

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



Equations

The Hotel

No More
Contractual
Employment

PF





EQUATIONS, established in 1985, is a society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960 and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 renewed upto 31st October 2021. It is also registered under section 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961 and has obtained recognition under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This report captures EQUATIONS work of 2017-2018 detailing key interventions that we have been a part of. Some of the trends and developments we responded through our work are outlined here.

Exploitation of children continues to be a serious concern in tourism sector, which was highlighted through our research. There have been a number of reported cases of Travelling Sex Offenders (TSOs) in India since the 1980s, but there are several challenges in the prosecution of these cases. This year we have initiated a research on TSOs with an objective to ascertain patterns in the operation of TSOs in India, and identify legal and institutional loopholes that have hitherto prevented the successful prosecution of TSOs. Child labour has also been a growing concern within tourism. Another area of research has been an exploratory paper on women in sex work and tourism. These are areas that we plan to take forward.

There has been a major thrust by both the centre and state governments to promote religious tourism. We have started the process of documenting the issues and impacts of religious tourism, to understand the socio-political and economic situation of tourism and how it impacts local communities.

Hampi saw eviction notices being issued once again to the people from Hampi World Heritage Management Authority. The local communities of Hampi village approached EQUATIONS to resist the eviction threat during which time we provided necessary background information and supported them in developing the point of arguments (both academic and technical based on the various discourses on conservation, human rights, livelihood, adverse possession).

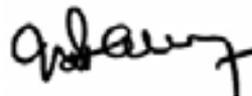
Our interactions with the tourism industry were on corporate accountability and on the issue child and tourism. We undertook a study on the functioning of the hotel chains in the context of some of their practices, policies and the effectiveness of their monitoring mechanism. We interacted with guides, car drivers, auto rickshaw drivers, cyber cafés and hotels on the issues of child and tourism.

Many laws and policies – land, forests, coasts, children, women – are witnessing a change, which automatically has an impact of the tourism. These have been on our radar.

We have continued our advocacy efforts with central level Ministries and other government bodies such as Tourism, Women and Child Development, National & State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. EQUATIONS conducted a session for forest officials on the issue of tourism carrying capacity during the training conducted by Jungle Lodges and Resorts. We engaged with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Niti Aayog, and the Andaman Administration on the tourism plans.

Collaborating with organisations / peoples movements / individuals continues as a core method of our work. Our experiences over the past year have been both enriching and one of continuous learning.

Last year also saw us acquiring new skills to engage with the media for wider outreach of EQUATIONS work.



MARIO PINTO ALMEIDA

President

Equitable Tourism Options
(EQUATIONS) Society

CONTEXT OF OUR WORK¹

Tourists

As per the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), from 1997 to 2016 the number of domestic tourist visits grew by 10 times — from close to 160 mn to 1614 mn. Indian domestic travel market is poised to become a \$48 bn industry by 2020 according to a report published by Google India along with Boston Consulting Group. Foreign Tourist Arrivals in the year 2017 crossed the 1 bn mark with a growth of 15.6% over 2016. Foreign Exchange Earnings during 2017 was INR 1804 bn with a growth of 17% over 2016.

India stayed at the 40th rank for the 2nd year, after having jumped 12 places from earlier 52nd position in 2015 in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index. At a macro level, the primary reasons for India's jump in the Index 2017, is attributed to the development of tourism infrastructure and easing of entry formalities for tourists.

The Indian visa rules do not make declaration of criminal records mandatory, though the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has proposed that the visa forms be amended to include such a provision. While many countries have strict visa regulations that prevent anyone with a history of sexual offence or any criminal record from entering their territories, India has taken its 'Atithi Devo Bhava' tradition too literally. India started giving visas on arrival and e-visas to nationals of various countries at its international airports, with no regard for their previous criminal record.

In 2017, a total of 16.8 mn foreign tourists arrived on e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) as compared to 10.8 mn in 2016, registering a growth of 57.2%. The government has earned INR 14 bn as revenue

from the e-TV scheme, offered to citizens of 163 countries visiting India as tourists, since its launch in 2014.

Duration of stay in India under e-TV has been increased from the existing 30 days to 60 days. In the case of e-Medical Visa, extension may be granted up to 6 months. On e-TV and e-Business Visa, a foreign national is permitted double entry as against single entry at present. In the case of those availing e-Medical Visa, triple entry will be permitted as against single entry at present.

India is becoming the fastest growing outbound market, ranking next to China with a prediction to grow 50 mn by 2020 as per the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). In 2017, there were more than 2.3 mn outbound tourist departures from India. Dubai, USA, Thailand, and Singapore are the top choices for Indian outbound tourists followed by UK, Australia, Indonesia, Turkey, Oman, Sri Lanka and Maldives. In recent times, countries such as Canada, Philippines, Mauritius, Jordan, Taiwan and Kenya are also showing an increase in Indian tourists rush. A number of factors have contributed towards the growth of outbound Indian tourism and travel industry, the most prevalent being: an increase in GDP over 7%, growing air connectivity due to low-cost carriers, an increase in the expanding urban middle class and growth of women and senior travellers.

A significant shift has also been that a majority of travel planning and booking now take place online. India was projected to have accounted for 3.7% of the global digital travel sales.

Policy and Budgets

International Policies

In the context of the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 aimed to support changes in policies, business practices and consumer behaviour towards a more sustainable tourism sector and

¹ This section is written based on articles in the national and local media

contribute to the SDGs. The roadmap given by the UNWTO to promote tourism's role in the five key areas were:

1. Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth
2. Social Inclusiveness, Employment and Poverty Reduction
3. Resource Efficiency, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
4. Cultural Values, Diversity and Heritage
5. Mutual Understanding, Peace and Security.

The move of UNWTO was to hold discussions with travel and tourism sector on sustainability. The concern now is that the mainstream tourism industry will decide and draw on the framework of what is sustainability and what is not, though issues faced by local communities hardly feature in the discussions.

National Policies

Nationally, the UNWTO declaration of sustainable tourism is not yet registered in the minds of the Indian tourism planners and policymakers. The focus continues to be on tourism infrastructure and promotion. The Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India for Accommodation, Tour Operators and Beaches, Backwaters, Lakes & Rivers sectors, there since August 2014, lacks implementation. According to MoT it is sufficient to sign a pledge for commitment towards Safe & Honourable Tourism and Sustainable Tourism to be recognised as being sustainable and not be concerned about the impacts of tourism on local communities.

In December 2017, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry constituted Invest India for facilitating of foreign and other investments into India. Through this agency, a Working Group was formed to formulate conducive policy interventions for the promotion of niche tourism with MoT and representatives of private industry. The Group will study the best niche tourism policies and safety standards and best practices in Indian states and create a model policy and practices based on best practices for the entire country.

MoT in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), State/UTs Governments and Local bodies launched "Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan" project to preserve the cultural and natural heritage and to promote tourism across the country. In January 2018, under this project, letters of intent for 40 monuments to 9 agencies of Phase-II and for 22 monuments to 8 agencies of Phase-III were signed.

In February 2018, 10 'iconic destinations' were identified by MoT for 'holistic development' as proposed in the annual budget of 2018-19 – Iconic Tourist Sites Project. The budget had proposed this exercise under the National Heritage City Development and Augmentation (HRIDAY) programme of the government. Besides one wildlife destination and one beach destination, the rest of the destinations identified are all heritage monuments under the ASI. They include Delhi (Red Fort, Qutab Minar, Humayun Tomb), Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri (Agra), Dholavira and Somnath (Gujarat), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Karnataka), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra), Kumarakom (Kerala) & Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has inscribed 'KumbhMela' in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This inscription is the third in two years following the inscriptions of 'Yoga' and 'Nouroz'.

'Atithidevo Bhava' - Social Awareness Campaign has been re-introduced by the Ministry of Tourism with the objective of sensitising stakeholders and the general public on various themes including good behaviour towards tourists, honesty, civic responsibilities of citizens, discouraging graffiti, etc. "Swachh Bharat" is a major component of the Social Awareness Campaign.

MoT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI) to inform and educate tourism stakeholders about the importance of sustainable and responsible tourism practices and ensuring and promoting sustainable and responsible practices in the tourism industry. While the intentions are valid, it is left to be seen what happens in reality as ESOI themselves comprise largely of people from the industry and bureaucracy.

Promotion and publicity are areas where the MoT is active, through organising various events at the national and international level. Bharat Parv, Prayatan Parv (tourist festival), Yog Diwas, Swachhta Hi Seva, are some events organised to promote tourism.

In terms of of tourism products, they focused on promoting cruise, adventure, medical, wellness, golf, polo, and MICE tourism. There has been a thrust on promoting the religious tourism through the Ramayana circuit, Krishna circuit, Spiritual circuit, and Buddhist circuit under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Among the religious circuits, the Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala and Rajasthan have been allocated funds.

With a major thrust on religious tourism under the Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) schemes of the MoT, PRASAD scheme was given INR 1.5 bn as compared to INR 1 bn in the last budget. Under Swadesh Darshan scheme, INR 21.48 bn out of 56.48 bn allocated was sanctioned under different themes where coastal circuits cover Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Odisha. In order to help augment a greater synergy between the rural and urban spiritual sites and increase the funding for the scheme, HRIDAY and PRASAD scheme have been merged.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has transferred land to MoT to build tourist way-side amenities at five places on the Buddhist and Ramayan Circuit across UP and Bihar. The Ministry of Highways will develop 700 such facilities on its own in coming years.

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation plans to introduce Rayalseema Religious and Heritage Tourism Circuit, with an estimation of Rs 133.5 cr to be spent on religious places like Mahanadi, Ahobilam, Mantralayam, and Lepakshi. They have also identified five Buddhist sites to be developed as a circuit. Heli tourism in the temple city of Tirupati is already in process.

Tamil Nadu has sought about USD 3.15 cr from Asian Development Bank (ADB) to conserve heritage buildings and ancient temples which come under the ambit of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HRCE) Department. HRCE and Tamil Nadu Tourism Department has submitted a proposal as a part of the Ramayana Circuit for the Ramanathaswamy Temple in Rameswaram. The government has doubled the number of beneficiaries to 1000 under the subsidy scheme for undertaking Manasarovar and Mukthinath pilgrimages.

The Karnataka government launched Punitha Yatre wherein about 21 subsidized packages are offered for people to visit religious sites such as churches, mosques, and temples in Karnataka and some parts of South India. These packages are catered to different castes and communities in Karnataka. In light of the assembly elections that will be held in Karnataka in 2018, this move seems to be focused towards the appeasement of the different communities and consolidation of votes.

The Gujarat government launched Shravan Tirthdarshan Yojana wherein the government will pay 50% costs of the tirth yatra by non-AC state transport bus for senior citizens.

In West Bengal, ISKCON plans to have a Vedic Centre for Culture and Education, a world-class park, community hall, light and sound exhibition, at the Sagar Islands, which attracts lakhs of pilgrims during holy 'Makarsankranti' in January every year. Uttarakhand is planning to promote multiple religious circuits such as Devi, Shaiv, Vaishnav, Nagraj and Mahabarath circuit.

The President of India inaugurated a newly built airport at Shirdi in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district to promote religious tourism. Alliance Air, Trujet and Zoom air will operate flights between

Mumbai and Shirdi. Similarly, in Rajasthan, an airport, about 105 km from Jaipur, was inaugurated to connect religious destinations such as Pushkar and the Ajmer Dargah.

Uttar Pradesh Government has declared Vrindavan Nagar Palika Parishad and Barsana Nagar Panchayat in Mathura district as a holy pilgrimage place and the sale of meat and liquor is banned within municipal limits of towns. The Mathura police may soon wear badges with Krishna image in order to make them look more tourist friendly. There are plans to boost regional connectivity for religious tourism purposes through new airports at Agra and Kanpur. The World-Bank's pro-poor tourism development project has sanctioned an amount of INR 1800 cr for the development of Buddhist circuit. Ramayan Museum in Ayodhya, and water sports in Ramgarh Lake in Gorakpur near the Goraknath Temple, ropeways in Vindhayachal (Goddess Durga temple) and Chitrakoot have also been planned. UP government has also plans to tie-up with Gujarat to boost Krishna tourism.

In Jammu and Kashmir around 176 pilgrim sites and shrines are being developed by creating various facilities for visitors under pilgrim tourism.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs constituted a special Haj Committee to review the existing Haj Policy. The proposed Haj Policy 2018-22 by the committee, recommends abolishing the Haj subsidy, reduction of embarkment points, and allowing a group of four women aged above 45 years to undertake the journey without a male companion. The funds from the cut in subsidy will be directed towards the educational empowerment and welfare of Muslims.

State Policies

Many states have, or are planning to announce tourism policies. The Uttar Pradesh government announced its tourism policy in February 2018 setting an ambitious target of generating five lakh jobs every year, attracting INR 50 bn investment, creating a land bank,

increasing the foreign tourist arrival to 10%, setting up 50 heritage hotels, and ensuring safety of women tourists.

Punjab State Tourism Policy aims to double tourist arrivals in the state in five years, and is planning to promote thematic circuits including agritourism, the Amritsar circuit, the frontier trail, the Mughal Circuit: the Maharajah Circuit; the Patiala Trail: the Chandigarh Circuit, and many more. The policy also aims to provide impetus to rural tourism, medical tourism, heritage tourism and film tourism.

Kerala's tourism policy emphasises on the participation of the differently-abled and transgenders, while implementing the Responsible Tourism Mission across the state, to promote the tourism sector. It proposes to establish a Kerala Tourism Regulatory Authority, which will ensure quality service for tourists and curb unhealthy practices. Following the Responsible Tourism Mission, Kerala Tourism has guided all the regional bodies and authorities concerned to implement and follow the Green Protocol at all the destinations of Kerala. It will also include a new project involving local people in the tourism decision-making called 'PEPPER' (People's Participation for Planning & Empowerment through Responsible Tourism) which is an attempt at spearheading a movement that will safeguard the rights of the local community, preserve the ecological and cultural fabric of a destination and ensure its holistic development. PEPPER will reinvent the way the local community is involved in tourism. Gram Sabhas (village communities) will undertake activities such as tourism mapping, product development, and marketing.

