

Celebrating Secularism

10 years of Kandhammal Issue

Inaugural Lecture by Fr Ajay Singh, Director of OROSA

Date: 23.07.2018 Time : 11.40 am Venue: Lawrence Sundaram Hall

In commemoration of Kandhammal issue and, the Departments of Sociology, History, Tamil, Social Work, AICUF, LISSTAR and BLINK is organising a one week program on Celebrating Secularism. The inauguration was held on 23rd July 2018 at 11.40Pm in L.S Hall, Loyola College. The Social Work Choir set the pace with the prayer song. Rev.Dr.Maria Arulraj, Director of IDCR welcomed the gathering. Dr Goutham,, Head of the Department of Sociology introduced the speaker, Rev.Fr. Ajay Singh was the chief guest of the program. He shared his experiences about Kandhammal issue in which he himself was a witness. He also extended by saying that dictatorship not only affects the people but also the people who give voice for Human Rights. India has seen a lot of protests and riots. The present scenario of Indian people is that they have no freedom to choose the religion. Later, Dr Gladston Xavier, Head of the Department of Social Work moderated the interaction session in which the students raised more questions regarding Secularism on various aspects. Fr Ajay answered to clear all their doubts with his own experiences. Rev.Fr.Maria Arulraj concluded the session by giving a summary of the guest's speech. Finally, vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Selvanathan, Head, Department of History. Thus the program came to an end at 1.10 pm.

Day 2

Celebrating Secularism

Indian constitution and Secularism

Justice Hariparanthaman

Former Judge Madras High Court.

Date: 24.07.2018 Time:11.30 am Venue: VISCOM Preview Theatre

In the series on Celebrating Secularism, the second day event was held in VISCOM Department's Preview Theatre, Loyola College. The session was moderated by Rev Dr Maria Arul Raja, Director of IDCR. Dr Goutham, Head of the Sociology Department introduced the chief guest Justice Hariparanthaman, Former judge of the Madras High Court. . The Chief Guest spoke on the topic "Indian Constitution and Secularism". He expressed his views and quoted different cases in our country that has stood on the side of the people favouring secularism and denying the ideas of fundamentalism. He also described about the history of secularism in our country leading to the Secular Principles in the Indian Constitution.He extended by saying that the fundamentalists have carried the history and has spread hatred in the mind-sets of the people. Being a former Judge, the way he looked at the Judiciary and the perspective he had was very interesting and thought provoking. After his speech,there was an interactive session. Students came up with different questions. A participant raised a question on NEET examination.The Chief Guest replied that even though our great leaders like Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru were barristers by profession, they never reached to the judiciary system for the justice on particular issues. Rather they reached out to the people and they conscientised them and got justice. Finally, the session came to an end by 1.00 PM with the vote of thanks by a Professor from the Department of Sociology.

Day 3

25th July 2018

Celebrating Secularism

Speaker: V. Geetha

Topic: Religious Freedom and Human Rights

The Department of History jointly with the Department of Social Work, Sociology, Tamil, IDCR, LISSTAR, AICUF, BLINK, and AIKYA ALAYAM organized the three day lecture on, Wednesday 25th July 2018 as a part of five days of lecture series on the theme “**CELEBRATING SECULARISM AFTER 10 YEARS OF KANDHAMAL**” from 23rd to 28th July 2018. Ms. Geetha, a well-known social activist and writer delivered the lecture on **Religious Freedom and Human rights**. The third day lecture started with invocation of God, followed by the welcome note delivered by Dr. Selvanathan, Head the Department of History. Dr. I. Princes, Assistant Professor, Department of History introduced the Chief Guest. In her lecture the speaker articulated the nuances of secularism and correlated with the context of social and cultural background. She described the concept ‘Minority burden’, in which how minorities have been targeted and monitored in spite of their patriotism and integrity. Ms. Geetha also explained the nature of tolerant and intolerant societies. Her lecture clearly reflected the relevance and dynamics of secularism. Fr. Maria Arul Raja SJ, Director IDCR moderated today’s session. There were good number of questions raised by the students. Dr. P.J. Biju Joseph, Assistant Professor, Department of History proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. George Varghese and Mr. Adhitya of III. B.A History compeered the programme.