Translating **Research** into **Action**

Hey 👋 Leaders,

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in/apoorvanand

/apoorv74

Date: 07-07-2024

CC BY

A guiding framework

Trigger (What) -> **Consequence** (Why) -> **Goal** (Where) -> **Action** (How)

A guiding framework

Trigger (What)

Why does it feels hard to cycle in the city (Lack of cycling infrastructure.)

A guiding framework

Trigger (What) - **Consequence** (Why)

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Increase in the number of vehicles on the road which leads to more traffic congestion issues.

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Trigger (What) - Consequence (Why) - **Goal** (Where)

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Having dedicated cycling tracks across the city.

A guiding framework

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Increase in the number of vehicles on the road which leads to more traffic congestion issues.

Having dedicated cycling tracks across the city.

Engaging with the local administration

Research about other cities

Organise more cycling workshops to increase the demand.

Let's apply the same framework to understand other issues

Trigger (What) -> **Consequence** (Why) -> **Goal** (Where) -> **Action** (How)

Should anyone be detained for posting on Social Media?

Section 66A of the Information Technology Act

[1] **[66A. Punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc.**--Any person who sends, by means of a computer resource or a communication device,

(a) any information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character; or

(b) any information which he knows to be false, but for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred or ill will, persistently by making use of such computer resource or a communication device;

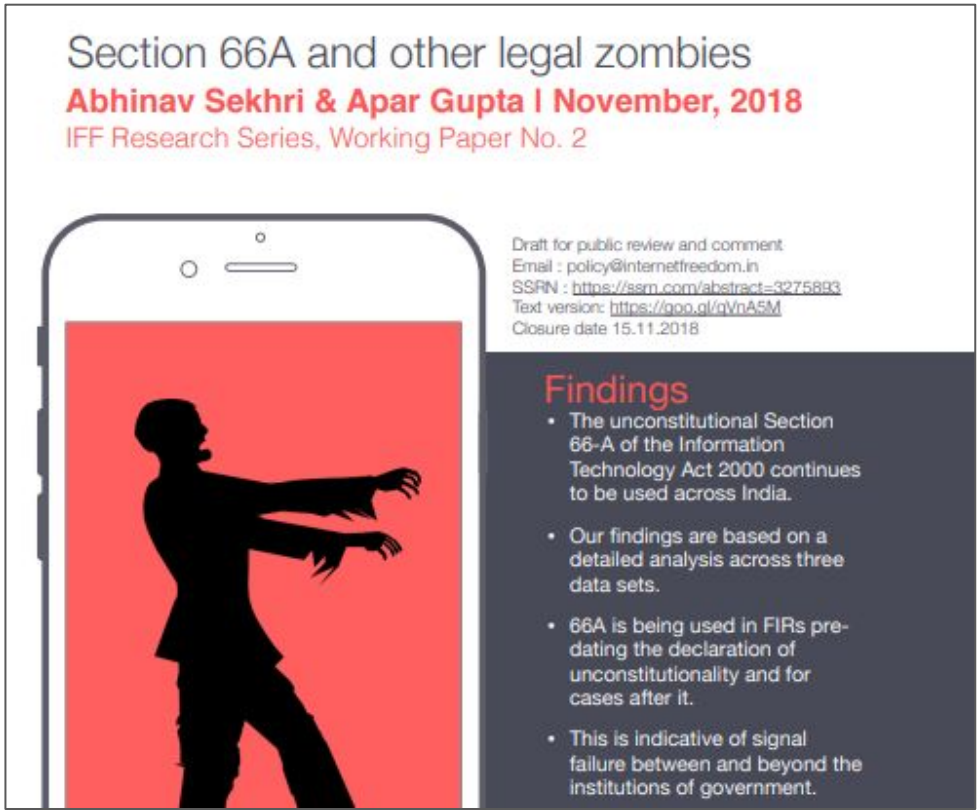
(c) any electronic mail or electronic mail message for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience or to deceive or to mislead the addressee or recipient about the origin of such messages,

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.

Source: IndiaCode

The SC declared it unconstitutional in 2015

But cases were still getting registered ...



Sekhri, Abhinav and Gupta, Apar, Section 66A and Other Legal Zombies (October 31, 2018). IFF Working Paper No. 2/2018. , Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=3275893 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3275893

Let’s apply the framework

Trigger (What) - Consequence (Why) - Goal (Where) - Action (How)

Where is the issues of registration of cases most prevalent ?

This act might be used as a tool by governments to harass people or put a control on how anyone uses social media

Convince the courts about the problem of **signal failure** & figure out more effective ways to stop the registration of cases

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https://zombietracker.in/

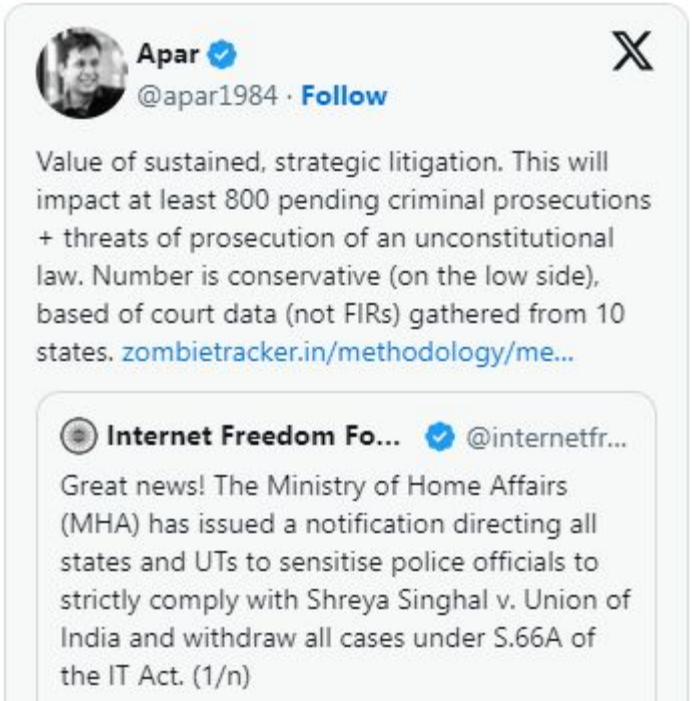
ZOMBIE
TRACKER

The 'Zombie Tracker' is a platform which monitors cases which include a charge under **Section 66A of the Information Technology Act 2000** (as amended in 2008).

The study was conducted in 11 states and the tracker was updated till Feb, 2020. During this period, we discovered **over 1,300 cases** registered in the courts after Section 66A of the IT Act was declared unconstitutional, averaging **250 cases per year**.

State/UT	Cases Registered	Pending Cases	Disposed Cases
Maharashtra	381	196	185
Jharkhand	291	99	192
Uttar Pradesh	245	116	129
Rajasthan	192	71	121
Assam	59	15	44
Andhra Pradesh	38	19	19
West Bengal	37	24	13
Delhi	28	14	14
Telangana	15	10	5
Karnataka	14	3	11
Tamil Nadu	7	3	4
India	1,307	570	737

https://zombietracker.in/



Source: Twitter

Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) requests States and Union Territories (UTs) to direct police stations not to register cases under repealed Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000

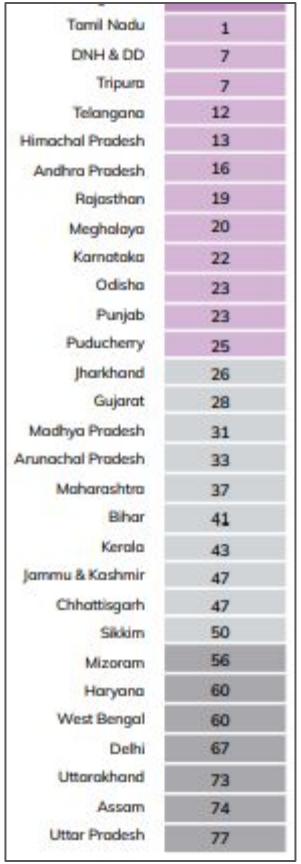
Posted On: 14 JUL 2021 6:37PM by PIB Delhi

