

FINAL REPORT 2024-2025

Justice, Security and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia

**Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG)
Kolkata, India**

Acknowledgements

Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) expresses deepest gratitude to FGHR for the collaboration and support. This research programme has been an important addition to CRG's repository of work. Special thanks to the team and colleagues working with FGHR for their support and coordination. CRG is thankful to all researchers, scholars, academics, experts, and media persons who have authored articles, policy briefs and translations. We are grateful to all resource persons, experts, practitioners and participants who have contributed to the success of the events for their cooperation, suggestions and guidance in organising the activities. We thank all members, senior colleagues, researchers and staff members of CRG for their constant guidance and help.

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1. Introduction

The Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG) also known as Calcutta Research Group (CRG), with the support and collaboration of The Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR) organised a number of events on the theme of “[Justice, Security and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia](#)”. CRG, while hosting the programme, engaged with project related activities such as mobilisation of networks, policy studies, workshops, dialogues, consultative meetings, webinars, public lectures and discussions, conferences, translations of relevant texts in non-English South Asian languages such as Bengali, Hindi, Meiteilon, Hmar and Assamese, and publications. Engaging with practitioners from multiple backgrounds, ground level dialogues, dissemination, and in particular network building have been some of the adopted approaches. The focus has been around intersectionality of issues with security positioned at the crossroads of food, water, gender, land, city, issues of environment, epidemiology, disasters, displacements and urban refuge, other dimensions of security of life, climate security, digital security, public health and biosecurity, borders, borderlands, displacement, and marginalities, and conversely the militarisation of society that causes insecurities all around, with the approach directed at the central theme of decolonising the security question in South Asia.

In 2024, the major themes of work had been Peace and People’s Security; Forms of security for refugees and migrants; The interface of law and technology in security; Macro and micro security in the light of the Global Compacts; Food security.

In 2025 work continued on issues of urban security, water security, regional policy dynamics, security for workers and informal sectors, ecological insecurities and sustainability, gender and security issues, cities, climate change and epidemiological insecurities.

CRG’s collaboration with FGHR for regional dialogues and consultations have helped strengthen and extend the strong network of scholars, activists, and institutions in different part of India including Southern and Northeast India, and in several countries of South Asia like Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand. Reports and details of all the activities held in 2024 are available here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Security_Studies_Home.asp

Reports and details of all the activities held in 2025 are available here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/Security_Studies_Home_2025.asp

2. Programmes and Activities

- Workshops, Conferences and Dialogues (including South Asian Conferences, Annual Research and Orientation Workshop, and Policy-Peace Dialogues)
- Research Papers and Policy Briefs
- Public Lectures
- Webinars towards creating a network of public activists
- Translations of relevant materials
- Publications
- Web based activities, publicity, and resource material for public access
- Evolving list of library resources for open use for scholar-activists working on themes of Security and Justice

