

# Annual Report

## 2019-20



Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)



University of Delhi



**“Pratham Sevak with his Parivar of 14”**

## Contents

1. Advisory Committee
2. From *Pratham Sevak* (Director)
3. About Us
4. Fellows and Office Bearers
5. Academic Activities and Programs during 2019-2020
6. *Parivar* Achievements
7. Future Vision and Forthcoming Initiatives

## **The Advisory Committee**

Advisory Committee of the Centre is the highest decision-making body. It is headed by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor with the Director, dcrc as its ex-officio Member Secretary.

The Advisory Committee presently has three external members, four internal members from University Departments/Colleges besides two Fellow Members nominated by the Fellow Council.

### **(a) External Members**

- (i) Professor C B Sharma, Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling
- (ii) Professor Sanjiv Sharma, Professor of Political Science, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- (iii) Dr K S Sengar, Additional Director, Higher Education, Madhya Pradesh.

### **(b) Internal Members (from University Departments/Colleges)**

- (i) Professor Soumendra M. Patnaik, Vice Chancellor of Utkal University, Odisha (on deputation). Professor Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.
- (ii) Professor Sangit Kumar Ragi, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi.
- (iii) Dr Devender Kakkar, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi.
- (iv) Dr Himanshu Roy, Department of Political Science, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, and Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi.

### **(c) Fellow Members**

- (i) Prof Kaushal Kumar Sharma
- (ii) Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha

**From Pratham Sevak**



**Prof. Sunil K Choudhary**  
**Director**

It is an honor to share the achievements and accomplishments, activities and creativities, opportunities and challenges of the Centre for past one year. Completing a span of five years like the Five-Year Plan with a team of 12 inter-disciplinary Fellows along with two members of the administrative staff, fondly called as a team of 14 Navratnas, has always been a moment of warm remembrance. Carrying forward the vision of the 21st Century New India with a mission of a New Academia, the Centre continued with its multifaceted activities and programs throughout the session.

Holding Monthly Lectures, Special Lectures, Interactive Discourses, Workshops, Seminars and Conferences on regular basis has made the Centre a competitive research hub in the discipline of social sciences for past five years. The successful completion of Samiksha: Delhi Assembly Election Survey in February-March 2020 with its apt electoral results has made us stand as a leading psephological centre in the country.

The increasing participation and integration of students and scholars, social scientists and social activists with our centre strengthens our untiring efforts towards an integrated, inclusive and innate knowledge as wisdom. Steering, sustaining and strengthening our academic journey to remain as a vibrant research centre in the competitive national and global world has been the cherishing desire of all of us.

May the Almighty strengthen, steer and sustain our perseverance to reach new academic horizons in the course of our academic journey!

## About Us

Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc) was set up by the University of Delhi on 20th April 1993 under the Board of Interdisciplinary Program through Ordinance XV-A. The academic space so created soon became a hub for teachers, students and researchers engaged in researching developing societies of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The year 2004 was a historic moment in the life of dcrc. Vide Ordinance XX (9) it acquired the status of a constituent of the Faculty of Social Sciences, though it was formally inaugurated by Professor G. Ram Reddy, Chairperson, UGC, on 5 August 1994. It was supported by the UGC during initial years.

The Centre is obligated by the Ordinance to organize regularly Comparative theory seminar, annual grassroots politics colloquium in order to facilitate dialogue between scholars and activists, annual workshops on different issues related to human rights, and Oliver Tambo and Pablo Neruda lectures every alternate year.

In pursuit of its objectives, the Centre has organized seminars and conferences both at national and international level. At times it has organised events in collaboration with prestigious institutions such as the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, AKUT Group of Uppsala University (Sweden), Max Mueller Bhavan, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Aligarh Muslim University, International History Congress, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Central Social Welfare Board, Women's Studies and Development Centre, Planning Commission, Institute for Human Development, DESTIN of the London School of Economics and Political Science, DFID, Japan Foundation, Vidyajyoti and the constituent colleges of the University of Delhi.

