

**SPEECH OF 'BLE GOVERNOR AT THE VALEDICTORY SESSION OF
THE NATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE THEME "CURRENT
CHALLENGES BEFORE THE LEGAL PROFESSION THE
JUDICIARY" ORGANIZED BY SHILLONG HIGH COURT BAR
ASSOCIATION AT U SOSO THAM AUDITORIUM ON 21ST MAY 2016**

India has a widely admired democracy. The democracy has three pillar of success, namely Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. You play a responsible role in taking our democracy to great heights. Our mother land has peace loving and intellectual civilizational background which has a universal appeal. Our country greatly follows the tradition and custom of "paap" and "punya". The activities of people are concerned to a great extent by this mantra dharama. All of you present out here are carrying out your duties of judiciary in accordance with the law of the land.

Likewise, India's North East region is uniquely endowed with an extraordinary pool of traditions, talent, resources and culture. I thank you all for visiting Shillong, the abode

of clouds, from various parts of the country.

However as the region continues to come increasingly into focus, I am happy to observe that this National Seminar organised by the Bar Association of India and the Shillong High Court Bar Association has facilitated the meeting of the best of legal minds of this country bridging the gap between the mainland and the North-East of India and in particular Meghalaya.

The theme of today's Seminar "Current Challenges before the Legal Profession and the Judiciary" is a very broad topic.

I know that this interaction would be immensely beneficial for the Legal Profession and the Judiciary of our country. It would also contribute to the national pool of legal knowledge brought about by the interaction and the coming together of the best of minds in the legal profession and the Judiciary which would help the members of the bar and the

Bench in acquiring a lot of knowledge and thereby helping to achieve the main object of the Judiciary, that is, to deliver justice to the people at large.

I am sure that this Seminar would live up to its goal of being a platform for exchange of ideas and meeting of legal minds across this region. I have no doubt that this Seminar will be a catalyst for new era of sustained intellectual interaction between the best of legal minds of this region and the rest of the country.

I have some thoughts about the Judiciary system. The bed rock of our democracy is the rule of law. It means we have an independent Judiciary. We need judges who can make decisions independent of the political winds that are blowing. The judiciary must not take popular things for a moment. They are the guardians of “Right” and “Truth”. There are checks and balances and broad separation of

powers under the Constitution. Each organ of the state, the legislature, the executive and the judiciary must have respect for others. True freedom requires the rule of law and justice. Justice has sharp and sophisticated listening devices.

The profession of law is a much sought after profession among today's generation. There was a time when doctors and engineers took away all the name but today, the profession of law is one of the most sought after professions. I recently went to the States to attend an important meeting. I asked them which profession had more value there. They promptly replied that it is law. This helps one to earn a very good living.

Gandhi said: "I had learnt the true practice of law. I had learnt to find out the better side of human nature and to enter man's hearts. I realized that the true function of a lawyer was to unite parties riven asunder. The lesson was

so deeply burnt into me that a large part of my time during the 20 years of my practice as a lawyer was occupied in bringing about private compromises of hundreds of cases. I lost nothing thereby- Not even money. Certainly not my soul.”

It is the lawyers who plays an important role in our government, our business and also bring out solutions to our private lives. Most legislatures are lawyers. They make our laws. Most presidents, governments, commissioners along with their advisors are lawyers. They administer our laws. All the judges are lawyers. They interpret and enforce our laws. There is no separation of powers where the lawyers are concerned. There is concentration of all power in the lawyers. If there are no bad people, there would be no good lawyers. Good and evil is like the two sides of a coin. It is a part of our life. I feel lawyers are the foot soldiers of our constitution. Lawyers have a

way of seeing things that sets them apart from the rest of us. In some way, lawyers are much more focussed on rational, logical and objective criteria to the exclusion of the emotional, subjective and sometimes irrational responses to the world. Great people have great values and great ethics. In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so.

In the year 1975, Internal Emergency was clamped and we fought against it. During that time, the rights of the people were curtailed. They were deprived of the minimum amount of freedom. We were jailed under the MISA and DIR Act. But this could not break our spirit. We took the initiative to free people from the clutches of Emergency. During that time, NaniPalkhivala quoted a line which was a source of inspiration for us: “Liberty lies in the head and heart of men and women; when it

dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it”. We brought forward incidents and realities to make our people aware of the injustices done to us; to make them aware of their rights. We used this quote to unite our people. We also fought against untouchability, caste differences, dowry system and female foeticide. We fought for the cause of the upliftment of the Dalit section. All these we did with a spirit of social responsibility. We devoted ourselves for the welfare of our people. To bring about any change one has to put forward their hard work and commitment and the spirit of standing firm for the right cause no matter what the circumstances are.

A tremendous social responsibility comes from being a successful public performer. Successful people have a social responsibility to make the world a better place and not just take from it.

So, I appeal to you, apart from your

profession, feel the pain of our poor people.
devote sometime to end the sufferings due to
poverty.

Thank You.
