

## CONSTITUTION DAY (26<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

Nagaland University, in online mode through Google Meet, celebrated the 71<sup>st</sup> Constitution Day on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to mark the adoption of the constitution by the Constituent Assembly on this day in 1949. At the stroke of 11 AM, the Registrar, Dr. Abemo read out the Preamble of the Constitution to the participants. A large galaxy of University fraternity read the Preamble along with the Registrar.

This was followed by a lecture on the importance and relevance of the celebration of Constitution Day on 26<sup>th</sup> November every year since 2015 by Prof. A.K. Singh, Dept of Political Science and Transparency Officer of the University. Prof. A.K. Singh highlighted the values and principles enshrined in the Constitution. He emphasized the need for inculcating these constitutional values and principles among the citizens of our Nation particularly among the youth as they will lead India in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. He further pointed out that the Indian Constitution was written by the people of India and adopted by the people of India i.e., the people gave the Constitution to themselves on this day in 1949 which came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950 making us a sovereign, democratic, republic. It shows that the sovereignty lies with the people and it is the will of the people that is reflected in written form in the Constitution.

Prof. A.K. Singh also emphasized on the dynamism and dynamic nature of the Indian Constitution and compared it with a living organism for the fact that it has been able to adopt and adapt to the social, economic, political and the circumstantial reality of the time and this is reflected in the amendments that we have since 1950 which number about 104. He then dwelt upon the different characteristics of the Indian Constitution, the visionary foresight of Constitution makers particularly its architect Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for making India a quasi-federal political system where the Union is vested with more power as compared to the States. It is done to maintain the unity and integrity of the Nation, seeing its plural and diverse social, ethnic, religious, cultural and regional character. He stated that while there is flexibility provided to incorporate changes as per the demand of the time, at the same time, the rigidity characteristics of the Constitution ensures the protection of the basic structure as pointed out in the famous Kesavananda Bharati judgment.

Prof. Singh also talked about the need for making the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in part IV of the Constitution and Fundamental Duties incorporated in part IV(A) as per the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of 1976 justiciable and enforceable in line with Fundamental Rights as incorporated in part III of the Constitution.

While highlighting the need for making the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties enforceable and justiciable, Prof. Singh emphasized upon the fact that time has come for citizens of the Nation to perform the duties first while asking for the rights incorporated in part III of the Constitution. He highlighted the continuity and change that reflects the dynamic nature of the Constitution as we have seen some important changes incorporated in the Constitution reflected in the increase in the number of Articles from 395 to 448 and from original 8 Schedules to 12 Schedules today. But the most important change has been in the preamble itself which after the 42<sup>nd</sup>

Amendment of 1976 reads that we are a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic. The incorporation of Fundamental Duties, the deletion of Right to Property by the 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1978 and empowering local instruments of governance through the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Acts of 1992 are some examples of dynamism and flexibility of the Indian Constitution, added Prof. Singh.

He concluded by reiterating the relevance of observing the Constitution Day in order to educate the youth in particular and the people in general to understand and respect the values and principles laid down in the Constitution. Only an enlightened citizen will make an enlightened nation, said Prof. Singh.

In his message, Prof. Pardeshi Lal, the Vice-Chancellor of Nagaland University highlighted the importance of the Constitution Day by informing that this day is relevant for (a) adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949 (b) observance of the day as National Law Day and (c) remembering the contributions of the architect of Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He said the Statue of Equality that was unveiled by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2015 on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar shows the yeoman contribution of the worthy son of the worthy Republic for ensuring equality among the people irrespective of caste, creed, sex, gender, etc, through the Constitution. He reiterated that the task of nation building will be achieved only when the citizens of the county inculcate and imbibe the values and principles enshrined in the Constitution in the form of the ideals laid down in the Preamble, rights laid down in the Fundamental Rights, social and economic goals laid down in the Directive Principles of State Policy and, more importantly, the duties and responsibilities laid down in the Fundamental Duties of the Constitution. He further emphasized the need for educational institutions like Nagaland University to spread and impart these values to the youth in particular and people in general in Nagaland and beyond. He concluded by asserting that educational institutions like Nagaland University need to be the flag bearer for spreading the message of the Constitution makers and the visionary leaders of the like of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Mr. Zajamo Yanthan, System Administrator, Nagaland University. The programme was coordinated and chaired by Mr. Peter Ki, PRO, Nagaland University.