



Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)

University of Delhi

Delhi-110007

Annual Report, 2017-18





“Pratham Sevak with his Parivar”

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The Advisory

Advisory Committee of the Centre is the highest decision making body. It is headed by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor with the Director, dcrc as its ex-officio Member Secretary.

The Advisory Committee has four external members, four internal members from University Departments/Colleges besides three Fellow Members nominated by the Fellow Council.

(a) External Members

- (i) Professor Yogesh Atal, Formerly Principal Director, UNESCO
- (ii) Professor C B Sharma, Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling
- (iii) Professor Sanjiv Sharma, Professor of Political Science, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) Dr K S Sengar, Additional Director, Higher Education, Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Internal Members (from University Departments/Colleges)

- (i) Prof. Soumendra M. Patnaik, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.
- (ii) Prof. Sangit Kumar Ragi, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi.
- (iii) Dr Devender Kakar, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi.
- (iv) Dr Himanshu Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College and Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi.

(c) Fellow Members

- (i) Prof Kaushal Kumar Sharma
- (ii) Dr Bhawna Pandey
- (iii) Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha

From Pratham Sevak



Prof. Sunil K Choudhary, Director

It has always been an honor to write the third consecutive annual message as Pratham Sevak of Developing Countries Research Centre [drcr], University of Delhi. Over the years the Centre has emerged as a broad platform for young social scientists venturing into multifaceted areas of research. The near completion of three years at the Centre offered many opportunities and challenges. Working with a team of 29 inter-disciplinary Fellows and Associates, fondly called as Navratnas, has been a great learning experience.

Holding Monthly Lectures, Special Lectures, Interactive Discourses, Seminars/Conferences- National and International, Workshops on regular basis has made the Centre a competitive research hub in the disciplines of social sciences. The successful completion of Samiksha: UP Assembly Election Survey in February-March 2017 with its apt electoral results had strengthened our morale as we were able to impart empirical training to a large number of students and colleges of University of Delhi in addition to presenting the emerging trends in electoral politics of 21st century India. Our second psephological project, Samiksha: Delhi Municipal Election, 2017 conducted in April 2017 made our presence felt in the academic fora as an emerging psephological Center of the country.

With the support of ICSSR, New Delhi we also imparted methodological training to young faculty members, researchers and scholars across universities/colleges of the country under the Capacity Building Program in Social Sciences in May 2017. The Research Committee and Fellow Council of the Centre have also approved the proposal to start its first journal – ‘GloboLense – Journal of Social Science Research’ from 2018 onwards.

There has been a saying that ‘a journey of one thousand miles always begins with a single step’. Ours has been the first beginning as a catalyst of change in social science research. We have been striving to transform ourselves as a real research umbrella by attracting talents from researchers and resource persons, students and scholars, academicians and activists all across disciplines. While beginning has always been easy, sustaining it with continuous support, strength and success becomes a real challenge.

May the Almighty keep on strengthening our perseverance and steering our academic journey towards the growth of knowledge!

About Us

Developing Countries Research Centre (drc) was set up by the University of Delhi on 20th April 1993 under the Board of Interdisciplinary Program through Ordinance XV-A. The academic space so created soon became a hub for teachers, students and researchers engaged in researching developing societies of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The year 2004 was a historic moment in the life of drc. Vide Ordinance XX (9) it acquired the status of a constituent of the Faculty of Social Sciences, though it was formally inaugurated by Professor G. Ram Reddy, Chairperson, UGC, on 5 August 1994. It was supported by the UGC during initial years.

The Centre is obligated by the Ordinance to organize regularly Comparative theory seminar, annual grassroots politics colloquium in order to facilitate dialogue between scholars and activists, annual workshops on different issues related to human rights, and Oliver Tambo and Pablo Neruda lectures every alternate years.

