



**RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE
FOR
CONTEMPORARY STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI**

PROGRESS SO FAR.....
(MARCH 31, 2006 TO MARCH 31, 2014)



THE BEGINNING:

The Government of India had decided in 2006 to honor the contribution of our Late Prime Minister, Hon'ble Shri Rajiv Gandhi by establishing Rajiv Gandhi Chair in Contemporary Studies in the University of Mumbai. This is also significant as the University celebrated its 150th year. The Ministry of Human Resource Development through the University Grants Commission, New Delhi has given financial assistance to the University for establishment of the Chair, which has now evolved into a Centre.

The Centre works within the broad theme of Globalization, Democracy and Development. The areas of interest are primarily on the theme of Panchayati Raj and Local Governance, Impact of Technology on Society, Secularism & Nation Building along with other areas of work such as Tribal Development, Social Justice, Livelihood and Food Security, Women's Empowerment, Eco-System and Sustainable Development, Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Studies, Protection of Child Rights.

The following are the functions of the Centre.

- To coordinate and to provide a think tank in the area of studies drawing expertise and inputs from academic and from experts from other sectors like Government and other national /international NGOs.
- To provide a forum for inter university/intercollegiate Post Graduate and research level dialogues, discussion meetings, summer/winter institutes, involving other Universities/autonomous Institutions/PG Centres.
- To design and execute capacity-building programmes for teachers in higher education focused on the designated discipline of the Centre.

- To strengthen the role of Universities/Academics in Public Policy making.
- To conduct short-term courses in the concerned disciplines.
- Publications of proceedings.

The Centre has its own complex at the Kalina Campus of the University on the Bandra Kurla Complex region of the University (diagonally opposite to Asian Heart Institute, ICICI Bank and Diamond Bourse). The Centre is in the process to develop a state of the art infrastructure. It will house a modernized library facility, seminar cum conference hall, a contemporary art gallery and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 400 with modern amenities.

The Center's activities are increasing rapidly as can be seen from the details given below. The Centre is an autonomous Centre having its own Governing Council and Academic Board consisting of leading public personalities from Corporate Sector, Academia, Public Policy and Civil Society.

The Centre has been able to generate Rs.3.25 crore since its inception, as a result of the special grant announced by Honorable Minister Shri Arjun Singh, ex-Union Minister towards the infrastructure facilities of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Contemporary Studies. The Centre has also generated Rs. 2.5 crore both from HPCL and ONGC for setting up Rajiv Gandhi Endowment Chairs. In addition, revenue is also being generated through collaborative research projects and consultancies.

The Centre has registered 14 doctoral scholars so far and they are working on various themes of contemporary relevance. Many more scholars are in the process of registering for their doctoral work at the Centre.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS CONDUCTED SO FAR....

A. CONFERENCES:

1. Two day Conference in collaboration with Ford Foundation titled **“New Life for the Old University: Renewing Research, Building Collaboration in Mumbai”** on 30th and 31st March, 2007.
2. Two day Conference on **“Public Policy in a Federal Setup”** in collaboration with Centre for Advanced Study, Department of Economics on 19th & 20th February, 2009.
3. An International Storytelling Conference and festival called Magic of the Word Storytelling for Ecological Conversation and Inter-Racial Understanding in collaboration with the English Department, University of Mumbai from 7th to 13th October, 2011.
4. **National Round Table Conference on Contemporary Issues of NT/DNT Communities in India** in collaboration with the Lokdhara at Sewagram, Wardha held on January 4-5,2014. 200 academicians, activist and researchers participated.
5. **National Conference on ‘Democratic Decentralization and Inclusive Development’- Issues and Challenges for the Third Decade of Panchayati Raj in India**, March 20-21, 2014.

B. SEMINAR/ CONVENTION/ CONSULTATIONS/ SYMPOSIUM

6. A State level Convention on 11th March, 2013 on **‘Socio-Legal Rights of Muslim Women’** in collaboration with Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan and MARG, New Delhi.

7. **A State Level consultation on “Rights of Muslim Women and Institutional Linkages”** with BMMA & MARG. Member National Women’s Commission and State Minority Commission participated. It was attended by 85 participants across the state of Maharashtra on 24th September, 2013.
8. **A State Level Research Symposium on ‘Field Data Collection’** for research scholars and research practitioners conducting research in inter-disciplinary social science research areas. March 22, 2014.