Sikkim's Tourism policy will give high priority to ecotourism and homestay tourism, with the government supporting over 730 homestays. Himachal Pradesh on the other hand approved the HP Heritage Tourism Policy aimed at preserving the heritage buildings, forts, palaces having a historical lineage.

Karnataka has introduced a policy on Private Conservancies, which provides incentives to farmers to keep lands fallow in and around

protected areas. Farmers can develop tourist facilities in 5% of the land and conduct ecotourism activities in that area. This policy will come into effect by introducing changes to the various forest and wildlife related laws and rules and only benefit large land holders without benefiting small land holders and landless agricultural labourers. Also, this again leads to increasing tourism in the buffer areas, without sufficiently assessing the carrying capacity of areas peripheral to protected areas.

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region announced the constitution of a dedicated Tourism Development Council (NETDC) for the North Eastern Region. The NETDC is constituted as a company under section 8 with both private and public sector equity, to promote tourism within North East and create linkages with the region in sync with the Look East policy. The Council is constituted as a non-profit organization where people will contribute for the promotion of tourism without profit.

In addition, in March 2018, the Central Government decided to relax the Protected Area Permit regime to enable foreign tourists to access border areas. The move follows several requests from the border states of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Manipur, as also the Tourism Ministry.

Industry and Infrastructure

In the Union Budget, 2018-2019, the tourism industry did not get the Goods and Services Tax benefit and input credit they were hoping for but were heartened by the other announcements, particularly the plans to increase connectivity and expand or bolster related infrastructure.

After receiving the request for inclusion from a few players, Civil Aviation Ministry has even begun conducting mandatory tests for granting licences to construct water aerodromes in Maharashtra, North-Eastern states and other places. SpiceJet announced signing a MoU with

Japan's Setouchi Holdings to fly amphibian planes. Airbnb and the World Bank signed an MoU to boost the tourism industry of developing economies with a view to enhance "rural tourism". Through the agreement, they plan to examine ways in which emerging destinations use new technology and platforms to create economic opportunities for communities that have not traditionally benefited from tourism and hospitality. They will share information on the current scale of alternative accommodation options and home sharing across several countries, beginning with pilot projects in Sri Lanka and India.

The tourism industry is capitalising on the push towards religious tourism. In a survey conducted, it was found that about 53% of the customers were interested in opting for a pilgrimage tour if a reputed travel operator offered such services. It also indicated that about 38% sought assistance to plan a pilgrimage tour. Based on this survey, SOTC has launched Darshan which facilitates pre-booked darshan, special poojas, and assisted temple visit in addition to logistics.

The government has pushed for connecting small towns through the Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme, under which new and existing airlines fly to remote airports at rates subsidised by the government. The 502 routes seek to connect about 116 airports and helipads, including 49 unserved and 15 under-served airports and 24 helipads. Under the first round of bidding, the government had approved 27 proposals for 128 routes to connect about 70 airports.

Given the rise in air passengers, the government has given an in-principle approval for 19 greenfield airports, of which some would be developed through Public Private Partnership (PPP). In June 2017, sixteen years after the idea was first floated, a site for an international airport at Jewar, in the National Capital Region was given an in-principle site clearance by the Indian government's Ministry of Civil Aviation. The airport will have a significant human impact which would displace 20 villages (57,000 people). The

Island Development Agency has decided to develop an airport at Minicoy Island to boost tourism and promote tuna fishing industry for improving livelihoods in Lakshadweep.

Andhra Pradesh has asked the Civil Aviation Ministry to frame regulations as early as possible to introduce sea planes in the state to promote tourism. Following the Prime Minister's flight to Sabarmati, Gujarat is devising its own Seaplane policy. Seaplanes have been known to have an impact on the livelihoods of fish-workers by causing displacements or restricting their movements around seaplane ports in the name of protocol and security.

The Central Government cleared half a dozen road and rail projects worth INR 160 bn, including a 4.5 km tunnel in Uttarakhand, which will provide all-weather connectivity to Yamunotri, one of the dham on the Chardham Yatra, encouraging regional socio-economic development, trade and tourism. A provision of INR 70 bn has been allocated in the Union Budget 2018 for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed bullet train corridor. The total cost for this 504-kilometer long bullet train is almost INR 1000 bn. It will have a 21-km-long tunnel between Boisar and Bandra-Kurla Complex, of which seven km will be underwater. The railways will require around 825 hectares of land. A MoU was signed between India and Japan for which Japanese government is providing a loan at a minimal interest of 0.1%.

The Indian Railways have introduced the Aastha tourist special train which starts from Puri and covers religious destinations such as Gaya, Mathura, Vrindavan, Agra, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Amritsar and Mata Vaishno Devi, for 11 days costing INR 10,195. Another 11 day train package was introduced to cover pilgrimage destinations in Southern states of India – Ramanatha Swami Temple, Meenakshi Amman Temple, Padmanabhaswami Temple, Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Gandhi Mandapam, Kanyakumari Temple, and Tirupati.

The government has included railway station redevelopment and cable cars for tourism in the definition of infrastructure. A sub-category

of terminal infrastructure, including stations and adjoining commercial infrastructure, has been added in the category of transport, implying real estate development, will also benefit from this categorisation. The sub-category is now called tourism infrastructure. Ropeways and cable cars have been included in this sub-category. This will now have a larger impact on eco-fragile region of the Indian state and the local community living in those areas.

The Mumbai Port Trust is planning to open up a number of citizen-focused facilities being built at a cost of INR 3 bn. The projects related to tourism include beautification of the waterfront at Princess Dock, a domestic cruise terminal with restaurants, which is slated to handle a cruise service between Mumbai and Goa, water taxis on the eastern waterfront and two floating restaurants at Gateway of India and Marine Drive. It is also working on starting a jetty on Marine Drive, which will aid the seaplane services and also water sport activities off the western coastline.

Economic Policy

With regard to land policy, we are seeing the continuation of the process to create and strengthen land banks. The government has acquired large parcels of land that can be easily sold or given to corporate entities in order to reduce the hassle for corporations. In Maharashtra, there is a plan to change legislation to avoid handing back land to affected persons if the time period for compensation lapses, thus consolidating total available land in land banks. In Uttarakhand, land parcels owned across various departments are being consolidated for tourism development. And in Haryana, a 'plug and play' model is being initiated for small and medium enterprises, extending on the concept of the land bank by also providing industry with partially or fully built buildings, not just land parcels.

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department is focusing on six marquee projects for investments in the state. Madhurawada, INS Virat aircraft carrier museum in

Visakhapatnam, Havelock Bridge in Rajahmundry, Bhavani Island in the middle of Krishna river in Vijayawada, Kakinada's Hope Island in East Godavari district, and Gandikota Fort in Guntur district are six areas declared as Special Tourism Zones. All of these locations will be developed under the PPP mode.

Environment

Governments have been pushing to increase tourism in coastal and forest areas – either through introduction of cruise or mangrove tourism or through new forms of tourism in popular areas such as the Himalayas. Across these trends, neither has there been much of community involvement in the tourism, nor any move to regulate tourism to keep it within acceptable limits. Even though 2017 which was declared as the year of sustainable tourism, very little was done to actually make tourism sustainable, especially in areas having fragile ecosystems.

Forests

Parks are kept open for more days to promote wildlife tourism. Previously, the season in Kaziranga was advanced by a month, to open from October instead of November. This past year, there were two massive floods at Kaziranga; but in spite of these, sections of the park were opened for tourism as soon the season started with an anticipation of good numbers of tourists.

There is an initiative of the Karnataka forest department to count tigers outside of protected areas by placing camera traps. Camera traps by themselves are ethically questionable, but placing them outside protected areas also can have very negative implications on the privacy and lives of local villagers. Counting tigers outside protected areas is the first step to assessing whether tourism outside protected areas is viable or not. Further, there have been threats of displacement in Madhya Pradesh, a popular state for tiger tourism. These threats have been in the Kanha – Achanakmar tiger corridor. The

adivasis have been vehemently protesting the displacement with the Baiga adivasis taking out a protest march across the area. These displacements, if continued, would cause a lot of hardship and loss of livelihoods for the forest dwelling community. If tourism is later promoted in these areas, it would be truly unjust to these communities.

Tourism in the buffer areas of tiger reserves is gaining popularity. Even during the monsoon season, when the core area of the reserve is generally shut because of the weather conditions, the buffer zone of Tadoba in Maharashtra was kept open for tourism. Kanha Tiger Reserve is another place where tourism in the buffer areas is open throughout the year. What is interesting to note, is that, wildlife does not make a distinction between buffer and core areas, and they often move freely between the two areas. While a preliminary assessment of carrying capacity is done for core areas as per the guidelines for tourism around tiger reserves, there is no assessment done for carrying capacity in buffer zones. Since tourism in the buffer area is gaining popularity, it will now be important to assess what the capacity for buffer areas would be and provide suitable regulations for the same.

The word “ecotourism” is used freely to describe all kinds of tourism, without being environmentally sustainable or benefiting the local communities. The West Bengal Government is developing the Gajoldba area as an ecotourist hub, with a mega tourism park, amusement park and golf courses. There were a few instances reported of tussle between state plans for tourism and the forest department of the respective states. In Uttarakhand, the State Forest Minister of Uttarakhand announced opening of five new ecotourism circuits and developing forest guest houses. However, this plan was criticized by officials in the forest department who were opposed to the idea of having private parties manage the rest houses.

In Sabarimala, a plan was made to build a guest house in Sabarimala Sannidhanam for WIPs. The State Forest Minister had objected to the plan

as it is a violation of the Sabrimala Master plan and the construction will mean that there is encroachment into the Periyar protected area.

In Karnataka, the Eco-tourism Board opened India's first canopy walk by near Castle Rock. The walkway has a carrying capacity of 10 at a time on the walk, 2 at each platform. There is also a trend seen for bird festivals. The Karnataka Forest Department, along with the Tourism Department had its first Hornbill festival in Dandeli in February 2018. A three day bird-festival was organized by the Uttar Pradesh Government in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. A 10k run and bird watching festivals were also conducted in Eturnagaram wildlife sanctuary in Telangana.

Coasts and Islands

The plans for making India a hub for cruise tourism have been in the pipeline for sometime now. A number of initiatives have been planned which will boost cruise tourism, such as, priority for berthing of cruise ships and facility for e-visa and e-landing card along with biometric application for faster landing clearance at cruise terminals.

Cruise tourism is being promoted expansively and various steps have been taken by Ministry of Shipping along with the Mumbai Port Trust for the construction of an international cruise terminal along with upgrading cruise terminals at Mormugao, Cochin, Chennai and New Mangalore under respective port trusts. Cruises are proposed in river waterways that are in coastal areas in National Waterways with infrastructure of developing river ports under Inland waterways Authority of India. Through the Jal Marg Vikas Project, development of inland waterways is also being implemented. The Government has allocated Rs 228.00 cr for development of inland waterways transport.

The infrastructure development and cruise movements would push already marginalised fishing communities further to the brink. Local people are not always benefited by coastal tourism especially since the cruise industry generates revenues for the ports they visit, but not wholly for the coastal region.

Instead, heavy investments are needed for port operations and to prevent environment damages.

Coastal circuits are being combined with spiritual aspects to make coastal tourism areas more accessible and appealing. Through Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD more amenities are added to beach sites to attract tourists which might even make them to stay for longer time. This would create competition for resources, such as water, which is a challenge in coastal areas, due to sea water ingress.

Special emphasis has been given to Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&NI) to promote them as major tourism destinations. Under Island Development Agency of NITI Aayog, a holistic plan to develop 10 islands of Andaman and Lakshadweep to cater tourism developments is underway. Rs 650 cr of investment is expected through PPP and private investment in the Andamans. 3 resorts also plan to come up, at Long Island (Rs 382 cr, 42 acres), Smith Island (Rs 69 cr, 61.7 acres, 70 tree-houses) and Avis Islands (Rs 39 cr, 6.8 acres).

The focus is on A&NI and Lakshadweep Islands because they are considered as pristine area. Without regard to the sensitive ecological ecosystems, which is also inhabited by indigenous communities, tourism is promoted as a mere economic activity which could boost the economy and bring jobs. The limited resources of Andamans is already stretched because of tourism. If tourism is further developed, problems of accessibility of basic needs might further aggravate.

Mangroves

Apart from tourism in the coastal areas, there have also been steps taken to encourage mangrove tourism in India. The Mangrove Society of India, a private non-profit entity, recently named twelve mangrove sites across India as important locations to conserve and emphasised on the potential for mangrove tourism. These twelve sites are in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and A&NI.

Kerala has plans to develop the mangrove areas near Kochi as an ecotourism destination and employ local women for the supply of food. Mangrove tourism in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra is being partly funded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and local women are employed as guides. In Maharashtra, the state cabinet approved the Mangrove Protection and Employment Generation Scheme, which proposes the formation of the Mangrove Co-Management Committee. This committee will also prepare a micro plan for mangrove preservation, protection, setting up protection fences and improving quality of mangroves. However, the involvement of local communities seems to be limited to the extent where, women are employed as guides and cooks.

Mangroves are fragile ecosystems, which support a huge biodiversity. In some places such as coastal Karnataka, mangrove sites are also fish-breeding grounds. Introducing tourism into such fragile ecosystems can cause imbalances in the system and needs to be done very carefully after sufficient assessment of the impacts of such tourism.

There has also been a history of local communities, like in Karnataka and Gujarat, resisting developmental projects and encroachments that destroy the mangroves. Many local communities are instrumental in conserving mangroves. However, the participation of local communities and their involvement in these tourism initiatives appears to be absent.

Hills and Mountains

The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Commissioner announced plans to focus on adventure tourism and aim at 8-10% growth in tourist arrivals. The tourism minister of Uttarakhand also has similar plans for the mountain state and announced plans to develop Uttarakhand as a winter tourism destination: an adventure tourism destination with infrastructure for skiing and other adventure sports.

