

Sanchayan



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Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)
University of Delhi

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From Pratham Sevak (Director)

Sanchayan has been one of our modest and consistent achievements in terms of displaying the multifaceted and multivariate activities of the Centre for past five years. Supported with the collective endeavors of all our Fellows and Faculty, Students and Scholars, Social Scientists and Social Activists associated with us, the Centre has taken the vision of its founders towards an integrated, inclusive and innate perspective in the domain of knowledge.

Imparting further continuity, consistency and continuum to our quarterly journey, we are happy to release the third issue of *Sanchayan* on the occasion of Teachers' Day on 5 September 2020 amidst the virtual presence of Prof AS Narang, formerly associated with the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. The current issue covers three-month activities, events and programs of the Centre from May to July 2020. Despite the continuous lockdown in the country, we succeeded in organizing various on line and off line events and activities of the Centre.

My fellow *Navratnas*, the revered members of dcrc Parivar (dcrc 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, dcrc with the help of its 28 fellows from different disciplines of social sciences un-

dertook many academic and research activities and programs for past four years. The fellows appointed through an open 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 dcrc fellows continued to engage themselves with various research activities and projects at the centre for past four 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.

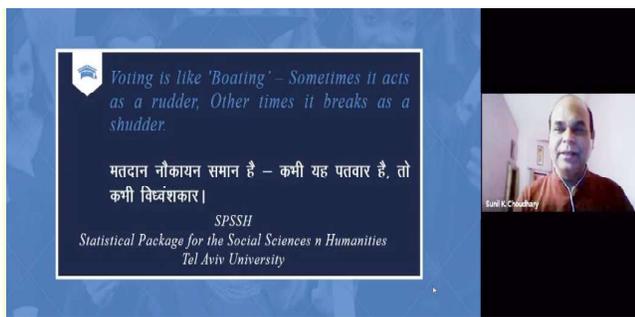
Major Activities and Achievements

Many academic activities including lectures, talks, discussions and Web interactions were organised in the last quarter.

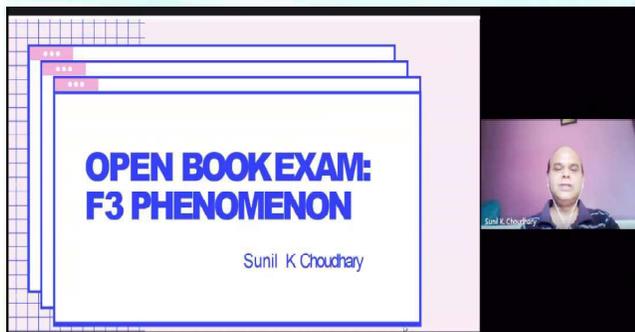
Lectures

An informal interaction in terms of a lecture was held with the Research Scholars associated with the Centre on 'Tandem Voting' on 17 May 2020. Speaking on the occasion, the Director of the Centre, Prof Sunil K Choudhary narrated the electoral journey of post-independence India with a focus on the simultaneous voting by the electorates for the Lok Sabha and assembly elections, called tandem voting. Prof Sunil argued that the myth of tandem voting was largely broken with the beginning of the 21st century when the new and young voters started differentiating their preferences for the assembly and the national elections separately. He also questioned the increasing commercialization of the survey research by professional agencies where the focus had shifted from 'voters' to 'voting'.

Participating in the discussion, the research scholars appreciated and acknowledged the contribution of the Centre in taking a great leap in the survey research for past three years, under the title *Samiksha*.



Amidst the lockdown for Corona and Covid-19, University of Delhi announced the holding of Open Book Examination (OBE) for all its final year students in Undergraduate and Post Graduate courses. As the Convener of the Examination Committee at the Department of Political Science and Nodal Officer for the discipline in the University, Prof Sunil K Choudhary not only facilitated in preparing the UG and PG question papers for OBE but also organized orientation workshops for the College Conveners and delivered lectures to students and teachers in the University. Defining open book as student-friendly system where students remain the ‘framers, finders and facilitators’ of the examination, Prof Sunil urged the students and teachers to take up the new challenge of open book examination with a new spirit of adjustments, accommodation and accountability.



