

Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc) University of Delhi



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DCRC: Formative Years

Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc) has been one of the pillars of research analysis in University of Delhi. It took a contour on 20 April 1993 under the Board of Interdisciplinary Programme through Ordinance No. XV-A by University of Delhi. The Centre was formally inaugurated by Professor G. Ram Reddy, Chairperson, UGC on 5 August 1994. The status of the Centre transformed with an upgradation in 2004 as a constituent of the Faculty of Social Sciences vide Ordinance XX (9) of University of Delhi.

The Centre works under the overall administrative and financial supervision of the Executive Council to be governed through the Advisory Committee headed by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor.

Since its inception, the Centre has organised major national and international seminars and conferences in collaboration with prestigious institutions such as the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, AKUT Group of Uppsala University (Sweden), Aligarh Muslim University, Planning Commission, Institute for Human Development, DESTIN of the London School of Economics and Political Science, DFID, Japan Foundation.

Another milestone in this direction was the refurbishment of the Centre with the special efforts and initiatives of its new director, a visionary Prof. Sunil K. Choudhary, a Gold

Medalist of University of Delhi and recipient of several national and international awards, including the most prestigious Global South Award, 2014. Since July 2015 the Centre has gained momentum through his vision and dynamic approach.

Faculty and Functioning

The Centre has at present 29 Fellows/Associates who are from different disciplines of social sciences. All the fellows were appointed through an open, democratic and transparent mechanism by University of Delhi. The Fellows are regular faculty and researchers across Universities and Colleges and are placed for a period of three years from 2016-2019 on honorary basis. They all have expertise and specialization in their respective areas in the discipline of social sciences and are currently engaged with various research activities and projects undergoing at the Centre.

The presently 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

Conferences and Seminars

- A day seminar was organised on '*New Directions in Indian Polity: The Way Forward*' on 11 March 2016. The seminar was graced by the presence of former Vice Chancellor of University of Delhi, Prof Dinesh Singh. Prof Yogesh Atal, former Principal Director, UNESCO was the keynote speaker. Other prominent speakers were Prof Susheela Kaushik, former Head, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Prof Sangit Ragi and Prof Shri Prakash Singh, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Prof A. S. Narang from IGNOU, Ms Nidhi Kulpati from NDTV and Mr Punya Prasun Bajpai from AajTak.
- 10th Pablo Neruda lecture was delivered by Prof Brij Maharaj, eminent Social Scientist from South Africa on 'Sports Megaevents and Human Rights Violations: Experiences from India, Brazil and South Africa' on 26 March 2016. K.G. Balakrishnan, former Chief Justice of India graced the occasion.

Monthly Lectures/ Seminars

The Centre decided to organise a monthly lecture on first Friday of every month beginning with

- Prof. S M Patnaik, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi who addressed the gathering on '*Anthropology in Conversation with other Disciplines: Reflections on Public Policy*' on 8 April 2016.
- Dr Himanshu Roy, an eminent Social Scientist and Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi gave second Monthly lecture on the topic '*Subaltern Discourse: An Alternative Perspective*' on 6 May 2016.
- Third monthly lecture was delivered by Prof Amita Baviskar, Institute of Economic Growth on the theme '*Ecology and Equity: Understanding of Development through the*

Lens of the Politics of Nature' on 3 June 2016.

- In the series of the monthly lectures C. Uday Bhaskar, well known Defence Analyst gave the fourth monthly lecture on '*India's Security Challenges*' on 1 July 2016.
- Moving from Social Sciences to Physical and Biological Sciences, the fifth monthly Lecture was delivered on '*World of Biotechnology*' by Prof Paramjit Khurana from Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi on 13 July 2016.
- On 2 September 2016, Padma Bhushan Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia, renowned economist and planner gave a talk on '*Role of Cities in India's Development*'. The session was chaired by Dr Pami Dua, Director, Delhi School of Economics. Mr Richard Everitte, Director, Education and Society British Council, New Delhi was the Guest of Honour.



Interactive Sessions

The Centre has also organised interactive sessions on various contemporary topics with Dr Himanshu Roy, an eminent Social Scientist, Dr Rahul Tripathi, Department of Political Science, Goa University, Dr Ashwini Sharma, Associate Professor, Satyawati College and Dr Kaushal Sharma, Associate Professor, Kirori Mal College.

Research Projects

In the arena of research projects, UGC has

sanctioned a research project on South Asia under its Area Studies Programme. The Centre has also submitted academic research program proposals on different themes like elections survey, research methodology, global terrorism, disability in higher education, women entrepreneurs, e-governance, etc.

UGC's Area Studies Programme

Under the UGC Area Studies Programme, the Centre is organising various academic activities regularly.

Events and Activities

- An interactive session on '*Climate Change in India*' with Dr Ashwini Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Satyawati College, University of Delhi was organised on 24 June 2016.
- Seminar on '*Linguistic Impact of Partition*' was jointly organised by dcrc and National Council for the Promotion of Sindhi Language on 13th August, 2016. Honourable speakers to grace the occasion were Shri Ram Madhavji, General Secretary, BJP; Shri Rahul Dev, Senior editor and Dr. Ravi Tekchandani, Director, NCPSSL. The academic deliberation was extended by

Prof. JPS Oberio, Renowned Sociologist; Prof. Alok Bhalla, Professor, JMI and Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Author and retired faculty, DU.

- In view of upcoming state elections in Uttar Pradesh, an election workshop on '*Mission UP: From Manifestoes to Grass root Realities*' was conducted by Director, DCRC, Professor Sunil K. Choudhary on 26 August 2016.

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 centre aims to collaborate with other research organizations at national and international level. dcrc 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. Under the guidance and leadership of Director, Prof Sunil K. Choudhary, an International Conference on South Asia bringing together experts and scholars from across the region will be organised on 17-18 February, 2017.

