

Annual Report

2020-21



Developing Countries Research Centre (dcrc)



University of Delhi



“Pratham Sevak with his Parivar of 14”

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University of Delhi

Delhi-110007

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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 Soumendhra 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 Kakar, 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

The academic year 2020-21 was marked and marred by both creativities and crises, changes and challenges, continuities and conditionalities. As world was caught amidst the rapid and sudden catastrophe in the name of Corona and Covid, we evolved our own conventional and modern mechanism to address the issue with humanity and humility. It was at this backdrop that the Centre continued engaging all its Fellows and Faculty, Students and Scholars, Social Scientists and Social Activists to contain the wide-spread of this pandemic. In the long history of post-independence India, the word Webinar - the online interaction and engagement of the students and scholars on the common academic platform became the focal point for the academia. We at the Centre did ensure a concerted and consolidated fight against Corona while following the guidelines of Government of India unleashed by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and the Hon'ble Health Minister, Dr Harshvardhan from time to time.

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 six years. The successful completion of Samiksha: Bihar, West Bengal and Assam Assembly Elections' Survey during 2020-21 with its apt electoral results has made us stand as a leading psephological centre in the country.

Steering, sustaining and strengthening our academic journey to remain as a vibrant research Center in the competitive national and global world has been the cherishing desire of all of us.

We seek the benign blessings of the Almighty for strengthening, steering and sustaining our collective efforts in reaching the vision and mission of a New Self-Reliant Academia!

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 Sansadiy 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 authored the book on the history of Central Reserve Police Force title— Nation First: 82 Years of Glorious Service to the Nation 1939-2020, Rupa Publications, New Delhi, 2021 (ISBN: 10987654321). He also Co-authored the book— Hindu Nationalism in India: Ideology and Politics, Routledge, Oxon and New York, 2020, ISBN: 978-0-367-25332-5 (hbk), 978-0-429-28772-0 (ebk).

Some of his other contributions included 'Hindu Mahasabha, Congress and the Buddhists in late Colonial India: The question of the Bodh Gaya Temple' in The Maha Bodhi, Vol.128, December 2020, pp.107-118 (ISSN: 0025-0406); 'Nehru Report, Muslim demands and the Hindu Mahasabha: Elusive Consensus on Future Constitution' in Indian Journal of Public Administration, Vol.64, No.4, December 2020, pp.534-551 (ISSN: 0019-5561, eISSN: 2457-0222); 'Role of Sardar Patel in Freedom Struggle', in the online course on Life, Philosophy and Legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Centre for Online Courses, IGNOU, 2020.

He also delivered two online lectures as Visiting Professor in the Department of Social Sciences Education, Faculty of Social Sciences, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta (Yogyakarta State University), Yogyakarta, Indonesia on topics: 'Teaching Social Studies in schools in India: Content and Pedagogy' (17 November 2020); and 'Social Science Textbooks in India: Policy and Practice' (19 November 2020).

Some of his other delivered lectures included 'Leave Rules in Educational Institutions' organized by JNU-HRDC in the Faculty Induction Programme (5 October-31 October 2020) on 14 October 2020; 'The Gandhian legacy of Satyagraha and Sarvodaya' organized by ICHR, New Delhi on 2 October 2020; 'सत्याग्रह और सर्वोदय में गाँधी और विनोबा भावे' organized by Regional Outreach Bureau, Patna, Ministry of I&B, Government of India, 2 October 2020; 'Madan Mohan Malaviya in Legislative Politics' in the Webinar organized by the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, 14 August 2020; 'Resurgence of Sanatan Dharma in Colonial India: the Role of Din Dayalu Sharma and Madan Mohan Malaviya' in the International Webinar on 'Global Well-Being and the Tenets of Ancient Indian Traditions with Reference to Buddhism', 9-11 July 2020, organized by Gautam Buddha University, NOIDA; 'Malaviya's Ideas on Education:

The Founding of the Banaras Hindu University' in the online 'History of Education Research Conference' organized by the International Centre for Historical Research in Education (ICHRE), UK, 9 July 2020; 'Research Methods in Humanities and Social Sciences: Emerging Trends and Context', JNU organised jointly by Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, SIS (JNU) and Shodh Samvad Research Forum on 10-11 January 2020;

He also prepared two modules online Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) in History, UGC, conducted by JNU Human Resources Centre, December 2020-March 2021. Modules were (i) Madan Mohan Malaviya: Ideas on Dharma and Hindu Sangathan, and (ii) Madan Mohan Malaviya: Role in Indian national movement.