In all the OBE workshops, Prof Sunil sought to respond to the questions and queries raised by students and teachers across colleges of the University.

Taking the research from qualitative to quantitative domain, Prof Sunil organized a web interaction with the researchers and scholars under the platform of the Centre on 14 June 2020 with a theme, ‘Quantifying the Research: C³ Phenomenon’. Expressing his tribute to great Indian Mathematician Nilakantha Somayaji for his 576th birth anniversary on the day, Prof Sunil elaborated on the theme by underlining communication,

conceptualization and contextualization as the essential components of research. Defining quantifying research in terms of ‘quantum leaps and quantum jumps’, Prof Sunil exposed the students with the salience of constants, variables and the interrelationship between the two in contemporary social science research.



The lucid presentation of the mathematical and statistical terms like regression, correlations, standard deviation and their extrapolation in research received great applause from the students and scholars alike.



Prof Sunil also delivered an on line lecture titled, ‘Self-Reliant Society and Global Polity’ to the Deendayal Shodh Peeth at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh in June 2020. His emphasis on exploring a ‘self’ in ‘globe’ and emulating the ‘globe’ in ‘self’ seeks to synthesize a self-reliance society with a global polity received immense accolades from various participants and organizers in the National Webinar. Taking the existing debate of ‘think local, act global’ as well as ‘act local, think global’, Prof Sunil coined a new phrase of ‘exploring self in both local and global’ as the changing domain of social science discourse in contemporary times.

Webinar

With the onset of unlocking in the wake of Corona and Covid-19, the Centre organized its first Webinar on ‘Colonial State, Indian History and Left’ on 31 July

2020. Dr Himanshu Roy, a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi was the keynote speaker. This was the first formal interaction of any resource person with the fellows at the Centre happened in the aftermath of Corona. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Himanshu Roy highlighted the tactical manoeuvrings and strategical connivance of both the British Raj and the Indian Left in undermining the richness of Indian history, culture and civilization. Dr Himanshu Roy argued that the Indian Left, particularly CPI has been in decimation whereas the RSS has been on its acceleration by becoming one of the largest organizations of the world despite the two having the same birth year in 1925.



Arguing that the new concepts like secularism, multiculturalism, etc. are the deliberate designs of the West sought to be imposed on the existing pluricultural Indian nation, Dr Himanshu Roy said that cultural tolerance has been the established and embedded practice of India from times immemorial. By deviating from the fundamental postulates of Marx and Marxism, the left in India, according to the speaker, has become irrelevant today.

Releases of the Centre

Banking on its strength of consistency and continuity, the Centre got released the 23rd issue of its Hindi Monthly magazine, Sanshleshan on the theme, 'Indo-Sino Relations: Contemporary Perspectives and Prospects' from Dr Himanshu Roy, the keynote speaker present on the occasion of Centre's first Webinar on 31 July 2020. Dr Himanshu Roy also released the 15th issue of Centre's quarterly newsletter, Sanchayan on the occasion.

Appreciating the efforts of the Centre in the realm of continuous publications, Dr Himanshu Roy applauded

the efforts of the dcrc Parivar and wished a bright future for the Centre.

Celebrating the Glorious Five Years of Pratham Sevak

The third quarter of the Centre was also a proud moment for the successful completion of five years of its Director, Prof Sunil K Choudhary. Celebrating the glorious five years of Pratham Sevak, the first servant of the Parivar, Prof Sunil acknowledged with gratitude the cooperation, commitment and conviction of all the members of the Parivar – Fellows and Faculty, Students and Scholars, Administration and Authorities for steering the academic journey of the Centre.



Future Vision and Mission

- Amidst national and global changes in academia, 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 Magazine - Sanshleshan, Annual Calendars and Brochures, the Centre is also coming out with the first three issues of its Bi-annual Journal, *GlobaLense: A Journal of Social Science Research* on the theme, 'One Nation, One Election' and 'Lok Sabha 2019: India's Changing Electoral Democracy' respectively, including a special issue on Samiksha Uttar Pradesh 2017.

- The Centre has successfully submitted the application for the title registration of its blind peer review journal, *GlobaLense* which would further facilitate the process of RNI and ISSN.