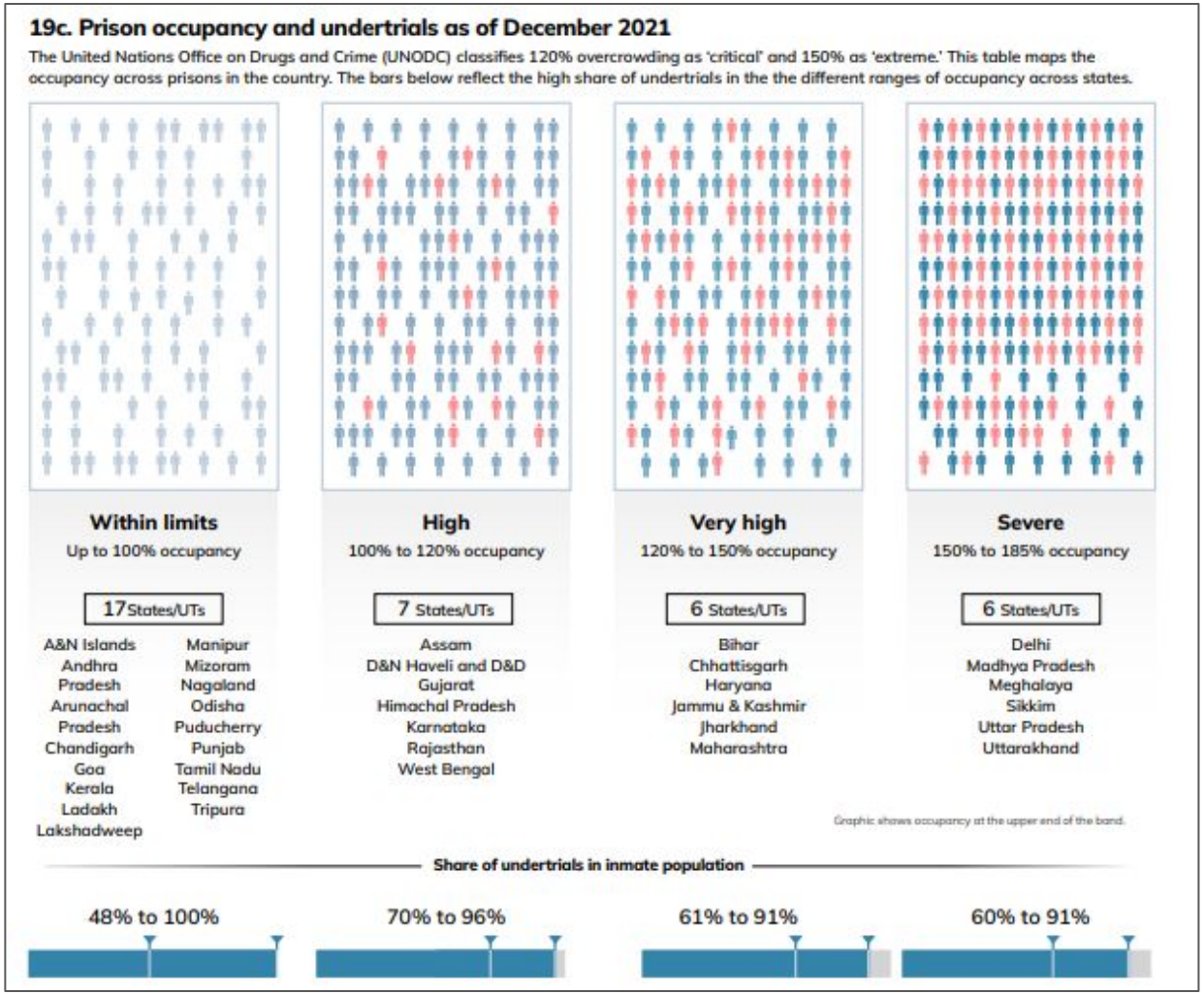
The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has requested States and Union Territories (UTs)to direct all police stations under their jurisdiction not to register cases under the repealed Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. It has also asked the States and UTs to sensitize law enforcement agencies for the compliance of the order issued by the Supreme Court on 24.03.2015. The MHA has also requested that if any case has been booked in States and UTs under section 66A of the IT Act, 2000, such cases should be immediately withdrawn.

The Supreme Court in its judgment on 24.03.2015 in the matter of Shreya Singhal Vs. Union of India, had struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. This made Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 null and void with effect from the date of the order, therefore 24.03.2015 and hence no action could be taken under this section.

Undertrials (*people awaiting the completion of investigation*) account for 77% of the entire prison population. Is this the reason why jails are overcrowded ?

Share of jails with 150% and more occupancy across India. Source: The India Justice Report (IJR), 2022.





Prison occupancy and undertrials as of December 2021. Source: [The India Justice Report (IJR), 2022](#).

Trigger (What) - Consequence (Why) - Goal (Where) - Action (How)

What is the state of legal aid services for undertrials across all states in the country ?

Overcrowded Jails. Inhumane living conditions inside prisons.

Draft a recommendation to the government by engaging with local authorities, civil society organisations and individuals to figure out the challenges related to Legal Aid.

