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Chief Minister of Kerala



P. Sreeramakrishnan
Speaker
Kerala Legislative Assembly



A. K. Balan
Minister, SC/ST Development &
Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of Kerala



Rahul V. Karad
Executive President, MIT-WPU
Founder, Indian Student Parliament
(Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad)



NATIONAL STUDENTS' PARLIAMENT, Kerala – 2019

Power and Possibilities of Democracy & Politics

23rd, 24th & 25th February, 2019
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

festivalondemocracy.in



**Kerala
Legislative
Assembly**

Govt. of Kerala

Organized by

**Department of
Parliamentary Affairs,
Govt. of Kerala**

Jointly Organised by



Dr. Vishwanath Karad
**MIT WORLD PEACE
UNIVERSITY | PUNE**
TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, SOCIAL INNOVATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Supported by



Festival on Democracy

The Kerala Legislative Assembly in association with Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Kerala, MIT World Peace University, Pune, and UNICEF had initiated a number of activities to celebrate the **Diamond Jubilee** of both the founding of the State and that of Kerala Legislative Assembly. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Kerala state was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan on 1st November 2016, at the Legislature Complex, Thiruvananthapuram. The yearlong celebrations ended in November 2018, coinciding with anniversary of the founding of the state.

The Secretariat of the Kerala Legislature organized a series of six national level conferences, as a part of 'Festival on Democracy' in connection with the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Kerala Legislature Assembly. The programme is a sincere effort to add momentum to the process of strengthening the values and ethos of democracy as envisaged in the Constitution of India. 'Festival on Democracy' was inaugurated by Hon'ble the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 6th August 2018 at the Legislature Complex, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Post-Independence, various Governments and law making bodies of the country have come forward with several welfare measures and progressive legislations which have been instrumental in the empowerment of the under privileged and vulnerable sections in particular and the civil society at large. But the Governments and the law making bodies of the nation are obliged to address the challenges and explore the limitless capabilities of maintaining the status of a democratic nation. Hence the democratic processes are to be kept alive by ensuring sufficient room for interactions and deliberations within each, as well as among various societies of the nation.

It is in this context that the idea of 'Festival on Democracy' is conceived, setting up an ambience conducive to the exploration of diverse array of topics with democracy as the pivot. This is also a significant step taken by the Kerala Legislative Assembly towards making the democratic processes more familiar and accessible to the people.



The happiness of the leader lies in the happiness of his people, his welfare in their welfare. He will only consider those things desirable which are liked by his people and not which he likes individually.

- Arya Chanakya



Vision

To create ethical, spirited and competent public leadership in the country, which will shape our policies, make our democracy vibrant and promote sustainable and equitable government.

Mission

To ignite the spirit of politics in the youth of today and inculcate public spirited and socially sensitive values during their formative years.

We aim to raise the extent of sensitivity, awareness, involvement, responsiveness, access and say of youth in political and democratic processes so that a healthy democratic system is evolved to produce competent public leaders and policy makers, from the grassroots and from all walks of life.

Objectives

- Connect Politically / Socially active youth of Kerala on one platform for the common purpose of strengthening democracy and to inculcate a National vision
- Create in them respect for politics, political leaders, democracy and its institutions and train them for future leadership of the country
- Raise their awareness, intellect and sensitivity to social and political issues, encourage and motivate students to embrace public life in service to the Nation
- Promote National and regional understanding, inter-cultural dialogue and diversity of ideas and practices
- Contribute to the personal skills development of Indian youth
- Provide a forum in which young people can express their opinion, interact with eminent personalities from different spectrums of life, take pledge to uphold democratic values, pass resolutions for social good and submit it to the government for consideration and action
- Create energetic 'ambassadors' of democracy to replicate the democratic values and influence their peers
- National Students' Parliament will develop entrepreneurial spirit - conceptualize and establish one's own NGO or political party to transform specific areas in the socio-political arena



National Conclaves as a part of “Festival on Democracy”

- National Legislators Conference
- National Women Legislators Conference
- National Students' Parliament
- National Media Conclave on Democracy
- Consensus Conclave on Kerala Development
- Special Conference on Assembly Proceedings

National Students' Parliament

The National Students' Parliament, Kerala—2019 aims to inculcate in youth a love for democratic values and the democratic way of life, and to instil a craving for democracy as a system, thought and vision. The focal points of discussion will cover faith and affinity towards politics and parliamentary democracy, plurality of thought, the essence and spirit of the Constitution, the need for ethics in public life, the vision of sustainable development and the emergence of an enlightened new world through information gateways. This mega-three day event will have participation of about 2000 students from various Universities within India. The discussions will center around democracy, politics and the Constitution of India.

Aims

- To spread and strengthen democratic values and the democratic way of life in all parts of the world through engagement with the youth.
- To support and strengthen civic learning for all children and encourage civic engagement by young people.
- Increase the participation of youth in decision making processes at all level in society and governance.
- Promote the development of youth as global citizens by providing a platform for youth from all parts of the world to share their experiences, aspirations and best ways of dealing with their problems.
- Take the ideas and resolutions of the youth from the Student Parliament venue to state, national and international level governing bodies for action on them.
- Utilize the path-breaking and innovative ideas and practices of youth for world peace and sustainable and equitable development.



Seed Thought



Dear Citizens of India,

We take pride in the Democratic Principles of our great Nation-India. The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world. Our Constitution declares India as – sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. This implies that as Good Citizens it is our foremost duty to respect other citizens of our country irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, faith, color or economic background. Yet, it is a grim reality that these principles are not getting implemented at the bottom of the pyramid and across the length and breadth of our diverse Motherland.

Kerala has been a pioneer among other States of India in the upliftment of Weaker Sections of the society such as- SC/ST/ OBC, Women, Students/Youth and the Media. Nevertheless, much more is needed in this field for bringing these marginalized people at the forefront of the Civil Society. On the occasion of 60 Years of Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, we have initiated a number of initiatives to mark the execution of democratic principles. 'Festival on Democracy' is a culmination of the Vision to put in place a

structure in Indian Education, Economic and Political Sectors to induct and empower citizens belonging to Weaker Sections of the Society. Supported by Leaders, Legislators and Institutions who have worked for the upliftment of the society, the six National Conclaves would discuss many aspects pertaining to the upliftment of weaker members of our society. The Six national level seminars were conducted as part of the 'Festival on Democracy' to arrive on reasonable solutions on challenges faced by the Weaker sections of the society in Kerala such as – the SC/ST communities, the Women, the Students, the Media and overall development of the State of Kerala. The festival was inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India and remarkable leaders from the Government, Judiciary and Media addressed the audience as Speakers and graced the occasion.

I look forward to a wider support from experts, learned people and Government Officials holding critical portfolios who can drive the changes required for Empowerment of the People.

Sincerely,

Sri. P. Sreeramakrishnan

Speaker – Kerala Legislative Assembly

Message



It is indeed a pleasure to see that National Students Parliament (NSP) has taken shape here in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The genesis of this journey lies in a simple thought that India is progressing to be a global superpower, it needs leaders who are dynamic, proactive, capable and knowledgeable to handle the utmost challenges of Politics. Today's political environment demands knowledge & skills especially in the areas of Political Processes, Political Systems, Foreign Policy, Political Economy, Public Policy, Constitution, three tier structure of Government etc, which has led to the establishment of MIT-School of Government(SOG), in 2005, which is the 1st institute of its kind, not only in India but also in Asia.

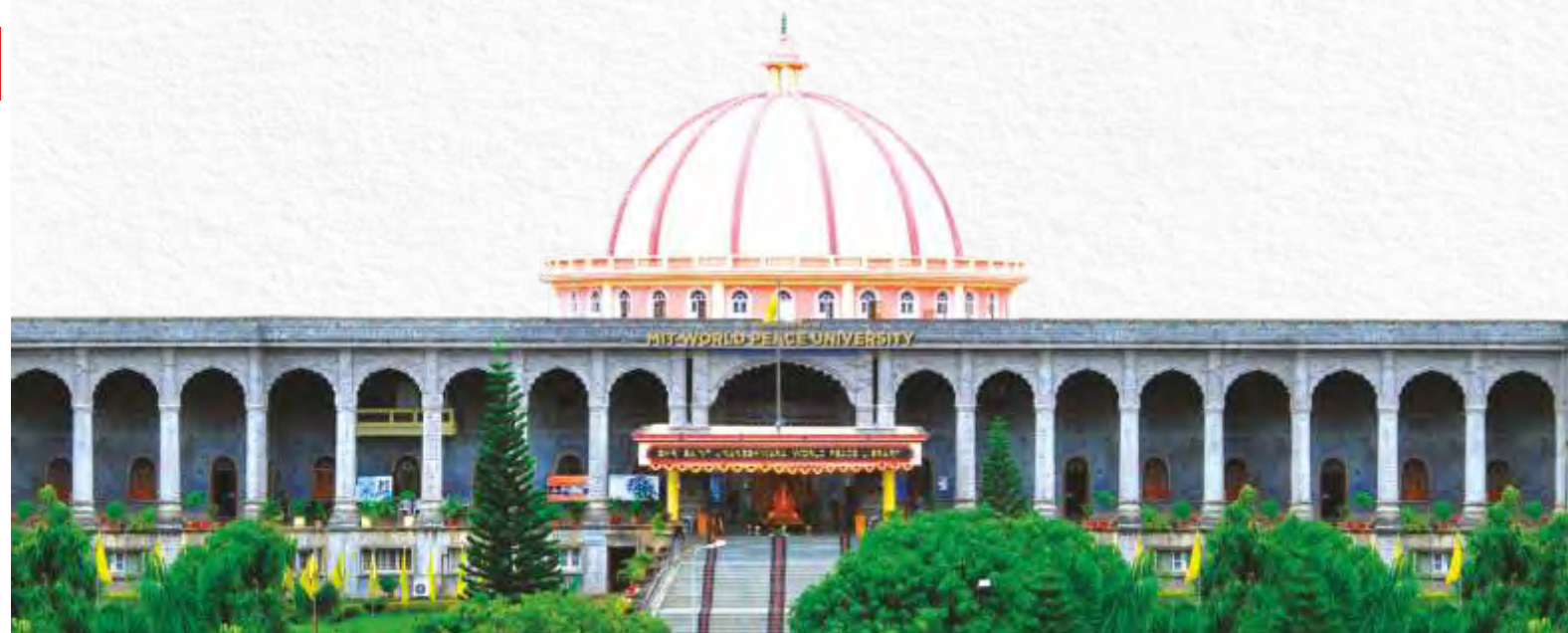
To motivate youth to participate in active public life and contribute towards nation building MIT-SOG is the foundation behind Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad (BCS), National Women's Parliament (NWP) and National Teacher's Congress (NTC), it is a bright example to show how a small idea can go a long way. BCS has imbued in youth a sense of active citizenship. I am happy to see the progress and acceptance of the thought of Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad (BCS), with growth of its visibility

in the form of Bihar Chhatra Sansad (BCS), Jammu & Kashmir Chhatra Sansad (J&KCS), Uttar Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad (UBCS), Madhya Pradesh Chhatra Sansad (MPCS), Gujarat Chhatra Sansad (GCS), Haryana Chhatra Sansad (HCS) and Telangana Chhatra Sansad (TCS). The acceptance is not restricted to state level conclaves but is also seen penetrating at district level in the form of Akola Chhatra Sansad (ACS).

I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, with his academic blend has led to successful symphony of politics, academics, government, youth connect to celebrate National Students Parliament as a government's initiative. The NSP is unique model, where we see that the Government and private education institute have come together for a greater public/national cause. This small ripple should be carried forward with more and more such engagements, with an ultimate objective of creating an informed politically alive citizenry.

Rahul V. Karad

Executive President,
MIT World Peace University, Pune



OUR ASSOCIATES

MIT-World Peace University, Pune.

MIT-WPU is a culmination of a Vision to re-establish India's position as a 'Vishwa Guru', which means 'The Teacher of the World'. A strong testimony to our Vision is set by a firm foundation from 'The MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions and MIT-Pune' which practiced imparting true values along with Quality Education in Science & Engineering for 4 decades, since 1983. MIT-WPU carries forward its responsibility as a UNESCO Chair for Human Rights & Sustainable Development Goals supported by World's renowned Scientists, Researchers, Scholars, Academicians, and Successful Entrepreneurs, who are associated with MIT since the very first Brick was laid in the foundation of this Institution. Students at MIT-WPU are leveraging its Academic Framework of Studies to receive Holistic Education through a multi-disciplinary approach that incorporates Academic Knowledge, Research, Technology, Social Innovation and Peace Studies. Its pioneering WPU Methodology is developed with Scholastic Inputs and endeavors to set new benchmarks in the field of Higher Education Globally.

MIT-World Peace University has a legacy of four decades in delivering Excellence through 'Value Based Universal Education' and organizing Socially relevant conferences since 2005 that have impacted the 'Nation Building Process'. The Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad (Indian Students Parliament) was the largest classroom organized under the aegis of MIT-School of Government for Inspiring the educated youth of India and encouraging their active participation in Politics and Public Life. Visit mitwpu.edu.in

UNICEF

For 70 years, UNICEF has been working on the ground in 190 countries and territories to promote children's survival, protection and development. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS.

UNICEF is the driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized. UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is also the world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries. As a global authority UNICEF is able to influence decision makers at the global level and turn the most innovative ideas into reality.

Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad

Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad has created a youth movement by connecting thousands of youth across the nation with hope and assurance. Politically and socially active students from 450 universities from all states of India go through a rigorous selection process adopted by their colleges independently and 10000 - 12000 of them finally get an opportunity to participate in the flagship annual conclave of BCS. These young leaders are engaged in absorbing academic sessions for three days to discuss and deliberate on a wide range of significant issues. A number of political leaders, thought leaders, intellectual giants, industrial leaders and youth icons of national and international eminence, from all walks of life and spectrum of ideologies provide them the context, analysis, courage, insight and perspective so that they can dream bigger, see clearer and speak louder.



**INSPIRING YOUTH,
STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY**

BHARATIYA CHHATRA SANSAD
INDIAN STUDENT PARLIAMENT



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METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR NATIONAL STUDENTS' PARLIAMENT - KERALA 2019

1. Conduct of Session:

Academic Sessions are based on various themes which reflect the important issues facing State/India/World currently. The sessions are initiated by eminent scholars and leaders such as Vice Chancellors & leaders from walks of life. Two student leaders express their views on the given topic in an atmosphere where they are not pressurized or burdened by the views of the other speakers. The Speaker of state assembly speak for 10 minutes. This is followed by speeches by Eminent Speakers who speak for 15 minutes each, followed by Q & A session. The Resolutions are put to voting towards the end of the session. This is the general methodology followed for all 2 plenary sessions and 6 regional sessions, while allowing for last minute alterations as per the demands of the situation.

