

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE VALEDICTORY CEREMONY OF 5<sup>TH</sup> AMITY MOCK PARLIAMENT, 2019 ON 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019 AT AMITY UNIVERSITY, NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH

Shri Gangaram Ahir ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of State of Home Affairs,

Dr. Ashok K Chauhan ji, Hon'ble Founder President, Amity University,

Dr. D.K. Bandopadhyay ji, Hon'ble Chairman, Amity Law Schools,

Dr. Atul Chauhan ji, Hon'ble Chancellor, Amity University,

Faculty members of Amity University and Amity Law School,

All the participating youths and students,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am truly delighted to have this opportunity to address you at this valedictory ceremony of Amity Mock Parliament, 2019. I am thankful to the organizer, Amity Law School, Noida for having invited me and I am happy to see so many of you here caring about building a strong democratic foundation in the students for a better future generation.

This premier Law School of Uttar Pradesh deserves commendation for setting the stage for such a mega-event with an academic aim to promote debating and professional communicational skills among the students. It is already into the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Amity Mock Parliament in furtherance of its co-curricular activity to involve the students in conductive simulation of the parliamentary proceedings based upon the Indian parliamentary system. It provides the students a platform to participate, acquire and improve such as public speaking, debate, presentation, research and organisational skills, aiding their personal development. Such an exercise finds resonance in the famous statement that 'Deliberation and Debate is the way you stir the soul of our democracy'.

Let me tell my august audience here that today's world is a fascinating place to live in. It is so because advancement in the fields of science and technology has made our life much more comfortable. Yet as we all are aware, conflicts – both major and minor – between States and Nations have torn into human existence and conscience. Yes, we live in a modern society, equipped with knowledge and where violation of human rights is also prevalent. Small disputes involving nations flare up into big conflicts. Neither people nor nations are prepared to settle matters either through talks or by legal means. This is where the concept of Legal Education has immense relevance. Legal education and its proper use would empower people as well as Nations. Strengthening the edifice of legal education through applications of law and its advantages and disadvantages will go a long way in minimising and possibly settling people to people and Nation to Nation conflicts. The focus is on law, justice, moral equality, virtue and administration of justice. These are the concepts which, for thousands of years, have formed the foundation of democracy and justice.

As you are well aware, Democracy is India's salient feature and our country is known as the largest democracy in the world. Further, India's diversity is what gives India its unique salient feature. Our democracy rests on 3 (three) robust pillars – Legislature, Judiciary and Executive. They function under the guidance of the Indian Constitution. When our country got Independence, there were people skeptical about the fate of the new nation. They have been proved wrong and our nation has emerged as a strong democracy guided through high and low by the wisdom of our forefathers as enshrined in the Constitution. The Parliament is the highest democratic institution in our country, where laws are framed. I am happy that Amity Mock Parliament underscores the importance of legislators, policy-making, skill of debating, framing laws which eventually affects the life of the citizens. It seeks to sustain the democratic fabric of our country. It is also

gratifying to know that the aim and object of Amity Mock Parliament is based on the concept of convene, connect and champion while promoting democracy and growth through deliberations and simulations. The exercise is indicative of a strong faith in learning by experience and therefore, offers useful ways for students to turn into active and responsible citizens.

The contribution made by the Amity Law School, Noida to impart quality professional education in legal affairs deserves praise. I am fully confident and hopeful that the Law School will keep up its academic standard while enlightening the mind of the youths about the issues regarding the nation and its development.

With these few words, I, once again, thank the organizers for inviting me to this mega event and I look forward to meeting you again in future.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.