

Felicitations of Hon'ble Justice Mr. V.M. Kanade  
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The day marked a historic high for Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai we had the benign presence of Hon'ble Justice Mr. V.M Kanade. Justice Kanade is counted among the eminent jurists of the country and his contributions to the legal profession are praiseworthy. He played an invaluable role in setting up of the Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai. The occasion was also graced by Prof. (Dr.) S. Parasuraman, Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mr. M. A. Sayeed, Principal Secretary & RLA, Law and Justicial Department, Government of Maharashtra and Ms. Aarthi Ramakrishnan, MD, Mizuho Securities.

Justice Kanade started practicing at the Bombay High Court in 1979 and appeared in civil, criminal and constitutional cases. He has also worked as Assistant Government Pleader in Writ Cell, High Court from 1988 to 1990, and Panel Counsel for Union of India from 1986 to 1989. In 2001, he was elevated as the Judge of the Bombay High Court.

The Anchors for the day, Mihir Deshmukh and Mitali Agarwal, addressed the gathering by welcoming everyone including the guests, faculty and students and by introducing the dignitaries and called upon Yashraj Samant to Welcome and introduce the Chief Guest for the day – Hon'ble Justice Mr. V.M. Kanade. Giving a brief but bold introduction of the Chief Guest, he gave a valuable account of the landmark judgments provided by Justice Kanade and also reflected upon his incredible career.

Upon his arrival, Prof. S Parsuraman, Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and the Guest of Honour for the function, felicitated Justice Kanade and Prof. (Dr.) Bhavani Prasad Panda, Vice Chancellor MNLU, Mumbai welcomed all present and commenced the program.

Though Justice Kanade's interaction with us was brief, it carried a wealth of experience and wisdom. We were privileged to learn that the setting up of a National Law University in Mumbai was a personal dream of Justice Kanade. He started his address by expressing his happiness to be here and reflected back on his long career of 22 years as a practicing lawyer and 14 years as a judge appreciating the legal field, its professionalism and ethics. He appreciated Dr. Panda's and Dr. Parsuraman's efforts in establishing the Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai fighting through the tough circumstances that they had to face in the process. Highlighting the importance and the value of the 1st batch of the University he stressed upon the students to get into litigation as that is where all the action lies.

Describing law as a stream that takes a lifetime or even more to learn he informed what to do and more importantly what not to do while dealing with the procedure of the courts.

A considerable part of his speech was based primarily on the question of what law is and how it has evolved over the years. Justice Kanade identified the role of the Constitution as the “mother of all laws” as well as the ‘blueprint of the future’. He spoke of how learning the law in a classroom differed vastly from practicing in a courtroom. Very helpfully, he narrated some of his own experiences in the courtroom and the way he dealt with senior judges as well as the importance of proper research in a courtroom. The talk was punctuated with his personal anecdotes and that made it all the more pleasurable and amusing.

Justice Kanade stressed upon the spirit of participation in several competitions, especially moot courts. He stressed on the importance of participation and maintained that simply concentrating on winning or being worried about losing should not be our aim and students should try their best to incorporate it for the growth of this fledgling institution and work endlessly towards the betterment of the University.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Sikander Hyaat Khan.