2. Different Format of Sessions

The sessions at the National Student Parliament was divided in different session formats. The basic idea was to bring out the maximum by touching different subject areas. Plenary Session is a common session which is to be attended by all, it is the common session. It was designed to have broad subject with subject expert from the field. Regional Session comprises specific subject topics with relevant subject experts. "Rings of Fire: Youth to Youth Connect", introduces a new dimension to National Students Parliament the idea is students should discuss and deliberate on short listed topics which are related to the benefit of the masses in India. The expectation is all youth should come together under the banner of "Rings of Fire: Youth to Youth Connect" and help the government develop an action plan on topics discussed. In this way this "Rings of Fire: Youth to Youth Connect" Programme will drive the participants from inspiration to action.

3. Flow of Session:

The session is opened by an official of Kerala Government setting the pitch for others to deliberate. This is followed by keynote speaker(s), which is followed by thoughts expressed by eminent guests and student speakers expressing their thought. The session completion is marked by passage of a resolution.

4. Student Speakers:

A fair selection methodology is adopted while selecting the students who speak as representatives of the students during each session. A selection panel is formed comprising of faculty and other experts, who review the VCDs/DVDs received from those registered students who wish to speak on the given topic. The criteria adopted for selection is relevance of topic, content of speech, body language, confidence level etc. Based on this, the shortlisted students have to perform before the selection panel before the start of the Conclave. 4 students who excel in the above mentioned criteria are finally selected to speak during each session.

5. Main Speakers/Eminent Speakers:

Very eminent personalities from various fields like Politics, Media, Entertainment, Judiciary, Corporate, Bureaucracy etc are invited as Main Speakers or Keynote Speakers for each session. At times, more than one Main Speaker is invited depending upon the subject of discussion and the availability of the eminent personality.

6. Felicitations:

Felicitations of guests is a deep-rooted Indian tradition. At NSP, we have imbibed this tradition as a mark of respect to every contribution of every individual. The eminent speakers and other dignitaries along with student speakers are felicitated with a memento depicting "Niyamsabha" embossed upon it.

7. Q & A Session:

Participating students send in their questions on a printed format to the volunteers allotted for each seating block. The volunteer collects these questions and sends them to the selection committee present near the dais. The committee examines the relevance of the questions and selects an optimum number of questions depending upon the time available, but usually not less than 4. As the Q&A session starts, each selected student's name is announced who then goes to a podium kept beside each block and asks the question to the eminent speaker of the session.

8. Resolutions:

At the end of plenary session, a relevant resolution on the topic discussed is proposed, which is sent to the various decision-making authorities if passed by a majority by the participants. The voting options are 'Yes' and 'No'. It is displayed on the screen in the auditorium and the participants vote via SMS. In the regional session format, the resolutions is conducted by reading the resolution and asking the participants to raise their hand in order for both Support or Against.

9. Cultural Program-

The vibrancy of Unity in Diversity was visible through harmonious tune of 'BHARAT' which represents BHA- Bhavam, RA- Ragam and TA- Talam, BHARAT :ie: Harmony in Diversity. The cultural program showcased the diversity through music. The scintillating treat of music is not just to our hearts but also to our minds, when artists play diverse musical instruments in symphony.



Kerala Legislative Assembly has completed 60 years of coming into being and the journey continues. To celebrate the very spirit of democracy the 'Festival on Democracy' has been organized as Diamond Jubilee celebration by the Kerala Legislative Assembly, at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India Sri Ram Nath Kovind. A series of national level seminars and programs are being organized with the aim of fostering, inculcating, sensitizing, reiterating and thereby strengthening the values and ethos of democracy, as envisaged in the Constitution of India.

KITS FOR STUDENT LEADERS

Kits given to participants of BCS included I-card, bag, T-shirt, badge, notepad, pen, books etc.



GLIMPSES OF INDIAN STUDENT PARLIAMENT KERALA - 2019



Resolutions of the National Student Parliament Kerala - 2019

Plenary Session 01 (Day 1)

We the participants of National students' Parliament, Kerala pledge to protect the concept of a United India. We will uphold the Constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, fraternity and secularism and unitedly fight the forces that want to create a division among the people in the name of caste, religion and language.

Regional Session 01 (Day 1)

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala pledge to preserve and protect the secular fabric of the country. Also expect governments to take strict and immediate legal action against those miscreants who want to create social and communal unrest in the society in the name of nationalism.

Regional Session 03 (Day 1)

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala, recognise and cherish our country's cultural diversity and realize that unity and diversity are assured in the basic fabric of our Constitution. We, the youth and students of this country pledge to unite and defend its rich cultural diversity & unity among the people and to help curb the attempts made to disturb the cultural harmony in the country.

Regional Session 01 (Day 2)

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala, understand that improved living conditions can be made available to all citizens of India by bringing the benefits of science and technology to grassroots levels. We request State and Central Governments to increase the budget allocation for education and to devise ways and means to improve standards in our institutions of higher education.

Regional Session 02 (Day 2)

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala, pledge to enable a successful democracy while recognizing that the basic principles of democracy means equality of opportunity and liberality in all spheres including the economic, social and personal. We will support the government in a concrete plan of action to arrest the growing inequality in society.

Regional Session 03 (Day 2)

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala, realize that development should lead to wellbeing of all sections of society and that environmental protection, optimum use of available resources and conservation of non-renewable resources is essential. We pledge to contribute and work for achieving sustainable development goals.

Plenary Session 02 (Day 2)

We the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala hereby agree that Youth participation in Politics is very important because democracy that envisages tolerance towards others has to become a way of life. We pledge to follow the democratic principles in our day to day life and promote unity in diversity.



DAY 1

SATURDAY

1000 hrs - 1100 hrs
23rd FEBRUARY 2019

**INAUGURAL
SESSION**



DAY 1**SATURDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY 2019 - 1000 hrs to 1100 hrs**

VENUE: Members Lounge, Assembly Block, Legislative Complex

Day 1 23rd Feb Inaugural Session
Arrival of Guests and Key Dignitaries on the Dias
National Anthem
Felicitation of the Guests at Inaugural Session
Welcome speech by Shri. V. Sasi, Deputy Speaker, Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly
Address by Shri Rahul V. Karad, Executive President, MIT WPU, Pune- Associate Partner National Students Parliament, Kerala.
Address by Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, Representative of UNICEF in India- Associate Partner Kerala Legislature
Address by Shri. Ramesh Chennithala, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Kerala Legislative Assembly
Keynote Address by Shri. Thomas Isaac, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Government of Kerala
Presidential Address by Shri. P. Sreeramakrishnan, Hon'ble Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly
Inauguration with Lighting of the Lamp by Shri. Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala.
Inauguration Address by Shri. Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala.
Vote of Thanks by Shri. Babu Prakash Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly.





Dignitaries lighting the traditional lamp to inaugurate National Student Parliament Kerala-2019



Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, Shri. V. Sasi, Shri. Thomas Isaac, Shri. P. Sreeramakrishnan, Shri. Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam



40 years of
KERALA
LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY

**Festival on
DEMOCRACY**
Faith, Fusion & Future

NATIONAL CONCLAVES

Shri. Ramesh Chennithala, Shri. V. K. Babu Prakash, Shri Rahul V. Karad

CULTURAL PROGRAM





Shri. V. Sasi

Deputy Speaker, Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all participants, associate organisations and attendees. Setting the context of National Students Parliament, as a part of 'Festival on Democracy', celebrated as a part of diamond jubilee celebrations of Kerala Legislative Assembly, the underlying aim is to energise youth to actively take part in political processes. To set in process of dialogue and deliberations that will empower the weaker sections of the society through the series of conclaves focussing on women, youth, backward sections of the society and the media among others.

“The underlying aim is to energise youth to actively take part in political processes.

”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Rahul V. Karad

Executive President
MIT- World Peace University, Pune

We appreciate the initiative of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Government of Kerala and Department of Parliamentary Affairs. Kerala is ahead with literature, literacy, education, Human Development Index etc. It is a benchmarking State, this effort of NSP will make a difference by catalysing the mind of the youth. I appeal to all other State Governments to replicate the concept of 'National Students Parliament' in their regions to sensitise the youth for their role in democracy.

The youth should mingle as much as possible, engage and establish good network. It is important that, active citizenship is imbibed in youth. The shining example in this direction can be seen set by the students of MIT-School Of Government, Pune.

“I appeal to all other State Governments to replicate the concept of 'National Students Parliament' in their regions to sensitise the youth for their role in democracy.”





Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque

Representative of UNICEF in India-
Associate Partner Kerala Legislature

My sincere appreciation for giving us the opportunity to partner with Kerala Legislative Assembly. In words of Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Former Secretary General, United Nations “Young people everywhere are torch bearer of New Development Agenda, they will help realise the agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 and our global plan for people , planet and prosperity. The youth are the hope and future for the world.”

Agenda 2030 for sustainable development clearly identifies that without the participation of young people, without tapping of their energies, their resources, their intelligence, their hard work, their citizenry we will not be able to achieve development that we have envisaged. The voices, opinions, experiences of youth, needs to be heard and their passion needs to be harnessed.

“Without the participation of young people & without tapping of their energies, their resources, their intelligence, their hard work, their citizenry we will not be able to achieve development that we have envisaged. ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. Ramesh Chennithala

Leader of Opposition , Kerala

It is high time the youth should think about our heritage and culture with a new vigour and enthusiasm. The need of the hour is to reiterate need of a healthy mutual acknowledgement between the cabinet and the opposition for a healthy parliamentary practice. A healthy relation between the government , opposition and people will help in greater debate of policies and thus evolve a collective approach for development, where society as a whole will be the beneficiary. Here the role of political parties in this country is very important because they serve key role in shaping the country and democracy. The political scenario can be changed by young people by their active participation.

“The political parties in this country are very important because they serve key role in shaping the country and democracy... ”





Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac
Minister for Finance, Kerala

Democracy is the key feature of a republican constitution. It has enshrined federalism, responsible elected parliament. The constitution is a necessary condition but it is not a sufficient condition. If the potential of the constitution has to be harnessed, it is important to achieve the stated principles in the Preamble of constitution.

Every citizen of Kerala has been ensured minimum basic needs in the fields of education, health etc. It is sad that we have not been able to annihilate caste, but have been able to eliminate some of its worst forms and ostracism. The Festival on Democracy is not only an evaluation of contemporary democratic process but also a dream about the future prospects of our nation. In order to empower democracy, we as a nation have to address the issues of economic democracy, cultural democracy and involvement in power.

“The Festival on Democracy is not only an evaluation of contemporary democratic process but also a dream about the future prospects of our nation...””

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. P. Sreeramakrishnan

Hon'ble Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly

At the very outset, I will like to extend my sincere gratitude to you all present here, who have come from different parts of country. We proudly present “Festival On Democracy” and not “Festival Of Democracy”, it is not only an evaluation of contemporary democratic processes but to dream of new faces of prospects. If we have to empower the democracy, we need to address three major issues:

- a) Economic Democracy/ Equality.
- b) Cultural Democracy/ Equality.
- c) Equal Involvement of All in Power.

Unity without Uniformity, Diversity without fragmentation that is India. We have to uphold this basic principle every time. An attempt should be made to strengthen the political activism and democratic governance. Youth need to prove their thoughts, where sky is the limit. This is an era of disruptions-you disrupt and make new knowledges. Knowledge is not only about gathering of information but to process the new knowledge. It is my earnest appeal to you all, to actively participate and return home as good will ambassadors of NSP Kerala and spread the golden message of democracy.

“Knowledge is not only about gathering of information but to process the new knowledge”





Shri. Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam
Hon'ble Governor of Kerala

It gives me great joy and pride to inaugurate the National Students Parliament held as a part of Festival On Democracy. Its aim of nurturing democratic values and democratic way of life is truly laudable. India is the largest and most vibrant democracy in the world. We are a role model to the world in the democratic processes and the ballot. There are many nations around us with lesser population and diversity than India but none demonstrated a sustained democratic tradition with greater dedication and faith like India.

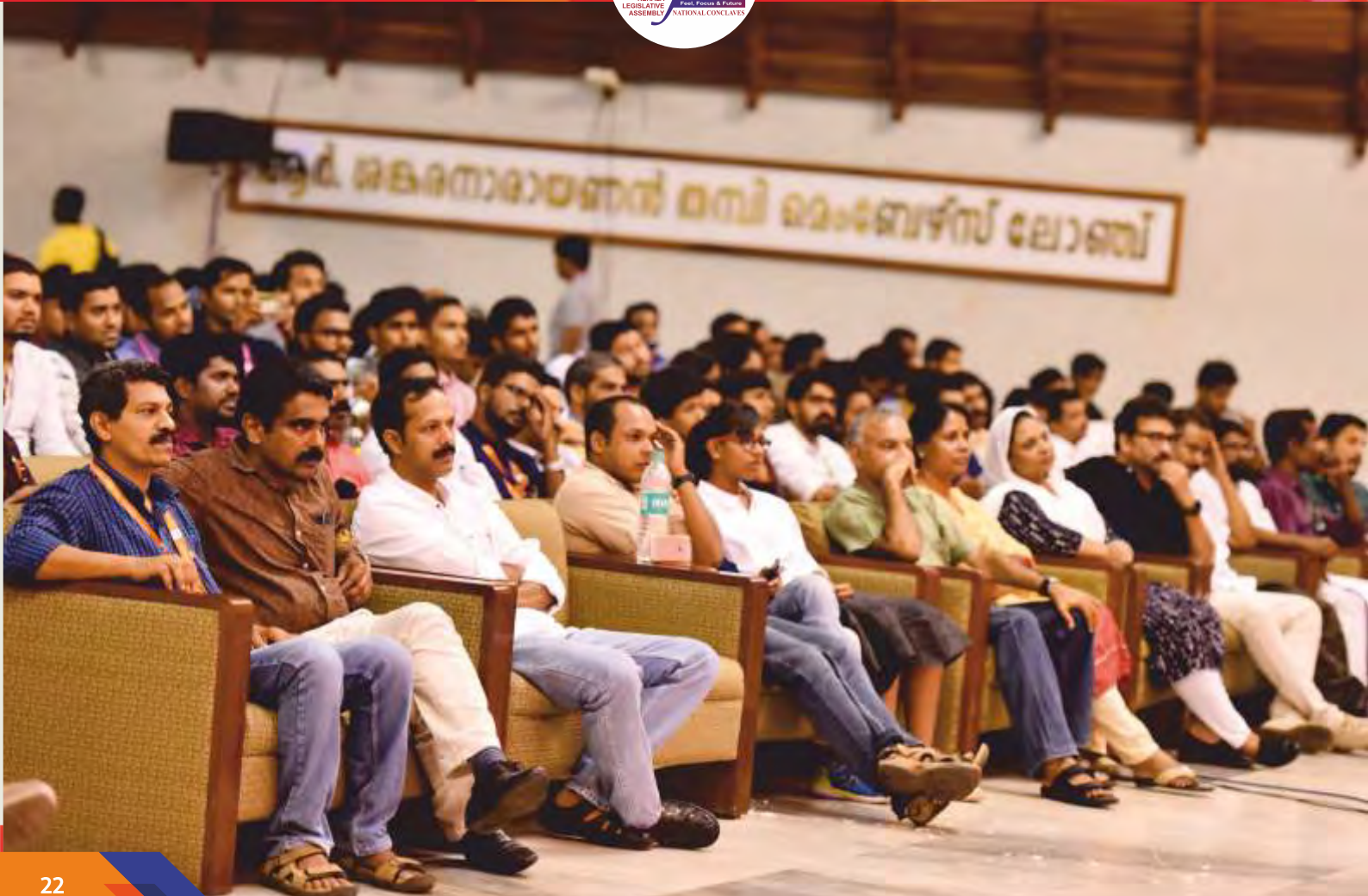
As we know no democracy in the world is truly perfect and therefore every democracy corrects and improves upon itself. It is when we express our dissent and voice our concern we are addressing the failings of a democracy so that we collectively strengthen it further. This student parliament is an opportunity to learn history of legislation and suggest means to improve performance. We believe that opinion of today's youth can become the guidelines of tomorrow. We find many who criticise politics, political activity and crave for benevolent dictator but what is needed is to correct the system but not to move away from it, well informed youth should come forward to ensure a better democratic process.

