

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Report on Dr. G. J. Sudhakar Endowment Lecture

The G. J. Sudhakar Endowment Lecture was conducted by Department of History on 27th February 2016 in Lawrence Sundaram Auditorium. Advocate Sri. R. Singgaravelan, Senior Counsel, Madras High Court was the speaker for the event. The women students of PG sang the prayer song and Miss. Vidula Miriam Mathew compered the event. Dr. L. Selvanathan, Head, Dept. of History welcomed the gathering and congratulated the students who brought overall championship in **Istoria'16** conducted by Madras Christian College. Dr. L. Selvanathan pointed out that the theme of this year's lecture 'Constitutional Judgements on Fundamental Rights' is timely and a mind opener in the present social scenario in India.



Dignitaries on the dais

The chief guest Adv.R.Singgaravelan was honoured with a shawl by Prof.Ranganathan, Coordinator Shift -II, Dept. of History and a memento was given by Mr. S. Mahendranath, Secretary, History Association. The chief guest was introduced by Prof. Jayapradaban, Vice-President, History Association.



The winners of Istoría'16 (Madras Christian College) with the chief guest

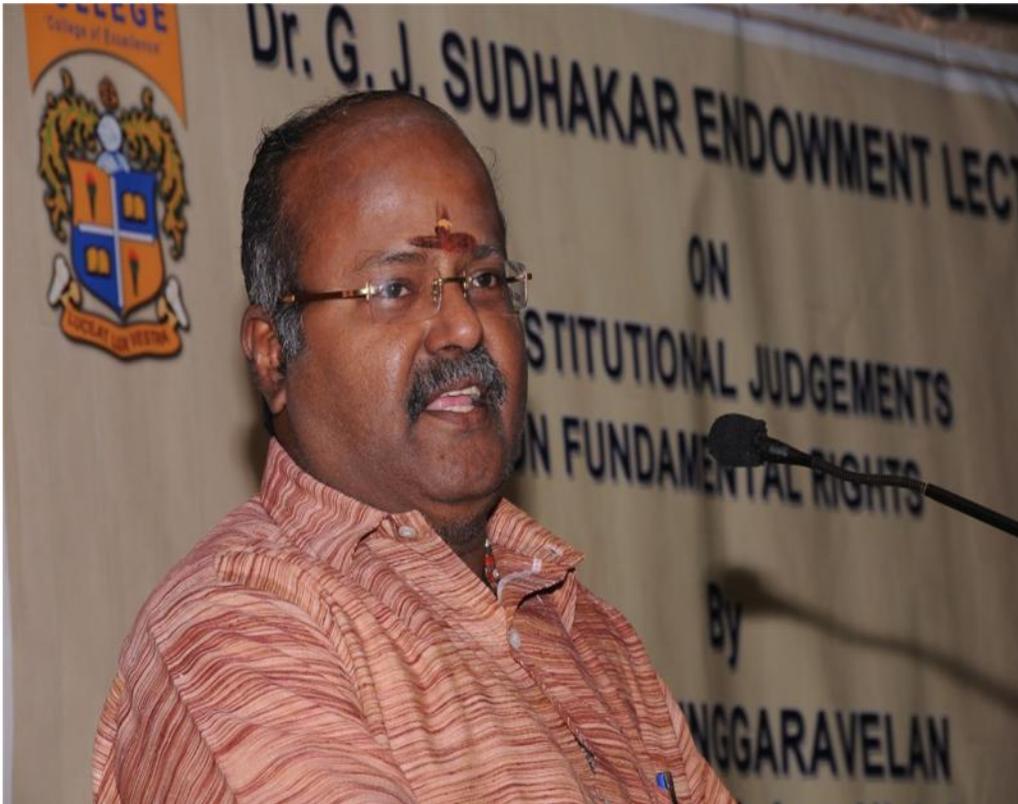
The chief guest started his lecture by quoting Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the Father of Indian Constitution that 'Equality may be a fiction but nonetheless one must accept it as a governing principle.' He narrated his experience with his Alma matter which is another Jesuit institution, St. Joseph's College, Trichy. Adv. Singgaravelan spoke about the Constituent Assembly and the idea which led the members to frame the largest constitution of the world. He said in Britain they have an unwritten constitution but they follow it, and sarcastically added "In India though we possess the largest we never follows" and called the students to follow the laws of the land.



Mr. Ranganathan, Coordinator, Shift II
honouring the guest with shawl

Mr. Mahendranath, Secretary,
History Association honouring the
guest with memento

The speaker explained that the fundamental rights are the base of the Indian Constitution while the Constitution is the base for the law. As we have a state which is ruled by law the importance of Fundamental Rights can be understood. Part III of the Indian Constitution speaks about the fundamental rights. Articles 14 to 35 speak about it and it protects the right to equality, freedom, against exploitation, religion, constitutional remedies and education. Thus the constitution contains an elaborate scheme of fundamental rights. But the fundamental rights in India are not absolute. They are hedged by many limitations. Indeed, fundamental rights cannot be absolute anywhere in the world. Countries differ only in their degree of limitations on fundamental rights.



Adv. R. Singgaravelan delivering Dr. G. J. Sudhakar Endowment Lecture

The speaker quoted from many real life examples on violations of Fundamental Rights and spoke in detail about the parental care given by the Judiciary to every citizen of India when their Fundamental Rights are violated. He started with *Golak Nath Vs State of Punjab* where the Supreme Court made fundamental rights immune from amendments until Parliament reasserted its authority in 1971 by amending Articles 13 and 368 of the Constitution. In *Kesavananda Bharati Vs State of Kerala, 1973* the Supreme Court made a monumental judgement that fundamental rights should be immune from amendment and the basic structure of the Constitution should not be altered. Then the speaker cautiously moved on to the dark days of Emergency and he spoke that was the period when India recognized the power of court. He condemned any move to restrict the power of court and hailed the judgements of Justices V. R. KrishnaIyer and Hans Raj Khanna. But in *ADM Jabalpur Vs S. Shukla Case, 1976* the Supreme Court asserted that the right to move court under Articles 14, 21 and 22 would remain suspended during the Emergency.

The Chief guest then moved to another monumental judgement on Maneka Gandhi Vs Union of India, 1978 which held that Section 10(3)(c) of the Passport Act confers vague and undefined power on the passport authorities, it is violative of Article 14 of the Constitution since it doesn't provide for an opportunity for the aggrieved party to be heard. It was also violative of Article 21 since it encroached upon personal liberty and security to privacy. The speaker also condemned the move of any government in curbing Fundamental Rights.



The audience hearing the lecture

The speaker advised to the budding leaders that knowing law must only be for 'law abiding' and not for 'law evading' and proudly claimed, the constitution safeguards all our rights and some of its provisions is enjoyed by the foreigners who lives on this land and later added this magnanimous act is only shown by the Indian Constitution. Further he gave a bird's view on other sections on Indian Constitution and congratulated the department which undertakes such positive lectures for the students.



Mr. P.Saikumar, II BA History delivering Reflection Address



Mr. Maria Micheal Nithyn, III BA History delivering vote of thanks

Mr. Pedada Saikumar, II BA History reflected on the lecture and exclaimed when the very concept of Fundamental Rights are questioned the democracy falls into chaos and said the Fundamental Rights is the climax of rights that our forefathers begged from colonial masters. The event came to an end with the vote of thanks by Mr. Mariamichael Nithyn, III BA History.