

Sanchayan



Newsletter
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Developing Countries Research Centre (drc)
University of Delhi

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From Pratham Sevak (Director)

There is a saying, 'When going becomes easy, easy gets going'! The idea of producing an overview of Centre's activities quarterly through our Newsletter had a very modest going.

However, over the past four years we have been working continuously, consistently and courageously to undertake and display the multifaceted activities of the Centre through our quarterly Newsletter, *Sanchayan*.

The tenth issue of *Sanchayan* marks Centre's forte in both interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research communities since 2015. 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 happy to publish the second issue of our Newsletter of the current year which covers three-month activities, events and programs of the Centre from February 2019 till April 2019.

I owe my gratitude to fellow Navratnas, the revered members of drcr *Parivar* (drcr family) and all my students, scholars and well-wishers for steering our journey to new heights of academic horizons.

DCRC: Faculty and Functioning

Ushering a new phase, drcr with the help of its 28

fellows from different disciplines of social sciences undertook many academic and research activities and programs for past three 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 fellows continued to engage themselves with various research activities and projects at the centre for past three 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. 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 Special Lecture and talks were organised by the Centre in the last quarter.

Interactive Discourse

The Centre organised a Talk on 'Cyber Security: The New Art of War?' on 1 April 2019 by Prof Bertrand VENARD from Audencia Business School, France and currently a Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford.



Citing his association with Prof VENARD from University of Oxford and the joint ventures of the two on corruption, Prof Sunil K Choudhary, the Director of the Centre, highlighted both the historicity and salience of the topic where spying and surveillance had been the important part of Statecraft in ancient India.

However, Prof Sunil stated that with the onset of technological revolution there has been a shift of the spying technology from state to institutions and finally to individuals.

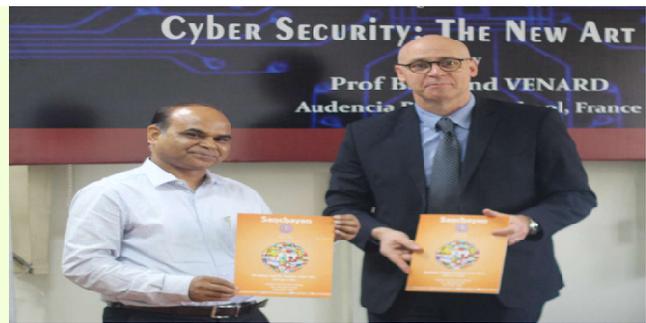
He stressed the need for 'Sharing, Shaping and Securing information' as the most critical aspect of cyber security in contemporary times. Moreover, as cyber-attacks and digital spying are more dangerous than terrorism as they advance faster than their countering efforts; a continuous monitoring needed where a shift is needed from 'Constitutional Watch Dog to Institutional Watch Man' to which he emphatically added, 'Haan! Mein Bhi Hoon Chowkidar' [Yes, I am also a Watchman].

Prof. VENARD highlighted the challenges of cyber security through a theoretical and mathematical approach. Stating that his was the first research project on cyber security in the world, Prof VENARD discussed the issues of surveillance state and its impact on state sovereignty and emphasized on finding a solution to the cyber security concerns.

Acceleration of new technology with increasing size of the networks have posed more threats affecting social energy, data system, institutional identities, and various state services, including the power plants.

Cautioning that the hackers may even target the nuclear power plants, any leakage of information may make all systems collapse. Hence, he advocated strong national laws and stringent international systems to address the issue of cyber security.

Prof VENARD also released next issues of *Sanchayan*, Centre's Quarterly Newsletter and Hindi monthly magazine *Sanshleshan*.



Special Lecture

The Centre organised a Special Lecture on 'Changing Indo-Israeli Relations: Celebrating the Convergence in Contemporary Times' on 23 April 2019. Ms Avigail Spira, First Secretary, Embassy of Israel was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Prof Juval Portugali, Tel Aviv University, was the Keynote Speaker and Prof Veena Kukreja, Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi Chaired the Program.

The guests were welcomed by Director, Professor Sunil K. Chaudhary. The Keynote Speaker, Professor Juval Portugali discussed the Complexity theories of cities and emphasised that in order to understand human behaviour in cities, we need to make a link to cognitive science. He highlighted that the 21st Century is marked by a strong change as several cities around the world have turned into megacities.



The Chief Guest, Ms Spira emphasized on the similarities between the two countries, India and Israel. She highlighted that trade relations between the two states are growing and Israel being a Start Up nation is helping India in terms of innovation. Professor Veena Kukreja gave historical background of India-Israel relations and emphasized on the con-

temporary convergence of interests between the two countries since 2017. She also highlighted growing trade relations and cooperation in the manufacturing field between India and Israel. The Guests also released the Centre's Annual Report 2018-19 on this occasion.



DCRC in Media

The Centre and its programs under the astounding direction of Professor Sunil K. Choudhary have received wide coverage in leading national and state newspapers and media in the previous quarter. Prof. Sunil appeared on Rajya Sabha TV, TV 9 Bharatvarsh in large number of programs analysing different phases of Lok Sabha elections, 2019 with different panellists.



His live discussion on the 'Changing Dimensions of the Voters and Voting' at All India Radio, New Delhi on 15 February 2019 received great appreciation.

His Keynote Speech at the Jaynarayan Vishwavidyalaya on 10 March 2019 in Jodhpur citing the importance of Voters as 'Consumers, Customers and Clients' determining the outcome of Lok Sabha Elections, 2019 got wider appreciation from the audience, including the Chief Guest, Justice Mathur.



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 its Biennial Journal, *GlobaLense: Journal of Social Science Research*. The theme of its second issue of *GlobaLense* is, 'Lok Sabha 2019: India's Changing Electoral Democracy'. The Centre is also working towards publication of 'Samiksha 2017: UP Elections Survey' Project.
- Following its survey success both for Uttar Pradesh Assembly Election, 2107 and Delhi Municipality Election, 2017, the Centre is also planning to conduct a massive election survey on Delhi Election, 2020 covering all 70 assembly constituencies of the capital under the title, 'Samiksha Delhi: Assembly Election, 2020' with the help of its Fellow Coordinators, Team Leaders and Team Members from all across Departments and Colleges of University of Delhi.