

Welcome

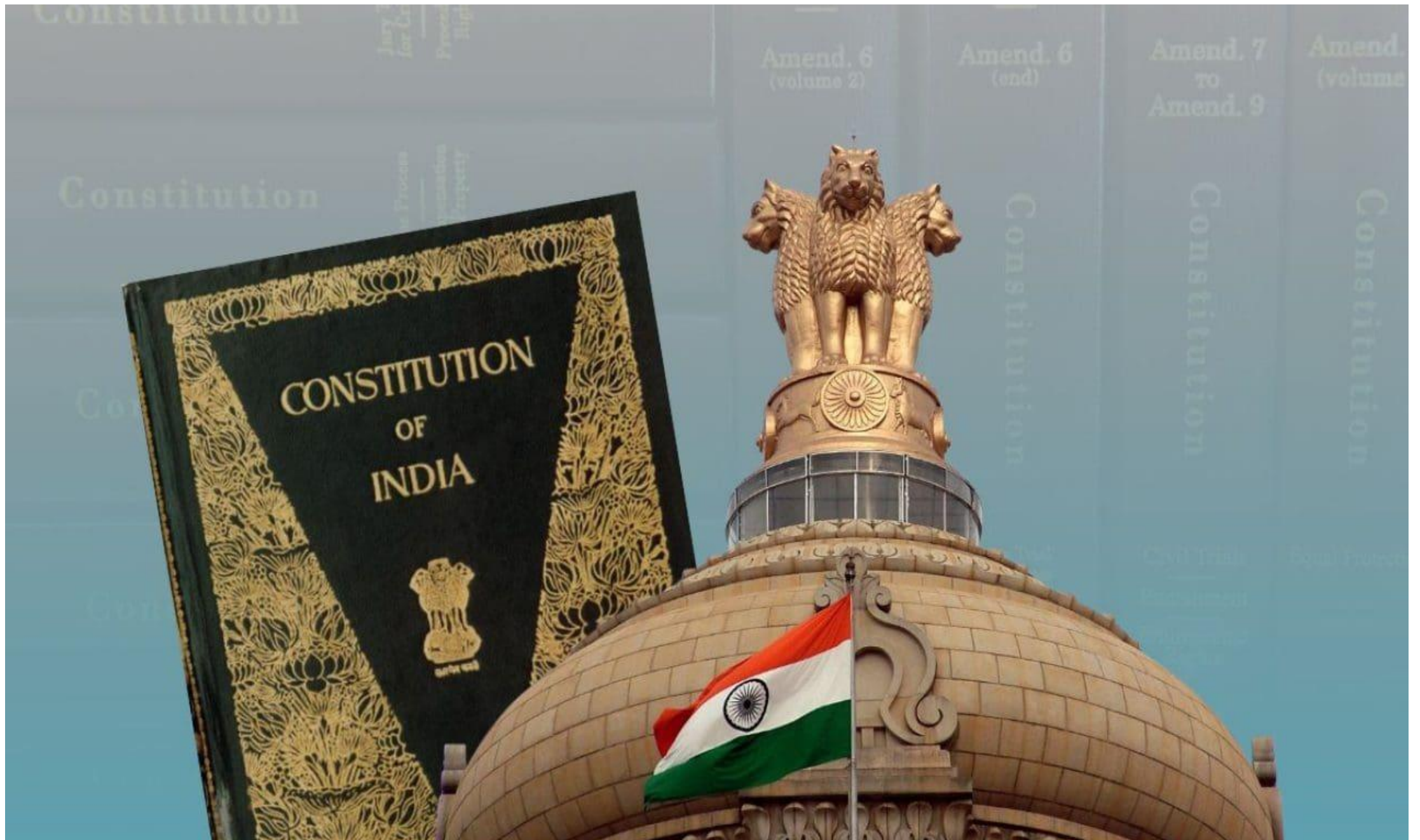
Pro-poor perspectives

6th April 2026

Venue: MCRHRD

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New Delhi



Equality

Session plan

- **Key learnings that inspired the trainees of MCRHRD in the past**
- **Citizen as Rights holder - Rights based legislations**
- **Addressing the inequities in the society**

