

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

Lecture on

“Evolution and basic structure of the Indian Constitution”

As part of celebrations of Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav, IFGTB Coimbatore has organized a programme to sensitize about various aspects of Indian Constitution. The programme was Chaired by the Director, IFGTB and started by 4.00 pm, on 18.08.2021 with a formal welcome address by Smt. R.G. Anithaa, STA and Tamizhthai Vazhthu recited by Ms. R.Abinaya, TA. Dr. B. Nagarajan, Scientist-G, gave introductory remark and elaborated the significance of the commemoration of 75th year of independence. A talk on “Evolution and basic structure of the Indian Constitution” was delivered by Dr. D .Rajasugunasekar, Scientist F, IFGTB, Coimbatore. Most of the participants connected online (WebEx platform) and provisions were made available for all the staff and Research Scholars to attend the programme.

The speaker, Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar, gave a detailed account on the Indian constitution in the following subtopics

Evolution of Indian Constitution (1757 – 1947)

I. Regulation of east Indian Company (1773- 1784)

II. Indirect role of British Crown (1793 – 1853)

III. Direct role of British Crown (1858- 1947)

1. Indian Councils Act 1909 (Morley -Minto reforms)
2. Government of India Act 1919 (Montegu- Chelmsford Reforms)
3. Simon Commission 1927
4. Communal Award 1932 Ramsay Mac Donald
5. Government of India Act 1935
6. Indian Independence Act 1947

Establishment of Constituent Assembly

In 1934 M.N. Roy, a pioneer of India's communist movement, proposed the notion of an Indian constitution assembly for the first time. For the first time in 1935, the Indian National Congress (INC) advocated for a constituent assembly to create India's constitution. On behalf of the INC, Shri. Jawaharlal Nehru announced in 1938, "The constitution of Free India must be drafted." without outside interference. The Constituent Assembly was established in November 1946, according to a strategy devised by the Cabinet Mission Plan.

Constituent assembly appointed a number of committees to deal with the different tasks of constituent making. Among all the committees, of the constituent assembly, the most important committee was the drafting committee set up in August 29, 1947. Including the committee's responsibilities and its members namely Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Chairman), N. Gopalsamy Ayyangar, Alladi Krishnasamy Ayyar, Dr. K. M. Mumshi, Syed Mohammad Saadulla, N. Madhava Rau (He replaced B. L. Mitter, who was resigned due to ill health) T. T. Krishnamachari (He replaced by D. P. Khaitan who eventually passed away in 1948)

Salient features of the constitution such as Federal system with unitary bias, Parliamentary form of Government Fundamental rights and fundamental duties. Criticism on the constitution was also highlighted and discussed. Significance of the preamble and basic structure of the constitution was also discussed.

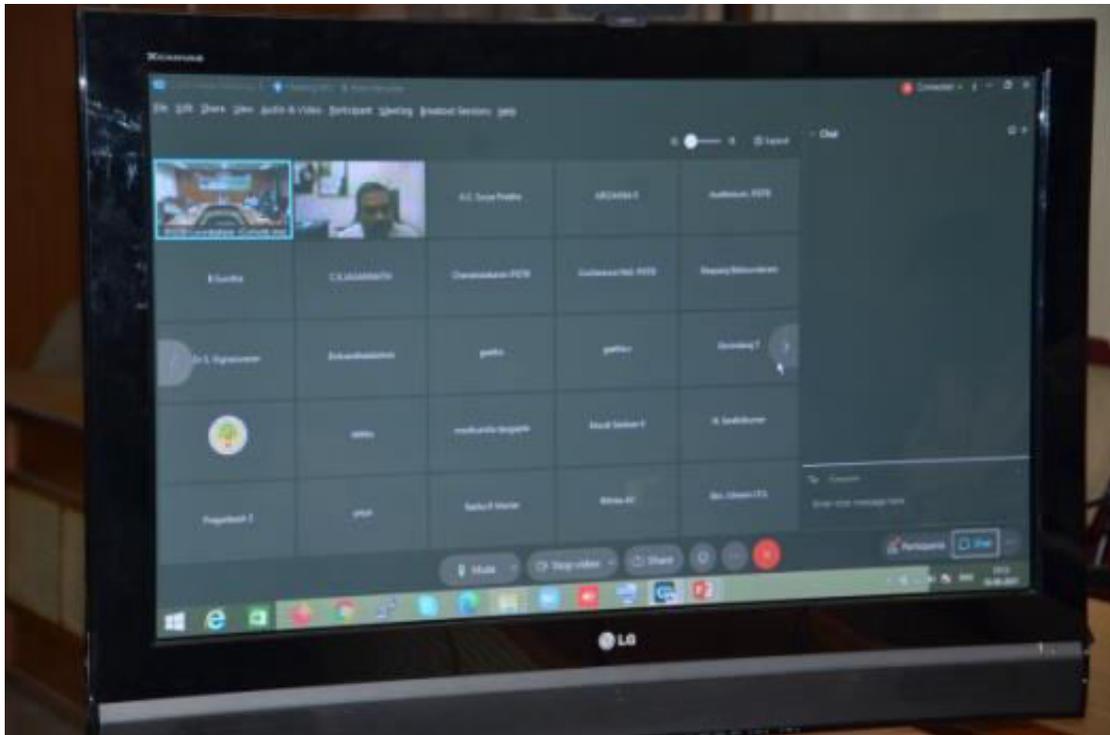
An Interactive session was moderated by Ms. R. G. Anithaa. Questions have been raised on the various aspects of the constitution (by Dr. N. V. Mathish, Scientist-F, Dr. A. Karthikeyan, Scientist-F and R. G. Anithaa) were well received and responded appropriately by the speaker. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB delivered the concluding remarks about the topic, highlighted the fundamental duties in particular to preserve the nature and environment and applauded the speaker for his knowledge in Indian history and the subject discussed and thanked all the people those facilitated the smooth conduction of the programme. After the concluding remarks, the event concluded with national anthem by 5.30 pm as a token of their pride and respect towards the nation.

Director

Event at Conference Hall, IFGTB



Gathering at Auditorium



Projection of the online participants



Concluding remarks by the Director