The Centre aims to produce a body of knowledge that confronts and conceptualizes issues of the postcolonial world and encourages scholars to problematize them further. Scholars from across the board, such as Political Science, Economics, Sociology, History, Geography, Education, Philosophy, Psychology, Literature, Film and media studies have been involved in this effort. The main objective is to thematize knowledge so gained and critically engage students with such insights while teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate level in the vast network of Delhi University. Above all, the objective is to build dcrc as a centre that can act as a springboard of critical and creative theory.

The Centre ensures criticality and creativity in its academic work by entailing two key things in the main. It structures its academic activity in a way that builds an interface between inputs gathered from academics and grass root activists, which turn out to be a critical laboratory of testifying knowledge for both, theory and practice. The other key aspect is that the Centre encourages scholars to adopt methods of academic engagement that rescue disorientations in knowledge production, which generally occur while studying developing societies from the dominant paradigms of the West. The larger endeavour is

to have an alternative world-view of how to look at issues related to culture, nationalism, gender, sexuality, religious minorities and other narratives.

The Centre acquired a new currency with Prof. Sunil K Choudhary at the helm of affairs as Director since July 2015. A Gold Medalist from the University of Delhi and recipient of several awards and accolades, including the very prestigious the 'Global South Award 2014', Prof. Choudhary has set examples of high moral standard and probity in academic and public life for Fellows of the Centre. As he rightly calls himself 'Pratham Sevak', Prof. Choudhary has been able to inculcate in all a spirit of togetherness, so characteristic of a 'Parivar'.

The Centre has six committees headed by fellow conveners. Some of the committees are: Purchase, Seminars/Conferences, Library, Website, Gender Sensitization and Printing/Publication. 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 meant for discussing various issues of academic interest. All the fellows are members of these committees. The fellows and conveners meet regularly in their respective committees and contribute to the corporate life of the Centre.

The Fellow Council meets on the first working Friday of every month. The Fellow Council discussion is preceded by an academic discourse covering issues of contemporary relevance. For all research related decisions, the Centre has the Research Committee which meets quarterly to discuss, deliberate and decide on the research issues.

## Fellows and Office Bearers

The Centre has at present 12 Fellows/Associates including a Joint Director and a Deputy Director. All the fellows of the Centre hail from various social science disciplines and sub-disciplines and have been selected through an open, democratic and transparent process.

### Dr Ramesh Kumar Bhardwaj, Joint Director



Dr Ramesh Bharadwaj is the Head of the Department of Political Science & History at Government P. G. College, Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh. His areas of specialization are Indian Government and Politics and Human Rights Studies. He has to his credit number of books and published papers in national and international journals. Some of his publications include Human Rights in South Africa, 2013; Bhartiya Sansadiya Loktantra, Bharashtachar, Avam Kala Dhan: Ek Chunouti, (Edited Book), 2012; Global Environment: Issues and Problems, (Edited Book), 2011. He is the editor of Shodh Samidha Research Journal Govt P.G. College (Lead), Sheopur (M.P.). He has also headed number of research projects like 'Role of Governmental Organizations in Restoration of Socio-Economic Human Rights of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes: A Study of Sheopur District, M.P.(India)'; 'A Comparative Study of I.H.R.C. & S.A.H.R.C'.

### Prof Kaushal Kumar Sharma



Prof Kaushal Kumar Sharma is Chief Proctor in Jawaharlal Nehru University and Honorary Director, Northern Regional Centre (NRC), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). He has worked as Colombo Plan Teacher at Sherubtse College, Bhutan. He is deeply involved in agricultural transformation and rural development, women empowerment, Panchyati Raj Institution, geo-hazards earthquake & landslide, floods mapping (Micro-zonation) and database management for natural hazards. He has a Major Research Project for 10 Years on 'Ecological Restoration and Socio-economic Empowerment of Rural Communities for Sustainable Livelihood and Resource Management in Uttarakhand' covering 19 Villages and 14,000 population. He has written three books and published many articles in leading journals. He is national expert on training on CSR Policy. Popularly known as 'Project Man', Prof Kaushal has completed more than hundred research projects in different areas, particularly at the grassroots levels. He has also been instrumental in synergizing research projects with public policies and government programs engaging young students and scholars into various welfare activities of the State. Combining academic and administrative qualities, he has been a source of inspiration to many students and scholars, social scientists and social activists in contemporary times.