(1) Key learnings that inspired the trainees

- Potential within the poor**
- Social mobilization enables the poor build their own organisations**
- Social capital within the community of the poor**
- The poor can build their own capital**

(2) Key learnings that inspired the trainees

- Administration of all levels capable of delivering "Right to work" in letter in spirit**
- GP and Mandal level – admin processes can be super efficient !!!**
- Accountability of administration to people is no more an abstract. It can be real !!!**

Rights based Legislations

PIL, Civil society and Judicial activism

In 2001 the "Right to Food" case (People's Union for Civil Liberties Vs Union of India) the Supreme Court interpreted Article 21 to include the rights to food, education, work, and a dignified life.

Paradigm shift

- **Beneficiary to Right holder**
- **Mandatory Accountability and
Justiciability**

Paradigm shift

- Inclusion through universalization
- Transparency as structural requirement
- State provider of boon to guarantee of
Rights

Right to Information Act 2005

Paradigm Shift

- **Shift from Prayer to Demand**
- **Information parity**
- **End of 'Discretion'**
- **From passive consumption to active oversight**

Comparison of paradigm

Knowledge is power reserved for State

Information is right owned by people

State is opaque and authoritarian

State is transparent and transparent

Comparison of paradigm

Taxpayer no role

Taxpayer Monitors public funds

Secrecy is the Rule

Disclosure is the Rule

MGNREGA 2005

Compare MGNREGA with VB Gram G

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

Forest Rights Act 2006

Paradigm shift

- **Encroacher to owner**
- **Rise of Community Forest Rights**

Paradigm shift

- **Supremacy of Gram Sabha**
- **Conservation through 'Co-existence'**

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009

Paradigm shift

- **From enrolment to entitlement**
- **Breaking the Ghettoisation**

Paradigm shift

- **End of Institutional harassment**
- **Standards and teacher qualification**

Comparison of Paradigm shift

Non-binding

Binding

Private sector is unregulated

Private sector is partner in social justice

Child is recipient of mere literacy

Child is holder of dignified education

National Food Security 2013

Paradigm shift

- **Discretionary ration to Legal entitlement**
- **Women as head of household**

Paradigm shift

- **Food security allowance**
- **Life cycle approach: Beyond just Grains**

Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014

- **The Street Vendor has the right to carry out business in designated vending zones without arbitrary restrictions**
- **The right to be protected from harassment by the police or officials**
- **Legal recognition, - Right to certificate**

- **The right to be protected from arbitrary removal or rehabilitation**
- **In case of relocation right to new vending site/area**
- **Right to participate in decision making by Town Vending Committees (TVCs)**

**Right to Fair Compensation and
Transparency in Land Acquisition,
Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act,
2013**

- **Right to fair compensation**
- **Social impact assessment**
- **Right to resettlement and rehabilitation**
- **Special provisions in case of acquisition of land in scheduled areas**

73rd Amendment to Constitution – Panchayats in Constitution's IX Schedule

PESA Act 1996

Telangana PESA Rules 2023

Powers vested with Gram Sabhas in 5th Schedule villages

Preservation role

**Safeguard traditions, customs, cultural
identify, community resources and
customary dispute resolution**

Role in Development

**Approval of Development Plans
and Identification of Beneficiaries**

Village level Institutions

**Control over Institutions and
functionaries in social sector**

Land

Restoration of Alienated Land, Land Acquisition & Rehabilitation

- **Management of minor water bodies**
- **Minor minerals**
- **Control of markets, money lending and intoxicants**
- **Ownership over MFP**

Addressing the inequities in the Society

Role of Caste Census

Inequities

- **Richest 1% of Indians now own 40% of country's total wealth**
- **Bottom 50% of the population control only 3% of the Nation's wealth**

Equity: still eluding Indians?