C. WORKSHOPS:

9. Ten Day **Academic Writing Workshop** in collaboration with ICSSR from 7th July, 2008 to 17th July, 2008.
10. Workshop on **“Negotiating Social Change and Human Rights Awareness through Theatre and the Politics of Art”** on 11th and 12th January, 2011 in collaboration with English Department.
11. **Two days Orientation and Guidance Lecture on “NET /SET”** for Arts, Science & Commerce Students, in collaboration with Department of Commerce on 30th & 31st July, 2011.
12. **A Mini-workshop on “Engaging Culture Studies – A British Experience”** by Prof. Colin MacCabe & Prof. Steve Connor Understanding in jointly with the Sociology Department, University of Mumbai on 28th November, 2011.
13. **Capacity Building Workshop** for grassroots workers of NGOs working in Mumbai slums on July 11 & 17,2013.
14. **Capacity Building Workshop for staff of** NGO, Light of Life at Karjat, District Raigad on October 17,2013.
15. **One Day State Level workshop ‘Research Management’** at Vivek College, Goregaon on December 12, 2013.

D. PUBLIC LECTURES / TALKS:

16. **'Role of Micro-Credit in Achieving Millennium Development Goals'** by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus on 2nd February, 2007.
17. **'Higher Education Reforms'** by Mr. B. S. Baswan, Senior Consultant, Planning Commission on 3rd March, 2007.
18. **'Globalisation, Agriculture and Rural Development: Opportunities and Challenges for EU-India Cooperation'** by Ms. Marrian Fischer Boel, European Commissioner for Trade and Agriculture on 9th March, 2007.
19. **'Prospects of Indian Economy and Higher Education in India'** by Prof. Kaushik Basu, Cornell University on 29th March, 2007.
20. Distinguished Public Lecture on **'Financial Literacy'** by **Thiru P. Chidambaram**, Union Finance Minister on 20th July, 2007.
21. **'Access To Education'** by **Prof. Andre Beteille**, Chairman, Indian Council for Social Science Research and Former Member, National Knowledge Commission on 5th October, 2007.
22. **'Can Economic Prosperity and Declining Public Standard go together?'** by **Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan**, (ex-IAS), Leader, Lok Satta Movement on 3rd December, 2007.
23. **'Culture and Consumption: Classical Music in Contemporary India and the Diaspora'** by historian **Professor Lakshmi Subramaniam**, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi on 14th December, 2007.
24. **'Globalization : A Critical Perspective'** by **Professor Rajan G. Harshe**, eminent Political Scientist and Vice Chancellor, University of Allahabad on 18th December, 2007.

25. **‘Japan : A diminished Giant?’** by **Dr. Aftab Seth** on 11th January, 2008.
26. First foundation day lecture on **“India and the World After:A Vision for Future”** by **Hon’ble Shri Hamid Ansari**, Vice President of India on 31st March, 2008.
27. **“Gandhi and Modernity”** by **Prof. Akeel Bilgrami**, Johnsonian Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Heyman Center for the Humanities, on 22nd December, 2010 jointly with The Group for Research in Indian Diaspora.
28. **“Engaging Diaspora: Government of India’s Policy and Experiiece”** a guest lecture series by **Ambassador Jagdish Sharma**, IFS (Retd.) on 8th March, 2011.
29. **“Monetary Policy and Lesser Depression 2008?”** A special lecture by **Prof. Jeremy Edwards**, University of Cambridge on 30th August, 2011.
30. **“Social Capital, Gender and the Consumer Revolution in Early Modern Central Europe-?”** A special lecture delivered by **Prof. Sheilagh Ogilvie**, University of Cambridge on 8th September, 2011.
31. A Public lecture by **Dr. Lissa Lincoln** from the American University of Paris in collaboration with the French Department, University of Mumbai on 28th February, 2012.
32. **Dr. Somik Lall**, Lead Economist lecture based on recent work on Urbanization in India jointly with the Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS), Department of Economics, University of Mumbai on 24th July, 2012.
33. A lecture delivered by **Dr. Lissa Lincoln**, from the American University to the Centre from 11th January, 2013 to 16th January, 2013 in collaboration with French Department, University of Mumbai.

