

## **Report on National Conference on Emergence of States as the Centre of Indian Politics**

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE) of Jain University organised a two day National Conference on Emergence of States as the Centre of Indian Politics on 20 and 21 of March 2014. This conference was part of the ICSSR project awarded to CERSSE. The conference was attended by academicians from across the country and representatives of major political parties. The delegates included, Prof. Ghanshyam Shah, former Director, Centre for Social Studies, Surat, Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, Prof. Ajay Mehra, Director Centre for Public Affairs (CPA), New Delhi, Dr. Suhas Palshikar, Professor of Political Science, Pune, Dr. K.C.Suri, Professor of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, Dr. Gopa Kumar, ICSSR Senior Fellow, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. A K Verma, Professor of Political Science, Christ Church College, Kanpur, Professor Rajeshwari Deshpande, Professor of Political Science, Pune, Dr. Muzzafar Assadi, Professor of Political Science, University of Mysore, Dr. K. K. Kailash from the University of Hyderabad and Mr. Rahul Verma a Doctoral Student at the University of California, Berkeley. The Bangalore based participants included, Dr. Rajeev Gowda, Professor at IIM and Congress party spokesperson, Dr. P S Jayaramu, Professor of Political Science, Bangalore University, Dr. M. J. Vinod, Professor of Political Science, Bangalore University, Dr. Siddarth Swaminathan, Ramakrishna Hegde Chair, ISEC, Dr. N. Sivanna, Professor of Political Science, ISEC, Dr. Anil Kumar, Associate Professor of Political Science, ISEC; Dr. B M Chengappa, Associate Professor of Political Science, Christ University, Ms. Sindhujaa Iyengar, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Christ University, Prof. Jerome Nirmal Raj Professor of Political Science, St. Joseph's College, Mr. B R Muthu Kumar, Retired Diplomat, Mr. Sreekantha Murthy, Convenor, Media Cell, Congress party. From the host University, Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mythili P Rao, Dean of Languages and Dr. Reetika Syal and Dr. Kalpana Muralidharan of the Political Science Department participated.

The conference had 5 working sessions in which ten papers were presented besides an inaugural and valedictory presentation. All the presentations, while focusing on the broad theme of the conference, looked at the emerging role of states and state based parties in national politics. A few papers dealt with specific case studies involving particular states. While a lot of the dialogue centered on the coming 2014 polls, the discussions looked focused on a broader analysis.



Dr. Ghanshyam Shah delivering the inaugural address. Dr. Sandeep Shastri chaired the session



Dr. K.C.Suri and Dr. Ajay Mehra, Members of the Advisory Committee of the ICSSR Project participating in the discussion. Dr. P S Jayaramu (extreme left) moderating the discussion



Dr. Gopa Kumar (extreme right) making a presentation. Also seen are Dr. Kailash and Dr. Anil Kumar