

## October 2018, Issue 1

**Editorial Team:** Priyamvada Trivedi, Gilles Verniers and Sudheendra Hangal

Welcome to our first issue of the **TCPD Newsletter**, our monthly newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight new projects, updates to existing projects, on-going research, publications, participation in conferences, opportunities to work with us and events. All of our **TCPD Newsletter** issues will also be available online on our website. Our current issue includes a data release and an addition to our working paper series which uses the data, the addition of two new features to Lok Dhaba, an opportunity to work with us and the addition of a web developer to our team.

### Project Updates

#### **Data Release: Querying the Parliament**

We are excited to announce the release of data on the Parliamentary Question Hour! This project is led by Saloni Bhogale, a Research Fellow at **TCPD**. It involves the creation of an open dataset consisting of all questions raised in the Lok Sabha between the Winter Session of 1999 (13th Lok Sabha) and the Monsoon Session of 2018 (16th Lok Sabha). The complete dataset has over 300,000 questions. Further details can be found on our website - <https://tcpd.ashoka.edu.in/projects/>

#### **Added Features: Lok Dhaba**

A couple of updates have been made to Lok Dhaba (<http://lokdhaba.ashoka.edu.in/LokDhaba-Shiny/>). Users now have two options - "Bookmark Visualization" and "Download Visualization Data". The first one will allow users to save and share links to created charts/maps and the second one allows users to download the data behind the visualization. The project is led by Mohit Kumar, a Data Scientist and GIS Engineer at **TCPD**.

### Research Updates

#### **TCPD Research Workshop**

Our workshop continues to meet on a weekly basis to discuss on-going research. Our semester schedule - <https://tcpd.ashoka.edu.in/tcpd-research-workshop/>

### Publications

Saloni Bhogale's paper "Querying the Indian Parliament: What can the Question Hour tell us about Muslim Representation in India", has been added to our **TCPD** working paper series and is available online - <https://tcpd.ashoka.edu.in/working-papers/>.

### Work with Us

We are looking for research assistants to help us with qualitative field research and data collection on main parties' candidates in the following states: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal between February 2019 and May 2019. If interested, please email us ([tcpd-contact@ashoka.edu.in](mailto:tcpd-contact@ashoka.edu.in)) with a one page letter and a CV by November 30, 2018.

### Events

#### **Past Events**

October 31 - Talk by Praveen Chakravarty, Chairman of Data Analytics for the Indian National Congress on "Empirics and Data in Indian Politics"

#### **Upcoming Events**

- November 6 - Chhattisgarh (phase 1) assembly elections
- November 20 - Chhattisgarh (phase 2) assembly elections
- November 21 - Talk by Farzana Afridi, Associate Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi
- November 28 - Mizoram and Madhya Pradesh assembly elections

### Other Updates

#### **Website**

Our website (<https://tcpd.ashoka.edu.in>) has a new look! The work was done by Mohamed Yusuf Sait, a first year Computer Science major at Ashoka, who joined the **TCPD** team as a web developer this month.