Constituent Assembly Debates
Citizenship

On 29th April 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, moved the clause on citizenship: “Every person born in the Union or naturalised in the Union according to its laws and subject to the jurisdiction thereof shall be a Citizen of the Union. Further provision governing Union citizenship may be made by the laws of the Union.”

Shri B Das, a member of the Constituent Assembly from Orissa, observed, “‘Every person born in the Union’ will include any non-Indian, a German, or a Japanese who will enjoy the rights of Indian citizenship from the 14th to 21st year unless he declares that he is not an Indian.” Shri Das opined that such a person could declare for the nationality open to him by virtue of descent.

The President responded, “The point that has been raised by Mr. Das deserves consideration and I want the mover to consider it. The wording of the clause, Mr. Das says, is too wide and may include the child of any foreigner born in this country, as he would acquire the right of citizenship by the mere fact of his birth.”

Mr. K. M. Munshi remarked, “May I point out that the wording is ‘subject to jurisdiction’. That is the doctrine of allegiance. Persons born of foreigners, consuls and diplomats, will not be included.”

To this, the President replied, “‘Subject to jurisdiction’ will not include allegiance! I am not quite sure about it but the lawyers in this House have to help us on that.”

Then followed a series of repartees between the members.

Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar remarked that the clause had been borrowed from the American Constitution and had nothing to do with the birth of a person in a particular place. He said that, in continental countries, citizenship was based upon race whereas citizenship in the Anglo-American system was based on the place of birth. The President too supported this argument. He said, “Personally, I do not like that we should follow the precedent of any other country. We should have our own citizenship and formulate what that citizenship connotes.”

Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar said, “While I greatly appreciate that, I cannot altogether forget the fact that citizenship will carry with it protection in the international field. In dealing with citizenship, we have to remember we are fighting against discrimination and all that against...
South Africa and other States. It is for you to consider whether our conception of citizenship should be universal, or should be racial or should be sectarian."

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, a member of the Constituent Assembly from Central Provinces and Berar expressed the necessity of having a clear definition of the word ‘citizen’. Mr. Jagat Narain, a member from Bihar gave the example of the Irish Free State which granted citizenship to any person who was either domiciled or either of whose parents resided in the state for not less than seven years.

To this, the President replied, “As it is a very important matter, and it is one to which I myself attach great importance, if an amendment like this could be accepted, it might remove most of our difficulties. You begin the sentence like this: ‘Save as otherwise provided by the law of the Union, every person born in the Union or naturalised in the Union according to its laws and subject to the jurisdiction thereof shall be a citizen of the Union.’ Now, as the clause reads, apart from what the American precedent is, about which I do not know, it seems to me that it is so wide that everyone born in this country will be a citizen of the Union.”

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel then said, “There are two ideas about nationality in the modern world, one is broad-based nationality and the other is narrow nationality. Now, in South Africa we claim for Indians born there South African nationality. It is not right for us to take a narrow view.”

The President said, “We claim for Indians in South Africa the nationality of that country not merely by birth but by reason of settling there.”

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel replied, “Yes. But we have added a provision which covers all our difficulties. I suggest for your consideration how many foreign men and women come to India for giving birth to children to acquire Indian nationality. It is a curious idea that, for that purpose you introduce racial phraseology in our Constitution. It is important to remember that the provision about citizenship will be scrutinised all over the world. They are watching what we are doing…”

Dr. Kailas Nath Katju, a member of the Constituent Assembly from the United Provinces, then said, “Under the present law every person who is born in British India today has Indian citizenship. If a person is born anywhere outside India then he becomes an Indian subject because he is the son of an Indian subject. That ought to be made quite beyond controversy. That should not be left to the proviso. Wherever the subject of the Indian Union goes to any part of the globe and if a child is born to him there, then that child becomes the subject of the Indian Union. I understand that to be the law. If that is not the law, then it ought to be the law of the Union.”

The President concluded the debate by expressing his doubts on the clause and saying that the House could accept it in that form if it wished to do so. But several members recommended that the clause be held over.

To this, the President said, “There is a suggestion which seems to come from many members that the consideration of this clause may be postponed. The question is: ‘That the consideration of this clause be postponed.’”