E. RAJIV GANDHI ORATION:

34. **1st Rajiv Gandhi Oration on Right to Information: Ushering a New Era of Governance** by **Mr. Wajahat Habibullah**, Chief Information Commissioner on 21st May 2006.
35. **2nd Rajiv Gandhi Oration on Higher Education** by **Shri Arjun Singh**, Union Minister for Human Resource Development on 24th August, 2007.
36. **3rd Rajiv Gandhi Oration on ‘Universities, Internationalization and Society; Priorities for a Second Century’** by **Dr. John Kirkland**, Deputy Secretary General of Association of Commonwealth Universities, London on January 18, 2014.

F. WINTER SCHOOL:

37. **Advanced Winter School (Philosophy for the Social Sciences)** in collaboration with Centre for Philosophy, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore and ICSSR Western Regional Centre from 23rd January, 2009 to 31st January, 2009

G. PANEL DISCUSSIONS:

38. Book discussion on **“Imagining India”** by **Shri Nandan Nilekani**, Co-Chairman, Infosys Technologies Limited on 18th February, 2009.
39. A Panel discussion on **“Internal Security, Terrorism and Indo-Pak Relations”** by **Mr. Prakash Singh**, IPS (Retd.) , Former Director General, Border Security Force, **Mr. B. Raman**, IPS (Retd.) Former Additional Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), **Mr. G. Parathasarthy**, IFS (Retd.) – Former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan, **Mr. Geoffrey Yaden** , Editor, Nagaland Post on 24th February, 2009.

H. DEBATE COMPETITIONS:

40. Inter Collegiate Debate Competition on “**Kartavya**” in collaboration with India Against Corruption on 6th August, 2011.
41. Inter Collegiate Debate Completion on “**Youth involvement and Participation in Democracy**” in collaboration with Chief Election Office-Maharashtra, and ‘We Empower’ on 27th January, 2014.

I. FILM FESTIVAL:

42. A Documentary Film Festival on Drought in Maharashtra entitled “**JANAWA DUSHKAL**” was organized in collaboration with Marathi weekly ‘Kalamnama’ on 9th May 2013.

Besides the above mentioned activities, the Centre is currently engaged in several research, consultancy and is in dialogue with many organizations for collaboration and support in academic and research activities so that it can fulfill its dream of being a ‘Centre for Excellence’. The Centre is open to ideas from various stakeholders and will be willing to collaborate with them to fulfill its objectives.

ONGOING RESEARCH / CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

- “**A STUDY OF EXCLUSION AMONG PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS IN MAHARASHTRA : AN ACTION RESEARCH TO SUGGEST STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**”, sponsored by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India**. (ongoing).
- **Need Assessment Study of Katkari primitive tribe in Raigad District of Maharashtra** sponsored by the Integrated Tribal Department Project, Pen, **Government of Maharashtra**. (ongoing).

- **“Strengthening SSA and RTE Act implementation for children of Nomadic Mendicants and Entertainer communities in Maharashtra”** sponsored by the New Education Group-Foundation for Innovation and Research in Education (NEG-FIRE), New Delhi. (ongoing).
- **A study on Contemporary relevance of Customary Dispute Resolution Mechanisms among the Nomadic and De-notified Tribes in Maharashtra.** (ongoing)
- **Action Research on ‘Employability Skills among the Graduate Students of University of Mumbai’** in collaboration with ‘Edusharp Finishing School Pvt. Ltd’, March 2014.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CENTRE:

1. 1st Rajiv Gandhi Oration on “Right to Information: Ushering a New Era of Governance” by Wajahat Habibullah.
2. “Role of Micro-Credit in Achieving Millennium Development Goals” by Prof. Muhammad Yunus.
3. “Higher Education in India – Towards a New Policy Paradigm” by Mr. B.S. Baswan.
4. Public Lecture on “Prospects of Indian Economy and Higher Education in India” by Prof. Kaushik Basu, Cornell University.
5. Report of the two day Conference on “New Life for the Old University: Renewing Research, Building Collaboration”
6. Distinguished public lecture on “Financial Literacy” by Thiru P. Chidambaram, Union Finance Minister.
7. Second Rajiv Gandhi Oration “On Higher Education” by Shri Arjun Singh, Union Minister for Human Resource Development.