“ It is when we express our dissent, our concern we are addressing the failings of a democracy, so that we collectively strengthen it further. ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY



Welcome of Guests at Inaugural Session





DAY 1

SATURDAY
1130 hrs - 0100 hrs
23rd FEBRUARY 2019

TOPIC
The Idea of INDIA

**PLENARY
SESSION**



Day 1 Plenary Session Idea of India 11.30 AM to 01.00 PM
Session Opening Remarks by Session Co-ordinator- Dr. J. Prabhash, Former Pro- Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala
Speaker 1- Shri. Prakash Karat-Member, Politburo, CPI (M) spoke on topic 'Political Economy of Development and The Idea of India'
Speaker 2- Shri Abdusamad Samadani, Former MP, Rajya Sabha, Kerala spoke on topic 'Political Unity & the Idea of India'
Speaker 3- Shri Swami Agnivesh, Former Minister, Haryana, Arya Samaj Scholar & Social Activist
Speaker 4- Shri M.R. Raghava Varier - Director General, Centre for Heritage Studies, Govt. of Kerala spoke on topic 'The Idea of India : A Historical Narrative'
Student Speakers : Ms. Ishwaryaa V. S –Tamilnadu, Mr.Anas Mohamed-Kerala
Voting of Resolution by SMS Voting
Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks by Dr J. Prabhash, Former Pro- Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala





Dr. J Prabhash

Former Pro- Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala

To begin on an introductory context for the plenary session on 'Idea of India' and to drive across the fact that 'Unity in Diversity' is important, but also 'Diversity in that Unity' is significant. The 'Idea' of India in Constitution speaks of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The constitution also states that Country belongs to 'We' the people.

Elements like Tolerance, Self-Respect and mutual respect are important for our society as mentioned by Dr. Ambedkar-Father of Indian Constitution. The Idea of India was developed by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B R Ambedkar, Rabindranath Tagore, Nehru ji, Subhash Chandra Bose and others, who shared different perspectives but for the benefit of our nation. So the Idea of India stands for holding together diverse shades of shared thoughts, values and beliefs.

“So the Idea of India stands for holding together diverse shades of shared thoughts, values and beliefs”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri Prakash Karat

General Secretary, CPI (M)

Sharing the thought on 'Idea of India' as modern, secular, democratic republic in India that supports the aspirations for a better life for all of us in India. We are still in pursuit of establishing a complete equal and secular India. The adoption of Constitution of India factored these very aspirations of Indians-specially the youth, the economic development and empowerment had been the mantra of each and every government but inequalities has increased as we see GDP rising.

In 1990 we set for LPG reforms, there was growth, but inequalities dramatically increased. Oxfam report on Wealth and Inequality – points out India has become one of the most unequal societies in world. We need to question the yardstick of development, we need to materialise the Idea of India, so as to achieve inclusive growth.

“We need to question the yardsticks of developments, we need to materialise the Idea of India, so as to achieve inclusive growth.”





Shri. Abdusamad Samadani

Former MP, Rajya Sabha, Kerala

Narrating an incident, by Mughal Emperor Jahangir, where Emperor asks his learned wife Noorjahan, “Why the old people bend and look at ground while they walk?” To which Noorjahan replied – “They are searching for their lost Youth”. Sharing this inspiring thought the youth needs to know their responsibilities to carry on for themselves and for the nation, such that when they look back they should feel that they have done something worthwhile not just for themselves but also for their nation.

Elaborating on topic 'Political Unity & Idea of India', we find India is celebrated for its plural culture and pluralism, which is also in the political fabric of country where all Indian leaders having divergent views and ideologies but they crafted a pathway for a politically and economically strong India. It is the freedom of movement the requisite of foundation to pluralism, secularism etc. Dialogues and debates are essence of India, which is to be nurtured.

“ Dialogues and debates are essence of India, which is to be nurtured. ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Swami Agnivesh

Former Minister, Haryana,
Arya Samaj Scholor & Social Activist

Our constitution begins with, “We the people of India”-shedding light on the very fundamental idea of India, about its inclusiveness. Nowhere constitution talks about Hindu nation or Christian nation or Muslim nation or Sikh nation. We need to protect this very idea of India.

In Kerala, we see an attempt by the educational institutions and political parties, making possible some sort of inclusiveness in society. I really take pride in this state of affairs; this is the time when Kerala should really play a larger role with regard to the rest of the country. The people of Kerala are there everywhere in the country and in many parts of the world. In the current scenario it is ripe to make proactive contributions by each individuals on path shown by Keralites, known for their honesty, integrity, hard work and efficiency

“ Nowhere constitution talks about Hindu nation or Christian nation or Muslim nation or Sikh nation. We need to protect this very Idea of India. ”





Shri M.R. Raghava Varier

Director General, Centre for Heritage Studies,
Govt. of Kerala

The word India is derived from the name of River Sindhu or Indus. In Rigveda, the R. Indus is referred as SaptaSindhu. In Zendavesta of Persian, it becomes HaptaHindu, due to the Persian pronunciation of "Sa" as "Ha". Greek scholar Herodotus calls the region as India.

The earliest name used by people of India to denote the area from Himalaya in north to Kanyakumari in south was "Jambudweepa". We find the earliest documented evidence in edicts of Ashoka, the Mauryan emperor. The next stage in the history of Idea of India is available in the Buddhist and Prakrit text. These text conceive Jambudweepa consisting of several parts- among which one is Bharatvarsha.

"One Family, One Earth, India is one family, this is the Idea of India..." presenting a historical perspective on the 'Idea of India' and shared insightful historic facts and scriptures. It is to be seen how regions separated by peculiar geographic differentiators got united into the Bharata. The youth need to be at the forefront and serve as a model to parliamentarians on how to debate and deliberate. Youth has immense power to be the change makers.

“The Buddhist and Prakrit text conceive Jambudweepa consisting of several parts- among which one is “Bharatvarsha””

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Ishwarya V.S.

Tamil Nadu

'Idea of India' is the idea of an aspiration of an opportunity in India. India as a federal union is comprising 29 states and 7 Union Territories and talking of its culture, Indian culture is one of the oldest. We have great diversity in language, manners and taste and yet we are all INDIANS. There were numerous others who were involved in the Indian Freedom struggle- be it Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhist, Jains or Sikhs, all of them had the same shared identity of being an 'INDIAN'.

Democracy in India is based on the principle of Equality, Fraternity and Liberty, but Caste System is based on Inequality of status and opportunities which always creates conflicts and obstacles in the functioning of democracy. People differentiate people on the basis of Caste but a Shadow doesn't. It is the duty of every individual to help in removing the caste system. A nations culture resides in the hearts and souls of people.

“We have great diversity in language, manners and taste and yet we are all INDIANS . A nations culture resides in the hearts and souls of people.”

Student Speaker



Student Speaker



Anas Mohamed

Kerala

India is the cradle of Human race, it's the birth place of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legends, the great-grandmother of traditions. Most of the constructive materials in the history of mankind are all present in India only. With these words of Mark Twain. As we kickstart the celebrations of 'Festival on Democracy' let us understand 'Idea of India'.

Do you think India can have one single 'Idea of India' to which it has pledged adherence to since time immemorial? Of course not. Just like every other aspect of our country-the 'Idea of India' is also diverse. We don't have diversity only in language, culture and customs, but we have diversity even in our Ideas of our country too.

Our country is like a small growing child, who will have a lot of questions and doubts in its mind. Our growing country needs proper nourishment and apt responses to make it into fully developed youth and responsible citizen. So let us pledge that we through proper nourishment and apt responses for every query will provide a plethora of Ideas as solutions and make our India great.

“Our country is like a small growing child, who will have a lot of questions and doubts in its mind.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

RESOLUTION

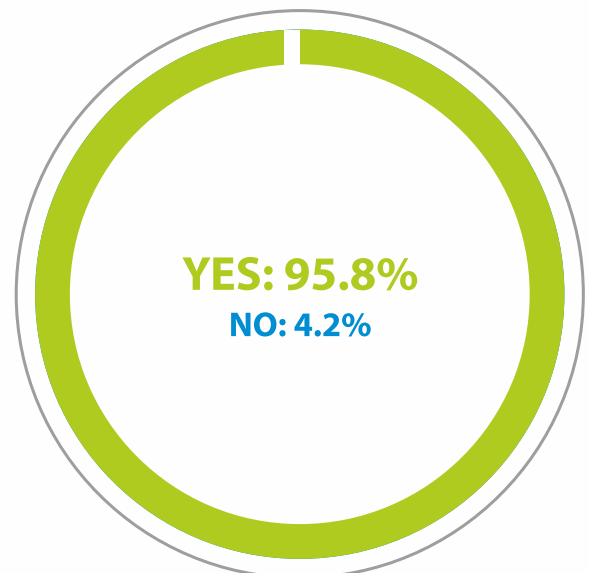


VOTING STATEMENT

We the participants of National students' Parliament, Kerala pledge to protect the concept of a United India. We will uphold the Constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, fraternity and secularism and unitedly fight the forces that want to create a division among the people in the name of caste, religion and language.

Passed by 95.8 %
voting in favor

VOTING %



Welcome of guests at Session





DAY 1

SATURDAY
0230 hrs - 0400 hrs
23rd FEBRUARY 2019

TOPIC

**Secularism &
Nationalism**

**REGIONAL
SESSION - 1**



Day 1 Regional Sessions Session 1 - Secularism and Nationalism 2.30 PM to 4.30 PM
Address by Session Co-ordinators - DR. Achuthshankar S. Nair, HOD, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, University of Kerala
Key Session Speakers - Shri. Binoy Viswam, MP Rajya Sabha, Kerala
Key Session Speakers - Swami Agnivesh, Former Minister, Haryana , Former Minister, Haryana, Arya Samaj Scholar & Social Activist
Student Speakers- Ms. Nandini Satanekar-Maharashtra , Ms. Dixie Maria Saji-Kerala, Mr. Aditya Ingle-Maharashtra
Voting of Resolution by Raising of Hands
Concluding remarks



Dr Achuthshankar S. Nair

HOD, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics,
University of Kerala

It's a privilege to co-ordinate the session at the NSP. At the outset I need to put forth my credentials – I am a secular person, with no scholarly background on secularism or nationalism. I am a person who practices science and science tells me it is logical to be secular.

In contemporary time we need a resolution to have a focused definition of what secularism is, looking at the contemporary realities? Is secularism negation of all religion or is it ensuring that religion doesn't influence government or interfere in religious practices. Both these ideas Secularism and Nationalism need continuous debate with space for descending views.

“Both these ideas Secularism and Nationalism needs continuous debate with space for descending views.”





Shri. Binoy Viswam

MP Rajya Sabha, Kerala

We are here to celebrate democracy and democracy needs to be celebrated. A democracy to be celebrated should be rich in content, its perspective, its vision for the present and for the future and its understanding of the past.

Secularism is the founding stone of constitution and it is to be celebrated with all vigour and vitality. During these days there are great challenges faced by the constitution. It is to be understood that constitution is not a bunch of papers, but it reflects and represents the great and worthy struggle of our fore fathers. The question asked by Nehruji should reverberate our ears "Who lives. If India dies? Who dies if India lives?, for India to live Secularism should live, if it is dead, it means India is dead...". Secularism is one of the primary pillars of our Constitution. He also added that many great people sacrificed their life to attain freedom in all means for our country.

Its nationalism is not born out of religious faith and convictions. India's nationalism provides for all religions to flourish in this land. India's nationalism yesterday, today and tomorrow says- to the whole world that irrespective of religion, faith, the nation will provide its citizens a right to have a decent life. India's nationalism and secularism will always protect all and uphold "Unity in Diversity".

“It is to be understood that constitution is not a bunch of papers, but it reflects and represents the great and worthy struggle of our fore fathers.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Swami Agnivesh

Former Minister, Haryana,
Arya Samaj Scholar & Social Activist

*“Mandir, Masjid, Girjaghar ne baat diya bhagwan ko...
dharti bati, sagar Bata... maat bato insan ko...”*

The prophets of believers in One God, has inspired generations of young people to fight against injustice, to fight for equality and they continue to inspire us, we cannot afford to divide them in different-different religions.

Scientific temper, Spirit of enquiry and reform – mentioned in constitutions fundamental duties is the agenda of life. In this age of science and technology we are harbouring dogmatic thoughts – like those reflecting in issues like women's entry at Sabarimala Shrine or issue of untouchability. The spirit is within us which will guide us to energy of love, compassion, truth and urge for justice.

The understanding of secularism give clarity about the different issues related to religion and it also helps to solve many of them. We should set our own principles in life and not to accept anyone as guru. The importance of harbouring scientific temper rather than religious one, in all matters will categorically help us sail the testing waters of religious animosity.

“Scientific temper, Spirit of enquiry and reform – mentioned in constitutions fundamental duties is the agenda of life.”



Student Speaker



Nandini Sathnekar

Maharashtra

Our preamble talks about unity and integrity of nation. This unity and integrity of nation can only be achieved when we respect all religions equally, that is why secularism is the most prominent aspect of nationalism. Secularism as a concept arose in society where only one religion is valid but Indian variant of secularism is nothing different than pluralism. In India, we have the concept of 'Sarva Dharma Samabav' which means secular state and plural society.

