

Constitution and National Unity Conference 2024

Organised by the Social Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka with Academic Partnership of ISEC for Theme 2 and Theme 3

Venue: Bangalore Palace Grounds

Date: 24th and 25th February 2024 (Saturday & Sunday)

About the Conference

The Government of Karnataka is organising "Constitution and National Unity Convention 2024" to commemorate the 75th year since the adoption of the Constitution of India. As a part of this mega event, two days conference titled 'Constitution and National Unity' is scheduled to be organised on 24th and 25th February 2024. Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) is pleased to anchor Theme II focusing on 'Constitution, Welfare and Development' and Theme III centred around the 'Developmental Paradigms in Karnataka' of the conference.

Theme II: Constitution, Welfare and Development

"The Constitution and National Unity" conference aims to discuss the theme of welfare within the constitutional paradigm, taking a critical look at the developmental trajectory and justice mechanisms in the 75 years since India's independence. The theme is spread over five sessions Session A, "Constitutional Promises and India's Development in 75 years" provides a comprehensive examination of job opportunities, income/wealth distribution, reservation policies, and the state of education, addressing both public and private sectors. In Session B, "Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Citizenship" discussions will revolve around Ambedkar's perspective, national unity, the concept of a common civil code, state reorganisation, and the principles of cooperative federalism. Meanwhile, Session C, "Social and Economic Justice" explores social inequity, untouchability, intergroup inequality, malnutrition, poverty, and civic amenities like housing, water, and sanitation. Additionally, Session D scrutinises the intricacies of income inequality and delves into the potential of Universal Basic Income. Session E, "Affirmative Action for Backward Classes and Minorities" critically assesses existing policies focusing on education, land, and women. This conference aims to facilitate a profound exploration of India's constitutional foundations, uniting scholars, policymakers, and practitioners for enlightening discussions and formulating pragmatic solutions to propel the nation toward progress and unity.

Theme III: Developmental Paradigms in Karnataka

The conference will also be centred around Karnataka, exploring crucial dimensions of the state's development and unity. In Session A, "Constitutional Directives, Development and Progress in Karnataka" scholars and policymakers will dissect the intricate web of developmental dimensions of constitution a special reference to Karnataka, inequalities in land ownership in Karnataka -- expectations and realities, and constitution and affirmative

actions with reference to employment in the state. In Session B, the focus will shift to the Karnataka SCSP TSP Act, acknowledged as a potential game-changer for economic empowerment. This session will delve into budget allocations, the effectiveness of the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP), and the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Session C will critically analyse the five guarantees of the Government of Karnataka and the concept of Universal Basic Income. The discussions will provide a nuanced understanding of the policies and their implications for ensuring citizens' well-being. Simultaneously, Session D will address the welfare of backward classes and minorities, emphasising the challenges faced by OBCs, minority communities, and women, paving the way for inclusive policy frameworks. Lastly, Session E will shed light on the Footprints of Social Justice in Karnataka, emphasising the role of historical leaders, artists, and social reformers in shaping the state's socio-cultural landscape. The session will also discuss the Dalit and anti-caste movements in Karnataka.







Organizers Details

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Photo
1	Prof Sukhadeo Thorat	Member of Board of Governor at Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru and Former Chairperson of University Grant Commission	
2	Prof. Krishna Raj	Professor of Economics, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru and Executive Member of the Conference on "Constitution and National Unity"	

Details of Themes, Sessions, and Panellists

Theme II: Constitution, Welfare and Development



Sl. No	Resource Persons	Designation	Photo
Session A: Constitutional Promises and India's Development in 75 years Date: 24th February 2024 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM			
1	Prof. M V Rajeev Gowda	Former Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha and National Spokesperson for the Indian National Congress	
2	Prof Jayati Ghosh	Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA	

3	Sri Anurag Behar	CEO Of Azim Premji Foundation & Founding Vice Chancellor, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru	
4	Prof. Himanshu	Associate Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	
5	Prof Surinder Singh Jodhka	Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	
Session B: Fundamental Rights, Directive principles and Citizenship Date: 24th February 2024 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM			
6	Ms Medha Patkar	Social Activist and Founder Member Narmada Bachao Andolan	
7	Sri Siddharth Varadarajan	Founding Editor, The Wire	
8	Sri Harsh Mander	Social Activist, Author, Columnist, and Former IAS	
9	Sri Sanjay R Hegde	Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India	
10	Prof C Basavaraju	Vice Chancellor, Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi	
Session C: Social and Economic Justice Date: 24th February 2024 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM			

