

LOKNITI NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Editor's Note

Dear readers,

I am very happy to announce the revival of the *Lokniti Newsletter* after a gap of nearly seven months. The Lokniti team had been preoccupied with several activities in this period. As I take charge from the former editor, Ms. Reetika Syal, I will try my best to provide you with the latest and most accurate information regarding the life at Lokniti every month.

A few important organisational developments need specific mention. **Prof. Peter R. deSouza**, former Co-Director of Lokniti has been appointed as the Director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. **Prof. Suhas Palshikar**, Professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Pune, is now the new Co-Director.

Sadly, we have lost one of the pioneers of Lokniti, **Prof. Rajendra Vora**. He will be fondly remembered for his versatile personality and invaluable contribution to the Lokniti work.

Ms. Kinjal Sampat, Research Officer, left the organisation in February for her higher studies.

We wish her the best of life ahead.

Lokniti also welcomes its new team members at the Delhi office - **Mr. Rajiv Kshetri**, Research Officer; **Mr. R. Thirunavukkarasu**, Research Officer; and **Ms. Vasudha Dhingra**, Research Associate.

Wishing the readers and members peace, prosperity and happiness, and a long association ahead.

-----Vasudha, *Editor*

Call for Applications

Applications are invited for a two-week *Summer Workshop on Research Methodology: Analyzing Quantitative data on Indian Politics* at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla from 16th June 2008 to 29th June 2008.

Highlights of the Newsletter

LOKNITI CSDS PROJECTS

- **IGNOU EduSat Assessment Study**
- **Democracy and Child Rights in India and the UK**
- **Nepal in Transition**
- **KAF-CSDS Youth Study**
- **State of Democracy in South Asia**

LOKNITI CSDS SURVEYS

- **State Assembly Election Surveys- Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland (February-March 2008)**
- **SONS- Women in India (January 2008)**
- **SAES- Gujarat (December 2007)**
- **Indo-Pak Polls (August 2007)**

SPECIAL FOCUS
Project 'Delimitation'

SOME RECENT PROJECTS

IGNOU EduSat Assessment Study (2007-2008)

IGNOU EduSat Assessment Study is being carried out by CSDS in seven states of Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh at 13 Satellite Interactive Centres (SITs) spread across the country.

The study is user-centric undertaken to assess the efficacy and sustainability of IGNOU's interactive multimedia learning support system through video-conferencing and web-based platforms by utilising EduSat and the internet facilities. The study aims to explore and probe the entire system of teleconferencing in terms of suitability of timing, dissemination of information to target groups, level of motivation/interest of students to attend the sessions, accessibility and students' perceptions on the content and presentation. The "Feed In" collated and analysed will be useful in making the teleconferencing system more effective and student friendly. Interviews of students were conducted between December 2007 and February 2008. Focused Group Discussions of the IGNOU resource persons were held on 29 February 2008. The questions raised related to issues such as attendance at SIT Centres, content of the course curriculum, usability of Gyan Vani, Interactive Radio Counseling (IRC), and suggestions for improvement.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar is directing the study. Coordination of the fieldwork in these states is being done by Sandhya Goswami (Assam), Rakesh Ranjan (Bihar), Kinjal Sampat (Delhi), Mahasweta Jani (Gujarat), B.S. Padmavathi (Karnataka), and Ram Shankar (Madhya Pradesh). Himanshu Bhattacharya, Kanchan Malhotra, Pankaj Pushkar, Praveen Rai, and Vikas Gautam, will be involved in analysing and designing the study.

LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER

Democracy and Children's Rights in India and the UK (2007-2009)

As you would be aware, Lokniti, CSDS and the Human Rights Centre (HRC) at the University of Essex (the UK) started working on the project titled 'Democracy and Children's Rights in India and the UK: Law, Policy and Outcomes' in 2007, whose principal investigators are Prof. Peter Ronald deSouza and Dr. Todd Landman. The project is one of the Standard Awards of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI).

As part of the project requirements, researchers from India visited the UK to delve into multifaceted questions related to child rights.