### **Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha**



Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha is Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and teaches at the Department of History, Satyawati College, University of Delhi. He was a rank holder in the MA (History) examinations of the University of Delhi (1995), and was also awarded Junior Research Fellowship by the University Grants Commission for pursuing research. He taught in the colleges of Delhi University (2000-2006) and subsequently worked as Research Associate and Project Coordinator in Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (2007-2009) and as Assistant Registrar in the University of Delhi (2009-15). He served as Fellow at the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi (July 2018-July 2020) to work on the proposal: Madan Mohan Malaviya, Call for Sangathan and Legislative Politics. He contributed as Member of the Expert Advisory Committee in preparation of Fundamental Glossary of History (English-Hindi), Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, MHRD, New Delhi, published in July 2019

His research interests include looking into the growth of the Hindu Mahasabha, Arya Samaj and other fraternal organizations; socio-religious reform movement; shuddhi and sangathan movement; development of various ideas linked to the formation of Hindu identity during the modern period; formation and growth of the Responsive Cooperation Party; formation and interlinkages of various political groups during the colonial period. Some of his important delivered lectures during 2019-20 included, 'Negotiating Malaviya's Place in Modern Indian History' at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi on 19 November 2019; 'Integrity at Work Place', National Science Centre, New Delhi, on 2 November 2019; 'Jallianwala Tragedy: the Nationalist Response' in a Seminar on 'Remembering Jallianwala Bagh' organised by Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi on 13 April 2019.

### **Manila Narzary**



Manila Narzary teaches at the Department of Political Science, Kalindi College, University of Delhi. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. on topic 'Constitutional Development in Egypt (1919-2014): Towards Democracy and Good Governance' from the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi. Her areas of interest include International Relations, Constitution and Governance. She has published a book titled 'Sierra Leone peace keeping Mission, 1991-2004' in the year 2014, and two chapters titled 'Concept of Good Governance' and 'Citizens, their Rights Obligations', in the book (ed.) titled- Citizenship and Governance (2014) and two articles, 'Bodo Ethnic Movement: A Retrospect' (2015) and 'Non Aligned Movement and Egypt' (2014), in the non-refereed journal NAM Today.

### **Dr Sandhya Verma**



Dr Sandhya Verma teaches at the Department of Political Science, Shyamlal College (Eve.), University of Delhi. She is a Ph.D. holder in Indian Politics. She has co-authored an article in refereed journal (Global Journal of Research Analysis (2015)-"Good Governance: An Appraisal". Presently working on Indian Politics and planning a book on it.

### **Dr Surendra Singh**



Dr Surendra Singh teaches at the Department of Political Science, A.R.S.D. College, University of Delhi. He has Ph.D. on 'India-Russia Relations' from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. He is pursuing Post-Doctoral Research on the Topic 'Ethno-Religious Issues and Democratic Governance in Post-Globalised Russia and India: A Comparative Study'. He has published books including 'The New Dimensions of India- Russia Relations: in the Era of Globalizing World order', 'Ethno-Religious Issues and Democratic Governance in the Era of Globalization: A Comparative Study of Russia and India'.

### **Jiya Lal**



Jiya Lal teaches at the Department of Political Science, Satyawati College, University of Delhi. He is currently, pursuing Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi on land acquisition issues. His research experience includes Indian government and politics, development, governance, agrarian crisis and politics of land acquisition in India. He has number of publications on these issues in Journals, books and Newspapers.

### **Sarad Kumar Yadav**



Sarad Kumar Yadav teaches at Department of Political Science, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Evening College, University of Delhi. He has done M.Phil. from Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. His research interests include Political economy of development, Governance and public policy, Human right, Social Exclusion and Indian Politics. He has number of Publications on these issues in journals, books and newspapers.

### **Dr Malvika Singh**



Dr Malvika Singh teaches at the Department of Political Science, Shivaji College, University of Delhi. She did her Ph.D. on 'Economic Reforms and Agriculture in Uttar Pradesh since 1991: A case study of Bundelkhand Region', from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has published articles in various national and international journals and leading English Newspapers.

