

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: Celebration of Constitution Day

Date of Event: Nov 26, 2020

Location of the event: Department of Political Science, HNB Garhwal University via Zoom & Facebook live

Summary

On November 26, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal (Central) University organized the 'Celebration of Constitution Day', which focused on celebrating the landmark day on which the Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly. The Government of India decided to celebrate the principles and ethos enshrined in the Constitution, and as Constitution Day since the year 2015. The one day event was open to public, and around 234 people from across the states registered for the event.

The event hosted Prof. Subhash Chandra Gupta, Head, Department of Law, HNBSGU, and Dr. Naved Jamal, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Jamia Milia Islamia as the main speakers. The event was presided over by Prof CS Sood, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences, while Dr. Naresh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, hosted the event. A short audio-visual film of the past events of Constitution Day was exhibited to showcase the efforts made by the University prior to the main event.

Initiating the talks, the event co-ordinator Prof MM Semwal recited the Preamble to the Constitution before delivering the introductory speech. Mentioning the various facts of Constitution, he set out the tone for a well-informed session. He argued that the constituent assembly was truly a representative of the citizens of India, wherein people of all groups and creeds was duly represented. Citing various examples, he praised the flexible, yet strong structure of the constitution. This trait has struck the right balance for more than 70 years now. The constitution symbolizes the diversity in unity of India.

The guest speaker Dr. Jamal began with underlining the importance of parliamentary system as a principal mechanism of a functional democracy. Citing it as the root of democracy, he celebrated constitution as the soul of a democracy. This inner power curbs lawlessness and dictatorship, he asserted. Our Constitution, he further stated, stands as a pillar supporting a citizen in his relationship with state and government. Quoting BR Ambedkar, the speaker emphasized the importance of good citizenry if the constitution is to remain good in the long run. So, he continued, it becomes our natural duty to imbibe the noble principles mentioned in then

constitution. He further shifted the focus to the Preamble to the constitution, terming it as the mirror to values enshrined throughout the Constitution.

The main speaker Prof Subhash Chandra Gupta initiated his speech with contextualizing the beginning of Constitution Day. He recounted the proposal towards celebrating Constitution Day by LM Singhvi to the Supreme Court Bar Association in the year 1979. Since then, the event was celebrated as National Law Day till 2015. He reminded the audience of the nationalist and sacred character we all needed to appreciate. He referred Constitution as the “mirror to the aspiration of Indian Culture and Citizenry”. Clarifying the status of Constitution in comparison to general law, he established the superiority of Constitution, suggesting how the legal setup of the country is always working under the macro-constitutional norms. He eulogized the balancing acts of flexibility and grounded-ness inherent in the various aspects of the Constitution. Asserting the utility of Constitution in the development of individuals, he appealed to all for being aware and protective about the values inherent in the Constitution.

The head of the event Prof CS Sood, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences, said that the constitution sets our mannerism and ethos. He underscored the huge significance of this day, as on this very day we delineated our path and destiny in the body of the Constitution. He also defined it as the reflection of our cultural civilization. He further articulated the crux of the core elements of constitution—namely -- liberty, equality, justice and fraternity. He suggested that we must go beyond the literal meaning of the words herein, to hidden ideals and philosophy. Only when we realize the true import of its principles will we be able to attain the high ideals of nation-building, character building among others.

Prof Rakesh Kala, Head, Department of Political Science, gave a Vote-of-Thanks as the programme went off in its final moments. He informed the audience about the outreach of the event across the country. He thanked people from Delhi, Lucknow, Tamilnadu, UP, Rajasthan among others for their participation in the event and making it a successful one.

Prof. RN Gairola, Prof PS Rana, Prof Himanshu Bourai, Prof. Vineet Ghildiyal, Dr. Sunil Khosla, Dr. Rakesh Negi, Dr. Rakhi Panchola were present among others in the event