MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

I am happy to note the celebration organised by Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai of its 1st Foundation Day scheduled on 10th October 2015. I am also happy that the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis and the Hon’ble Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Maharashtra, Shri Vinod Tawde have agreed to grace the occasion as Chief Guest and as Special Guest respectively. As the Chancellor of Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, I feel proud that the University is marching forward in the academic pursuit of legal education with the great support of the administration of the State of Maharashtra. My good wishes on this happy occasion to the Chief Guest and the Special Guest, and the Guest of Honour Professor (Dr.) S. Parasuraman. My wholehearted wishes to Professor (Dr.) Bhavani Prasad Panda, Vice-Chancellor of the University in taking every effort to lead the University to achieve the goal it set to provide for the best legal education of the students with the able support of the enlightened faculty members and with the aided support of the staff of the University.

With warm regards to everyone on this happy occasion!

Justice F. M. Ibrahim Kalifulla
Judge, Supreme Court of India
07.10.2015
I am pleased to share the endeavours of our First Members' Newsletter in October, 2015. We are in partnership with our first batch of students, faculty, staff and the parents of our students to make the Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai a star school of the Government of Maharashtra. Here, I suppose, you will find fascinating snippets of the budding talents and happenings in the University in the formative year. Interestingly, we are finding that the inconvenient times of ours are a great learning experience. I find that our students are aware of their commitment to be the change agents of tomorrow through this institutional process.

MNLU Mumbai enjoys the pleasant bliss and space sharing experience with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai campus as its temporary home. We have access to well equipped class rooms, conference halls, enriched library, dining hall, health centre, gym and everything at TISS. We are aware of our provisional status, and it gives us opportunity to conduct and imbibe the best practices of our hosts.

Our junior partners, – 'the students', are contributing to the choice of responsible social life, committed to legal education and learning process, and their initiatives are illustrative. In this little time, they have instilled trust and confidence in our visiting resources persons by their charming personalities, educational involvement, vision, hobbies at the interactive engagements with them.

I wish their endeavour of this Newsletter ‘NYUSURETÃ’ should be reckoned as another step forward. I trust this Newsletter will have the legacy to a genre of perpetual succession.

Prof (Dr.) Bhavani Prasad Panda  
Vice-Chancellor, MNLU Mumbai
INCEPTION

The Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai has been established by the Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2014. It is located in Mumbai—the business and financial capital of India. Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU) Mumbai aspires to circumvent the traditional ways of legal pedagogy and endeavours to experiment and educate students with innovative teaching methods. We strive to create not only litigators but self-sufficient specialized legal professionals who are imbued with the virtues of “society before self”.

TEACHER’S TRAINING PROGRAMME

The pioneer teachers of Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai underwent a Teacher Training programme at Chennai under the hands of none other than Prof. (Dr.) N. R. Madhava Menon. This three day workshop was hosted by School of Law, Saveetha University, Chennai on Syllabus Preparation, Teaching and Evaluation Methods and Research Capacity Building for Law Teachers which was conducted in collaboration with IBA Chair on Continuing Legal Education, National Law School of India University, Bangalore and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training, Trivandrum from 2nd to 4th July 2015. Faculty members of Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, Saveetha School of Law, Chennai and Tamil Nadu National Law University participated in this event of ‘learning to unlearn’.

The faculty was introduced with the concept of the world moving to an era of Transnational Lawyers who work with legal matters involving jurisprudence in multiple countries. They learnt that the vision of the Law School should be in consonance with our Preamble and nothing else. The syllabus and teaching plan should aim at ‘Outcome’. It should be result oriented. A discussion was led on What can Law Schools do to Enhance Access to Justice for the Poor and Marginalized? The teaching carried was that the legal profession expects a lot from the Law Schools. They cannot bear the risk of having half-baked lawyers. Rote learning is a big threat to legal education and should be done away with. That students should be a value addition to Law Firms where they work after their degree, was the tacit message given. An efficient teacher has to be a continuous learner was the final learning of the day. The outcome of the legal education is social justice and the teachers promised to try their best to walk towards it. This workshop at such a formative stage will definitely help the faculty members to imbibe in the students the type of learning which the nation requires.
The Academic journey of Maharashtra National Law University began with the Orientation Day on 1st of August 2015.

The occasion was graced by various luminaries from the field of legal education, namely, Padma Shree Prof. (Dr.) N.R. Madhava Menon [Eminent Jurist], Prof. (Dr.) V. Vijaykumar [UNHCR Chair on Refugee Law at National Law School, Bangalore], Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath [Pro-Chancellor emeritus and founder Vice-Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University, Patna] and Prof. (Dr.) S. Parasuraman, [Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.]

Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath started his teaching career at Nagpur University and later as the Dean of Faculty of Law at the Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. He was appointed as the Professor-Registrar and Dean, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad before shifting to Bihar to lay the foundation for the Chanakya National Law University, where he currently serves as the Vice Chancellor. He is also the Chancellor of DSNLU, Andhra Pradesh.

The commencement address was delivered by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of MNLU Mumbai, Prof (Dr.) Bhavani Prasad Panda and he formally inducted the students, thereby giving MNLU its pioneer batch. With ‘धर्मतप्तसमा’ as its motto, MNLU endeavors to found itself as a premiere institution for legal learning where skill training, in addition to knowledge and critical thinking, will be given importance.

Thereafter, Hon’ble Mr. Justice F. M. Ibrahim Kalifulla’s message for the students was read out in which he expressed his warm wishes to the University and appreciated the support of the state government in its establishment. Prof (Dr.) V. Vijaykumar, one of the esteemed guests at the occasion, in his speech, opined that as a fledgling University, MNLU should seek to establish itself outside the conventional approach to the study of law. His idea of a great institution is one, which inculcates in its students academic learning, communication and analytical skills. The gathering was then addressed by Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath on the different approaches to law. The Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) N.R. Madhava Menon took the floor to emphasize the prominence of legal education, since the legal profession is the only one formally mentioned in the Constitution of India. It was a matter of great pride to have a jurist of such stature impart his pearls of wisdom at the University’s inaugural event.
Exuberance and patriotic fervor filled the air on the celebration of Independence Day at Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai. We were privileged to have Hon’ble Chancellor MNLU Mumbai, Mr. Justice F.M. Ibrahim Kalifulla, Judge, Supreme Court of India as the Chief Guest on this occasion. Prof. (Dr.) S. Parasuraman, Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Dr. Sanjay Chahande, Principal Secretary, Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra and Mr. Rafiq Dada, Senior Counsel, Mumbai were Guests of Honour.

The programme commenced with the hoisting of the flag followed by a heart touching speech by the Hon’ble Chancellor in reminiscence of the freedom fighters and their instrumental sacrifices. Thereafter, the baton of enlightening the students was passed onto Mr. Rafiq Dada who emphasized on the importance of law schools. He expressed- “You students are the pioneers and history will be created by you. Coming batches will follow your footsteps.”

The presidential address was delivered by the Chancellor who appreciated the diversity of the students, signifying national integration in MNLU. He narrated a few of the anecdotes regarding the inception of the university. Hon’ble Justice also emphasized the role of the Judiciary as the protector of rights and the consequent relevance of law as an intriguing discipline. On a concluding note, he expressed his desire to see the students and the institution achieve great heights.

Later, an interactive session followed, allowing the students to put forward questions to the panel of dignitaries. Many stimulating questions were provided piquant answers by the panel, thus providing students an insight on how to proceed with their studies of law and life.

Hon’ble Mr. Justice F. M. Ibrahim Kalifulla enrolled as an Advocate in Tamil Nadu in 1975. He was appointed as Permanent Judge of the Madras High Court in 2000, before being transferred to the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in 2011. He took oath as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in the same year. He was elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 2nd April, 2012.
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MOHIT S. SHAH'S VISIT

On the occasion of Rakshabandhan, Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai got the privilege to host the then Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohit S. Shah, Judge, Bombay High Court, Mumbai. The Guests of Honour were Prof. (Dr.) S. Parasuraman, Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Mrs. Aarthi Ramakrishnan Ex-Alumni of NLSIU, Bangalore and MD, Mizuho Securities.

After a brief introduction of the dignitaries, the felicitation ceremony was carried out. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Bhavani Prasad Panda delivered the welcome note and gave a brief outline of the goals that this law university seeks to fulfill. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the people who assisted him in starting this University from scratch. Following this, the Chief Guest, Justice Shah administered the oath to the newly elected members of the Student Bar Council. The President of the SBC, Mr. Yashraj Samant, laid down the proposed structure of the various committees and set the agenda of the Council, solemnly promising to contribute in taking this institution to great heights. Prof. Parasuraman expressed his immense pleasure on getting the opportunity to nurture this fledgling university. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Mohit S. Shah then addressed the gathering and in his speech, his lordship emphasized upon the importance of knowledge of various subjects. Quoting Sir Walter Scott, he stated that, “To become a good lawyer, one requires thorough knowledge of history and literature.” He stated that analytical skills are a prerequisite for lawyers, saying that, “Law is not only about advising your client, but about leading your client into the process of justice.” Mrs. Aarthi Ramakrishnan, Visiting Faculty, addressed the audience next and having studied law herself, gave the students an insight into the intricacies of the legal profession.