### **Shubhra Pant Kothari**



Shubhra Pant Kothari teaches at the Department of Political Science, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening), University of Delhi. She is pursuing her Ph.D. from CPS, School of Social Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has research interests in the area of Democratisation and Political Institutions, Participatory Development, Gender Studies, Politics of Reservation, Women Empowerment and Politics of Inclusion. She has participated and presented various research papers in national and international seminars and conferences. She has published research papers in journals of national repute.

She has contributed chapters in edited books and published two books. She is a life member of Indian Institute of Public Administration.

### **Nagendra Kumar**



Nagendra Kumar teaches in the Department of History, Bharati College, University of Delhi. He has done M.Phil. in History from JMI. His area of specialization is Medieval Indian history.

He has worked on Islamic perceptions of Hindu Religion. He has to his credit good number of publications, some of which are: The Category of Hindu in Medieval Indo- Islamic Writings before Abul Fazl in Vaichariki. Abul-Fazl's Description of Hindu Religion: The Intellectual & Political context, 'Comparison between Various Indo-Islamic Perceptions of the Hindu Religion: From Alberuni to the the author of Dabistan and I- Muzahib', 'Alberuni understanding of the Hindu Religion', 'Hindu Religion as Infidelity (kufr)', 'The perceptions of Barani, Ibn Battuta and Babur', 'Evolution of Akbar's Approach to Religion'. He has also presented many papers in seminars and conferences.

**Dr Mahesh Kaushik**



Mahesh Kaushik teaches Economics at Rani Dutta Arya Vidyalaya under Directorate of Education, NCT of Delhi. He is pursuing Ph.D. on Study of Health Insurance in India from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. His research interests are health, environmental and welfare economics. He has many articles published in journals and leading newspapers.

## Academic Activities and Programs at the Centre during 2019-20

The Centre organized various activities in the academic year 2019-20 which is an achievement in itself. The Annual Report apart from providing an overview of the Centre, gives a glimpse of Centre's major activities in the previous year to its readers.

### (a) Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

- Giving a clarion call for surveying the Delhi Assembly election under 'Samiksha 2020', the Centre organized its first election workshop on 14 January. Shri Siya Sharan, the Finance Officer of University of Delhi was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Releasing the last issue of Centre's newsletter, Sanchayan, Shri Siya Sharan applauded the trajectory of the Centre's journey and stated that in view of its outstanding academic and professional achievements in a short span of five years, the Centre should be re-named from Developing Countries Research Centre to the 'Lead Countries Research Centre'.



The Second and the third Workshops of Samiksha 2020 were also held with the Fellow Coordinators, Team Leaders and Surveyors in January 2020. The Samiksha workshops steered Centre's continuous resolve to undertake our forthcoming mission for Delhi 2020 - a study of the assembly election to be held on 8 February 2020.

### b) Monthly Lectures

- The Centre organized its 13th Monthly Lecture on 'Reforming the Muslim Society: A Triple Talaq Perspective' on 27 August 2019 in the auditorium of the Centre. Speaking on the occasion after releasing the Centre's monthly Hindi magazine, Sanshleshan on theme 'Triple Talaq', Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, formerly Union Minister, Government of India highlighted both diversity and pluralism as the strength of Indian society.



Shri Arif Mohd Khan stated that social evils anywhere are threat to equitable society everywhere. Arguing that any practice which is bad in religion can't be good in law. Describing religion in India as spiritual, he de-



scribed religion as a set of obligations and duties. Appreciating the decision of the Government of India by making triple talaq (instant oral divorce by a Muslim husband to his wife by uttering talaq thrice), Shri Arif Mohd Khan said the triple talaq legislation by the Parliament would have larger impact in terms of spill over effect in reforming the society. Chairing the session, Shri Raj Kumar Bhatia Ji, formerly worked with University of Delhi stated that the need of the hour is not only bringing reforms in Muslim society but other societies too. Arguing that Muslim vote bank politics prevents reforms in Muslim society, he said that the reforms in Muslim society should be undertaken by progressive Muslims within the Muslim society itself. He pointed out that the triple talaq legislation by the Parliament would usher new chapter in Hindu Muslim relations.

