

*From Prathan Sevak*



**Prof Sunil K Choudhary**  
**Director**

The idea of producing an overview of Centre's activities quarterly through our Newsletter had a very modest beginning. The seventh issue of the Newsletter is now coming out with its new nomenclature, *Sanchayan*, a collection of multifaceted activities of the Centre showing a remarkable continuity, consistency and commitment. With our working as a *Parivar*, particularly since 2015, the Centre has been able to make its forte in both interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research communities. The increasing participation and integration of students and scholars, social scientists and social activists shows the salience and credence of the Centre striving towards pursuit of real knowledge.

We are happy to publish the second issue of our Newsletter of the current year which covers three-month activities, events and programs of the Centre from February 2018 till April 2018.

I extend my gratitude to fellow *Navratnas*, the revered members of dcrc *Parivar* (dcrc family) and all others for steering our journey to the new heights of academic horizons.

### **DCRC: Faculty and Functioning**

Ushering a new phase, presently DCRC has 28 fellows from different disciplines of social sciences. The fellows were appointed through a democratic and transparent process of selection. They are regular faculty and

researchers across Universities and Colleges and are placed for a period of three years from 2016-2019 on honorary basis. The fellows have expertise and specialisation in different social science disciplines and are currently engaged with various research activities and projects at the Centre.

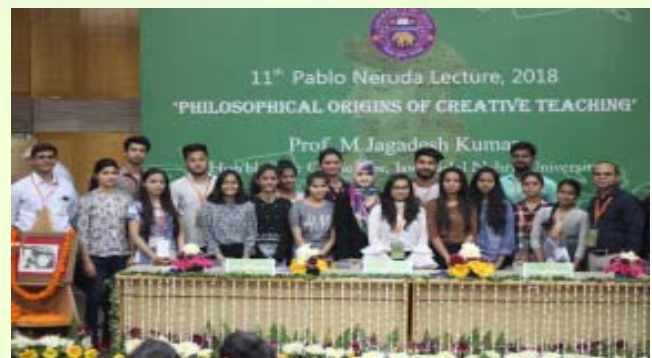
The Centre has fourteen committees including Library, Gender, Purchase, Journal, Web, Seminar, Annual Report, etc. headed by different fellow conveners who meet regularly to deliberate on academic and research issues. The Advisory Committee headed by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor is the apex decision making body of the Centre while the Fellow Council and the Research Committee are academic committees. The Fellow Council generally meets on the first working Friday of every month and the Research Committee meets quarterly.

### **Major Activities and Achievements**

Many academic activities including seminars, special lectures, interactive discourses and academic interface were organised by the Centre in the last quarter. The Centre is obligated by the Ordinance to regularly organise comparative theory seminar, annual grassroots social science colloquium in order to facilitate dialogue between scholars and activists, and Oliver Tambo and Pablo Neruda lectures every alternate years.

### **11th Pablo Neruda Lecture, April 2018**

In pursuit of its objectives, the Centre had organised 11th Pablo Neruda Lecture on 3 April 2018. Professor Sunil K. Choudhary delivered the lecture on 'Philosophical Origins of Creative Teaching'. In his charismatic address Prof Sunil stressed on the importance of 3Cs 'Connecting' with the students, 'Collection' of ideas and 'Cultivating' a sense of belonging among students. The audience applauded the spontaneity of the Director, dcrc



in delivering the 11th Pablo Neruda lecture. On this occasion Prof Sunil K. Choudhary, Director drcr; Dr Devendra Kakar, Member Advisory Committee and Dr Ramesh Bhardwaj, Joint Director drcr also released the third volume of the Centre's Yearly Annual Report 2017-2018.

### Silver Jubilee and Book Release

The Centre celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 20 April 2018. The highlight of the Silver Jubilee celebration was the book release function of *The Changing Face of Parties and Party Systems: A Study of Israel and India*, written by Prof Sunil K Choudhary Director, drcr and published from Springer Nature-Palgrave Macmillan in 2018.