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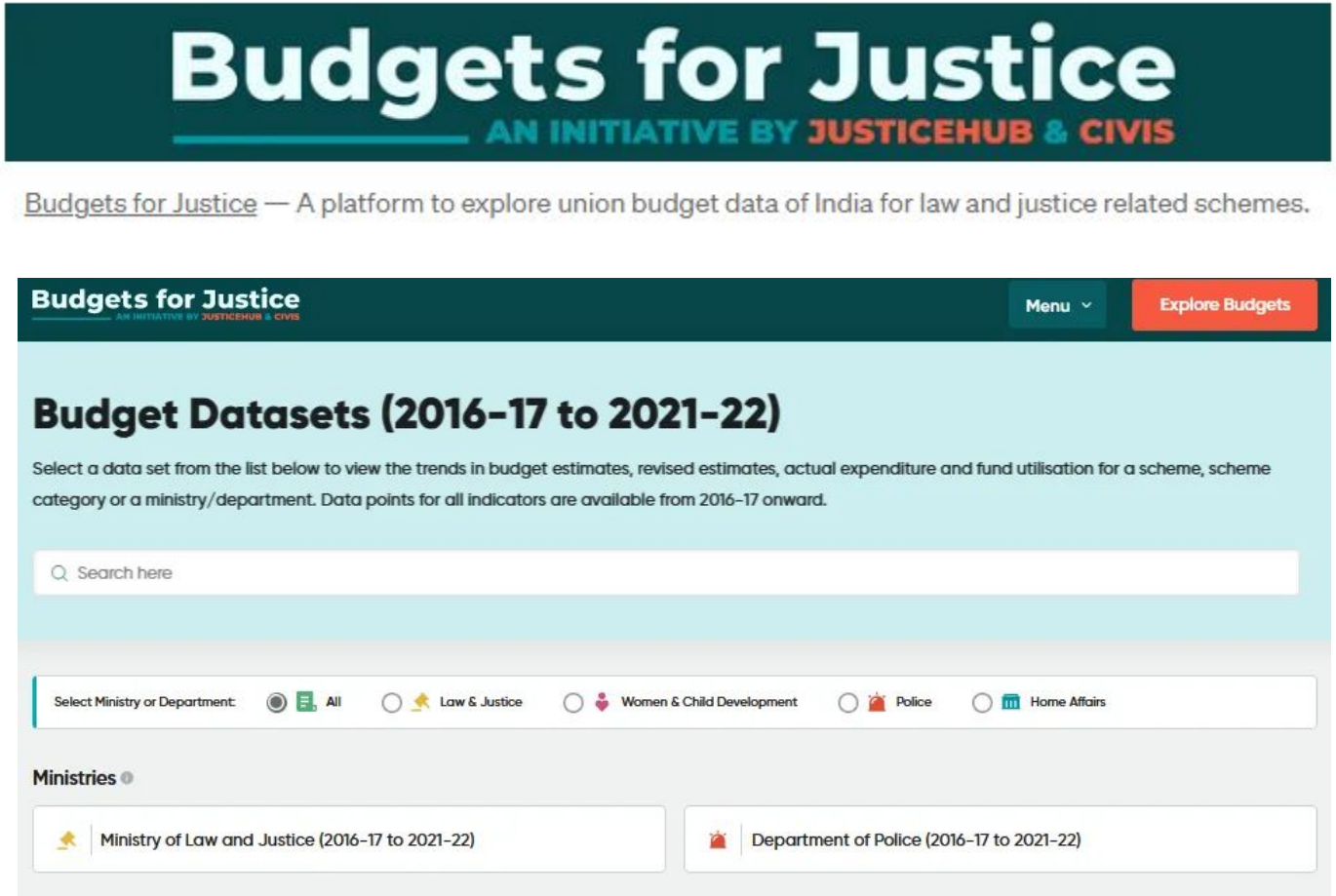
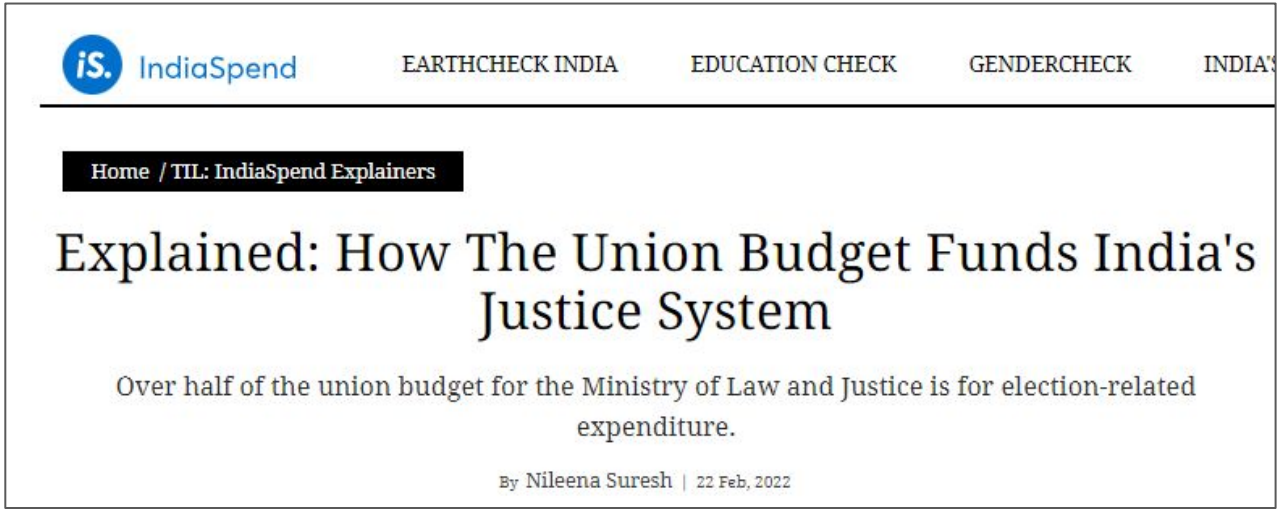
Budgets for Justice
AN INITIATIVE BY JUSTICEHUB & CIVIS

https://budgets.justicehub.in/



Screenshots from the Budgets for Justice Platform

Enabling journalists to create explainers on how the Justice System is Funded by the Government.



