



**JIGNASA-2021**

**STUDENT STUDY PROJECT**

**ON**

**A STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF INDIAN POLITICAL  
SYSTEM DURING PANDEMIC (2020-2021)**

**UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF**

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**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the student study project work titled “ A STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM DURING PANDEMIC (2020-2021) is an original work carried out by the students of B.A , Government Degree College-Medak under my supervision and have not been submitted elsewhere to the best of my knowledge.

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This work is dedicated to all the front line workers including Health workers, Police personnel, Emergency services, Ministers, bureaucrats, National leaders , Government officials , Executives within the system who battled the extraordinary circumstances of covid-19 pandemic in fulfillment of their duties and to us, i.e., all the people in Indian democracy for showing impeccable courage and valor in such troubling times.

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Yours truly,  
Team jignasa  
Department of political science



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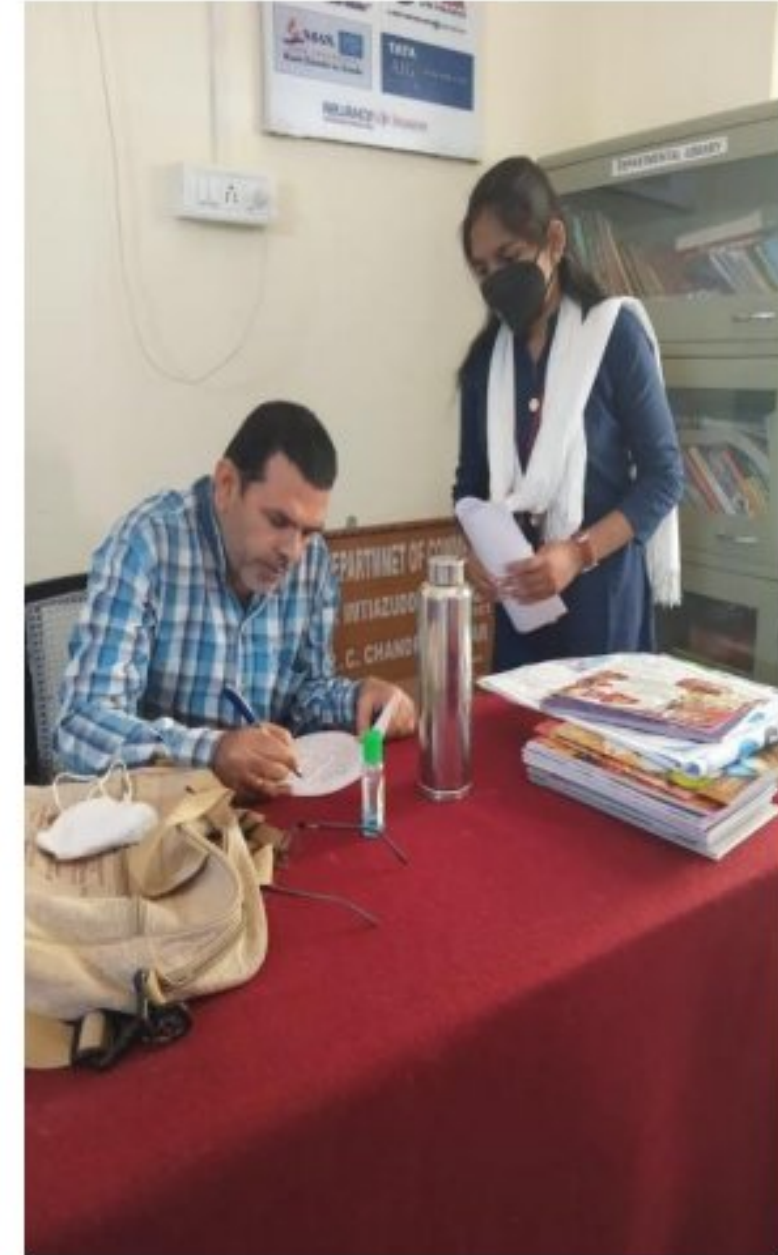
## INTRODUCTION