The book was released by His Excellency, Daniel Carmon, the Ambassador of Israel to India; Prof. Dinesh Singh, Former Vice Chancellor of University of Delhi, Prof M P Singh, Former Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi and Shri Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. His Excellency, Daniel Carmon congratulated Prof Sunil Choudhary on his publication and stressed on more academic interactions between the two countries. Complementing his student and now Director, Prof Sunil Choudhary for writing a book on parties and party systems within a comparative framework, Prof M P Singh expressed his happiness for shifting the realm of contemporary research from elections to political parties. Professor Dinesh Singh also emphasised that India and Israel are connecting and will continue to do so in future also.

### Comparative Theory Seminar

A Seminar on 'Comparative Theory Today: Changes

and Challenges' was organised on 12 March 2018. Prof Subrata Mukherjee, formerly Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi delivered the key note address in the Seminar. Prof Sunil K Choudhary's address evinced immense applause from the audience. They also released the next issue of Quarterly Newsletter of the Centre. Prof Ujjwal K Singh and Prof Mahdulika Banerjee from the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi chaired the pre-lunch and post-lunch sessions of the Seminar respectively.



### Grassroots Social Science Colloquium

The Centre organised Grassroots Social Science Colloquium on 'Naxalism' on 27 February 2018. Mr Shubhranshu Choudhary eminent Journalist, Chhattisgarh and Dr Himanshu Roy, Senior Fellow, Teen Murti were the Panelists. Dr Himanshu Roy highlighted the critique of Naxal ideology in his discourse. Mr Shubhranshu Choudhary explored the historical background of Naxalism and the current facts while emphasising on the role of academics and the universities in resolving the issues involved.



### Interactive Discourse

The Centre organised an interactive discourse on 'Governance: A Constitutional Riddle' with Prof Bidyut

Chakrabarty on 20 March 2018. It was attended by eminent Professors, scholars and students of both Sciences and Social Sciences all across the University Colleges and Departments. On this occasion, the Centre also felicitated Prof Bidyut Chakrabarty for making distinct contribution to the discipline of Political Science and for being selected as the DAAD Visiting Professor at the Hamburg University in 2018.



### Foreign Visitors at the Centre and Interaction with the Foreign Diplomats

- The Centre regularly hosts foreign visitors including academics and research scholars. On 28 March 2018, renowned Political Scientist and a foreign diplomat Prof Vijay Kant Karna from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal visited drc as part of the Academic Visitors' Program. The visit was facilitated by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi. During his interaction with the Director, fellows, scholars and students Prof Vijay Kant Karna discussed varied aspects of India-Nepal relations, democratic transition in Nepal, ethnic issues and formation of new government in Nepal.



- The High Commissioner of Republic of Guyana, Dr David G Pollard invited Prof Sunil K. Choudhary, Director drc in connection with the visit of Vice Chancellor of Central University of Guyana on 12 March 2018. Dr Ramesh Bharadwaj, Joint Director, drc and Mr Jiya Lal, Fellow, drc visited High Commission of

Republic of Guyana and discussed prospects of bilateral academic program between the two countries.

### DCRC in Media

- The Centre and its programs under the astounding direction of Prof Sunil K. Choudhary have received wide coverage in leading national newspapers and media in the previous quarter. Recently Prof Sunil's book, *The Changing Face of Parties and Party Systems: A Study of Israel and India* released by His Excellency, Daniel Carmon, the Ambassador of Israel to India and other dignitaries amidst the presence of large number of students, scholars, faculty and fellows of the University was covered by DD News, the *Lok Satya* and the *Navbharat Times*.



- Prof Sunil K Choudhary was also invited by the Rajya Sabha TV to discuss the recently held Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018.

### Future Vision and Mission

- With the changing times and an enterprising Director, the Centre is aiming high to reach new horizons by recreating a global institution that represents academic forte of the university and engages its epistemology with the global concerns. The tradition of monthly lectures and interactive discourses will continue in the coming months.

- Apart from yearly Annual Reports, Quarterly Newsletters, Annual Calendars and Brochures, the Centre is also coming out with its Biennial Journal, *GlobaLense: Journal of Social Science Research* which will be unveiled very soon. The Centre is also working towards publication of 'Samiksha 2017: UP Elections Survey' Project.

- The Centre is planning to undertake Lok Sabha Elections-2019 Survey covering all 543 constituencies under 'Samiksha: Lok Sabha 2019'.