As India is a multi-religious country and we have chosen the path of unity and diversity. For us, Unity doesn't mean Uniformity but it is to accept and respect plurality. This is the one side of coin but we need to look at the other side of coin as well. It has been 70 years of independence we have reached Moon & Mars but on front of religion we are boxed up in mediaval tendencies, we are fighting against each other on religious issues. Issues such as Ram Mandir, temple entry and mob lynching in name of religion etc. Despite all the things, our constitution has assured each and every citizen with fundamental rights.

“Unity and integrity of nation can only be achieved when we respect all religions equally.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Dixie- Maria Saji

Kerala

What is the true essence of secularism and nationalism and how it is relevant today? Nationalism in its sense is no ideology. It is love and respect for one country and an attempt to uplift the citizens. It shall not be devoid affective by any citizen or anybody present. India as we see is mixture of many diverse cultures and religions. Nationalism is only what put all together and wholes as together. Nationalism at times can lead to destruction about the country. Democratic country like India should strife patriotism. Many of Indian leaders were nationalist served for a country democratic, pluralism and tolerance. Nationalism acts as the pillar to uphold the society. Secularism does not follow any religious doctrine in governing the people and thus helps people to have freedom in belief. Secularism is important for Nationalism as both help in uplifting society over divisive lines of religion. It is an adhesive in times of crisis of nation-state with diverse religion, language, ethnicity etc.

“What is the true essence of secularism and nationalism and how it is relevant today?”

Student Speaker



Student Speaker



Aditya Ingle
Maharashtra

Diverse society doesn't have to mean a divided society. At present we are celebrating 71 glorious years of independence and ancient India stands young even today. Every citizen should ask themselves, Am I a nationalist or anti nationalist? Who gets to decide this? Is it dependent on our ideology and character?

Nationalism is not a religion, Nationalism is not a community, Nationalism is not a caste and also not a discriminator. Nationalism is neither separatist. Our Indian constitution states that India is a secular country. But secularism is when every citizen of this country is able to access and enjoy their rights with utmost dignity and equality. A Secular society will protect secularism. It's India's commitment to its diversity. It is our duty to go with nationalism and secularism together.

“Nationalism and Secularism is dependent upon our ideology and character.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

RESOLUTION



VOTING STATEMENT

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala pledge to preserve and protect the secular fabric of the country. Also expect governments to take strict and immediate legal action against those miscreants who want to create social and communal unrest in the society in the name of nationalism.

Passed By voting in favor

VOTING

**This resolution
was unanimously
passed by raising
of hands**



DAY 1

SATURDAY
0230 hrs - 0400 hrs
23rd FEBRUARY 2019

TOPIC

**Caste &
its Discontents**

**REGIONAL
SESSION - 2**



Day 1 Regional Sessions Session 2 – Caste and its Discontents 2.30 PM to 4.30 PM
Address by Session Co-ordinators - DR. P.S. Sreekala, Director, Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority, Prof. V. Karthikeyan Nair, Director, State Institute of Languages
Key Session Speakers- Shri. K. Somaprasad, MP Rajya Sabha, Kerala
Key Session Speakers Smt. Kavitha Kalvakuntle, MP Lok Sabha, Telangana
Key Session Speakers- Shri C.P. John, General Secretary, Communist Marxist Party (CMP)
Student Speakers- Mr. Vishnu V- Kerala and Mr. Shubham Mukharji- West Bengal
Voting of Resolution by Raising of Hands
Concluding remarks





Shri. K. Somprasad

MP Rajya Sabha, Kerala

Caste and discontent is a vital issue to be discussed and deliberated deeply. Its development roots back to ancient time. Indian caste system is the oldest surviving stratification. Indian society is caste ridden which is filled with inequality, injustice and brutality. No section of society or institution or intelligentsia could go forward without addressing the caste and its influence. It has been 70 years of independence for political equality, but it is sad to note that there is lack of social equality and recognition of individual as human being which can be seen by caste system and the inequalities due to caste system.

An account of historical evolution of caste system and its subsequent degradation needs to be discussed in contemporary light. Drawing attention to Dr. Ambedkar's thought on Idea of Ideal Society is based on "Liberty, Equality & Fraternity...". Caste is simply not a law & order problem, but it is a social issue. Caste virus can only be eradicated with the birth of new social order.

“Caste is simply not a law & order problem, but it is social issue. Caste virus can only be eradicated with the birth of new social order.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Kalvakuntla Kavitha

MP Lok Sabha, Telangana

Let us be a bit candid and speak about or try to understand the caste issue. When India wants to grow as a nation, as a super power, as a leader in science and technology- how do we grow? We will have to be inclusive of everybody, making a collective effort to make use of the best intellectuals of this nation. But unfortunately, in India we know that from thousands of years there is a system in which we have systematically left out our brothers and sisters. We are fighting this system from last 70 years we did achieve some progress but a lot more is to be done. It needs to be understood we are not the only country who have ignored some section of our population, each and every country has a part of population which has suffered injustice- be it the Blacks in USA or the Romans in Europe.

Our forefathers have put a system in place, it is now upon us to evolve better solution and system. We need to think about reservation, in all the sections of SC, ST, OBC getting benefited from the present arrangement. We should examine and debate facts about how inclusive is the reservation? There is growing protest from different sections of societies like Marathas, Jats, Gujjar, Kapu for reservation. Why are they agitating? We need to think beyond reservation a creative solution where all participants of society are resolved for an inclusive society.

“We need to think beyond reservation a creative solution where all participants of society resolve for an inclusive society.”





C P John

General Secretary, Communist Marxist Party (CMP)

Understanding the vital statics of SC ST in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, there are 131 SC-ST members in LS while, out of 250 members in RS the number of SC ST members can be counted by your fingers of one hand. This is the rationale of reservation. Reservation is not meant for eradicating poverty, reservation is meant for right of representation.

We need to understand the definition of caste and we have to look at caste in a totally different angle. I define caste is the social change for economic exploitation. How you are exploited- 90% of the leaf plucker in tea factory are dalits, but are we bothered about it while drinking tea, 80% in coal mining workers are either dalits or ST's we are not bothered about the electricity we make out of it. We must understand Dalits are not weak, they are doing the most critical work in primary sector of economy, digging the coal, iron ore, tea factories, cashew industry, paddy fields. Therefore don't think that caste a product of any religion or faith. It is product of exploitation. So if the problem is exploitation, the solution lies in stopping the exploitation.

“So if the problem is exploitation, the solution lies in stopping the exploitation.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Subam Mukharji

West Bengal

It is a shameful moment for us after 70 years of independence, we are discussing a topic on casteism. In India, casteism refers to social backwardness of people, tagged at their birth. Even the occupation changes but caste doesn't change. Even the social status changes but caste does not change. Right to equality is the first and foremost writing of the Indian constitution. So, there should not be any kind of caste discrimination. In 1950 India became a republic, but present scenario reveals that caste is vital tool for politics. How and what is the reason is till unidentifiable. Education to all, use of the word caste should erase for next generation and efforts should be made to abolish caste system. Don't expect changes from others, be the change to eradicate the caste system in India.

“Don't expect changes from others, be the change to eradicate the caste system in India.”

Student Speaker



Student Speaker



Vishnu V

Kerala

Kerala is a lunatic asylum, this was the historic statement made by Swami Vivekananda, in 1892 while he visited Kerala. The reason to make this statement was, he was prevented to enter into temple. Even though he waited 3 days because he had not revealed his caste. Hence, he made a statement Kerala is a lunatic asylum. It is a long run status from 1892 to 2019. Its repeats caste. The same question which was asked to Swami Vivekananda, it's revolving, what is your caste? I think heavy dosage of treatment is needed because it's something which has stuck to us for a centuries. As a youth, we should be ready to convert words into action, then we can see revolutionary make over in our society.

“As a youth we should be ready to make words into action, then we can see revolutionary make over in our society.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY



Luminant Guests on Dias during Session



DAY 1

SATURDAY
0230 hrs - 0400 hrs
23rd FEBRUARY 2019

TOPIC

**Cultural Symbiosis
in Indian Context**

**REGIONAL
SESSION - 3**



Day 1 Regional Sessions Session 3 – Cultural Symbiosis in Indian Context 2.30 PM to 4.30 PM
Address by Session Co-ordinators - Dr P J Vincent, Press Secretary to Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly
Key Session Speakers- DR. Rajan Gurukkal-Former Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University
Key Session Speakers- Shri. K.P. Mohanan-Eminent Media Person
Key Session Speakers -Shri. John Brittas, Media Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister
Student Speakers- Ms. Amritha Haridas- Kerala and Mr. Krupali Jadhav- Maharashtra
Voting of Resolution by Raising of Hands
Members Lounge – A short Introduction on the Idea and Conduct of 'Rings of Fire' programme.
Concluding remarks

Dr P J Vincent

Press Secretary to Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly

We are a multi ethnic, multi lingual, multi-cultural society and the binding force that threads Indian people together is culture. Narrating an interesting experience of Swami Vivekananda during his European trip, while travelling in a train. During the trip, two European gentlemen were looking awkwardly at the turban wearing Swamiji. The men were ashtonished to see Swamiji reading English book, to their questioning about knowledge of English, Vivekananda replied "In your country a tailor makes a gentlemen, but in my country culture makes a gentlemen". Culture is the thread that binds Indians together.

“ Culture is the thread that binds Indians together. ”





Dr. Rajan Gurukkal

Frm VC Mahatma Gandhi University

The word “symbiosis” is a biological term which means an interaction between two different organisms living in close physical association, typically to the advantage of both. When we use this term in context of culture, we can use it as a mutually beneficial relationship between different people or groups.

We find the unevenly divided people following different culture and habits in India. Many of them divided by their age old culture practicing in present scenario. Cultural symbiosis helps to bridge the scattered communities and evolve a common understanding. The rulers take special interest to build a cultural symbiosis among the people, state interact to govern people with peace. Take example of Kerala, you will find various communities existing symbiotically. Shri. M G S Narayan in his book “Cultural Symbiosis of Kerala” sighted a simple example- you will find a church, temple, mosque, synagogues in close vicinity of each other, this is the cultural symbiosis.

Kerala is the only state which represents cultural symbiosis and religious symbiosis among all other states in India. According to 2011 Census of India figures, 54.73% of Kerala's population are Hindus, 26.56% are Muslims, 18.38% are Christians. There is large presence of tribal people who have retained the religious beliefs of their ancestors. Thus we find Kerala's religious landscape is a mosaic of diversity.

“Cultural symbiosis helps to bridge the scattered communities and evolve a common understanding.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. K P Mohanan

Eminent Media Person

Understanding each and every word in the definition of “symbiosis”, which is “living together in more or less intimate association or close union of two dissimilar organisation” will help us give more clarity to understand it in social context. In the present Indian context let us not grab on similarity – as differences is the essence. If we probe deeply understanding the word “IDENTITY”, it carries an alphabet “I” with vehemence. It is to be noted that there is no word “udentity” or “wedentity”- which will help us understand the linguistic relevance of the word “IDENTITY”. The word carries the essence of meaning, while the essence of meaning is derived from experience of life and the experience of life is directly reflected on the collective memory of the human history.

Sri Narayan Guru, proclaimed in the great message for human beings, “One Religion One Caste”, the only caste is humanity. The great message of MahaUpanishads - “Vasudaiva Kutumbakam”, is seen reflected in India's message to the world. India is a blending spot of various human segments, civilisation, culture, political, economic and all streams of human activity. Civilisation may die, as it is just the infrastructure, but culture is the stream involving the bio-expression of the living entities within the given geographical, historical, spatial and time bound situation.

“Culture is the stream involving the bio-expression of the living entities within the given geographical, historical, spatial and time bound situation.”





Shri. John Brittas

Media Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kerala

To begin with cultural symbiosis, it is important to understand the demographic profile of Kerala which is embedded with three main religions, namely, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity, representing the homogeneous population of the state. It is great to see the roots of this country where a Muslim musician sings in the praise of Lord Rama, where there is "Ali" in Diwali & there is "Ram" in Ramazan. It is the cultural symbiosis which happens and helps growing together by strength.

The biggest weapon of cultural change is growth of technology. Media has been the vital tool. It is instrumental in portraying the cultural symbiosis. We find it growing leaps and bounds as a major tool for its promotion. Mobile phone, has changed the landscape and the cultural patterns of our society, it has connected us all. The new technology and innovation, prove to be a revolutionising tool to reach out to each and every one to build a symbiotic bond. It has co-opted, imbibed, accepted, coordinated and wielded to form a cultural symbiosis.

“It is great to see the roots of this country where a Muslim musician sings in the praise of Lord Rama, where there is "Ali" in Diwali & there is "Ram" in Ramazan.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Krupali Jadhav

Maharashtra

We all are diverse but great because we all are unique. This land of India has great cultural heritage and has witnessed cultural synchronization since ages. In past we had our great Indus valley civilization which then intermingled with Aryan and Vedic culture etc. which became the basis of Hinduism. Later we see the rise of Buddhism and Jainism and later coming of Islam and Christianity in India gave an impression of India as a mosaic of religions and cultures. Our cultural advancement is simple but is eloquently put forward by Rahubir Sahai. At present we can witness globalisation, urbanisation, modernisation etc. which has transformed our culture to a great extent. Now it is towards us, how we want to witness our great culture which we have to pass on to our next generations.

“We all are diverse but great because we all are unique...”

Student Speaker



Student Speaker



Amrita Haridas

Kerala

Culture of India is one of the oldest and unique, its been traced back to as old as 4500 years ago. The culture of India is set to be one of the supreme and prime culture in the world. India is having amazing cultural diversity throughout the country. The north, the south and the northeast having distinct cultures and every states in India has its own unique culture. There is hardly any culture in the world that is as unique and varied as that of India's.

India is having vast and varied geographical features and climatic condition. We are home to most ancient civilization and religion including Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhism, Sikhism etc. The Indian culture is the composite mixture of influences and styles. There is stark difference in north and south with different language, festivals, cuisines, dance forms, architecture etc.

“The culture of India is set to be one of the supreme and prime culture in the world”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

RESOLUTION

Passed by voting in favor



VOTING

VOTING STATEMENT

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala, recognise and cherish our country's cultural diversity and realize that unity and diversity are assured in the basic fabric of our Constitution. We, the youth and students of this country pledge to unite and defend its rich cultural diversity & unity among the people and to help curb the attempts made to disturb the cultural harmony in the country.

This resolution was unanimously passed by raising of hands

Rings of Fire: Informal gatherings and discussion on delegated topics



Seed Thought -

National Students' Parliament urges to contribute in the process of Nation Building. It also recognizes the fervour and commitment of Young Student Leaders like you to undertake action projects that will help the society and you to evolve as a leader.

Answering to this call for Nation Building, under the benevolence of the Hon'ble Speaker, State Assembly, Government of Kerala introduced a new dimension to National Students' Parliament which will be known as "Rings of Fire: Youth to Youth Connect".

