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0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Seeing the State

Poor people confront the state on an everyday basis all over the world. But how do they see the state, and how are these engagements conducted? This book considers the Indian case where people's accounts, in particular in the countryside, are shaped by a series of encounters that are staged at the local level, and which are also informed by ideas that are circulated by the government and the broader development community. Drawing extensively on fieldwork conducted in eastern India and their broad range of expertise, the authors review a series of key debates in development studies on participation, good governance, and the structuring of political society. They do so with particular reference to the Employment Assurance Scheme and primary education provision. *Seeing the State* engages with the work of James Scott, James Ferguson and Partha Chatterjee, and offers a new interpretation of the formation of citizenship in South Asia.

Stuart Corbridge is Professor of Geography at the London School of Economics. He is the author or co-author of five books, including *Reinventing India* (with John Harriss, 2000).

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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of boxes, figures and tables</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Glossary</i>	xii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiv
Introduction	1
Part I The state and the poor	
1 Seeing the state	15
2 Technologies of rule and the war on poverty	47
Part II The everyday state and society	
3 Meeting the state	87
4 Participation	121
5 Governance	151
6 Political society	188
Part III The poor and the state	
7 Protesting the state	219
8 Post-colonialism, development studies and spaces of empowerment	250
9 Postscript: development ethics and the ethics of critique	265

Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi	Contents	
	Appendix 1: Major national programmes and policies related to poverty alleviation, 1999	275
	Appendix 2: The 1999 general election in Hajipur	283
	<i>References</i>	292
	<i>Index</i>	314

Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Boxes, figures and tables

Box 2.1	Seeing and measuring the BPLs	<i>page 75</i>
Box 3.1	Parental attitudes to education in Malda and Midnapore Districts	101
Box 5.1	The new public administration in India and poverty alleviation in the countryside	159
Figure 3.1	The field sites	89
Figure 3.2	Schematic account of key sources of support for the poor, by District	104
Figure 3.3	An official view of the developmental state: the EAS in West Bengal	110
Figure 3.4	' <i>Chapati</i> diagrams' of government: Midnapore field site	111
Figure 4.1	Sources of help in solving problems with education, schools and teachers, West Bengal	130
Figure 5.1	EAS spending by panchayat and village, Sahar Block, Bhojpur District, 1996–7 to 1998–9	170
Figure 5.2	EAS spending by panchayat and village, Murhu Block, Ranchi District, 1993–4 to 1998–9	171
Figure 5.3	EAS spending by panchayat and village, Bidupur Block, Vaishali District, 1996–7 to 1998–9	173
Figure 6.1	Local monitoring of the EAS in West Bengal: main actors and responsibilities	201
Table 1.1	Rent-seeking in the tree trade	26
Table 2.1	Social Sector Plan outlays as a percentage of Total Plan Outlays: Centre, States and Union Territories, 1951–2002	72
Table 2.2	Literacy rates (age 7+) in 17 major states of India, 1997	81
Table 3.1	Census household by community and levels of well-being and poverty	91
Table 3.2	Household land ownership and income sources by poverty ranking	94
		vii

Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii	List of boxes, figures and tables	
Table 3.3	Poverty levels of female-headed households	96
Table 3.4	Literacy rates (7+) by gender, class and caste	97
Table 3.5	School attendance by gender, class and caste	98
Table 3.6	Ability to support desired level of education	100
Table 4.1	Proportion of male and female members of sample households gaining one or more paid labour days from the Employment Assurance Scheme	127
Table 4.2	Number of meetings held of VECs of rural P. S. schools, Bihar study Districts, 1997–9	129
Table 4.3	Awareness of the existence and principal objectives of the Employment Assurance Scheme (percentage of sample households)	131
Table 4.4	Evaluation of Malda village meeting: selected questions and answers	141
Table 5.1	Sector-wise breakdown of EAS schemes actually implemented by the Blocks, Bihar	163
Table 5.2	Schools with only one teacher, selected Districts of Bihar, 1996–9	179
Table 5.3	Schools with a toilet for girls, selected Districts of Bihar, 1996–9	180
Table 5.4	School infrastructure in Midnapore and Malda, 1998–9	181
Table 5.5	School infrastructure in selected primary schools, Malda and Midnapore	182

Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x Acknowledgements

realize that our questions must have seemed odd at times, not to mention time-consuming, and that very few of our respondents will get to see (let alone read) this book. Nevertheless, the book is very respectfully dedicated to the people whose stories are at the heart of this volume, and we hope that we shall in time be able to repay their many kindnesses in other and perhaps more practical ways.