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, Shyam Lal 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'. His major research project included "A Study of Urban Governance around the World: Examine the Ground Realities and Suggestions for Effective and Innovative Public Policy in India" 2019-21, funded by ICSSR, New Delhi. During the academic session 2020-21, his papers have been published in International Journal of Development Studies and Research in addition to edited books.

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.

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 been associated with the Governing Body of Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, University of Delhi from 2020 onwards. As resource person in Economics, he has delivered many lectures at different schools and institutions of Directorate of education. As a philanthropist, he has been actively working for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden sections of society as founder of Utsaah since 1990s.

DCRC: Faculty, Functioning and Fellow Extension

With the collective and holistic endeavours of its Fellow Navratnas, the Centre entered a new phase in social science research and activities in 2021. While all the Fellows have been contributing in their respective institution of learning, their active interest in the Centre's activities during the quarter also imparted new dynamism and momentum.

Working in a transparent and democratic manner since the joining of the Centre as its Pratham Sevak, the Centre has been working with the help of its various committees which 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 its academic committees.



Fellow and Associates

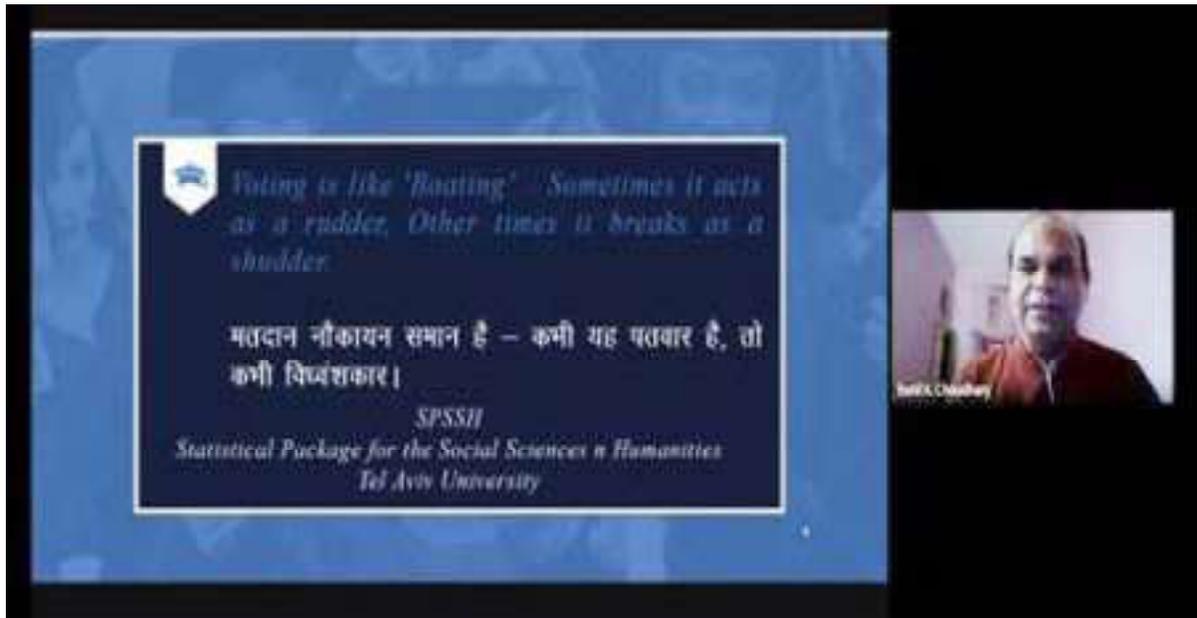
Academic Activities and Programs at the Centre during 2020-21

The Centre organized various activities in the academic year 2020-21 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

- 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.

- 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.

- 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: C^3 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.

