

**Event: Parliament In Democracy And The Role of An Individual Parliamentarian**

**Organized by: Civil Society of Department of Political Science**

**Date: October 19, 2020**

**Number of Participants: 64**

The Civil society of Department of Political Science in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance cell (IQAC), organized a webinar on 19th Of October 2020. The theme of the webinar was, 'Parliament In Democracy And The Role of An Individual Parliamentarian.' The speaker invited for the webinar was Dr. Mridhula Raghavan, Praja Foundation. The Webinar started with introductory address given by Dr. Pillai, emphasizing on Indian democracy and how it is going through a critical phase as far as the Indian political system is concerned. He referred to the steady decline in the parliamentary culture in India and mentioned some of the factors which have led to it such as indiscipline of the parliamentarians, failure of the 24/7 information and communication center, growing absenteeism, dysfunctional opposition, criminalization of politics where many parliamentarians have criminal backgrounds, failure of the parliamentary committees inconsistent as the instrumental causes in the parliament's deterioration.

In the keynote address the principal Dr. Gurmohinder Singh, too emphasized on how the parliamentarians need to be more engaged, more accessible, more accountable and more transparent as far as their role and responsibility towards the public is concerned and which would truly make for a healthy and representative democracy. Post this, Dr. Deepak Sharma introduced the audience to a very salient dimension of 'good governance' and how democracy and good governance need to work in tandem in order to make for a sustainable democracy with a balanced development scenario.

Dr. Mridhula Raghavan from the Praja Foundation followed up the discussion with her methodical presentation. She started with the introduction to the role of the parliament as envisaged in the constitution, followed by, what the parliament is, what is its mandate, how are the bills passed, what is the role of the parliamentarians. Gradually she moved to recently concluded monsoon session. And proceeded with explaining students, number of sitting days of the parliament, nature and types of parliamentary questions is asked, how a typical day in the parliament is scheduled, programs planned etc. Further, she explained the role of ordinances in times which require prompt

action as far as law making is concerned and also provided data of promulgated ordinances from 2010-2020. Following this, nature and types of parliamentary committees were discussed and what had been the percentage of bills referred to the committees in the last few Lok Sabha sessions and how they have been dealt with. Private members business was another aspect discussed, where it was emphasized how a member of Parliament can introduce a piece of legislation, to draw the attention of government to some serious issues. A critical understanding of assessing parliament's performance was discussed to see how parliament performed during the monsoon session keeping in context both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha along with the state legislatures.

She concluded her presentation by explaining how legislative power is distributed between the center and the states, here particular emphasis was put on the latest news about the three agriculture related ordinances which later became bill, and how the tension which exists between the center and the state was brought to the surface and how does the constitution deal with it. Post the presentation was an exhaustive and interactive question answer session which catered to the curiosity and doubts of the students, which revolved around Indian democracy itself. The webinar concluded with vote of thanks by Mrs. Neeta Dhingra.