- **Inequality** is at a record high and growing
- **Poor Indians** are still mostly **from marginalized communities**
- **Marginalized communities** **lack power and opportunities**

**The Path toward equity chosen by Indian
Constitution is unparallel in the world. But the
progress towards equity is stone walled by the
Caste system in India**

**As long as you don't see inequalities
from caste lense, you can not address
inequality in Indian society**

Development Divide - SCs

Parameter	SC	General/others
Literacy rate	66%	83%
Under 5 Mortality (per 1000)	48	31
Landlessness	60%	10-15%
Multidimensional poverty	50%	15%
Wealth ownership	8%	45%

Development Divide - STs

Parameter	ST	General/others
Literacy rate	61%	83%
Under 5 Mortality (per 1000)	50	31
Access to tap water	35%	45%
Multidimensional poverty	48%	15%
Wealth ownership	3.8%	45%

- **Land ownership disparities**
- **Education inequalities**
- **Employment and wage disparities**
- **Disparities in access to housing, civic amenities, credit, market, private employment**
- **Monopoly over Political power**

Telangana State SCs and STs Special Development Fund (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act, 2017

**An Act aimed at bridging the gaps in development
between SCs/STs when compared to others**

Counting the Castes matters

What is not counted can not be challenged

Caste Census

Measures nature and extent of maldistribution of resources, assets and opportunism suffered by the communities at the receiving end of the caste system

Bureaucratic deflection

Sno	Action	Bureaucratic justification	Underlying political goal
1	Complicate	Caste is too complicate to code	Delay the start of the exercies
2	Isolate (2011 SECC)	Let us do outside the main Census	Ensure the data lacks legal/statistical rigour
3	Confusing	‘Data we collected is too messy’	Precent the release of the results
4	Moralise	Counting caste will increase castism	Protect the status quo of upper caste dominance

**Result of tracking of flow of Rs
10 lakh crores in one year**

No share for SCs/STs/OBCs

- **50 Mines auctioned**
- **25 power purchase agreements**
- **13 Airports privatized**
- **28 Minor ports privatized**

No share for SCs/STs/OBCs

- **33 National highway contracts**
- **15 Major Jalashakthi projects**
- **33 % Defense contracts**
- **13 Insurance companies empaneled for Fasal Bhima yojana**

Many more.....

- **91% fertilizer subsidy goes into Companies owned by General category**
- **92% of start up fund goes to business funded by General category**
- **Ownership of most of the private educational institutes and private hospitals with General category**

- **Out of 661 High court Judges- SCs : 21, STs: 12, OBCs: 78**
- **Only one SC Vice Chancellor in 45 Central Universities (2022)**
- **Hardly any SC/ST/OBC in Media/Anchors**

Union Secretaries and Budget control

Caste Category	No of Secretaries	Percentage Secretaries	Budget control (Rs Lakh Crore)	Budget Control %
UC	79	87.8%	41,23,321	93%
OBC	2	2.2%	2,47,014	5.6%
SC	6	6.6%	53,856	1.3%
ST	3	3.3%	5725	0.1%
Total	90	100%	44,29,915	100%

Caste system (Disease)

Caste Census (X Ray)

Policies (Medicine)

Assignment for volunteers

- **Interact with the SHGs of women, VOs, MMSs, ZSs- listen to their small voices and appreciate their big victories**
- **When VB G Ram G is rolled out, visit the MGNREGS labour and find out from them what changed**

Assignment for volunteers

- **Study Rights based legislations and see how they are working on the ground**
- **Develop sensitivity towards inequalities in the society how the existing policies and legislations are addressing inequities in the society**
- **Closely follow country wide ongoing Census (caste census) – study the results**

Thank you

Jai Hind