The idea is;

Students should discuss and deliberate on short listed topics which are related to the benefit of the masses in India. The expectation is all youth should come together under the banner of "Rings of Fire: Youth to Youth Connect" and help the government develop an action plan on topics discussed. In this way this "Rings of Fire: Youth to Youth Connect" Programme will drive the participants from inspiration to action.



Topics for Day 1-

- Status of Inter-Caste Marriages
- Youth in the grip of Drug Mafias-Consequences and Solutions
- Educational Reforms- Need of Contemporary India
- Kudumbshree-A Significant step to protect and preserve the spirit of Constitutional Principles
- Gender Equality and Women's empowerment policy-an affirmative move
- Bullet Trains-should it be on the priority of India?
- Uniform Civil Code-Need and feasibility of developing India
- Artificial Intelligence-Is it a menace to human intelligence?
- Government Policies leading to hike in petrol prices- will it outrage the tolerance of the citizens?
- A corrupt but efficient politician is better than truthful & inefficient. Yes or No?



KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY





DAY 2

SUNDAY

1100 hrs - 1230 hrs
24th FEBRUARY 2019

TOPIC

**New World
New Education**

**REGIONAL
SESSION - 1**



Day 2 | 24th Feb | Regional Sessions | Session 1- New World-New Education | 11.00 Am to 12.30 PM

Session Opening Remarks by Session Co-ordinators- Shri. M. Sivasankar- IAS- Secretary to Hon. Chief Minister, Shri. V.K. Babu Prakash-Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly

Key Session Speaker - Dr. Andrew Turner-Associate Pro-vice Chancellor, Coventry University,U.K.

Key Session Speaker- Dr. Achuthshankar S Nair-HOD, Computational Biology and Bio-informatics, University of Kerala.

Key Session Speaker- DR. Saji Gopinath-CEO, Kerala Start-up Mission

Key Session Speaker- DR. Kiran G.R.- Dean, Middle East College,Sultanate of Oman

Student Speakers- Mr. Omar Kadavilparambil Ismail- Kerala and Mr. Rishi Acharya- Rajasthan

Voting of Resolution by Show of Hands

Concluding Remarks Followed by 'Rings of Fire' –Informal Moderated Group Discussions on Select Topics

Shri V K Babu Prakash

Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly

Few days ago, International Advertisement Agencies Conference was held in Cochin. It was attended by citizen from Saudi Arabia "Sofia- a humanoid robot". We must take a note of the event, where a robot attended the human conference. Sofia spoke on the occasion "Hello human beings, I am very happy to interact with you. Human beings is the most wonderful creature on the planet earth and the human being is the most biological transformation of consciousness". Human intelligence has created artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-being participated in the human conference. This is the circumstances human beings are going to face.

Steven Pinker in his book "Enlightenment Now", mentions –looking at the youth engrossed in mobile phones everywhere raises a question – Is it the humans controlling the technology or is it the technology controlling the human beings... We are facing the challenge where slowly technology is controlling the human beings. This is the challenge to be faced in future education, but we must remember- "Education doesnot mean to alienate you from common people. Education is a process by which you mingle with the people, you have to be with the people and you can even learn from uneducated people."

“ Human intelligence has created artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-being participated in the human conference. This is the circumstances human beings are going to face.”





Dr. Andrew Turner

Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor,
Coventry University, UK

It is to be noted, that India will be the most populous country by 2050 with an estimated population of 9 billion. In this context, understanding the requirement of resources and meeting of internationally promised goals, it is our duty to find challenges lying ahead. By my understanding, we will dwell on three challenges namely: Environmental, Economic & Social. These challenges also have a coherence with those mentioned in Indian constitution Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).

With availability of resources and growth in technology there is evolving system such that we have moved from education for elite to education to masses. Achieving this feat now time is to have access of higher education for all. Information technology will play a major role in shaping up new system of education. Mobile revolution is changing the way we can access education. Now the New world order is leading to life-long learning.

“ Mobile revolution is changing the way we can access education ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair

HOD, Computational Biology and
Bio-Informatics, University of Kerala

It is important to analyse the nature of education in our country & its influence on aspirations of youth. Our age old tradition of education the Guru-Shishya Parampara, we find those threads alive even today, where teachers are considered as Sage. All students are like Diamonds and it is education that provides the requisite cut that shines. When we dwell on the patterns of faculty selections by students and its resounding from society, there are some observations, it is like the casteist approach to education eg. Medicine and Engineering are like brahmanical subjects while humanities & languages are treated as outcaste.

What can be done to such regimentation of education? It can be faculty system should be abolished and we should develop a system where students can do different years of education in different universities across India. A conducive atmosphere should be developed where foreign students can come to study in India rather our students go abroad & study. The mantra to all is "Think smart & Think Deep, become Critical Thinkers, to solve the real problems faced by humanity...".

“ Medicine and Engineering are like brahmanical subjects while humanities & languages are treated as outcast. ”





Dr. Sajji Gopinath

CEO, Kerala Startup Mission

The world is always on the move, there are different forces which changes the world, we can put it as socio political factors, cultural factors and technological factors. Over the period, looking at the transition, the cycle of change from 1st industrial revolution to 4th industrial revolution the time taken is drastically reduced. This is the crucial observation to be made, as our education system is not dynamic enough to address these changes. The 4th revolution is changing lives of everyone briskly. There is fear of job losses & stagnation in pattern of education. Looking bit deeply, on job loss during the phase of automation – large machines replaced number of physical man-hours of work, the 4th revolution, ie the Artificial Intelligence is causing disruptions at the cognitive work levels.

Speaking on the nuances of New World changes – It is highly exponential, we are moving from a Centralised system to De-centralized system of education. We need to do things that are meaningful to the society. At one end we see fast changes in technology while on the other hand Education is moving the same pace, which is needed to be speeded up.

“On jobs loss during the phase of automation – large machines replaced number of physical man-hours of work, the 4th revolution, ie the Artificial Intelligence is causing disruptions at the cognitive work levels. ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Dr. Kiran G. R

Dean, Middle East College, Sultanate of Oman

It is necessary to look and analyse the key trends in – Environmental challenges, Civic engagement & freedom, International mobility & remittance, Increase in quality, know-how of Social Media, Cyber Security, Ageing Societies & the Opportunities ahead.

In India 1% of population hold 73% of the countries wealth. At world level, it is 50% of population having less than 1% of the world's wealth. This points towards extremely serious issue of inequality – not only in terms of access but also how attainments are made.

Speaking on challenges we need to be ready, like – Jobs that are yet to be created, technologies that have not yet been invented, solving problems that have not yet been anticipated and potential boost to global GDP with the help of Artificial Intelligence by 2030. We need to look for stable, new and redundant roles that technology, education and the New World will pose to us soon.

“We need to look for stable, new and redundant roles that technology, education and the New World will pose to us soon. ”



Student Speaker



Omar K Ismayil

Kerala

One of the biggest issue facing us today is overabundance of graduates in our workforce. Without necessary skills, it is difficult to stand out in the competitive era. We need attention to a soft skill development and innovation based education.

India is producing large number of computer science and IT graduates but we are not the one who invented the Facebook or Instagram or any globally recognized software, but this can change. We need to focus attention in, vocational training in the concept of machine learning and artificial intelligence. All of us thinking differently need to follow vision not a path. We need to go as a first with innovative thinking. While others come up with new, we focus on the significance of the whole new take. Keep believing there is the another way, bigger way a better way. We need to break down the barriers to create a landscape. Being different, is the one thing about us which will differentiate us from others.

“One of the biggest issue facing us today is overabundance of the graduates in our workforce...need of the hour is how to address it?”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Rishi Acharya

Rajasthan

Artificial intelligence and advance technology should be added in the education system because most of the time our teachers our students sitting in the offices they are just doing paper work. This leads to performance in the class rooms being ruined up. So, we really need to add up artificial intelligence and advanced technology in the Indian education system.

Spirituality, is the other missing component of our education system. Why we all are human. To have this human tendency we have to take decision at critical situation, it will create more mental stress. Also we will usually have external pressures. To tackle this pressure many seen falling to use of drugs, smoking & alcohol consumption. It is dangerous for health as well as humanity. Hence, spirituality in education is needed. As youth of this nation we should not be running behind the degrees we have achieved based on the education, need is to enhance Intelligence quotient and emotional quotient, thousands of book will give IQ but it is by healthy environment which will help achieve EQ.

“Spirituality, is the other missing component of our education system. Artificial intelligence and advance technology should be added into the Indian education system”

Student Speaker





KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

RESOLUTION

Passed by voting in favor



VOTING

VOTING STATEMENT

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala, understand that improved living conditions can be made available to all citizens of India by bringing the benefits of science and technology to grassroots levels. We request State and Central Governments to increase the budget allocation for education and to devise ways and means to improve standards in our institutions of higher education.

**This resolution was
unanimously passed
by raising of hands.**

Welcome of guests at Session





DAY 2

SUNDAY
1100 hrs - 1230 hrs
24th FEBRUARY 2019

TOPIC

**Neo Liberalism
and the
Future of Democracy**

**REGIONAL
SESSION - 2**



Day 2 Regional Sessions Session 2 – Neo Liberalism and the Future of Democracy 11.00 Am to 12.30 PM
Session Opening Remarks by Session Co-ordinators- Shri. C.P. Nair-Chief Secretary, (Retd.), Member, Administrative Reforms Commission), DR. N.K. Harilal- (Member, Planning Board)
Key Session Speaker - Shri. M.A. Baby - M.P. Rajya Sabha, Kerala
Key Session Speaker- Shri. K. S. Sabarinathan- M.L.A., Kerala
Key Session Speaker- Shri. Jignesh Mevani-M.L.A. Gujarat
Key Session Speaker- Shri. K. Jayakumar- Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala
Student Speakers- Mr. Goutham Varada Narayan- Kerala and Mr. Shubham Tekale- Maharashtra
Voting of Resolution by Show of Hands
Concluding Remarks Followed by 'Rings of Fire' –Informal Moderated Group Discussions on Select Topics

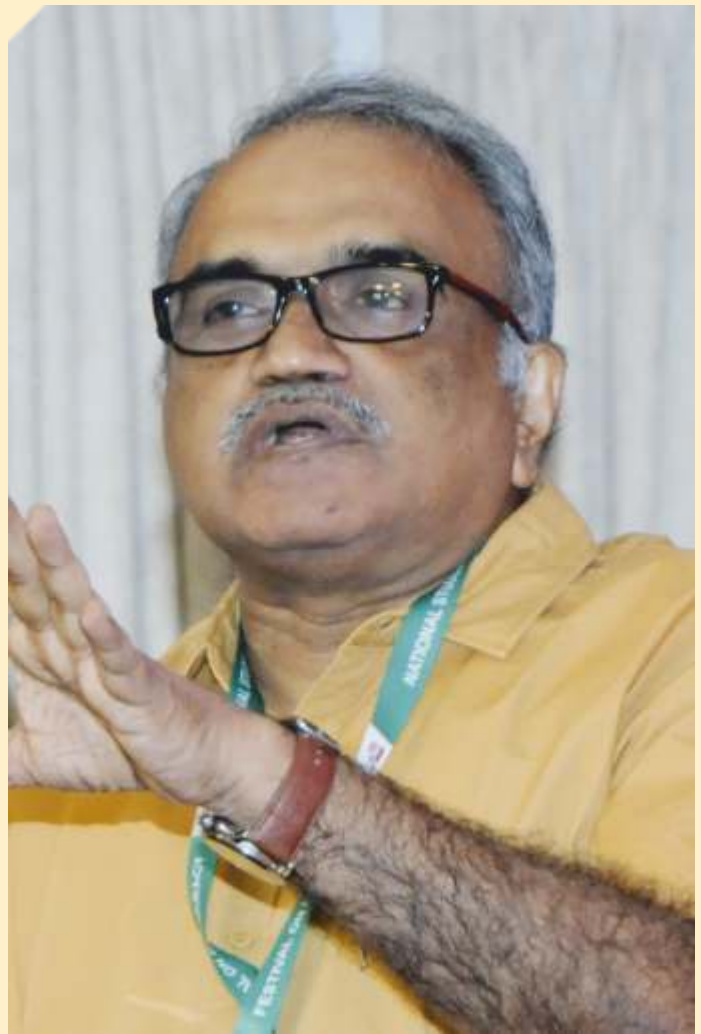
Dr. N K Harilal

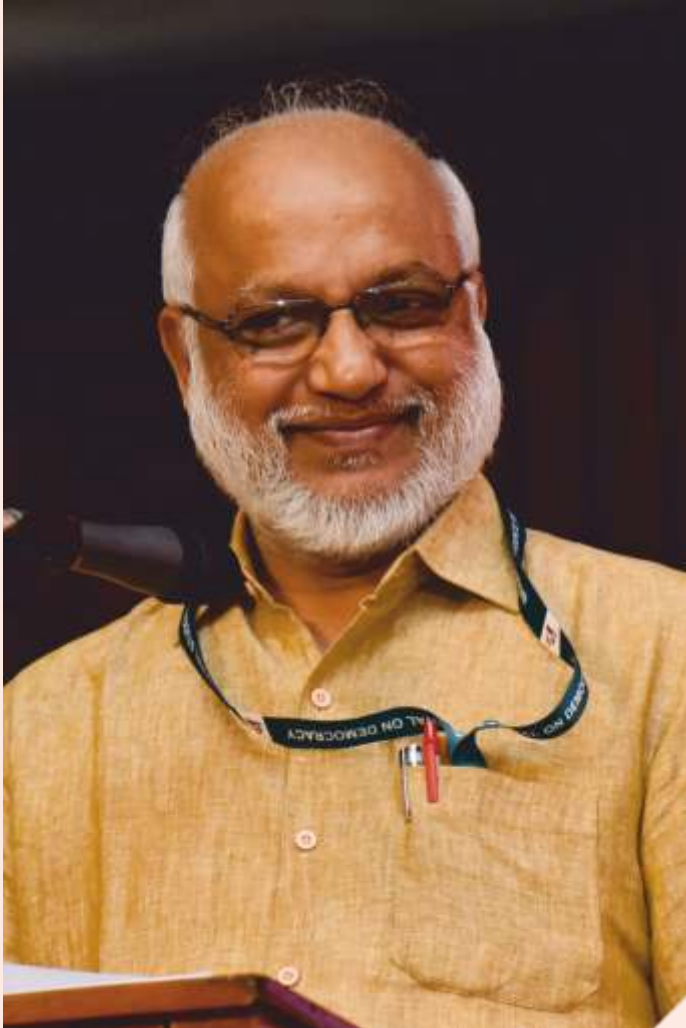
Member Planning Board, Kerala

We need to look at various dimensions of challenges posed to democracy in the contemporary world. We need to flag these challenges as it is concern for majority. With growth of neoliberalism led globalization, the multitude of international and regional treaties, the nation states are losing their sovereignty. The substantial amount of sovereignty is lost to multilateral organization like – UN family institution, World Bank, IMF, WTO etc. in addition to these we have regional organisations treaties like ASEAN, EU, NAFTA etc. It is to be noted India has signed multiple Free Trade Agreements (FTA), thus country has lost control over its economic boundaries. Our economic borders are free, commodities can enter our market without paying any duty, quantitative restrictions are almost over due to WTO & regional agreements. The nation state cannot control international trade, movement of goods & services, movement of people or capital across borders. Our Parliament's right to control our economic flow across borders is restricted.