Ms. Banasmita Bora from Lokniti visited the University of Essex for a period of two months where she investigated into questions of institutions of justice for children in the UK. Ms. Bora spent two weeks at the Summer School where she undertook an intensive course work on Policy Analysis, and training in methods and methodology. Courses on Policy Analysis, Mathematics for Social Scientists, Statistical Terms and Concepts were offered. Besides, Ms. Bora also made good use of some of the lectures organised by the Summer School during the two-week period. In addition, Ms. Bora held discussions with Dr. Todd Landman and Prof. Vicky Randall from the Department of Government, University of Essex; and Dr. Kevin Boyle, Director of the Human Rights Centre.

The remaining six weeks were utilised by Ms. Bora for working on her research paper.

Two more researchers from India visited the University of Essex in October 2007. **Mr. Emidio Pinho**, Children's Rights in Goa (CRG), Goa, worked on *Comparative Study of Procedures Relating to Child Sexual Abuse between UK and India*, and **Dr. Marian Pinheiro**, V.M. Salgaoncar Law College, Goa, researched on *Youth Justice in the U.K.*

A volume of all the participants' reports will be published at the end of the project.

For more details on the project, please contact Ms. Banasmita Bora at banasmita@gmail.com

LOKNITI NEWSLETTER * LOKNITI NEWSLETTER * LOKNITI NEWSLETTER * LOKNITI NEWSLETTER * LOKNITI NEWSLETTER

Nepal in Transition

Mr. Sanjay Kumar from Lokniti and Mr. Jiwan Subedi co-authored a study in 2007 under the lead authorship of Prof. Krishna Hachhethu. The study, published by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) in January 2008, was titled ***Nepal in Transition: A Study on the State of Democracy.***

In 2004, International IDEA and the State of Democracy in South Asia/Nepal Chapter conducted a survey on the state of democracy in Nepal. In 2007, a follow-up survey was conducted by the same organisations to gauge Nepali people's changing perceptions about their national politics and democracy. The 2007 survey findings showed striking differences in the opinions of people in this three-year period.

In the **Foreword** to the published study, **Prof. Lok Raj Baral** notes that

“*Nepal in Transition* has tried to explore many important issues related to transitional politics: the issues of monarchy, inclusive democracy, and the transformation of the Maoists from an insurgent group to a mainstream party that engages in competitive politics. The survey also has studied the new phenomenon of the rise in ethnic among Nepalis, a phenomenon that demands vigilance and deft social engineering from the major political actors in the transition process, and the dynamics of ethnic and national identity. The discriminatory character that the Nepali state has had, ever since the state was formed, encouraged the politics of exclusion, and the only privileged caste and class groups have enjoyed power and access to resources. *Jana Andolan II* has given us an opportunity to rectify this and many other outmoded characteristics of the Nepali state, and the survey catalogues the people’s expectations for positive changes.”

----- Lok Raj Baral

Foreword, *Nepal in Transition: A Study on the State of Democracy*

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KAF-CSDS Youth Study (2006-2007)

As is known, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) and CSDS conducted a nation-wide attitudinal study of the Indian youth in 2006 and titled it as *Youth Attitudes in India*. The objective of this study was to contribute to the understanding of how Indian youth cope with life-challenges in a changing environment, what motivations and values influence them, what are their attitudes and behaviour with regard to fundamental issues of national and international politics, and how they try to cope with forces of modernity.

The final outcome of the study will be two-fold. One will be a Report, and second, a volume on the case studies prepared by selected candidates.

In the past, a series of meetings and discussions have been held in this regard. A meeting, exclusively to discuss data analysis strategy was held on 16 July 2007. It was attended by Prof. D. L. Sheth, Prof. K .C. Suri, Prof. Pradeep Chibber, Prof. Peter R. DeSouza, Prof. Sandeep Shastri, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Sasheej Hegde, Prof. V. B. Singh, Prof. Yogendra Yadav, and the research team at Lokniti, CSDS participated in the meeting.

On 13 September 2007, Dr. Sandeep Shastri and Mr. Sanjay Kumar presented the first draft chapters of the report on the study. Prof. D. L. Sheth, Dr. Harsh Sethi, Prof. K. C. Suri, Prof. Peter R. deSouza, and Prof. V.B. Singh attended the presentations. The presentations discussed the emerging story in each section/

chapter; and presentation style for all chapters.

Prof. Sandeep Shastri and Mr. Sanjay Kumar are jointly working on the draft chapters based on the data analysis.

