

## From Pratham Sevak (Director) of DCRC



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

Writing for the fourth consecutive issue of the Centre's Newsletter is indeed a great honor to be cherished! While making a beginning appears to be easier, its continuity and consistency with collectivity of ideas and endeavors as Parivar becomes a daunting challenge. Marching our onward journey since July 2015, the Centre has come to acquire a significant niche for itself in the academic research community. The psephological study of Uttar Pradesh Assembly and Delhi Municipality has largely succeeded in imparting both visibility 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 to multifaceted research activities shows the striving of the Centre 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 Centre is glad to publish the fourth issue of the second volume of its Quarterly Newsletter in November 2017 which covers all the activities from August to October 2017.

I wish all the members of the Parivar, fondly addressed as the Navratnas great success in all their respective endeavours!

## **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 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.

## **Interactive Discourses**

Continuing with the tradition of Interactive Discourses, the Centre organized an Interactive Discourse on 21 August 2017 on the theme 'Pitching Research Seminar'. Prof Robert William Faff and Mr Alistair Laurenceson from Queensland University, Australia were the resource persons. While Prof Faff highlighted the changing dynamics of research and focused on the need to strengthen the research orientation amongst young social scientists, Mr Laurenceson emphasized various research opportunities available in Australia to be capitalized by Indian researchers.



Another interactive discourse was held on 26 September 2017 on the theme 'Understanding Subalterns in Contemporary Times'. The fellows and students actively participated in the discussions and came up with very interesting ideas and opinions. Underlining the salience of subaltern studies in contemporary times, the fellows and scholars highlighted different dimensions of the study. Prof Sunil K Choudhary, the Director of the Centre delivered the keynote address. Arguing that the substance,



salience and sustenance of survival lay in the principle of 'including everybody without excluding anybody', Prof Sunil tried to locate the study of subalterns in mythology, history and polity of India. He cited the contributions made by Gandhi, Ambedkar and RJD [referring to Ram Manohar Lohia, Jaya Prakash Narayan and Deendayal Upadhyaya] as the key subaltern ideologues of post-independence India. His emphasis of revisiting subaltern discourse in terms of its undergoing transformation in contemporary times evinced immense support from the participants.

Organized on the eve of the festival of light, Deepawali, an academic interface with the fellows was held at the Centre on 16 October 2017 where

fellows shared and presented different ideas of their research specializations in addition to focussing on their contributions to different academic and research pursuits of the Centre. Research presentations held amidst the ambience of festivity added great emotional chord to the activities and events of the Centre where the Pratham Sevak was honoured by Navratnas of the Parivar.

### **National Conference**

In collaboration with the Centre, a two-day National Conference on 'Democratizing Governance in India' was organised by the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi under UGC CAS-SAP II Program on 14-15 September 2017 at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi. The Coordinating Committee of the Conference was headed by Prof Bidyut Chakrabarty of the Department of Political Science. Renowned personalities like Prof Ashish Nandy, Eminent Social Scientist; Prof Gurpreet Mahajan, CPS, School of Social Sciences, JNU; Dr Chandan Mitra, Eminent Journalist and former member of Rajya Sabha; Prof Shri Praksh Singh, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi; Dr Swapan Dasgupta, Senior Journalist and Member of Rajya Sabha; Prof Rekha Saxena, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi; Shri Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; Prof Deepak Pental, Eminent Scientist; Prof. Amita Singh, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU and Smt. Aruna Roy, Social Activist addressed the audience.

The conference was a huge success due to the tireless efforts and motivation by Professor Sunil K. Choudhary.



### Foreign Visitors at the Centre

The Centre regularly hosts foreign visitors including academics and research scholars. Recently Lenka Homolkova visited our Centre on 13 September 2017 and interviewed Professor Sunil K. Choudhary, Director drc on democratic transition in India. Lenka Homolkova is pursuing Ph.D. Program in Political Science from Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic and is writing a Dissertation on 'Electoral integrity and electoral violence in South Asia'.



### Achievements of drc Parivar

The Centre is proud to share that Dr Vandana



Mishra, Deputy Director, drc was appointed as Assistant Professor in Jawaharlal Nehru University. The

Centre congratulates Dr Vandana Mishra on her success.

It is also a proud moment for the *Parivar* that our student Ms Garima Sharma being integral to us as part of 'Samiksha: Election Survey 2017' and in organising various activities of the Centre for the past two years was appointed as Research Associate at the Centre for six months through a duly constituted project selection committee.

### 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.

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.

The Centre aims to collaborate with other research organisations at national and international level. Apart from yearly Annual Report and Quarterly Newsletter, drc 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.