

# Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc) University of Delhi



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## From *Pratham Sevak* of DCRC



**Prof Sunil K Choudhary**  
*Director*

Writing for the third consecutive issue of the Centre's Newsletter is a matter of pride as it shows the continuity and consistency of our collective endeavors that we have been making as a Parivar for past one and a half year. With the active participation and support of all young social scientists, scholars, students and social activists the Centre has emerged as a real academic hub of University of Delhi. It has always been the dream of transforming the Centre from a professional organization to an academic parivar where cooperation, commitment and conviction among its members become the real cultural treasure and constitute the essence and foundation of 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 second issue of the second volume of its Quarterly Newsletter in May 2017 which covers all the activities from February to April 2017.

### **DCRC: Faculty and Functioning**

Ushering a new phase, presently DCRC has 29 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 eleven 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 conferences, seminars, lectures, interactive discourses and workshops were organised by the Centre in the last quarter.

### **Conferences and Seminars**

- The Centre in collaboration with ICSSR organised two day international conference on "South Asia in Global Perspective: Issues and Challenges" on 17-18 February 2017. The conference analysed the changing socio-political, economic, ecological and security dynamics of the region and explored the possibilities and challenges that confront the South Asia of today. The conference brought together experts and scholars from across the region. Professor S D Muni, Professor Emeritus, JNU delivered the Keynote address at the inaugural session which was chaired by Shri Shashank, former Foreign Secretary, Government of India. Shri Amrendra Khatua, Director General ICCR was the Chief Guest. Many important dignitaries participated in the Conference including Mr Virendra Gupta, Former Diplomat, Mr Praveen Swami, Journalist, Mr Sudershan Ramachandran, Deputy Director, India Foundation, Dr Hari Bansh Jha from Nepal, Prof. Takashi Kurosaki, Institute of Economic Research, Japan, Prof. Shanta N. Verma, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Prof. Veena Kukreja, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Prof. Sangeeta Thapiyal, JNU, Prof. Harsh V. Pant, King's College, London, and Mr Waliur Rahman, Former foreign Secretary, Bangladesh. Mr Shakti Sinha Director Nehru Memorial Museum and Library delivered the Valedictory lecture.



- The Centre organised 'Grassroots Social Science Colloquium on 'North East' on 23 March 2017. The program was chaired by Prof Madhu Purnima Kishwar, a renowned social activist and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre. Dr Nandita Saikia from JNU was the Keynote Speaker.



**Special Lectures:**

**• 11th Oliver Tambo Lecture, 2017**

Ordinance XX (9) obligates the Centre to organize Oliver Tambo lecture and Pablo Neruda lecture every alternate year. Pursuant to this, the Centre organized the 11th Oliver Tambo lecture on 23 March 2017. It was delivered by Dr A Surya Prakash, Chairman, Prasar Bharati on the topic “Democracy in India: Our Legislatures, Our Representatives”. Prof. Sangit K. Ragi, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi chaired the session. Dr A Surya Prakash is an author and columnist and a leading commentator on Indian constitutional and parliamentary issues and governance. He highlighted that as a country we are proud of our achievements like the political empowerment of many disadvantaged groups; the occupational democratisation of parliament and other democratic bodies; the strengthening of the federal structure; the accountability of the Executive to the Legislature; the deepening of our democratic traditions with many enactments including the Prasar Bharati Act and the Right to Information Act; greater transparency in government via RTI, online services and such other measures; equalizing opportunity for justice via Public Interest Litigation; and, finally, the presence of a strong and independent media. But at the same time there are matters of deep concern like our failure to clean up the electoral system; our failure to ensure inner-party democracy in most of our

political parties; our inability to root out corruption in the bureaucracy; our inability to make our legislators accountable to the people; and finally, our failure to regularly audit the working of our legislatures and constitutional bodies.

**• Founder’s Day Lecture**

Founder’s 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.



**• Educational Exchange and Field Visits: Fellows visiting Tehri Garhwal**

Under the exchange program, three fellows of the Centre participated in a two-day Exchange Programme and visited hilly area of Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand from 25-26 March, 2017. The exchange program was made possible with the support of Development and Research Centre, Deen Gaon, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. One of our fellows, Professor Kaushal Kumar Sharma, Professor at Jawaharlal Lal Nehru University developed a research centre in Deen Gaon, Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand funded by THDC (Tehri Hydro Development Corporation). Under these projects, extension services and social work are done in various parts of the project area, particularly for the development of weaker sections and women.