The mountain states are all geared to promote adventure tourism. However, the Himalayan mountains are young mountains and have fragile ecosystems. Uttarakhand has already borne the brunt of unregulated tourist infrastructure development, which led to widespread landslides and loss of life during the 2013 floods. Himachal Pradesh is also a popular place for tourists. It reels from over-crowding and environmental pollution, especially during the peak seasons. The impacts in Shimla as a result of tourism, is well documented by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) as well. In such circumstances, the mountain states, which continue to have severe environmental impacts, need to concentrate on regulating existing tourism.

National Green Tribunal

The NGT has passed orders regarding the cleaning up of the river between Allahabad and Varanasi, which are both popular tourist places. The NGT had previously passed a slew of orders regarding the cleaning up of the Ganga between Haridwar (which sees a lot of religious tourism) and Unnao declaring an area of 100 metres from the edge of the river as a 'No Development Zone' and has prohibited dumping of waste within 500 metres from the river. With respect to flood plains, the NGT has directed the State of Uttarakhand to prepare and submit a tourism map, showing zoning of the flood plain map, within 3 months. Except for picking up and dropping tourists for river rafting, all other activities are prohibited for 100 m from the middle of the river.

Allahabad, Haridwar, Varanasi, which have high tourist numbers, not only draw water from the river, but also dump all their waste into the river. The NGT order allows Uttarakhand government to invoke the principle of 'polluter pays' and ask industries, hotels and dharamshalas to pay an environmental compensation fee for discharge of effluents into the Ganga.

They also passed orders to regulate tourism to some extent in the Yatras, by capping the number of tourists to Vaishno Devi at 50,000 a

day and ordered that another path be made for only pedestrians and battery operated cars. This order however is detrimental to the livelihoods of the local people as it speaks about phasing out horses and ponies. The government is expected to take the initiative to provide alternative employment to the local people who own ponies and horses that take tourists to Vaishno Devi shrine, though it is yet to be seen.

In another case concerning tourism in Himachal Pradesh, a local NGO had filed a petition opposing the construction of a 42 room hotel by the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation. However, after staying the construction of this hotel, the NGT expanded the scope of the petition and set up a committee to inspect all the hotels in Kullu-Manali area to find out if they have adequate permissions from the Pollution Control Board. In a recent order, all illegal and unauthorised constructions were ordered to be demolished quickly. This has thrown the hotel and lodge lobby of Himachal Pradesh into a panic, and they have been trying to get the government to relax the norms on constructing buildings.

The NGT directed the closure of all private and government establishments in the Buxa tiger reserve, as they were in violation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. This is due to fact that many tourist establishments were in reserve forest areas. In all, there were 69 private accommodations and 20 other boarding facilities, some even run by the West Bengal Forest Department. Following this order, the homestay owners around Buxa impleaded in this case. The developments of this case will be crucial to understand the West Bengal Government's reaction to regulating tourism in protected areas and might also set the trend for regulation of tourism in wildlife habitats across the country.

Tourist facilities being run in contravention of the forest related laws is not restricted to Buxa tiger reserve alone. According to a Comptroller and Auditor General report on Karnataka's national parks and sanctuaries, only 86% of the surveyed resorts and hotels in and around protected area have approvals from the forest department.

There would be no nod for projects until Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) is framed along with maps. Some states, such as Goa, have asked for an extension while others are facing stiff resistance from the communities and fisherfolk for the Draft Coastal Zone Management Plans and Maps. A public meeting was called for in Tamil Nadu because of the protests from communities against the preparation of the CZMP maps, which according to them, are full of faults.

Legislation

Land

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, (LARR) 2013, is the primary land acquisition legislation at the centre, and is supposed to provide the backbone for a thorough process. However, legislation at the state level has been changing in order to make it easier and faster for investors to acquire land. States which have modified or attempted to modify laws in this manner include Goa, Jharkhand, and Telangana.

In Jharkhand, amendments were proposed to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act and Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act. However, they were withdrawn later, after significant public pressure. These amendments originally allowed for non-agricultural use of agricultural land, and the transfer of adivasi land for any purpose, among a list of specific purposes, including hospitals and pipelines. In Telangana, several categories of projects, including industrial corridors, infrastructure and projects for national security, were exempted from conducting a Social Impact Assessment, conducting a public hearing, and obtaining Gram Sabha consent, among other provisions.

In Goa, two bills were passed. They expanded the reasons for which government can acquire land and has resulted in the removal of the processes of consent and participation found in the central 2013 act. The bill empowering the

government to acquire land for development of public services is headed by the Revenue Minister of the state. The practice of including ministers in committees is in contrast with the protocol followed in Parliament where a minister is not part of any Departmentally-related Standing Committees or Select Committee. As committees of the legislature hold the executive accountable, having a minister on the select committee undermines the role of legislature as an oversight mechanism.

Forests

Karnataka has introduced the 'Guidelines for Regulation of Private Resorts, Home stays, Institutions, and other Entities in Revenue Enclosures and around Protected areas'. These guidelines state that only existing and recognized resorts will be permitted to operate within the eco-sensitive zones and enclosures of protected areas. It also lists out tourism activities that will be permitted within enclosures.

In a similar move, the Maharashtra Government has decided to permit hotels and resorts in the periphery of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Also, tourist homes and resorts are permitted to come up within 5km of a wildlife sanctuary or national park in the state. Maharashtra has 48 sanctuaries, six national parks and four conservation reserves. The regulation for development of tourism and hospitality services under 'Community Nature Conservancy' around wildlife sanctuaries and national parks is done "in public interest".

The Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWH) is an area that has to be kept inviolate, after it as been established that by scientific assessment that co-existence is not possible. The notification issued is ambiguous and does not clearly spell out how consultations with forest dwellers will be carried out and also precludes requirement of free, prior, informed consent from forest dwellers.

The draft National Forest Policy, 2017 was put out for public comments but has not yet been notified. The draft policy views forests as a

production resource and not as an ecosystem that supports communities, plants and animals. Whether it is the CWH notification or the draft Forest Policy, they both fail to acknowledge the rights of Gram Sabhas, becoming another tool for tourism.

Coasts

There are changes that were introduced to the Coastal Regulation Zone, 2011 (CRZ Notification). The CRZ notification, allows the regularisation of projects and activities, which otherwise are permissible under the provisions of this notification, but have commenced construction without prior clearance. This regularisation would only be allowed if the application is submitted within the specified time. Projects which are in violation of CRZ norms would not be regularised. The amendment also extends the validity of CRZ clearance to seven years and with an additional three years. This allows one to regularise the construction along the coast even if the cases of violation are not reported or registered as violations.

Maharashtra relaxed the previous rule of having a 50 metres buffer zone for all mangroves, only if the mangrove affected is greater than 1000 sq. metres. This would be disastrous for the mangroves' survival as smaller mangrove areas, which are also important ecologically, would not be protected. This would hamper the breeding grounds of various marine creatures and impact the livelihoods of local communities who are dependent on the mangroves as well.

Heritage

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed in January 2018, amending the 1958 Act. This defines 'prohibited areas', 'public works', lays out procedures for seeking permission for public works, and lastly, it empowers the National Monuments Authority to consider an impact assessment of the proposed public works in a prohibited area, including its (i) archaeological impact; (ii) visual impact; and (iii) heritage impact.

The Legislative Assembly has passed the Telangana Heritage (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Maintenance) Act, 2017 aimed at securing the heritage structures across the State. As part of the Act, the Government would constitute a State level Telangana State Heritage Authority with the Chief Secretary as chairman and Archaeology and Museums Director as member convener.

Tourism Education

After introducing the option of vegetarian cooking as part of the BSc Degree programmes in the Central Institutes of Hotel Management, in 2017, this option has now been extended to six IHM's: Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Jaipur, Chennai, Hajipur, Shillong.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) a program under the Skill India Initiative, plans to set up centres across India with an investment of INR 120 bn to create job opportunities for 10 bn individuals by 2020 under PMKVY.

The Institute of Hotel, Catering and Tourism Management, is set to launch an entrepreneurship programme for home-based agents in association with Namaste Tourism, the umbrella brand of Compact Travels. The main focus of the entrepreneurship programme will be on comprehensive destination training, and educate them on 'how to sell'. The course programme will comprise 4 key segments: tourism - domestic and inbound, travel agent operations, world geography and GDS.

Types of Tourism

The MoT has identified places in India to promote adventure sports, mostly in Gulmarg, Rishikesh, Goa and Maharashtra. They have issued guidelines for the approval of Adventure Tour Operators. For development and promotion of adventure tourism, a task force has also been formed to resolve any issues which includes safety and security of tourists.

Medical Tourism is being promoted in a big way. The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, has constituted a National Medical & Wellness and Tourism Board with the Minister of Tourism as its Chairman to promote Indian systems of Medicine. Standard Operating Procedures under the Market Development Assistance are given to medical tourism providers to promote medical and wellness tourism.

With sports tourism gaining popularity, the MoT is focusing on Golf and Polo. The Ministry has constituted the India Golf Tourism Committee, which approved 8 golf events. Polo is registered as a heritage sport and is being promoted in association with the Indian Polo Association.

Apart from these, newer forms such as Doom Tourism involving special ecological places of importance, which are now threatened and on the verge of disappearing from our planet, are being introduced.

The net result is that the places promoted by the government and industry are often victims of their own success. Travellers tend to arrive in increasing numbers and flock to the same locations, resulting in issues such as overcrowding, increased stress on public services and infrastructure, cultural homogenization and growing dissatisfaction from local residents.

Governance

The central government celebrated 24th April as the national day of Panchayati Raj system. There has been an increase in allocation by the central government towards the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The 14th Finance Commission awarded INR 2003 bn as grants to Gram Panchayats (GP) for the period from 2015-16 to 2019-20 towards provision of basic services such as sanitation, drinking water and maintenance of roads, footpaths, street lights, and burial/cremation grounds. In addition, the Ministry of Rural Development allocated INR 1077 bn, which includes INR 480 bn towards MGNREGA. However, the fact is

that these allocated money hardly gets spent on the ground, As a result we see about 81% of Gram Panchayats in Bihar and 33% Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh do not even have an office building for day to day operations.

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are going to implement a project in partnership with the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and State Institutes of Rural Development of these states. The objective is to strengthen capacities of local governance institutions particularly PRIs to better leverage opportunities created for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment through legislation, policies and programmes. This project emerged from the memorandum signed between UN-Women and the India government.

The central government is giving a big push to e-governance at panchayats through projects like BharatNet under the narrative of Digital India where they aim to provide internet connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs). In addition to this, Haryana state cabinet pledged that all their GPs will have wi-fi zones within a period of two years. The central government under e-Panchayat project, developed a suite known as the Panchayat Enterprise Suite which contains core software applications to address various aspects of Panchayats' functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates, licences, and tax collection.

While we see a push for e-governance we can also see that, under the garb of 'village self-governance' there is a call for voluntary contributions from communities itself on key aspects like – labour (shramdaan), land (bhoodan) and financial resources (chanda) for development activities. This is given a further push by this government and the resultant withdrawal from the actual strengthening of PRIs across the country. For example, a Lok Sabha question recently revealed that the State Component of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat

Sashaktikaran Abhiyan and the District Component of Backward Regions Grant Fund had been de-linked from budgetary support of central government with effect from 2015-16. Thus, the trend we see today is in favour of by-passing local consent and aspirations in the development process with a top-down approach.

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar made a statement on how there is a significant fund transfer to the local bodies for the purpose of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and this initiative is believed to transform the tourism of Goa and thereby boost the economy of the state. But in reality, without understanding the caste dynamics while implementing such a project for cleanliness drive and by not taking the local concerns and panchayats into confidence, the chances of this project remaining as a dream alone is high.

Thus, the state and central governments are distancing themselves from their responsibilities of devolution of decision making, power and functions. The mere transfer of funds without sufficient decision making power would render the whole process futile. The inception of development authorities directly for tourism development or for development in general will only further marginalise sections of our society and their aspirations in the long run. As the existing political climate in the country is that of intolerance and violence to dissent – the dalit groups, adivasi's, student protest movements and religious minorities would eventually get severely under-represented. Tourism development is not an exception under these circumstances.

Niche tourism products developed by the government are getting prioritised in the policy making process under the name of development. There are separate committees and boards such as National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board, Task Force for Cruise Tourism, India Golf Tourism Committee, India Convention Promotion Bureau and Task Force for Adventure Tourism which are formed to speed up the process of promotion, publicity and implementation of niche tourism. It is mandatory for all committees and boards

to undergo several rounds of consultation process with the local communities and panchayats before planning for any tourism locations or before introducing tourism to any region for the first time.

Social Groups

Caste

The focus of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan today, is mainly on the constructions of toilets. However the mission for a clean India will not work without breaking the link between caste and occupation. According to the National Convenor, Safai Karmachari Andolan, "Certain communities from particular castes clean the country. If that were not the case, why is it that for the last 4,000 years, the same communities are cleaning the countryside? Without breaking the chain, those who make Bharat Swachh will never be a part of the campaign."

EPW survey of 360 workers employed by Bruhanmumbai Mahanagar Corporation (BMC) suggests that 90% of the safai karmacharis belong to SC and OBC castes.

In April 2017, the Supreme court ruled that 2700 sanitation workers of BMC would be made permanent employees. However, in May 2018 this has not yet happened and the KVSS had planned various forms of protest including strikes to ensure that the Corporation implemented the Supreme Court verdict.

Pourakarmikas in Bangalore struggling against the BBMP to end the Contractor system and for increase of wages. Contractors waged a counter war by stopping collection of wages.

In July, sanitation workers in East Delhi Municipal Corporation had not been paid salaries for 2 months. On the other hand 7th pay commission recommendations were approved, which meant higher house rent allowance and other benefits to 34 lakh government employees and 14 lakh pensioners.

Death of people engaged in manual scavenging across the country. Termed as 'culpable homicide' by a Delhi High Court bench. As of

September 2017, 90 sanitation workers have died in sewers. 2 workers at Taj Vivanta's Ambassador hotel in Delhi died due to asphyxiation.