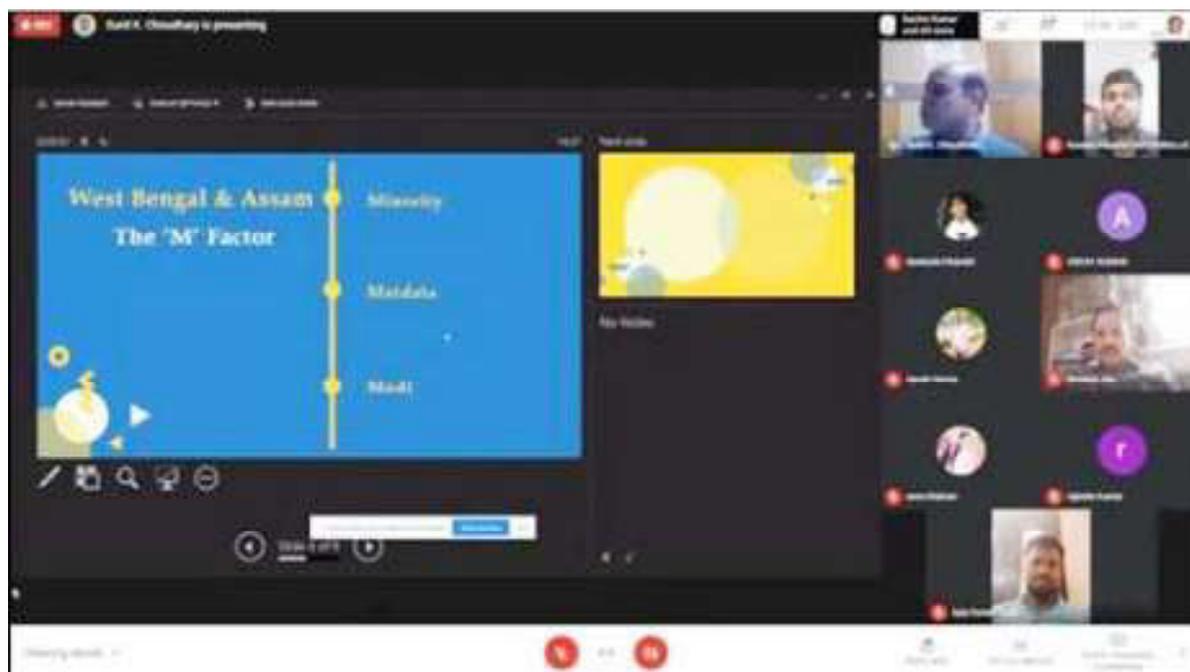
The lucid presentation of the mathematical and statistical terms like regression, correlations, standard deviation and their extrapolation in research received great applause from the students and scholars alike.

- To facilitate the compilation of more than one lakh samples, a Workshop with all 14 Draft Writers along with the Draft Facilitators was held under the banner of Samiksha Delhi 2020 on 6 February 2020. Initiating the discussion, the Samiksha Draft Convenor and Coordinator, Fellow Dr Mahesh Kaushik requested all the draft writers to be objective, holistic and analytical in their writings. Samiksha Co- Coordinators, Dr Abhay Prasad Singh urged the fellow draft writers to be original in their writings so that their drafts should be matched with the competing global standards.



Appreciating the efforts of all the seven draft writing teams, the Director of the Centre, Prof Sunil K Choudhary highlighted the salience of draft writing amidst new concerns and challenges by stating that there should be linkages between history and contemporary realities.

- Under the banner of Samiksha series, the Centre organized a three-phase study of Assam and a seven-phase study of West Bengal assembly elections during March-April 2021. With the help of the post-graduate students of Political Science, University of Delhi along with various other colleges and universities of Assam and West Bengal, the Centre conducted its second online election study gauging the voting behaviour of the two states during the course of assembly election.



(b) Monthly Lectures

- 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 stated the tactical manoeuvrings 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.

