



March 2010

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Hello from all at Lokniti,

At Lokniti the month of March witnessed preparation for the summer workshop scheduled to be held in May in Bengaluru, as well as the continuation of documentation.

This month also saw the commencement of the Lokniti summer internship programme. In the next three months several students will visit Lokniti on month long internships.

The Lokniti network members also made some major publications this month. Read on for further details of the same.

Suggestions and comments may be sent to [vanita.lokniti@gmail.com](mailto:vanita.lokniti@gmail.com).

Thank you

Vanita Leah Falcao

## Events at Lokniti, Delhi

### ★ **Interactive Session with Students from Maharashtra Institute of Technology School of Government, Pune**



Lokniti hosted a half day interactive session with students from the Maharashtra Institute of Technology, School of Government, Pune on 12th March 2010. During this interaction several presentations were made:

“Tradition of Survey Research at CSDS” - Divya Vaid

“Trends in Indian Democracy” - Sanjay Kumar

“The Contemporary City” - Awadhendra Sharan

“An 'official memory' of India: The making of monuments, memorials and samadhis in postcolonial India” - Hilal Ahmed

The presentations were followed by informal discussions.

### ★ **Selection of candidates for the 4th Summer Workshop on Research Methodology**

Lokniti - Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in collaboration with Jain University, Bengaluru is organizing a two-week Summer Workshop on Research Methodology: Analyzing Quantitative data on Indian Politics to be held at Bengaluru from 14th to 24th May 2010.

A large number of applications were received from candidates across the country. The response in comparison to the limited seats available made the selection process tough and very competitive. Apart from three state co-ordinators, seventeen candidates have been selected to take part in the two week workshop to be conducted by Pradeep Chhibber from University of California, Berkeley and Irfan Nooruddin of Ohio State University.

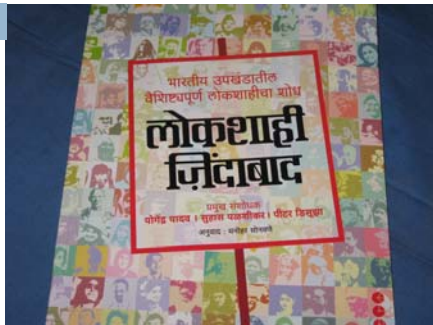
### ★ **Finalisation of Report for ICSSR on NES Training Workshop**

A comprehensive report on the Training Workshop of the National Election Study (NES), 2009 has been finalised for submission to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The ICSSR provided financial support to Lokniti for the research design and training components of the NES 2009.

The financial support provided by ICSSR helped Lokniti in ensuring that the design of the NES 2009 conformed to the best international practices of survey research and that the training of investigators was rigorous and comprehensive. With this funding, Lokniti was able to organise meetings with experts and social scientists across the country, design research instruments, conduct training workshops for trainers in different universities and colleges, and train students on survey research methods as well as conducting field investigations. Thus, around 2000 field investigators were trained in 39 research training workshops held for this purpose.

## **Major Publications by Lokniti Members**

### **★ Marathi version of ‘State of Democracy in South Asia’ published**



‘Lokshahi Zindabad’ the marathi version of the report ‘State of Democracy in South Asia’ (Oxford University Press, 2007) translated by M. Sonvane was published by the Pune based Samkalin Prakashan.

The original report authored by Prof Yogendra Yadav, Prof. Suhas Palshikar and Prof. Peter R. deSouza was based on the first-ever social scientific survey of political opinions and attitudes across the five countries in the region—Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The report combines public opinion data with expert assessment, case studies, and dialogue with democracy activists.

(Yadav, Y. Palshikar, S. deSouza, P. ‘*State of Democracy in South Asia*’. Trans. Sonvane, M. ‘*Lokshahi Zindabad*’ Pune: Samkalin Prakashan, 2010)

### **‘Human Security in North-East India: Issues and Policies’**

The notion of human security envisaged by the UNDP is a comprehensive notion of security. It encompasses the universal as well as the day to day security of the ordinary people, who are often marginalised by the notion of security hegemonised by the state. This notion of human security has attained wider currency in policy discourses and has been used to measure the substantive content of democracy across countries in the world.

*Human Security in North-East India: Issues and Policies* (2009), edited by Dr. Akhil Ranjan Dutta and the first of its kind in North-East India has been an attempt to examine the real plight of peoples’ lives in their day to day experience in the conflict-ridden zone of India’s North-East.

Divided into six sections that contain a total of sixteen papers, the book deals with the themes of changing paradigms

of security in North-East India; the state and police in the region; the plight of basic human security like livelihood, education and health security; patriarchy and gender security; linguistic and cultural security and ecological security of North-East India. The book has attempted to examine the existing and emerging policies related to human security in the region, as well as how (Dutta A.R. *'Human Security in North East India: Issues and Policies'*. Anwasha, Guwahati, 2009)

institutions and infrastructure have been developed to implement the policies. The book argues that the notion of human security itself needs to be redefined in the context of North-East India taking into consideration the complex dynamics of the region in terms of its geographical location, demographic composition, patterns of livelihood, political articulation and assertion.

### **The Journal of Political Science edited by Prof. Sandhya Goswami**

The Journal of Political Science (Vol. 6) published by the Department of Political Science, Gauhati University, Assam and edited by Prof Sandhya Goswami addressed the broad theme 'Democracy'.

This volume published on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the department, is a collection of selected articles that explore the concept of democracy and the nature of democratic arrangements, both of which are often fundamentally contested.