In Vishakapatnam, sanitation workers including women, work in night shifts to keep the city clean. Interestingly, the city has moved up from 5th position to 3rd position as the cleanest city with the media praising them as 'unsung heroes'. What is not evident here is again the caste angle of how dalits are forced to work at night.

Children

The case of foreign nationals sexually exploiting local children is not a new phenomenon. India has experienced it from 1991 when the first case of Freddy Peat's came to light. However India has not yet come up with any mechanism that prevents foreign travellers from sexually exploiting children in India. The Safe and Honourable Tourism Code that is being promoted by Ministry of Tourism and Culture, does not have any mention of a process of reporting, if a foreign/ domestic traveller is identified as child sex offender. Most reports say that foreign national sex offenders come to India on the pretext of volunteering or as a donor.

The government has plans to set up a sex offenders registry and recently the Supreme Court asked the government to establish a hotline to take up cases of child abuse. Running a helpline could be useful if there is a service structure in place to address the concerns. An area to consider is the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 (POCSO), prior to initiating another process of developing a sex offenders registry. A batch of petitions including one filed by Bachpan Bachao Andolan informed the Delhi High Court that delays have resulted in cases where accused have either got bail or are yet to face trial.

A mobile phone app is the latest tool for campaigners seeking to end child marriage in Bihar, where nearly two-thirds of girls in some of the rural areas are married before the legal age of 18. The app, Bandhan Tod, was developed by Gender Alliance – a collective of more than 270 charities in Bihar focused on gender rights

and backed by the United Nations Population Fund. Though this an important step towards preventing child marriage in Bihar, but the recent Supreme Court judgement criminalised sex with a minor wife aged between 15 and 18 years, saying the exception in the rape law was arbitrary and violation of the constitution. It is felt that the apex court order will help curb child marriages as it has created the needed “legal deterrent”. The impact of this Order in the situation of girl children in tourism locations is yet to be understood as one of the trend in tourism locations is the fake marriage of teenagers with foreign nationals.

A development that took place in the realm of child protection issues is the ordinance to provide death penalty to the rapists of girls below 16 years. The death penalty ordinance has received extreme criticism from all walks of life stating that this is a regressive ordinance that will prevent children and their guardians to report cases of sexual exploitation as in most cases the sex offenders are a known person within the family or in the close neighbourhood. This ordinance has also received criticism from the civil society stating that this is a knee-jerk response of the government without any public consultation. Death penalty ordinance will make it extremely difficult to punish any travelling child sex offender once they leave the country as most of the countries have abolished death penalty as part of their own legal mechanisms.

Women

The Indian Government has recently appraised projects on safe cities worth INR. 29 bn under the Nirbhaya Fund for eight cities to make them safer for women. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal authority for appraisal of the schemes/ proposals received under Nirbhaya Fund. For the year 2018-19, INR 5 bn has been allocated for Nirbhaya Fund.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation is training women to drive buses and light motor vehicles. To conduct the training, the city will use funds from the Central Government’s allotted Nirbhaya Fund, meant for

women’s safety and dignity. From these funds, they will also build lounge facilities specifically for women in the major bus stations, and install CCTV cameras in the buses.

A host of applications have been filed by various groups on the restrictions imposed on women, aged above 10 and below 50, from trekking the holy hills of Sabarimala and offering worship at Sabarimala shrine by the Dewaswom Board. While women activists have termed the practice discriminatory, other sections say it has to do with complex ritualistic practices of Sanatana dharma of temples in South India. Reference of the Sabarimala entry row by the Supreme Court to a five-member Constitution Bench is, in itself a radical judicial move. Preventing women’s entry to the Sabarimala temple with an irrational and obsolete notion of “purity” clearly offends the equality clauses in the Constitution. It denotes a patriarchal and partisan approach.

The Maharashtra State Commission for Women and International Justice Mission in partnership with UNDP will provide counselling and employment to victims of rape, acid attacks and trafficking, while assisting with skill development. The Maharashtra government and the Hotel Industry of India signed an agreement, under which they will cooperate in curbing women trafficking.

There is a recognition of the increasing number of solo women travellers by the Central and the State governments and steps that have been taken for the safety of women travellers. MoT has set up two Incredible India Helplines: one is 1800111363 for domestic tourists and the other is 1363 for international tourists. These helplines for tourists in India will soon be launched in 12 different international languages The Government of India has roped in Chief Ministers of all Indian states to implement the ‘Code of Conduct’ with immediate effect across the country.

The Kerala government has opened one-day homes to ensure the safety of women who travel alone. The first such home will be opened at the bus terminal at Thampanoor in Thiruvananthapuram. The homes are being

planned in such a way that women who reach the capital for various purposes can stay there for 2-3 days at affordable rates. The government is also considering opening of 'she lodges' at district headquarters.

The Home Ministry had taken a step by announcing the launch of an online registry for listing names and details of offenders in any crime against women in any part of the country. Women-only cab service, which has already started in Goa and Kerala, is gaining momentum in the rest of India. These cabs are equipped with GPS and panic alert systems. Women only dorms are another service that has started in places like Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Jaipur, Kochi, Lucknow, Mysore and Varanasi amongst others.

The Union Cabinet cleared the Anti-Trafficking Bill, which provides for stringent punishment ranging from 10 years' rigorous imprisonment to life imprisonment and a fine of at least Rs 1 lakh in cases of "aggravated" crimes, while earmarking the National Investigation Agency to perform the task of anti-trafficking bureau. The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Act, 2018 proposes decentralised rehabilitation and investigation framework down to the district level. Under the Ujjawala Scheme for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation, re-integration and repatriation of victims of trafficking, 162 protective and rehabilitative homes have been set up which can accommodate upto 8100 trafficked victims.

Labour

The government has abandoned the target of training 500 million workers in new skills by 2022. Originally started with a corpus of Rs. 1600 crore, upped to Rs. 6,000 crores. According to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, it appears to have turned into a gigantic racket for milking state funds.

The government has passed a notification allowing practice of fixed-term contracts in the garment and shoe sector and proposes to make it applicable to all sectors. It published a draft notification to allow amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act and Model Standing Order

rules to enable FTCs in industries. In March 2018 the government legalised contractualisation of work through a Gazette Notification allowing FTCs in all industries.

The Delhi governor cleared a proposal for a 37% minimum wage hike across several sectors. The High Court later revoked this stating that it was violative of the Constitution. However, during a hearing earlier, the High Court challenged the employers who had filed a petition against the hike, saying 'Charity begins at home'.

The central trade unions called for a massive mobilisation in New Delhi. 70,000 workers gathered with 12-point charter of demands on minimum wage, social security, workers' status, and pay and facilities for the scheme workers against privatization and mass scae contractorisation. Central trade unions also called for a nation wide strike of all scheme workers in December 2017.

OUR WORK IN 2017 – 2018

Collaborations

Collaborating with organisations and peoples movements continues to be the backbone of our work. We have been able to strengthen our work with important national and local people's movements and organisations, to be in solidarity and to bring in the linkages between tourism and their wider struggles/ issues. We have been in solidarity with people's movements and various struggles and movements linked to land, forest rights, coastal and environmental groups and unorganised sector. Our alliances with civil society organisations and groups on child rights, women's rights, and monitoring groups of national and international financial institutions, public private partnerships, forest rights, dalit and adivasis rights, globalisation and trade in the country continued.

We collaborated with Jan Jagran Sansthan (Bihar), Kachchh Heritage, Art, Music, Information and Resources, (Gujarat), Himalayan Niti Abhiyan (Himachal Pradesh), Alternative Law Forum, Concerned for Working Children, Dakshin, Informal Tourism Committees in Hampi and Anegundi, Karnataka Grama Panchayat Haqotaya Andolana, Samanvaya Karnataka (Karnataka), Adhar Khajuraho, Dharohar Guide Association, M P Institute of Social Science Research, Vikas Samvad Samiti (Madhya Pradesh), Econet (Maharashtra), Indigenous Perspectives (Manipur), ANIDEA, Cornerstone, National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights, Social Awareness for Society and Youth, Society for Education and Action, Tulir (Tamil Nadu), Himalayan Ark, Mountain Shepherds Initiative (Uttarakhand), Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti, Sanlaap, Sundarbans Jan Shramjeevi Manch (West Bengal), on addressing tourism issues.

The work linked to the India Network Against Sexual Exploitation of Children, is in collaboration with Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children, Child In Need Institute, Childline, India Alliance for Child Rights, National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children, Sanlaap, Stop Trafficking and Oppression of Children & Women, Tulir and End Child Prostitution and Trafficking International.

We have continued our engagement with ECPAT International and ECPAT South Asia Regional Network on child and tourism. Through the Tourism Action and Advocacy Forum we engaged with Alternative Tourism Group, Altevoyages, Badayl Alternatives, CESA, Ecobenin, community leaders from Tremembe, Sardinal, Mapuche, and an academican from the University of South Australia.

To build awareness on tourism issues with students and academics we engaged with the Student Conference on Conservation Science, Pondicherry University and Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology.

We have continued our advocacy efforts with central level Ministries and other government bodies such as Tourism, Women and Child Development, National & State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. EQUATIONS conducted a session for forest officials on the issue of tourism carrying capacity during the training conducted by Jungle Lodges and Resorts. We engaged with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Niti Aayog, and the Andaman Administration on the tourism plans. We wrote letters to UNESCO on the evictions in Hampi. Through of researches we also interviewed many government officials at the local and state level.

Our interactions with the tourism industry were on corporate accountability and on the issue child and tourism. We collaborated with SÜDWIND, on a study on the functioning of the Accor and Marriott hotels in the context of some of their practices, policies and the effectiveness of their monitoring mechanism. The work on labour practices in Marriott hotels was then taken

forward in collaboration with New Trade Union Initiative and Global Labour Justice Project. On the issue of child and tourism we engaged with guides, car drivers, auto-rickshaw drivers, cyber cafés and hotels. With the formal industry we interacted with Breathing Earth, a resort and had a meeting with Hyatt Group of Hotels, Kolkata, West Bengal on issues of child protection.

Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models

The programme aims to influence tourism policies, models and practice by the leadership of local communities for greater sustainability and local benefits. The work on policy looks at analysing and influencing state and central tourism policies & schemes, with the objective to making them more representatives of people's aspirations of tourism.

Fellowship

The fellowship programme aims to build a group of individuals who will look at tourism critically, engage with local communities and provide them necessary support in questioning, resisting and demanding people centric tourism. The first round of the work with the fellows in Uttarakhand and Manipur with Himalayan Ark and Indigenous Perspective respectively in collaboration EQUATIONS coordinating this process came to an end. EQUATIONS, during this process, also met with the fellows and the organisations to discuss with them about the work, and share feedback. We received

a request from Uttarakhand to extend the fellowship for a 2nd year to strengthen the work on the ground – to have an increased understanding of Uttarakhand's tourism policies, act, schemes and plans, networking at the state and local level, organise capacity building workshops, contribute to print, digital and social media and collaborative work towards building a platform of alternative tourism operators in Uttarakhand.

Tourism Policies

EQUATIONS in collaboration with Himalayan Ark organised a consultation on Ecotourism – Opportunity and Truth in May 2017 in Munsiyari Valley, Uttarakhand. With the many policy changes that are taking place at the central and state level we felt it was important to initiate a discussion on ground reality, challenges and policy implication of tourism in Uttarakhand and bring people together to respond to these changes. As a follow-up of this meeting, it has been agreed to organise a meeting of alternative tourism operators from across the state on the issues of policy, scheme, regulation and monitoring. For this, EQUATIONS and Himalayan Ark have taken the responsibility of analysing national and state tourism policy and schemes which will be shared and discussed during the state level meeting.

Religious Tourism

EQUATIONS has started the process of documenting projects initiated by the central and state governments in order to promote religious tourism. EQUATIONS tracks the PRASAD and Swadesh Darshan schemes through news



Van Panchayat Baithak, Himalayan Ark Fellowship (Uttarakhand)



The new Buddhist monasteries being constructed in Bodhgaya. Ayang Rinpoche's Buddhist Monastery.

articles and government notifications. The detailed project reports sanctioned under the aforesaid schemes which contains project details concerning the type and nature of infrastructure planned, money allocated, and aim of the project were collected and collated through Right to Information (RTI) queries.

EQUATIONS plans to document the issues and impacts of religious tourism in these places, and bring out a base paper on religious tourism. We have started the secondary research on Bodhgaya and Amritsar. We have created a research framework based on which two visits were conducted to Bodhgaya so as to understand the socio-political and economic situation of tourism and understand how it impacts the local communities. These visits included interviews with multiple stakeholders as well, and to map land usage patterns. EQUATIONS participated in Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues, a conference organised by Deshkal Society. The discussions and plenaries constituting of academics, eminent individuals, researchers on Sustainable Development, Heritage, and Enlightenment.

JKCCS and EQUATIONS released the report on the Amarnath Yatra in April 2017. The study and release was covered by the Kashmir media and by some national online and print media.

Following this we were invited by the People's Film Collective, Kolkata and Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi to have a discussion on the report as well as on the broader aspects of religious tourism and the role of the state. We were interviewed by Newsclick, online video news network. On reading this report, a group of youth from Pahalgam, started a cleanliness drive along the yatra route.

Community Based Tourism

In continuation of work on the Community-based Tourism (CBT) initiative in Kumirmari, the next steps included the formation of Sunderbans Tourism Cooperative Society, capacity building and construction of temporary traditional huts for accommodation in the village. Several meetings in village with members of Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti (KJPS), Sundarbans Jan Shramjeevi Manch (SJSJ) and EQUATIONS were organised to develop an understanding about the work, structure, systems, and processes of

On reading the Amarnath Yatra report, a group of youth from Pahalgam, started a cleanliness drive along the yatra route.

tourism enterprise, which is to be registered as a cooperative society Sunderbans Tourism Service Cooperative Society. We are also in touch with a lawyer on understanding the legal requirements of the cooperative society. Currently, we are in the process of finalising the documentation which is required for submission for registration.

