



ISAS-CPR PANEL DISCUSSION

The Clean India Mission: Challenges and Prospects

Monday, 30 October 2017 | 3.00pm to 5.15pm
MEI Conference Room, Level 6 (Block B), 29 Heng Mui Keng Terrace

Programme

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| 2.30pm | Registration |
| 3.00pm | ISAS-CPR Panel Discussion
<u>Chairperson</u>
Professor Subrata Mitra
Director and Visiting Research Professor
Institute of South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore |
| 3.10pm | <u>Panellists</u>
Why is it at the Forefront?: Anatomy of the Creeping Sanitation Crises in India
Dr Dipinder S Randhawa
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore |
| 3.30pm | From Taboo to Totem: Continuing Misadventures of Sanitation Policy in India
Mr Shubhagato Dasgupta
Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, India;
Director, Scaling City Institutions for India (Sci-Fi) Sanitation Initiative; and
Honorary Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore |
| 3.50pm | Combating River Pollution in India: Policy Measures and Governance Challenges
Ms Maitreyee Mukherjee
PhD Candidate
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore |
| 4.10pm | Question and Answer Session |
| 4.40pm | Presentation of Tokens of Appreciation |
| 4.45pm | Tea Reception and Networking |
| 5.15pm | End of Event |

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The Clean India Mission: Challenges and Prospects

Abstract

While India is making commendable progress on several fronts, the lack of societal cleanliness, proper sanitation system and clean drinking water facilities, among others, has impeded the development process in the country. These basic rights are not only important to the health of individuals, but are also crucial for eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development and the overall growth of the country.

Launched in October 2014, the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* (Clean India Mission) aims to ensure that the streets, roads and infrastructure in Indian cities and towns, and rural areas are kept clean. Another important effort of the mission is to ensure a toilet for every household by 2019 and educate people about the long-term benefits of following a proper sanitation system.

The panel discussion will examine the key challenges facing India in its *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* and the country's prospects in accomplishing its goals.

About the Chairperson

Professor Subrata K Mitra

Professor Subrata K Mitra, PhD (Rochester), is Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, and Visiting Research Professor, National University of Singapore, and Emeritus Professor Heidelberg University, in Germany. The dynamic interaction of culture and rationality has deeply influenced his research profile, which focuses on governance and administration, citizenship, hybridity and re-use, the evolution of the Indian state from classical to modern times, the transition to democracy and its consolidation, and security and foreign affairs of South Asia.

He has published widely, with numerous books, journal articles and chapter contributions in each of these areas, contributing both to the theory of political science as well as comparative politics and South Asian area studies. *Culture and Rationality* (Sage 1999), *The Puzzle of India's Governance* (Routledge 2005), *Re-use: the Art and Politics of Integration and Anxiety* (Sage 2008), *Politics in India* (Routledge 2011, next edition due in December 2017) and *Kautilya's Arthashastra: Classical Roots of Modern Politics in India* (jointly authored with Michael Liebig, published by Nomos 2016) represent different facets of his oeuvre.

About the Panellists

Dr Dipinder S Randhawa

Dr Dipinder S Randhawa researches issues in the domain of economics and finance. His research interests and publications are on financing issues in infrastructure, micro-finance, the informal sector, constraints on investments, policy analysis and governance.

Before re-joining National University of Singapore (NUS), Dr Randhawa was Deputy Head, Finance Programme, at the School of Business, SIM University. Prior to this, he was Fellow, and Coordinator, Research and Industrial Outreach, at the Risk Management Institute, NUS. He has taught at the Department of Finance, NUS Business School. Dr Randhawa has also taught at the undergraduate, MBA and Executive MBA, and in Executive Development Programmes in the United States (Syracuse University and the State University of New York), China (University of Shanghai for Science and

Technology), Singapore (NUS and SIM University) and Thailand (Mountbatten Institute – Naresuan University Campus). Besides other corporate entities, he has conducted consultation projects for Oxford Economics, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Institute of Banking and Finance (Singapore). The transition to the world of academia was preceded by brief stints in banking and public policy analysis.

Dr Randhawa received his PhD in Finance from the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University and Master's degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics.

Mr Shubhagato Dasgupta

Mr Shubhagato Dasgupta is a Senior Fellow at Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and director of the Scaling City Institutions for India (Sci-Fi) Sanitation initiative. His current research focuses on drinking water and sanitation in India and the world, with particular reference to flagship government programs and service delivery challenges in smaller cities. Other major areas of work include urban infrastructure and service delivery financing, housing and slum rehabilitation, urban sector public finance, and urban environmental infrastructure planning, management, and investment, alternatives.

Before joining CPR, Mr Dasgupta led the Support to National Policies for Urban Poverty Reduction project, a collaboration between the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to develop pro-poor urban policies in 20 cities across 15 states. Prior to this, he has also worked on issues of urban development with a wide range of other public, private, multilateral, and non-governmental organisations, including as Senior Urban Specialist at the World Bank, Assistant Vice President at the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC), the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and The Action Research Unit. In addition, Mr Dasgupta has also worked on private sector participation projects in urban and drinking water programs in eastern and southern Africa for the International Finance Corporation and the Acumen Fund.

Mr Dasgupta was trained as an architect at the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology in Ahmedabad and holds an MSc in housing and development planning from the Development Planning Unit of the University College London. He is currently undertaking a PhD at the Centre for Urban Studies at the University of Amsterdam.

Ms Maitreyee Mukherjee

With a background in bio-sciences and environmental management, Ms Maitreyee Mukherjee's research interest lies chiefly in water-related policy research. Her prior work, under the capacity of Research Associate at Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) included projects in urban water management, water pricing and environmental sustainability in water resource development projects. In addition to her research exposure, she is a trained teacher and loves interacting with young inquisitive minds.

Ms Mukherjee is currently pursuing her PhD at LKYSPP, NUS.

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