India as the largest democracy in the world have made its study interesting and challenging at the same time. The world have witnessed a havoc caused by covid-19 pandemic in every aspect and the state as the highest institution have handled the crisis effectively through governance and its political process. The objective of the study is to describe the dynamic nature of Indian political system during pandemic through structural-functional analysis of Gabriel Almond. To observe the transformation of Indian society from subject parochial to subject participant culture and the continuation of such participation in the democratic process like elections during the pandemic. The political communication in the digitalized world reached even to the remote corners of the country. Contrary to the statement of the liberals that state is a necessary evil, we are going to study how the state as the highest institution in the world plays an important role in all our lives and it is the necessity of man not evil at such crisis. The study is viewed through the structural-functional approach of Gabriel Almond which consists of input-output analysis.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

the student study project ,based on its objectives is a descriptive research methodology where we observe the political process during the phenomenon of pandemic. The process consists of mixed that is both qualitative and quantitative research methods the qualitative methods are used to study and compare the historical happenings like emergency of India 1975. quantitative research methods is to give the statistical analysis of voter turnout during the the previous elections and the elections held during pandemic. It is inductive in logic proceeding from specific details of indian political system during pandemic to generalization of all democratic countries in the world.

The collection of data is from both the primary and secondary sources. the primary sources are collected from close ended questionnaire from individuals or samples selected through random sampling technique. secondary sources consists of books , magazine , websites. It includes the case study of migrant labourers and a questionnaire.



**DATA COLLECTION THROUGH CLOSE -ENDED QUESTIONNAIRE**

## THEORITICAL BACKGROUND

Structural-functional analysis is a means of explaining what political structures perform what basic functions in the political system and it is a tool of investigation. Gabriel Almond explains the structural functional approach using input-output analysis.

Inputs are the demands made by people who play their roles in a given political system and supports. Demands for allocation of goods and services, regulation of behavior, participation in the political system, communication and information. Supports are material supports , obedience to laws and regulations, participatory supports, attention paid to governmental communication. These are explained through political socialization, interest aggregation, interest articulation, interest aggregation, political communication .

Outputs are results of acting upon demands and supports like extraction of taxes, regulation of behavior, allocation and distribution of goods and services, symbolic outputs etc., carried out by legislature, executive, and judiciary.

According to Gabriel Almond , a political system has four characteristics that may be called legitimate patterns of interaction-structures perform functions for their stability and equilibrium.

1. Every political system has its structures some of which may be more specialized in performing more functions, while others may be less specialized performs less functions in it.
2. Whatever the differences may be between the political system and its structures, the same political functions are performed in all political systems.
3. Political structures are multi-functional
4. All political systems being parts of the society as a whole have a culture of their own that is always a mixture of traditional and modern.

Lastly , the theory of political culture where Gabriel Almond states that political culture and political structure are interrelated and is affected by one another. political culture is divided into parochial, subject and participant. The mixed political culture are parochial-subject , subject-participant, parochial participant and civic culture.