Three members of KJPS were trained by Mountain Shepherd Initiative, Uttarakhand for a period ranging from 1 to 2 months. They received training on food preparation, housekeeping and guiding. This also helped build their confidence to interact with tourists and in managing the tourism operation. A short training for homestay operators was also organised in Kumirmari. The third area of work included identifying land to construct the temporary accommodation huts, for which we have been in touch with an architect to ensure that we maintain local architecture, aesthetics and culture in the structure of huts. Homestays, as another accommodation option, is being explored and people who have extra rooms have renovated them and are building bathrooms as well.

Research on CBT with special focus on women, Himachal Pradesh: EQUATIONS in collaboration with Himalayan Niti Abhiyan initiated a research on assessing community involvement & ownership with a special focus on women, across different models of CBT in Himachal Pradesh. This is an internal collaboration between the Institutions, Policies and Tourism Model and Society, Culture and Tourism programme. After data collection, we worked on transcribing and translating data. We have developed a code sheet and structure to write the case studies for Naggar, Dhameta and Spiti. Currently, we are in the process of coding the data through a qualitative analysis software MAXQDA, which will also be a process to identify the data gaps. For this we will need to plan one more visit before we finalise the case studies. As a part of the data collection, we have also filled RTIs to the various departments and ministries.

EQUATIONS received an invite by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai to contribute a volume on Sports Studies in India for Oxford University Press. The volume



Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samithi Meeting

plans to cover social theories and sports; social, economic and cultural constructs in/ of sports; gender in sports; media, technology and emerging sports culture; governance and regulation (including law and sports); and sports and development. EQUATIONS submitted a paper based on our report ‘*Humanity-Equality-Destiny? - Implicating Tourism in the Commonwealth Games 2010*’, documented developments post the games and how mega sport events such as the under-17 FIFA World Cup continue to impact the people and environment.

Tourism Alert and Action Forum: EQUATIONS is member of the Tourism Alert and Action Forum (TAAF). TAAF organised its 2nd meeting of tourism groups during the World Social Forum (WSF) in Salvador, Brazil. During the WSF, TAAF organised three workshops on the themes of Tourism and Local Struggles, Tourism and Indigenous Peoples and Palestine – Pilgrimages for Transformation and participated in the Agora of the Future. EQUATIONS presented during the first workshop on Resistances Against Mega

Tourism Projects in India. This was followed by a Strategy meeting of TAAF to focus on the plan for the coming two years.

Economics of Tourism

This programme is primarily concerned with implications of tourism on the local economy, tourism industry imperatives on tourism development and macroeconomic issues of tourism finance.

Corporate Accountability: EQUATIONS in collaboration with SÜDEWIND, initiated a study on the “Sustainability of the Hotel Chains Accor and Marriott in India”. The draft report was prepared and shared. We were invited as a speaker at the ‘Engagement Forum’ of KD Bank in Berlin which was hosted by SUDEWIND, WISSENCHAFTLICHE, MITRAEBEITERIN, Germany in December 2017. The Board of K D Bank accepted the study and have decided to negotiate with the two companies for change in their practices based on the findings, especially on their labour practices. At an informal gathering



TAAF at World Social Forum



Loktak , Manipur

we also shared on the ‘Sustainability and Accountability of the Hotel Industry in Tourism’ organised by GATE-Themenabend.

To take forward our work on corporate accountability, EQUATIONS in collaboration with New Trade Union Initiative and supported by the Global Labour Justice Project, have initiated a study to develop and test a research methodology for Multinational hotels in India that results in a deeper understanding of the sector and key points of leverage at different level so as to improve wages, working conditions, and preconditions for collective bargaining.

Mega Tourism Projects

Tourism in the North-East Region (NER) has been a focus for EQUATIONS for several years now – where we have worked on International Financing Institutions funding for tourism, by co-organising regular meetings on tourism in the NER and by actively engaging in work in Manipur in

collaboration with Indigenous Perspectives (IP). One of the fellows associated with IP was involved in documenting the mega tourism project that has been proposed in Loktak. This along with other work culminated in a dossier on tourism issues in Manipur, which was released in April 2017.

An application on the Jewar Airport, Noida, was accepted and presented at 6th Session of International Tribunal on Evictions in Venice in September 2017. The case study focussed on the role of the proposed airport in boosting the real-estate market in the area and the connection to the industrialisation of said area – thus making connections between tourism and other parallel processes, all of which contribute to displacement of people in their own ways. A person from the jury has been given the mandate for the follow up of the case. The jury member is responsible to help finalise the recommendations and also the follow up with the government.

Hearing about the experience of Kenya was also very helpful. Tourism is causing a host of



Tourists at Raja Seat, Coorg

violations of the Maasai including massacres. It put in perspective how wrong, things could go if the intentions of the high-end ecotourism industry in the Protected Areas and the international tourism companies had their way and the importance of the work we do on tourism in forest areas in India. The Sri Lanka case also added to our understanding on militarisation and tourism, which we have gained during our documentation of the Amarnath Yatra.

Migration and Tourism

EQUATIONS in collaboration with an academician from JNU is undertaking a Research on the Challenges of Internal Migration in India: A Case Study of Migrants from North East Region to Bangalore. The study has progressed into conducting a detailed questionnaire of 200 respondents. The resultant report will add weight to the existing evidence of challenges that migrants from the northeast face, as well as seek to contextualise these challenges within the realm of the casualisation of the labour force, and institutional interactions between the state and people.

Ecosystems, Communities and Tourism

This programme works on tourism in natural spaces such as forests, coasts, hills and mountains and critically examines the effects of tourism and related policies on the environment and the local communities.

Forests, Communities and Tourism

Reconnaissance visits were made to places in Karnataka and Maharashtra to identify according to the number of footfalls it sees, the profile of tourism and the kind of tourism that the place has. During these visits we spoke to local people, people involved in the tourism industry and with activists fighting for the rights of the adivasis. These recce visits, earlier to Maharashtra and this year to Karnataka, will identify issues and areas for future work. During the visit to Maharashtra, we met with Econet, an organisation working on issues related to forestry and environmental policies, and currently work with the adivasi's and non pastoral nomadic tribal groups in Maharashtra.

One of the important prerequisites to tourism planning is a sound understanding of the

thresholds of the area being used for tourism. Tourism Carrying Capacity is one such concept that allows for planning tourism in a sustainable manner. Assessment of tourism carrying capacity in India is at a very rudimentary stage and is applied to only one context - wildlife tourism in protected areas. Previously we had undertaken an in-depth study of the various models for assessing tourism carrying capacities. Using this theory, a conceptual framework was proposed. The proposed framework will be tested on the ground to make it more robust. The objective of this work is to advocate for a more comprehensive and holistic method for tourism planning, that considers the needs of the local communities as well as the natural thresholds of the ecosystems. The broad concept of this was also presented at a session for the Indian Forest Officers, as a part of their yearly training, which was organised by Jungle Lodges and Resorts in June 2017.

Lok Panchayat, that works with adivasi groups requested EQUATIONS to facilitate an exposure visit to different kinds of ecotourism ventures in the Western Ghats region, as a learning experience. Honnermaradu and Anshi-Dandeli were visited. A list of potential sites for the visit has been prepared and shared with Lok Panchayat. We are waiting to hear back from them.

In September 2017, EQUATIONS participated in the Students Conference on Conservation Sciences held in Bangalore. We put up a stall disseminating our work and interacting with

students about interrelationship between conservation and tourism.

We keep track of the judgements and orders from the National Green Tribunal that are related to tourism. The tracking takes the form of a repository. Indigenous Perspectives who has been involved in a case against ecotourism practices in Manipur, requested for support from EQUATIONS. We shared with them relevant case laws that would help them in filing their petition to the Tribunal.

EQUATIONS submitted three proposals for a publication titled Environmental Impacts of Tourism in Developing Nations, which is to be published by IGI Global. We sent abstracts linked to our work on the Tourism Carrying Capacity, Tourism issues in the Sigur Plateau and Community based tourism in Kumirmari. All three abstracts were accepted and we have submitted first drafts of the paper, which is in the process of being peer-reviewed.

Coasts, Communities and Tourism

The Government of India has adopted the Blue Economy development strategy. The Sagarmala project and the Swadesh Darshan project are some of the ways in which this is being done. Groups, organizations and researchers working on coastal issues have been critiquing these policies for coastal development. As a part of the Blue Economy mode of development, a number of plans have been lined up to increase coastal and island tourism. The meeting of



Opus Laguna Beach Golf Resort proposed site

World Forum for Fisher People held in Delhi in November 2017 addressed the issue of ocean grabbing and blue economy model of development. We participated in the forum and contributed a paper on Coastal Tourism in India, that was part of the publication released at the General Assembly.

We are closely tracking the progress of one tourism project along Karnataka's coasts: Opus Laguna Golf and Beach Resort. This resort is being proposed at Bengre village in Mangalore by Opus Laguna Golf and Resorts Pvt Ltd. The site proposed comes under a restricted development zone and is in an inter-tidal zone. If the project comes up, it would disrupt the local fisher folks' access and prevent them from using the beach. The local communities and organizations, are resisting the construction of beach resort since June 2015. The construction of the boundary wall has currently been stalled. The project is pending approval from the Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Authority.

Island tourism

The Niti Aayog has announced that 10 islands in Andamans and Nicobar(5 islands) and Lakshdweep (5 islands) will be developed for tourism. Dakshin and WWF organised a meeting in Port Blair in March 2018 with members of Niti Aayog, MoEF&CC and the local administration including the Navy and Airforce present. The objective of the meeting was to get the line departments in the Andamans to speak with Niti Aayog about their concerns, within a framework which would be set by civil society organisations. Dakshin invited EQUATIONS to make a presentation on tourism in the Andamans – drawing from our detailed research conducted in 2008, comments to the tourism policy and our response to the current tourism developments in the Andamans. The presentation was well received by the participants, especially the government officials.

In the current political-economic context, a host of changes to policies and laws are being made which will alter governance of forests and coasts. These changes are being made rapidly,

and in quick succession. The overall objective for such changes appears to be to allow for private ownership of common resources such as forests and to ease regulations around infrastructure development. These changes also aid the tourism industry, at the cost of the environment and the local communities such as forest dwellers and fishworkers. Many organizations and people working on similar issues have come together to submit memorandums to the concerned Governments. We plan to examine and critique these policies and laws from the lens of tourism. We have regularly participated and contributed in state and national level meetings that were conducted to prepare a response to the changes in policies and laws.

We underwent a capacity building course titled PRIMER (Primer in Methods and Ecological Research) course conducted by Gubbi Labs. It was a 6-day course in December 2017 which gave a training on methods of ecological research, including a basic introduction to GIS mapping and ecological statistics. The reason to participate was to enable us to build capacity on reading and engaging with ecological studies relevant to our work on forests and coasts. We would also like to use tools such as GIS mapping in our work.

Governance, Law and Tourism

This program studies local self governments and their role in tourism development, helping them exercise their rights and play an active role in developing guidelines and mechanisms to strengthen local regulations of tourism.

Parastatal Bodies and Tourism

Research work on ParaStatal Bodies (PSBs) in tourism is progressing with the last round of data collection in the Hampi and Mamallapuram region completed.

In Tamil Nadu, we met the Additional Chief Secretary of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Tamil Nadu and the Principal

Secretary, the Municipal Administration of Water Supply Department, Tamil Nadu and other officials in Directorate of Town and Country Planning, Department of Tourism, Archaeological Survey of India, MLA of Tirukalukundram constituency, MLPA and MNTDA. Later as per their advice we drafted letters to these officials seeking more answers to the concerns we raised for the purpose of the study. We are yet to receive a response from them.

In Karnataka, we met the officials from the State Archaeological Department, Department of Tourism, Commissioner of Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA)/ Co-chairperson, Assistant Commissioner of Hospet, Superintendent of Police – Koppal, CEO- Zila Panchayat – Koppal, MLA of Koppal constituency, Social Coordinator (one of the longest serving official of HWHAMA), and an academician from Hampi University.

The transcriptions and translation work is completed. At present, the coding work is progressing which will be followed by data analysis. The research findings will be shared with the local communities, and after incorporating their comments and feedback, we will finalise the report.

The local communities of Hampi village approached EQUATIONS to resist eviction threats which was in the form of notices from Hampi World Heritage Management Authority (HWHAMA) to about 70-80% of the residents. We were able to provide necessary background information to the people and their lawyers to help them in building the case. We also supported in developing the point of arguments (both academic and technical based on the various discourses on conservation, human rights, livelihood, adverse possession) that were considered important to strengthen the case in favour of the local communities. We regularly held discussions with the local community and helped in strategising their course of action as well as in drafting the letters that the community sent to various authorities and government officials, including UNESCO. Though the case filed at the Dharward Bench did not help the community to regain their right to operate tourism related commercial activities in the Hampi village, at least the people were able to get an interim order from the court to maintain the status-quo with respect to the dwelling units. The case is on-going and the final verdict is awaited.



Meeting with MLC's Karnataka - Strengthening of Local governments and Devolution of Powers

Panchayati Raj and Tourism

A two day national consultation to strengthen local government was organised by Human Rights Research and Advocacy Forum in Delhi in November 2017. Setting up of a structure to take up the initiative of strengthening local governments forward was the key idea. Strategies were discussed to protect the existing provisions as enshrined in the Constitution and several other state Acts where devolution has been ensured. The consultation recognised and highlighted the importance of 'right to participation' as a practice for the promotion of grassroot democracy and our collective principles towards it. The participants also invigorated the campaign for Constitutional Amendment to Part IX & IX-A (Article 243 G & W) and Amendment to Create List IV in the Seventh Schedule (Local Government List) to make the functioning of panchayats meaningful.

Later, as per the strategies chalked out in the consultation, Concerned for Working Children and Karnataka Grama Panchayat Haqotaya Andolana conducted the Karnataka State level Chintana Mantana to bring all the state wide panchayat level leaders together and to discuss ways of strengthening the Karnataka Grama Swaraj and Panchayat Act, to identify the challenges that they face and to come out with strategies. In both the above cited consultations, we were able to draw attention towards the issues emerging out of tourism development, the roadblocks it creates for effective functioning of local governments as well as the implication and the implementation of the Panchayati Raj Act in relation to tourism.