Further penetration can be seen with next wave of harmonization of domestic laws and policies with that of international agreements. Thus harmonization of internal policies as forced to make changes in national legislations, so as to facilitate international commitments in the area of trade, patents, IPR etc. the question we need to ask during voting is, do the party coming in power has the sovereignty to implement the will of the people. If they do not have, then democracy will become meaningless.

“Further penetration can be seen with next wave of harmonization of domestic laws and policies with that of international agreements.”





Shri. M. A Baby

M.P. Rajya Sabha, Kerala

We all have assembled here to celebrate democracy but looking around we find democracy in undergoing severe threats. Therefore it is all the more important we discuss the challenges faced, it is important to emphasize that Neo Liberalism is a threat to democracy. It has landed Indian democracy in a serious crisis where there is no sense of value but influence of money. This tragedy is reflected in social sector.

We are living in post-TRUTH era, which means we are telling lies instead of facts. Neo Liberalism is a classic example of post-TRUTH where full freedom is given to capital to run free across borders. It is nothing but the dominance of capital over everything. eg. private education system, where education has become the business of profit maximization, Institution of Eminence is an example of manifestation of post truths. The impact of neoliberalism on Indian democracy can be seen in 2 major areas, namely- rise in clout of capitalist class and rise in politics of identity and ethnicity. There is rise in number of regional parties and these small political parties form government by buying MLA's or collude with foreign companies to support certain political parties.

“Neo Liberalism is a threat to democracy and at present we are living with post 'TRUTH' era...”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. Jignesh Mevani

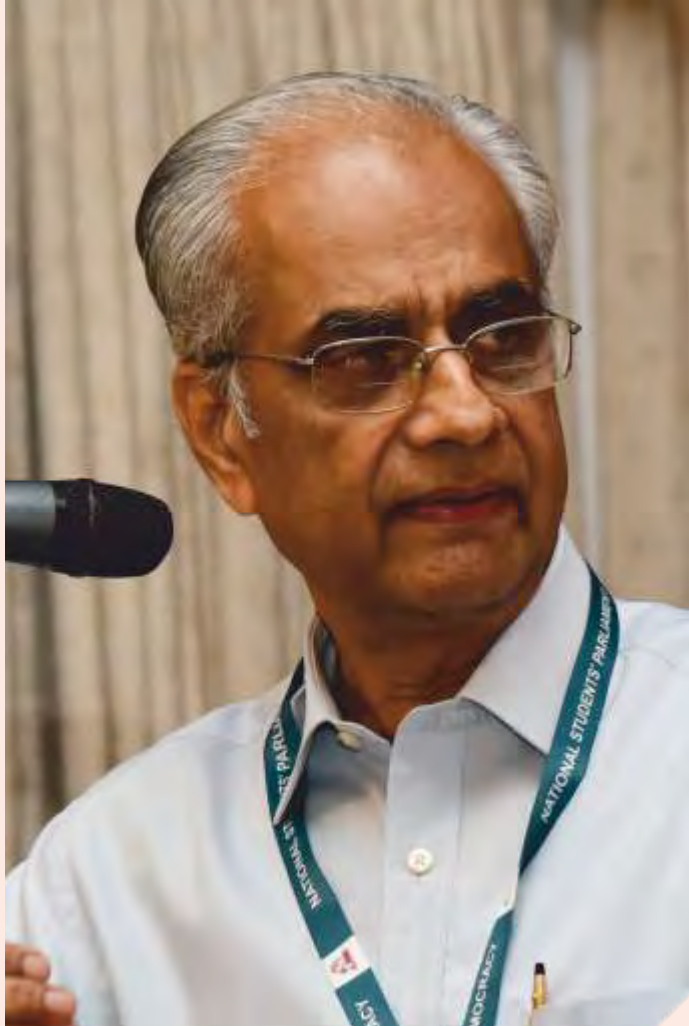
M.L.A Gujarat

I am Liberal and Modi is Neo-Liberal. Globalization and liberalization has led to massive unprecedented environmental, ecological and economic disaster. Going by statistics 40 crore people don't have shelter to live, 60 crore don't receive minimum wages, government ignores the exploitation of common man, this has led to divide where we find 1% of the population holding 73% of nation's wealth.

Our Preamble underlines- democratic, secular, socialist, republic and not fascist capitalist regime, whereas present policy is reverse of this. Emphasizing on the policy of land to the tiller and not to the tycoons. Criticizing LPG policy and other issues, due to neoliberalism, India is on SALE and it is also detrimental to working class. 'If NO to Globalization, then 'Yes' to what?', he reiterated that, it is 'YES' is to CREATIVITY. It should be land to the tiller and not to the tycoons. Land retribution and land reform should be effected.

“I am Liberal and Modi is Neo-Liberal...”





Shri. K. Jayakumar

Chief Secretary (Retd.),
Government of Kerala.

Forces of globalization such as money or foreign money has made neoliberalism possible. It has weakened national boundaries. Government's socio-economic policies are influenced by corporate capital and not by people's interest. Party manifestos are good but are never implemented and this dichotomy exists there in there politics. Due to neoliberalism there is some growth but it is unfair. Rich are getting richer while poor are becoming poorer. This gap between rich and poor has widened in last 25 years. Development projects are anti-people and pro-corporate/investors.

Neo-Liberalism Policy has few plus points but the fall-out has been the exclusion and that's why the democracy has been weakened. Strengthening of institutions is necessary so as to ensure fair play and to ensure accountability. Corruption is tool of corporate capital which is cancer to free politics. He demanded corruption free India.

“Strengthening of institutions is necessary so as to ensure fair play and to ensure accountability...”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shubham Tekale

Maharashtra

Long back former president of America Abraham Lincoln has exclusively mentioned that democracy is the government, of the people, by the people and for the people. Hence, essence of the democracy is for the people. Can we imagine democracy without the people? Hence, question arises how neo-liberalism is connected with future of democracy?

Democracy is solemnly dependent on the people of the nation. Every step to uphold progressive strategy of nation should coincide with general will of people. Thus the future of democracy is determined but since last 25 year or so the major emphasis is on private sector i.e. Neoliberalism. Neoliberalism is new kind of idea advocating abolition of government intervention in market and making as much profit as individuals wished. This results into 'Economic Disparity', where people may not feel the part of government even if they elect them. This irony can be put forth in the words of Plato, likely "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of dark, but real tragedy is that Men are afraid of light".

“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of dark, but real tragedy is that Men are afraid of light...”

Student Speaker



Student Speaker



Goutham Varada Narayan

Kerala

There is no political system that could rival democracy in its power of accommodation of new ideas and its openness towards the voice of minority and oppressed. Neoliberalism introduced the concept of individualistic liberty in its ambition of capitalistic democracy. But this capitalistic democracy encourages economic development and better community life till when it does not threaten the privileges of the powerful. While socialism rivals and thrives for social wellbeing and equality is prone to several loopholes and termed idealistic.

The democracy of my future is one where the goodness of Neoliberalism binds with the voice of minorities of the society i.e, the fusion of Neoliberalism and socialism. The democracy of my future is strong where the voice of farmer would be as loud as that of a billionaire. The democracy of the youth of this country is what ensures the stability of Neoliberalism where promised equality of society exists.

“The democracy of my future is one where the goodness of Neoliberalism binds with the voice of minorities of the society...”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

RESOLUTION



VOTING STATEMENT

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala, pledge to enable a successful democracy while recognizing that the basic principles of democracy means equality of opportunity and liberality in all spheres including the economic, social and personal. We will support the government in a concrete plan of action to arrest the growing inequality in society.

Passed by voting in favor

VOTING

This resolution was unanimously passed by raising of hands



DAY 2

SUNDAY

1100 hrs - 1230 hrs
24th FEBRUARY 2019

TOPIC

**Development &
Well being and
the Role of
Youth in Achieving
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**REGIONAL
SESSION - 3**



Day 2 Regional Sessions Session 3 – Development and Well -being And the Role of Youth In Achieving Sustainable Development Goals 11.00 Am to 12.30 PM
Session Opening Remarks by Session Co-ordinator- Shri. G. Vijayaraghavan-(Former Member, Planning Board)
Key Session Speaker - Dr. Mridul Eapen (Member, Planning Board, Kerala)
Key Session Speaker- Shri. Vijoo Krishnan (Joint Secretary, All India Kisan Sabha)
Key Session Speaker- Shri. Job Zacharia (Chief, UNICEF office for Tamil Nadu & Kerala)
Student Speakers- Mr. Thamarai Yazhini T- Tamilnadu, Ms. Ammu S Anil - Kerala and Mr. Raina Anurag- Jammu & Kashmir
Voting of Resolution by Show of Hands

Shri G Vijayaraghavan

Former Member Planning Board, Kerala

We all are very lucky as there is huge increase in access to basic resources and amenities of life. We find increased percentage having access but it is nowhere near to what it should be substantial part of population doesn't get access to basic amenities. Wealth creation is an important function but at the same time it should be equitably distributed, which finds mention in the directive principle of state policies. The marginalised sections of society should be provided with social security net.

In contemporary times, we find growing intolerance in society or in social media, we need to question its roots, examine the facts so as to evolve an informed society. The other important thing to be discussed is Integrity. Consider countries like Singapore, Japan or the Scandinavian – who have set high standards of integrity in individual and public life. It should be noted that development cannot happen in islands, it should be inclusive. Development without inclusion does not work.

“Development without inclusion does not work...”





Dr. Mridul Eapen

Member, Planning Board, Kerala

Democracy is democracy "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Government should promote democracy for economic growth and development. Development as we know is a transformation because it resolves problems of unemployment, poverty, deprivation and now sustainability is added to it. But what we find is development has been very unequal. The needs of the youth, women, poor, children, marginalised farmers, destitute etc are not addressed considering their specific requirements. The neoliberal agenda, has caused unequal development, it has also prevented the government to take action to correct the inequality. Therefore SDG gets priority to correct the lopsided development.

Today, there are 1.8 billion people the ages of 10- 24 they are the largest generation of youth in history. Close to 90 percent of them live in developing countries, they make up a large proportion of the population. Hence, the government should include youth in developing policy solutions so as to attain sustainable development effectively.

“Youth and women should focus to attain the sustainable development of the country...”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. Vijoo Krishnan

Joint Secretary, All India Kisan Sabha

Since many decades we all are discussing development and wellbeing, India is witnessing a demographic divide where more than 60% of its working population is youth and here the role of youth in achieving sustainable development goals is important. Youth should raise the question on the wellbeing of all in front of political parties and the government in power.

In the year 2015, world came up with SDG but the Indian constituent assembly in its 1st draft of constitution in Feb 1948 – reflected almost about what is mentioned in SDG. In India, 1 percent of population is owning about 73 percent of wealth and resources. 3 lakh farmers committed suicide in the country. The landless, marginalised, women, tannery workers etc are not counted for their economic contribution. Are these problems solvable under neo liberal policy? We should raise questions on the model of development adopted? Development for whom? How to develop the society? These questions should be raised by the youth of the country and create a matured informed citizenry.

“In India, 1 percent of population is owning about 73 percent of wealth and resources...”





Shri. Job Zacharia

Chief, UNICEF office for Tamil Nadu & Kerala

The Sustainable Development Goals put forth, 17 goals and 169 associated targets under its 2030 Agenda- "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". In this, 6 goals and 20 associated targets are directly connect with youth. There is 32 lakh to 34 lakh girls under the age of 18 years who were married early in India. It is big struggle for India to attain sustainable development goal among youth girls. Also there are about 43 lakh children engaged in child labour existing in India according to Census of India (2011). There is a urgent need to focus on targeted policies with deliverable results so as to save from curse of demographic youth population.

“There is a urgent need to focus on targeted policies with deliverable results so as to save from curse of demographic youth population.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Thamarai Yazhini

Tamil Nadu

Development and sustainability in combination play a vital role both in the construction and destruction of four folds - individual, family, society and the nation. The youth comes with a bonanza of epithets smoking & Voting, intersecting in par with responsibility. Every one of us wanted to find solace in a place which is fully developed and devoid of problems, this itself indicated the yet to develop state of human. When surveyed people regarding their opinion on the activity of youth, only 25% are happy with it. When given three options- social media, gadgets and carelessness, and asked what you would retrieve from youth nearly 75 % of them wanted to retrieve careless from youth.

Shocking...!!! Substantiating these findings with Sigmond Freud's psychoanalytic theory, it is found that ego is unable to strike a balance between ID (pleasure principle) and super ego (moral) drives the youth to the constant dilemma unsure of him what to do & how to act. Great leaders do not tell how to do, they show how it's done and so being the tuners and leaders of tomorrow! Before stepping to develop the nation, one has to stable his mental psyche and check for its development and well- being which would ultimately nourish other two folds.

“Great leaders do not tell how to do, they show how it's done, and so being the tuners and leaders of tomorrow.”

”

Student Speaker



Student Speaker



Ammu S Anil

Kerala

Amartya Sen's "Capability Theory" states, focus should be people centric development. We always focus upon economic growth rather than, a focus on non-material wellbeing also. Non material well beings are psychological aspects like peace, happiness, love etc. These aspects also we have to consider while we are measuring development. We have to contribute more into the world happiness index.

Under the Paris Climate treaty, it's the individual contribution towards reducing global warming is to be measured, so it's the youth who have to fight against the climate change. Youth's role during the time of Kerala flood was very significant. This brings us to an important paradigm where it's the youth who are playing an important role in disaster management during the flood. There are three pillars of development that is life sustenance, self-esteem, freedom from servitude. We the youth, we are the ambassador for development of the country.

“ We always focus upon economic growth rather we need to also focus on non- material wellbeing also. ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Anurag Raina

Jammu & Kashmir

The current union government was elected because it was promising development. Many government ensured that proving electricity to every corner of the country. But question is where is electricity coming from? From where is fuel coming from? We all know that there are limited resources in the country and it cannot last forever.

As alternative we have to use renewable non-conventional sources of energy but the reason is they are not available in huge quantities or they are not sufficient or either not reliable and there are many safety concerns regarding them. We are the youth we have to play a major role here. We have to focus on alternative sources of energy. India is one of the most populous country in the world and on the way to become most populated soon. Directly or indirectly all the problem is connected with the population. Population is the strength of any country but it is burden for India.

“ Youth have to focus and alternative source of energy and control the population of India. ”

Student Speaker





KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

RESOLUTION

Passed by voting in favor



VOTING

VOTING STATEMENT

This resolution was unanimously passed by raising of hands.

