

WEBINAR ON Pandemic and Constitutional Challenges: A Current Prospective 23rd June 2020

The Centre for Legal Studies, Gitarattan International Business School, organised a Webinar on the topic: “Pandemic and Constitutional Challenges: A Current Prospective” on 23rd June 2020 for students. An eminent guest was invited for the webinar: Hon'ble Justice Shri Swatanter Kumar. Sir has served as Chairman of National Green Tribunal and is a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India.



The purpose of the webinar was to analyze the impact of the Pandemic and constitutional challenges that has been faced by us as a nation, What are the role of judiciary in current prospective, Can fundamental rights be restricted as the consequences of the pandemic? Hon'ble Justice Shri Swatanter Kumar started the session by talking the current situation that world is facing and the economic social and legal crisis we are going through due to the Covid. He further brings light on the plight of interstate migrant crisis and how government has responded to it. In this time of crisis where everything is going against the human race Sir has pointed out certain positive impact of pandemic in our life like, better hygienic habits, new culture of work from home, environmental benefits, rejuvenation of river Ganga and Yamuna because of industrial shut down.

Sir while discussing the current scenario emphasized on the fundamental rights and the restriction that can be put on our rights during the time of pandemic. He also discussed the relationship between Art 19 and Art. 21 with the help of certain case law and also suggested that in any condition art. 21 cannot be put under any restriction. Sir has also enlightened us on the doctrine of balancing and the role of Courts in preserving the fundamental rights in these circumstances.

Hon'ble Justice Swatanter Kumar emphasized on the fact that along with the fundamental rights, the directive principles of state policy and fundamental duties is also very important and we as a citizen should change our prospective and start taking responsibility for our action. He has highlighted that this is high time we must realize that rights under constitution comes with the duties.

For explaining the importance of fundamental duties sir has brought our attention to our duty to protect our environment under part IV A of the constitution. It is this generation that has to realize the impact of our activity of the environment. He further added the quote by Mahatma Gandhi "There is enough resources for everyone's need but not for anybody's greed". He asked our student to take a call towards waste management and to look after their duty towards environment. Further it is on this generation to decide where they want to invest their resources now so that the coming generation can be prepared and protected to fight any other crisis like Covid.

Sir has also discussed the way world is dealing with this crisis. Many countries in the world have declared it as health emergency. According to him today we are facing extraordinary situation and therefore the way to handle this situation must be extraordinary but within the ambit of law.

To conclude his lecture sir emphasized on the collaborative effort of ours as a nation which can help us to come out of this crisis.

After the speech many questions were raised by the attendees whose answers were given very nicely, patiently and accurately by Honorable Justice Swatanter Kumar. All thoroughly enjoyed the session which was highly informative and encouraging.

The session ended with the vote of thanks given by Director Prof. (Dr.) B. S. Hothi to our eminent guest speaker.

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