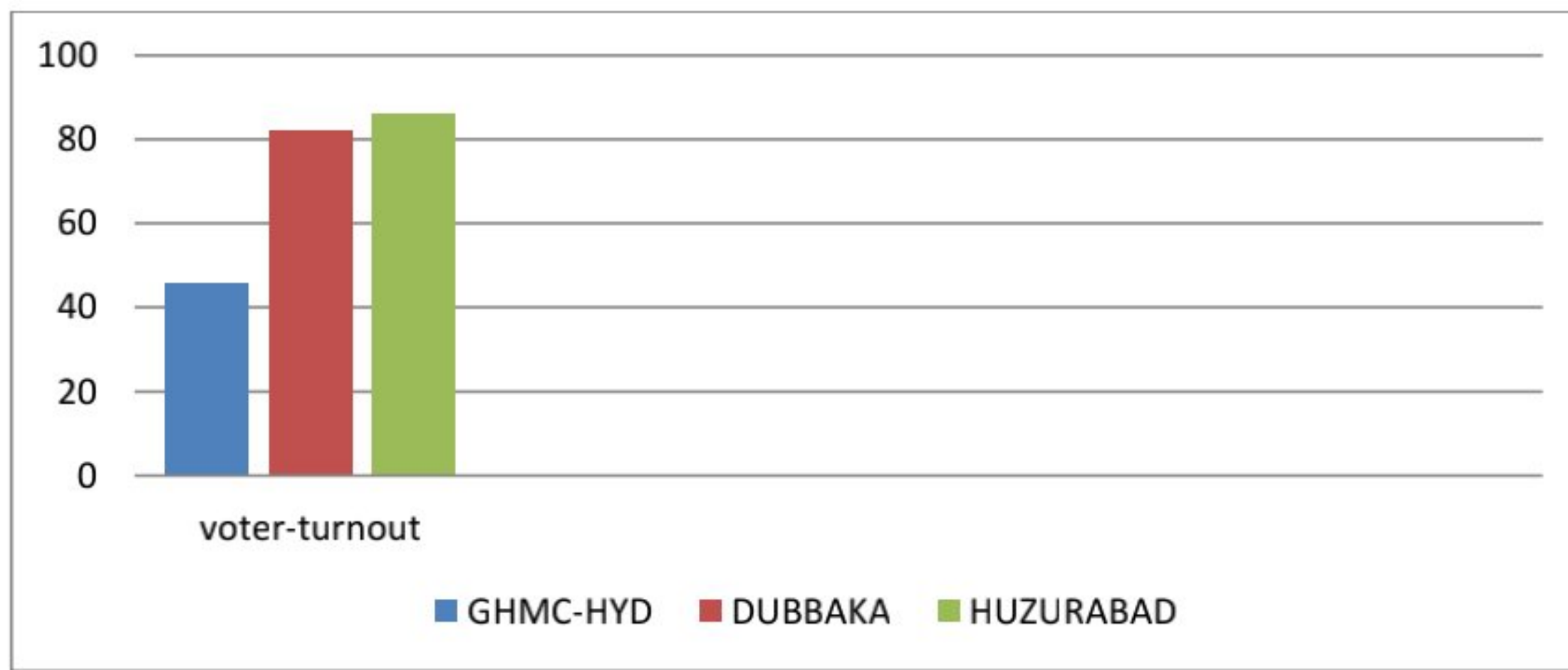
## INPUT FUNCTIONS

### POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION-

The process of political socialization is the induction of members of society into political culture which develops a set of attitudes in them India being the largest democracy since independence had its challenges in educating the people politically. The charismatic leadership of our first prime minister have developed manifest socialization where politics influence citizens.



The process of political socialization have not been the same during all these years and during the crisis of facing the global pandemic the citizens participated in the elections held during the year 2020-2021, like the GHMC elections held in Hyderabad , the west Bengal elections, the bye-poll elections held in Huzurabad and Dubbaka where the voter turnout in rural areas have increased than in urban areas. Hence the latent political socialization where the citizen participation affect the political process can be seen.





## INTEREST ARTICULATION

The formulation and expression of interests or demands for political action is known as interest articulation. Gabriel Almond distinguished four types of interest articulation structures i.e., interest groups to make demands and to show support to the political system.

They are- 1.institutional interest groups 2. Non-associational interest groups 3. Anomic interest groups 4. Associational interest groups

INSTITUTIONAL INTEREST GROUPS- The organized and the existing formal structures with political or social function. Examples – legislature

The institutional pressure groups have always played a vital role in the successful working of democracy. According to Almond these are the formal organizations composed of professionally employed personnel with designated political and social functions other than interest articulation. These groups have interests of their own. Example-UPSC

Union public service commission despite the demands and requests from the civil service aspirants for the compensatory attempt due to covid-19 pandemic have protected its interests creating the pressure on the government and a heartbreak to the aspirants who fell sick during the examination, seeking age-relaxation.



## NON-ASSOCIATIONAL INTEREST GROUPS

The non-associational interest groups are not well-organized and are based on factors like kinship, ethnicity, status and religion.