### (c) Interactive Discourses

• 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.

- In the aftermath of the elections for 17th Lok Sabha 2019, the Centre organized an Interactive Discourse on "Constitution and Elections" on 3 May 2019. Two panelists from Jodhpur, Dr Hariram Parihar and Dr Dinesh Gehlot unfolded many naiveties on the relationship between constitutional provisions and the electoral process. 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 an essence of democratic politics of the country.



Underlining the role of Shri Sukumar Sen, the first Chief Electoral Commissioner and Shri T N Seshan for revolutionizing the election process in India, Dr Parihar listed many new reforms and innovations undertaken by the Election Commission of India from EVMs, NOTA, VVPAT, Totalizer



and COMET that have gone in a long way to 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 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. While the 73rd and the 74th constitutional amendments were considered as revolutionary landmarks in India's electoral democracy, Dr Gehlot found inconsistency between the State Election Commission and the Panchayat Election Commission stating that the two election commissions should be blended constitutionally. Moreover, to control, contain and combat money and muscle power in election, he highlighted the electoral expenses of political parties under the ambit of CAG.

#### (d) 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 The Chief Guest, Ms Spira emphasized on the similarities between the two countries, India and Israel. She highlighted

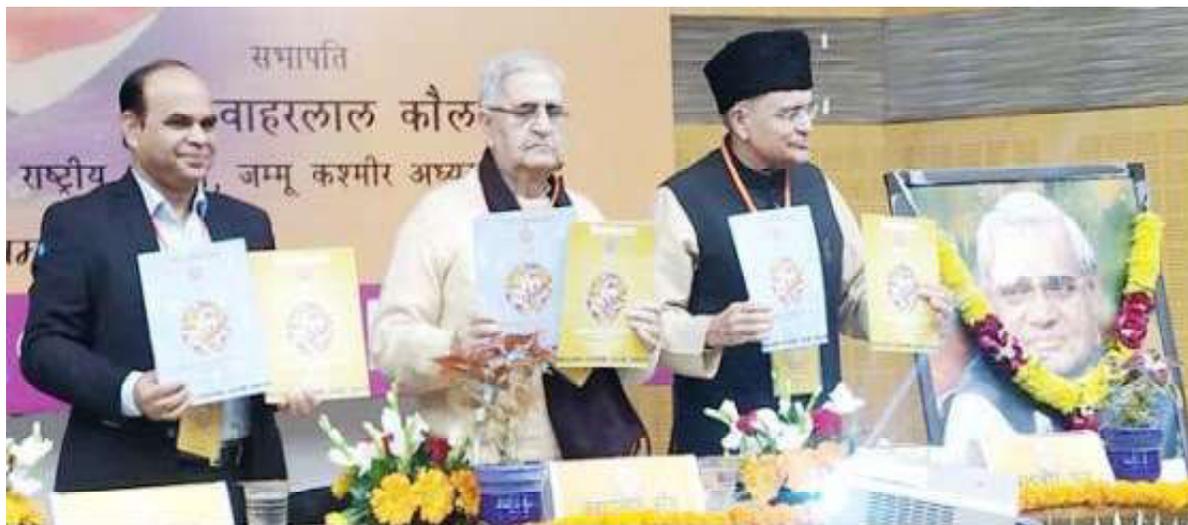


that trade relations between the two states are growing and Israel being a Start Up nation is helping India in terms of innovation. Professor Veena Kukreja gave historical background of India-Israel relations and emphasized on the contemporary convergence of interests between the two countries since 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.

#### **(e) 2nd Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture**

Continuing with its past tradition of holding the memorial lectures, the Centre organized its second consecutive Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture on 26 December 2019 on the topic, Hum Aur Loktantra. Shri Balbir Punj, Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha was the keynote speaker whereas an eminent journalist and the President of Jammu & Kashmir Addhyayan Kendra, Shri Jawaharlal Kaul was the chair on the occasion.

