



# SPRINGLIGHT

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## SJEC celebrates Constitution Day

By Staff Reporter



The NSS unit of St Joseph's Evening College (Autonomous) organised Constitution Day celebration on November 26, 2020 at L-Hall. The celebration featured short talks on the significance of the day.

Dr. Paul Newman, Associate Professor and HoD of Dept of History stated that Dr Ambedkar is one of the greatest individuals in the world.

"If today we are existing as people with rights then it is thanks to Ambedkar," said Dr Newman. Dr Kanishka, IQAC coordinator remarked on the characteristics of the Indian Constitution. He stated that it is one of the lengthiest constitution and it is necessary to hold the nation of this stature and nature.

The Director, Rev Fr Brian Pereira SJ remarked

that despite the joyous occasion of Constitution Day, he is saddened by the sorry state of Fr Stan Swamy who is languishing in jail. Fr Pereira said, "We are all from diverse background. If there is one thing that binds us all it is the Constitution. Let us celebrate the Constitution and learn to walk the talk."

The Principal, Dr Albert Joseph Smith echoed the sentiments of Fr Pereira. "We are here to celebrate Constitution, but I am saddened by the state of affairs now. I am sure even Ambedkar will be saddened by the state of affairs," said Dr Smith. "If we do not uphold the principles of Constitution our future generations will suffer."

Mr Nagaraj, NSS and HoD of Dept of Hindi administered the oath taking ceremony.

many of constitution and Dr Balaji, NSS and Assistant Professor, Dept of Commerce delivered the vote of thanks. The event was organised by NSS coordinators, Dr Balaji and Mr Nagaraj.

The NSS unit also organised a slogan writing competition on the theme, constitution for the students. 20 students participated in the event.

## Constitution Day: Dept of Humanities organises Panel Discussion

M Joel Rajkumar



On the occasion of Constitution Day, the Department of Humanities conducted a panel discussion on Indian Constitution on November 26, 2020. The discussion was held online through MS Teams platform and streamed live on YouTube.

The panellists included Dr. Paul Newman head, department of history; Ms Paulin Priya, Vice principal, St Joseph's College of Law; Dr. Christopher Hoskins, Head, department of political science; and Mr. Prashanth Kumar, Coordinator of Hu-

manities and Head, Dept of Economics was the moderator for the session.

Both the UG and PG students participated in the discussion. The three panellists were allotted 10+2 minutes each to express their views and opinions. The panellists presented insights into the Constitution of India.

Dr Paul Newman discussed about Dr. B.R Ambedkar's scholarly achievements and his contribution as the voice of the Dalits, implementation of labour laws and woman empowering laws.

Ms Paulin Priya was vocal about the beauty of the Indian constitution as a living document, the promise and hope it holds for the citizens, and requested the millennial to adhere to the constitution,

Dr. Christopher Hoskins discussed about the pitfalls of the partition, the struggles in formation of the constitution, the authoritative powers of the constitution to which the government is answerable, and he emphasised the importance of secularism in the country

One among the many questions asked by the stu-

dents was: "What are the ways to simplify the complex literature and extravagant language used in the Constitution of India and how to make it understandable to the layman." Ms. Paulin Priya stated. "The Constitution was formed in an era where the writing style was old, and in order to address the multiple layered audience of the country, the Constitution was written in a very long and exhaustive format." She was in agreement with the struggles of the layman in understanding the Constitution.

## Green tea, dark chocolate to fight COVID-19?

[sentinelassam.com](https://www.sentinelassam.com)

In a unique study, researchers have claimed that chemical compounds in foods or beverages like green tea, muscadine grapes and dark chocolate can bind to and block the function of a particular enzyme, or protease, in the SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

"Proteases are important to the health and viability of cells and viruses. If proteases are inhibited, cells cannot perform many important functions - like replication, for example," said study author De-Yu Xie from the North Carolina State University in the US

Computer simulations showed that the studied chemical compounds from green tea, two varieties of muscadine grapes, cacao powder and dark chocolate were able to bind to different portions of Mpro.