The anti-CAA protests in the wake of the pandemic have stirred the minorities across the country demanding the equality of treatment with the majoritarian class. These are the demands made from the religious organizations and also secular organizations like Assam student unions. The RSS (Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh) carrying the Hindutva ideology have been active throughout the lockdown in the form of relief activities.



The non-associational interest groups though function narrowly in their own area of interest however changed to secular with the onset of crisis.

## ANOMIC INTEREST GROUPS

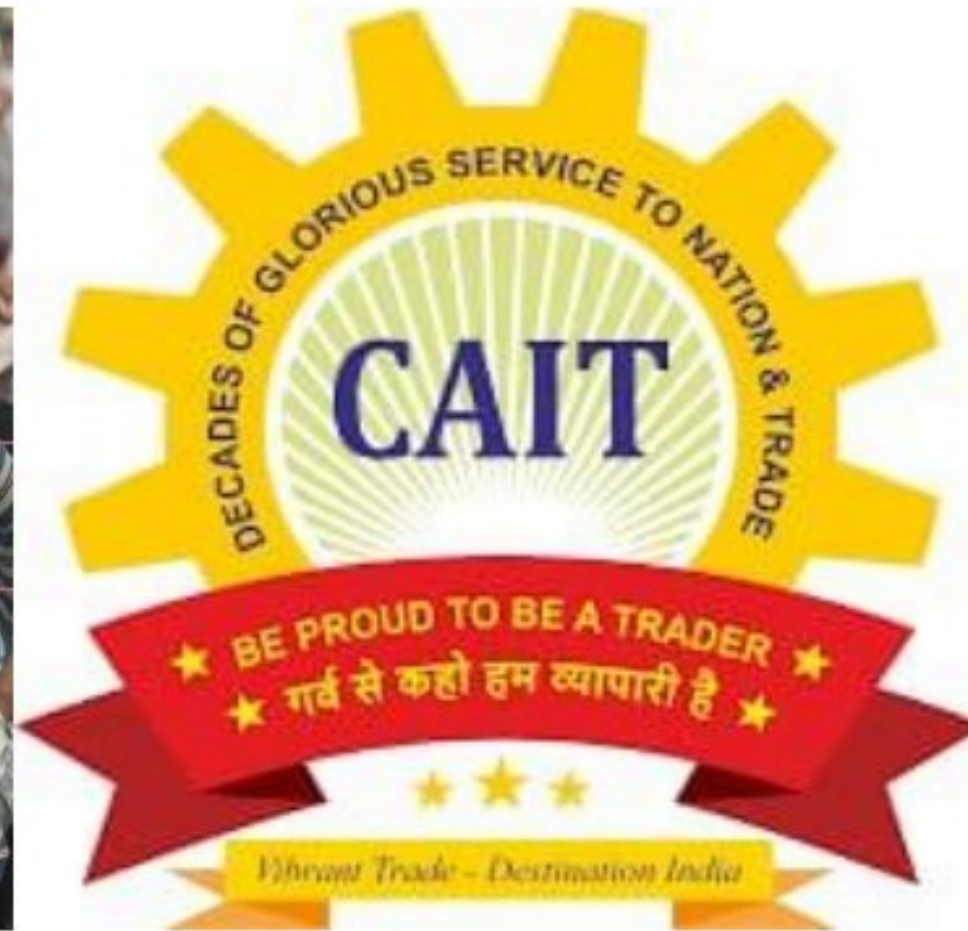
Anomic interest groups are more or less spontaneous penetrations into the political system from society they appear when normal means of expressing dissatisfaction prove ineffective. Example the anti-corruption movement spearheaded by Anna Hazare was one of the anomic interest groups. The problems faced by migrant workers have seen a backlash at the governance and received a lot of criticism from the different sections of the society. see case study on migrant workers in page no-



The private individuals like actor sonu sood have done a lot of chaity work to the migrant labourers, providing meals etc thus giving support to the system and encouraging others to do it

### ASSOCIATIONAL INTEREST GROUPS

These groups are closely associated with the formal organization. They are functionally specialized and they articulate the interests of specific groups such as business, management, labour etc.,



The farmer protests in Delhi were organized by Samyukt Kisan Morcha(SKM)along with 32 other farmer unions have protested against the farm laws for an year which were later repealed.It was considered the victory of farmers over the government.