11	Prof S Madheswaran	Professor of Economics, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru	
12	Sri Nikhil Dey	Indian Social Activist and Co-founder of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)	
13	Ms Beena Pallical	General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights & Chair, Asia Dalit Rights Forum	
14	Prof Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd	Author, Political Theorist, and Dalit Right Activist	
Session D: Income Inequality and Universal basic Income Date: 25th February 2024 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM			
15	Prof Sukhadeo Thorat (chair)	Member of Board of Governor at Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru and Former Chairperson of University Grant Commission	
16	Prof. Santosh Mehrotra	Research Fellow at IZA Institute of Labour Economics and Visiting Professor at University of Bath, England	
17	Prof. Krishna Raj	Professor of Economics, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru	
18	Prof. Babu Mathew	Professor and MPP Faculty Co-Director Centre for Labour Studies, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru	
Session A: Affirmative Action for Backward Classes and Minorities Date: 25th February 2024 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM			

19	Sri K Raju	National Coordinator (SC, ST, OBC, and Minorities Department), Indian National Congress	
20	Sri Jignesh Mevani	Member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly	
21	Dr. Amit Thorat	Assistant Professor, Centre for Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University	
22	Ms. Seema Chishti	Editor at The Wire	
23	Prof. Vinoj Abraham	Professor and Ministry of Commerce Chair at Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram	

Theme III: Developmental Paradigms in Karnataka (in Kannada Language)

Sl. No	Resource Persons	Designation	Photo
Session A: Constitutional Directives: Development and Progress in Karnataka Date: 24 th February 2024 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM			
1	Prof T R Chandrashekhar	Retired Professor, Department of Development Studies, Kannada University, Hampi	
2	Prof M Chandra Poojary	Director, Karnataka State Higher Education Academy, Dharwad	

3	Prof S T Bagalkoti	Professor, Department of Economics, Karnataka University, Dharwad	
4	Dr R Niranjana	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari	
Session B: Karnataka SCSP and TSP Act Date: 24th February 2024 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM			
5	Dr E Venkataiah	Retired IAS Officer and Advisor, SCSP and TSP Social Welfare Department, Karnataka	
6	Sri N C Muniyappa	Retired IAS Officer and Former Election Commissioner	
7	Prof K M Metry	Professor, Department of Tribal Studies, Kannada University, Hampi, Karnataka	
8	Prof. Krishna Raj	Professor of Economics, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru	
Session C: Guarantees of Government of Karnataka and Universal Basic Income Date: 24th February 2024 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM			

9	Sri C S Dwarkanath	Former Chairman of Backward Classes Commission, Karnataka	
10	Sri H M Rudraswamy	Senior Progressive Thinker, Chikmagalur, Karnataka	
11	Prof A Narayana	Professor, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru	
12	Prof Mallika Ghanti	Former Vice-Chancellor, Kannada University, Hampi, Karnataka	
13	Prof Sapna S	Associate Dean of the School of Law at Christ University, Bengaluru	
Session D: Backward Classes and Minorities Date: 25th February 2024 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM			
14	Dr Veerappa Moily	Former Chief Minister of Karnataka	
15	Sri K N Lingappa	Retired KAS Officer and Former member of Karnataka Backward Class Commission	

16	Prof Muzaffar Assadi	Professor, Department of Political Sciences, University of Mysore, Mysuru	
17	Sri Dinesh Aminmattu	Former Media advisor of Chief Minister of Karnataka, Journalist and Social Activist	
18	Dr Du Saraswathi	Kannada Writer, Theatre artist and activist	
Session A: Footprints of Social Justice in Karnataka Date: 25th February 2024 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM			
19	Prof S G Siddaramaiah	Noted Senior Literateur and Activist	
20	Dr Shashikant R Pattan	President, Basava Understanding and Research Centre, Pune	
21	Sri L N Mukundraj	Poet and Playwright	

22	Prof Purushothama Bilimale	Professor of Kannada, Centre of Indian Languages, JNU, New Delhi	
23	Prof Chinnaswamy Sosale	Professor, Department of History, Kannada University, Hampi	