CONSTITUTION DAY ANNUAL ORATION ON THE TOPIC, 'THE CONCEPT OF CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN A DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY': COMMENCEMENT LECTURE BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANISH PITALE, JUDGE, NAGPUR BENCH OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT

Centre for Constitutional Law and Policy Debate of the Department of Law, Dr. Ambedkar College organized a guest lecture of immense interest for the students of Law on the topic, "The Concept of Constitutional Morality and its significance in a Deliberative Democracy", on the occasion of Constitution Day, 26th November 2020. This was the first commencement talk of an Annual Oration, planned to be organised every year by the Centre. The aim and purpose of the programme was to celebrate Constitution Day and the aim of the lecture was to enlighten the students and faculty of law on the concept of Constitutional Morality and its significance in a deliberative democracy.

The program of celebration of Constitution Day started with the recitation of Preamble. The Hon'ble Shri Justice Manish Pitale, Judge, High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Nagpur Bench was the chief guest for the programme. The guest speaker Hon'ble Shri Justice Manish Pitale, held the audience spell bound by his elaborative, elegant and informative lecture immediately after recitation of Preamble. He commenced his lecture with the definition of morality and then by giving historical account of development of society and legal system, elaborated how morality was the basis for many rules throughout all the ages of civilization. He called Constitution of India a 'secret document', and further stated that though it has been partly borrowed, mainly it is home grown document.

By citing the various provisions under the Constitution of India his Lordship beautifully conveyed how Constitutional Morality is inclusive in almost every article of the Constitution of India. By way of excellent presentation, his Lordship highlighted various judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and stated that the concept of Constitutional Morality has always been applied by various Courts since 1950, especially for resolving the conflicts between various institutions of Government and for the protection of individual rights, though the term, 'Constitutional Morality' has been coined recently.

The outcome of the lecture is that, the students have understood the importance and significance of invocation of Constitutional Morality to scrutinize the legislative act, government act or individual behaviour. At the same time students have been sensitized on the aspect of significance of 'duty' in one's life. Students were oriented to follow Fundamental Duties provided under Article 51 (A) of the Constitution of India and to act in accordance with the mandate of the Constitution to bring good for greater section of the society. He particularly emphasised upon the importance of clause (b) and clause (k) of Art. 51 (A) and appealed the students to follow these provisions strictly and stated this is

absolutely necessary for democracy to succeed in reality. At the end of the session his Lordship sensibly answered all the questions put forward by the students and faculty of Law.

Earlier, Head of the Department of Law, Dr. Mrs. Hema Menon welcomed the guest and gave introductory remarks by informing the importance of celebration of 'Constitution Day'. Dr. Mrs. Varsha Deshpande, Co-ordinator of the Centre for Constitutional Law and Policy Debate informed the aims and objectives behind formation of this centre and stated that the centre will hold several scholarly talks and various events on Constitutional law. She further informed that the Centre is initiating an Annual Oration from this session and this lecture is the first commencement talk of this Annual Oration. The lecture was organised under the able guidance of Dr. Mrs. Bhoomi Mehere, Principal of the Institution. Ms. Shazia Bari, faculty of Law ably conducted the proceedings whilst the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Mrs. Varsha Deshpande. Students and faculty members attended the lecture in large numbers.