IndiaSpend EARTHCHECK INDIA EDUCATION CHECK GENDERCHECK INDIA'S

Home / TIL: IndiaSpend Explainers

Explained: How The Union Budget Funds India's Justice System

Over half of the union budget for the Ministry of Law and Justice is for election-related expenditure.

By Nileena Suresh | 22 Feb, 2022

A consultation organised in Assam to engage with the local community on issues related to access to justice. Read more here.

How can the disaster management authorities improve their response time during disasters ?

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Reduce the impact on lives, infrastructure damages, etc.

Figure out the most efficient way to collect information from citizens affected by disasters

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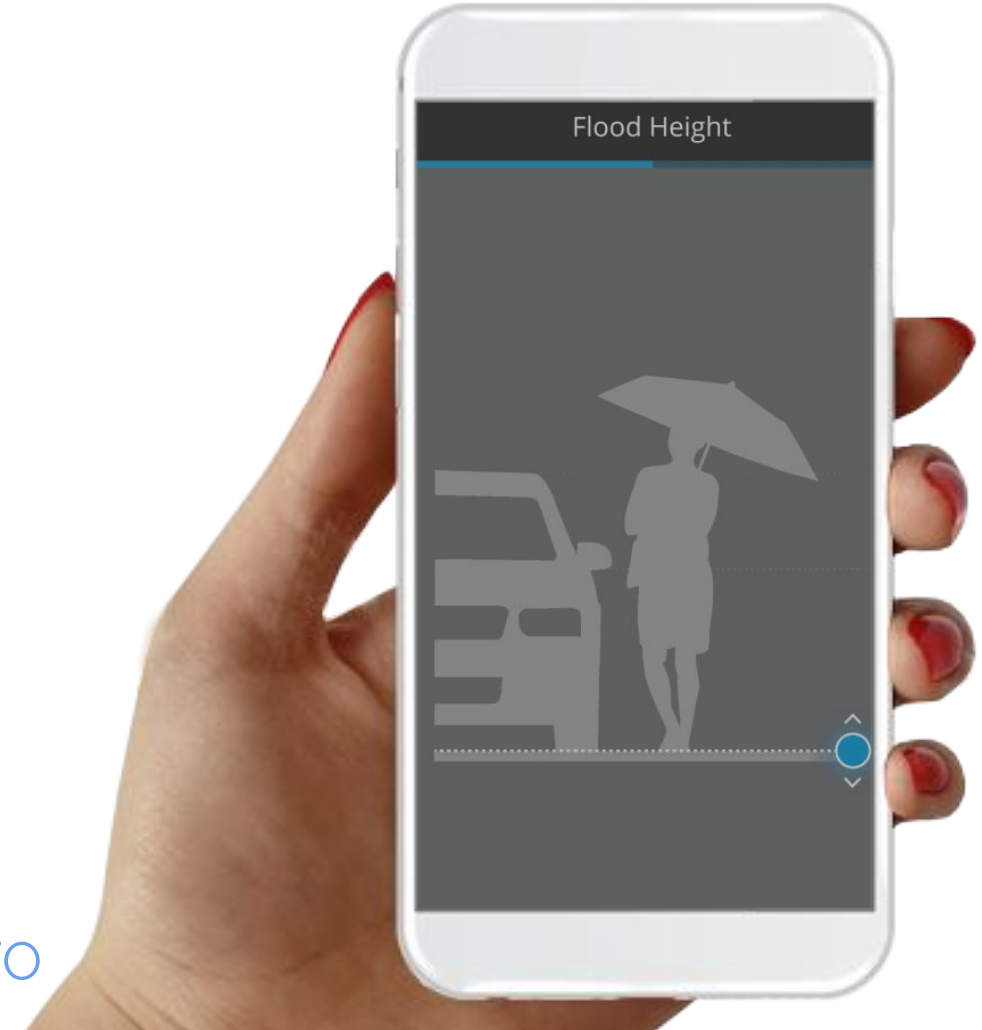
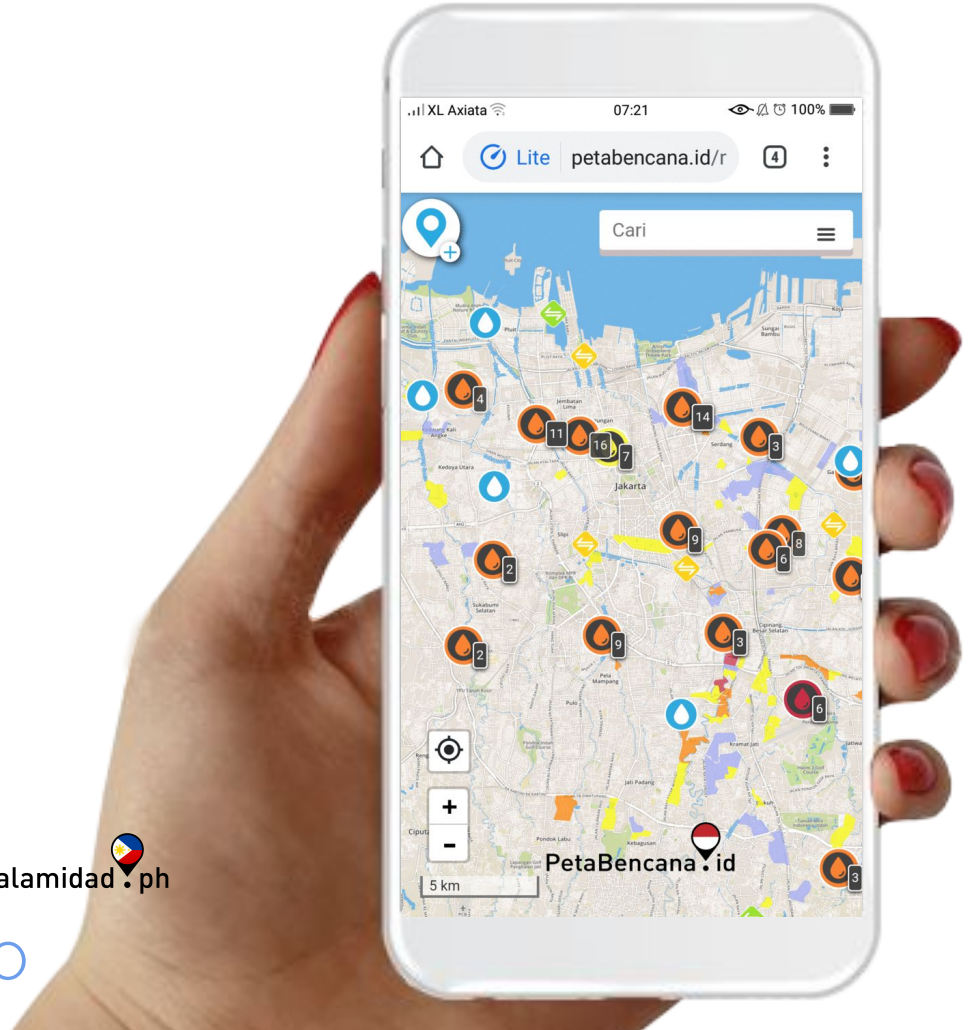
CogniCity.INFO