Releasing Centre's quarterly newsletters, Shri Balbir Punj described Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as an extra-ordinary person of an ordinary background who nurtured values in social-economic and political life of the country. Countering the notion of 'tolerance', Shri Balbir Punj stated that we don't tolerate others; rather Indian culture has the tradition of graciously accepting others. According to him Indian culture doesn't believe in uniformity but it is based on harmony. The reason for the success of Indian democracy is because of our culture, Shri Balbir Punj emphasized.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Jawaharlal Kaul narrated his experience with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and stated that the waves of change flow only when a person with multiple talents reaches at the helm of the government. Shri Kaul said that the silence of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was equally vigorous as his speech. Addressing Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as 'Mastmola', Shri Kaul stated that the real tribute to the former Prime Minister would be only when our governance is built in consonance with our culture.

## (h) Miscellaneous Activities and Programs

### (i) dcrc Samiksha

The Centre conducted a meticulously planned, scientifically designed and objectively executed psephological research survey titled “dcrc Samiksha: Delhi 2020” for studying the assembly elections of Delhi in February 2020.



The extensive election survey of Delhi was led by 14 Fellow Coordinators from 7 parliamentary constituencies with the help of approximately 500 Student Surveyors. This was the first and the only survey in India’s post-independence electoral democracy in the past seven decades with more than 1 lakh samples, collected from all 70 constituencies and 272 wards, thus making the results viable, reliable and credible.

### (ii) Constitution Day Celebration

Paying tributes to the founding fathers for framing the Constitution and for successfully completing 70 years of the post-constitutional history of India, the Centre celebrated the Constitution Day on 26 November 2019. The Constitution Day at the Centre began with the oath ceremony of the Preamble

undertaken by all the students, scholars and faculty members who pledged to undertake and imbibe the basic postulates of the Constitution in their daily lives.

The oath was followed by a discussion on Salience of the Constitution as a Living Document amongst all the participants. Prof Sunil K Choudhary, the Director of the Centre, highlighted the journey of the Constitution in past seven decades and emphasized its transformation from the fundamental postulates into their actual realization.



### **(iii) Fellow Interaction over New Year and Holi Celebrations**

Known for the spirit of bonding, bonhomie and brotherhoodness, the Centre organized an interactive session of collective engagement with its students, scholars and fellows to celebrate New Year on 1 January as well as Holi in March 2020. Holi Milan in the Centre, like Diwali and New Year milans, was an attempt of coalescing the goodwill gestures of all those who are associated with it from all walks of life from its Guardians to Guards, Fellows to Followers and Scholars to Students.



