

Sanchayan



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Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)
University of Delhi

Academic Research Centre Building
Guru Tegh Bahadur Marg
Delhi-110007. INDIA

From *Pratham Sevak*



Prof Sunil K Choudhary
Director

While beginning has been easy, the continuation poses many formidable challenges. The idea of producing an overview of Centre's activities quarterly through our Newsletter, *Sanchayan* had a modest start. Its consistency displaying our activities and programs for every quarter brought the challenge of bringing both quality and continuity on a single platform.

With our working as a *Parivar*, particularly since 2015, the Centre has been able to make its forte in both interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research communities. The increasing participation and integration of students and scholars, social scientists and social activists shows the salience and credence of the Centre striving towards pursuit of real knowledge.

We are unveiling the fourth issue of *Sanchayan* of 2018 which covers three-month activities, events and programs of the Centre from August till October of the current year.

I extend my gratitude to fellow *Navratnas*, the revered members of *dcrc Parivar* and all others for 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.

Interactive Discourse

The Centre organised an Interactive Discourse on 'Media and Governance' on 31 August 2018 with Shri Vijay Kranti, Senior Consultant and Editor, DD News as the Keynote Speaker. Shri Chandra Shekher, DD News was the Panel Discussant and Fellow Kumar Raajesh was the Coordinator of the Program. The guests were welcomed by Professor Sunil K. Choudhary, Director, *dcrc*. Shri Vijay Kanti discussed the role of media as an interface between the government and the people. Media keeps a check on different organs of democracy including the government and bureaucracy but politicization of media poses a major threat to media itself and to its role as a watchdog of democracy. Shri Kumar Raajesh spoke about governance within media. Shri

Chandra Shekhar said that media must highlight facts but should not editorialize facts, it should inform and question but should not instigate. On this occasion, eminent guest, Shri Vijay Kranti also released the next edition of Sanchayan, Quarterly Newsletter of the Centre.



Samiksha Project Workshop

To mark the formal conclusion of ICSSR sponsored 'Samiksha: UP Election Survey' Project, a workshop on the theme 'Changing Electoral Politics of Uttar Pradesh' was organised by the Centre on 28 September 2018 at the University Guest House, University of Delhi. Prof Veena Kukreja, Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi graced the occasion. In his welcome address, Professor Sunil K Choudhary, Director, dcrc highlighted major achievements of the Centre's UP Election Survey project.

It was a meticulously planned, scientifically designed and objectively executed psephological research survey conducted by the Centre under the title 'Samiksha 2017'. With the help of its students and scholars, faculty and fellows the Centre conducted survey of the legislative assembly of Uttar Pradesh during February-March 2017. With a sample of almost 83,000 voters taken from all constituencies covering all seven phases of the elections in the state, 'Samiksha 2017' happened to be one of the first field based election study of any state in the post-independence history of India. In her address, Professor Veena Kukreja congratulated the Centre for undertaking such a successful project under the able guidance of Professor Sunil K. Choudhary. Professor Kukreja also released the first issue of *Sanshleshan*, the Monthly Hindi Magazine

of the Centre. This was followed by paper presentations by fellows, faculty and student content writers of *Samiksha* project.



Dr Abhishek Nath presented a paper on 'From Political Mobilisation to Political Strategy: Mapping the Changing Pattern of Electoral Democracy in India from the Perspective of Uttar Pradesh'. Dr Bharti Chhibber, Fellow, dcrc presented a paper on 'From Procedural to Substantive Participation: Changing Role of Gender in Electoral Politics with Special Reference to UP Assembly Elections, 2017'. Research Scholars, Mr. Pankaj spoke on 'Changing Farmer's issues in Electoral Politics: A Study of Party Manifestos of 2017 Assembly Election of UP'.

Kuver Pranjal Singh's presentation was on 'Marketing the Electoral Politics: A Psephological perspective of UP Assembly Election, 2017', Mr Aashish Kumar Shukla presented a paper on 'Changing Secular Discourse in India's Electoral Politics: A Study of Assembly Election of UP, 2017', Mr Nishant Yadav's presentation was on 'Making and Unmaking of OBC Politics in UP Elections', Ms Nisha spoke on the third democratic upsurge in the context of UP elections, 2017, Ms Rakhi and Ms Rajani spoke on Women's participation.

Workshop on State Politics of India

The Centre organized a Workshop on 'State Politics of India' on 26 October 2018. The panelists were Prof Ashutosh Kumar, Panjab University, Chandigarh and Dr Himanshu Roy, University of Delhi. Professor Ashutosh Kumar discussed how State Politics has emerged as an important sub-discipline of Political Science in India especially after the emergence of regional political parties in the

states. Dr Himanshu Roy highlighted the changing structure of state politics in India and the role of trade unions as a pressure group. He also emphasised on the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the national integration of the country.



DCRC in Media

- The Centre and its programs under the astounding direction of Professor Sunil K. Chaudhary have received wide coverage in All India Radio and Rajya Sabha TV in the previous quarter.



- Our students Rekha and others participated as audience in the Rajya Sabha TV panel discussion on the topic 'Begging and Solutions' in September 2018 and asked pertinent questions from the panelists.



Parivar Achievements

- The Centre felt proud and gained academic eminence when two of its members - Fellow Dr Bharti Chhibber and Scholar Aashish Kumar Shukla vis-

ited Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Golan Heights and other places under 'Discover Israel' initiative of the Government of Israel in October 2018.



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. 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 also aims to collaborate with other research organisations at national and international level.

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

- The Centre is planning to undertake Lok Sabha Elections-2019 Survey covering all 543 constituencies under 'Samiksha Lok Sabha 2019'.