Overview of Activities in 2024 & 2025

2024	
Activities	Details
Advisory and Evaluation Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative Meeting, 6 April 2024, Kolkata. • Advisory-Evaluation Workshop, 8 January 2025, Kolkata.
Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-day Workshop on “Food, Livelihood Security and Life Claims: Indigenous People of India”, 21 September 2024, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
South Asian Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Security at the Crossroads of Rights, Justice, and Vulnerabilities”, 27-28 July 2024, Kolkata.
Regional Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-Day Consultation Meeting and Dialogue on “Forced Displacement in India with reference to India’s Northeast,” 24 February 2025, Guwahati, Assam.
Web-Based Activities (including webinars)	<p>Webinar Series on <i>Security at Crossroads</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Security at Crossroads: Land Food, Water”, 13 August 2024 • “Security at Crossroads: Boundaries and Life”, 4 November 2024 • “Security at Crossroads: Biopolitics, Medicalisation, and Epidemiology Today”, 23 December 2024
Reading Sessions and Public Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Sessions on “Michel Foucault’s <i>Security, Territory, Populations: Lectures at the College de France (1977-1978)</i>” by Ranabir Samaddar, Part I - 16 August 2024; Part II - 7 October 2024, Kolkata. • “Food, Livelihood Security and Life Claims of the Indigenous People of India: An Introspection”, by Virginius Xaxa, 20 September 2024, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
2025	
Activities	Details
Advisory Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Meeting, 9 July 2025, Kolkata.
Annual Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on “Cities, Migrants and Insecurities”, 18-22 November 2025, Kolkata.
South Asian Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Justice, Security and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia”, 11-12 October 2025, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Regional Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Environmental Security in India’s Northeast: Climate Change, Land Degradation and Circles of Conflict”, 21 February 2026, Guwahati, Assam.
Media Meet and Public Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press Meet for Migrants’ Rights, 12 August 2025, Press Club Kolkata. • A Discussion on “Urban Security”, 23 August 2025, Kolkata
Web-Based Activities (including webinars)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar on “Work, Insecurity and Marginalisation”, 18 September 2025. • Webinar on “Ecology, Security and Sustainability”, 14 October 2025.
Book Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biopolitics from Below: Crisis, Conjuncture, Rupture</i> by Ranabir Samaddar (CEU Press, 2025)”, 21 November 2025, Kolkata.
Public Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Non-Traditional Security in South Asia” by Lok Raj Boral, 12 October 2025, Kathmandu, Nepal. • “Future of the Metropolis: The Kolkata Case”, by Mahalaya Chatterjee, 18 November 2025, Kolkata. • “Exclusionary Urban Zoning: The Limits and Potential of European Human Rights Law”, by Thomas Spijkerboer, 19 November 2025, Kolkata. • “Living the climate crisis in Darjeeling”, by Roshan Rai, 20 November 2025, Kolkata. • “Climate Hazards, Cities and Urban Poor”, by Anita Patil Deshmukh, 22 November 2025, Kolkata.

3. Project Details for 2024

3.1. Activities in 2024

i) Advisory and Evaluation Meetings

The **First Consultative Meeting** for discussing the research themes and activities for the project was held on **6 April 2024 in Kolkata**. This consultation was designed as a workshop for legal activists, policy analysts, students and teachers in security and peace studies, economists, media activists working on issues of non-traditional security, digital democracy, and participants of peace accords and dialogues. The one-day planning workshop saw a gathering of scholars and activists working on issues of non-traditional security, digital democracy and histories of peace accords and dialogues. The Meeting was thematically divided into six sections—1) Macro Security and Micro Insecurities 2) Law & Security—Juridical Issues to Security of Life 3) Issues of Gender Security 4) Issues of Human Security 5) Issues of Geopolitics, Marginal Areas, Migrants and Refugees, and the Issue of Security, and 6) Dialogues and Network: Security, Peace & Justice. The meeting highlighted the need for a deeper examination of the issues at stake, and therefore the need for organisation of more discussions at various levels. For detailed discussions of all themes please see the Report in CRG'S website. For details see: [http://www.mcrq.ac.in/Security Studies/Security Studies Programmes Events 2024.asp](http://www.mcrq.ac.in/Security%20Studies/Security%20Studies%20Programmes%20Events%202024.asp); and [http://www.mcrq.ac.in/Security Studies/Consultative Meeting Report 6 April 2024.pdf](http://www.mcrq.ac.in/Security%20Studies/Consultative%20Meeting%20Report%206%20April%202024.pdf)

An **Advisory-Evaluation Workshop** was held on **8 January 2025**, in **Kolkata**, with discussions surrounding the achievements and goals attained in 2024 and also the research plan for 2025-2026. The meeting had four sessions— a) Introductory Panel in which Annual Report of 2024 was placed, b) Discussion of the report and critical analysis, c) Planning for research themes and policy briefs for 2025-2026, d) Network building, e) Concluding Session. The day-long programme was attended by select participants of past workshops and deliberations, and other highly experienced activists who had not attended the first planning meeting in 2024 to ensure that the goal of “evaluation” was met diligently. The Annual Report of 2024-2025 was discussed, and there were reflections on a roadmap for 2025-2026, through a round-table discussion where each participant spoke about their perception of the programme, and the key-points that would help shape the focus areas for work in 2025-2026. The detailed Report can be found here: [http://www.mcrq.ac.in/Security Studies/REPORT-%20Security%20Project%20Evaluation%20Meeting%208%20January%202025.pdf](http://www.mcrq.ac.in/Security%20Studies/REPORT-%20Security%20Project%20Evaluation%20Meeting%208%20January%202025.pdf)