# Joe Biden with an uphill task to restore American soul

By Albert Joseph Smith



The 2020 US Presidential race witnessed a huge spectacle and large participation of electorate, which eventually saw the victory of Democratic Party Presidential Candidate Joe Biden. He will now take oath as the 46th President of USA. On the other hand, Kamala Harris elected as the first woman of colour as Vice President of USA is also significant, as Americans commemorate hundred years of women securing the right to vote.

The Biden- Harris victory goes down as an important milestone in American History as it ended the most controversial periods of American Presidency under President Trump. Under his regime the stature of the American Presidency, US

democratic institutions, values, standards of governance and public decency leaped to historical lows. Therefore, American youth, Blacks and suburban voted for Biden and Harris as they assured decency and commitment to democratic and inclusive values.

Even though, Trump has been defeated, his ideology of Trumpism continues which defined his governance as President Viz., white supremacy, xenophobia, crony capitalism, politics of hate and humiliation, misogyny, divisive and destructiveness.

The election results also have brought to the fore the deeply polarised social, economic and political life of Americans. The youth and college-going students opted for Joe Biden while dropouts favoured Trump. Similarly, rural America opted for Trump, while cosmopolitan and multi-cultural cities chose Joe Biden. Hence, there is an urgent need for Biden to annihilate Trumpism before it es-

calates into a deeply polarised nation.

Joe Biden is known for his strong views on climate change, which he considers as an existential threat, economy and Covid recovery plan, greater gun control measures, health care, free public education, support of federal funding for abortion, foreign policy that engages the world and its allies. Above all his stand on the immigration policy, in which he extends support of citizenship to "Dreamers" and he is against the construction of a border wall.

Biden intends to provide a path of citizenship to 11 million undocumented immigrants currently in the country and also reinstate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, meant for undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, and make DACA recipients, so-called "Dreamers," eligible for federal student loan aid. In addition, his immigration plan also includes reforming and ex-

panding the legal immigration system, reinstating many former practices and avenues for consideration of asylum and end any prolonged detention and separation of migrant families.

Biden has also pledged to stop new construction of the Southern border barrier, which Trump had championed since he was a candidate, but indicated he would not tear down what is already been built until now. As president, Biden has said he would focus more on other methods of securing the border, including better technology.

### India and Biden

PM Narendra Modi had invested significantly in the Trump administration, which in a way indicated a virtual endorsement of his re-election through Houston and Ahmedabad rallies. Therefore, Delhi now is re-strategising its Indo-US Plan. Conversely, Biden has been a long-time supporter of US India relationship and will be able to bring along

with his presidency, comfort and understanding of foreign policy and the promise of future strategic ties. He will for sure press a hard nerve on issues of Human Rights, Jammu and Kashmir, Citizenship Amendment Act and Religious Freedom with New Delhi, for which Delhi will have to be well prepared.

In hindsight, Joe Biden's victory comes as welcome change not only to Americans but also to other nations. The mandate he has received is a watershed moment of adopting a new approach to the crisis American nation is facing. However, Biden's promise of providing a civil, compassionate and steady leadership from the White house with his rich experience in administration is what the American people and the world trusts to ensure a safe and peaceful America and world. He himself has articulated his goal very well of healing rifts and restoring the soul of America.

## Children's Day: Bembala reaches out to children



### Aishani Sanjay Nadgir

The Bembala Outreach of St Joseph's Evening College celebrated Children's Day in collaboration with Compassion In Action (CIA) NGO on November 14, 2020.

The staff of SJEC Bembala Outreach along with CIA NGO, visited various slums and orphanage homes, to distribute sweet treats to more than 750 children. The team visited Siddapura Slum, Lakkasandra Slum, SR Nagar Slum, White Field Slum, Don Bosco Children's Home, Infant Jesus Children's Home, Home of hope, Sishu Bhavan, Refuge Home, Hosur Road Cemetery, and slums occu-

ried by migrants and children of construction workers.

The main aim of the Children's Day programme was to create awareness amongst people to always care for the marginalised children. It gave the staff a unique opportunity to spend time with these children. It brought in a lot of excitement and happiness in the minds and hearts of the little ones.

It is true when people say, there is nothing better in comparison to a sight of a smiling and a content child. What better way can you make someone feel so special and included?

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