Votes were taken by a show of hands. The motion was adopted.

What Nehru said....

The moon, ever a companion to me in prison, has grown more friendly with closer acquaintance, a reminder of the loveliness of this world, of the waxing and waning of life, of light following darkness, of death and resurrection following each other in innumerable succession. Ever changing, yet ever the same, I have watched it in its different phases and many moods in the evening, as the shadows lengthen, in the still hours of the night, and when the breadth and whisper of dawn bring promise of the coming day.

……from Chapter 1,The Discovery of India
Missions to Jupiter

Jupiter is the second largest object in the solar system after the Sun. Thus, it is important for astronomers to explore it by actually going as close to it as possible, making it the most visited planet after Mars.

Till date, there have been nine flybys and orbital missions to Jupiter. All these missions were engineered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The aim of these missions has been to explore both Jupiter and its satellites, better known as the moons of Jupiter. The moons explored were mostly the Galilian moons - Io, Europa, Callisto and Ganymede.

Since Jupiter is a gas body and there is no place to land on its surface, there has been no lander mission on the planet. Secondly, a probe sent to enter the thick atmosphere of Jupiter would have got crushed due to its atmospheric pressure.

Flyby Missions

Pioneer 10 was the first effort by NASA to study the planet when it was launched on March 3, 1972. A flyby mission, it reached Jupiter on December 3, 1973 and flew past the planet at a distance of 132,252 kilometres. It carried various instruments to study the magnetic field of Jupiter, its charge particles and its infrared and ultraviolet radiation. It had instruments to measure cosmic rays, meteoroid and asteroid detectors. On its way to Jupiter, it crossed the asteroid belt and became the first manmade object to do so. Asteroid belt is a region between Mars and Jupiter where there are hundreds of large boulders orbiting the Sun. Pioneer 10 entered the asteroid belt on July 15, 1972 and crossed it on February 15, 1973.

It started sending pictures of Jupiter to NASA from November 6, 1973 and sent nearly 500 pictures. It also sent the first close-up pictures of Jupiter and Galilean moons. It studied Jupiter’s atmosphere, and detected its magnetic field.

Pioneer 11 was the twin of Pioneer 10 which was launched on April 5, 1973. It flew past Jupiter exactly a year later than Pioneer 10. This probe sent back dramatic images of the Great Red Spot of Jupiter. The main purpose of this probe was to determine the mass of Callisto, a satellite of Jupiter. The information sent by these two Pioneers was extremely useful in designing future probes.

Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 were the next flyby missions to Jupiter. The Voyager programme was designed to study the outer solar system of Jupiter and the planets beyond it. Voyager 1 flew by Jupiter and Saturn whilst Voyager 2 flew by Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Voyager 1 and 2 were launched on September 5, 1977 and August 20, 1977 and flew past Jupiter on March 5, 1979 and November 12, 1979 respectively.

Voyager 1 started photographing Jupiter in January 1979 and continued to send back pictures of the planet till the following April. As it zoomed past Jupiter, it discovered the rings of Jupiter. It also sent back many pictures of the moons of Jupiter and data about the planet’s magnetic field and radiation environment. It was just about 349,000 kilometers from its closest distance from Jupiter.
Voyager 2 achieved its closest distance from Jupiter at 576,000 kilometers. It observed intricate vortices in the atmosphere of Jupiter and active volcanoes on Io. A process similar to plate tectonics in which large masses move on the surface of a planet was found on Ganymede and a large number of craters were photographed on Callisto.

Images from Voyager missions showed that the Great Red Spot of Jupiter is rotating in an anti-clockwise direction. It was also discovered that the rings of Jupiter are composed of four main components: a thick inner torus of particles known as the ‘halo ring’; a relatively bright, exceptionally thin ‘main ring’; and two wide, thick and faint outer ‘gossamer rings’. The Voyagers are now on their way to go beyond the solar system.

Ulysses mission was the fourth flyby mission. It flew past Jupiter’s North Pole on February 8, 1992 at a distance of 451,000 kilometers. The ultimate aim of this mission was to use Jupiter’s gravity to put Ulysses, the spacecraft into orbit around the Sun. Though this probe carried no instrument for photography, it did calculate Jupiter’s magnetosphere.