ii) Workshop

One-day Workshop on “**Food, Livelihood Security and Life Claims: Indigenous People of India**” was held on **21 September 2024**, in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, in collaboration with the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu and Centre for Social Justice and Equity, Madras School of Social Work (MSSW). The workshop was conceptualised as a policy-peace dialogue and public discussion involving groups at local and regional levels, aiming for discussions on themes such as climate security, food security, displacement, ecology, livelihoods, and urban security, etc. This Workshop was organised in in collaboration with the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu and Centre for Justice and Equity, Madras School of Social Work. The three main themes for discussion were as follows: a) Law, Vulnerability, and Justice in South Asia, b) Human and other forms of Protection, and c) Tribal Migration and Food Insecurity in Tamil Nadu (including discussion on food security of tribal people). The workshop was preceded by a public lecture on 20 September 2024. The lecture critically reflected upon the factors of food and nutrition insecurities among tribal population in the backdrop of increased volume of tribal displacement and migration. On 21 September, policy-makers, academics, legal

experts and members of other civil society organisations gathered across a table and initiated a policy debate on tribal food and nutrition insecurities. Apart from the themes, questions of environmental, human, and other forms of protection were also discussed as part of one of the panel discussions, in addition to policies and frameworks for food and livelihood security. For details, please see [Report](#). For more information see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Report-%20Chennai%20Event.pdf

iii) South Asian Conference

A South Asian Conference of legal experts and social leaders in the movements for people's security, protection, and justice was organised on **27-28 July 2024** in **Kolkata**, West Bengal, themed on "**Security at the Crossroads of Rights, Justice, and Vulnerabilities**". The deliberations were designed in the form of a follow-up workshop of the first Consultative Meeting. The specific purpose of the workshop was to relocate the security question in the context of the post-colonial societies of South Asia, their problems of underdevelopment, issues of basic rights such as of food, shelter, education, work, health, the adverse impacts of internal conflicts and conflicts with neighbours, on these societies, and their struggles for justice—all of which redefined the problematic of security—food security, social security, security from ecological and climate disasters, etc. This programme also threw light on the need for a renewed understanding of notions such as security and justice particularly after the Covid-19 Pandemic. For details, please see the [Report](#). For details see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/crg%20report%20July%2027-28%2C%202024.pdf

iv) Regional Dialogue

A One-Day Consultation Meeting and Dialogue on "Forced Displacement in India with reference to India's Northeast," was held on **24 February 2025** in **Guwahati, Assam**. This dialogue had participants from diverse backgrounds such as academia, media, legal practitioners, activists, social workers and displaced persons who came together and discussed critical issues of displacement, rehabilitation, sustainable development, as well as legal and media representations. The dialogue focused on overcoming the challenges of rights, healthcare, social and economic conditions from the perspectives of solidarity, safety, protection and health in the context of resource availability, use, relief distribution and development. Justice and accountability, cause and effects of displacement and resultant societal changes in the backdrop of human rights' stories were areas of prime focus. For details see the full [Report](#) of the dialogue. More information on the programme can be found here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Security_Studies_Programme_s_Events_2024.asp

v) Web-Based Activities

The webinars and consultations have been instrumental in creating a network of specialists and public activists. Plans aimed at expanding CRG's network by creating a group through three webinars was successful. A 3-part webinar series titled "Security at Crossroads" in 2024 produced some 60-plus consistent participants, who have been added to the cohort already created by CRG. Themes were conceptualised and the webinar series was curated with the aim to develop a stronger and wider network that works on relevant issues of security and rights.

There were 3 webinars as part of the series on "Security at Crossroads". The **first webinar** themed on "**Security at Crossroads: Land Food, Water**", was held on **13 August 2024**. The detailed [Report](#) of the first webinar can be read here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Webinars/Security%20at%20Crossroads%201%20%20Land%2C%20Food%2C%20Water%20report%20for%20website.pdf.

The **second webinar** themed on "**Security at Crossroads: Boundaries and Life**", was held on **4 November 2024**. The detailed [Report](#) of the second webinar is available on the MCRG website:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Webinars/Report%20Security%20at%20Crossroads%202-%20Borderlands%20and%20Life.pdf.

