

Sanchayan



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Developing Countries Research Centre (drc)
University of Delhi

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From Pratham Sevak (Director)

There is a saying, 'We may not be the best but we are definitely not like the rest'. The idea of going with new moment and renewed momentum has imparted continuity to the activities of the Centre. An overview of Centre's activities quarterly through our Newsletter, Sanchayan has started running despite having a modest beginning.

Over the past four years, we have been working continuously, consistently and courageously to undertake and display the multifaceted activities of the Centre through Sanchayan. The eleventh 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 the pursuit of real knowledge.

We are happy to publish the third issue of Sanchayan for the current year which covers three-month activities, events and programs of the Centre from May 2019 till July 2019.

My fellow Navratnas, the revered members of drc Parivar (drc family) and all my students, scholars and well-wishers deserve sincere gratitude from the core of my heart for steering our journey to the new heights of academic horizons.

DCRC: Faculty and Functioning

Ushering a new phase, drc 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, 2016-2019.

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 the 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 used to meet on the first working Friday of every month and quarterly respectively.

Major Activities and Achievements

Many academic activities, including interactive discourse were organised by the Centre in the last quarter of the year, 2019.

Interactive Discourse

In view of the ongoing elections for the 17th Lok Sabha 2019, the Centre organized an Interactive Discourse on 'Constitution and Election' on 3 May 2019. Two panellists from Jodhpur, Dr Hariram Parihar and Dr Dinesh Gehlot unfolded many nivities on the relationship between constitutional provisions and the electoral process in India's electoral democracy.

Tracing the historical trajectory of India's largest electoral democracy from ancient age till the 21st

century global India, Dr Hariram Parihar highlighted the interplay between election and selection as essence of democratic politics of the country.

Underlining the role of Shri N Sukumar, the first Chief Election Commissioner and Shri T N Seshan, the Tenth CEC, for revolutionizing the election process in India, Dr Parihar listed many new reforms and innovations undertaken by the Election Commission of India like EVMs, NOTA, VVPAT, Totalizer and COMET that have gone in a long way of making electoral democracy facilitator, functional and fundamental striving towards an efficient government and effective governance.



Describing Indian Constitution as the most beautiful document in the world for not being guided by any single ideology, class and religion, Dr Dinesh Gehlot underlined the salience of the working of many constitutional institutions like the Judiciary, Election Commission, Public Service Commissions, CAG and others at the backdrop of India's robust electoral democracy.

Dr Gehlot focused on the intricacies and complexities in the electoral process in general and the autonomy and constitutional ambiguity in the role of the Election Commission of India in particular.

Addressing the Chief Election Commissioner as 'golden zero', he argued that unlike judiciary, the CEC has failed to get both its real autonomy and actual power despite its working for past seven decades in Indian constitutional polity.

While the 73rd and the 74th constitutional amend-

ments were considered as revolutionary landmarks in India's electoral democracy, Dr Gehlot found inconsistency between the State Election Commission and the Panchayat Election Commissions stating that the two election commissions should be blended constitutionally. Moreover, to control, contain and combat money and muscle power in elections, he highlighted the electoral expenses of political parties to be brought under the ambit of CAG.



Centre's Achievements

The Centre had a moment of pride when the member of its Advisory Committee, Prof Sanjeev Kumar Sharma was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari, Bihar.

A renowned social scientist of India and recipient of various national and international honors and distinctions, Prof Sanjeev had a special fascination for the Centre and its Director, Prof Sunil K Choudhary whom he always addresses and adores as Bhrata, the beloved younger brother, who has been working assiduously for the Centre for past four years.



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 and All India Radio in large number of programs analysing electoral reforms and many other contemporary issues with different panellists. Prof Sunil's comments and observations on issues like India's changing electoral democracy, particularly in the context of the recently completed 17th Lok Sabha elections, made immense acceptance and appreciation across sections. Frequent interactions and engagements with media panellists and his candid arguments have made him as one of the popular young social scientists in the country.



- The students and scholars associated with the Centre also participated in the Rajya Sabha TV program on 'Women Law Makers in the 17th Lok Sabha' held on 31 May 2019 and exchanged and expressed their viewpoints with different panellists. The sharp reactions and critiquing by our students in the program made a great dent in the contemporary feminist discourse in the country.



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 the first issue of its Biennial Journal, GlobaLense: Journal of Social Science Research on the theme, One Nation, One Election. GlobaLense is our blind peer review journal and we are in the process of getting its ISSN soon.

- The Centre is also exploring the publication of its first extensive psephological study undertaken in February-March 2017 on assembly elections of Uttar Pradesh under the theme 'Samiksha 2017'.

- Following its survey successes both for Uttar Pradesh Assembly Election, 2017 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. A preliminary survey gauging the opinion of Delhi electors for Assembly Election 2020, Prof Sunil K Choudhary collected nearly 1000 samples across 70 constituencies of the Capital with the help of his post-graduate students of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi.