



लोकनीति

LOKNITI NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2008

Editor's Note,

The month of October ends with many festivals starting with *Gandhi Jayanti*, *Id-dul-fitre*, *Dussera*, *Diwali*, *Bhaiya-duj*, etc. Festivals of another kind are about to start now. Assembly elections in six Indian states are being held at the end of year 2008. Lokniti team is on its pace of activities with these festivals of various forms.

This issue of Lokniti Newsletter for the month of November 2008 highlights some of the activities in last month as well as the forthcoming events.

Your comments and suggestions towards the improvement of this newsletter are highly appreciated.

Rajiv Kshetri, *Editor*

CONFERENCE / SEMINAR / WORKSHOP

SEMINAR ON CHALLENGES OF GOVERNING MEGACITIES

A group of Lokniti members participated at a seminar on Challenges of Governing Megacities at Bengalooru from 20 - 21 October 2008. The seminar was jointly organized by Forum of Federations and International Academy for Creative Teaching, Bengalooru. Lokniti members who participated in the seminar were Professor Yogendra Yadav, Co-director Lokniti chairing one of the sessions, Professor Suhas Palshikar, Co-director Lokniti as a discussant of one session, Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Director Lokniti and Dr. Sandeep Shastri, National Convenor Lokniti making a paper presentation.

Sanjay Kumar, in his paper *Citizens Window to Manage Urban Spaces: A Case Study of Delhi*, highlighted the rapidly increased rate of population in the city of Delhi. Arguing large scale migration as a main factor of increasing population in the city, he stated that the pressure on geographical space became a serious problem. This has pushed away a large section of city's capable population towards the adjoining borders of neighbouring states like Gurgaon and Faridabad in Haryana and Noida and Gaziabad in Uttar Pradesh for new settlement as a result of congestion in housing spaces. Further, he discusses on government policies in solving this problem and argues that though the government has tried its best by providing better infrastructures like transportation facilities, hospitals and nursing homes, schools, drinking water sanitary services and so on, still the satisfaction of the policy has yet to arrive at the public domain.

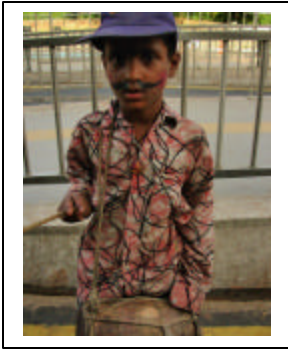
The paper, *How do the citizens of Bengalooru view the Governance of their City* presented by Sandeep Shastri and B.S. Padmavathi provides a snapshot of the opinions of the common citizens of Bengalooru on the management of their city. Based on the findings of a cross section survey on attitudes and opinions of the adult population of the city, they analyzed the public opinions on influx of outsiders in the city and its impact on employment opportunities, role of government in infrastructure development, public transportation facilities, power and water supply facilities, maintenance of clean environment, sanitation, schools, etc. Thus, the paper assessed the public opinions on management of the city by analyzing the responses of different demographic variables.

A PRESENTATION BY SANJAY KUMAR AT A WORKSHOP ON TRANSLATING POLITICS INTO PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AT IIC, DELHI

Mr. Sanjay Kumar made a presentation on Politics in Delhi at a workshop on Translating Politics into Participatory Governance on October 22, 2008 at India International Centre, Delhi. The workshop was organized jointly by Women's Feature Service (WFS) and the German foundation FES, for media and students of Political science. Mr. Kumar's paper made an assessment on how people of Delhi have voted during the last assembly elections held in 2003. Using the data from the H.T-CSDS Delhi survey 2003, Mr. Kumar analysed how people of Delhi voted more on class lines cutting across Caste. There is a large section of voters comprising nearly 40% who would be considered as poor and they constitute a vote bank for different parties. He argues that although Delhi's politics is always discussed in terms of Jat vote and Punjabi vote, it is the poor who dominated Delhi's politics. The presentation also highlighted various issues which dominates the mind of an average *Delhiwalla*.

Other distinguished speakers who spoke in the day long workshop were Mirnal Pande, Gautam Adhikari, Valerian Rodrigues and Neera Chandhoke.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDHOODS AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN INDIA



Lokniti- CSDS is organizing an international conference on **Childhoods and Children's Rights in India** from 10-11 November 2008 at CSDS, Delhi. The conference is part of the project on **Democracy and Children's Rights in India and UK: Law Policy and Outcome** which has been taken up by CSDS in partnership with University of Essex since July 2007. The project is funded by the UK India Education Research Initiatives (UKIERI).

Papers to be presented during the Conference are as follows:

- *He could have been made a good Dewan in a Native State! Can there be an Indian Boyhood?* Alex M. George of Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore;
- *State, Civil Society and Dilemmas of 'Mainstreaming' Child Labourers: The Discourse on Eradication of Child Labour with Reference to Karnataka*, Anil Kumar, Centre for Political Institutions Governance and Development, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, Karnataka;
- *Television and Children: Negotiating ideal childhood and Ideal Parenting*, Arima Mishra, Delhi School Of Economics, Delhi;
- *Our Schools for Whom?* Binu Roshni. P, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala;
- *Children as Resistant Subjects: In the 'Political Society' of Children of Sex Workers' in Kolkata*, Debolina Dutta & Oishik Sircar, Independent Researchers, Kolkata, West Bengal;
- *Notes on "Different Tales: Stories from Marginal Cultures and Regional Languages*, Deepa Sreenivas, Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad;
- *Was it childhood that was 'reformed' in colonial India?* Emma Alexander-Mudaliar, University of Winnipeg;
- *Unthinking children in development: A contribution from northern anti developmental psychology*, Erica Burman, Manchester Metropolitan University;
- *Adult Perception of Childhood in a Colonial Situation: A Study in Children's Literature of Late 19th and Early 20th Century Bengal*, Gautam Chando Roy, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal;
- *The social networks of child domestic workers in India*, Karen Wells & Shazia Wasiuzzaman, Birkbeck College, University of London;
- *Ideals of Hindu Girlhood: Vidyabharati's Balika Shikshan*, Nadini Manjerekar, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai;
- *The right not to play: Long-distance migration, education and children's struggle for respectability in a Kerala village*, Olga Nieuwenhuys, University of Amsterdam
- *Pathologising Childhood, Disabling Rights: Talking About Disabled Children in a Rights Framework*, Saptarshi Mandal, National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata;
- *The Importance of Innocence: Childhood in Contemporary Tamil Fiction*, V. Geetha, Independent Researcher, Chennai;
- *Determining 'rights' of girl child prostitutes in India: Politics and issue framing (provisional title)*, Vicky Randall, University of Essex;
- *Children's accounts of combining work and education in cottonseed production in Andhra Pradesh: implications for discourses of children's rights in India*, Virginia Morrow, University of London and Uma Vennam, Dept of Social Work, Tirupati;



FOLLOW-UP OF SECOND SUMMER WORKSHOP -2008, IAS, SHIMLA

Lokniti-CSDS is organizing a one day workshop on 13th November 2008 at CSDS, Delhi. The workshop is part of Second Summer Workshop on Research Methodology: Analyzing Quantitative Data on Indian Politics- 2008, IAS, Shimla. In the workshop, participants of the Second Summer Workshop will present their paper developed during the workshop at IAS, Shimla.

Professor Pradeep Chhibber, University of California, Berkeley and Irfan Nooruddin, State University of Ohio who trained the participants on data analysis during the summer workshop will also be present at this one day workshop.

MEETING/ DISCUSSION

MEETING ON FDRI PROJECT ON INDEX OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

A meeting of Lokniti Team was held on 21st October 2008 at Bengalooru regarding the FDRI project on Index of Democratic Governance in India. The meeting was attended by Professor Yogendra Yadav, Professor Suhas Palshikar, Dr Sandeep Shastri, Mr Sanjay Kumar, Dr K.K. Kailash and Ms. Pavithra Suryanarayan. The participants decided to take up 12 core public services representing the enumerative, distributive and regulative functions of the government. They, however, felt that the final questionnaire should avoid including too many service areas if several of them were likely to have high levels of user correlations and similar levels of user satisfaction. To formulate these basic questions, the participants also decided to conduct a pilot survey in four states- Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka and Kerala- before the next meeting to be held in the middle of November. The November meeting will incorporate the findings of the pilot survey along with objective data and the literature reviews are being prepared by Pavithra and Kailash to finalize the questionnaire for the study.