8. First Foundation Day Lecture on “India in the World A Vision of the Future” by Hon’ble Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India.
9. 3rd Rajiv Gandhi Oration on ‘**Universities, Internationalization and Society; Priorities for a Second Century**’ by **Dr. John Kirkland**, Deputy Secretary General of Association of Commonwealth Universities, London on January 18, 2014.
10. Report of the Round Table Conference on ‘Contemporary Issues of NT/DNT in India, January 2014.
11. Report on the National Conference on Panchayati Raj, March 2014.
12. **Report of the Action Research on ‘Employability Skills among the Graduate Students of University of Mumbai, March 2014.**

AWARDS RECEIVED

Dr. Chanrakant Puri, Chair Professor was awarded **Pt. Rahul Sankrutayan Puraskar** for his contribution in social research by 3rd Boudh Parishad, Latur on February 23, 2014.

PAST & PRESENT HoDs OF THE CENTRE

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Tenure
1	Dr. B. Venkatesh Kumar	Reader & I/C Director	31 st March, 2006 to 25 th September, 2009
2	Dr. Abhay Pethe	I/C. Director	26 th September, 2009 to 31 st January, 2013
3	Dr. Chandrakant Puri	Chair Professor	1 st February, 2013 onwards

PhD STUDENTS OF THE CENTRE

A. PAST PhD STUDENTS

Sr. No	Name of the Ph.D. Student	Topic of Thesis	Name of the Guiding Teacher
1	Ms. Joshi Sanhita Mahesh	Redefining Local Governance in the context of Globalisation & Global Challenge.	Dr. B. Venkatesh Kumar
2	Shri. Amarjit Singh Manas	Study of Voting Behaviour in the Mumbai North East Parliamentary Elections 1984 – 2004.	Dr. B. Venkatesh Kumar
3	Shri. Joshi Manohar	Analytical Study of the Birth, Growth, Nature and Structure, Success and Failure and the future of Shiv Sena in Indian Politics.	Dr. B. Venkatesh Kumar
4	Ms. Phadnis Pankaj .K.	Designing and Implementing IT enabled Strategic Management System for facilitating Universalizing of Primary Education.	Dr. B. Venkatesh Kumar
5	Mr. Ranade Sanjay Vasant	What makes news in the Indian Media? – A recipient point of view of political news in India.	Dr. B. Venkatesh Kumar

B. PRESENT PhD STUDENTS

1	Ms. Zutshi Mandira	Decentralization of Elementary Education in Maharashtra: Role of SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan).	Dr. B. Venkatesh Kumar
2	Ms. Mondal Nandita .S.	Women Labour and Empowerment : A Study of fisherwomen in Mumbai.	Dr. Sharit K. Bhowmik

PhD STUDENTS OF THE CENTRE

3	Ms. Purkayastha Ray Sulagna	Decent Work for Women: A Study in the Information Communication and Technology Sector	Dr. Sharit .K. Bhowmik
4	Ms. Shinde Samya Pradeep	Work and Labour Relations : An Anthropological Study of the Leather Industry in Dharavi, Mumbai.	Dr. Sharit K. Bhowmik
5	Ms. Susannah Malkan	Globalization and Corporatization of the Hindi film industry: Effects on human resources.	Dr. Sharit K. Bhowmik
6	Mr. Narsalay Raghav	Gendering innovation driven entrepreneurship in the formal sector in contemporary India: A Conceptual and empirical study.	Dr. Chandrakant Puri & Dr. Ritu Dewan (Co-guide)
7	Mr. Mane Amit Anil	Human Rights and Constitutional Rights violation and its impact on Under-trial Prisoners: A study of Young Detainees in Maharashtra.	Dr. Chandrakant Puri
8	Mr. Waghmare Dayanand	Farmers Suicide and its Impact on Families (Study of Marginal Farmers from Excluded Communities in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra.	Dr. Chandrakant Puri
9	Mr. Agale Prashant Bhaidas	Impact of Relocation and Rehabilitation on the Project Affected Families of MUTP-II of MMRDA, Mumbai.	Dr. Chandrakant Puri



CONTACT DETAILS

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For private circulation only. RGCCS Publication, 2014.100 copies.