

## EDITORIAL

We are happy to come up with the first issue of the sixth volume of the *Journal of Indian Research*. This milestone could not have been achieved without the support of the Chairman of Mewar University who is also the Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Journal. Bringing out an interesting and serious multi-disciplinary journal timely is a humongous task. The team deserves accolades for the perseverance and consistency in effort.

In the current issue, we are carrying papers of scholars from as far as Dhaka and Kolkata to Kashmir and Raebareli. Ambesh Pandey of JNU has contributed a timely paper on “*Maritime Challenges and Geopolitics in the Indian Ocean*”. He argues how a great game has reignited in the Indian Ocean between regional and extra-regional powers. He further proposes that littoral States should launch a concerted plan to maintain peace and avoid any war situation. Establishing an organization of littoral States for maintaining peace in the IOR is a welcome suggestion for the policy makers. Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma and Dr. K. Gowthaman both working as Deputy Director at the Indira Gandhi National Open University have contributed a well-researched paper titled “*An Analytical Study Of Online Admission System In IGNOU From Learners’ Point Of View.*” The authors analyze the responses of the users on various components of the online admission, the technological preference of the students and collate the findings. The result spurs interesting insights into the online admission system in the IGNOU. The paper also offers suggestions for improvement in the Online Admission System (OAS).

I have contributed an essay on interplay of innovation and systemic co-option. I have taken up the case of Lallesvari (1335-1387), popularly known as Lal Ded in Kashmir who has left an imprint on vibrant synthetic Kashmiri culture. She transgressed social norms and yet is followed by people from different religions. Her radical challenge to societal order was co-opted through complex cognitive mechanism. The paper describes the concept of *cognitive matrix* and *cognitive surplus*. Further, the same is deployed vis-a-vis concept of ‘*internal history of mind*’ developed by Jürgen Habermas, the chief proponent of the Frankfurt School.

I examine how internal dialectics between ‘*cognitive surplus*’ and ‘*cognitive matrix*’ diffuse power of novelty both within the producing subject and within the group mind of participants in the movement at large. Even though Lalla subverted the societal norms of her times, the subversion couldn’t transcend the criticality and the challenge was diffused by an internal mechanism, both within individual Lalla and outside by

processes like legend production. Understanding these hidden cognitive mechanisms beneath social movements can help to predict the direction of social movements. The paper opens new vista for studying social change and social movements through cognitive dynamics.

We are grateful to Mr. Vinayak Razdan for allowing us to use the illustration of Lal Ded for the cover of the journal.

We wish the readers a fabulous journey through the scholarly pages of the current issue.

**Niraj Kumar**  
Honorary Editor