



Institute for Social and Economic Change

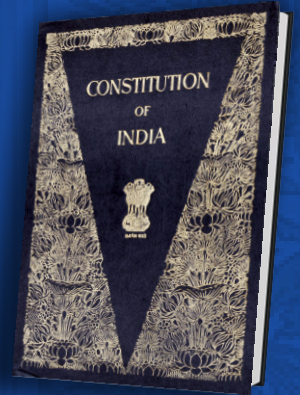
Dr.V.K.R.V Rao Road, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072.

Panel Discussion on

“Conversations on Indian Constitution: Empowering Citizens for a Stronger Democracy”



On the Occasion of “Constitution Day”



Welcome



Prof. D. Rajasekhara
Director, ISEC

Valedictory



Prof. Chandan Gowda
R.K Hegde Chair, ISEC

Panelists



Prof. Jose P. Verghese
Senior Advocate,
Supreme Court of India



Mr. S. Shivasundar
Social Activist

Moderator



Mr. P. Thirupathi
PhD Scholar, ISEC

Vote of Thanks



Ms. Dipanwita Jena
PhD Scholar, ISEC



Prof. Krishna Raj
CESP, ISEC



Prof. V Anil Kumar
CPIGD, ISEC

On the Occasion of Constitution Day

Panel Discussion

On

Conversations on Indian Constitution: Empowering Citizens for a Stronger Democracy

Introduction:

Constitution Day is our proud moment of celebrating and reflecting on the monumental cornerstone of our democracy, the Indian Constitution. This great day reminds us of the far sight of our founding leaders, who had penned a blueprint of justice, equality, and liberty and power for every citizen toward making our nation grow in strength.

Let us remember as we begin this celebration the profound words of Chief Architect of our Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: "*Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, it is a vehicle of Life, and its spirit is always the spirit of Age.*" These remind us that the constitution actually guides by adapting to the changing aspirations and needs of the society in shaping the foundation for our democracy.

For this day, it will be a privilege to host a Panel Discussion titled "**Conversations on Indian Constitution: Empowering Citizens for a Stronger Democracy.**" It has envisioned the significance of the Constitution towards shaping our democratic ethos and civic engagement in addressing present-day challenges against the very purposes and values this living document has enshrined.

Insights from our panellists, through very distinct perspectives, should allow us to discuss not only how the Constitution guides governance but also how it can inspire active citizenship. Let's come together and reflect, discuss, and reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of a vibrant democracy.

Objective:

To enhance awareness and understanding of the Indian Constitution among citizens, focusing on key constitutional institutions and promoting civic engagement as a vital component of democracy.

Event Schedule

Welcome Address: Prof. D. Rajasekhar (Director, ISEC)

Moderator: Mr. Thiruppathi P. (PhD Scholar, CPIGD, ISEC)

Panel 1: Indian Constitution Prospects and Role of Key Institutions

Panellist: Dr. Jose P. Verghese (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India)

Duration: 15 minutes

Theme: Constitution: Evolution, future prospects and understanding constitutional bodies

- Historical evolution of the Indian Constitution.
- Relevance of Fundamental Rights and Duties in contemporary society.
- Federal structure and the balance of power between the center and states.
- The significance of the Preamble and core values (Justice, liberty, equality, fraternity).
- How these institutions ensure the rule of law and protect citizen rights (Parliament, Judiciary, President, Election Commission).
- The relationship between institutions and citizen engagement.

Panel 2: Civic Engagement in Democracy

Panellist: Prof. V. Anil Kumar (Head, CPIGD - ISEC)

Duration: 15 minutes

Theme: Participation and Empowerment

- Mechanism for citizen participation (voting, public hearings, civic petitions).
- Importance of grassroots movements and civil society organizations.

Panel 3: Education and Awareness Programmes

Panellist: Prof. Krishna Raj (CESP - ISEC)

Duration: 15 minutes

Theme: Promoting Constitutional Literacy

- Existing educational programmes focusing on constitutional awareness.
- The role of schools, colleges, and universities in promoting civic education.
- Innovative approaches to educating citizens (use of technology, social media campaigns).

Panel 4: Challenges and Future Directions

Panellist: Mr. Shivasundar (Civic Activist, Bengaluru)

Duration: 15 minutes

Theme: Addressing Barriers to Engagement

- Current challenges in constitutional awareness (misinformation, apathy, access).

- Discussion of the role of technology and social media in overcoming barriers.
- Strategies for enhancing future civic engagement and constitutional literacy.

Session: Question and Answer

Valedictory: Prof. Chandan Gowda (Shri Ramakrishna Hegde chair - ISEC)

Vote of Thanks: Ms. Dipanwita Jena (PhD Scholar, CPIGD, ISEC)

Venue: ISEC Seminar Hall

Date & Time: 26/11/2024 & 3.00 pm.

Organized by SACC, ISEC.