The **third webinar** on “**Security at Crossroads: Biopolitics, Medicalisation, and Epidemiology Today**”, was held on **23 December 2024**. The detailed **Report** of the third webinar can be read here:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Webinars/Report%20Security%20at%20Crossroads%203%20Biopolitics%2C%20Medicalisation%2C%20and%20Epidemology.pdf.

vi) Reading Sessions and Public Lecture

As part of orienting activists towards working on the theme of security, a public **Reading Session** on a classic text: Michel Foucault’s *Security, Territory, Populations: Lectures at the College de France (1977-1978)*, by **Ranabir Samaddar**, was held on **16 August 2024 (Part I)** and **7 October 2024 (Part II)**, in Kolkata. For details see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Ranabir/Ranabir_Samaddar_16_8_24.pdf.

A **Public Lecture** on “Food, Livelihood Security and Life Claims of the Indigenous People of India: An Introspection”, by Virginius Xaxa (Institute of Human Development), was held on **20 September 2024**, in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, in collaboration with MSSW. This public lecture was part of the workshop on “**Food, Livelihood Security and Life Claims: Indigenous People of India**”. The video of this event can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFvWnwQRbo>

3.2. Research and Publications

i) Research Papers

In 2024, four research papers were published in CRG’s Occasional Paper Series *Policies and Practices*. These papers focused on four different aspects of security viz-a-viz:

- (a) Peace and People’s Security;
- (b) Forms of security for refugees and migrants;
- (c) The interface of law and technology in security;
- (d) Macro and micro security in the light of the Global Compacts.

The research studies published in 2024 were:

- **Samir Kumar Das** (CRG & University of Calcutta), *Peace and People’s Security: An Agenda in the Neo Liberal Times*. For full paper see: <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP165.pdf>
- **Saurabh Bhattacharjee** (National Law School, Bangalore), *Operationalising Human Security in India: Extending Legal and Social Protection to Migrants*. For full paper see: <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP166.pdf>
- **Ritam Sengupta** (O. P. Jindal Global University), *The Subject and Paradoxes of Digital Security*. For full paper see: <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP167.pdf>
- **Sucharita Sengupta** (Researcher, CRG), *Human Security and Migration in South Asia: Analysing India’s Response to the Global Compact for Safe and Orderly Migration in India*. For full paper: <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP168.pdf>

As part of the extended 2024 research segment, reports and several research articles were commissioned by CRG on themes of peace, governance, ecology, resilience, gender and security, migration and labour security, refugee camps, women, conflict, displacement and peace-building.

- “Neighbourhood Rivalries and Regionalism in South Asia: Security Challenges and Prospects for Peace” by Priya Singh;
- “Protection of Migrant Workers in Crisis: A Report” by Paula Banerjee;
- “Rethinking the Notion of Security in ‘Refugee Camps’” by Sucharita Sengupta;
- “Who (Re)claims the Night? Some Considerations on Gender and Urban Security” by Samata Biswas;

- “Water Resilience, Ecological Diplomacy and Human Security: A Transnational Governance Assessment on the Mekong River”, co-authored by Arie Baskhoro and Paula Banerjee.
- “Circles of Vulnerability: Rethinking Security, Conflict Induced Internal Displacement and the WPS Narrative” by Sumona DasGupta.

The articles and reports are in the process of compilation as chapters in a book volume, to be edited by Sucharita Sengupta. The volume is tentatively titled *New Thinking on Security* (forthcoming).

ii) Policy Briefs

Three Policy Briefs for the year 2024 were published by January 2025, on themes such as:

- (a) Plenary powers of the Indian State in the context of refugees;
- (b) Security and the role of media in creation of the perceptions around security;
- (c) Land rights as security of the vulnerable sections of rural population.