In pursuit of its objectives, the Centre has organized seminars and conferences both at national and international level. At times it has organised events in collaboration with prestigious institutions such as the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, AKUT Group of Uppsala University (Sweden), Max Mueller Bhavan, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Aligarh Muslim University, International History Congress, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Central Social Welfare Board, Women’s Studies and Development Centre, Planning Commission, Institute for Human Development, DESTIN of the London School of Economics and Political Science, DFID, Japan Foundation, Vidyajyoti and the constituent colleges of the University of Delhi.

The Centre aims to produce a body of knowledge that confronts and conceptualizes issues of the postcolonial world and encourages scholars to problematize them further. Scholars from across the board, such as Political Science, Economics, Sociology, History, Geography, Education, Philosophy, Psychology, Literature, Film and media studies have been involved in this effort. The main objective is to thematize knowledge so gained and critically engage students with such insights while teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate level in the vast network of Delhi University. Above all, the objective is to build drc as a Centre that can act as a springboard of critical and creative theory.

The Centre ensures criticality and creativity in its academic work by entailing two key things in the main. It structures its academic activity in a way that builds an interface between inputs gathered from academics and grass root activists, which turn out to be a critical laboratory of testifying knowledge for both, theory and practice. The other key aspect is that the Centre encourages scholars to adopt methods of academic engagement that rescue disorientations in knowledge production, which generally occur while studying developing societies from the dominant paradigms of the West. The larger endeavour is to have an alternative world-view of how to look at issues related to culture, nationalism, gender, sexuality, religious minorities and other narratives.

The Centre acquired a new currency with Prof. Sunil K Choudhary at the helm of affairs as Director since July 2015. A Gold Medalist from the University of Delhi and recipient of several awards and accolades, including the very prestigious the 'Global South Award 2014', Prof. Choudhary has set examples of high moral standard and probity in academic and public life for Fellows of the Centre. As he rightly calls himself 'Pratham Sevak', Prof. Choudhary has been able to inculcate in all a spirit of togetherness, so characteristic of a 'Parivar'.

DCRC has fourteen committees headed by fellow conveners. Some of the committees are: Library, Gender, Purchase, Journal, Web, Seminar, Annual Report, Infrastructural, etc. 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 meant for discussing various issues of academic interest. All the fellows are members of these committees. The fellows and conveners meet regularly in their respective committees and contribute to the corporate life of the Centre.

The Fellow Council meets on the first working Friday of every month. The Fellow Council discussion is preceded by an academic discourse covering issues of contemporary relevance. For all research related decisions, the Centre has the Research Committee which meets quarterly to discuss, deliberate and decide on the research issues.

Fellows and Office Bearers

The Centre has at present 29 Fellows/Associates including a Joint Director and a Deputy Director. All the fellows of the Centre hail from various social science disciplines and sub-disciplines and have been selected through an open, democratic and transparent process.

Dr Ramesh Kumar Bhardwaj, Joint Director



Dr Ramesh Bharadwaj is the Head of the Department of Political Science & History at Govt. P.G.College, Sheopur (M.P). His areas of specialization are Indian Government and Politics and Human Rights Studies. He has to his credit number of books and published papers in national and international journals. Some of his publications include *Human Rights in South Africa, 2013; Bharatiya Sansadiya Loktantra, Bhrashtachar Avam Kala Dhan: Ek Chunauti*, (edited book), 2012; *Global Environment: Issues and Problems*, (Edited Book), 2011. He is the editor of *Shodh Samidha Research Journal Govt P.G. College (Lead)*, Sheopur (M.P). He has also headed number of research projects like ‘Role of Governmental Organizations in Restoration of Socio-Economic Human Rights of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes: A Study of Sheopur District, M.P.(India)’; ‘A Comparative Study Of I.H.R.C. & S.A.H.R.C’.