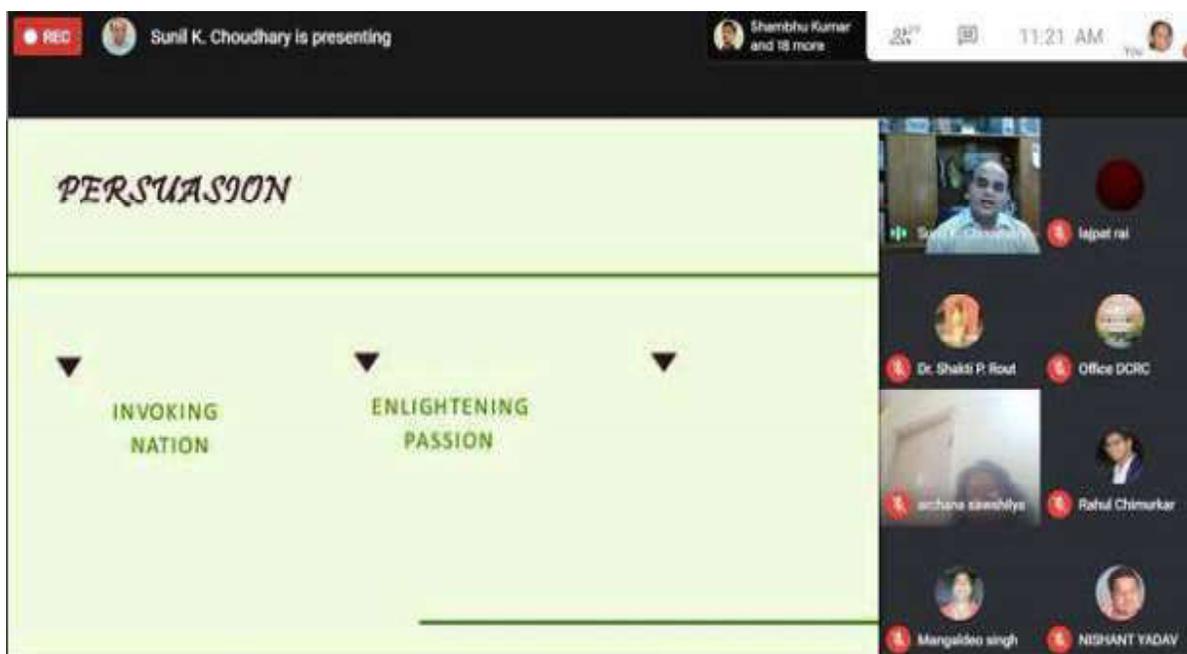


(c) Interactive Discourses

- On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Centre held an Interactive Discourse both online and offline inviting students and scholars, fellows and faculty. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hari Ram Parihar and Dr Dinesh Gehlot from Jodhpur, Rajasthan highlighted the salience of Gandhian values in contemporary times. Spearheading the Gandhian message with the motto, 'Clean India, Green India', a kindergarten student from Bal Bharati Public School, Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Myra Biswal displayed the Gandhian portrait and shared her rhymes on the occasion. The Director of the Centre, Prof Sunil K Choudhary underlined the characteristics of Gandhian philosophy by projecting Gandhi as a 'Man of Action, Affection and Attention'.



- The Centre celebrated the birth anniversary of India's Iron Man, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31 October 2020 with the theme, 'Patel and Nation Building'. The program enlisted online and offline participation of students and scholars all across the capital and the country. Many young scholars and fellows of the Centre shared their ideas on the contributions of Sardar Patel in nation building. Highlighting Sardar Patel's distinct role through the IPC Approach with a focus on 'Integration, Persuasion and Coercion', Prof Sunil K Choudhary emphasized incredible contributions of Sardar in India's nation building mission.



(d) Webinar

On the occasion of Teacher's Day, the Centre organized a Webinar on Higher Education in New Education Policy: An Evaluation by Prof. A.S. Narang from IGNOU, New Delhi on 5 September 2020. On this auspicious occasion of Teacher's Day, three generations of students came together.

Mr. Devendra Kakkar, formerly associated with School of Open Learning and is a member of Advisory Committee of the Centre graced the occasion with his virtual presence. The event was started by release of its Newsletter, Sanchayan as well as the July 2020 issue of its Hindi Monthly Magazine, Sanshleshan, and followed by a profound talk by Prof A.S. Narang.

Prof Narang gave an elaborate account of the vision behind the new education policy along with the challenges of its implementation. He elucidated on how post-independence democracy and education were seen as the agents of change but have themselves become victims of socio- economic stigmas of corruption and casteism.



According to Prof Narang, the New Education Policy aimed at elucidating not only the changes that the policy envisioned but also laid down an elaborate method to achieve the aforesaid. By laying down its focus on inclusivity and equity to expand the outreach of education, the policy marked a shift from the British influence to the American influence. It also tended to increase the intake by opening new higher education, encourage private institutions to maintain basic minimum standards of quality education.