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Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

xi

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Cambridge University Press

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Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Glossary

<i>Abhikarta</i>	executing agent or foreman
<i>adivasi</i>	original people; preferred name for <i>Scheduled Tribes</i>
<i>artha</i>	worldly (self-)interest
<i>Backward Classes</i>	the 'weaker sections', or the <i>Scheduled Castes and Tribes</i> and <i>Other Backward Castes</i>
<i>Bhadralok</i>	upper or respectable folk; gentlemen (Bengali)
<i>crore</i>	ten million
<i>dada</i>	big brother or political boss
<i>dalaal</i>	broker
<i>Dalit</i>	Marathi word for the oppressed (the ex-Untouchables)
<i>dharma</i>	the traditional moral order
<i>dirigiste</i>	state-directed or dominated, in the context of economic development
<i>garibi hatao</i>	an 'end to poverty' (slogan of Indira Gandhi)
<i>Gram Panchayat</i>	village council; the lowest tier of the <i>panchayat</i> system
<i>gram baithak</i>	informal meeting
<i>gram sabha</i>	formal village meeting provided by government statute
<i>gram sansad</i>	statutory village meeting; smallest <i>panchayat</i> constituency
<i>Harijan</i>	'children of god'; Gandhi's term for the ex-Untouchables, now <i>Scheduled Castes</i>
<i>izzat</i>	honour or dignity
<i>jati</i>	caste in the sense of named birth group
<i>Kayastha</i>	scribal caste of north India, now seen as high caste
<i>kisan</i>	peasant

Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Glossary

xiii

<i>kuccha</i>	unfinished (of infrastructure); often earthen works
<i>lakh</i>	one hundred thousand
<i>Mukhiya</i>	headman of village, now of a <i>panchayat</i>
<i>Naxalites</i>	organized left insurgents
<i>neta</i>	leader
<i>Other Backward Classes/Castes (OBCs)</i>	socially and educationally deprived communities, not including <i>Scheduled Castes or Tribes</i> , for whom compensatory actions are now authorized by the state council, official institution of local government
<i>panchayat</i>	Block-level council
<i>Panchayat samiti</i>	official system of local self-government
<i>panchayati raj</i>	neighbourhood
<i>para</i>	President of the <i>gram panchayat</i> *
<i>Pradhan</i>	'finished' (of infrastructure); permanent, often concrete-built
<i>pucca</i>	political fixer
<i>pyraveekar</i>	President of the <i>zilla parishad</i> *
<i>Sabhadhipati</i>	President of the <i>panchayat samiti</i> *
<i>Sabhapati</i>	government
<i>sarkar</i>	those castes recognized by the Constitution as deserving special assistance in respect of education, employment and political representation (other than the <i>OBCs</i>); in effect, the ex-Untouchables
<i>Scheduled Castes</i>	in effect, the official term for India's <i>adivasi</i> populations; those communities recognized by the Constitution as deserving special assistance in respect of education, employment and political representation (other than the <i>Scheduled Castes</i> and <i>OBCs</i>)
<i>Scheduled Tribes</i>	hamlet, or small neighbourhood within a village
<i>tola</i>	revenue collector and landholder under British rule
<i>zamindar</i>	District-level council
<i>Zilla parishad</i>	

* – used here of West Bengal

Cambridge University Press

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Abbreviations

ABPTA	All-Bengal Primary Teachers' Association
ADM	Assistant District Magistrate
AE	Assistant Engineer
AEO	Additional Executive Officer
BAO	Block Agricultural Officer
BDO	Block Development Officer
BEO	Block Education Officer
BEP	Bihar Education Project
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
BKU	Bharatiya Kisan Union
CACP	Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices
CDP	Community Development Programme
CO	Community Organizer
CPI-M	Communist Party of India, Marxist
CPI-ML	Communist Party of India, Marxist-Leninist
DDC	Deputy Development Commissioner
DFID	Department for International Development, UK Government
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
DM	District Magistrate or Collector
DPEP	District Primary Education Project
DPSC	District Primary School Council
DWCRA	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas
EAS	Employment Assurance Scheme
EGS	Employment Guarantee Scheme
EGS(MP)	Employment Guarantee Scheme, Madhya Pradesh
EIRFP	Eastern India Rainfed Farming Project
EPPG	Enhancing Pro-Poor Governance (action research project)
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council, UK

Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of abbreviations

xv

GIAN	Gujarat Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network
GP	Gram Panchayat
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
INC	Indian National Congress
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Programme
JE	Junior Engineer
JFM	Joint Forest Management
JRY	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana
KRP	Key Resource Person
KSSP	Kerala Sashtra Sahitya Parishad (people's science movement)
MCC	Maoist Communist Centre
MFAL	Marginal Farmer and Agricultural Labour programme
MKSS	Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sanghathan
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
MP	Member of Parliament
NCPRI	National Campaign for the People's Right to Information
NDA	National Democratic Alliance
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Committee (of the INC)
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OBCs	Other Backward Castes (or Classes)
PDS	Public Distribution System
PPD	Perspective Planning Division
PRI	Panchayati Raj institutions
RJD	Rashtriya Janata Dal
RSS	Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh
SAC	School Attendance Committee
SCs	Scheduled Castes
SFDA	Small Farmers Development Agency
SGSY	Swarajayanti Gram Swaroznar Yojana, a village self-employment programme that replaces the IRDP
SI	Sub-Inspector (of primary schools)
SIPRD	State Institute of Panchayats and Rural Development
SITRA	Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans
SAP	Special Area Programme
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STs	Scheduled Tribes
TDA	Tribal Development Agency

Cambridge University Press

0521834791 - Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India

Stuart Corbridge, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava and Rene Veron

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi List of abbreviations

TLC	Total Literacy Campaign
TI	Transparency International
TMC	Trinamool Congress
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VEC	Village Education Council
VHP	Vishwa Hindu Parishad
VLW	Village-Level Worker
WB	West Bengal