

# **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**

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29<sup>th</sup> 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

30<sup>th</sup> 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