https://cognicity.info/



CogniCity.INFO

Gather. Sort. Communicate



15:28 04-04-2021
floods, storms, high winds causing broken bridges and landslides in almost all neighborhoods

Sedang
Sumber
06:39 05-04-
road is inaccessible because of fallen earthquake debris

14:14 04-04-2021
flood due to collapse of the embankment at Harapan Baru 2 Bekasi, causing flooding in the

Dampak:
Sedang
Blackout. extreme winds caused fallen telkom poles, broken cabels

PetaBencana.id MapaKalamidad.ph

CogniCity.INFO

Gather. Sort. Communicate

Another trigger - Can this work in India?

CivicDataLab conducted a field study in Assam to figure out the two-way information flow between authorities and citizens.

The Worst Floods in 122 Years and How Climate Change Is Making Them Worse

The Climate Change Dictionary: Assam floods is a reminder that climate change is real and it is ravaging lives.

SADHIKA TIWARI
Updated: 12 Jul 2022, 6:11 PM IST

CLIMATE CHANGE
3 min read

NOVEMBER 2022

FLOOD GOVERNANCE IN ASSAM

Mapping the Flow of Information and Funds during Floods in Assam

Read the entire report here. These observations will help in figuring out a framework for disaster-related communications in India.

I came across an interesting research article. The output of that research is a dataset which I can use to learn more about my city. How can I share this knowledge with the public ?

Trigger (What) - Consequence (Why) - Goal (Where) - Action (How)

What is the best way to share research insights or datasets with the general public ?

Increased public awareness, mobilising communities around important social issues

Knowledge and experience of working with diverse mediums to tell stories.

