Polity as Fiction, Fiction as Reality: Fifty Years of Raag Darbari
29 – 30 January, 2018 at Conference Centre, University of Delhi
Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

29th January, 2018
Registration: 8:30 – 9:00
Welcome & Introduction: 9:00 – 9:15

Session 1: 9.15 – 11.00 Ethnography of Administration
Chair: Prof Navnita Chaddha Behera, Head, Dept of Political Science
Prof Philip Oldenburg, Columbia University - The Folklore of Corruption in U.P. Villages, in Fiction and Fieldwork
Prof Satyajit Singh, University of Delhi – Revisiting Administrative Theory from Village India

Discussant: Tanvir Aeijaz, Associate Professor, Dept of Political Science

Tea Break 11.00 – 11.15

Session 2: 11.15 – 13.00 Universalism, Particularism & Village India
Chair: Prof Ujjwal K Singh, Dept of Political Science
Prof Shailaja Fennell, Cambridge University – Networks, Narratives & Village Life: Revisiting Models of Rural Development through an Institutional Lens
Prof Vibodh Parthasarathi, Jamia Millia Islamia – A Dystopian Publicness, or the genesis of our media economy
Prof Pampa Mukherjee, Punjab University - Classical Texts and Contemporary Realities: Understanding Development through Raag Darbari

Discussant: Dr Abhishek Nath, Assistant Professor, Dept of Political Science
Lunch Break 13.00 – 13.45

Session 3: 13.45 – 15.30 District and Local Politics and Policy

Chair: Prof Rekha Saxena, Dept of Political Science

Prof Sudha Pai, Jawaharlal Nehru University - The District Administration and Local Politics

Prof Yamini Iyer, President, Centre for Policy Research – The Post Office Paradox: Understanding the State from the Frontlines

Prof Saroj Giri, University of Delhi – Dalits and New Voices from the Ground in Gujarat

Discussant: Dr Avantika Singh, Assistant Professor, Dept of Political Science

Tea Break 15.30 – 15.45

Session 4: 15.45 – 17.30 Welfare, Vikas aur Nyaya

Chair: Prof Shri Prakash Singh, Dept of Political Science

Prof Saurabh Gupta & Dr Rajeev Verma, Universitat Hohenheim - Everyday Politics and Delivery of Services in Aanganwadis in Bihar

Ms Paroma Ray, Village School Teacher, Jharkhand – New Institutions and Voice for Children, Women & Adivasis

Shri Manasavi Kumar, IAS & Doctoral candidate, University of Delhi – Negotiating Governance and Energy Access: The Local Energy Conundrum

Discussant: Dr Surae Soren, Assistant Professor, Dept of Political Science

Conference Dinner at International Guest House 19:00 onwards

30th January, 2018

Session 1: 9.15 – 11.00 Literature and Politics

Chair: Prof H. M. Sanjeev, Dept of Political Science

Prof Gopal Guru, Jawaharlal Nehru University - Voice and Oppression

Prof Jean Dreze, Ranchi University - Was Shivpalganj Universal? Institutions and Welfare

Shri Gunjal Munda, Doctoral candidate, Department of Tribal and Regional Languages Ranchi University, Jharkhand – Social Movements, Adivasis, Youth and the Village in Jharkhand

Discussant: Dr Abhay Kumar, Assistant Professor, Dept of Political Science
Martyrs’ Day 2 mins silence

Tea Break 11.02 – 11.15

Session 2: 11.15 – 13.00 Text and Contemporary Politics

Chair: Prof Madhulika Bannerjee, Dept of Political Science

Prof Balveer Arora, Professor Emeritus and Chairman Centre for Multilevel Federalism – *The Federal Polity between Fiction and Reality*

Prof Ulka Anjaria, Brandeis University – *The Contemporaneity of Raag Darbari*

Prof Ashutosh Kumar, Punjab University - *Reading Raag Darbari: India's Democracy Then and Now*

Discussant – Dr Pankaj Jha, Dept of Political Science, Delhi University

Lunch Break 13.00 – 13.45

Session 3: 13.45 – 16.00 Round Table Discussion: *Raag Darbari: Administration, Politics & Challenges for Reforms*

Sri Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary, GOI – *How we Work for Change?*

Shri Shakti Sinha, Retd-IAS Director, NMML – *The Difficulty of Reforms*

Shri T Raghunandan, Retd-IAS - *Local Government Finances, Accountability and Raag Darbari*

Smt Dipa Bagai, Retd IAS, UNDP – *Bureaucratic Reflections*

Prof Abhay Dubey, CSDS – *Literature, Society & Politics*

Smt Priyanka Singh, SEWA Mandir, Udaipur – *Notes from Rural Rajasthan*

Q&A Session

Way Forward and thanks 16.00 – 16.15

Tea Break 16.15 – 17.00