre and the Savitribai Phule Pune University.

We discussed collaborative strategies to rebuild, engage — through research, training, policy, and action. By bringing together a diverse group into a meaning-making process, we hope to build better understanding, empathy, and lasting connections/collaborations.

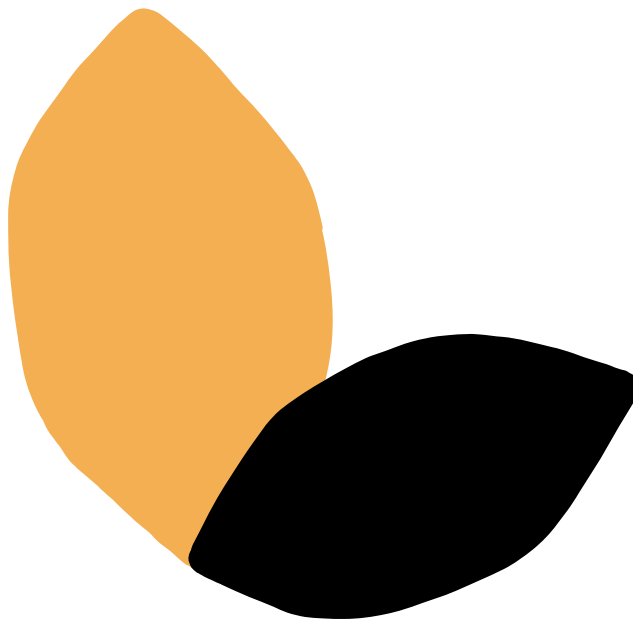
Beyond Corporate Driven Industrial Agriculture to Climate Resilient Agroecology: For a Hunger-Free, Suicide-Free, Poison-Free Republic



This public meeting was co-organised by Navdanya, Environment Support Group, Centre for Financial Accountability, Focus on the Global South, Delhi Solidarity Group in collaboration with the Coalition for Environmental Justice in India (CEJI) on 6th September 2019 at Constitution Club, New Delhi.

Conclusion

During the year 2019-20, this project of CACIM has deepened its research-oriented work on subjects ranging from urban agriculture and urban transport to national waterways and national infrastructure corridors. We explored the complex nature of issues which involve an intersection of dispossessions and gentrification, environmental contamination and ecological destruction, commodification of the commons and privatization of public spaces, gendered access to resources and livelihoods, and so on.



People's Resource Centre aims to build a new infrastructure of solidarity with the valuable fragments of learning derived from collective actions everywhere and the possible alternatives imagined by all people. The initiative seeks to explore the possibility of bringing the resources back into the people's powerful control, and to understand whether and how that can eradicate the most persistent problems such as hunger, homelessness, ambient pollution and the social injustices based on caste, gender & religion. PRC engages with movement groups and communities in the places with the ongoing or potential struggle over resources, and regularly undertakes policy monitoring, research & documentation, and grassroots networking to generate resources for collective resistance & collective action.

Contact Us

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