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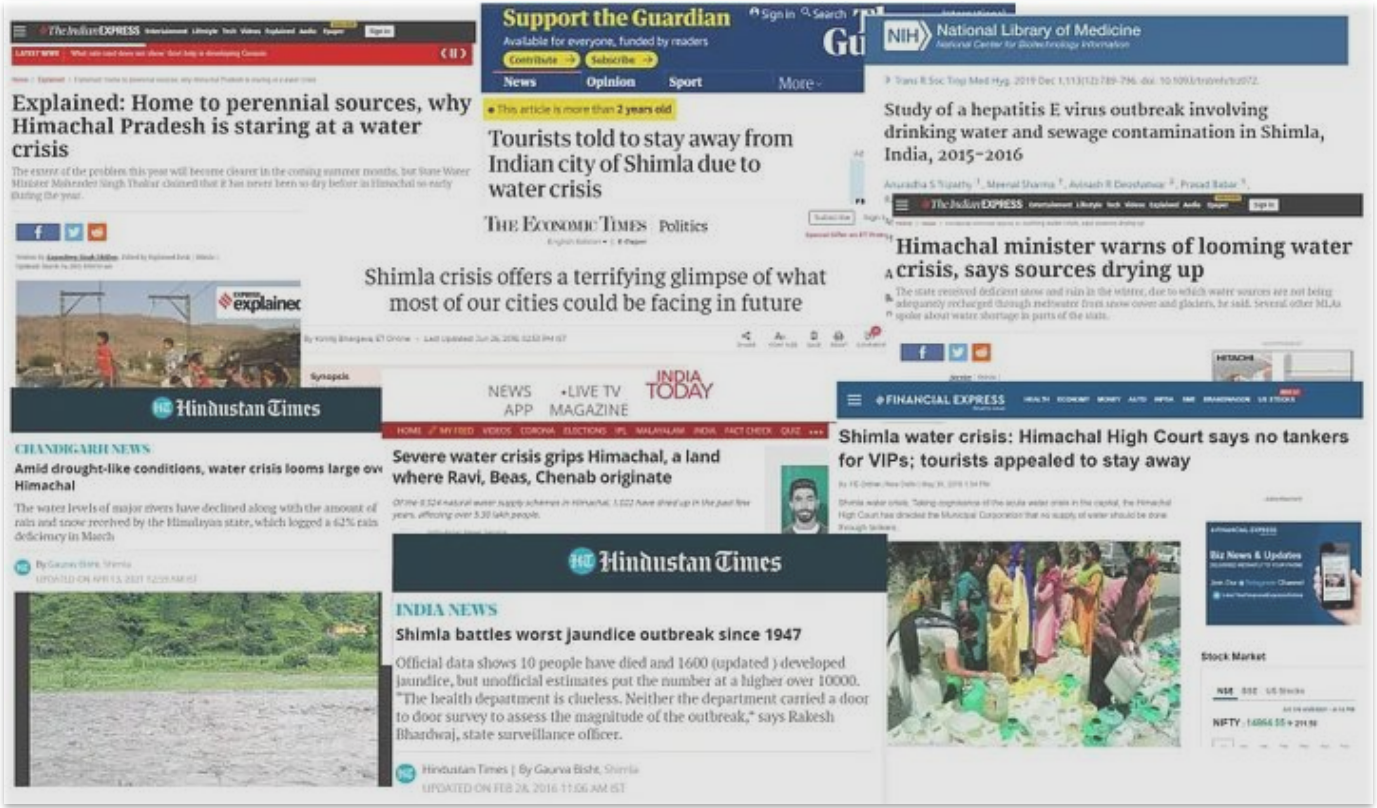
Comics ?

https://gramener.com/datacomics/

Understanding water reforms in Shimla

Shimla faced a severe water crisis in 2018



Shimla Ask Tourists to Avoid Town as Water Woes Continue

Shimla is suffering from what is possibly the worst water crisis in recent times.

SHREYASHI ROY & SRISHTI TYAGI
Updated: **30 May 2018, 7:40 PM IST**

INDIA
2 min read

Source: The Quint

Water situation started to improve

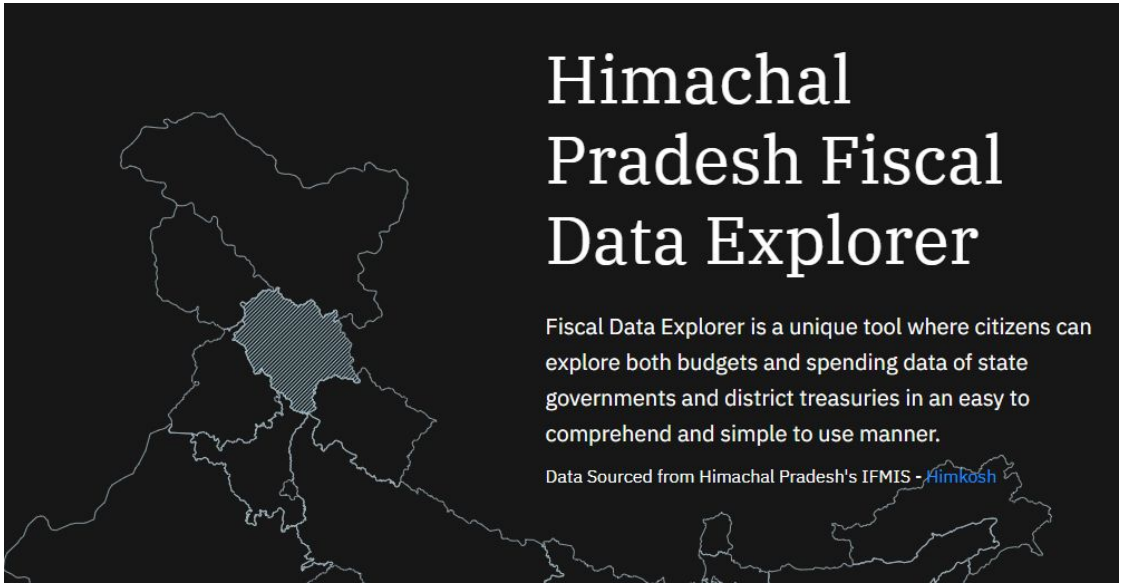
Contrary to 2018, Shimla has enough water today, but will it last?