Dr Vandana Mishra, Deputy Director



Dr Vandana Mishra is Assistant Professor at Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has completed her Ph.D. (Politics of Coalition Government in India) from University of Delhi in the year 2006. She specializes in Indian Government and Politics/Public Administration and has teaching experience of over 13 years. She was the recipient of Junior Research Fellowship from UGC in 1997. Dr Mishra received the Best Teacher Award (2013-14) from the Department of Higher Education, Government of NCT Delhi and received IPSA National Young Political Scientist Award–2016 at the IPSA National Conference in Chennai on 15 December 2017. She has published 26 research papers in different journals and popular magazines. She has been a regular contributor to *Yojana*, *Mainstream* and *Manthan*. She has authored three books: *Political Ideas of Bipin Chandra Pal*, *Political Response to Indian Economic Reforms and Coalition Politics: A Comparative Study of Italy, Japan and India*. She is a life member of prestigious Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). As a Project Director she has successfully completed an Innovation Project, ‘People’s Participation-Political Communication Interface: Mapping Socio-economic Trajectory of Voters in Delhi’.

Prof Kaushal Kumar Sharma



Prof Kaushal Kumar Sharma teaches in Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has worked as Colombo Plan Teacher at Sherubtse College, Bhutan. He is deeply involved in agricultural transformation and rural development, women empowerment, Panchyati raj Institution, geo-hazards earthquake & landslide, floods mapping (Micro-zonation) and database management for natural hazards. He has a Major Research Project for 10 Years on ‘Ecological Restoration and Socio-economic Empowerment of Rural Communities for Sustainable Livelihood and Resource Management in Uttarakhand’ covering 19 Villages and 14,000 population. He has written three books and published many articles in leading journals. He is national expert on training on CSR Policy.

Dr Bhawna Pandey



Dr Bhawna Pandey is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, Dyal Singh College (Eve.), University of Delhi and a recipient of JRF (UGC). She was a University Topper and Gold Medalist in Masters. She did her Ph.D. on ‘Emerging Indo-US Trade Patterns under WTO’. Her areas of research are International Trade and Development Theory. At the University level, she was awarded the ‘Teaching Excellence Award for Innovation’ (2014-15), for a project titled, ‘Medical Tourism: A Game Changer for Indian Tourism Economy’, which was adjudged the Best in Economic Development Zone and Best Innovative Idea. At the College level, her passion for a transformative process of creating socially responsible and sensitive citizens led to the creation of ‘Centre for Socio-Economic Transformation’ (CSET); which has set in a new standard for helping students to rediscover themselves without boundaries.

Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha



Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha teaches in the Department of History, Satyawati College, University of Delhi. Recently he has become Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. He was a rank holder in the MA (History) examinations of the University of Delhi (1995), and was also awarded Junior Research Fellowship by the University Grants Commission for pursuing research. He taught in the colleges of Delhi University (2000-2006) and subsequently worked as Research Associate and Project Coordinator in Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (2007-2009) and as Assistant Registrar in the University of Delhi (2009-15) He has completed Ph.D. in History (DU) on ‘The Ideological and Organizational Development of the Hindu Mahasabha for the period ending 1937’. His Research interests include looking into the growth of the Hindu Mahasabha, Arya Samaj and other fraternal organizations; socio-religious reform movement; shuddhi and sangathan movement; development of various ideas

linked to the formation of Hindu identity during the modern period; formation and growth of the Responsive Cooperation Party; formation and interlinkages of various political groups during the colonial period.

Manila Narzary



Manila Narzary teaches in the Department of Political Science, Kalindi College, University of Delhi. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. on topic 'Constitutional Development in Egypt (1919-2014): Towards Democracy and Good Governance' from the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi. Her areas of interest include International Relations, Constitution and Governance. She has published a book titled 'Sierra Leone peace keeping Mission, 1991-2004' in the year 2014, and two chapters titled 'Concept of Good Governance' and 'Citizens, their Rights Obligations', in the book (ed.) titled- Citizenship and Governance (2014) and two articles, 'Bodo Ethnic Movement: A Retrospect' (2015) and 'Non Aligned Movement and Egypt' (2014), in the non-refereed journal NAM Today.

