

50 Years of Basic Structure Doctrine of Indian Constitution as propounded by Supreme Court of India

On 26th October 2023, the Faculty of Law at Baba Mastnath University organized a department-level discussion on the topic "50 Years of Basic Structure Doctrine of the Indian Constitution as Propounded by the Supreme Court of India." The event, convened by Dr. Seema Devi, with co-convenership by Dr. Harvinder Barak, featured an enlightening session by Prof. (Dr.) C.P. Sheoran, a distinguished constitutional expert. The discussion brought together students and faculty members to reflect on the transformative impact of the Basic Structure Doctrine on the Indian Constitution and its role in safeguarding the principles of democracy.

The discussion commenced with an introductory session by Dr. Seema Devi, who outlined the historical context and relevance of the landmark Kesavananda Bharati judgment, which introduced the Basic Structure Doctrine in 1973. Prof. (Dr.) C.P. Sheoran delivered an insightful lecture, tracing the evolution of the doctrine and its judicial interpretation over the past five decades. He elaborated on how the doctrine serves as a guardian of the Constitution, ensuring that its fundamental principles remain inviolable despite amendments.

The session emphasized the significance of judicial review in maintaining the balance of power between different organs of the government. It further explored key cases where the Basic Structure Doctrine was upheld, reinforcing the judiciary's role in protecting constitutional values. An interactive Q&A session followed, where students actively engaged with the speaker, seeking clarity on various aspects of the doctrine and its contemporary relevance.

The discussion on the Basic Structure Doctrine highlighted its profound impact on maintaining the integrity of the Indian Constitution and safeguarding democratic values. In an era marked by rapid socio-political and economic changes, the doctrine serves as a cornerstone in preserving the core principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

This event also resonated with the goals outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). By fostering awareness about constitutional principles and the rule of law, the event contributed to building

stronger institutions and promoting justice and accountability. Such discussions empower students to understand their rights and responsibilities, fostering active citizenship and a deeper commitment to democratic ideals.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and students of the Faculty of Law, who engaged in thought-provoking discussions and debates. It provided a platform for students to develop a nuanced understanding of constitutional law and its critical role in shaping a just and equitable society. The insights shared by Prof. (Dr.) C.P. Sheoran inspired participants to appreciate the resilience of the Indian Constitution and the judiciary's role in upholding its sanctity.

The discussion on "50 Years of Basic Structure Doctrine of the Indian Constitution" was a highly enriching and educational experience. By shedding light on the enduring relevance of the doctrine, the event reaffirmed Baba Mastnath University's commitment to fostering legal awareness and promoting the values enshrined in the Constitution. Through its alignment with global sustainability goals, the discussion contributed to the development of informed, responsible citizens dedicated to upholding democratic principles and justice.