## Parivar 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, 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.

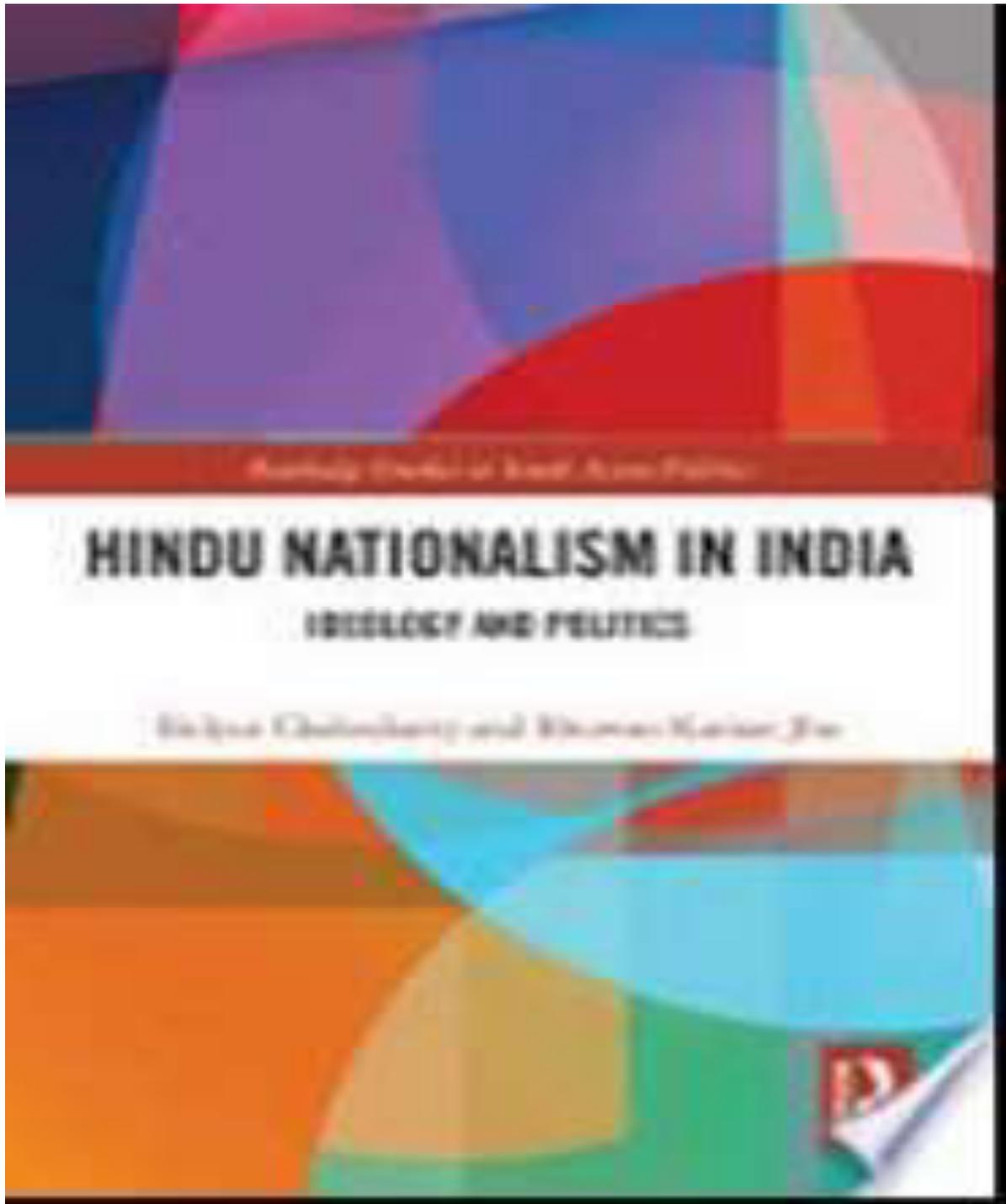


- The Centre had a proud moment when one of its associated members and twitter Man, Chander Shekher was appointed as the Assistant Public Relations Officer at the Banaras Hindu University. The Centre has been getting consistent media exposure through facebook and twitter because of Chander Shekher. The Centre wishes him a very bright future.

- The Centre also congratulated some of its young scholars - Preeti Yadav, Nisha Kumari and Mohini Mittal for getting into permanent placements as Lecturer with the Directorate of Education, Delhi. The Centre acknowledges their outstanding contributions in organizing various programs and pray for their successful teaching life.

- It was a moment of great academic pride for the Centre when its Fellow, Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha's work

on Hindu Nationalism got published from Routledge, UK in 2020 in co-editorship with Prof Bidyut Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Viswa-Bharti. The book offers an in-depth analysis of the right-wing politics in India from the shifting ideologies of Hindu nationalism which seeks to locate the discourse from late 19th century to the 21st century.



- The Centre felt honoured when of its Fellows, Dr Mahesh Kaushik was conferred Doctorate in Economics from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Dr Mahesh Kaushik had also been associated with Directorate of Education and other premier institutions in school and higher education and had been instrumental in delivering many thoughts provoking lectures.
- The Centre also felt proud for two of its associated scholars - Aashish Kumar Shukla and Kuver Pranjali Kumar Singh for getting prestigious doctoral fellowships from ICSSR, New Delhi in this quarter.

### Visit of Scholars

- While the ending quarter of the year 2019 witnessed many visits by distinguished scholars and social scientists, including the last ones by young Political Scientists from Jodhpur, Dr Hariram Parihar and Dr Dinesh Gehlot, the beginning of the year 2020 also heralded new light in terms of gracious visits of Shri Anurag Bana, an advocate from London and Shri Prakash Punj, National Head, Simpulo Ceramics and his corporate colleagues in January 2020.