The policy briefs published have been listed below:

- **Sahana Basavapatna** (Bangalore Trial Courts & CRG): [State’s Plenary Powers and India’s “Refugee Law”](#)
- **Bharat Bhushan** (360info & CRG): [Media and Securitisation: A Review](#)
- **Rajat Roy** (Media Expert & CRG): [The “Land Question”](#)

4. Project Details for 2025

4.1. Activities in 2025

i) Advisory Meeting

A One-day Workshop designed as an **Advisory Meeting** was organised on **9 July 2025** in **Kolkata**. This one-day consultation not only laid the foundation for the work and activities to be carried out in 2025, but also provided brainstorming sessions and a training workshop to researchers and participants with feedback, comments and suggestions for taking ahead the work of 2025. The participants were scholars who worked on research articles, legal experts, media persons and academics who authored Policy Briefs. For details see the full [Report](#).

More information can be found here:

<http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security Studies 2025/Security Studies Programmes Events 2025.asp>

ii) Annual Workshop

The **Tenth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop** on “**Cities, Migrants and Insecurities**” was held from **18 to 22 November 2025**, in **Kolkata**. This flagship programme of CRG continued in 2025 with three modules dedicated to the subthemes of gender and urban insecurities; climate, epidemiological insecurities and cities; and migrants, insecurities and sanctuary cities. The workshop had participants from India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Thailand. This programme had a distance segment of 2 and half months from September to November 2025 with online classes, meetings and discussion sessions, before the physical segment was held in Kolkata. The Kolkata segment was designed with lectures, research paper presentations and discussions, book discussion, film screening, creative sessions, and evaluation and feedback that would help plan and design the forthcoming programmes more efficiently. For details see full [Report](#).

More information can be found here:

<http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security Studies 2025/Security Studies Programmes Events 2025.asp>

iii) South Asian Conference

A South Asian Conference on “Justice, Security and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia”, held on **11-12 October 2025**, in **Kathmandu, Nepal**, helped initiate dialogues on community engagements for protection of resources, environment, land, livelihoods, extreme weather events, climate disasters and sustainable urban planning. This conference has been instrumental in shaping the larger network of experts from the South Asian countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and India, who take a closer look at the crises that vulnerable populations have to live and work with, and advocated for a relook at the principles of global protection and proposed the drafting of a principles-based framework for South Asia. Further, the Conference also brought to light possibilities of future engagements with critical environmental and human rights concerns through its engagements with practitioners and activists from South Asia. For details, please see the [Report](#).

More details are available at: <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security Studies 2025/Security Studies Programmes Events 2025.asp>

iv) Regional Dialogue

A Regional Dialogue on “Environmental Security in India’s Northeast: Climate Change, Land Degradation and Circles of Conflict” was held on **21 February 2026**, in **Guwahati, Assam**. The dialogue had semi-formal interactions, discussions, consultations and conversations, in which experts and development practitioners working with local and regional NGOs, consultative firms, civil society organisations, media persons and journalists and human rights and legal activists, researchers and academics from university departments and colleges, in a roundtable format shared insights and experiences of working with ecological precarity, safety, social engagements, and the ideas of ‘freedom from want and freedom from fear’—the crisis situation heightened by climate change and resource exploitation and laws and livelihood precarity in the time of land transformations. For details, please see the [Report](#). More information is available here: <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security Studies 2025/Security Studies Programmes Events 2025.asp>

v) Media Meet and Public Discussion

A **Media Meet** was organised by MCRG, calling for cooperation between state governments for protection of migrant workers’ identities, and policy safeguards that would urge the media, civil society, and policymakers to reevaluate human and labour rights issues for protection and security of migrant workers. MCRG in its long engagement with work for migrants’ rights, conducted a public event on **12 August 2025**, in **Press Club Kolkata**. The public event had research organisations and civil society groups coming together to respond to the worsening persecution of Bengali-speaking migrant workers in different parts of India. MCRG released a compilation of newspaper reports about the persecution of migrant workers, and an information booklet about the background to these incidents, the crisis of democracy flagged by migrant workers across India and a set of recommendations, during this media meet. The [Poster](#) and [Press Release](#) were widely circulated and the event was covered by and widely circulated through the reports of a number of newspapers, news channels and media platforms both in print and digital formats. For details of the event see the [Report](#). More details are available here:

<http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security Studies 2025/Media Meet 2025/Handbook%20Continuing%20persecution%20of%20Bengali%20speaking%20migrant%20workers 20250809 000051 00 00.pdf>; [youtube.com/watch?v=QA8F15VAofc&authuser=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA8F15VAofc&authuser=0); [youtube.com/watch?si=Aj3lu3tY8kkLjiZu&v=S3HrxN5wlkM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=Aj3lu3tY8kkLjiZu&v=S3HrxN5wlkM); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uK9yQGxdDys>; <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security Studies 2025/Media Meet 2025/Media%20Coverage.pdf>

A Discussion on “Urban Security” with Dunu Roy and Ranabir Samaddar was organised on 23 August 2025 in Kolkata. The session was moderated by Rita Manchanda. This public session aimed at revisiting the reorganisation of urban spaces and cities as the centres where struggles, claim makings and movements, draw on colonial patterns, especially through zoning practices. Full Discussion is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWfX3UaXUnk>

vi) Web-Based Activities

The web-based activities such as webinars helped strengthen the network of institutions and individuals involved in the work in 2025. Themes of work, labour and urban security and marginalization, as well as ecological insecurities in the backdrop of ecosystem preservations, development and sustainability were the main focus areas this year. The webinars aimed at developing stronger connections with previous years’ participants and to further develop interdisciplinary networks for addressing pivotal issues on security, and human rights challenges.

In 2025, these initiatives continued with two webinars. The **First Webinar in 2025** themed on “**Work, Insecurity and Marginalisation**”, was held on **18 September 2025**. The speakers were Manish Jha and Rajendran Narayanan, and the Discussant was Byasdeb Dasgupta. The [Poster](#) of the webinar along with the detailed [Report](#) is available here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/Security%20Project%20Webinar%20Report%2018%20SEPTEMBER%202025.pdf

The **Second Webinar in 2025** themed on “**Ecology, Security and Sustainability**” was held on **14 October 2025**. The speakers were Sohini Sengupta and Amites Mukhopadhyay, and the Discussant for the session was Gopa Samanta. The [Poster](#) of the webinar along with the detailed [Report](#) is available here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/Security%20Project%20Webinar%20Report%2014%20October%202025.pdf

vii) Book Discussion

A book discussion session was held on **21 November 2025 in Kolkata**. This session was part of the *Tenth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on “Cities, Migrants and Insecurities”* (18-22 November 2025). The book “**Biopolitics from Below: Crisis, Conjuncture, Rupture**” authored by **Ranabir Samaddar** [CEU Press 2025], was discussed by **Samata Biswas, V. Ramaswamy** and **Arup Sen**. Preceding the book discussion, on 21 November 2025, MCRG also released one of its publications on a conference proceedings volume in collaboration with Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and European Master in Migration and Inter-Cultural Relations (EMMIR). The book volume, “*Migrant Asia: Migrants in the Making of Asia*”, edited by Priya Singh, Lydia Potts and Paula Banerjee was introduced by one of the co-editors Paula Banerjee, and the research studies in the compilation were briefly discussed by Thomas Spijkerboer.

viii) Public Lectures

- Public Lectures on the themes of non-traditional security and governance, urban security, human rights and laws, climate hazards and environmental security, were held in 2025 as part of the Annual Workshop and the South Asian Conference. Four public lectures were organised as part of the *Tenth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on ‘Cities, Migrants and Insecurities’*, from 18-22 November 2025, in Kolkata. Details are listed below:
- The **Valedictory Lecture** of the **South Asian Conference on *Justice, Security and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia***, themed on “**Non- Traditional Security in South Asia**” was delivered by **Lok Raj Boral** on **12 October 2025** in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The lecture

emphasised the significance of justice in the coming together of government, sovereignty, territory and population to form States. Details are given in the [Report](#). More information is available here:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/Kathmandu%20ConferenceReport.pdf

- **Inaugural Lecture** of the Annual Workshop was delivered by **Mahalaya Chatterjee** on **18 November 2025** themed on “**Future of the Metropolis: The Kolkata Case**”.
- **Special Lecture** for Module A themed on “**Lecture Title: Exclusionary Urban Zoning: The Limits and Potential of European Human Rights Law**” was delivered by **Thomas Spijkerboer** on **19 November 2025**.
- **Special Lecture** for Module B themed on “**Living the Climate Crisis in Darjeeling**” was delivered by **Roshan Rai** on **20 November 2025**.
- **Valedictory Lecture** of the **Annual Workshop** was delivered by **Anita Patil Deshmukh** on the theme of “**Climate Hazards, Cities and Urban Poor**” on **22 November 2025**. For further details see the full [Report](#).

