

Sanchayan



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Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)
University of Delhi

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From *Pratham Sevak*



Prof Sunil K Choudhary
Director

Reflecting on key theme by collecting diverse ideas from different sections of academia is a real challenge in contemporary times. The challenge becomes all the more formidable when such current reflection demands consistency, continuity and collectivity. Sanchayan, the quarterly newsletter of the Centre faces one such challenge. However, with our working as a Parivar, particularly since 2015, the Centre has been able to come out with the timely publication of Sanchayan since 2017, thanks to the contribution made by students and scholars, fellows and faculty, social scientists and social activists across disciplines of social sciences. Such commitment and cooperation shows the increasing salience and credence of the Centre striving towards pursuit of real knowledge.

Today we are unveiling the first issue of Sanchayan of 2019 which covers three-month activities, events and programs of the Centre from November 2018 till January 2019.

I owe my deepest gratitude to all my students and scholars who have now become the revered members of dcrc Parivar for being instrumental in 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 disciplines of social sciences and are currently engaged with various research activities and projects at the centre.

The Centre has nine committees including Gender, Purchase, Library, Journal, Seminar, Publications 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 and the Research Committee generally meet on the first working Friday of every month and quarterly respectively.

Major Activities and Achievements

Many academic activities including interactive discourse and workshops were organised by the Centre in the last quarter.

Vigilance Awareness Week

The Centre organised an interaction amongst Fellows, Students, Scholars and Staff on 1 November 2018 Vigilance Awareness Week on the theme, 'Ethics and Probity in Life'. The oath was conferred by Fellow Jiya Lal where all the participants pledged to be honest and observe ethics and morality in their day to day lives.



Fellow Interaction and Diwali Celebration

A small get-together was held at the Centre on the occasion of Diwali on 5 November 2018 when Fellows shared their academic and research experiences. The event evinced great enthusiasm and participation from others.

Discussion on Assembly Election Results

When the entire nation was witnessing the elections and results for five assembly elections that went to the polls in November-December 2018, the Centre organized a discussion on the theme, 'Changing Electoral Landscape: A Study of Assembly Elections, 2018'. Pioneered by Fellow, Sarad Kumar Yadav, the program enlisted participation from three subject experts from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, viz., Dr Hariram Parihar, Dr Dinesh Gehlot and Prof Ramesh Bhardwaj. Sharing their ideas on the electoral trends and results, the speakers highlighted the democratic transformation preceding the Lok Sabha election, 2019.

Fellow Interaction and New Year Celebration

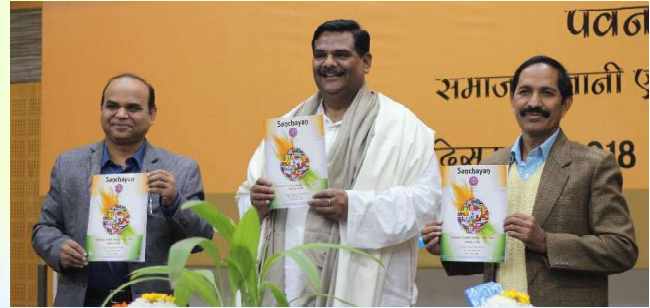
A Fellow Interaction and New Year Celebration was held at the Centre on 1 January 2019. The Centre's Annual Calendar 2019 was also released on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Fellows and Guests expressed the sense of their gratitude to the Centre for bringing all young social scientists on the common platform steering their journey in the growth of knowledge.



First Atal Bihari Vajpayee Lecture

The Centre organized the First Atal Bihari Vajpayee Lecture on the theme, 'Dharma of Politics' on 24 December 2018. The lecture was delivered by an eminent scholar and spiritual guru, Shri Pawan

Sinha Ji. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pawan Sinha Ji stressed the need for streamlining the politics in the lines of the principles of Dharma which he differentiated from religion. He appreciated the legacy of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and stressed on going back to Indian roots and traditions. The next issue of the Centre's Quarterly Newsletter, Sanchayan was released on this occasion.



National Workshop on Indic Thought

The Centre organized a two-day National Workshop on Indic Thought on 24-25 January 2019. Supported by the University and sponsored by the Northern Regional Centre – ICSSR, New Delhi the workshop involved great discussion on several aspects of Indic Thought like dharma, justice, education, health from the broader canvas of Indianness. The Workshop examined Indianness in our history of political ideas. Seventy years since independence, it is high time now that we recover and adapt the Indic thought to the demands of research in modern times. A strong research based on Indic terminologies and its frames of reference shall not only give due justice to the historical past of the land but shall also impact the way contemporary events and processes are analysed.

The National Workshop engaged academicians from various fields of social sciences and humanities in serious discussions on various themes in the Indian context. The Workshop had total 7 sessions, including Inaugural, Valedictory along with Panel Discussion amongst the Fellows. Shri Shakti Sinha [Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi], Prof Kaushal Kumar Sharma [Director, NRC-ICSSR, New Delhi], Prof M P Singh, Prof Balaji Ranganathan, Dr Dinesh Gehlot, Dr Hariram Parihar, Dr Himanshu Roy, Dr Rajender Pandey were amongst some of the leading resource per-

sons in the Workshop. The Workshop had total 30 speakers coming from different states like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh besides Delhi.



Foreign Visitor

• The Centre was graced by the visit of Sh Anurag Bana, a Senior Legal Advisor, London at the Centre on 8 January 2019. Sh Anurag Bana interacted with Fellows and Scholars at the Centre and enlightened on the issues of legal jurisprudence of India and UK.



DCRC in Media

- The activities of the Centre during the period got adequate publicity in national dailies like Loksatya, Dainik Jagran and the Pioneer.
- Prof Sunil K Choudhary, the Director had an exclusive interview in Dainik Jagaran on Coalition Politics in India.



- The Centre's two-day National Workshop on Indic Thought was aired at DD News on 25 January 2019

Achievements

- Prof Sunil K Choudhary, the Director was conferred with the Prof G Ram Reddy IPSA Award, 2018 at the glittering ceremony in the 58th All India Political Science Association Conference held at the Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh on 29 December 2018. Prof Sunil K Choudhary was felicitated with IPSA Citation and Award for making distinct contribution in the fields of democracy and governance.



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.
- Apart from yearly Annual Reports, Quarterly Newsletters, Monthly Hindi magazine - Sanshleshan, 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.