



# LOKNITI NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- MALCOM ADISESHIAH AWARD TO PROFESSOR YOGENDRA YADAV
- SECOND SUMMER SCHOOL
- SURVEY ON STATE OF ENVIRONMENT
- KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY ELECTION-2008
- SEMINAR ON ELECTORAL POLITICS IN NORTHEAST INDIA
- NEPAL- CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2008
- NEW INTERN AT LOKNITI
- RECENT PUBLICATION BY LOKNITI MEMBERS

## Lokniti-Programme for Comparative Democracy

Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

29 Rajpur Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-54

Phone Number: 011-23981012, Fax Number: 011-23831290

Website: [www.lokniti.org](http://www.lokniti.org)

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

I am happy to bring out Lokniti Newsletter for the month of May 2008. The Newsletter highlights the activities of Lokniti during the month of April. This issue also brings to you the upcoming events of Lokniti. I am also glad to inform the readers about the conferment of Malcom Adiseshiah Award 2008 to Professor Yogendra Yadav and congratulate him for the achievement.

Comments from the readers are highly appreciative.

*Editor, Rajiv Kshetri*

## **MALCOM ADISESHIAH AWARD 2008 TO PROFESSOR YOGENDRA YADAV**

Professor Yogendra Yadav, Co-Director, Lokniti- Programme for Comparative Democracy, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi has been awarded Malcom Adiseshiah Award for his outstanding contribution to the Social Science for the year 2008. The prestigious Malcom Adiseshiah Award is instituted by the Malcom and Elizabeth Trust and administered by the Madras Institute of Development Studies. This is the eight award and the first to be given to a political scientist.

## **SECOND SUMMER SCHOOL**

Out of 76 applicants, a total of 24 candidates have been selected for the *Second Summer Workshop on Research Methodology: Analyzing Quantitative data on Indian Politics* organized by Lokniti, CSDS and Indian Institute of Advance Study (IIAS), Shimla from 16 June to 29 June 2008 at IIAS, Shimla. Some of the leading scholars, working on empirical methods in Political Science involved in designing this summer school, will act as resource persons. These include Professor Arun Aggrawal (University of Michigan), Pradeep Chhibber (University of Berkeley), Peter de Souza (IIAS, Shimla), Irfan Nuruddin (University of Ohio), Yogendra Yadav (CSDS), Suhas Palshikar (University of Pune), Sandeep Shastri (IACT/Lokniti) and Ashutosh Varshney (University of Michigan).

## **SURVEY ON STATE OF ENVIRONMENT IN URBAN INDIA**

Lokniti is conducting a survey on State of Environment in Urban India. The Survey is conducted in six metropolitan cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. The sample size of the survey is 300 for each city and a total of 1800 for all cities. The survey is aimed to study people's awareness, opinion and attitudes on environment. The survey will also capture willingness to change their attitude towards environment. The field-work of this survey is being held and the findings will be used for a special television programme on environment to be shown on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008 on CNN-IBN.

## KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY ELECTION-2008 SURVEY

Karnataka Assembly Election is being held in three phases on 10, 16 and 22 May 2008. Lokniti has conducted a pre-poll survey in 75 assembly constituencies. The sample size of the survey was 5124. The finding of the survey was used for television programme on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at CNN-IBN. Lokniti is conducting a Post-poll survey with a sample size of 4500. The findings of this survey will be used for a television show on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 at CNN-IBN and a report will be published in *Deccan Herald* on the following day.

## One day seminar on Electoral politics in Northeast India: A Report

On 4 April 2008, Lokniti organized a one-day Seminar on Electoral Politics in Northeast India. The objective of the seminar was to investigate the existing issues of the region within the parameter of electoral politics and to understand the nature of democratic process in the region. The seminar also attempted to discuss these issues through the recently held state assembly elections in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland and the state of Mizoram in which the state assembly election is due at the end of the year.



The seminar started with an introductory speech by Professor Suhas Palshikar, Co-Director, Lokniti, and the session was chaired by Sanjoy Hazarika of Centre for North-East Studies and A. Bimol Akoijam of CSDS as discussant.

The session began with a paper presented by Sukendu Debbarma, Head of History Department, Tripura University, on the theme **Electoral Politics in Tripura-A Brief Analysis**. With an attempt to glance into the demographic change and aspiration of the indigenous people who became minority in their own soil, the paper highlighted some observations with regard to the recently held elections to the Tripura Legislative Assembly 2008.