Dr Priti Chahal



Dr Priti Chahal teaches in the Department of Political Science, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi. She has done Ph. D. from University of Delhi. She has also been awarded J.R.F. and S.R.F. from University Grant Commission. She has authored books called, 'Refugee and Host State, Sri Lankan Refugees in Tamil Nadu', 'Saharawi Refugees'. The Emphasis of her Research has been on Indian Government and Politics and Refugee Studies.

Dr Sushmita



Dr Sushmita teaches in the Dept. of Management Studies, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, University of Delhi. She has received her Ph.D. in the field of infrastructural macroeconomics. She has published her research in a number of reputed journals and has presented her research in national and international conferences. Her research interests include infrastructural macroeconomics and welfare economics and women's empowerment. She has also authored a chapter on titled, 'Panchayati Raj Institution and Women Empowerment'.

Dr Sandhya Verma



Dr Sandhya Verma teaches in the Department of Political Science, Shyamlal College (Eve.), University of Delhi. She is a Ph.D. holder in Indian Politics. She has co-authored an article in refereed journal (Global Journal of Research Analysis (2015)-"Good Governance: An Appraisal". Presently working on Indian Politics and planning a book on it.

Yogesh Kumar Gupta



Yogesh Kumar Gupta teaches in the Department of Political Science, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi. His research areas of interests are South Asia, International Security, Nuclear issues and disarmament, disability rights. He has published and presented papers related to above mentioned areas in many national and international conferences abroad.

Dr Namita Kumari



Dr Namita Kumari teaches in the Department of Political Science, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College for Women, University of Delhi. She pursued her Ph.D. in 'Local Development and Global Dynamics' from University of Trento, Italy. She has published a book titled 'Role of NGO's in Promoting Women Entrepreneurship in India'. She has also published research papers in journals and authored many articles in the study material prepared by Institute of Lifelong Learning (University of Delhi) for undergraduate students. She has also worked as a Researcher with Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). Her areas of research interest are gender studies, female entrepreneurship, local development and political theory. She has presented research papers in national and international seminars.

Dr Surendra Singh



Dr Surendra Singh teaches in the Department of Political Science, A.R.S.D. College, University of Delhi. He has Ph.D. on 'India-Russia Relations' from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. He is pursuing Post-Doctoral Research on the Topic 'Ethno-Religious Issues and Democratic Governance in Post-Globalised Russia and India: A Comparative Study'. He has published books including 'The New Dimensions of India- Russia Relations: in the Era of Globalizing World order', 'Ethno-Religious Issues and Democratic Governance in the Era of Globalization: A Comparative Study of Russia and India'. He has also worked on a Major Research Project on 'A Study on Urban Governance and Socio-Political Accountability of Municipal Corporation of Delhi', funded by ICSSR, 2015.

Anand Saurabh



Anand Saurabh teaches in the Department of Political Science at Aryabhata College, University of Delhi. Prior to joining Delhi University in August 2015, he has taught in the school of undergraduate studies at Ambedkar University Delhi for around six years. He is currently pursuing his doctoral research from the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. His research interest lies in development studies, political theory and Indian politics. He is interested in understanding democracy-development discourse and displacement and resettlement-rehabilitation related issues in special economic zones in India. His research articles are published in academic journals and edited books.

Jiya Lal



Jiya Lal teaches in the Department of Political Science, Satyawati College, University of Delhi. He is currently, pursuing Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi on land acquisition issues. His research experience includes Indian government and politics, development, governance, agrarian crisis and politics of land acquisition in India. He has number of publications on these issues in Journals, books and Newspapers.

Dr Rashmi Rai



Dr Rashmi Rai teaches in the Department of Political Science, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi. Her area of specialisation is state politics with special reference to politics in Uttar Pradesh. She has interest in political processes in India, Indian government and politics and political theory. She has received JRF of UGC. She is recipient of gold medal in post graduation for securing highest marks in Lucknow University.