The policy aimed at adopting a new holistic education system that is rooted in our culture and civilization. It had thus put forth revolutionary changes that required sustenance on the ground by enabling infrastructure and consistent efforts, argued Prof Narang. The Webinar was concluded with a vote of thanks and an interactive session coordinated by Fellow, Dr Mahesh Kaushik.

(e) Third Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture

On the occasion of 96th birth anniversary of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Centre organized the Third Atal Bihari Memorial Lecture on 25th December 2020. Held as a Webinar, the lecture was titled “Vikas Ki Bhartiya Aavdharna”. The key note speaker of the event was Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma, President of Ekatmak Manavdarshan Anusandhan Avem Vikas Sansthan, Delhi. The session was inaugurated by our esteemed Pratham Sevak of DCRC Parivar, Prof. Sunil K. Choudhary by welcoming the key note speaker and other fellow audience.

Dr Mahesh Chandra Sharma elaborately defined the tenets of the developing countries and gave a holistic idea of development according to the Indian ethos. The conditions of developed, developing and underdeveloped was being defined by those countries who considered themselves ahead of others; thought the parameters were vague and lacked dimension, stated Dr Sharma. Dr Mahesh Chandra Sharma also talked about how Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya brought forth the element of integral humanism and the quotient of happiness in the development discourse.

Dr Mahesh Chandra Sharma elucidated as how decentralisation and 'swadeshi' play a key role in the development of every individual which adds up to the development of a nation. He mentioned that 'berojgari' [unemployment] being a Persian word does not belong to the Devanagari script and thus economic democracy is of supreme importance and could not be compromised upon. Employment should not be generated but one should own the means of employment. 'Swadeshi' should be inculcated at all stages to make the process of development indigenous and self-sufficient.



The lecture was a very well researched and articulated by the keynote speaker. The Webinar was concluded with a vote of thanks by the Centre's Joint Director, Dr. Ramesh Bhardwaj and an interactive session coordinated by Dr Mahesh Kaushik, fellow DCRC.

(h) Miscellaneous Activities and Programs

(i) dcrc Samiksha

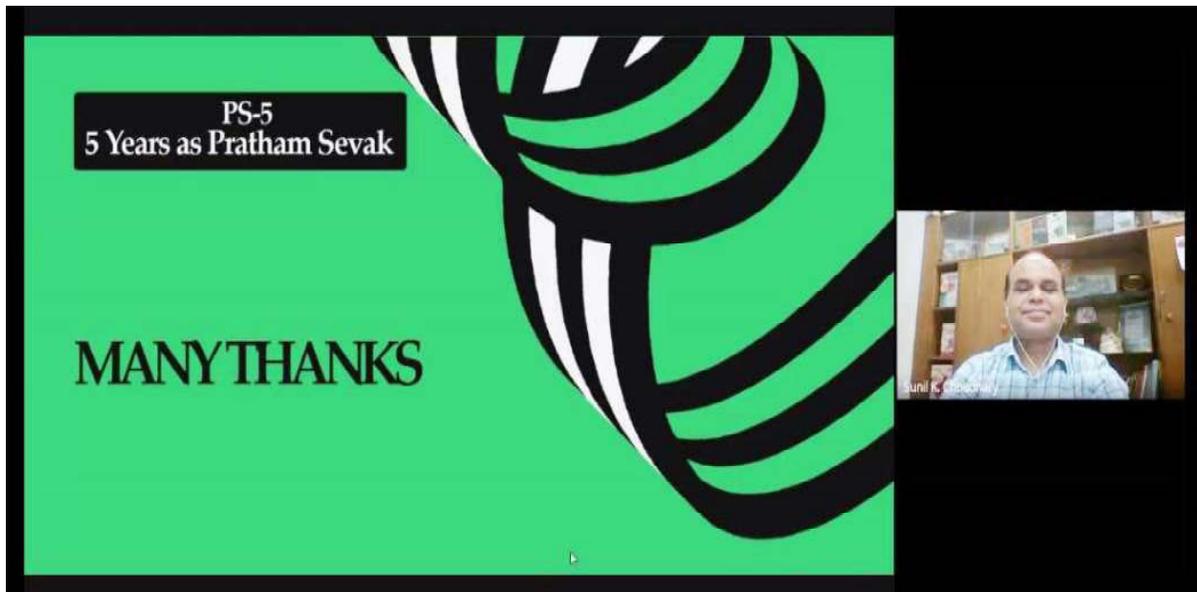
Under the banner of Samiksha series, the Centre organized a three-phase assembly election study of Bihar in November 2020. With the help of the post-graduate students of Political Science, University of Delhi along with various other colleges and universities of Bihar, the Centre conducted its first online election study gauging the voting behaviour of the state during the course of assembly election. Covering all 294 constituencies with its 9044 samples collected in both online and offline modes, the Centre projected the survey results on 7 November 2020.