Cassini probe, en route to Saturn, flew past Jupiter on December 30, 2000 and sent back 26000 images of Jupiter. The object of Cassini probe was to study the dark and light zones in the atmosphere of Jupiter. It showed that the dark belt of Jupiter was formed due to storms.

New Horizon, en route to Pluto, flew past Jupiter on February 28, 2007 and sent back data about Jupiter’s atmosphere, its rings, its moons and its magnetosphere.

Orbiter Missions

Galileo was the first probe to orbit Jupiter on December 7, 1995. It made 35 orbits around Jupiter before its path was changed to make it plunge into Jupiter eight years later on September 21, 2003. During its ‘active service’, it sent back an enormous amount of data about the moons of Jupiter. However, much more data would have been sent by this probe had one of its antenna not failed. One of the landmark events observed by this probe was when twenty-one fragments of Comet Shoemaker Levy 9 plunged into that side of Jupiter which was hidden from the Earth for seven days from July 16 to 22, 1994.

Among the major findings of the Galileo probe were:

- ammonia clouds in the atmosphere of Jupiter,
- confirmation that volcanic activity on Io is 100 times greater than that found on Earth,
- evidence to support the theory that liquid oceans exist under Europa’s icy surface, and
- the existence of a substantial magnetic field around Ganymede.

Detection of clay-like minerals, in particular phyllosilicate, was announced on December 11, 2013 on the icy crust of Europa. This mineral is associated with organic material and may have deposited on this moon after its collision with an asteroid or a comet.

Juno probe launched on August 5, 2011 entered into polar orbit around Jupiter on July 5, 2016. This space probe is still collecting data about Jupiter’s composition, gravity and magnetic field and its polar magnetosphere. It is also searching for clues of how Jupiter formed, whether the planet has a rocky core, the amount of water present within its deep atmosphere and so on.

Future Missions

Thus far, only USA has sent missions to Jupiter but now other countries or agencies are planning their own missions. Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE), a mission launched by the European Space Agency is expected to be operational in 2023. After a series of flybys in the inner solar system (around Venus, Mars etc.) it will arrive at Jupiter in 2031. The mission will study three of Jupiter’s Galilean moons - Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa. All these moons are believed to have significant liquid bodies beneath their surfaces, making them potentially habitable environments.

China and Russia have also announced their plans to launch a probe to study Jupiter. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) too is considering plans to launch a probe to study the planet.

Whatever has been found about Jupiter is inconclusive. The probe continues.
As part of this most awaited annual theatre festival, 5 plays in 3 languages- Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati, were staged at the Nehru Centre Auditorium.

After the traditional lighting of the lamp, the inaugural play Samrajyam (Marathi) was staged which was directed by Shri Abhijeet Jhunjharao who is a diploma holder of the one-year long course in dramatic arts conducted by the Centre in 2006. The second day saw the staging of the play Aadhe Adhure (Hindi). Other plays staged were Pappa Mara Pushparaj (Gujarati), Drishti-Daan (Hindi) and Hastaa-Haa-Savtaa (Marathi). Eighty students of the Department of Dramatic Arts from the University of Mumbai attended in addition to theatre enthusiasts.

Celebrate Children’s Day @ the Nehru Centre with Boski ke Kaptan Chacha, a humorous play where children educate their elders. A multi-religious chawl has several families living in it. Ex-soldier Jagir Singh, fondly called Kaptan Chacha is a war veteran who loves the children. One day, he plans to celebrate Republic Day in the chawl. The enthusiasm of the children and the cynicism of the adults creates an interesting face-off. What happens then? Be there to know more.

This play has been prepared in a workshop with children from Dhai Akshar Educational Trust that serves as an after-school holistic learning centre for underprivileged children from nearby slums.

Written by Gulzar
Directed by Salim Arif
Produced by Lubna Salim
Presented by Essay Ensemble

Cast: Shreya Acharya, Sagar Vahi, Saksham Dayma, Hridayjeet Singh, Dhanveer Singh and others.

