ROSTRUM THE SPEAKERS' CLUB



ACADEMIC YEAR

<u>2014 -2015</u>

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Hon'ble Justice N. Santosh Hegde, Former Judge – Supreme Court of India Former Lokayuktha, Karnataka

TOPIC: "Moral values and Humanism"

DATE: 6th September, 2014

VENUE: AIET Auditorium

REPORT:

The Inaugural guest talk by Rostrum-the speaker's club by **Hon'ble Justice N. Santosh Hegde**, was hosted on 6th September, 2014. The presence of Mr. Vivek Alva, Managing Trustee, Alva's Education Foundation, and club in charges was at the function.

Introduction of the guest: Nitte Santosh Hegde is one the most well known personalities in the field of justice who has served our country effortlessly in order to make it corruption free and a better place to live.

N. Santosh Hegde was born on 16th June 1940 in the district of Udupi in Karnataka. He was born in a town called Nitte, which he was named after. During his tenure, he was popular for being strong and determined and was never afraid to move against anyone to fight for the right cause.

He had many titles to him name as he was the Chief Justice of India, the Solicitor General of India and a Lokayukta member (anti corruption organization) in the state of Karnataka. He went against the former chief minister B S Yeddyurappa in the Bellary mining scam and fought to bring the truth to light. He retired from the Lokayukta in August 2011 and he is currently working actively with Anna Hazare in support of the Lokayukta Bill. His contribution to the field of justice, his constant fight against corruption and his honesty has made Santosh Hegde an inspiration for many young Indians.

Event: Current education concentrates more on domain subjects and less on teaching 'moral values'. Moral Science which was taught in schools and which had a key role in developing values in individuals has been scrapped, said Justice N Santosh Hegde, former Lokayukta. This, he asserted is the main reason for man becoming corrupt and focusing more on amassing materialistic wealth, much beyond his stated needs. This has resulted in major fall in values in society. Inaugurating Rostrum, the speaker's club of Alva's Institute of Engineering and

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Technology here on Saturday, Santosh Hegde stressed on the need for imbibing values at a young age. He rued the fact that the Indian Constitution that is meant 'for the people, by the people and of the people' has since come to mean 'For some, by some and of some' after but it its repeated misuse by many for their own selfish ends. "This is also because of the lack of moral values in society," he said.

To curb atrocities including rape, he said the citizens' conscience has to be awakened so that law is never misused. The right use of law makes the law stronger and enforceable easily. At an interactive session later, to a question on the Irom Sharmila issue, he said the armed forces are protected by the Armed Forces (Special Provisions) Act, 1958. To a query on justice delayed being justice denied, he reminded the questioner that it is also true that 'Justice Hurried is Justice Buried'.

Asked on what he felt about the current Narendra Modi government, Santosh Hegde said that there is an element of freshness in this government as it is new and it does not have the obligations, pulls and pressures of coalition government. It should answer questions on communalism at an appropriate time and concentrate on development issues. There is a lot of confidence in the government and development has to happen, time would be the deciding factor. Public representatives are in reality public servants, Santosh Hegde said in an apparent reference to Modi's reiteration of this very fact from ramparts of Red Fort that he was their Pradhan 'Sevak'. However, it is travesty of justice that public servants behave like public masters. The most important reason for fall in values is the society itself. The youth of today have a major role to play to root out corruption as the older generation also is a party to the faults, he said.

PHOTO



MEDIA REPORT



Mr. Subramanian Swamy

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Harward Professor

TOPIC: "Politics and national growth"

DATE: 28th March, 2015

VENUE: AIET Auditorium

REPORT:

The guest talk by Rostrum-the speaker's club by Mr. Subramanyam swamy was hosted on 28th march, 2015. The presence of Mr. Vivek Alva, Managing Trustee, Alva's Education Foundation, Dr. Peter Fernandes, Principal, AIET, Dr. Kurian, Alva's Degree College and club in charges was at the function.

