



CENTRE FOR
RESEARCH IN
SOCIAL SCIENCES
AND EDUCATION



THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

NEWSLETTER FROM THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH
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EVENT REPORTS

CeRSSE CONVERSATIONS 2024-1

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE) conducted a virtual panel discussion session on the topic of "State of Indian Republic at 74" focusing on how far we have come as a nation after 74 years of being a Republic. The session had three distinguished speakers, namely Dr. Gopa Kumar, former Vice Chancellor of University of Kerala, Dr. Sandeep Shastri, former Pro Vice Chancellor of JAIN University and the founding Director of CeRSSE and currently the director of Academics Nitte Education Trust, along with Dr. Ellora Puri who teaches in the Department of Political Science, University of Jammu.

The webinar had a total of 156 registrations and total participants who attended were around 101. The session began with the introductory note by Dr. Amrita Purkayastha, who began with the topic of discussion along with the formal introduction of the esteemed speakers to the participants before handing it over to the chair, Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Head and Associate Professor, CeRSSE for conducting the session.

The Panel discussion began with a short lecture by Dr. Gopa Kumar who focused on how India is living in a paradoxical situation with unequal division in the country which is further fostered by communalism and casteism. Additionally, he has highlighted how development in trade and navigation has taken place especially in the light of North Eastern states in the last few years but at the same time, citizens need to be empowered politically, socially and economically. He finally ended by stating how self-employment should be generated more and women should participate in politics in greater numbers for the country to prosper.

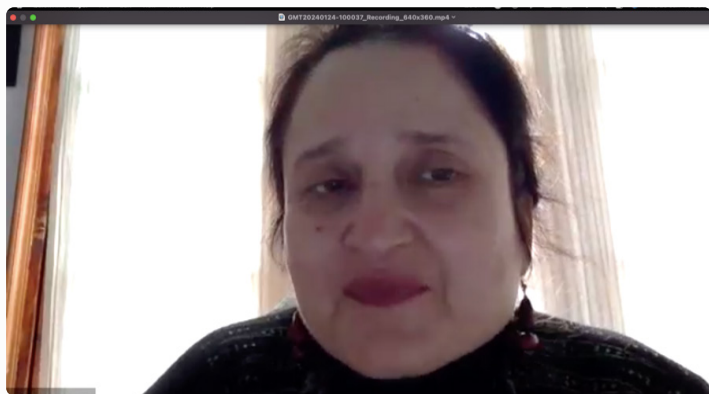


Dr. Gopa Kumar during his session

The second speaker, Dr. Sandeep Shastri divided his lecture highlighting three important perspectives. The first point was how multiple layers of expectations exist towards the government depending upon the personalised experiences of citizens, followed by the three sets of alternatives that define the perspectives- gap between intent and implications, in a nation of diversity, we as a nation are seeking inclusion and the need for integration and the interpretation of integration and the third point highlighting how there is a higher level of public confidence on political institution yet a rise of non-electoral aspects.



The third speaker, Dr. Ellora Puri began highlighting the constitution and how mostly it has been a success in the past 74 years and how the Western prediction of India fragmenting into pieces did not come true. However, she echoed the ideas of the previous speakers by outlining how we as a nation have failed to understand the concept of democracy and election as a mechanism has been divided between intent and implications. Later, she further brought the idea given by Karl Schmidt and related it with the present scenario by outlining how popular will can actually turn into dictatorship and how representation has become privileged at this point when it comes to electoral politics but she ended it with a question if it accompany to the idea of rule of law and how the desire to serve by the people in power happening through majoritarian mandate needs to be pondered upon.



The three lectures were followed by engaging sets of questions and discussions from the audience on different ideas that were relevant to the topic of the webinar. The session was later concluded with a virtual photograph and certificates were distributed to 79 participants who filled in the feedback form.



STUDY TOUR AND FIELD TRIP

Chennai and Pondicherry (19th - 21st February 2024)

A group of 18 students accompanied by 4 faculties from the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) on 19th to 21st February, completed an enriching educational trip to Chennai and Pondicherry. The primary focus of the trip was a Seminar organized by the Department of International Studies, Stella Maris College, Chennai on 'The Age of Artificial Intelligence', held on 20th of February, 2024.



Poster of the Seminar

In a dynamic era driven by technological advancements, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with various fields has become pivotal for the progress of society. Acknowledging this transformative potential, students at Stella Maris College had organized a ground-breaking initiative to delve into the relevance of AI in social sciences under the supervision of Dr. Aarti S, Head of Department of International Relations, at Stella Maris College, Chennai.