Prakash Kumar Patel



Prakash Kumar Patel teaches in the Department of Political science, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi. He is pursuing Ph.D. on 'Federalism, Central Police Mechanism and Accountability: A Comparative Study between CBI in India and FBI in USA'. His areas of interest and research are Indian politics, Comparative politics and Indian political thought. He has contributed wide range of articles and chapters in various magazines and books.

Dr Rajni Kumari



Dr Rajni Kumari teaches in the Department of Political Science, Miranda House, University of Delhi. Her Ph.D is on the working of elementary education in Bihar. Her areas of specialization are: Elementary Education Polices, Basic Education and Gandhian Studies. She has been recipient of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) awarded by University Grants Commission (UGC) for her doctoral dissertation. She is currently working on Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS).

Sarad Kumar Yadav



Sarad Kumar Yadav teaches in Department of Political Science, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Evening College, University of Delhi. He has done M.Phil. from Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. His research interests include Political economy of development, Governance and public policy, Human right, Social Exclusion and Indian Politics. He has number of Publications on these issues in journals, books and newspapers.

Dr Abhay Kumar



Dr Abhay Kumar taught at Shri Ram College of Commerce and Daulat Ram College as Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. His area of interests are Indian Politics, Environmental Issues Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Entrepreneurship. He has contributed extensively in many journals and books. He has presented many papers in national and international conferences. He has headed three innovative projects of Delhi University including 'Aahaar: Reclaiming lives the culinary way', 'Azmat: Repossessing, respect', 'Parivartan'. He has also been awarded Best Teacher from University of Delhi in 2015. He was a member of a committee set up by Delhi Government to formulate policy for incubation and start up in 2015.

Kumar Raajesh



Kumar Raajesh is the President at Awiral Srishti LLP. He was an Editor of a national TV News Channel, 'APN News' (Tata Sky 481). Till recently Consultant with NDTV Worldwide, he has primarily been a TV Journalist for over two decades (mostly with TV Today/Aaj Tak/Headlines Today). Off late he has been in senior editorial positions in various national and regional TV Channels, like Inida TV, Live India, Pragya TV, Maurya TV and Hamar TV; while teaching in various media institutes and contributing articles in newspapers from time to time. He has also authored a book on non-Congress politics, 'The Janata Enigma: 30 out of 60'. With M.A. & M.Phil (with JRF) in Political Science, from DU (Hindu College) & JNU (Centre for Political Studies), he is presently pursuing Ph.D. from Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. His research interests include grass root electoral politics.

Dr Malvika Singh



Dr Malvika Singh teaches in the Department of Political Science, Shivaji College, University of Delhi. She did her Ph.D. on 'Economic Reforms and Agriculture in Uttar Pradesh since 1991: A Case Study of Bundelkhand Region', from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has published articles in various national and international journals and leading English Newspapers.

Dr Bharti Chhibber



Dr Bharti Chhibber is teaching Political Science in University of Delhi for about thirteen years. A meritorious scholar throughout her academic career she was awarded UGC Junior and Senior Research Fellowships respectively for her M.Phil. and Ph.D. research work. She has published books and has research papers and articles in mainstream journals to her credit. She has presented papers in national and international seminars and conferences. Her specialisation includes international relations, India's foreign policy, comparative regional studies, gender and environmental issues.

Shubhra Pant Kothari



Shubhra Pant Kothari teaches in the Department of Political Science, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening), University of Delhi. She is pursuing her Ph.D. from CPS, School of Social Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has research interests in the area of Democratisation and Political Institutions, Participatory Development, Gender Studies, Politics of Reservation, Women Empowerment and Politics of Inclusion. She has participated and presented various research papers in national and international seminars and conferences. She has published research papers in journals of national repute. She has contributed chapters in edited books and published two books. She is a life member of Indian Institute of Public Administration.

