

Sanchayan



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Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)
University of Delhi

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From *Pratham Sevak* (Director)

Ensuring continuity and consistency in our quarterly journey, we are happy to publish the first issue of dcrc Newsletter, Sanchayan in 2020 which is our modest attempt to display the multifaceted activities of the Centre.

The increasing participation and integration of students and scholars, social scientists and social activists with our Centre strengthens our untiring efforts towards an integrated, inclusive and innate knowledge as wisdom.

The current issue covers three-month activities, events and programs of the Centre from November 2019 till January 2020. Despite struggling for streamlining the activities and appointments at the Centre with paucity of funds, we succeeded in organizing many events at the Centre in addition to hosting the distinguished guests and celebrating successes with some of our Fellows and Faculty.

My fellow Navratnas, the revered members of dcrc Parivar (dcrc family) and all my students, scholars and well-wishers deserve sincere gratitude from the core of my heart for steering our journey to new heights of academic horizons.

DCRC: Faculty and Functioning

Ushering a new phase, dcrc with the help of its 28 fellows from different disciplines of social sciences undertook many academic and research activities and programs for past four years. The fellows appointed

through a democratic and transparent process of selection, were regular faculty and researchers across Universities and Colleges.

With their distinct expertise and specialisation in different disciplines of social sciences, the dcrc fellows continued to engage themselves with various research activities and projects at the centre for past four years.

The Centre worked with nine committees, including Gender, Purchase, Library, Journal, Seminar, Publications etc. headed by different fellow conveners who used to 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 the academic committees.

Major Activities and Achievements

Many academic activities, including Special Lecture, talks and discussions were organised by the Centre in the last quarter.

Celebrations

Constitution Day

Paying tributes to the founding fathers for framing the Constitution and for successfully completing 70 years of the post-constitutional history of India, the Centre celebrated the Constitution Day on 26 November 2019.

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

The oath was followed by a discussion on 'Salience of the Constitution as a Living Document' amongst all the participants. Prof Sunil K Choudhary, the Director of the Centre, highlighted the journey of the Constitution in past seven decades and emphasized its transformation from the fundamental postulates into their actual realization.



The participants raised many concerns focusing on new issues and challenges Global India is facing in the 21st century and highlighted the need of coalescing the efforts of the Government, the Civil Society and the Citizens to work towards building of a New India.

New Year

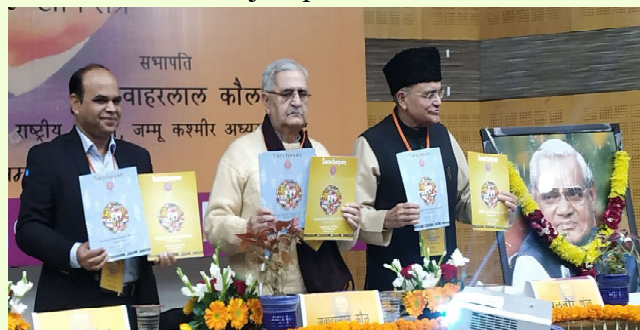
On the beginning of the first day of 2020, the Centre held scholarly interaction over new year celebration amidst the gracious presence of a large number of its Fellows and Faculty, Students and Scholars. The interaction was marked by exchange of ideas and experiences of participants who shared their association with the Centre and committed of taking its journey to the new horizons of learning and knowledge.

2nd Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture

Continuing with its past tradition of holding the memorial lectures, the Centre organized its second consecutive Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture on 26 December 2019 on the topic, Hum Aur Loktantra. Shri Balbir Punj, Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha was the keynote speaker whereas an eminent journalist and the President of Jammu & Kashmir Adhyayan Kendra, Shri Jawaharlal Kaul was the chair on the occasion.

Releasing Centre's quarterly newsletters, Shri Balbir Punj described Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as an extraordinary person of an ordinary background who nurtured values in social-economic and political life of the country. Countering the notion of 'tolerance', Shri Balbir Punj stated that we don't tolerate others; rather Indian culture has the tradition of graciously accepting others. According to him, Indian culture doesn't believe in uniformity but it is based on harmony. The reason for the success of Indian democracy is because of our cul-

ture, Shri Balbir Punj emphasized.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Jawaharlal Kaul narrated his experience with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and stated that the waves of change flow only when a person with multiple talents reaches at the helm of government. Shri Kaul said that the silence of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was equally vigorous as his speech. Addressing Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as 'Mastmola', Shri Kaul stated that the real tribute to the former Prime Minister would be only when our governance is built in consonance with our culture.

Samiksha Workshops

Giving a clarion call for surveying the Delhi Assembly election under 'Samiksha 2020', the Centre organized its first election workshop on 14 January. Shri Siya Sharan, the Finance Officer of University of Delhi was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Releasing the last issue of Centre's newsletter, Sanchayan, Shri Siya Sharan applauded the trajectory of the Centre's journey and stated that in view of its outstanding academic and professional achievements in a short span of five years, the Centre should be renamed from Developing Countries Research Centre to the 'Lead Countries Research Centre'.



The Second and the third Workshops of Samiksha 2020 were also held with the Fellow Coordinators, Team Leaders and Surveyors in January 2020. The Samiksha workshops steered Centre's continuous re-

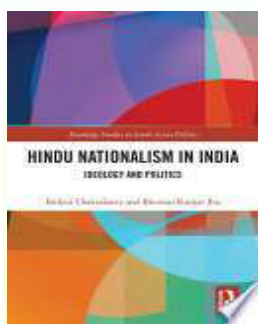
solve to undertake our forthcoming mission for Delhi 2020 – a study of the assembly election to be held on 8 February 2020.

Visitors

While the ending quarter of the year 2019 witnessed many visits by distinguished scholars and social scientists, including the last ones by young Political Scientists from Jodhpur, Dr Hariram Parihar and Dr Dinesh Gehlot, the beginning of the year 2020 also heralded new light in terms of gracious visits of Shri Anurag Bana, Senior Legal Advisor, UK and Shri Prakash Punj, National Head, Simpolo Ceramics and his corporate colleagues in January 2020. These visits by eminent scholars and entrepreneurs and their interaction with the dcrc fraternity brought many laurels to the Centre, particularly in terms of exposing our Fellows and Students to the new national and global realities.



Fellow Achievement



It was a moment of great academic pride for the Centre when its Fellow, Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha's work on Hindu Nationalism got published from Routledge, UK in 2020 in co-authorship with Prof Bidyut Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharti University. The book offers an in depth analysis of the right wing politics in India from the shifting ideologies of Hindu nationalism which seeks to locate the discourse from late 19th century to the 21st century.

DCRC in Media

- As the current quarter was full of election news with

a focus on Jharkhand assembly elections, the Centre's Director, Prof Sunil K Choudhary appeared in Rajya Sabha TV for its popular shows and got wide publicity for the Centre throughout the period.



- This quarter also brought the Opposition on a common platform on the issue of Citizenship Amendment Act. The amended act enlisted great debates and discussions both in the media and on the ground. Prof Sunil appeared on the All India Radio with other panellists and explained the technicalities and naiveties in the show which received wide accolades too.



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 Magazines - Sanshleshan, Annual Calendars and Brochures, the Centre is also coming out with the first two issues of its Biennial Journal, Globalense: Journal of Social Science Research on the theme, 'One Nation, One Election' and 'India's Changing Electoral Democracy' respectively. Globalense is our blind peer review journal and we are in the process of getting its ISSN soon.