

Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)

University of Delhi



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Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)

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From Pratham Sevak



Prof Sunil K Choudhary
Director

Writing on the first issue of the year 2018 for Centre's Newsletter gives immense sense of academic satisfaction. The continuity and consistency of our activities provide great continuum to the collectivity of ideas and endeavors of the Centre. With our working as a Parivar, particularly since 2015, the Centre has been able to successfully make its presence and mark its credence in the research community. The psephological imparting to our research endeavors could be seen in terms of successful conduct of election surveys for Uttar Pradesh Assembly and Delhi Municipality last year which greatly succeeded in ensuring visibility, accessibility and credibility to the Centre in a short span of just two and half years. The increasing participation of young social scientists, scholars, students and social activists in multifaceted programs and events of the Centre shows our collective perseverance towards growth of real knowledge.

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 year 2018 begins with more commemoration and celebration. Without making any break, we are glad to publish the first issue of the year which covers three-month activities of the Centre from November 2017 till January 2018.

I wish all my Navratnas, the revered members of dcrc Parivar (dcrc family), great success in all their respective endeavours!

DCRC: Faculty and Functioning

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

The Centre has thirteen 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 academic activities including interactive discourses and academic interface were organised by the Centre in the last quarter.

Constitution Day, 26 November 2017

The Centre celebrated 'Constitution Day' on 26 November 2017 at the Centre. Students, scholars and Fellows associated with the Centre participated in the celebration.

The Constitution Day at the Centre began with the oath ceremony of the Preamble undertaken by all the participants. The students, scholars and faculty members pledged to undertake and imbibe the basic postulates of the Constitution in their lives.

The oath was followed by a discussion on Salience

of the Fundamental Postulates of the Preamble and the Constitution as a Living Document amongst all the participants. Prof Sunil K Choudhary, the Director of the Centre, highlighted the salience of treating rights as duties, testing moral commitments as legal entitlements, and transforming power as authority as the fundamental postulates of Indian Constitution.



Participants raised many issues focusing on the salience of the Preamble in all democratic societies and the need for balancing rights with duties to make the Constitution as a living, vibrant and sacrosanct document.

Interactive Discourse

The Centre organized an interactive discourse on the most current topic of national debate, 'One Nation, One Election' on 28 December 2018. The program was chaired by Dr Devender Kakar, Member of the Advisory Committee of the Centre. Speaking on the salience of the topic, fellows Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha and Ms Shubhra Pant Kothari highlighted both opportunities and challenges for the country in going for one nation, one election task. The Director of the Centre, Prof Sunil K Choudhary analysed the issue from the perspectives of both manpower and money power and stated the



need for linking the election from local to national. His statistical presentation enlisted enthusiastic support and appreciation from the audience.

Monthly Lecture

Continuing with the tradition of Monthly Lectures, the Centre organized Eleventh Monthly Lecture on 31 January 2018 on the theme 'The Human Rights Discourse: The Significant Realm of the International' by Prof Shanta Nedungadi Varma, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. Professor Shanta Varma explored both legal-procedural and thematic dimensions of human rights discourse while tracing the evolution of the concept in post-Second World War period. In her interesting and informative lecture, she further highlighted structural challenges to the human rights discourse including universality and cultural relativism debate, and issues of state sovereignty and self-regulation in the private sector. Professor Shanta N Varma and Professor Sunil K Choudhary also released dcrc Annual Calender Brochure 2018 which gives a glimpse of Centre's major activities and achievements in the previous year. Professor Bidyut Chakrabarty, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi also graced the occasion.



Foreign Visitor at the Centre

The Centre regularly host foreign visitors including academics and research scholars. In November 2017, Megan Bell, an American student from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania visited our Centre. Presently she is studying in India with the School for International Training's Sustainable Development and Social Change program which focuses on different Indian social institutions as they

relate to sustainability. As part of her study project Megan Bell interviewed Professor Sunil K Choudhary, Director dcrc who specialises in electoral politics on how youth political participation manifests in India through youth civic engagement, the political efficacy of youths, and how information and political messages are disseminated among youth people and how that affects their voting behaviour.

DCRC in Media

- In the previous year, dcrc and its programmes under the astounding direction of Professor Sunil K Choudhary have received wide coverage in leading national newspapers and media. Delving on the changing dynamics of Indo-Israeli relationship, Prof Sunil K Choudhary highlighted the significance of the relations between the two nations in the changing global world. Equating relations with 'spinning wheel' with flying kite reflecting 'sky is the limit' underpinnings, Prof Sunil K Choudhary in Rajya Sabha TV and DD News channels on 15 and 17 January 2018 respectively emphasized the need for the two nations to move beyond ideological populism to pragmatic governance.



- Keeping up with digital India, last year in May 2017, dcrc launched its official twitter handle @dcrcofficial. Within a short time it has garnered hundreds of likes and followers making a mark at the social media platform.

Achievements of dcrc Parivar

The Centre is proud to share that Dr Vandana Mishra, Deputy Director, dcrc and Assistant Professor at Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi received IPSA National Young Political Scientist Award–2016 at the IPSA National Conference in Chennai on 15 December 2017. The Centre congratulate Dr Vandana Mishra on her success.



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 and interactive discourses will continue in the coming months.

The Centre aims to collaborate with other research organisations at national and international level. Apart from yearly Annual Report and Quarterly Newsletter, dcrc is also coming out with a Quarterly Journal which will be unveiled very soon. The Centre is also working towards publication of 'Samiksha 2017: UP Elections Survey' Project.