Monday, 14th November 2022, 4.30 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Entrance cards will be available on 10th November 2022 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium.
PRAMOD SAHASRABUDDHE

Pramod is an accomplished structural engineer having designed many iconic buildings. His paintings are in mix media on the elements of nature.

Tuesday 1st November 2022 to Monday 7th November 2022
(AC Gallery)

SWAPNALI DABKE . TEJAL PATEL . BHAVNA SHAH

This group of women artists will display paintings on nature in different mediums.

Tuesday 1st November 2022 to Monday 7th November 2022
(Circular Gallery)

CHILDREN’S ART EXHIBITION

Saraswati Purushottam Memorial Trust, Mumbai will organise an exhibition of art works created by children.

Tuesday 8th November 2022 to Monday 14th November 2022
(Circular Gallery)

SHUBHA GOKHALE

Shubha, a Mumbai based artist has been painting since 1993. In this show, she will showcase still-life, puppets, dehaspanda, nayika, samvaad and bazaar along with some of her recent works.

Tuesday 15th November 2022 to Monday 21st November 2022
(AC Gallery)

MILIND SHELAR . ABA SYKER
RAJASHREE TAWARE . RAJENDRA AWADHUTKAR . RAVINDRA MALVADE

This group show will exhibit landscapes and figurative art in watercolours, oils, acrylics and mixed media.

Tuesday 15th November 2022 to Monday 21st November 2022
(Circular Gallery)

DEEPKALA FOUNDATION

Deepkala Foundation is a Mumbai based foundation which promotes artists and their art-works globally. On show will be landscapes, seascapes, historical monuments etc. in vivid mediums and style.

Tuesday 22nd November 2022 to Monday 28th November 2022
(AC Gallery)

SANJUKTA BARIK

Sanjukta has been painting for over twenty seven years. She will exhibit portraits, landscapes and abstract art.

Tuesday 29th November 2022 to Monday 5th December 2022
(Circular Gallery)

NEPAL PRADHAN

Nepal, an artist from Odisha, will showcase paintings on nature in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 29th November 2022 to Monday 5th December 2022
(Circular Gallery)
UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

37. The Western Ghats

The Western Ghats comprise fragile but vital ecosystems of the Indian subcontinent. Rare, moist deciduous forest type, sub-temperate wet grasslands and shola forests make the Western Ghats similar to the South American rainforests which form the ‘girdle’ of the earth and help maintain global ecological balance. Sholas are the name for patches of stunted tropical forest found in valleys amid rolling grassland in the higher mountain regions of South India, largely in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu.

The hill ranges form an almost unbroken wall on the fringe of the western peninsula parallel to the west coast of India for about 1600 km. They start immediately south of the Tapti river, the northernmost point being the Kundaibari Pass in Dhule district of Maharashtra and ending near Kanyakumari barely 20 km from the sea. The entire range covers six states- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Western Ghats have an average elevation of 900 – 1500 m. above sea level. Rising up from a relatively narrow coastal strip, the hills reach up to a height of 2,695 m. (8,843 ft.) at Anaimudi Peak in Kerala before they merge to the east with the Deccan plateau at an altitude of 500-600 m.

The Western Ghats also harbour a large diversity of human cultures. In the less than 20,000 sq. km. of Kerala Western Ghats there are more than 38 distinct tribal communities. This region, which is globally recognized as a ‘hotspot’ area of great conservation concern is under constant threat due to many anthropogenic factors.

The area has an estimated 3,000 sq. km. (37%) under forest cover and is characterized by a rich diversity of flora and fauna with about 4500 species of flowering plants. Of these about 1700 are endemic to the Western Ghats. Nearly a third are rare or threatened and several are believed to be extinct.

Dense forests of the region are the home of the King Cobra and Rock Python apart from other smaller reptiles. Many species of tortoises including the endemic cane turtle and terrapin are also found in the Western Ghats. About 508 species of birds live in the region, many of which are exclusive to evergreen and Shola forests. Large herbivores such as gaur, spotted deer, sambar, barking deer, elephant, etc. and carnivores like tiger, leopard, jungle cat, leopard cat, fishing cat, Malabar civet, brown palm civet, small Indian civet, two species of mongoose and wild dog also abound here.

A total of 39 areas in the Western Ghats, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserve forests, were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2012.

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