These visits by eminent scholars and entrepreneurs and their interaction with the dcrc fraternity brought many laurels to the Centre, particularly in terms of exposing our Fellows and Students to the new national and global realities.

### dcrc in News

- 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.
- The role of Opposition also became hot topic of discussion in Dainik Jagran when Prof Sunil said that the conglomeration of opposition adversaries appeared to be more for saving their existence and iden-

tity rather than democratic resistance. Moreover, his comments on Article 370 in the context of Jammu region highlighting the changing democracy with transforming demography received wide accolades too.

## जम्मू के लोगों का प्रतिनिधित्व बढ़ जाएगा : प्रो.सुनील चौधरी

### जम्मू के सवाल

केंद्र शासित राज्य होने से जम्मू के लोगों का प्रतिनिधित्व विधानसभा में प्रभावशाली होगा। जब चुनाव होगा तो जम्मू का महत्व घाटी की अपेक्षा अधिक होगा। जब सरकार का गठन होगा तो जम्मू की भूमिका प्रभावशाली होगी।

राजीव गांधी ने भी एक बार कहा था कि जम्मू-कश्मीर की समस्या का समाधान सांख्यिकी परिवर्तन है। यदि स्थिति घाटी में सामान्य होती है तो उसका प्रभाव जम्मू में भी पड़ेगा। क्योंकि जो निवेशक हैं, वह जम्मू में निवेश भी बढ़ेगा। जो कश्मीरी पंडित घाटी छोड़कर देश के अन्य इलाकों में चले गए। स्थिति

सुधरेगी तो वह जम्मू के माध्यम से घाटी में पहुंच जाएंगे। आने वाले समय में बहुत रचनात्मक परिवर्तन देखने को मिलेंगे। केंद्र शासित प्रदेश में सारी प्रमुख शक्तियां उपराज्यपाल के पास होती हैं। इसमें चुनी हुई सरकारें विकास कार्य देखती हैं। यहां के सियासी दल नेशनल कांफ्रेंस, हरियत कांफ्रेंस, पीडीपी या अन्य दल जो अलगाव की बात करते हैं, यह उनके लिए धक्का है। उनकी राजनीति शून्य होने जा रही है।



प्रो. सुनील चौधरी, डीयू

• This quarter also brought the opposition on a common platform on the issue of Citizenship Amendment Act. The amended act enlisted great debates and discussions both in the media and on the ground. Prof Sunil appeared on the All-India Radio with other panellists and explained the technicalities and naiveties in the show which received wide accolades too.



• As the current quarter comprised two prominent elections - Delhi and Israel, Fellow and Scholar of the Centre - Shri Sarad Kumar Yadav and Shri Aashish Kumar Shukla engaged into media discussions, par-

ticularly deliberating on the Samiksha survey results and the changing political behaviour of Delhi voters. The Centre's activities on Delhi elections were widely covered in many newspapers, including Dainik Hindustan.



When the Delhi election was captured by Samiksha and its Fellow Coordinators both in the print and electronic media, Centre's Director, Prof Sunil K Choudhary appeared in Rajya Sabha TV debated on the Israeli elections and changing electoral politics in Israel.



## **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.

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: Journal of Social Science Research on the theme, 'One Nation, One Election' and 'India's Changing Electoral Democracy' respectively, including a special issue on Samiksha Uttar Pradesh 2017. Globalense is our blind peer review journal and in the process of getting its ISSN soon.

The Centre is also working towards publication of 'Samiksha 2020: Delhi Assembly Survey' Project.





## Editorial Board



Shubhra Pant Kothari



Dr Malvika Singh

## Admin Staff



Ms Vandana Rawat



Mr Rajesh Kumar



Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)  
University of Delhi  
Delhi-110007

[www.dcrc.du.ac.in](http://www.dcrc.du.ac.in)  [office@dcrc.du.ac.in](mailto:office@dcrc.du.ac.in)

 [@dcrcofficial](https://twitter.com/dcrcofficial)  011-27666281