Introduction of the guest: Subramanian Swamy (born 15 September 1939) is an Indian politician, economist, statistician and polymath who serves as a nominated Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament. Swamy has served as a member of the Planning Commission of India and was a Cabinet Minister in the Chandra Shekhar government. Earlier in November 1978, Swamy was member of the Group of Eminent persons and was called to Geneva, Switzerland to prepare a report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on Economic Co-operation between Developing countries (ECDC). Swamy also simplified trade procedures and formulated a new export strategy which became the forerunner of trade reform adopted subsequently. In 1994, Swamy was Chairman of the Commission on Labour Standards and International Trade by former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao.

He also serves as chairman of the Board of Governors of the SCMS Group of Educational Institutions in Kerala. He has written on foreign affairs of India dealing largely with People's Republic of China (PRC), Pakistan and Israel. He was nominated to Rajya Sabha on 26 April 2016.

Event: Speaking on national growth, he said, "National growth takes place when the quality of living of the people goes up. The western world thinks that progress lies in material prosperity. The Hindu thinks material progress should be harmonized with spiritual values in order to be happy. More material prosperity leads to greed. When there's greed, moral character will be ruined and you will be unhappy. To be at the highest position, sacrfice your material greed and acquire knowledge.

Learn from history

Earlier in his talk, Dr Swamy emphasized the richness of Indian civilization and said, "India is the only country considered by UNESCO as having unbroken continuing civilization out of the 46 civilizations in the world. Even the Greece is not what it was in the past, nor is Egypt or Iran. Forty-five civilizations have disappeared due to invasions and conquers. Ony 46 civilizations are surviving though they have been attacked or ruled for centuries.

"Though there were attacks on India we did not surrender but fought back. Look at the history books written by the British for you – they have separate chapters for each Moghul emperor from Akbar to Aurangazeb, but there is only one page on Vijayanagara empire. We should learn from history about how developed India was thousand years ago. People from all over the world came here to learn, study and buy goods. Even a large number of books were written on the greatness of India. But somewhere in the middle we lost it, and we are yet to recover that glory.

Be a rational risk taker, transform India

Calling upon everyone to join in the process of transforming the country, he said, "Find an alternative for fuel and help your country, because 86 percent of our oil depends on Arab countries. We should think of how we can make India a great economic power. You need economic well being to survive, and if you accumulate a lot of wealth, build educational institutions and donate to society and do not hide it in Swiss bank. Many suffer because of degeneration of society, especially the SC/STs. There are people who for centuries were suppressed. We have to uplift them. Mind is most important and it tells us how to deal with a situation. If you have conservative mind you will not achieve anything. Every Indian should be a rational risk taker to achieve national growth."

He further added, "India should be transformed back to where we were - a prosperous, spirirtual, scientifically advanced country. Our rishis (sages) described the movement of sun and stars. In Europe they believed that sun revolves around the earth, and when Galileo opposed this, all Italians beat him and made him apologize. In contrast, though there were different views in India, there was freedom of expression. This country should be transformed through new innovations. US moves forward because of innovations. Nearly 70 percent of the Indian population is below the age of 35. We are the youngest nation in the world. The average age of the population in India is 26 years, in China it is 35 years, in USA 37 and in Europe 46. There is no shortage of anything in India. This country has numerous alternative sources of generating funds."

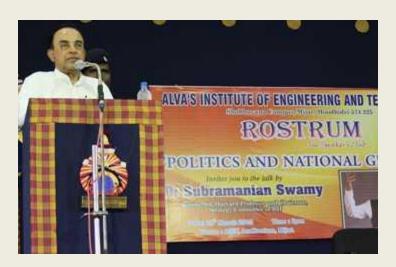
Two major flaws in politics

Dr Subramanian Swamy said politics today suffers from two major flaws. "Politics is suffering today because people vote on the basis of region, caste and religion. Politics is today suffering from two major flaws - one, people do not vote on merit; and two, the quality of people entering politics is so low.

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"Politics is the most efficient and effective way for transforming Indian society. In other democratic countries the best educated people go into politics. Here (in India) politics is entirely different."

PHOTOS



MEDIA REPORTS