4.2. Research and Publications

i) Research Papers

In 2025, research themes expanded to urban security, and climate, health, epidemiology and cities. The research papers were titled “[On Urban Security and its Inversions in Delhi](#)” by **Amit Prakash** (CRG & Jawaharlal Nehru University), and the joint-research paper titled “[Climate, Epidemiological Insecurities and the City](#)” by **Debashree Chakraborty** (Researcher, CRG) and **Shatabdi Das** (Researcher, CRG). Both these papers are in the process of publication as part of the edited volume *New Thinking on Security*. The research paper on “Climate, Epidemiological Insecurities and the City” was also the Module Theme paper for Module B in the *Tenth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on ‘Cities, Migrants and Insecurities’* (18-22 November 2025, Kolkata). The [Report](#) of the Annual Workshop 2025 has been published.

ii) Refugee Watch Journal

The Refugee Watch Joint-Issue 66 & 67 (June & December 2025) themed “Migration, Gender, and the Ecology of Marginality in Asia”, included one of the research papers of the 2024 project segment titled “Water Resilience, Ecological Diplomacy and Human Security: A Transnational Governance Assessment on the Mekong River”, co-authored by Arie Baskoro and Paula Banerjee. The full paper published in the [Refugee Watch Journal Joint-Issue \(June-December 2025\)](#) can be read here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/rw%20files/RW66_67/RW%2066_67-2.pdf

iii) Policy Briefs

In 2025, **four Policy Briefs were written with focus on:**

- (a) Neighbourhood Policy and Non-traditional Security;
- (b) Labour, Women and Issues of Work and Insecurities in Cities;
- (c) Water Justice and Security in Himalayan Nuclear Ecosystem;
- (d) Stateless Persons and Global Protection Mechanism;

The Policy Briefs published were:

- **Priya Singh** (CRG & Asian Institute of Technology): [India’s Neighbourhood Policy and Non-Traditional Security: Reframing Regional Priorities through Justice and Resilience](#)
- **Mouleshri Vyas** (CRG & TISS Mumbai): [City Cleaning and Work with Waste: The Labour Question](#)
- **Gopal Krishna** (CRG & High Court, Patna): [Diverse Notions of Justice and Security: A Preliminary Inquiry into Water Justice and Security in Himalayan Nuclear Ecosystem](#)

- **Niloy Ranjan Biswas** (University of Dhaka): [*Understanding 'Agency' of Stateless Persons in Framing Their Resilience: Host State vs. the Global Protection Mechanism for Stateless Rohingyas*](#)

iv) Translations

The translations have facilitated wider circulation of the original research and recommendations in regional networks and have been significant in adding to vernacular knowledge repositories.