Nagendra Kumar



Nagendra Kumar teaches in the Department of History, Bharati College, University of Delhi. He has done M.Phil. in History from JMI. His area of specialization is Medieval Indian history. He has worked on Islamic perceptions of Hindu Religion. He has to his credit good number of publications, some of which are: The Category of Hindu in Medieval Indo- Islamic Writings before Abul Fazl in Vaichariki. Abul-Fazl's Description of Hindu Religion: The Intellectual & Political context, 'Comparison between Various Indo-Islamic Perceptions of the Hindu Religion: From Alberuni to the the author of Dabistan and I- Muzahib', 'Alberuni understanding of the Hindu Religion', 'Hindu Religion as Infidelity (kufr)', 'The perceptions of Barani , Ibn Battuta and Babur', 'Evolution of Akbar's Approach to Religion'. He has also presented many papers in seminars and conferences.

Mahesh Kaushik



Mahesh Kaushik teaches Economics in R.D.A.V. school, Delhi. He is pursuing Ph.D. on Study of Health Insurance in India from C.C.S., University, Meerut. His research interests are health, environmental and welfare economics. He has many articles published in journals and leading newspapers.

Winnie Sharma



Ms Winnie Sharma works with Prasar Bharti (Delhi Doordarshan) as a Resource Person on contract basis. In February 2016, she covered South Asian Games at Sports Hour Channel. In May 2015, she submitted her Ph.D. on the topic 'Political Ideology and Secularism: A Study of U.P. and Gujarat with special reference to BJP' to Dr K.R. Narayanan Centre for Dalits and Minorities, Jamia Milia Islamia University. She has participated and organized many seminars and lectures on dalit and minority rights at Jamia Milia Islamia University.

Prof. Madhu Purnima Kishwar



Madhu Purnima Kishwar was Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and Director Indic Studies Project (CSDS). She is the founder editor of *Manushi- A Journal about Women and Society*, which was started in 1978. The journal aimed at finding effective solutions for the economic, political and social problems confronting us in India today through patient study, non-partisan approach, live interaction with the concerned people and informed activism. In 1993, she also founded *Manushi Sangathan*, a Forum for Democratic Reforms aimed at making governance more accountable and transparent, especially with regard to the rights of vulnerable groups. She is a prolific writer and her published works include 'Modi, Muslims and Media: Voices from Narendra Modi's Gujarat', Manushi Publications, New Delhi, 2014, 'Zealous Reformers, Deadly Laws, and Other Essays', Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2008, 'Deepening Democracy: Challenges of Governance and Globalization in India', Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2004. She is recipient of many awards including Chameli Devi Jain Award for Best Woman Journalist of the Year, Media Foundation, New Delhi and Award received from Indians for Collective Action, USA for strengthening the rights of urban self employed poor, 2009.

Garima Sharma



Garima Sharma has joined the Centre as Research Associate in October 2017 for the Centre's project, *Samiksha 2017, "Examining Voting Behaviour in Assembly Election, 2017: A Study of Uttar Pradesh"*. A product of Hindu College with an outstanding academic record both at the graduation and the post-graduation levels from University of Delhi, Garima Sharma has brought immense academic laurels to her school, colleges and other institutions during the course of her academic journey.

Academic Activities and Programs at the Centre, 2017-18

The Centre organized various activities in the academic year 2017-18 which is an achievement in itself. The Annual Report apart from providing an overview of the Centre, gives a glimpse of Centre's major activities in the previous year to its readers.

(a) Conferences and Seminars

- 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.

- A Seminar on 'Comparative Theory Today: Changes and Challenges' was organised on 12 March 2018. Prof Subrata Mukherjee, formerly at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

delivered the key note address in the Seminar. Prof Sunil K Choudhary address evinced immense applause from the audience. They also released the next issue of Quaterly Newsletter of the Centre. Prof Ujjwal K Singh and Prof Mahdulika Banerjee from the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi chaired the pre-lunch and post-lunch sessions of the seminar respectively.



