

DRITHI NEWSLETTER

Issue 2: Feb-Apr 2024

DRITHI (Developing Research and Action Capacity in India To Counter Harm Industries) is a DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Senior Fellowship awarded to Dr. Upendra Bhojani. Over the next five years (2023-2028), our research aims to analyze the diverse trajectories of public policies related to tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and opium with a historical lens. The study also aims to engage with and indigenise the 'commercial determinants of health concepts and promote their integration into health and policy research institutions in India. This is the second quarterly newsletter from DRITHI. See the earlier newsletters [here](#).

Updates

SPOORTHI INSPIRING FUTURE LEADERS



Drithi team members were part of a leadership development program titled "SPOORTHI", a blended course that offered new insights into leadership development of mid- and early-career researchers.



DRITHI team attended the 6th National Conference on Tobacco Or Health (NCTOH) organized by the International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) and Salaam Bombay Foundation, Mumbai. DRITHI team presented 2 posters and made 4 oral presentations in the conference.



Upendra participated in meetings convened by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (GOI) concerning the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control COP/MOP, implementation of the rules related to regulating tobacco promotion via OTT platforms, and strengthening tobacco product regulations in India. Upendra also engaged with the Karnataka state Government through the State Tobacco Control Cell meetings and follow-ups.

DRITHI team is currently engaged with a scoping review of literature to map policy trajectories around tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and opium since their industrial scale production in India.

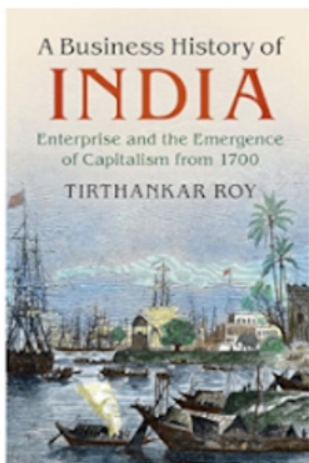
Upendra engaged with a series of regional workshops on tobacco use and control among Adivasi communities in India organised by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deoghar.



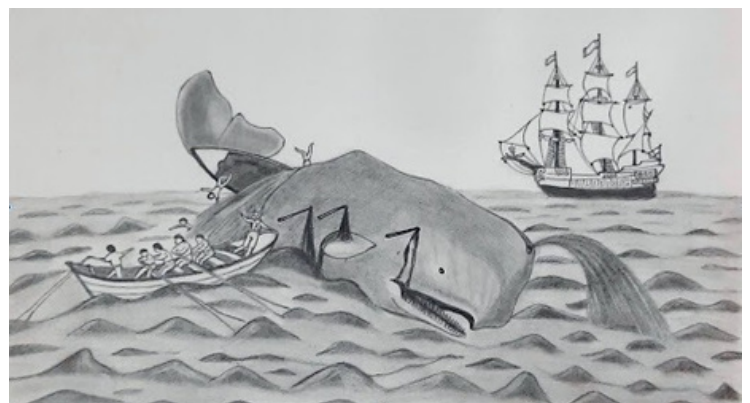
In recognition of IPH Bengaluru's long-standing contributions to tobacco control research and action, our previous research initiative, *Political Economy of tobacco and Tobacco Control in post-1990 India*, a DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Mid-career Fellowship awarded to Dr Upendra Bhojani was honoured with the "Champions Award" at the 6th National Conference on Tobacco or Health in New Delhi.

Dr. Sreenidhi Sreekumar has recently joined DRITHI as a Postdoctoral Fellow. He holds a PhD in Health Systems and Policy Research along with degrees in Ayurveda Medicine and Public Health, We extend him a hearty welcome!

Featured Reading



Art Corner



Whaling, the hunting of whales, has been traced back in history to about 3000 BCE when Inuits and others hunted small whales close to the coastal areas for subsistence in the North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans. Commercial whaling – mainly for whale oil (and meat) to fuel industrialisation using organised fleets of sailing ships emerged in the 17th century. By the late 1930s, more than 50,000 whales were killed annually. Striking decline in several whale species from overhunting and, the advent of petroleum replacing whale oil to a large extent put brakes on the whaling industry. The International Whaling Commission finally put a moratorium on commercial whaling from 1986 onward exempting forms of cultural whaling.

Publications

Hebbar PB, Bhojani U, Schayck OV, Babu G, Dsouza V, Nagelhout GE. Shifting the gaze on implementation: examining the association between the implementation of tobacco control laws and prevalence of tobacco using data from a nationally representative survey. *BMC Public Health* 2023; 23(1)

Arora M, Sumanasekara P, Chugh A, Hebbar P, Bhojani U, Chopra M, Mohanty V. Chapter 7: Public health approaches to tobacco control. In Arora M, Goenka S (eds) *Public health approaches to health promotion*. Boca Raton: CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group); 2024 p. 47-59