Confederation of All India Traders is a union of traders within the government of india and have demanded the extension of financial year to june 30 and repayment of bank loans, EMI's etc., till September 30, 2020. The finance minister have accepted the proposal. Thus the associational interest groups are far more active, strong, well –organized groups which have worked during the pandemic.

### **INTEREST AGGREGATION**

It consists of inclusive levels of all combinatory process. The political parties assume the role of interest aggregation in a political system. According to Almond the political parties can be classified on the basis of organization and style.

Organization – authoritative, dominant , competitive two-party etc.,

Style – secula , pragmatic , bargaining , absolute value-oriented .

The political parties in all the states of India have played a vital role in handling the crisis.



The congress leader warned against the SARS COV-2 virus in the interest of people. The ruling parties in the states have implemented policies whereas the opposition parties have supported with charity work and in criticizing the government raising the issues of vaccination drives, testing facilities, migrant laborers etc., The Delhi government have allocated a budget of 15,000crores for digitalization of education sector during pandemic in the interests of the citizens.

### POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

Gabriel Almond compared the political communication in the political system with the flow of blood through body. It has the boundary maintenance function. The autonomy in media provides free flow of information. The importance of media and free flow of information have reached its zenith during pandemic. The state sponsored media have given an impetus to

the right information regarding the symptoms , vaccination drives , testing facilities etc., in the wake of pandemic in march 2020 , the ministry of health and family welfare have increased the ads regarding covid-19 to 28% nationally.



The information regarding the elections held during pandemic reached the citizens through mobiles apps, news applications, TV etc., it is truly impressive for a country where half of its population are digital illiterates but the information through digitalized modes have reached even the remote corners of the country.

## OUTPUT FUNCTIONS

The main organs of the government carry out the output functions. The output functions are-

1. Rule-making
2. Rule – application
3. Rule – adjudication

**RULE MAKING-** The legislatures of the states and union governments play a very crucial of policy-making and the policies formulated by all the state and central government during the pandemic have helped t our nation to handle the crisis effectively. The union government have introduced PMKJY(Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana) was updated and added the beneficiaries like insurance cover to the health workers, Rs 500/- to the owomen into Jan Dhan Yojana accounts. The Delhi government under his model of governance have taken up measures like night-shelters, imposed lockdown from march 13 , 2020.Free ration for PDS beneficiaries, Mukhya Mantri Corona Sahayata Yojana for non-PDS beneficiaries which benefited the migrant laborers. Many other states have also taken up the relief activities and made policies to battle the situations of under-privileged. Telangana Government have formulated the Telangana Epidemic Diseases(COVID-19)REGULATIONS,2020 to handle the crisis in the state.

### COVID-19 Lockdown Relief Package

## Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package

Highlights of progress made till Apr 22, 2020

**Total Direct Benefit Transfer**

Over **33 crore** poor people received financial assistance of ₹ **31,235 crore** under the package

- ₹ **10,025 crore** disbursed to **20.05 crore** women Jan Dhan account holders
- ₹ **16,146 crore** transferred to **8 crore** farmers as the first instalment of PM-KISAN
- **2.17 crore** building & construction workers received financial support amounting to ₹ **3,497 crore**
- ₹ **1,405 crore** disbursed to about **2.82 crore** senior citizens, Divyang and widows
- ₹ **162 crore** transferred in **68,775** establishments as EPF contribution, benefitting **10.6 lakh** employees

**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana**

- **39.27 crore** beneficiaries distributed free ration of foodgrains
- **1,09,227 metric tonnes** of pulses dispatched to various states/UTs

**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**

- **2.66 crore** free cooking gas cylinders delivered

#PDSIndia
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On Friday, **2 lakh** people were given food by the Delhi government
**4 lakh** is government's target for Saturday

