

Programme

Seminar on 'The Constitution Day'

Abstracts

18 September, 2020

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Participation: All

Talks on The Indian Constitution

An overview on the Indian Constitution

Dr. Sneh Lata

Abstract

This talk aims to present an overview on the Indian Constitution. The Constitution of India was framed by the Constituent Assembly. The chairman of the drafting committee constituted by the Assembly was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Our Indian Constitution was finally adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and became effective on 26 January 1950. At the time of adoption, the Indian Constitution consisted of 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules. Later, additional parts and articles have been included in the Constitution through various amendments. Presently, there are 25 parts, 448 articles and 12 schedules in our Constitution. The most fundamental features of the Indian Constitution are Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, Secularism, Federalism, Independence of Judiciary, Single Citizenship, etc. Some important features of the Constitution were adopted from other constitutions. Up to now, 104 amendments have been done to the Constitution of India.

Indian Constitution as source of inspiration

Dr. S. B. Pandey (ARIES)

Abstract

In this presentation, I highlight the importance of the long heritage and in-built flexibility of the Indian Constitution to have a power-distribution between the Union and States providing an opportunity to frame rules/laws as per requirements of the society and the Government. These uniquenesses of the Constitution make it as a real source of inspiration for us that in case of any adverse circumstances, it has all the vested powers to exercise and build the Nation as per the Preamble of the Constitution.

Preamble of the Constitution

Mr. Pradip Chakroborty (ARIES)

Abstract

Our Indian Constitution begins with a Preamble and it is known as the key of the Constitution. The Preamble has mentioned the guidelines of the Indian constitution. It declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic. The objectives stated by the Preamble are to secure justice, liberty, equality to all citizens and promote fraternity to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. The preamble had been amended only once in the year 1976 during the 42nd amendment of the Constitution. The preamble depicts India's sovereignty, secularity, equality and humanity. World's largest democracy has a superpower within, as it is for the people, by the people, of the people.

The fundamental rights and duties: An overview

Dr. Narendra Singh (ARIES)

Abstract

The fundamental rights are essential for the development of any individual, therefore these have been included in our Constitution. There are 6 fundamental rights provided by the Constitution to the citizens. All the Indian citizens have the right to move the Courts in the case of violation of their fundamental rights. Fundamental duties are listed in article 51A of Part IVA in the Indian Constitution. Presently, there are 11 Fundamental duties. Originally, these were not part of the Indian Constitution. They were included in our Constitution through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment act in 1976. Every citizen is expected to be aware of their fundamental rights, however, at the same, it should be our moral responsibility to perform the fundamental duties as well. The fundamental duties promote a spirit of patriotism and help to uphold the unity of India.

Policies, Bills and Acts

Dr. Jeewan Chandra Pandey (ARIES)

Abstract

Our Indian Constitution allows Parliament to make provisions in all matters related to elections to Parliament and State Legislatures. Bills are introduced and discussed in the Parliament. A bill becomes an act when it is approved by the executive. Policies are guidelines that different institutes of government should follow while making any laws and taking any important decisions. Details about acts, policies and bills are discussed in this talk.

The constitution of India: Historical context, achievements, and challenges ahead

Mr. Jayanand Maurya (ARIES)

Abstract

The democratic values in the Indian society are deeply rooted as republics (Gana Sangha) were present in ancient India as early as 600 B.C. during the era of Janpadas. The Indian constitution has been remarkably good in the sense that its effectiveness in upholding great principles like equality of ethnicity, gender, and religion. The success of the constitution can be underlined by the fact that it had successfully accommodated the aspiration of people since its creation despite many internal challenges like illiteracy, inequality, and diverse culture in contemporary India. The challenges ahead of us as a nation are ensuring gender equality in practice and strengthening democratic institutions through inclusion. The great faith of peoples in the Indian Constitution and the presence of proactive women in all aspects of society gives us hope that we are heading in the right direction.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Journey of an Artist who shaped our lives

Dr. Kaushal (ARIES)

Abstract

Mhow, a small place near Indore, witnessed the birth of an extraordinary child on April 14, 1891, whom we now know as Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. His personal, as well as professional life, has been a guiding source not just for Indians but for the whole world. He is primarily remembered as the architect of the Indian Constitution but for us, as a part of a research institute, his research acumen, passion to shape his academic career, and dedication to work for the least privileged groups of the society are probably more inspirational. During this talk, I will try to take you through the journey of this extraordinary social-reformer from his childhood days until the start of his political career.

Scientific temper in the Constitution: A vision for modern India

Mr. Vivek Kumar Jha (ARIES)

Abstract

The Indian constituent assembly put a firm belief on the development of scientific temper when it drafted the constitution of our country. Led by the vision of our first prime minister Dr. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the institutions of higher education, big industries, dams, and an ambitious space program were launched despite the country in the grip of dire poverty. The IITs, AIIMS, CSIR labs, ISRO, or BARC that we see flourishing and earning a good name for our country now, is a direct result of the vision. Through this talk, I highlight the journey of the country keeping the importance of scientific temper in mind, how it came about, what is the current status, what has the government done to promote scientific temper in the country, and what is the way forward from here.

A brief Political History of human kind with emphasis of Indian context and Indian Constitution

Dr. Rakesh Mazumder (ARIES)

Abstract

In history of human civilization we have seen the emergence of different theory and also the application of it to sustain our society. Started from local lords, feudal lords to monarchy then democracy and then socialism. In this talk, I will briefly discuss about the political history of humankind with a particular emphasis on the Indian context. In our Indian context, the socialism we have adopted in our constitution is Fabian socialism which is gradual and peaceful, unlike Marxian socialism which is spontaneous and violent. We should not take the literal meaning of every word in our Constitution, rather we should also understand the Indian context of it. E.g. though it is mentioned in the preamble of the Constitution that we are secular but in the Indian context, first of all we have positive secularism and also our state interferes in the selective religions institution (keeping aside the minority religions) and also we do not have a uniform civil code (the bill was proposed but not passed yet).

I will also discuss briefly the difference between fundamental rights(FR) (A 14-32) and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) (36-51). One can directly appeal to the supreme court when there is infringe of one's FR however the DPSP is not justifiable rather it is a guide to the state. For the other

legal rights except for FRs, one cannot appeal to the supreme court directly rather they have to appeal to the lower courts first. Also, the Fundamental duties (FD) are non-justifiable like DPSP and also not legally binding unless parliament makes a rule on it.

Judicial activism and implications on Indian democracy

Dr. Brajesh Kumar (ARIES)

Abstract

According to the Indian Constitution, three major components of government (executive, legislative, and judicial) should work independently without interfering into the domain of another. However, in case of any conflict between the executive and legislative, the judiciary plays an important role. It protects the basic rights of the citizens in the form of Public Interest Litigation. The higher judiciary also performs constitutional interpretation whenever needed.