

Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc) University of Delhi



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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RESEARCH CENTRE (dcrc)
Academic Research Centre Building
Guru Tegh Bahadur Marg
University of Delhi, Delhi-110017

TEL. 011-27666281
E-MAIL: OFFICE@DCRC.DU.AC.IN
WEBSITE: [HTTP://DCRC.DUDIC.IO](http://DCRC.DUDIC.IO)

From Pratham Sevak of DCRC



It's an honor to be the Pratham Sevak of Developing Countries Research Centre [dcrc]. The Centre has been a common platform for social scientists, scholars, students and social activists constantly engaged in the growth of knowledge for nearly two and half decades. It has always been the dream of transforming the Centre from a professional organization to an academic parivar where cooperation, commitment and conviction among its members, to be characterized as 'cultural capital', should constitute the essence and foundation of knowledge.

While the 21st century global society provides huge opportunities, it also presents great challenges. How to stay academically vibrant in such a competitive market oriented society is one of the toughest challenges for all of us. However, with mutual trust and the spirit of sacrificial commitment, we can work assiduously in taking this Centre to new heights of academic glory in the present globalized world.

The Centre is publishing a Quarterly Newsletter since 2016 which apart from providing an overview of the Centre, gives a glimpse of Centre's major activities and achievements in the previous quarter to its readers.

The Centre is glad to publish the second volume of its Quarterly Newsletter in January 2017.

DCRC: Faculty and Functioning

Ushering a new phase, presently DCRC has 29 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 disciplines of social sciences and are currently engaged with various research activities and projects at the centre.

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

Major Activities and Achievements

Many conferences and seminars were organised by the Centre in the last quarter.

Monthly Lectures/Seminars

The Centre organises a monthly lecture on the first working Friday of every month.

- In the series of monthly lectures of the quarter, Dr Subramanian Swamy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament addressed the gathering on 'Contemporary Issues in Indian Politics' on 26 September 2016. He highlighted Corruption and National Unity as two important issues in Indian Polity requiring attention. Prof Sushma Yadav, President, Indian Political Science Association chaired the session.



- The Eighth Monthly Lecture was delivered by Professor Pushpesh Pant, an expert on international relations on 'Global Changes: Emerging Challenges for India'. Besides highlighting earlier challenges like energy security and food security, Prof Pant stressed on

the significance of cyber space security as one of the most important global challenges. The programme was chaired by Professor Shanta N Varma, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. Mr Gregory Harvey from Australian High Commission graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.



- Leading economist Dr Rajiv Kumar, Senior Fellow, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi gave the Ninth Monthly Lecture on 'Demonetization' on 6 January 2017. Prof Kavita Sharma, Department of Commerce, University of Delhi chaired the session. While Prof Kavita Sharma looked upon demonetization as an attempt of financial inclusion with a focus from unbank to bank population, Dr Rajiv Kumar stressed on demonetization as a bold policy initiative of the Government to address black money, black economy and black wealth.



Visit of Foreign Scholar

The Centre hosted former Election Commissioner of Bangladesh, Mr M Sakhawat Hussain on 28 October 2016. The Fellows, Students and Scholars interacted with him on productive discussion covering issues of electoral politics and changing political trends in Bangladesh.



Interactive Discourses

The Centre has also organised interactive discourses on various contemporary issues.

- An interactive session on 'Competing Sovereignities: State and Non State Actors in Global Governance' with Dr Alana Mann, University of Sydney, Australia was organised on 24 November 2016. Dr Alana considered food sovereignty as condition to food security in the contemporary global world. Professor Veena Kukreja from Department of Political Science, University of Delhi highlighted in her chairing session technological change as one of the key drivers for global governance.



- Prof Brij Maharaj, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa interacted with fellows, faculty, scholars and students on the topic ' Xenophobia: The New Apartheid in Democratic South Africa' on 29 November 2016. In his lecture, Professor Brij Maharaj highlighted the issue of human rights violations in South Africa under the new regime which he characterized as 'New Apartheid'. Professor Suresh Kumar, Head Department of African Studies, University of Delhi chaired the session and appreciated the initiatives and endeavours

undertaken by the Centre by also brining Africa as a part of social science discourse.



Research Projects

In the arena of research projects, UGC has sanctioned a research project on South Asia under its Area Studies Programme. The Centre has also submitted academic research programme proposals on different themes like election survey, research methodology, global terrorism, disability in higher education, women entrepreneurs, e-governance etc.

The Centre also organised an educational exchange cum field work research trip with Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University, Udaipur from 20-23 November 2016 in which ten fellows of the Centre interacted with the faculty, students, scholars and local community members.



UGC's Area Study Programme on South Asia

Under the UGC Area Study Programme, the Centre has been organising various academic activities and workshops regularly. The Centre is undertaking an election survey of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly under the title, 'Samiksha 2017' as an attempt to gauge the opinion of the voters of all 75 districts covering 403 constituencies of the State. The samples collected from all districts and constituencies of Uttar Pradesh would approximately be 125,000. If implemented successfully, such election survey by the Centre would be first of its kind in the post-independence electoral history of the

country.

Following the series of UP Election Workshops, the Fourth Workshop was held on 2 January 2017 at the Centre. Professor Virendra Kumar Malhotra, Member Secretary, ICSSR interacted with the fellow coordinators, team leaders and members in the workshop and wished them success for this mega project. Prof Malhotra along with Prof Sangit Kumar Ragi from Department of Political Science, University of Delhi also released the first academic brochure of the Centre listing all the activities and events the Centre has been organizing throughout the year.



Future Vision and Forthcoming Initiatives

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 under UGC Area Study programme will continue in the coming months.

The Centre is organising an International Conference on 'South Asia in Global Perspective: Issues and Challenges' which will be an attempt to bring together experts and scholars from across the region on 17-18 February 2017.

Subject to the final approval of the Advisory Committee of University of Delhi, the Research Committee and the Fellow Council of the Centre have formally approved the introduction of five Certificate Courses like Cyber Security Awareness, Social Security, Political Economy of Climate Change and India, Computer Applications in Research and Political Communication.