



ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE EDATHUA

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"LET THY DIVINE LIGHT SHINE MIRACULOUSLY"

INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Sponsored ONE-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

On ***Democracy, Constitution and Social Justice***

in association with
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, KOTTAYAM

Academic Report

Organised by:

Social Justice Cell, St. Aloysius College, Edathua, in association with Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, and sponsored by the Institute of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala.

Date: 10 January 2025

Venue: St. Aloysius College, Edathua

Introduction

St. Aloysius College, Edathua, a distinguished institution commemorating its diamond jubilee this year, has been a beacon of academic excellence in Kuttanad, offering a comprehensive suite of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes. Established in 1965 to address the educational needs of this agrarian region, the college fosters an inclusive environment for students of all backgrounds. From its humble beginnings as a junior college, the institution has evolved into a leading centre for higher learning, solidifying its commitment to educational advancement in Kerala.

Theme and Objectives

The national seminar on "Democracy, Constitution, and Social Justice" was held to solemnly commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of the Constitution of India, reflecting on its enduring legacy and foundational principles. This seminar, funded by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala, sought to foster critical engagement with the complex interplay between democracy, constitution, and social justice in contemporary India.

Objectives:

- To provide a platform for rigorous academic discourse and facilitate insightful dialogue amongst scholars, legal practitioners, policymakers, and students.
- To explore the theoretical underpinnings and practical implications of social justice within the framework of India's democratic polity.

Participants

The seminar saw an enthusiastic participation of 125 individuals, including scholars, legal practitioners, policymakers, students, and members of civil society. The participants actively engaged in the discussions and presentations, contributing to a vibrant and enriching academic atmosphere.

Research Papers

A total of 17 research papers were presented at the seminar, covering a wide range of topics related to democracy, the Constitution, and social justice. The papers presented diverse perspectives and insightful analyses, generating stimulating discussions among the participants.

Keynote Speakers and Distinguished Guests

Name	Designation
Sri. Thomas K Thomas	MLA, Kuttanad Constituency
Dr. Raju Narayana Swamy IAS	Principal Secretary, Parliamentary Affairs Department
Mr. Sameer Kishan IAS	Sub Collector and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Alappuzha
Adv. Kaleeswaram Raj	Senior Lawyer, Supreme Court of India
Prof. (Dr.) T C Thankachan	Professor of Education, St. Thomas College of Teacher Education, Pala, Kerala
Dr. Jasmine Alex	Assistant Professor, School of Indian Legal Thought, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Programme Schedule

The seminar followed a comprehensive programme schedule, which included an inaugural session, technical sessions, paper presentations, and a valedictory session.

Inaugural Session (10.00 am to 11.30 am)

The inaugural session commenced with an invocation, followed by a welcome speech by the seminar coordinator, Mr. Paul Jacob, Assistant Professor of English. The presidential address was delivered by Very Rev. Fr. Philip Vaikkathukaran, Manager of St. Aloysius College. Prof. (Dr) Indulal G delivered the Principal's address.

The seminar was inaugurated by Sri. Thomas K Thomas, Hon'ble MLA, Kuttanad Constituency. The chief guest's address was given by Dr. Raju Narayana Swamy IAS, Hon'ble Principal Secretary of the Parliamentary Affairs Department. Mr. Sameer Kishan IAS, Sub Collector and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Alappuzha delivered the keynote address. Smt. Binu Issac Raju, Member, District Panchayat, Alappuzha and Dr. Vinu T Vadakkal, the IQAC Coordinator felicitated the meeting.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Sub Lt. Justin J Thomas, Assistant Professor of English and Organising Secretary of the seminar.

Technical Sessions

Three technical sessions were conducted on various sub-themes related to democracy, the Constitution, and social justice.

11.40 am- 12.30 pm

Technical Session-I (Online)

Constitutional concerns in present day India

Adv. Kaleeswaram Raj, Senior Lawyer, Supreme Court of India

12.35 am- 1.35 pm

Technical Session –II

Constitutional Vision, Democratic Mission, and the Pursuit of Social Justice in India

Prof (Dr.) T C Thankachan, Professor of Education, St. Thomas College of Teacher Education Pala, Kottayam, Kerala

2.00 pm -3.00pm

Technical Session –III

Constitutional Scheme for Administration of Social Justice-Recent Trends

Dr. Jasmine Alex, Assistant Professor School of Indian Legal Thought, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala

Paper Presentation (3:00 pm to 4:30 pm)

The paper presentation session provided a platform for researchers and scholars to share their work and engage in academic discussions.

Valedictory Session (4:30 pm to 5.00 pm)

The valedictory session summarised the key takeaways from the seminar and highlighted the importance of continuing the dialogue on democracy, the Constitution, and social justice.

Outcomes and Impact

The seminar successfully achieved its objectives, generating fruitful discussions and fostering critical engagement with the complex issues surrounding democracy, the Constitution, and social justice in contemporary India. The participants expressed their appreciation for the insightful presentations, the diversity of perspectives, and the overall organisation of the seminar.

Conclusion

The one-day national seminar on "Democracy, Constitution, and Social Justice" served as a valuable platform for academic discourse and exchange of ideas. It contributed to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing India's democratic polity and reaffirmed the importance of upholding the principles of social justice.

Acknowledgements

The Social Justice Cell of St. Aloysius College expresses its sincere gratitude to the Institute of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala, for sponsoring the seminar. We also extend our thanks to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for their collaboration, and to all the keynote speakers, presenters, and participants for their valuable contributions.

Appendices

- Seminar brochure
- List of participants
- Abstracts & Full Papers presented
- Bills, vouchers and expenditure statement
- Utilisation Certificate (Internally audited)

Submitted by:

Mr. Paul Jacob
Seminar Coordinator
St. Aloysius College, Edathua

Prof (Dr.) Indulal G
Principal
St. Aloysius College, Edathua