



L O K N I T I

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- \* SECOND SUMMER SCHOOL
- \* IGNOU REPORT
- \* RTI ASSESSMENT STUDY
- \* LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

**Lokniti- Programme for Comparative Democracy**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE,

I am happy to bring out the July 2008 issue of Lokniti Newsletter for timely circulation. I am also looking forward to expand the contents of the Newsletter in the forthcoming issues. Your comments and suggestions will be highly welcome. \_\_\_\_\_Rajiv Kshetri, Editor

## SECOND SUMMER SCHOOL

The Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla, organized the **Second Summer Workshop on Research Methodology: Analyzing Quantitative Data on Indian Politics** in partnership with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and the Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan from June 16 to 29, 2008. The workshop was inaugurated by Peter de Souza, Director of IIAS, Shimla. Professor Pradeep Chhibber of University of California, Berkeley and Professor Irfan Nooruddin of University of Ohio extensively trained the 24 participants in data analysis techniques using SPSS (Statistical Software for Social Sciences). The participants were trained to generate and manipulate data using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques ranging from cross tabulation to tests of significance and regression analysis.



PARTICIPANTS, RESOURCE PERSONS AND DIRECTOR-IIAS, SHIMLA

Professor Ashutosh Varshney of University of Michigan, Professor Suhas Palshikar of University of Pune, Mr. Sanjay Kumar of CSDS and Dr. Sandeep Shastri of International Academy for Creative Teaching trained the participants in survey design with a focus on questionnaire design and survey sampling. All the participants worked on a research question using the data analysis techniques learnt at the Summer School. The data source was the National Election Study – 2004, post poll, which was conducted by CSDS. The workshop ended with a day-long paper presentation by all the participants. All the participants are expected to submit a paper based on the research question they worked on.

## IGNOU ODL Assessment Study - 2008

The report of IGNOU Open & Distance Learning (ODL) Assessment Study written by Sanjay Kumar and Praveen Rai was submitted to IGNOU last month. The study was conducted by Lokniti in 7 states- Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar, Assam, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat. The Study was primarily a user centric study to assess the efficacy and sustainability of IGNOU's interactive multimedia learning support system through teleconferencing and web-based platforms utilizing Edusat and the Internet facilities. One of the key initiative of IGNOU's interactive multimedia learning support exercise is regular teleconferencing sessions on various programmes at SIT centres. However it was felt in many quarters that the existing teleconferencing system is not being optimally utilized and the need of the hour is to make it more worthy and efficient. The study aimed at exploring and assessing the complete system of ODL with focus on teleconferencing sessions from its ends users and also from its various stakeholders. For a holistic assessment and Feed in of the entire ODL system, IGNOU slot in Doordarshan and IGNOU hour broadcast at Gyan Vani Radio stations for students learning was also reviewed and evaluated.

**PICTURES DURING SECOND SUMMER SCHOOL- 2008, IAS, SHIMLA**



ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY DURING THE COURSE.



PRADEEP (STANDING) AND IRFAN (SITING)



SUHAS, PRADEEP, IRFAN AND SANJAY LODHA (From right to left)



DURING THE COURSE

## **RaaG-NCPRI-CSDS-TISS People's RTI Assessment – 2008**

The People's RTI Assessment – 2008 is a joint study being conducted by Lokniti, CSDS in association with RaaG, NCPRI and TISS in 10 Indian states- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Assam and Delhi. The study is an end user study to ascertain the efficacy and reach of Right to Information (RTI) by citizens of India as envisaged under RTI Act implemented in the year 2005. The study aims at understanding the process of filing RTI applications, the problems faced by citizens in filing application and bottlenecks in procuring the required information under this Act. The study will focus on all stakeholders of RTI - applicants, appellants, Principal Information Officer (PIO) and Head of Departments to get a holistic assessment of its effectiveness and functioning. The urban component of the study would be conducted by Lokniti, CSDS.

### **LIST OF PUBLICATIONS:**

**Ashutosh Kumar, Lokniti State Co-ordinator-Punjab**

- I. 'Que Clase De Democracia Es La Democracia Mas Poblada Del Planeta?' *Vanguardia Dossier*, Madrid, Special Issue on India, No.27, April-June 2008,
- II. 2007 Punjab Election: Exploring the Verdict', *Journal of Punjab Studies*, University of California, Santa Barbara, Volume 14, No 2, Fall 2007
- III. Review, Seminar, July 2008. SDSA Team (2008): *State of Democracy in South Asia: A Report*, OUP, New Delhi

**Dr. Anil Kumar Verma, Lokniti Co-ordinator-Uttar Pradesh (Centre), gave an internet radio talk on New Democratic Politics in Uttar Pradesh on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 10.30 p.m. IST.  
(See at: [http://www.sasia.org/html/brown\\_bag\\_radio.html](http://www.sasia.org/html/brown_bag_radio.html))**

ALL LOKNITI MEMBERS AND STATE COORDINATORS ARE REQUESTED TO WRITE TO THE EDITOR ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THEIR LATEST PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES SO THAT OTHER MEMBERS CAN ALSO SHARE THE INFORMATION THROUGH THE LOKNITI NEWSLETTER.

### **FEEDBACK/CONTACT US @**

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