(b) Monthly Lectures

The Centre organises monthly lecture on the first working Friday of every month.

- Continuing with the tradition of monthly lectures, tenth lecture was delivered by renowned thinker and activist, Shri K N Govindacharya on 14 July 2017 on the topic ‘Swadeshi Model and Ecology’. Emphasising on the Swadeshi model of development Shri Govindacharya highlighted that the Indian Society is based on faith and relationship of mutual responsibility respecting different opinions. India has strength of cultural capital to guide us on our way to development. The session was chaired by Prof Yogesh Atal, formerly Principal Director, UNESCO. Prof. Yogesh Atal has continuously supported us in all our endeavours.



- 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.

(c) Interactive Discourses

- The Centre has also organized interactive sessions on various contemporary topics. An Interactive Discourse was organised 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.



- 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. Research presentation 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.

- 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.

- The Centre organized an interactive discourse on ‘Governance: A Constitutional Riddle’ with Prof Bidyut Chakrabarty, an eminent Political Scientist, on 20 March 2018. The discourse was also a felicitation and celebration by the *drc Parivar* for Prof Chakrabarty’s selection for the prestigious Humboldt Fellowship in Germany for two years from 1 April 2018 onwards.



(d) Grassroots Social Science Colloquium

The Centre organised Grassroots Social Science Colloquium on ‘Naxalism’ on 27 February 2018. Mr Shubhranshu Choudhary eminent Journalist, Chhattisgarh and Dr Himanshu Roy, Senior Fellow, Teen Murti were as the Panelists. Dr Himanshu Roy highlighted the critique of Naxal ideology in his discourse. Mr Shubhranshu Choudhary explored the historical background of Naxalism and the current facts while emphasizing on the role of academics and the Universities in resolving the issues involved.



(e) Foundation Day Lecture

Centre's Foundation Day Lecture was delivered by renowned author and thinker Sh Sushil Pandit on 'Kashmir: Present Challenges in Historical perspective' on 20 April 2017. Prof Sangit K. Ragi, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi chaired the program and Sh R K Saraf, Senior Official, Government of India was the Guest of Honour.



(f) Misc Activities and Programs

(i) Capacity Building Program for Faculty of Social Sciences (16-29 May 2017)

The Centre successfully organized two week Capacity Building Program sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi from 16-29 May 2017. It was the result of tireless efforts and motivation from Director drcr, Prof Sunil K. Choudhary. The Advisory Committee Members of the Centre, Prof Sangit K Ragi, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi and Dr Devender Kakar, Department of Political Science, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi guided the initiative. Project Director Dr Ramesh K Bhardwaj, Joint Director, drcr and Co-Director Dr Surendra Singh, Fellow, the Centre played commendable role in its execution. The Centre received vast number of applications for this program from scholars across different regions of the country against 30 sanctioned seats. The Capacity Building project was interdisciplinary in nature and participants from different social science disciplines were included.

The Capacity Building program was conducted in 35 Sessions including Inaugural and Valedictory sessions. In Inaugural session the Keynote Speaker was renowned personality Prof Yogesh Atal, formerly Principal Director, UNESCO and the Chair of the session was Dr Devender Kakar, Advisory Member, drcr, University of Delhi. The project aimed to develop and enhance the research capacity of the faculty of social sciences for better understanding of research work for efficient contribution to the society.

The sessions had eminent resource persons from different disciplines and prestigious Universities of the country like University of Delhi; Jawaharlal Nehru University; Centre for the Study of Development Societies; Indira Gandhi National Open University; Kumaun University, Nainital; BR Ambedker University; TISS, Mumbai; Banaras Hindu University; Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen



Murti; Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi; Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwavidyalya, Wardha, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat; NCERT, New Delhi; Competition Commission of India, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi; Jadhavpur University, West Bengal; NATRSS, Govt of India. The program concluded with the Valedictory session comprising eminent personalities Shri Ajay Mehra, Chief Commissioner, Madhya Pradesh as Chief Guest and Prof K G Suresh, Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi as the Keynote Speaker.