Following the session Dhananjai Joshi of Lokniti presented a paper on the **Findings of CSDS Election Study: A Post-Poll Survey on Tripura Assembly Election 2008** and made an analysis of electoral trends in the state.

The third presentation was made by Ms. Amongla N. Jamir and Mr. Phyoben S. Odio, Lecturer, Political Science, Fazal Ali College, Nagaland on the theme **Political Trends in Nagaland**. The Paper dealt with the present scenario marked by Nagaland People's Front (NPF) led Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) in the last five years. The papers observed that in the last general election in 2003, though there was a successful amalgamation of different methods and strategies depicting that the Naga politicking has come of age, the combination of tribalism and insurgency is now threatening to swallow the society completely. Further, the papers attempted to deal with the factors that help the NPF-led DAN government to come back to power for the second time in Nagaland.

They also analyzed these factors through the political events before the election like putting down of the DAN government by imposing President's Rule and its ramification on the Congress party, the role of underground groups and the tribal politics, Rio's factor, etc. Finally the morning session ended with a reading of **CSDS Findings of Election Study: A Pre-Poll Survey on Nagaland Assembly Election 2008** by Rajiv Kshetri of Lokniti, followed by a serious discussion on the floor and a concluding note by the chairperson of the session.



The post lunch session was chaired by Professor S.K. Chaube, an eminent expert on the politics of Northeast India and Bhagat Oinam, Centre for Philosophy, JNU as the discussant. The session was initiated by a paper presented by Moses, a Research scholar at Centre for Political Studies, JNU, on the theme **Meghalaya Assembly Election 2008: Political Agenda at Stake**. The paper argued that in spite of some pertinent issues brought during the 2008 assembly election, the people of the state have given back a verdict similar to that of the last election in 2003. According to him, money power has overtaken all other sensitive issues concerning the state and its development. This has again strengthened the case of fractured mandate which has been an electoral tradition of the state since its statehood in 1972. This presentation was followed by Rajiv Kshetri's analysis on the **Findings of CSDS Election Study: A Post-Poll survey on Meghalaya Assembly Election 2008**. The analysis highlighted the electoral divide of the Khasi-Jaintia and the Garo population between the Congress and the NCP under the leadership of P.A. Sangma who got a strong support in the Garo hills. But the analysis claimed that lack of NCP support outside the Garo Hills has given opportunity for the Congress to hold a better position in the election result. Finally, the session ended with a paper presented by F. Lalramhluni, a Research Scholar at Centre for Political Studies, JNU. In her paper, **Contextualizing Electoral Politics in Mizoram: Role of Political Parties from 1987-2003**, she highlighted the nature of political parties in Mizoram.

## NEPAL - CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2008

ANFREL Election Observation Mission to Nepal

Election for electing members of the Constituent Assembly was held in Nepal on 10th April 2008. The Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) sent an observation mission of 100 international observers from various countries to monitor the freeness and fairness of election. Our colleague, Praveen Rai joined the ANFREL team as an international observer. He spent about two weeks observing freeness and fairness of Election in the far western region of Nepal, Baitadi district.



### NEW INTERN AT LOKNITI

At present, two students are associated with Lokniti, each for a month as intern. Rahul Verma, an M.A. Student in Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai, is working on the area of Party System, Electoral Politics and Comparative Democracy, and Gautam Chawla, B.A. LL.B (Illrd Year) Student, Christ College of Law, Bangalore, is associated with the project, *CSDS –RAAG: RTI Study* as part of his internship.

### Recent Publication by Lokniti members:

- \* Suhas Palshikar, *The Quota of Missed Opportunities*  
See: <http://www.indianexpress.com/story/295887.html>  
(Posted online: 12 April 2008)
- \* Suhas Palshikar, *Who Gains from Mandal II?*  
See: <http://www.indianexpress.com/story/301267>  
(Posted online: 25 April 2008)
- \* Suhas Palshikar, *Challenges Before the Reservation Discourse*  
*Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.43, No.17, April 26-May 02, 2008.
- \* Sandeep Shastri, *How many corners in Karnataka?*  
See: <http://www.indianexpress.com/story/298290.html>  
(Posted online: 18 April 2008)
- \* Sanjay Kumar, *Nepal ka Badalata Janmat*  
See: *Saamayik Varta (in Hindi)*, April 2008