Countering and contradicting all the pollsters and poll agencies who had predicted the formation of RJD led Mahagathbandhan, the Samiksha survey results of the Centre projected the formation of the BJP-JDU Government in the state. Much to the dismay of all, the election commission results also endorsed the survey results of the Centre. With a deviance of less than 3 per cent, the Samiksha Bihar 2020 proved to be a new milestone of the Centre in the domain of psephology.

(ii) 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 journey towards new heights of academic horizons.



(iii) Teacher's Day Celebration

The Centre celebrated Teacher's Day on 5 September 2020 with all its students, scholars and fellows and faculty members. Observing social distancing at the Centre, Students gathered at the Centre and expressed their gratitude to Prof Sunil K Choudhary who had transformed their lives as Teacher, Philosopher and Mentor.



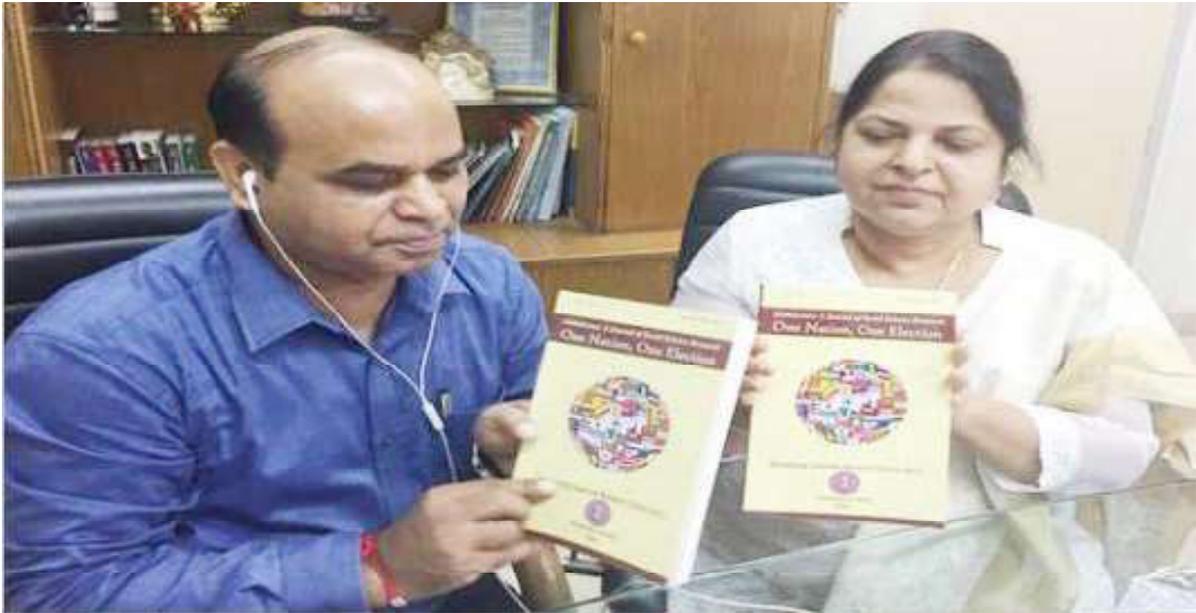
(iv) Releases of the Centre

The period 2020-21 unfolded many achievements of the Centre, particularly the publications. It was in December 2020 that the Centre released the bound volumes of 1,03,731 samples of Samiksha: Delhi Assembly Election Survey, the 27th



and 28th volumes of Sanshleshan, the Hindi Monthly Magazine of the Centre and the unveiling of Sixth edition of Annual Event Brochure.

The Centre also released the first three issues of its blind peer review bi-annual journal, *Globalense: A Journal of Social Science Research* amidst the gracious presence of Prof Veena Kukreja, Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi on 14 August 2020. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Kukreja appreciated the efforts of the Centre in working assiduously in different domains of academics and research publications and congratulated all the fellows and students associated with the Centre in this mission.