The articles discuss the crucial need for democracy to move beyond the formal realm of electoral politics to the more substantive one of enabling human rights, physical well-being, and human development.

### **Events Organised by/Other Academic Engagements of Lokniti Network Members**

Rahul Verma of Lokniti, Delhi attended the Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP): Training Programme for Young Political Leaders of Asia held at Manila from the 21<sup>st</sup> March to the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2010. Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand were represented in this training programme.

This training programme was developed in cooperation with the Ateneo School of Government, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines. It is aimed at building the capabilities of political parties, enabling them to address problems within the organization and respond to interests of the various public sectors. This program is phased over five training workshops in a period of two years, requiring a final output of a "political project", from each participant.

★ **National Seminar on Democracy at Grassroots: Fifty Years of Panchayati Raj in India**

Two day National Seminar was organised by the department of Political Science, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur on the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> of March, 2010. The seminar was sponsored by the ICSSR, New Delhi. It was marked by six technical sessions apart from the inaugural and the valedictory sessions.

The themes discussed during the six technical sessions were: Philosophy and politics of democratic decentralisation; Scheduled areas and Panchayat Extension to the Schedules Areas (PESA) Act; Three generations of Panchayati raj and experiences of states;



Panchayati raj and service delivery; Panchayati raj and empowerment of deprived groups; and Panchayati raj and civil society interface. The seminar was attended by elected Panchayati raj functionaries, university and college teachers, researchers as well as volunteers and workers from civil society organisations. The 9<sup>th</sup> issue of Shodharthee was released in the valedictory session of the seminar by Prof Yogesh Atal.

**Presentations made by/Publications of Lokniti Network Members:**

**Rajeshwari Deshpande, Maharashtra**

- Deshpande, R. 'Caste Associations in the Post-Mandal Era: Notes from Maharashtra', CAS Occasional Paper series: No.2, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Pune, March 2010.
- Deshpande, R. 'The Missing Women: Gender Representation in Indian Politics', in Ajay K. Mehra (ed), 'Emerging Trends in Indian Politics: The 15th General Elections', Routledge, Delhi, 2010

### **A.K Verma, Uttar Pradesh**

- Verma, A.K. ‘*Virtues of Politics and Politics of Virtues*’ in D. C. Srivastava & Bijoy H. Boruah (ed.), ‘*Dharma and Ethics: The Indian Ideal of Human Perfection*’, Decent Books, Delhi, 2010.
- Addressed a seminar ‘Politics of Division in Uttar Pradesh: Inclusive Politics as a Counter Measure’ at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Central University , Lucknow, 11th March, 2010.

#### - International Collaboration:

- Completed a collaborative study with the University of California, Berkley on ‘*Religion-Politics Interface in Uttar Pradesh*’ conducted between January- March 2010

#### - Television Programmes:

- ‘*BSP’s Social Engineering: Changing Scenario*’ live telecast on Sahara Uttar Pradesh, 8 - 8.45 pm, 15 March 2010
- ‘*Kansi Ram’s and Silver Jubilee Celebrations of BSP’s Foundation*’, live national telecast on Sahara Samay, 6 – 6.30 pm, 15 March 2010.

### **Dr Sandeep Shastri, Karnataka**

- As a member of the International Committee of Experts to prepare for the 5th International Conference on Federalism to be held at Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in December 2010, Dr Shastri attended the Joint Experts Meeting held at Addis Ababa from the 20th-21st March 2010
- Delivered a special lecture on Survey Research in the Social Sciences at a course on Research Methodology organised by the University of Mysore on 25th March 2010.
- Delivered the keynote address to the 2nd International Engineering Student Symposia on Active Learning held at Shri Ramswaroop Memorial College of Engineering and Management at Lucknow on 27th March 2010.

### **Sanjay Kumar, Delhi**

- Kumar, S. *All is Not Well with the Bill*, DNA, March 14, 2010
- Kumar, S. *Kitna Jayaaz Hai Mahila Arakshan Bill?* Gairtalab, Amar Ujala, (Hindi), March 14, 2010
- Presented a paper “*Democracy and Political Participation: Comparing North East with the Rest of the Country*”, at a national seminar Democracy, Identity and Group Rights: Locating the North East Indian Experience in a Comparative Perspective, organized by Women’s College, Shillong, Meghalaya, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Presented a paper on “*Status of Panchayati Raj in Bihar*”, at a National Seminar on Democracy at Grass Root: Fifty years of Panchayati Raj in India, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

- Lectures delivered:

- Delivered two lectures on “*Sampling in Survey Research*” at a training course on Research Methodology in Social Science, organized by Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research (MPISSR), 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
- Delivered a lecture on “*Method of Survey Research in Social Science*”, at Refresher Course, University of Delhi, Delhi, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

**Ashutosh Kumar, Punjab**

- Kumar, A. ‘*Coping with the Delimitation: New Electoral Strategies*’, in Ajay K. Mehra (ed), ‘*Emerging Trends in Indian Politics: The 15th General Elections*’, Routledge, Delhi, 2010

**Akhil Ranjan Dutta, Assam**

- Dutta, A.R. ‘*Biswayanar Alidomojat Samaj-Sabhyata*’. Natun Padatik, Guwahati, 2010

**Intern at Lokniti**

Kunal a graduate in History and currently pursuing an M.A in Development Studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai is interning at Lokniti for the month of April. His interests lie in urban development and foreign policy affairs. He is in the process of writing his dissertation titled, "Revisiting Tezibazar Town in Varanasi Region: Emerging Issues and Perspectives".

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