Tracking Parliamentary Questions

Tracking legislative changes that has relevance to our work like changes in Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tribal Affairs and related to local-self governing institutions like panchayats helped us understand the emerging legal trends of the country. On similar lines, tracking of parliamentary questions and debates were undertaken. Parliamentary questions of both the houses Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha was

tracked till Monsoon Session 2016 and data segregation completed. The winter session 2016, budget session 2017 and monsoon session 2017 has been tracked currently on thematic basis. It provided valuable information on the ideology of the present government and their plans with respect to legislative and policy directions with respect to tourism and related issues. These trends tracking brings into focus criticality of different laws, policy initiatives, projects and schemes of the government, both at the central and state level.

Legal analysis, preparation of a RTI ready reckoner, RTI filing support and support on tourism and related issues are provided to the different programme teams based on their requirements.

Society, Culture and Tourism

The Society, Culture and Tourism programme works with the tourism industry, the local communities and concerned groups in and around tourism regions on issues of protecting the interests, rights and entitlements of children, women in general and the marginalised groups on the principles of equity, social justice, decentralisation and democratic inclusion.

Caste and Tourism

As a part of the Study on Caste and Religious Tourism in Tamil Nadu we filed RTIs to Thanjavur, Chidambaram and Chennai offices in various departments, the response to which was positive from Thanjavur and to a lesser some extent from Chidambaram. We also completed library visits at Periyar library, Chennai and Annamalai University, Chidambaram. A limitation of this study is that we have not been able to meet any retired officials or sex workers as they have been unwilling to share their views openly. First round of coding has been initiated. The draft structure of the report for this study was shared with our collaborators and finalised following which we have started work on the chapters.

We have completed the 1st draft of the SCSP & TSP study, and this has been shared internally as well as with Samanvaya Karnataka, who we collaborated with, for their comments. Based on feedback, the report will be finalised.

Child and Tourism

The collaborations as a part of our work on child and tourism were with Jan Jagran Sansthan (Bihar), Alternative Law Forum (Karnataka), and Adhar Khajuraho, Dharohar Guide association, Vikas Samvad Samiti (Madhya Pradesh). The work linked to the India Network Against Sexual Exploitation of Children, is in collaboration with ATSEC, CINI, Childline, NACG, Sanlaap, STOP, Tulir and ECPAT International.

The work on child and tourism during the past year has focussed on research, preparation of a kit on child and tourism, interactions with local people on the impacts of tourism on children and advocacy actions with government and tourism industry.

We have initiated two researches. The first is on *Travelling Sex Offenders (TSOs)*. There have been a number of reported cases of TSOs in India since the 1980s, but there were several challenges in the prosecution of these cases. The objective is to ascertain patterns in the operation of TSOs in India, and identify legal and institutional loopholes that have hitherto prevented the successful prosecution of TSOs. We have completed the desk research of identifying cases of TSOs and are in the process of writing out an analytical report based on the secondary research.

The second research is on the *Code of Conduct for Safe and Honourable Tourism*. This study aims to evaluate and assess the implementation of the existing mechanism and to recommend concrete action points at the national and state level for making S&H Code more stringent and one that covers all types of tourism service providers.

The study *Caught in the Legal Mesh – Crisis of Justice for Sexually Exploited Children* was

published. This was disseminated through a state level consultation organised By Vikas Samvad Samiti (VSS) and EQUATIONS in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The consultation was attended by the Chairperson of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) and representatives of organisations working on the issue from Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar. Following the workshop, a letter with priority recommendations was sent to the SCPCR Chairperson for action. During the same workshop, VSS had also put together a critique of the state tourism policy based on which we organised a session. EQUATIONS provided inputs to strengthen the critique. The aim was to widen the framework of discussion from being child centric to one that takes into account the various other dimensions of tourism and how those influence issues of children. Due to the consistent engagement with VSS over the past years, tourism is an area that they now have consciously started connecting with.

We have engaged with communities and particularly with children to raise their awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and its link to tourism. Around 1200 children participated in these awareness workshops in Madhya Pradesh (Khajuraho) and Bihar (Bodh Gaya, Rajgir and Vaishali). An outcome of these workshops has been an increase in reporting of missing children in Bodh Gaya, reporting on the sexual exploitation of children in Khajuraho by a foreign tourist and a case of trafficking of an 11 year old girl from a neighbouring district who was brought to Khajuraho.

EQUATIONS has also engaged with the child protection committees, SCPCR and Village level child protection committees to discuss on the issues related to child and tourism. In Khajuraho, we have progressed on our engagement with guide association. We have trained around 55 guides, 30 car drivers, 45 auto drivers on child protection issues and their role in implementing child protection mechanisms in tourism locations. Following this training, around 5 hotels in Khajuraho have displayed a board that states



Training of guides on child protection

their commitment to child protection; a badge highlighting the Child helpline number was given to the tourism service providers so that they can speak about child protection with their guest and also show them the child helpline number for reporting of any incident.

With the formal industry we had a first level training with staff members of a local resort Breathing Earth situated on the Diamond Harbour road, and a meeting with Hyatt Group of Hotels, Kolkata, West Bengal. In Bodh Gaya we had discussions with cyber cafés to display a board to convey messages on child protection.

EQUATIONS holds the Secretariat for the India Coalition building process against sexual exploitation of children India. EQUATIONS is also the National task group (NTG) member along with 11 other organisations working on child issues in India. At present, three members of NTG are engaged in writing a paper on online sexual exploitation of children and its link to child trafficking. As part of this initiative, a mapping exercise is being conducted across the country to map out organisations, networks, coalitions, alliances that are working against child sexual exploitation. Another aspect of this mapping exercise is to explore and prioritise issues of child sexual exploitation so that the proposed

coalition can identify issues that should form part of its action. We have also participated in several meetings and training programs to understand the new phenomenon of online child sexual exploitation – identification, manifestation and responses.

We facilitated a South Asia learning visit between Bangladesh and India. This was a valuable learning experience for both countries as the commonality of issues were identified for strengthening cross-border advocacy actions. We also facilitated the development of “Signs of Change” to assess the progress towards the agreed Theory of Change document for India as well as South Asia.

We have trained around 55 guides, 30 car drivers, 45 auto drivers on child protection issues and their role in implementing child protection mechanisms in tourism locations.

A draft of the child labour position paper is complete, but we are yet to finalise the paper. The delay is caused due to the staff member being on maternity leave.

Engagement as ECPAT member: We have been involved in several meetings with the South Asia ECPAT members on the ECPAT's strategic agenda for next four years as 2018 is the General Assembly year for ECPAT International. During the ECPAT South Asia meeting it was decided to propose a constitutional amendment that would make youth participation in decision making mandatory for all ECPAT members as well as in ECPAT's own governance. This process enabled us to come up with a consolidated statement and an action plan that can help support this proposed constitutional amendment with evidences and voices of youth, claiming their right to participate.

Women and Tourism

We are working on an exploratory paper on women in sex work and tourism. The interviews with people who have been linked to this area of work has thrown reflections on changing

perspectives from moral prisms to prisms of choice and agency. The law enforcement agencies have also taken positions on the right to privacy with respect to soliciting and sexual engagements. In the present political atmosphere where right to expression, resilience and decency is constantly being rejected, the unpaved path to autonomy over one's body and its agency remains jeopardized. As such the market driven labour economy, which includes the labour of women in sex work opens up the need for a discourse especially in the context of tourism.

Jashn-e-Sangharsh is a coming together of people's movements – a platform for bringing along the challenges, experiences, victories, politics and culture of various movements to collectively reflect on and celebrate their struggles. The theme this year was to celebrate women leadership in resistance. It was organised in Chaibasa, Jharkhand by Programme for Social



Meeting with Down to Zero regional members in Bangkok



Jashn-e-Sangarsh

Action and hosted by BIRSA. Various peoples movement from across the country participated, who shared their experiences of struggles on a wide ranges of issues- adivasi and dalit, transgender, communal politics, displacement, wages and labor. Women leaders spoke explicitly on the repressive nature of the state and society and their consistent resilience to it.

We participated at the National Consultation on Sexual Harassment at Workplace, Delhi. A forum of women's rights organisation was created to look deeper into the law and the gaps in implementation by bringing in the perspectives from various sections – corporates, civil society, institutions and the unorganised sector. This has paved the way for interventions that needs to be undertaken with respect to bringing the necessary changes to the Rules and also in the implementation processes. The recommendations also focus on of how the law can be accessed by all sections of working women and that it enables easy access to justice. For EQUATIONS, we plan to create awareness on the law and its provisions with the tourism industry – formal and unorganized sector.

Tourism Resource Centre

The Tourism Resource Centre plays a vital role as a repository of information management and dissemination, internal capacity building and research support, communication and external engagement.

Information Management and Dissemination

News is tracked through feeds from more than 50 sources online, segregated by class code and stored digitally in a central repository once in 15 days. This forms the basis for the analysis of the tourism trends and research that we undertake. Apart from these, we also have subscriptions to magazines, tourism journals, and online portals to aid our research work. Over 74 additions (books, reports, and CD's) were made to the library during the past year, bringing the total number of resources to 4653. The library was shifted to a new premises to make room for new additions and for staff to have a place to read and research.

Over 3200 copies of books, reports, briefing sheets, posters, were disseminated through meetings, workshops organised and attended,

and through postal dissemination. For the period April 2017 to March 2018, there were 46777 unique visitors to the website, with a total of 12878 PDFs which were downloaded. 10 articles were covered by the media, and 1 press release issued. TRC has monitored and coordinated the translations, designing and printing of publications for EQUATIONS.

Communication Strategy:

We continued working with the communication strategist to look into the communication and media strategy of EQUATIONS. The implementation of the strategy is under way with the introduction of new technology such as Slack and Trello for internal communication. We submitted an application to TECHSOUP and got approved for receiving Google Suite for free. EQUATIONS has now moved to Google Suite. The contact database has become a Google form which is easy to use. The other goal of the communication strategy is of accessibility that enable staff and people externally to utilise the wealth of knowledge housed in EQUATIONS better. Keeping this in mind documentation accessed by staff was streamlined and moved to a cloud where staff could access it remotely.

The work involved the use of digital and offline media to reach new and wider audiences and engage with them continuously. To enable this, the staff team went through various workshops where they learnt the basics of writing for different audiences; how to take photos that tell a story. We discussed collectively, and agreed upon, what the tone, voice and style of EQUATIONS writing would be through a series of deliberations and workshops.

Through our communication strategy we are working on our engagement with social media for wider outreach of EQUATIONS work and on issues of tourism. We have had a series of capacity building workshops for the team on understanding the different ways to write for social media; on understanding editing and how to edit; as well as a session on design and creating infographics, all of which will help when we launch EQUATIONS social media presences. Right now we are building a repository of content for both a Facebook page and a Blog.

We are keeping our website relevant by regularly updating it, even though the software is fairly outdated. The second phase of our



Community Media workshop, Palampur



Panel discussion on Activity Based Tourism

communication strategy aims at designing and developing a new website which is dynamic, engaging and relevant. We are looking to have an easy content management system to ease uploads. We are also putting together a list of what does not work in the present website and would also take feedback from staff and collaborators to incorporate into our new website.

External Engagement

EQUATIONS participated in a workshop on community media in Palampur in Himachal Pradesh. The workshop helped us understand the different ways of creating content for social media in very easy ways. It was a great learning which we were bringing back to the organisation. Part of our future plans is to conduct a similar workshop in Karnataka and use it as a platform to make people aware and sensitise them about the impacts and issues of tourism.

We were invited to a panel discussion by the tourism department of Pondicherry University. The topic was *Activity Based Tourism – an emerging trend*. All panellists, except for EQUATIONS were from the tourism industry. Each panellist spoke about their plans and packages they had for activity based tourism.

During our presentation we spoke in relation to plans that each of the other panellist had shared and about the possible issues and impacts of that activity. For example one industry person was talking about developing beach tourism in Puducherry and he wanted the students to lobby with the Government to give the required permissions. Taking that we spoke to the students on beach erosion, effect on the biodiversity, restrictions imposed on the local community impacting the lives and livelihood. This generated a lot of discussion by the students and questions were asked to the industry heads on the sustainability of their type of tourism. Other topics covered that day were on rural tourism, volunteer tourism, child sexual exploitation and the local community. The students hearing about the impacts and issues that each type of tourism brings with it, had many questions even after the discussion.

In March 2018, we organised a session for the foundation year students of the Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology on the politics of north east region vis-a-vis India and exploring the context of tourism within this. This session was part of their contextual inquiry courses, for the students to gain insights on different disciplines.

Research in Tourism and Capacity Building

Quantitative Research Methodology

As part of the Migration Study, we had invited a resource person who is an expert at the National Council for Applied Economic Research having several years of field experience. A one day workshop was organised on Quantitative Research in June 2017 focussing on creating questionnaires for quantitative research, data cleaning and organising and analysing the data collected. While the context of the workshop was the study, this gave the programme team an opportunity to work with data sets that were already collected and reflect on how does one prepare a questionnaire keeping quantitative methods in mind.

Qualitative Research Methodology:

In July 2017, the programme team had a two day interaction doing a quick re-cap of some important concepts that we had dealt with in the previous workshop on qualitative research methods, we discussed in detail issues that the research teams have been confronted with, and introduced the reflexivity method that we can use in our research. We also spoke about the expectations that the people have from us, areas that we are uncomfortable dealing with and what could be ways of approaching these situations. We also did an exercise of mapping the power structures within the research areas, so as to understand an added dimension to our work.

Research Software:

For qualitative data set we have purchased 3 MAXQDA licenses.

Reflections: Looking Back and Going Forward

Collaborating with organisations, people's movements and individuals continues as a core method of our work. Our experiences over the past year have been both enriching and one of continuous learning.

