



#### **CIRCULAR**

#### DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES- POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Humanities (Political Science) is organizing a 'Guest Lecture by Prof MJ Vinod', a one-day event at M S Ramaiah College of Arts, Science and Commerce on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025. As part of this initiative, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year BA and 1<sup>st</sup> year BCA students will be given lecture on two topics: a. Comparative Discourse Analysis of India and the United States Constitutions and b. Identity Politics in India: Implications on its various dimensions.

This activity aims to provide an understanding on the working structure of Comparative Governments as well as delve into the nuances of Indian Polity and its contemporary issues.

Event Coordinator: Dr. Lakshmi Karlekar

Date: 25 August 2025

Venue: M S Ramaiah College of Arts, Science and Commerce

Program

Program Head, Der. Honor with

Vice Principal

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# DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES Report on Guest Lecture by Prof MJ Vinod

Date and Time: 25 August 2025, 11:30 to 1:30 PM

Venue: M.S. Ramaiah College of Arts, Science and Commerce-Autonomous

No. of Participants: 85

Event coordinator: Dr. Lakshmi Karlekar

The Department of Humanities organized a guest lecture series in Political Science on 25 August 2025 at Kuvempu Seminar Hall, M.S. Ramaiah College of Arts, Science and Commerce-Autonomous, Bengaluru, featuring Dr. M.J. Vinod, Professor at Christ (Deemed to be University) and former Dean of Social Sciences, Bangalore University.











#### **Program Objective**

### Session A: Comparative Discourse Analysis of India and the United States Constitutions

- 1. Understand and articulate the historical, cultural, and philosophical foundations that shaped the Indian and U.S. Constitutions.
- 2. Analyse and compare the language and discourse used in the Preambles, Fundamental Rights (India) vs. Bill of Rights (U.S.), and key structural provisions.
- 3. **Identify how constitutional discourse** reflects broader national ideologies such as secularism, federalism, and individual rights in both nations.
- 4. **Critically evaluate** how constitutional narratives influence contemporary political debates and legal interpretations in India and the U.S.
- 5. Engage in comparative discourse analysis using select excerpts to practice close reading and contextual interpretation.

### Session B: Identity Politics in India: Implications on its Various Dimensions

- 1. **Define and contextualize** identity politics in the Indian socio-political landscape, including caste, religion, language, and region.
- 2. Examine the historical evolution of identity-based movements and their impact on political representation and public policy.
- 3. Analyse the implications of identity politics on democratic participation, social cohesion, and institutional integrity.
- 4. Critically assess how identity politics influences electoral outcomes, policy priorities, and inter-group dynamics in India.
- 5. Engage in reflective discussion on whether identity politics empowers marginalized communities or perpetuates social divisions.











The two-hour session (11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.), engaged students and faculty with critical insights on the comparative discourse of the Indian and American Constitutions and the dynamics of identity politics in India. The objective of the lecture was to broaden student's perspectives on constitutional frameworks and their socio-political implications. Introducing the session, Dr. Lakshmi Karlekar, Programme Coordinator, highlighted the importance of initiatives as part of course syllabus, aiming to connect classroom learning with larger global political discourses. The event was graced by Principal, Dr. Pushpa H. And Vice-Principal Prof. Jayarama B.S. The chief guest was felicitated by Dr. Ganesh Naik, Head of the Department with a sapling. Dr. Vinod's lecture was divided into two segments.

The first explored the comparative aspects of the Indian and American Constitutions, covering themes such as federalism, checks and balances, judicial interventions, and the adaptability of constitutional frameworks. He traced philosophical roots in Locke and Montesquieu, touched on Trump-era executive orders, and examined Indian constitutional flexibility through landmark amendments. "A Constitution is an organic entity," Dr. Vinod remarked, emphasizing the living, evolving nature of constitutional law.



The second session addressed identity politics in India, focusing on language, caste, and religion as central markers of mobilization. Dr. Vinod explained how linguistic reorganization of states gave rise to regional parties, while easte and religion shaped electoral narratives and policy outcomes. Drawing on global parallels, he argued that identity politics remains both a challenge and a strength in sustaining India's democracy. "Religion is a very critical marker of Indian politics," he noted, underlining its dual role as a force of cohesion and conflict.

The interactive Q&A sessions reflected strong engagement, with participants and faculties raising questions on U.S.-India Strategic Partnership relations, federalism, and the role of caste in contemporary elections. In conclusion, the guest lecture enriched the academic community by bridging theoretical concepts with practical political realities, equipping students with a nuanced understanding of constitutionalism and identity politics.











### Program Outcome

### Session A: Comparative Discourse Analysis of India and the United States Constitutions

Participants developed a nuanced understanding of constitutional discourse as a reflection of national identity, values, and political culture by engaging in a comparative analysis of the Indian and United States Constitutions. They were equipped with analytical tools to interpret constitutional texts in their historical and socio-political contexts, fostering critical thinking skills essential for legal, political, and academic analysis. The session also enhanced participants' ability to engage in comparative constitutional studies and evaluate the relevance of constitutional discourse in contemporary democratic governance.

### Session B: Identity Politics in India: Implications on its Various Dimensions

Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of identity politics in India, examining its roots, evolution, and impact on democratic processes, social cohesion, and policymaking. The session enabled learners to critically analyse the interplay between social identities and political power, and assess how identity-based mobilizations shape public discourse and governance. By the end, participants were prepared to engage in informed debates and research on the complex dynamics of identity in India's pluralistic society, fostering an inclusive and analytical approach to Political Science.

Program Coordinator

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Pamaian College of Arts, Science
and Commerce, Bangaiora, \$60054

Vice Principal

Principal

# RAMAIAH

college of Arts, Science & Commerce - Autonomous



# DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

presents

# GUEST LECTURE SERIES (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

on the topics

COMPARITIVE DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONS

IDENTITY POLITICS IN INDIA: IMPLICATIONS ON ITS VARIOUS DIMENSIONS



#### **SPEAKER**

Dr. MJ Vinod

Department of Professor, International Studies, Political Science and History, Christ (Deemed to be University)

Also, former Dean of Socia Sciences and Head of the Political Department of Science, Bangalore University



25 August 2025



11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Kuvempu Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### CONTACTUS

Dr. Lakshmi Karlekar Programme Co-ordinator

Dr. Ganesh Naik HoD

Prof. B S Jayaram

Vice-Principal

Dr. Pushpa H

Principal



# DEPT OF HUMANITIES- POLITICAL SCIENCE

## GUEST LECTURE BY PROF MJ VINOD

#### <u>25/8/25</u>

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