- **Translations of “UN Document on Internal Displacement” into Hmar and Meiteilon Languages:** In 2025, the ‘UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement’ [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) 2004] was translated into **Hmar** language by **Immanuel Varte** and into **Meiteilon** language by **Babloo Loitongbam**. The translations can be read here:
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/UN%20Document%20on%20IDPs%20Hmar.pdf;
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/UN%20Document%20on%20IDPs%20Meiteilon.pdf
- **Book Translation into Bengali:** The book *Migration and Circles of Insecurity* (authored by Paula Banerjee and Ranabir Samaddar) was translated into **Bengali** by **Prasit Das**, titled *স্থানান্তর ও বিপন্নতা (Sthanantar O Bipannata)* and was published in 2025 by Setu Prakashani.
- **Book Translation into Assamese:** The book *Migration and Circles of Insecurity* (authored by Paula Banerjee and Ranabir Samaddar) was translated into **Assamese** jointly by **Darshan Deep Baruah** and **Sarmishta Deb**, titled *প্রব্রজন আৰু অনিৰাপত্তাৰ চক্ৰ (Probrojon Aaru Anirapattar Chakro)*. It was published by Hyphen Publications in 2025.
- **Three Policy Briefs of 2024 were translated into Bengali and Hindi languages in 2025:**
 - **Translation of Policy Briefs (2024) into Bengali:**
 - *State's Plenary Powers and India's Refugee Laws* (authored by Sahana Basavapatna), was translated by **Sabir Ahamed**. The translation can be read here:
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/State's%20Plenary%20Powers%20and%20India's%20Refugee%20Law_Bengali_SabirAhamed.pdf
 - *Media and Securitisation: A Review* (authored by Bharat Bhushan) was translated by **Rajat Roy**. The translation can be read here:
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/Media%20and%20Securitisation_Bangla_RajatRoy.pdf
 - *The Land Question* (authored by Rajat Roy) was translated by **Shyamalendu Majumdar**. The translation can be read here:
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/TheLandQuestion_Bengali_Shyamalendu_Majumdar.pdf
 - **Translations of Policy Briefs into Hindi:**
 - *State's Plenary Powers and India's Refugee Laws* (authored by Sahana Basavapatna), was translated by **Mohammad Niyaz Ahmad**. The translation can be read here:
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/State's%20Plenary%20Powers%20and%20India's%20Refugee%20Law_Hindi_MohammadNiyazMohammadNiyazAhmad.pdf
 - *Media and Securitisation: A Review* (authored by Bharat Bhushan) was translated by **Chandan Shrivastav**. The translation can be read here:
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/HINDI%20TRANSLATION-Policy%20Brief%20Chandan%20Srivastawa.pdf
 - *The Land Question* (authored by Rajat Roy) was translated by **Mohammad Niyaz Ahmad**. The translation can be read here:
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies_2025/TheLand%20Question_Hindi_Mohammad_NiyazAhamed.pdf

v) Blog Series

Anwasha Banerjee, Debasree Sarkar, Suchandra Ghatak, Saurabh Kumar and Arunita Banerjee were the contributors for the series of blogs, comments and posts, titled “**Security Speak**” that MCRG published between May and July 2025 online (in the Refugee Watch Online Blog) pertaining to security questions.

For details see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Security_Studies_Home.asp

vi) Edited Book Volume (forthcoming)

Compilation of an edited book volume that includes the research studies done by Samir Kumar Das, Sucharita Sengupta, Ritam Sengupta, Saurabh Bhattacharjee, Paula Banerjee, Samata Biswas, Priya Singh, Arie Baskhoru and Sumona DasGupta (from 2024 research segment), and Amit Prakash, and Debashree Chakraborty and Shatabdi Das (from 2025 research segment), is in progress. The editor of the book volume tentatively titled *New Thinking on Security* (forthcoming) is Sucharita Sengupta. This edited volume aims to bring together critical scholarship to chart a framework for understanding security, as an emancipatory promise grounded in human experience, precarity, and collective action. Across the themes of digital insecurity, human security, people’s peace, migration governance, and an overall South Asian neighbourhood situation.

4.3. Building Up Library Resources for Open Use

MCRG is continuously building on its library resources and relevant resource materials for public access and for open use by scholars-researchers and for educational purposes on security issues, peace and policy studies, development, governance, ecology and justice studies. The resource list is evolving on the basis of the main theme and sub-themes discussed and deliberated upon through the research, activities and dialogues throughout the year, at MCRG. The evolving list is available here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Security_Studies_Links.asp. The library of MCRG holds a significantly specialised collection of print and audio resources on topics pertinent to areas of social science such as migration studies, human rights, peace, justice, postcolonial democracy, climate issues, land, laws, women’s rights, borders, partition, gender, caste, religion, refugees, labour migrants, politics, and more. The OPAC URL is: <https://mcrg-opac.blacal.in/>

5. Concluding Observations

The research papers, policy briefs and documentation reports as well as South Asian Conference, Annual Workshop and Regional Dialogues have played pivotal roles in expanding CRG’s work and strengthening the networks of activists through the scope of activities. Regional and local dialogues in conflict areas and bringing together consultants, advocates and development practitioners who highlight and work with complex issues of fragile ecologies, displacements and shortcomings of policies that would help provide larger platforms to resolve and improve crises of rights and issues of security of life added to the strength and depth of the research programme. CRG is continually engaged in strengthening the networks and working with voices that reflect grassroots impacts through this collaboration with FGHR.