Working on strengthening our research has been an area of focus for the past years. The study on migration of people from the Northeast to Bangalore is largely a quantitative study, which is a modality of research that EQUATIONS is less familiar with. In the process of conducting this study, we have developed several insights – coding procedures, data cleaning and entry. As the study proceeds, we expect to develop more understanding about other aspects of quantitative methodologies, including data analysis.

Going through the different phases of the research, one also understands the challenge and the amount of time that needs to be factored in while doing the transcriptions and translations of the interviews conducted. It was a challenge finding translators and transcribers for our recordings and within the budgets available. In some instances we had close to 350 files to be transcribed, which took up a considerable amount of time. This is time we need to factor in our research plan in the future or have the financial provisions to give them out.

A learning we have had is the requirements for academic publishing. This has been a new experience for us and the rigour of academic publishing though a bit tedious, was very insightful. The process of peer review, where reviewers give us feedback on our work, contributed a lot to strengthening the work itself.

Timely release of research reports is an absolute necessity to continue with the momentum that gets developed during the research data collection process at the field level to optimise advocacy actions.

As we work on contentious issues that are linked to tourism (religious tourism, caste, labour), EQUATIONS needs to understand the

best possible ways to research, document, and share work. The arguments we recognise need to be embedded within the constitutional values backed with empirical data. There is also a need to delve deeper into the aspects of women and labour, or on issues of tourism carrying capacity to expand the discussions on tourism.

An important insight we gained is with respect to communication of content, according to the audience. There were two instances of interaction with different groups of people – one was a presentation to the Indian Forest Service officers at JLR and the other was with students at the SCCS conference. We presented the concept of Tourism Carrying Capacity to officers – a complex concept. While the presentation did generate interest from the officers, there was a need to simplifying the concept more, to make it easily understandable. At the SCCS conference, we chose to use a simple interactive game to generate interest on the topic of the relationship between tourism and conservation. The game became a conversation starter and a lot of students asked questions about how tourism and conservation interact and how it affects local people.

Working with tourism industry, particularly unorganised sector (such as guide associations, cyber café, taxi unions) needs to be initiated by understanding their priorities and by working with them on issues of responsibility and accountability in tourism as a value that can help them economically as well as socially in terms of their business.

We recognised that our decision to start the discussions on the tourism issues, impacts regulation and tourism operations in Kumirmari, West Bengal has increased the interest of the local communities in relation to tourism in the surrounding islands. People from other islands have approached us to initiate the tourism manifesto process. The discussions on tourism are also more visible in public places and in political conversations on how community-based tourism will help people in the island.

Working with alternative tourism practitioners, especially with the women entrepreneurs in Himachal Pradesh has built an understanding

on the meaning of ownership and involvement in work. It gives us further insights when implementing the CBT initiative in Kumirmari.

From our engagement with media is that, with people being transient, our database is of little value as people keep moving on. We also realised with technology being so advanced, we need to move with the times and engage in alternate/ social media.

We need to develop skills on engagement with media for wider outreach of EQUATIONS work. This is true more so given that it has been difficult to have our articles published in mainstream media especially the English dailies, as asking questions of the government is becoming a challenge. Some of these lessons, coupled with the on-going capacity building workshops for communication, has allowed us to engage deeply with different ways of communication.

KEY FUNDING SUPPORT

Our core donors Bread for the World and Misereor have continued to provide critical support to our work on People Centred Tourism in India. Misereor also supported through a separate grant our work on building capacity and strengthening our research in tourism.

The Down to Zero project is funded by the Defence for Children (ECPAT Netherlands) who in turn are supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ECPAT International supported our work Building the India Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation of Children in India.

We received a grant from ING Groenbank N V towards our work on community based tourism in Kumirmari, West Bengal.

The Institute for Development and Communication funded us to conduct a research on Challenges of Internal Migration in India: A Case Study of Migrants from Manipur.

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

EQUATIONS has an Internal Complaints Committee formed under The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The committee comprises of three members from the EQUATIONS staff team and one external member. There were no complaints filed with the committee during the period 2017-2018.

CONDOLENCES

Divya Kasargod had worked with us earlier and rejoined EQUATIONS in August 2016. She was part of the Tourism Resource Centre programme team. We lost her on 3rd December 2017 during a complicated childbirth. Our deepest condolences to her family.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2018

CURRENT ASSETS	AMOUNT IN RS.
FIXED ASSETS	40,23,851
INVESTMENTS	36,78,897
LOAN, ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS	2,13,931
CASH AND BANK BALANCE	56,02,581
TOTAL ASSETS	1,35,19,260

CURRENT LIABILITIES	AMOUNT IN RS.
CAPITAL FUND	40,23,851
CORPUS FUND	40,000
GENERAL FUND	36,63,111
STAFF FUND	4,21,460
PROJECT FUND	45,34,666
OTHER LIABILITIES	8,36,172
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,35,19,260

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31.03.2018

INCOME	AMOUNT IN RS.
GRANTS AND DONATIONS	1,63,02,255
CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS INSTITUTIONAL OVERHEADS	1,80,048
BANK INTEREST	2,40,121
OTHER INCOME	1,79,868
TOTAL INCOME	1,69,02,292

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT IN RS.
PROJECT EXPENSES	1,63,02,255
INSTITUTIONAL EXPENSES	3,31,447
DEPRECIATION	4,47,983
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,70,81,685
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	1,79,393

EVENTS THAT SAW EQUATIONS' PRESENCE

Meetings

April 2016

- Meeting on Critical Issues in Tourism with Gram Panchayat members, 5th April 2017, organised by SJSM, Shamsheer Nagar, West Bengal.
- Meeting on the Asian Development Bank in the North East organised by Indigenous Perspectives, 9th April 2017, Guwahati, Assam.
- Workshop on Building Critical Tourism in North East organised by Indigenous Perspectives and EQUATIONS, 10th April 2017, Guwahati, Assam.
- Release of the Report – Amarnath Yatra: A Militarised Pilgrimage organised by JKCCS and EQUATIONS, 20th April 2017, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
- Jashn-e-Sangharsh Consultation: Women Leadership in Resistance organised by People for Social Action in collaboration with Jharkhand Mines Area, Coordination Committee, Jharkhandi organisation for Human Rights, Jharkhand Jungle Bachao Andolan, Johar Asanghathit, Mazdoor Sangh, Omon Mahila Sangathan, 28th to 30th April 2017, Chaibasa, Jharkhand.

May 2016

- Workshop on Ecotourism: Opportunity and Realities organised by Himalayan Ark and EQUATIONS, 3rd and 4th May 2017, Munsiyari, Uttarakhand.

June 2016

- Consultation on Access to Justice for Sexually Exploited Children in collaboration with Adhar Khajuraho, Alternative Law Forum, EQUATIONS, M P Institute of Social Science Research, Vikas Samvad Samiti and Sanlaap, 9th June 2017, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. EQUATIONS presented the study findings.
- EQUATIONS facilitated a training session for Indian Forest Service officers on 'Assessing Limits of Acceptable Change for Ecotourism Development and Planning' organised by Jungle Lodge and Resorts, 13th June 2017, Kabini, Karnataka.
- Talk on 'Lives after Divorce: Section 10 A Divorce Act 1869 and 2012' organised by Vimochana, 23rd June 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Talk on 'Introspection of Initiative of Justice: 2007-2015' by Vrinda Grover and Saumya Uma organised by People's Union for Civil Liberties and Alternative Law Forum, 28th June 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Regional Brainstorming Consultation exploring a South Asia Regional Initiative to End Sexual Exploitation of Children organised by ATSEC, 29th & 30th June 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal. We presented on National Coalition Building Process to address Child Sexual Exploitation in India.

July 2016

- Meeting on Indo-US Promotion of Travel & Tourism organised by The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, 7th July 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting on Community-based Tourism initiative organised by KJPS, 8th July 2017, Kumirmari, Sundarbans, West Bengal.
- Cross-border peer learning exercise between India (Bihar & West Bengal) and Bangladesh, 14th to 19th July 2017.
- South Asia Regional Consultation on Child Sexual Exploitation: Towards building

a regional strategy organised by ATSEC South Asia, 27th and 28th July 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal.

August 2016

- EQUATIONS talk on Religious Tourism organised by People's Study Circle, 5th August 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- EQUATIONS talk on 'Sacred Geography of Himalayan Pilgrimages: Ecological and Social Concerns', organised by Center for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, 9th August 2017, New Delhi.
- Asia Regional Outcome Harvesting Festival organised by Down to Zero alliance 10th to 16th August 2017, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Talk on Contract Labour, Neoliberalism and Repression of Worker's Struggle' by Rakhi Sehgal organised by Alternative Law Forum, 11th August 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Film Screening of 'Voices of the Ruins' organised by People's Solidarity Concerns, 22nd August 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

September 2016

- Public meeting on killing of Gauri Lankesh, 6th September 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting on Community-based Tourism initiative organised by KJPS, 9th September 2017, Kumirmari, Sundarbans, West Bengal.
- EQUATIONS facilitated an Orientation Workshop for resort employees on Child Protection issues in Travel and Tourism at Breathing Earth Resort, 15th and 16th September 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- EQUATIONS participated in the 'Who's-Who' session of the Student's Conference on Conservation Sciences, 21st to 24th September 2017, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- Meeting on Community-based Tourism initiative organised by KJPS, 22nd September 2017, Kumirmari, Sundarbans, West Bengal

- EQUATIONS presented on Sustainability in Tourism on the occasion of World Tourism Day for tourism students organised by Karnataka University, 27th September 2017, Dharwad, Karnataka.

- Presentation of a case study on Jewar Airport at the International Tribunal on Evictions: Session on Tourism organised by International Alliance of Inhabitants, 28th to 30th September 2017, Venice, Italy.

October 2016

- Participated at the 'Woman with the Broom Protest', on sexual harassment of pourakarmika women organised by BBMP Guttige Pourakarmikara Sangha, 25th October 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Fifth meeting of National Task Group of the India Network Against Sexual Exploitation of Children, 26th October 2017, New Delhi.

November 2016

- Meeting with state level legislators, Kagodu Thimmiah and K C Kondiah, along with representatives from Hampi, 4th and 5th November 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting with People of Pakhiralay on Tourism issues in the Sunderbans, 7th November 2017, Gosaba, Sunderbans, West Bengal.
- Meeting on Tourism issues in Dayapur, 8th November 2017, Dayapur, Sunderbans, West Bengal.
- Sharing on the work on Community-based tourism initiative by KJPS, SJSJ & EQUATIONS with BfTW, 9th November 2017, Kumirmari Sunderbans, West Bengal.
- 7th General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher People organised by National Fishworkers' Forum, 15th to 21st November 2017, New Delhi.
- Orientation on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and its link to Child Trafficking organised by Sanlaap, STOP and ATSEC India, 20th to 22nd November 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal.

- National Consultation on Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Act organised by Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation, 23rd and 24th November 2017, New Delhi.
- Vikalp Sangam, 26th November to 1st December 2017, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

December 2016

- Engagement Forum of KD Bank organised by Sudewind, Wissenschaftliche and Mitraebeiterin, 8th December 2017, Berlin, Germany. We presented the Study on Sustainability of the Hotel Chains Accor and Marriott in India.
- Talk on 'Sustainability and Accountability of the Hotel Industry in Tourism' at an informal gathering organised by GATE-Themenabend on 7th December 2017.
- Consultation on Sexual Harassment at Workplace organised by the Joint Women's Programme, Indian National Bar Association and The Asia Foundation, 10th December 2017, New Delhi.
- Meeting with K C Kondiah, District Collector of Bellary, Assistant Commissioner of Hospete and the Tahsildhar of Hospete, along with representatives from Hampi, 11th December 2017, Hospete, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Private sector's Interaction on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, 11th to 13th December 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka. EQUATIONS presented the India experience in working with Accor Group of Hotels in India to implement The Code.
- Talk by Prof. Kancha Ilaiah (Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad) on 'Social Smuggling: How it Works in India', organised by Indian Institute of Management, 21st December 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

January 2017

- Meeting of South Asia ECPAT Members organised by CWIN – Nepal, 12th and 13th January 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal.

February 2017

- Chinthana Manthana, a State Level Symposium on Gram Swaraj organised by Concern for Working Children, 23rd and 24th February 2018, Udupi, Karnataka.
- 'Let me Speak' - Regional Conference for Survivors of Trafficking and Abuse organised by ATSEC India and Jharkhand State Child Protection Society, 27th and 28th February 2018, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

March 2017

- Meeting on Sustainable Island Development: A Stakeholder Meeting on the Andamans organised Dakshin Foundation and World Wildlife Fund, 5th March 2018, Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. EQUATIONS presented on Tourism Planning and Development in the Andaman Islands: Principles and Potentials.
- Bodhgaya Global Dialogues on Sustainable Development, Heritage, and Enlightenment, organised by Deshkal Society, 9th to 11th March 2018, Bodh Gaya, Bihar.
- Panel discussion on 'Activity Based Tourism' organised by Pondicherry University, 16th March 2018, Puducherry.
- Meeting with Assistant Director, Ministry of Women and Child Development on the National Coalition building process to address sexual exploitation of children in India, 21st March 2018, New Delhi.
- Meeting with Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF on the National Coalition building process to address sexual exploitation of children in India, 22nd March 2018, New Delhi.
- Workshop on Tourism and Local Struggles organised by Tourism Alert and Action Forum at World Social Forum, 14th March 2018, Salvador, Brazil. EQUATIONS presented on Resistances Against Mega Tourism Projects in India.
- Workshop on Tourism and Indigenous Peoples organised by Tourism Alert and Action Forum

at World Social Forum, 15th March 2018, Salvador, Brazil.

- Workshop on Palestine – Pilgrimages for Transformation organised by Tourism Alert and Action Forum at World Social Forum, 17th March 2018, Salvador, Brazil.
- Strategy and Action Plan Meeting of Tourism Alert and Action Forum, 18th March 2018, Salvador, Brazil.