(v) Fellow Interaction and Deepawali Celebration

Continuing with its past traditions of fanfare and gaiety, the Centre celebrated the festival of lighting, viz., Deepawali with all its Fellows, students, scholars and other members of the administrative and security staff on 12 November.

Under the stewardship of fellow, Dr Mahesh Kaushik, the Centre also organized a New Year get-together with all its associated students and scholars. All pledged to work collectively for the common objectives and goals of the Centre as espoused by its director from time to time.



On the occasion, all fellows, students, scholars, security and sulabh staff were honoured with small token of gestures both by the Director and the Joint Director.

(vi) Constitution Day Celebration

To express its reverence to the founding fathers who framed the constitution of the nation in 1950, the Centre celebrated the 'Constitution Day' on 26 November 2020 at 11:00 am at the Meeting Room. Students, Scholars and Fellows associated with the Centre participated in the celebration.

The Constitution Day at the Centre began with the oath ceremony of the Preamble undertaken by all the participants. The students, scholars and faculty members pledged to undertake and imbibe the basic postulates of the Constitution in their daily lives.



The oath was followed by a discussion on Continuities, Consistencies and Conformities: A Seven Decade of the Indian Constitution. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hariram Parihar from Government PG College, Jodhpur, Rajasthan highlighted the historical trajectory of the Constitution by emphasising the transformation of individual citizens from the perspective of character building. Dr Dinesh Gehlot from the Department of Political Science, Jai Narain Vyas University characterized the Indian Constitution as the most beautiful document on earth and advocated imbibing of its basis postulates by all too.

(vii) Holi Celebration and Fellow Interaction

Continuing with its past traditions of fanfare and gaiety, the Centre celebrated the festival of colour, Holi on 27 March 2021. The program was marked by release of the special issue of *GlobaLense: A Journal*

of Social Science Research, viz., Samiksha Uttar Pradesh: Assembly Election, 2017. Dr Kaushal Gupta, Senior faculty at the University and Fellow Dr Malvika Singh greeted the students and scholars on the occasion and wished a colourful and delightful future for all those associated with the Centre.



Parivar Achievements

- The Centre congratulated three of its students - Srishty, Jaya Ojha and Sham Kumar for completing their M Phil degree with outstanding performance from the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi.



- It was a matter of pride when its Fellow - Dr Bhuwan Kumar Jha's book was released by Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Home Minister on CRPF Day. Titled, 'Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varsho Ki Swarnim Gatha' the

book unfolds the chronicles history of CRPF, scrupulously mapping changes over a period of time and locating developments in the context of wider shifts in society and politics.



- This year got filled with accolades and achievements when the Centre's Fellow Kumar Raajesh and scholars Deepika and Mangal Deo were awarded doctoral degrees in a glittering ceremony of University of Delhi's 97th Convocation. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.



Visit of the Dean of Colleges

It was during this quarter that the Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi, Prof Baliram Pani visited the Centre and appreciated the great work done under the collective efforts of the Director and its Fellow Navratnas. The Director also expressed gratitude to the Dean for giving extension of the fellows.

dcrc in News

- The Centre and its Director, Prof Sunil K Choudhary figured prominently in the electronic media during this quarter. Since the quarter focused on elections in Bihar, Prof Sunil was a panellist in Rajya Sabha and India Ahead and underlined the changing electoral politics in the state of Bihar.



- The Centre and its Director, Prof Sunil K Choudhary figured prominently in the electronic media during this quarter. Since the quarter focused on elections in Bihar, Prof Sunil participated in the Big Picture show with Frank Rausan Pereira for The Bihar Verdict on 11th November in Rajya Sabha TV.



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.

- Under the Coordinator ship of Fellow, Dr Mahesh Kaushik and Dr Abhay Prasad Singh of PGDAV College, University of Delhi, the Centre expedited the tabulation and analysis of its 103,731 samples under Samiksha: Delhi 2020. The work is in the process of seeing the light of publication.
- The Centre proposed to carry out an election study of Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly under dcrc Samiksha 2022 with support of the under-graduate and post-graduate students of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi and other colleges and universities in the states of UP and Punjab.
- The Centre renewed its efforts of getting RNI and ISSN for its Hindi monthly magazine, Sanshleshan and the blind peer-review bi-annual journal, GlobaLense: A Journal of Social Science Research registration from Government of India.





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