We, the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala, realize that development should lead to wellbeing of all sections of society and that environmental protection, optimum use of available resources and conservation of non-renewable resources is essential. We pledge to contribute and work for achieving sustainable development goals.

Welcome of guests at Session





DAY 2

SUNDAY

0200 hrs - 0300 hrs
24th FEBRUARY 2019

TOPIC

Youth and Politics
The Way Ahead

**PLENARY
SESSION**



Day 2 24th Feb Plenary Session Youth and Politics-The Way Ahead 3.00 PM to 4.30 PM
Arrival of Guests on Dias
Session Opening Remarks by Session Co-ordinator- Dr. Biju Lekshmanan-Associate Professor, Mahatma Gandhi University
Welcome Speech by Smt. Chintha Jerome-(Chairperson, Kerala State Youth Commission)
Speaker 1-Shri. K.K. Ragesh, MP Rajya Sabha Kerala
Speaker 2- Shri. K. Sabarinathan, MLA Kerala
Speaker 3- Shri. Dr Valsan Thambu, Former Principle, St Stephen College Delhi
Speaker 4- Shri. Kanhaiya Kumar- Social Activist
Student Speaker- Mr. Sarthak A S- Telangana
Voting of Resolution by SMS
Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks
'Rings of Fire' –Informal Moderated Group Discussions on Select Topics
Cultural Program at 6.30 PM





Dr Biju Lekshamanan

Associate Professor, Mahatma Gandhi University

India is the largest democracy in the world and we are transforming our democracy from electoral democracy to substantive democracy to participatory democracy. To make democracy participatory and vibrant the involvement of youth is pre-requisite, but it is a fact that participation of youth and students in policy making and policy implementation is very meagre.

Students, if you are ready to practice 3D's (dissent, discuss and debate) suggested by our guru's, to get involved in politics. If you are willing to continue as our nation as secular, you have to get in politics. Mahatma Gandhi said, you have a great historical mission that is to communicate to the world, the strength and efficacy of non-violence as the sole force.

“ To make democracy participatory and vibrant the involvement of youth is pre-requisite ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Smt. Chintha Jerome

Chairperson-Kerala State Youth Commission

Delivering the welcome speech, at the plenary session for Youth and Politics, it is to be noted that, India is one of the youngest democracies having 65% of its population below the age of 35 years, but the percentage of young MPs is just 13% in the parliament, which is a drawback to the representation of the democracy. Youth have always been in politics especially at the time of reform movements. Most of these young people are in informal politics rather than formal politics like the Social movements, Pressure groups etc.

If more and more youth join politics or actively deliberate on policies for the youth, they can make a difference rather than old politicians who probably cannot feel the contemporary problems of young people. By making politics accessible to youth, the negative perceptions on politics can be slowly erased in minds of young people. Their involvement in politics will ensure inclusiveness.

It is glaring point to be noted that, the youth in politics has shrunken by 1/4th, and many entering into higher education. Here at the National Students Parliament, I appeal to you all to actively engage in politics, an effort by Kerala Government, is showing the world, by its 'Peoples Alternative'.

“ The Kerala Government is showing the world 'Peoples Alternative' is really possible. ”





Shri. K. K Ragesh

MP Rajya Sabha, Kerala

The session on youth and politics- the way ahead is an apt topic to discuss, as we are aware India has more than 50% of total population below 25yrs of age and 65% of total population below 35yrs of age. We are set to be the youngest nation by 2020 and hence the relevance of National Students Parliament could not be better timed. Youth must decide what their politics should be.

You can question the politics of policies, how to and how can it be made more inclusive, however you must also be aware of your constitutional rights. 'Right to Education is a fundamental right' under our constitution and yet the same Supreme Court passed in another case, stating 'Imparting Education is a Business' and this resulted in privatisation of education and deterioration of quality of education. It is our duty to protest against policies that result in massive unemployment and unjust distribution of wealth. The Unity of Youth is our responsibility.

“ Youth must decide what their politics should be... ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. K. Sabarinathan

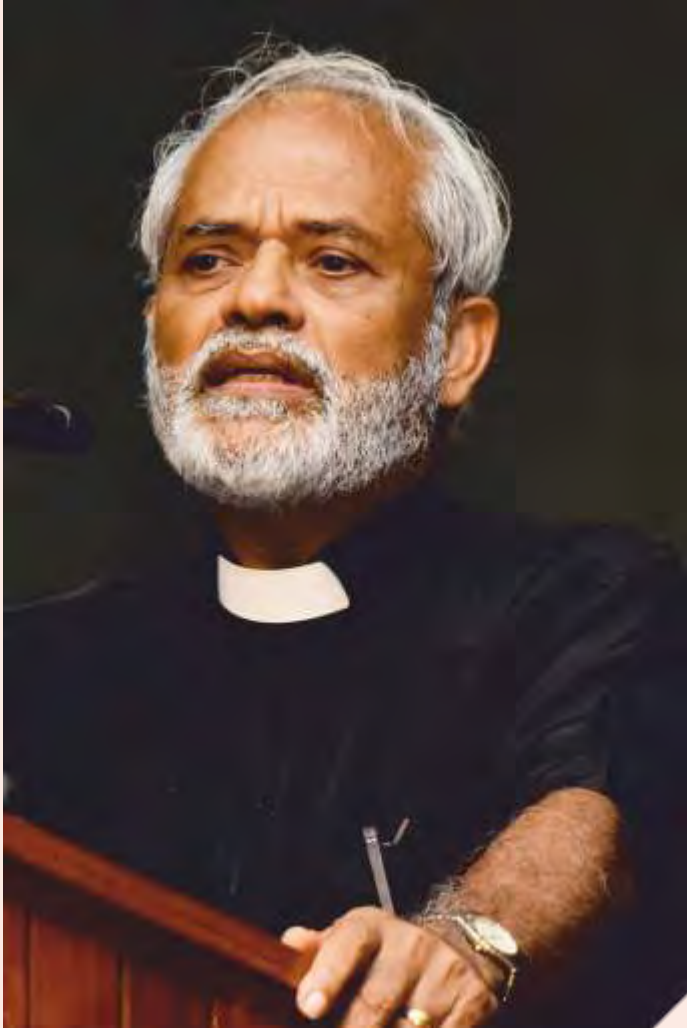
MLA Kerala

The NSP is an apt platform to present the youth audience with certain facts about the Kerala Legislative assembly. If you see the report, the Niyamasabha has double the figure in terms of sitting in assembly and legislation. The concept of subject committees and select committees owes its origin to Kerala state assembly. So, I must congratulate all Guests and Youth who have come to attend such a Students Parliament in State of Kerala. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in collection of poems "Gitanjali", told Kerala is a place where mind is without fear and we can walk with our head held high.

Of all the people under the age of 30 years, how many are interested in active politics? It is just 20%, Our parents and grandparents generation were connected to political upheavals happening in our nation in last 50 years. However, this generation prefers to be apolitical, because the youth are happy in their own comfort, families, and careers. Are we looking beyond these comfort zones? We need younger and smarter people in Indian Politics but for all the political parties, the biggest problem they face is we don't have the source to get the best people from youth. I believe the whole world is political, across all types of professions-there are politics. So its an appeal, don't stay away from politics.

“ Only thing is the youth who wish to join politics, they cannot expect to work comfortably. ”





Dr Valsan Thambu

Former Principal, St Stephen College Delhi

Here at this august gathering, we will discuss some basic thoughts on “way forward” some guidelines or compass for the youth. Let us keep “liberation” as a guiding light for our forward pilgrimage, let us talk on frontiers of liberation as relevant as relevant to the theme of students and policies. These themes should be picked up by students and youth into programmes of action for themselves. Education, being one of the theme, needs lots of improvement on quality but also a need to promote culture of free thinking.

Students should be provided with liberal education where enough impetus should be given for critical thinking. The other theme to be addressed is religion, experience shows that youth is walking away from religion. Religion is being used as a medium for preventing them from thinking. The need is not to walk away from religion but to stand and question religion today. Religion over the decade/ centuries is to condition people, brain wash people into becoming obedient slaves who will not think for themselves.

“Students should be provided with liberal education where enough impetus should be given for critical thinking.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. Kanhaiya Kumar

Social Activist

The words 'Youth and Politics' have been used against each other. We need to understand the connection between the two. We are not the youngest nation of the world, in fact every 5th person in the world is 'Indian'. To decide 'Youth' criteria, we must apply “Triple C formula” in their ability with respect to- Communication, Collaboration and Challenges. Secondly, in a modern society, no person can stay apolitical as every development concerning your progress is decided by the Political set-up. Entire policy framework is decided through politics. So if entire political framework of society and state is decided by politics-here the role of youth comes- you have to decide your own politics. It is the best career option to join politics for all Youth of India and make corrections in the process and policies.

“If entire political framework of society and state is decided by politics, here the role of youth comes- you have to decide your own politics...”



Student Speaker



Sarthak A. S.
Telangana

As our population continues to grow younger (our median age is 25), our Parliament continues to grow older. The first Lok Sabha had an average age of 46.5 years, which rose to 51.4 years by the 10th Lok Sabha. Political leaders reaching an age beyond retirement continue to hold on to power, delaying any sign of vanaprastha. In 2014, the current Parliament had just 12 MPs under 30, with only 53% of its members under 55; while the average age of an MP was typically above 50 years.

In comparison, the new Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, is just 37, and also the world's youngest female leader. Tony Blair and David Cameron both became Prime Minister at the stately age of 43. Emmanuel Macron 39, now the President of France.

Younger politicians understand what a youthful India needs and what their aspirations are. Political parties should be encouraged to provide space for such leaders to grow on merit. There is a need to increase intra-party democracy so as to ensure there is enough opportunities for growth of youth entering politics.

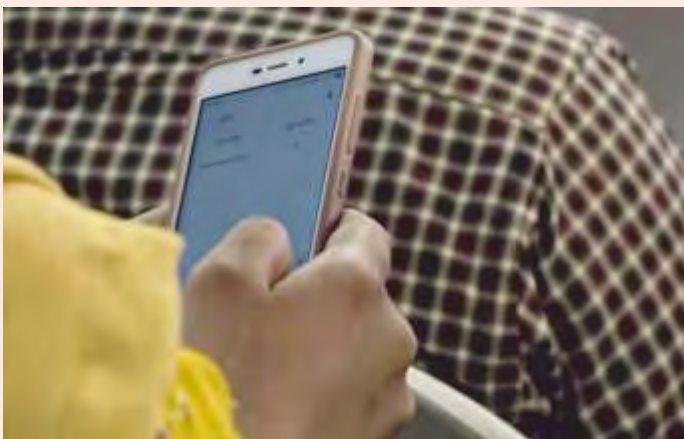
“As our population continues to grow younger (our median age is 25), our Parliament continues to grow older.”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

RESOLUTION



VOTING STATEMENT

We the participants of National Students' Parliament, Kerala hereby agree that Youth participation in Politics is very important because democracy that envisages tolerance towards others has to become a way of life. We pledge to follow the democratic principles in our day to day life and promote unity in diversity.

Passed by 92.58%
voting in favor

VOTING

YES: 92.58%
NO: 7.42%

Welcome of guests at Session



Rings of Fire: Informal gatherings and discussion on delegated topics

Topics for Day 2-

- One Nation One Election
- Universal Civil Code
- Borderless World: Yes or No
- Solutions to deal with Terrorism
- Environmental Protection and Man-Made Hazards
- Reservation policy adopted by successive Governments - Has this produced any Results? Should we continue the same?



Day 3 | 25th Feb | Flagging off 'March of Democracy' | 9.00 AM

Assembly of all Student Delegates and Officials of Organising team at Legislature Complex for flagging of 'March of Democracy'

Shri. V. Sasi-Hon'ble Deputy Speaker flagged off the 'March of Democracy' and a Procession of 5000+ students from Legislature Complex to Nishagandhi Auditorium took place with motivating and action oriented positive slogans reiterating Democratic Values. The sounds of 'Jai Hind' echoed through the air for kms long 'March of Democracy'.

Symphony for Harmony - National music and dance Programme directed by Soorya Krishnamoorthy, the programme showcased Symphony of various Indian Classical Musical Instruments, Dance and Songs (10.00 AM to 11.00 AM at Nishagandhi Auditorium)

We all speak different languages, have different cuisines, festivals, dialects, represents different regions but at the end all brews to one central idea that is what is diversity of India. The 'Symphony for Harmony' cultural program showcased this diversity through music. The scintillating treat of music was not just to our hearts but also to our minds, when 400 artists played diverse musical instruments in symphony.

From the diversity came one harmonious tune of 'BHARAT' what represents BHA- Bhavam, RA- Ragam and TA- Talam, that's the beauty of Bharat ie: Harmony in Diversity.

The vibrancy of Unity in Diversity was visible through this Diamond Jubilee Celebration at the Kerala Assembly at its 60th Anniversary & constant efforts of its leaders in nurturing this democratic process.

Symphony for Harmony







DAY 3

MONDAY

0200 hrs - 0300 hrs
25th FEBRUARY 2019

**VALEDICTORY
SESSION**



Shri. Mohamad Mohsin, Shri. P. Biju, Shri. P. Sreeramakrishnan, Shri. Jignesh Mewani



Shri. Swami Agnivesh, Shri. Babu Prakash, Dr. S. Parashuraman

Day 3 25th Feb Valedictory Conference & Concluding Ceremony- 'Festival on Democracy – Feel, Focus and Future 11.00 Am to 12.00 PM
Welcome Speech by Shri. P. Biju-Vice Chairman, Kerala State Youth Welfare Board
Key Session Speaker Shri. P. Sreeramakrishnan.- Hon'ble Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly
Key Session Speaker Shri. Pinayari Vijayan-Chief Minister Kerala
Key Session Speaker - Shri Sitaram Yechury-(General Secretary, CPI(M) and Ex-MP)
Key Session Speaker- Shri. V.M. Sudheeran-(Former Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly)
Key Session Speaker- Shri Shashi Tharoor- MP, Lok Sabha, Kerala
Key Session Speaker- Shri. Jignesh Mevani, M.L.A., Gujarat
Key Session Speaker Shri.Swami Agnivesh Former MLA-Haryana, Arya Samaj Scholor & Social Activist
Felicitation of Shri. P. Sreeramakrishnan. - Hon'ble Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly and his Team at the hands of Hon'ble Prof.S. Parasuraman- Vice Chancellor, MIT-World Peace University
Presentation of 'National Students' Parliament, Kerala-2019 Declaration'
Vote of Thanks by Shri V.K. Babu Prakash-Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Shri. P. Biju**

Vice Chairman of Kerala Youth Welfare Board

Delivered the Welcome Address by setting the context to the ceremony, Shri.P.Sreeramakrishnan Hon'ble Speaker (KLA) honoured the dignitaries on stage- Shri.Pinarayi Vijayan Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. Sitaram Yechuri-General Secretary-CPI(M), Shri.Shashi Tharoor- MP(Thiruvananthapuram) Shri.Jignesh Mewani, MLA(Gujarat), Shri.Swamy Agnivesh-Former MLA-Haryana, Shri.Mohammed Mohsin-MLA (Kerala).