by Ashwani Sharma • May 20, 2019 • Water Supply

In the summer of 2018, Shimla's peak tourist season, not a drop flowed in the taps of the town for over a week and thousands of visitors had to leave. May 2019 has seen a remarkable reversal in the water situation, but can the town afford to be complacent?

Source: Citizen Matters

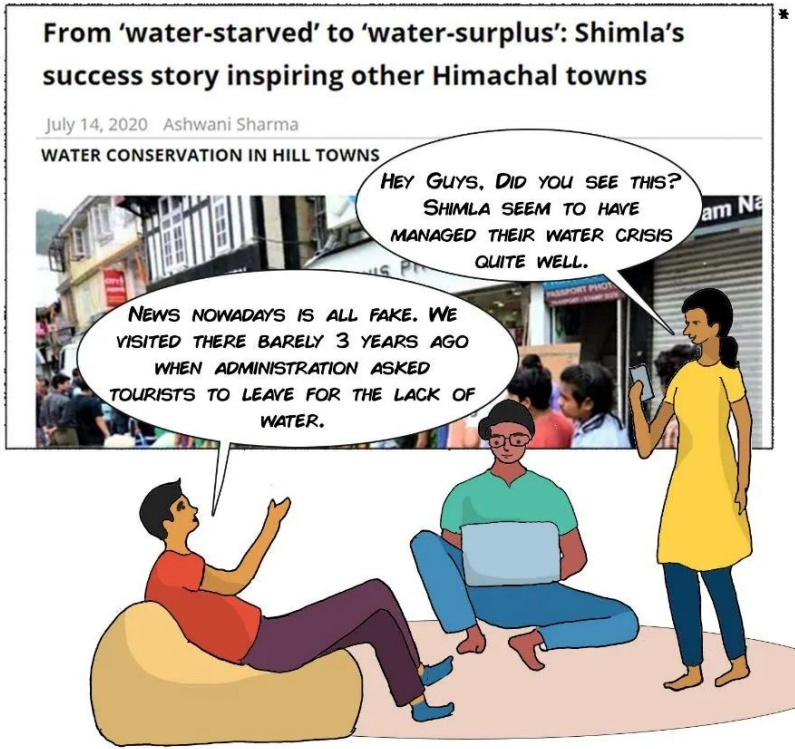
How did it happen ?



Procurements by the government is a good source of information to understand its priorities. This tool - Fiscal Data Explorer for Himachal Pradesh (HP) was developed by CivicDataLab. Citizens can use this tool to analyse government expenditures and procurements across all districts in HP.

But citizens might **find it hard to learn and use this new tool**. How can we still engage ?

Let’s see if a **Data Comic** can help!



* https://citizenmatters.in/conservation-and-increased-availability-of-water-in-shimla-and-himachal-towns-19442

Read the entire comic here.

Learn about the world around you

A few general tips which might help you along the way

- Stay curious. Ask questions and look for an verifiable information source.
- Engage with “*strangers*”
- Read as much as you can. The more you read the easier it gets.
- Learn to write about your experiences, problems, observations, etc
- Learn how to work with data.
- Volunteer your time to help non-profits. This might be a good way to learn more about ground realities.

Lastly, be patient, always prioritise your health and don’t lose hope.

A few other resources

1. Participatory Democracy - *Episode 160 of the Seen and the Unseen podcast with Ashwin Mahesh*
2. Research as Leisure activity - *An essay by Celine Nguyen*
3. Solving Public Problems - *A course and a book to learn about using technology, data and the collective wisdom in our communities to design powerful solutions to contemporary problems.*
4. Book - A Civic Technologist's Practice Guide
5. Book - Whole Numbers and Half Truths - *What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India*
6. A civic tech course at the University of Chicago

https://bit.ly/ylac-tria