The Capacity Building Program was very fruitful as the participants also had the experience of field visit, Computer Lab visit for SPSS and presentations. Separate study materials in forms of books, Journals and PPTs were also provided to help the participants enhance their research capacity.



(ii) Samiksha 2017: Delhi Municipal Elections Survey

The Centre successfully completed its second field study based election survey project of the Municipal elections in Delhi in April 2017 with Dr Ramesh K. Bharadwaj, Joint Director, drcr as Convener. A workshop sharing the election survey results 'drcr Samiksha 2017' was held on 23 April 2017.



(iii) 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.

(iv) Parivar Achievements

The Centre feels immensely elated to share that Professor Soumendra M Patnaik, Member, Advisory Committee of the Centre is appointed Vice Chancellor of Utkal University, Odisha.

A renowned anthropologist, Prof Patnaik also inaugurated our Monthly Lecture series and delivered first monthly lecture at drc on 'Anthropology in Conversation with Other Disciplines'. His constant and consistent interaction and directions to the Centre have always been the source of strength and sustenance for us.

Prof Kaushal Kumar Sharma, fellow at the Centre is appointed as the Proctor at Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2017. Prof Kaushal is one of the rare assets of the Centre who has tried to balance both academics and administration.



The Centre is proud to share that Dr Vandana Mishra, Deputy Director, drc 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.

The Centre feels honoured to have another feather in its academic achievements with its Fellow, Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha, being selected for the prestigious Nehru Memorial Fellowship recently. Dr Bhuwan Jha was earlier elected to the post of Secretary, Staff Association of Satyawati College, University of Delhi. The Centre has been able to grow academically and administratively with the help of his painstaking efforts and guidance.



It is also a proud moment for the *Parivar* that two of the students Preeti Yadav and 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 have topped University of Delhi in M.A. Political Science 2017.



Visit of Foreign Scholars

The Centre regularly host foreign visitors including academics and research scholars. Lenka Homolkova visited our Centre on 13 September 2017 and interviewed Professor Sunil K. Choudhary, Director dcrc 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’.

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.



Prof Brij Maharaj, an eminent geographer and social scientist from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa also visited the Centre in February 2018. Prof Maharaj interacted with the fellows, students and scholars of the Centre and advocated transforming academic activities into policy research.

DCRC in News

During 2017-18, the Centre and its programs under the astounding direction of Professor Sunil K. Choudhary received wide coverage in leading national newspapers and media.

Prof Sunil Choudhary was also invited by Lok Sabha TV to discuss India-Israel relations in programs like 'Insight' and 'Public Forum'. 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. He also hinted the convergence of issues between the two nations, particularly in agriculture, technology, defence, intelligence, water, energy and sustainable development.

The collage features several media mentions of Prof. Sunil K. Choudhary. At the top left, a newspaper article from 'The Indian Express' dated 15 January 2018, titled 'घाटी से ही निकलेगा कश्मीर समस्या का हल' (Solution to Kashmir problem will come from the valley), quotes Prof. Choudhary's views on Kashmir. To its right, another article from 'The Indian Express' dated 17 January 2018, titled 'पहली बार डीयू जारी करेगा ओपिनियन पोल' (For the first time, DDU will release opinion poll), reports on the DDU's first opinion poll. Below these are two screenshots of television programs. The first is from 'Insight' on 15 January 2018, showing Prof. Choudhary in a discussion. The second is from 'Public Forum' on 17 January 2018, showing Prof. Choudhary, Marathi Abha Bhaskar, and Ashok Sajjanhar in a panel discussion on India-Israel relations.

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

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, 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.