The program was an overall success, which marked a stepping stone for this institution.
12th September 2015 was a day of great honour for MNLU Mumbai, as we were graced by the benign presence of Hon’ble Mr. Justice V.M Kanade, Judge, Bombay High Court, Mumbai.

Justice Kanade was felicitated by Prof. (Dr.) S Parsuraman, Director, TISS, Mumbai, and the Guest of Honour for the function. Prof. (Dr.) Bhavani Prasad Panda, Vice Chancellor MNLU, Mumbai welcomed all present and commenced the program, which was also graced by Mr. M.A. Sayeed, Retd. Principal Secretary & RLA, Law and Judiciary Department, Government of Maharashtra and Ms. Aarthi Ramakrishnan, MD, Mizuho Securities.

Justice Kanade began by describing law as a stream that takes more than a lifetime to learn, and went on to inform the students what to do and more importantly, what not to do while dealing with the procedure of the courts, with the help of many humorous personal anecdotes. A considerable part of his speech was based on the question of what law is and how it has evolved over the years. He ended his lecture on a motivational note, by stressing on the importance of participation, especially in moot courts. He maintained that winning should not be the aim; instead students should try their best to incorporate participation for the growth of this fledgling institution and work tirelessly towards the betterment of the University.

Mr. M.A. Sayeed is the Retd. Principal Secretary & RLA, Law and Judiciary Department, Government of Maharashtra. He is presently The Presiding Officer, Mumbai University & College Tribunal. He assured MNLU that he will help in setting up a Legal Aid Clinic and will further Legal Aid visits.
24th September 2015 saw the commencement of the 'Guest Lecture Series' at MNLU, Mumbai. The series was a four-day collaborative event through which students were given the opportunity of learning from legal luminaries and interacting with them.

The event began on a riveting note with a lecture by Prof. (Dr.) Gurjeet Singh, Ex - Vice-Chancellor, NLUJA, Assam & RGNUL, Patiala. The key subject emphasized upon by Prof. Gurjeet was the importance of legal research. He guided the students through a step-by-step process that should ideally be kept in mind while tackling research projects and cited originality and inventiveness as the key elements for the same. He impressed upon 'Powerful Presentation over PowerPoint presentation.'

On the 3rd Day we were privileged to have Mr. R. Venkatramani, Sr. Advocate, Supreme Court of India. He discussed about the interplay between law and history and the development of law, taking us through the ages. This was followed by an introduction to the concept of criminalization and the constitutional validity of the death penalty. Interesting questions were raised by the students regarding viable alternatives and the right of the State to dispossess an individual of the right to life. The view dictating death penalty as an active deterrent was put to debate.

This day was of extreme importance and honour as we had the presence of Hon’ble Mr. Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka. His lordship is Judge, Bombay High Court, and Member of the Maharashtra National Law
University General Council. He illustrated that the role of National Law Universities as institutes should not be limited to focus on corporate law but also to encourage students to employ the power of their profession to serve the society and lend support to the legal system of the country. Having practiced at the High Court, Hon’ble Justice spoke about the significance of what he termed as “Court Craft” and the scope of professional practice at the trial court level. We are truly honored to have a personality of such high stature on our General Council, guiding us in our formative years.

On the concluding day, i.e. 27th September, we had Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the National Law School of India University Bangalore. The lecture started with the introduction of students and as to why they selected law as their field. After the introduction Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, distributed copies of the Preamble of the Constitution of India to the students and suggested that as students of law the preamble should be read every morning. Then he proceeded on to highlight the appalling condition of the legal system in India and he illustrated it with a tale about a spider and insects where a spider spins a web in which only small insects get caught. He drew an analogy of this web with the Web of Justice that has been spun by the judicial process of the country and only small culprits are punished while the big ones get away. He proposed that an MOU will be signed between National Law School of India University Bangalore and Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai on a later date with focus on student and faculty exchange programme. He also gifted a compendium of Law Journals by NLSIU Bangalore. It was a great learning experience listening to a legal luminary of such a stature who enlightened us with his words of wisdom. It was also a matter of great pride to have been offered a helping hand by a premier law institute in India.

Hon’ble Mr. Justice A. S. Oka, Judge, Bombay High Court, Mumbai is a Member of the Maharashtra National Law University General Council. He is known for his integrity and advocacy skills, having been instrumental in pivotal High Court decisions. He has played a key role in the establishment of MNLU Mumbai.

Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao is the Vice Chancellor of the National Law School of India University Bangalore. Prof. Rao’s academic qualifications are B.A. (Hons.) Litt, M.A. (Litt.), M.L. and Ph.D. He has served for 31 years in the Faculty of Law, Andhra University in various capacities as the Dean, Faculty of Law, University College of Law, Chairman, Board of Studies in Law and Head of Department of Law. He is Director of Centre of Criminal Justice Andhra University from 1997 – 2009.

Prof. S.V. Joga Rao, is an alumni of Andhra University and founding professor at National Law School of India University, Bangalore and is currently a practicing lawyer at Legal Excel and visiting faculty at NLSIU, Bangalore. He is renowned for his dynamic teaching skills and academic research.
The inaugural ceremony of the fourth Annual National Conference on Contemporary Legal Scholarship was held at Symbiosis Law School, Pune and was graced by Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Bhavani Prasad Panda, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Mumbai, Guests of Honour, Prof. Dr. V. Vijayakumar, National Law School, Bangalore, former Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai & Prof. Dr. Dilip Ukey, Head, Law Dept., Savitribai Phule Pune University, former Pro Vice Chancellor, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded and Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune and Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis International University also graced the occasion.

The Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Bhavani Prasad Panda, speaking on the importance of research said that, for human minds, research is a passage and also that it leads to convergence of both, the mind and the heart. He stated that there should be total emotional involvement in a research paper. He highlighted the need of having a very stable guide and an appropriate topic for research. He continued to state that research must be invigorating and must engross one completely. The audience saw the release of two master pieces, the abstract compilation of Conference and 'Lex-Et' - the biannual Symbiosis newsletter at the hands of Dr. V. Vijaykumar and Dr. Bhavani Prasad Panda. Students of the LLM course of MNLU Mumbai also participated in this conference.

Mr. Rafiq Dada, Sr. Advocate, Bombay High Court, is the former President of the Bombay Bar Association and has received nationwide praise for his in-depth knowledge of constitutional and regulatory matters, as well as tax disputes. We were privileged to have him visit our university.

Dr. Sanjay Chahande, IAS, is Principal Secretary, Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra. He is a medical graduate with an M.B.B.S. degree and has the rare distinction of having two Masters Degrees. He holds an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, London, U.K. He further holds a Masters in Public Administration, MPA, from the prestigious Maxwell School, Syracuse University, New York, U.S.A. He was the first Anne Bohm Scholar of LSE in the year 2001. He played an instrumental role in the establishment of MNLU Mumbai.

Ms. Aarthi Ramakrishnan pursued her bachelors in law from National Law School, Bangalore and secured her masters from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. She was the Associate Director of HSBC Securities and went on to become the Vice President of the Investment Banking Division of Credit Suisse. At present, she is heading the Indian segment of the 3rd largest Japanese Bank, Mizuho Securities. We acknowledge her for sparing her valuable time for delivering guest lectures at MNLU Mumbai every other week.

12th Sept. 2015: Two LL.B. students of MNLU, namely Ms. Saisha Singh and Mr. Aman D Sharma participated in the 5th D. M. Harish Memorial Inter-Collegiate Elocution Competition, 2015 which was organized by G. J. Advani Law College, Mumbai. It was indeed a proud moment for MNLU as Ms. Saisha Singh won the Runner’s Up trophy. Both the participants received certificates of participation.
Vision:
Today and for tomorrow, India needs to garner a cadre of young intellects of law, with ethical commitments to justice; not only to administer, govern and minister but also to craft the envisioned trajectories of change converging into the valued harmony and purpose of human life and society in the scheme of global conglomerate.

Objective:
MNLU Mumbai wishes to contribute to the development of enterprises of law, justice, governance and transformation of society, as catalyst; by customised modes of education system coupled with sense of ethics and urge for advancing justice. The process of teaching, learning and training shall be to develop law students as ideal persons that world seeks. To ignite in them the passion for 'involvement' and joy of 'contentment' to the callings of life and of age dedicated to the making of nation and to ensure the feel of fulfilment to all the stakeholders. In the process, to enhance the quality in the human resource treasure generated from the alumni and partners of the University.

Mission:
“Law is one of the cherished components of the intellectual inheritance of civilisation”; as such our principal mission is to – work for the perseverance of those vital tenets; - inculcate a sense of belongingness to the enshrined values; and through the process of legal pedagogy contribute to the richness of the inheritance. In the endeavour, MNLU Mumbai shall strive to nurture the noble callings of justice and law reforms and to take positions as change-agents that India needs today and stay prepared for tomorrow; and will stay alert to justice.

Our Motto
धर्मे तत्परता

[DHARME TATPARTA: Preparedness to uphold Dharma]
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