The report is expected to publish by June 2008.

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State of Democracy in South Asia (2004-2007)

The three-year study on the *State of Democracy in South Asia* was started in 2004. It was the first collaborative effort of its kind to carry out a base line evaluation of the democratic enterprises in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka by using multiple methodologies: Sample survey, Qualitative assessment, Case studies and Dialogues.

The report on the findings of the study was published by Oxford University Press in November 2007.

The Oxford University Press summarises the content of the report as follows:

“This report seeks to shift the locus of discourse on democracy away from the global North to ‘most of the world’...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 offers a fresh analysis of the promise of democracy for the ordinary people, its institutional slippages, obstacles in its functioning, and its mixed outcomes. The report combines public opinion data with expert assessment, case studies, and dialogue with democracy activists...Written in a non-technical language and laced with attractive graphics, this report will be a valuable resource for political scientists, policy planners, administrators, activists, NGOs, and the interested general reader. It will also be of interest to students and scholars of politics.”

For further information/purchasing the report visit:

http://www.oup.co.in/search_detail.php?id=144394

Also read: *The Democracy Barometers Surveying South Asia*

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SOME RECENT SURVEYS

State Assembly Elections Surveys - Tripura, Meghalaya, and Nagaland (March 2008)

Three states of the north-east region went to polls in February-March this year. The state assembly elections in Tripura were first to hit the ground on 23 February, followed by Meghalaya on 3 March and then Nagaland on 5 March.

The Assembly Elections Survey of the three states was carried out by CSDS at 180 locations evenly spread across three states of Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland. The fieldwork of the survey was conducted in these states from 29 February to 5 March 14, 2008

The survey was conducted in 2008 at 20 Assembly constituencies in each of the three states. In each state 1,000 sampled registered voters were approached for interviews.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar, CSDS, directed the survey. The fieldwork was coordinated by Sukendu Debbarman (Tripura), Rajesh Dev (Meghalaya), and Amongla N. Jameer (Nagaland). Dhananjai Joshi, Himanshu Bhattacharya, Kanchan Malhotra, Praveen Rai, Rajiv, Vikas Gautam, and Yogendra Yadav designed, coordinated and analysed the survey.

Also see 'Tribes and the State' by **Dhananjai Joshi and Rajiv Kshetri** at <http://www.indianexpress.com/story/282690.html>

'Winner doesn't take all' by **Rajiv Kshetri** at <http://www.indianexpress.com/story/281757.html>

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State of the Nation Survey on Women in India (January 2008)

The CNN-IBN-Indian Express-CSDS **State of the Nation Survey- An Exclusive Survey of Indian Women** was designed and analysed by CSDS in January this year. The fieldwork for the study was conducted between January 10 and 16, 2008.

The survey was carried out in 160 locations spreading over 13 metropolitan, 17 big cities, 11 small towns and 68 rural locations. The respondents were randomly interviewed across locations. The sample comprised of 75 percent Hindus, 12 percent Muslims, 14 percent Dalits and 8 percent Scheduled Tribes women.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar, CSDS, directed the survey. The field work was coordinated by P. Narsimha Rao (Andhra Pradesh), Rakesh Ranjan (Bihar), Kinjal Sampat (Delhi), Priyavdan M. Patel (Gujarat), B. S. Padmavathi (Karnataka), Sajjad Ibrahim (Kerala), Koteswara Prasad (Tamil Nadu), Ram Shankar (Madhya Pradesh), Nitin Birmal (Maharashtra), Jagroop Sekhon (Punjab), Harish Kumar (Haryana), Baba Mayaram (Chhattisgarh), Sanjay Lodha (Rajasthan), G. A. K. Verma (Uttar Pradesh) and Suprio Basu (West Bengal), Harishwar Dayal (Jharkhand), S.N Misra (Orissa) Akhil Ranjan Datta (Assam), Mangi Singh (Manipur), Rajesh Dev (Meghalaya). The team that designed, coordinated and analyzed the survey at CSDS comprised of Yogendra Yadav, Sanjeer Alam, Praveen Rai, Dhananjai Joshi, Vikas Gautam, Himanshu Bhattacharya, K.A.Q.A Hilal and Kanchan Malhotra.

LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER

State Assembly Elections Survey- Gujarat (December 2007)

The state of Gujarat went to polls in two phases last December. Elections to the first phase were held on 11 December and to the second on 16 December.

CSDS conducted **pre-poll** survey, “Gujarat Pre Poll Survey”, for CNN-IBN-Indian Express-Divya Bhaskar. The fieldwork of the survey was conducted at 240 locations spread across 60 Assembly constituencies in Gujarat between 31 October and 6 November 2007.

Also, **exit poll** and **post poll** surveys were conducted by CSDS for the Indian Express-CNN-IBN-Divya Bhaskar-CSDS analysis on the state election. In the first phase, both types of surveys were used; in the second phase, only exit polls were conducted.

The fieldwork of the survey was coordinated in Gujarat by Priyavadan M. Patel (Vadodara) along with his colleagues Bhanu M. Parmar (Anand) and Hemixa Rao (Rajkot). **Mr. Sanjay Kumar**, CSDS, directed the survey.

The central team which designed, coordinated and analysed the survey comprised of Banasmita Bora, Dhananjai Joshi, Himanshu Bhattacharya, K.A.Q.A Hilal, Kanchan Malhotra, Kinjal Sampat, Praveen Rai, Sanjeer Alam, Vikas Gautam, Yogendra Yadav, and Rajeeva Karandikar of Cranes Software International Limited.

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Indo-Pak Poll Survey (August 2007)

The CSDS-CNN IBN-Indian Express-Dawn News **Indo- Pak poll** was conducted in both India and Pakistan in August 2007.

It was an exclusive survey of urban Indians and Pakistanis conducted on the eve of 60 years of independence of the two neighbours. The survey not only focused on public opinion on Indo-Pak relations, but also covered themes ranging from domestic issues such as religion and politics, to international issues such as the Iraq war, 9/11 terror attacks and the role of US in South Asia.

The survey in India was designed and conducted by CSDS. The fieldwork in Pakistan was conducted by A. C. Nielsen, Pakistan. The sample for the survey in both the countries was drawn from purely urban population. In Pakistan, the survey was conducted in 10 of the biggest towns in terms of their population; while in India, it was 20 biggest towns. The fieldwork for the study in India and Pakistan was conducted between 25 July and 6 August 2007.

A special survey was also conducted in Jammu and Srinagar to assess people's opinion on issues and problems related to the state.

For details on the findings, please see:

[87 percent in J-K want Independence](#)

[India, Pak: Two nations, same anti-US sentiment](#)

[Friendship with US in our interest? Yes, says urban India, Pak no](#)

[At 60, Pak in a low mood; India thinking positive](#)

[India, Pakistan review democracy at 60](#)

[India, Pak: Two nations, same anti-US sentiment](#)

[US and us: India, Pak united in state of doubt](#)

[Srinagar says yes to freedom, no to Pak](#)

LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER* LOKNITI NEWSLETTER

PROJECT 'DELIMITATION'

With the recommendations of the Fourth Delimitation Commission coming into force, from March this year, the political map of the country is expected to undergo significant changes. Not only have the boundaries of existing constituencies changed but so has the political demography thereof. How would the constituencies now look like? To what extent has the political demography of constituencies changed? How far the changed scenario would affect the political actors? These are the questions that instantly occupy our thinking. Lokniti has taken up the challenge and is trying to produce information on the same through its project 'Delimitation' started in February 2008.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

1. To create maps of each assembly and parliamentary constituency;
2. To prepare socio-demographic and economic profile of each constituency, and
3. To assess the impact of boundary changes on political actors.

Stage I is to collect preliminary research on the nature, source and level of data availability. Some vital information from the Delimitation Commission is being accessed. Besides, some data, such as on caste groups, will be collected through fieldwork. A pilot study for the same is decided in order to get feedback on the magnitude of cost, difficulties in collecting information, accuracy and reliability of information.

After the data is collected, Stage II would be to engage GIS people to draw maps. The profiling exercise would indeed move parallel to the cartographic one. Once this exercise is done for a state, a demonstration and assessment of the output will follow. The project will then move to its third and final stage where it is proposed to put the output in public domain.

The timeline for each of the three stages will be soon finalised. The project is expected to take its final shape before the next Lok Sabha due in May 2009.

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