Publications / Papers / Statements

- Corporatising Tourism in Manipur, April 2017 (English)
- Amarnath Yatra: A Militarized Pilgrimage, April 2017 (English)
- Caught in the Legal Mesh, June 2017 (English)
- Annual Report, 2016-17, August 2017 (English)
- Breached Governance, September 2017 (English)
- Review Report: Sustainability in Tourism (English, reprint)
- On The Brink: The Tragedy of Forest Governances (English, reprint)

Visual Materials

- Briefing sheet: Caught In The Legal Mesh, June 2017 (English, Hindi & reprint).
- Briefing Sheet: Breached Governance, September 2017 (English).
- Poster: Breached Governance, September 2017 (English).
- EQUATIONS Brochure (English, reprint).
- Briefing Sheet: Forest Communities and Tourism (English, Hindi reprint)
- Briefing Sheet: The Looking Glass: Understanding Eco-tourism (English, Hindi reprint).

- Briefing Sheet: Unholy Nexus (English, reprint).
- Briefing Sheet: Not a choice But An Obligation (English, Hindi reprint).
- Poster: Street Vendors – Inclusive Tourism (English, reprint).

Translations and Transcriptions

- Transcripts & Translation: Caste and Religious Tourism in Tamil Nadu (Tamil to English).
- Transcripts & Translation: Community Based Tourism with special emphasis on women in Himachal Pradesh (Hindi to English).
- Transcripts & Translation: Parastatal bodies and Tourism (Kannada to English).
- Transcripts: Tiger Tourism Case (Hindi to English).
- Translation: Publication: Women Street Vendors & Tourism: Negotiating Lives and Spaces (English to Hindi).
- Translation: Publication: Tracing the Maze: A Dossier on Women and Tourism (English to Hindi).
- Translation: Kumirmari Tourism Manifesto (English to Bengali).
- Copy Editing: Case study on Community-based Tourism in Hulgol.
- Copy Editing: Paper on Accessing Community Rights and Livelihood Through Tourism: A community-based Tourism initiative in Kumirmari, Sundarban.
- Copy Editing: Paper on Tourism in the Sigur Plateau in the Western Ghats of India: An Impact Assessment Report.
- Copy Editing: Paper on Tourism Carrying Capacity: A Multi-dimensional Framework for Assessment.

Media Reports

- Release of Amarnath Yatra: A Militarised Pilgrimage, 20th April 2017, organised by Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
- Amarnath Yatra: A Militarised Pilgrimage: JKCCS and Bangalore based organization release report, 20th April 2017, Kashmir Life.
- Goa's Slums are Full of Karnataka Migrants: Study, 15th May 2017, Times of India.
- Migrant Kids in Goa Open to Sexual Exploitation: Study, 17th May 2017, The Pioneer
- Mahesh Sharma's performance as a minister for culture doesn't match up to his achievements as a tourism minister, 18th May 2017, India Today.
- Amarnath Yatra Clashes with Burhan Wani Death Anniversary, Forces Anxious, 29th May 2017, News18.com.
- Interview: A tourism model owned, governed and implemented by people can only sustain in the long term, 8th June 2017, Hospitality Biz India.
- India is Weaponizing its Spiritual Tourists, 9th August, 2017, foreignpolicy.com
- Interview: Is Amarnath Yatra, a Tool for India to Occupy Kashmir?, 12th August 2017, News click.
- 57,000 "to be Evicted" for Jewar Airport- Aerotropis off Delhi, 20 villages to be Uprooted, UK Advocacy Group The airport-cum-aerotropis Site At Jewar, 22nd December 2017, www.counterview.net.
- Meet the Majid Squad, a Group that Voluntarily Cleans Filth on Amarnath Yatra Routes, 29th January 2018, freepresskashmir.com.

Training and Staff Capacity Building

- Workshop on Language facilitated by Bridget Raju, 24th April 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Social Media facilitated by Avinash Kuduvalli, 26th April 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Photography facilitated by Vivek Muthuramlingam, 17th May 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- EQUATIONS Group Review facilitated by Ganesh Ananthraman, 26th & 27th May 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Quantitative Research Techniques facilitated by Atul Sood and Khursheed A. Siddiqui, 15th June 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Nino Charles and Swathi Seshadri attended a Group Relations Conference titled 'The Courage to Lead: Exploring Dynamics of Collaboration and Dissent' organised by Group Relations India and Human Institutional Development Forum, 26th June to 1st July 2017, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Joyatri Ray attended Training on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children organised by ECPAT International and DTH Netherlands, 4th to 6th July 2017, New Delhi.
- Intern presentation on Trends and Analysis of Culture and Tourism by Chaitanya Pramod Pawar, 14th July 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Intern presentation on Trends and Analysis of Religious Tourism in India by Hemanta Hazarika, 14th July 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Intern presentation on Exploitation of Women in Tourism by Varsha Shrivastava, 14th July 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Research Methodology Workshop facilitated by Kaveri Tara, 20th to 22nd July 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Tone, Voice and Style facilitated by Avinash Kuduvalli, 1st August 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- Training on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 facilitated by Durang Bosu Mullick & K S Sharmila, 8th August 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Social Justice, 25th to 27th August 2017, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- Aditi Chanchani, James N and Theresa Florina Lobo attended a Workshop on Goods and Services Tax organised by Financial Management Service Foundation, 6th September 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Induction to the Strength Finder Process facilitated by Organisations & Alternatives Pvt. Ltd., 22nd September 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Writing for Social Media facilitated by Avinash Kuduvalli, 10th & 18th October 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Editing facilitated by Avinash Kuduvalli, 19th October 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Joyatri Ray attended a Training on Tracking Child Sex Offenders organised by ECPAT International, 27th and 28th October 2017, New Delhi.
- Kavitha M and Nino Charles attended the Workshop on Barefoot Media organised by Sambhaavana Institute, 5th to 10th November 2017, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.
- Nayana Udayashankar attended the 'PriMER in Methods and Ecological Research' organised by Gubbi Labs, 1st to 10th December 2017, Kumta, Karnataka.
- Aditi Chanchani attended Workshop on Governance of NGOs organised by Financial Management Service Foundation, 19th and 20th February 2018, Hyderabad, Telengana.
- Reading Group on Tourism-Conservation Nexus facilitated by Nayana Udayashankar, 23rd February 2018, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop on Design & Infographics facilitated by Avinash Kuduvalli, 28th March 2018 Bengaluru, Karnataka.sdt

MANAGEMENT, STAFF AND EXTENDED TEAMS

Managing Committee (2016-2017)

#	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	Mario Pinto Almeida	President
2	Ravi Chellam	Secretary*
3	K T Suresh	Secretary*
4	Mahesh Lobo	Treasurer
5	TT Sreekumar	Member
6	Haritha Sarma	Member*
7	Aditi Chanchani	Director, (ex-officio)
8	Nayana Udayashankar	Staff Representative, (ex-officio)

Staff Team

#	PROGRAMME	COORDINATOR	TEAM MEMBERS
1	Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models	Swathi Seshadri	Aditi Chanchani / Rajesh Ranjan# / Sudhamshu Mitra*
2	Ecosystems, Communities and Tourism	Swathi Seshadri	Chidananda G* / Nayana Udayashankar
3	Economics of Tourism	Swathi Seshadri	Ashwin Thomas*
4	Governance, Law and Tourism	Aditi Chanchani* / Philip Varghese*	Kavitha M
5	Society, Culture and Tourism	Aditi Chanchani* / Joyatri Ray#*	Durang Bosu Mullick / Kumari S Sharmila / Sangeeta Rath
6	Tourism Resource Centre	Nino Charles	Divya Kasargod** / Kavitha M / Sophia Vijay**
7	Networking	Swathi Seshadri*	
8	Research	Swathi Seshadri	Ghanshyam Kumar*
9	Institutional Support Services		
a	Admin	Theresa Florina Lobo	Girisha V / Sowbhagya
b	Finance	Theresa Florina Lobo	James
c	HR	Kumari S Sharmila	
d	IT	Rajiv Das#	

part time staff

* for part of the year



EQUATIONS Team

Short Term and Project Based Contracts

#	NAME OF STAFF	PROGRAMME
1	Abish Chakma	a. Study on Challenges of Internal Migration (Economics of Tourism) b. Research on Safe and Honourable Tourism Code – Status and Implementation Challenges (Society, Culture and Tourism)
2	Abo Arangam	Study on Challenges of Internal Migration (Economics of Tourism)
3	Ananya Dasgupta	Research on Parastatal Bodies and Tourism (Governance, Law and Tourism)
4	Anati K Yeptho	Study on Challenges of Internal Migration (Economics of Tourism)
5	Avinash Kuduvali	Communication Strategy (Tourism Resource Centre)
6	Nadika Nadja	Study on Caste and Religious Tourism in Tamil Nadu (Society, Culture and Tourism)
7	Harsh Raveendra	a. Developing a database of Mega Tourism Projects (Economics of Tourism) b. Study on Sustainability of Hotel Chains: Accor and Marriott (Economics of Tourism)
8	Khursheed A. Siddiqui	Strengthen Quantitative Research Methodologies in Tourism Research (Research)
9	Kaveri Tara	Strengthen Qualitative Research Methodologies in Tourism Research (Research)
10	Kavitha Kanan Nath	Tourism Impact Assessment in Banni Region, Kutch (Economics of Tourism)
11	Mary Kath	Study on Challenges of Internal Migration (Economics of Tourism)
12	Santosh Yadav	Study on Challenges of Internal Migration (Economics of Tourism)

Translation and Transcription Support

- Anil Kumar
- Chinmay Mishra
- Dutta Raychaudhuri
- Mahika Banerji
- Meetu Desai
- Nisha Yadav
- Paresh Chandra Mondal
- Pauline Anthony
- Ponni Meenakshi
- Prabhakaran
- Prajnaparamita
- Ravi Kumar
- S.S.Rajani
- Santosh Kumar
- Shilpa Ganesh
- Sridhar K R
- Sudhanshu Kumar

Design and Communication Support

- Anjora Noronha
- Avinash Kuduvalli
- National Printing Press
- Prabhakaran
- Shashwati Balasubramanian
- Shine Offset Press
- Smriti Chanchani

Interns and Volunteers and their Work

#	NAME	ACADEMIC COURSE	INSTITUTION	PERIOD (WEEKS)	DETAILS	PROGRAMME WORKED WITH
1	Varsha Shrivastava	MBA (Tourism)	Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Amarkantak, Noida.	25th May to 25th July 2017 (9 Weeks)	Trends and analysis on the Exploitation of Women in Tourism	Society, Culture and Tourism
2	Hemanta Hazarika	MBA (Tourism)	Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior	1st June 2017 to 15th July 2017 (7 Weeks)	Trends and analysis of Religious Tourism in India	Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models
3	Chaitanya Pramod Pawar	MBA (Tourism)	Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior	1st June 2017 to 15th July 2017 (7 Weeks)	Trends and analysis Culture & Tourism in India	Society, Culture and Tourism

ABBREVIATIONS

A&NI

Andamans and Nicobar Islands

ADB

Asian Development Bank

ALF

Alternative Law Forum

ASI

Archaeological Survey of India

ATSEC

Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children

CBT

Community based tourism

CINI

Child in Need Institute

CRZ

Coastal Regulation Zone

CSEC

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

CWC

Concerned for Working Children

CWH

Critical Wildlife Habitats

CZMP

Coastal Zone Management Plans

e-TV

e-Tourist Visa

ECPAT

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking

EDII

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India

ESA

Ecologically Sensitive Areas

ESOI

Ecotourism Society of India

GIS

Geographic Information System

GP

Gram Panchayats

HNA

Himalayan Niti Abhiyan

HRCE

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

HRIDAY

National Heritage City Development and Augmentation

HWHAMA

Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority

IACR

India Alliance for Child Rights

INASEC

India Network Against Sexual Exploitation of Children,

IP

Indigenous Perspectives

JJS

Jan Jagran Sansthan

JKCCS

Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society

JNU

Jawaharlal Nehru University

KHAMIR

Kachchh Heritage, Art, Music, Information and Resources

KJPS

Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti

MLA

Member of Legislative Assembly

MLPA

Mamallapuram Local Planning Authority

MNTDA

Mamallapuram New Town Development Authority

MoEFCC

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

MoT

Ministry of Tourism

MoU

Memorandum of Understanding

MoU

Memorandum of Understanding

MPISSR

M P Institute of Social Science Research

MWCD

Ministry of Women and Child Development

NACG

National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children

NCDHR

National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights

NCPCR

National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights

NER

North East Region

NETDC

North East Tourism Development Council

NGT

National Green Tribunal

NTG

National Task Group

NTUI

New Trade Union Initiative

PMKVY

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

POCSO

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012

PPP

Public Private Partnerships

PRASAD

Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive

PRI

Panchayati Raj Institutions

RTI

Right to Information

SASY

Social Awareness for Society and Youth

SCCS

Students' Conference on Conservation Sciences

SCPCR

State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights

SCSP

Scheduled Castes Sub Plan

SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals

SEA

Society for Education and Action

SJSM

Sundarbans Jan Shramjeevi Manch

STOP

STOP Trafficking and Oppression of Children & Women

TAAF

Tourism Alert and Action Forum

TCC

Tourism Carrying Capacity

TIA

Tourism Impact Assessment

TRC

Tourism Resource Centre

TSO

Travelling Sex Offenders

TSP

Tribal Sub-Plan

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

UNWTO

World Tourism Organisation

VSS

Vikas Samvad Samiti

WWF

World Wildlife Fund



Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS)

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URL: www.equitabletourism.org

Design: Rahul & Rohan
Layout: Avinash Kuduvalli
Printing: National Printing Press, Bengaluru
August 2018

EQUATIONS is a research and policy, advocacy organisation (non-profit society) working on tourism and development issues in India. Our work has focused on the economic, environmental, social, cultural, political and governance impacts of tourism particularly on people living in and around tourism locations. We do this through our work on Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models, Economics of tourism, Ecosystems, Communities and Tourism, Governance, Law and Tourism, Society, Culture and Tourism and the Tourism Resource Centre.

EQUATIONS closely collaborates with organisations and peoples movements, to influence people centred forms of tourism and policies that ensure significant local benefits and take into account the negative impacts of an unbridled growth of tourism.