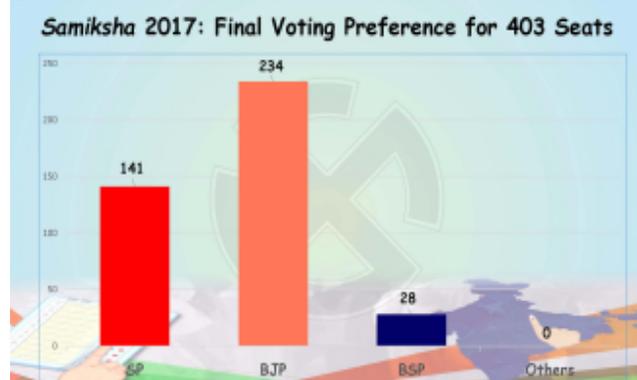


**Samiksha 2017: UP Assembly Survey**

A meticulously planned, scientifically designed and objectively executed psephological research survey conducted by 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 a large exercise that started on 6 February 2017, teams from colleges in Delhi University spread out to all nooks and corners of Uttar Pradesh to undertake the survey. Data was obtained from voters on a single page simple questionnaire as the elections unfolded. Results were compiled and trends analyzed by research teams at the DCRC. 403 constituencies in 75 districts of the State were organized under 15 Phase Coordinators and 100 Team Leaders. Forging a pivotal link with the Team Members, Team Leaders and Phase Coordinators, the Centre undertook a herculean task of sending teams to all 403 locations of the State. Research teams worked on a voluntary, inclusive basis and were drawn across academic disciplines in University of Delhi. University of Delhi as well as ICSSR, New Delhi provided financial support to the project.

Speaking to the Press on the occasion of the release of the UP Election Survey Research 2017, the director of the Centre, Prof Sunil K Choudhary described in detail the humongous effort that went into planning and executing the Uttar Pradesh Election Survey 2017. It was the first and only Election Survey for the current elections in Uttar Pradesh in which all 403 constituencies of 75 districts were visited by teams and sampled, making the results credible and authentic.

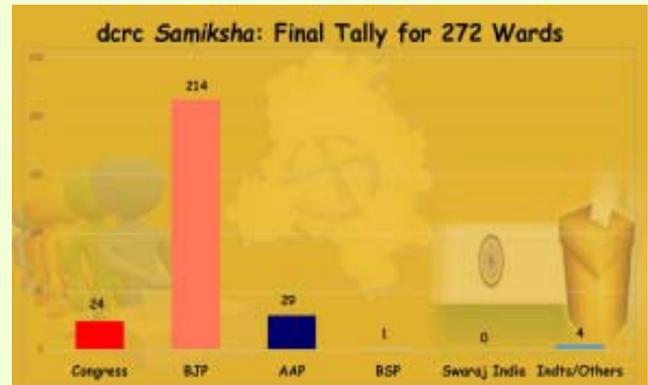


**Samiksha 2017: Delhi Municipal Elections Survey**

Following its successful completion of the UP Assembly survey in February-March 2017, the Centre undertook another field study based election survey project of the Municipal elections in Delhi in April 2017 with Dr Ramesh K. Bharadwaj, Joint Director of the Centre as its Convener. A workshop sharing the election survey results ‘dcr Samiksha 2017’ was held on 23 April 2017. The Delhi Municipal survey also constituted a mega project with the Centre covering all 272 wards of three Delhi corporations with the help of Fellow Coordinators, Team Leaders and Student Surveyors across Delhi University colleges and departments.

These results were based on a sample of almost 42,000 voters taken from all 272 wards covering 9 districts, 7 parliamentary and 70 assembly constituencies of the Capital from 14-21 April 2017. Describing the opinion trends showing a landslide victory for BJP, the

Director of the Centre described the opinion results as ‘Nigamiye Kampan’ [Municipal Quake]. The results got wide publicity in several Hindi and English newspapers.



**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 under UGC Area Study programme will continue in the coming months.

The Centre is organising a Two-Week Course on Capacity Building Program on Research and Teaching-Learning Process for the Young Faculty (Assistant Professors) Members/Researchers/Scholars in the discipline of Social Sciences during 16-29 May, 2017 with the support of Indian Council for Social Science Research, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

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 organizations at national and international level. Apart from yearly Annual Report and Quarterly Newsletter, dcr is also planning to come out with a Quarterly or Half yearly journal which will be published in collaboration with a well-known publication house.

**dcr News**

In the last quarter, dcr and its programs under the astounding direction of Professor Sunil K. Choudhary received wide coverage in leading national newspapers.