**Dichaon Kalan**

**325** hunger relief centres opened in government school buildings

**259** night shelters are distributing food

**500** food packets to be distributed at each centre for lunch and dinner

**24** midday meal kitchen cooking food

**5** shelter management agencies getting food cooked for night shelters

**LUNCH TIME**  
11am to 2pm

**DINNER TIME**  
6pm to 8pm

Swiggy delivered **more than 15,000 packets** for government

People to stand in queue **1m apart** to maintain social distancing

Centralised number for any help **1031**

**Near Red Fort**

**13** voluntary organisations helping government in preparing and delivering food

**20,000** provided food at 224 night shelters

**HUNGER HELPLINE NUMBERS** East: 8375879007, North East: 9136469416, Central: 7428210545, New Delhi: 7290978054, North: 8595364814, Shahdara: 8595269577, South East: 7048998835, West: 8595269589, South: 9818523225, South West: 9871662109, North West: 8595552073

## RULE APPLICATION

The executive have played a vital role in the execution of laws and their services are most appreciated during the time of pandemic being the front-line warriors. The ministers, police personnel, bureaucrats, government officials etc., even though they lost many of their colleagues have faced the pandemic with much valor in the execution of policies and rules.



## RULE ADJUDICATION

The Supreme court of India have declared to go digital in the wake of covid-19 on 24<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020. Supreme court have used its extra-ordinary powers to lift the limitation period on all the cases. The Supreme court decided to go with hearings through video-conferencing on the app @vidyo.



Vidyo®



Our team Jignasa at the district courts interacting with the advocates and others about the judicial process during pandemic.



## CONCLUSION

India, our nation have faced many challenges and from the experience of facing a global pandemic we can say that our country have evolved to handle such crisis for the first time as an independent state. With growing population of 130 crore Indians and the lack of health and infrastructure facilities , it was an impossible task before any government and any population with such conditions to overcome the loss. But we have faced it with much valor and efficiency in the governance and the political process. The people at such crucial times have acted on the guidelines of the state from self-imposed Janata curfew to charity works. Though we lost so many lives, it is important to note that it is the success of people at every level we overcame this troubling times with less loss compared to other developed democratic countries of the world. Democracy have become a way of life rather a mere formal political institution. State without any doubt is the highest social institution which cannot be challenged at such crisis.

## CASE STUDY ON MIGRANT LABORERS

The pandemic have hit across the globe exposing the various challenges of security, health, safety, and basic amenities in other countries but India's major challenge was the stranded migrant laborers who were far away from home in search of employment. The issue posed a challenge to both the center, the states and acted as an anomic interest group pressurizing the governments to take necessary action to help them.

SARS COV-2 have hit the entire planet on a very large scale and with the sudden announcement of lock-down shutting down the entire transportation have created a sudden panic, the worry about their families back home and lack of employment with the lockdown have pushed them to the edge that some of them started to walk to their homes some hundreds of miles away. Some of the workers complained about the inhumane treatment, and rise in prices of tickets to thousands when they were unable to buy food for themselves.



**Migrant laborers and their families walking home**

Various state governments have included the migrant workers in their PDS system to provide free ration of 10-12 kg of rice , 4kg of wheat and other pulses. The Delhi government made functional the night shelters to the poor. The union government have arranged the “shramic special trains” for the transportation of migrant workers to their native places. Though the governments struggled handling the problems faced by the migrant workers they remained inadequate. We face major challenges in all the sectors like health, employment , education but the stranded workers who compose of majority of informal sector moving economy of our country forward and the lives of these workers during pandemic have nakedly exposed the inefficiency of our political and social system before the world.



Reference to be made of the movie “ JOLLY LLB”-2013 the last 10 min of the movie there is the monologue of the main lead saying ‘we are not doing them a favor but it their right to justice’. The present governments showcasing the favor by calling them ‘garib’ is not enough, it is their right to live with dignity, right to livelihood. It is the duty of the governments to ensure the food security, employment, safety and dignity. The nation must do justice to them.



**Team Jignasa on field visit to railway station-Medak to interact with migrant laborers**

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