Shri.P.Sreeramakrishnan

Hon'ble Speaker Kerala Legislative Assembly(KLA)

"KLA feels humbled at heartening response received and express gratitude for successful execution of the Festival on Democracy centred on the theme-'Power and Possibilities of Democracy and Politics.'" Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in "Discover of India" wrote, "India is a land of diversity, we have an inherent energy and we can overcome the divisive forces". What is that inherent energy- it is the youthfulness of our country. NSP is an attempt to trace out that energy. The seed thought of National Students Parliament lies in the efforts to organise a national level platform for the youth of India to exchange their ideas and voice their opinion as an active citizen in policy making. This was expressed in various regional sessions which was well attended and showed participation from students. The Ring of Fire event proved to be very interactive where, the event reflected towards the awareness in youth and the zeal to make a difference.

NSP was not a mock parliament, this was not an model parliament or assembly, this was a real participatory parliament- as you youth have voted and decided your resolutions. What is the essence of this NSP? "Be Political", you cannot breath without politics, you have to be in politics. Politics is not an asylum of social and anti-social elements, you have a room there.

“What is the essence of this NSP? “Be Political”, you cannot breath without politics, you have to be in politics...”



KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. Pinayari Vijayan

Chief Minister Kerala

Looking at you all, I express happiness to be at the concluding session of 'National Students Parliament' organised by the Kerala Legislative Assembly as a part of the 'Festival on Democracy' marking the diamond jubilee celebrations of the 'Kerala Legislative Assembly'-which can legitimately claim a long history and excellent performance to its credit.

It is indeed in the fitness of things that a National Students Parliament is organised to inculcate and reiterate the values and principles of democracy in the minds of the Young Generation and also to uphold the progressive ethos of the constitution.

I am sure that the deliberations of last two days have enriched your vision of the democracy and will enable you to play more meaningful role as the leaders of the nation. I also congratulate Kerala Legislative Assembly and its Hon'ble Speaker-Shri. P. Sreeramakrishnan for taking the initiative in enlarging the activities of the Legislative Assembly beyond its conventional function as and to the people and society at large.

“The National Students Parliament is organised to inculcate and reiterate the values and principles of democracy in the minds of the Young Generation and also to uphold the progressive ethos of the constitution.”





Shri. Sitaram Yechury

General Secretary CPI (M)

Participating at the conclave gives the pulse of what is the feel you get here in Kerala, about the democracy today. It also points towards pin pointed questions on what do you feel of dehumanisation of our society-where there is no moral binding, issues of moral policing on - what to wear? Where is the feel of Equality, Liberty and fraternity? Private Armies are a prelude to the Hitlers and Mussolinis of the world. So the feel of democracy today is that of Siege.

What is the Future? Most of us here like me are a generation that I call Past-Present and you are a generation I would call Present-Future. What you choose will define what will shape your future? You are today the soldiers of Indian Secular Democracy. One which we gave ourselves 70 years back. Your job is to restore and recover secular democracy and strengthen the Democracy.

On 26th November 1949 Dr.B. R. Ambedkar, recommended the draft of the Constitution to be accepted by the members of constituent assembly. In this constitution we have built the structure to give civil-political rights to every Indian irrespective of caste, creed or religion. An active effort will be made to ensure socio-economic equality & justice to each and every citizen of country.

“ In this constitution we have built the structure to give civil-political rights to every Indian irrespective of caste, creed or religion. ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. V M Sudheeran

Former Speaker-Kerala Legislative Assembly

At the beset, let me congratulate Honourable Speaker for organising NSP with the aim of inculcating the love for democratic values. The involvement and participation of youth is highly needed for the successful and meaning functioning of democracy.

At this moment, it is a duty to sight, the world 'Annual Global Democracy Index' reported by UK based Economist Group' research arm (EIU), which mentions that India has devaluated from Rank 32nd to Rank 42nd and remains to be classified as among "Flawed Democracy". This indicates that its high time to review the mistakes and rectify the same. The foundations of our democratic framework i.e. the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary pillars have been weakened.

Dr. Ambedkar said, "I feel good as constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad, because those who are called in to work happen to be a bad lot. Whereas, however bad a constitution may be, it will turn out to be good if the people who are called to work are good. A Constitution can only provide the Organs to function, it is the people who makes it lively body."

“ The involvement and participation of youth is highly needed for the successful and meaningful functioning of democracy. ”





Shri. Jignesh Mewani

MLA (Gujarat Legislative Assembly).

It is important to note, "India's beauty is in its Diversity and the fascist forces are taking away all the organs of the state and there is attack on 'Idea of India'. Therefore our fundamental responsibility at this juncture is to save the 'Idea of India' and my 'Idea of India' is nothing but what is placed in the Preamble of Constitution that we have to be 'Secular Socialist Republic'. On one hand our Prime Minister washes feet of a Cleaning Staff and on other hand we have technology to find out whether there is Water on Moon, this paradox needs to be addressed by using technology to remove social curses.

What is the image of our Farmers-lean framed who is starving and committing suicide. Every year more than 12000 Farmers are committing suicide. No one is taking care of the labour class, who are denied minimum wages (60 crore workers across country). Even in Gujarat assembly the workers (sanitation workers, liftman, class1 peons) are denied minimum wages.

We need to rise to envision India by Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Dr.Ambedkar. It is the youth who has to cherish this Idea of India which is Secular and goes beyond the caste system. I appeal to youth to celebrate 14th Feb-Valentine's Day, to create a New India- which cannot be created without annihilation of caste and inter-caste marriages.

“ We need to rise to envision India by Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Dr.Ambedkar. ”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Shri. Shashi Tharoor

MP, Lok Sabha, Kerala

I was delighted to accept the invite from the Hon'ble Speaker to join this conclave of 2000+ youth, who are celebrating democracy 'Festival on Democracy'. Democracy and Diversity are to me the core of the challenges facing the country today.

My perspective comes from my reading of history. Our country was sadly divided on basis of religion and not by any other form of identity (Socialist, Marxist, Capitalist etc), whereas Nationalism says religion cannot be the determinant of your identity or nationhood- whatever be your caste, creed, colour, culture, language, religion, cuisine, costume etc. We can have difference in point of view and ideology, but we will build a society on consensus.

A consensus that says that in a large and diverse democracy like India, we don't need to agree all the time, so long as you agree on certain ground rules. A Consensus that says irrespective of these difference, we will live together, work together and live the same dream together. This is the 'Idea of India' which would embrace everybody and this is the idea which is enshrined in the Constitution of India. That Idea is what we wish to defend and live by.

“ We can have difference in point of view and ideology, but we will build a society on consensus. ”





Shri. Swamy Agnivesh
Former MLA-Haryana
Arya Samaj Scholar & Social Activist

We are a country with maximum diversity and students at this National Students Parliament have already proclaimed that 'Youth is not the future, they are the present of India'. The "Hindu" in Shashi Tharoor, Jignesh Mewani and other dignitaries on dias is against the Hindutava of Narendra Modi. You cannot wash away your sins by bathing in the Ganges. PM Modi is a Pakhandi Mantri. We do not want such a Hindutva, we want the Hindutva which practices 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam'. The way to Hindutva is not by establishing Ram but is by abolishing RUM shops and automatically Ram Temple will exist from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

I also subscribe to the thought of Shri. Jignesh ji, to promote 'Inter caste Marriages and the idea of falling in Love'. Also let us practice Unity in Diversity through the Symphony in Harmony as described by 'BHARATA' of Sitaram Yechuri- BHAvam, RAGam and TALam.

“The way to Hindutva is not by establishing Ram but is by abolishing RUM shops and automatically Ram Temple will exist from Kashmir to Kanyakumari”

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY

Prof. Dr. S. Parasuraman

Vice Chancellor, MIT-World Peace University, Pune

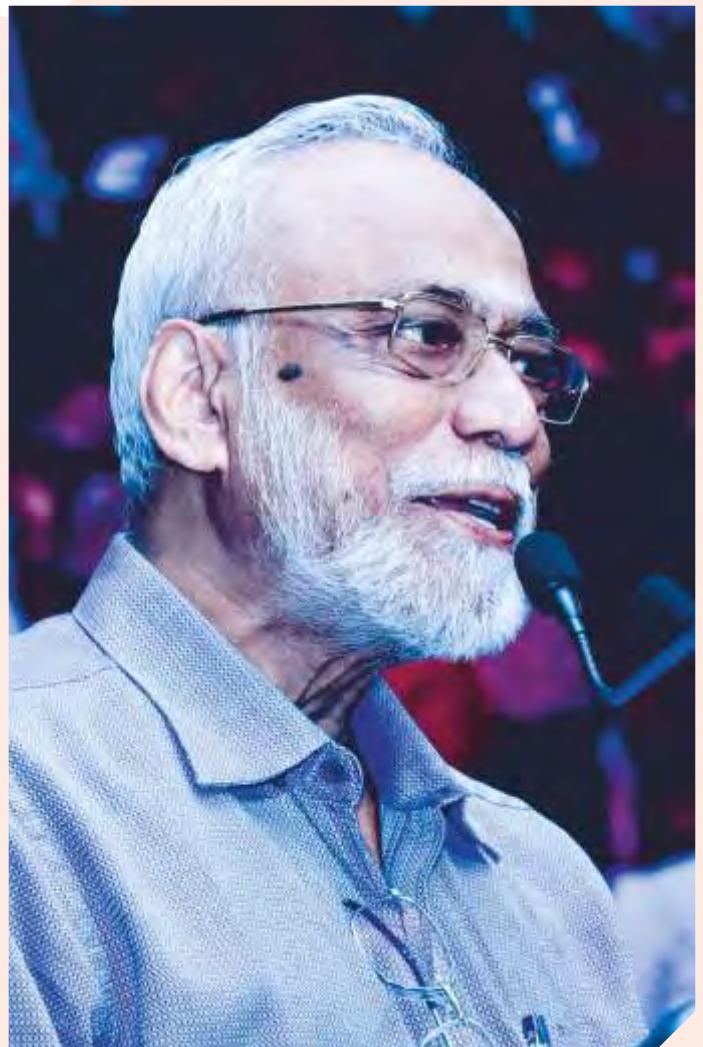
Since last two days it was an academic delight, listening to the enlightened speakers at National Students Parliament. I would like to talk on the socio- economic differentials in the country. India grew at a rapid pace post – liberalisation, but we needs to analyse it in the light of its effect on people.

The National Economic Survey in 2004-05 reports, 55% people were near poverty line just above it, but if affected by big health problem they will fall back in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and 22% of people were BPL, which sums up to 77% of population poor and vulnerable. The survey in 2014-15, shows the figures at 56% near poverty line and 22% BPL, which sums up to 78% of population poor and vulnerable, thus in 10 years we find no change in the social and economic development of the population.

Looking at, Arjun Singh Gupta's work on economic differentials of unorganised sector, he concludes that there is a strong bias in favour of high caste and gender bias in favour of male. Here we need to make interventions in the form of education, so as to overcome the socio-economic differential.

I appeal to all students who have gathered here from across India, to take home this message of socio-economic development from Gods Own Country.

“Here we need to make interventions in the form of education, so as to overcome the socio-economic differential.”





Felicitations



**NATIONAL STUDENTS' PARLIAMENT KERALA- 2019
KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

DECLARATION

25th February 2019



Shri. Mohamad Mohsin

The youth participating in the National Students' Parliament, Kerala-2019, after three days of detailed deliberations on a number of issues related to the power and possibilities of democracy and politics unanimously adopt the following.

We, the youth at National Students' Parliament, demand that Indian democracy should be realised by ensuring economic, cultural and social equality for all its citizens.

- Affirm that we shall impart and receive education with the noble idea of integrating with the masses and deeper involvement in their causes.
- Reaffirm our faith in the Constitution of India as the supreme law of the land and resolve to abide by the principles enshrined in it.
- Note that respect and tolerance for the ideas and opinions of others is an important ingredient of democracy.
- Realise the value of youth activism in social and political fields to attain well-being for all.
- Express our willingness to contribute to policy formation by taking active part in political activities.
- Resolve to contribute towards the welfare of the weaker sections in society by participating in voluntary national services.
- Understand that welfare measures are weak without youth support at grass root levels.
- Believe that we can make a substantial contribution towards achieving sustainable development goals.
- Recognise the need to build confidence in various sections of society to overcome obstacles in inclusive development.
- Celebrate the spirit of our Constitution and the fact that India remains world's largest democracy.

We Pledge,

- To Protect the concept of 'The Idea of India', which is unity in diversity.
- To Uphold the Constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, secularism, diversity and fraternity.
- To Preserve and protect the secular fabric of the country and uphold rule of law.
- To Uphold and fulfil the duties enshrined under Article 51 A of the Constitution of India.
- To Work towards removing the inequalities and differences caused by notions of caste and to remove the discontents caused by it.
- To Unite and defend the rich cultural diversity and unity of the people of India and to help curb the attempts made to disturb cultural harmony in the country.





Kerala Legislative Assembly
FESTIVAL ON DEMOCRACY
National Student Parliament Kerala -2019
Thiruvananthapuram

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Kerala Legislature Complex

The Kerala Legislative Assembly was established 60 years ago. Since then it has been working committedly towards the enhancement of democracy. Kerala has a unique identity in India as it has a diverse blend of various social groups of different faiths living together for ages in harmony and cooperation. Kerala is a hotpot of assimilating culture and also performs well on various social equality parameters. It also sees a large presence of foreign nationals due to its splendid scenic beauty and mega events like international film festivals which happen regularly. Kerala is considered to be one of the most hospitable states in India. Kerala is a living example of translating policies on the paper into ground realities, be it the case of literacy or women's safety.

Kerala is blessed to have dynamic leaders like Hon'ble Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan as Chief Minister of the state and Hon'ble Shri. P. Sreeramakrishnan as Speaker of State Legislative Assembly.

Their erudite, dynamic, visionary, firm and yet humble leadership will lead the Kerala Youth Parliament towards greater heights. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'able Speaker; Kerala Legislative Assembly is the most suitable place for hosting the National Students' Parliament, Kerala .



National Legislators' Conference

A two day National Legislators' conference on 'Challenges in the Empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Independent India' was conducted on the 6th & 7th of August 2018, under the aegis of the Festival on Democracy. Herein valuable and relevant discussions, interactions and seminars were held to bring to the fore the challenges faced as regards the topic and also devise plausible solutions. The youth is expected to hold the reins of the country as we move forward and therefore their opinions and views are of paramount importance and this platform sought to witness them.



Kerala Legislature
Complex



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