RECENT PROJECT/ SURVEY

GLOBAL PROJECT ON DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND CITIZEN-POLITICIAN LINKAGE



Lokniti will participate in the global project on Democratic Accountability and Citizen-Politician Linkage being directed by Professor Herbert Kitschelt at Duke University, USA. It involves a survey of political scientists and journalists on their assessments about functioning of political parties, party-voter linkages and policy positions of parties in India. The Survey is likely to be completed by December 2008.

Professor Suri is collaborating on behalf of lokniti in this project. Ms Vanita from Lokniti is going to co-ordinate this work. This work is a continuation of the work Lokniti has done earlier in collaboration with International Idea, Stockholm.

UP-COMING ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN INDIA'S SIX STATES



Dates for Assembly elections to six states - Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have been declared.



Delhi will go on vote on November 29. In Chhattisgarh, voting will be conducted in two phases-on November 14 and 20.

On the other hand, polling in a bigger state Madhya Pradesh will be conducted in a single phase and the voting date is scheduled for November 27.

Mizoram will go into polls on November 29 along with Delhi. The last leg of the polling is in Rajasthan which will go to polls on December 4 marking the end of the schedule for the 5 states. The counting of votes for all the five states will take place on December 8, except J&K where the assembly election will be held in seven phases from November 17 to December 24 this year. The counting of votes will be on December 28 and the election process will be completed by 31 December 2008.

Lokniti-CSDS is preparing to conduct a post-poll survey in all the six states.

VISIT



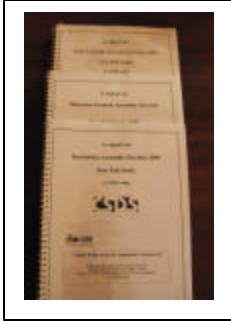
VISIT BY PROFESSOR ALFRED C. STEPAN

Professor Alfred C. Stepan, visited Lokniti-CSDS in the month of October to utilise the Survey data of CSDS. He is now the Wallace Sayre Professor of Government at SIPA and Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration and Religion at Columbia University. During his visit, he also presented a paper on the theme, **Rituals of Respect: Sufis and Secularists in Senegal** on 23rd October 2008 at CSDS.

Stepan taught at Yale University for thirteen years (1969-82), later was Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University (1983-1991), the first Rector of Central European University (1993-1996), the Gladstone Professor of Government at All Souls College, Oxford University (1996-1999). At present, he is also a fellow at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1991-present) and a member of the British Academy (1997-present). Stepan's teaching and research interests include comparative politics, theories of democratic transitions, federalism, and the world's religious systems, and democracy.

UPDATE

REPORTS ON SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY LOKNITI-CSDS



Lokniti Team is in the process of preparing a detailed report of each survey conducted by Lokniti, CSDS in partnership with various media houses and institutions. Currently, Roseena Nasir is preparing the reports on the surveys related to election, while Kshetri Rajiv Singh is taking up the reports on State of Nation Survey. The hard copies of the completed reports are now available at CSDS Library.

The reports currently available are:

- Assembly Election in Himachal Pradesh-2007: A Post-Poll Survey
- Karnatak assembly Election-2008: A Pre-Poll Survey
- Karnataka Assembly election-2008: A Post Poll Survey

The Reports currently on process are:

- State of Nation Survey –January 2008: An National Opinion Poll on Indian Women
- State of Nation Survey- July 2008: An National Opinion Poll on Indo-US Nuclear Deal
- State of Nation Survey-August 2008: An National Opinion Poll on Urban Indian Family

ALL THE COMPLETED REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON LOKNITI WEBSITE VERY SOON.

PUBLICATION

- Annpurna Nautiyal, The Indo-U.S. Nuclear Deal: What is There?, *Strategic Insights*, Volume VII, Issue 4, September 2008, Center for Contemporary Conflict, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

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