A Brief Lecture on
“HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONSTITUTION OF INDIA”

By

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MAHARASHTRA BRANCH
Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai / Nagpur.

Venue: UGC - HRDC, 1st Floor, Ranade Bhawan,
Vidyanagari Campus, Kalina, Mumbai.

Date: Friday, 30th December 2016
Time: 10.00 A.M. To 11.30 A.M.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT
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At the outset, I wish you all a Happy New Year 2017 and hope that all of you will strive hard to protect the human rights. I am thankful to Dr. Rashmi Oza, Head of Department of Law, University of Mumbai for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on today's topic "Human Rights in Constitution of India".

What are Human Rights?

Human Rights are those minimal rights which every individual must have against the State or other public authority by virtue of his being a 'member of the human family', irrespective of any other consideration.

The concept of human rights is as old as the ancient doctrine of 'natural rights' founded on natural law, the expression 'human rights' is of recent origin, emerging from (post-Second World War) international Charters and Conventions.

It would, therefore, be logical to start with the concept of natural rights, which eventually led to the formulation of 'human rights'.

1. In the beginning, the right of man as a legal or moral concept appeared in the form of natural rights. The natural rights were derived from the nature of man for these are inherent in the nature of man and form part of his intrinsic nature. It means there exist in the nature of universe certain objective moral principles which can be perceived by the man by the application of his reason and self determination. There are so many theories round the corner about the nature, meaning and concept of natural rights, which ultimately culminated into the idea that an individual has right upon society or against society which the society must recognize as human rights. This concept of human rights can be termed as updated version of the traditional 18th Century concept of the right of man.

2. The expression human right is of recent origin emerging after the end of the Second World War. The outcome of the Second World War had given rise to the serious concern towards humanity
because humanity suffered lot in this era, and as a consequence tremendous developments have been made in the field of human rights. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 and subsequently large number of international human right instruments and covenants came into existence.

(2) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
(4) European convention for protection of Human Rights, 1953.

**EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

The preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights States:—

"....It is essential if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law."

The primitive societies had probably no conception of human rights even after inception of human civilization the idea of human rights in the form of some basic natural rights, goes to the founder of the natural law theory. The natural law theory promoted the idea that man is endowed by birth with certain inalienable rights of which right to life, liberty and property are paramount. As Dr. Paras Diwan has pointed out however, soon it was realised that human rights were practically privileges of the rich and the powerful and that the poor mans human rights remained only ornamental pieces in the form of a few articles in some written constitution. When poverty deprives a person of a decent human existence all the human rights are rendered meaningless and insignificant.
The movement for securing human rights, however, continued and gained strength after the Second World War. The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights soon after the formation of the United Nations in December, 1948.

Thereafter two international covenants, one on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the other on Civil and Political Rights were adopted by the Central Assembly on December 16, 1976.

**HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA**

Our country was one of the original signatories to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and therefore the framers of Indian Constitution were influenced by the concept of human right and recognised as well as guaranteed most of the human rights which were subsequently embodied in the International Covenant 1966. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution reflects the inspiring ideals with the specific mention of "dignity of the individual".

**HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

The Constitution of independent India came into force on 26th January. The impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on drafting part III of the Constitution is apparent. India has acceded to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as to the subsequent International Covenants of Economic, Social and Cultural rights and Civil & Political Rights adopted by the Central Assembly of the United Nations.

**Fundamental Rights** enshrined in Part III of the Constitution have emerged from the doctrine of natural rights. Fundamental Rights are the modern name for what have been traditionally known as Natural Rights. The Natural Rights transformed into fundamental rights operate as a constitutional limitation or a restriction on the
powers of the organs set up by the Constitution or the State action. Judicial Review, Justiciability or Enforcement became an inseparable concomitant of fundamental rights. As no right of freedom can be absolute, limitations have been imposed to each fundamental right in the interest of securing social justice. Enforcement of fundamental rights can even be suspended or prevented in emergency.

**Directive Principles** enshrined in Part IV of the Constitution epitomise the ideals, aspirations the sentiments, the precepts and the goals of our entire freedom movement. The wisdom of the forefathers of the Constitution was justified in incorporating non-justiciable human rights in the concrete shape of the directive principles.

**RIGHT TO LIFE AND PERSONAL LIBERTY**

Art. 21 of our Constitution guarantees right to life and personal liberty.

The Article runs as follows:-

"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."

The first draft to the Constituent Assembly of this Article appeared in the following shape:

"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied equality before law within the territories of the federation."

The Drafting Committee headed by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, however, substituted the words "except according to procedure established by law" since the former is more specific.
WIDER IMPLICATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE

Our Apex Court has been expanding over the decades, the dimensions of Art 21 i.e. Right to Life & Personal Liberty. In F. C. Mullin vs. The Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi & others (1981 2 SCR 516) Justice Bhagwati observed:

"We think that the right to life includes the right to live with human dignity and all that goes with it, namely the bare necessities of life such as adequate nutrition, clothing and shelter and facilities for reading, writing and expressing oneself in diverse forms freely moving about and mixing and mingling with fellow human beings........Every act which offends against or impairs human dignity would constitute deprivation protanto of this right to life and it would have to be in accordance with reasonable, fair and just procedures established by law which stands the test of other fundamental rights."

The expression 'life' does not mean animal existence. Right to life guaranteed under Art. 21 of the Constitution have certain positive aspects and as such subject to well-organised limitation apart from obligation of the State not to deprive a person of his life except in accordance with a valid law.

It is heartening to note that the Supreme Court has now been widening the scope of Art. 21, though earlier in A. K. Gopalan vs. State of Madras (AIR 1950 SC 27), the Court had taken very narrow view of Art. 21.

Life in its expanded horizons today includes all that give meaning to a man's life, including his tradition, culture and heritage, and protection of that heritage in its full measure would certainly come within the encompass of an expanded concept of Article 21 of the Constitution.
RIGHT TO PRIVACY AS A PART OF ART. 21

Initially the Supreme Court refused to allow the right to privacy as a part of Art. 21 in Kharak Singh vs. State of U.P. (AIR 1963 SC 1295). In this case the petitioner’s name was recorded in a History sheet maintained by the police on the basis of accusations and the movement of the petitioner was under surveillance. Ayyangar J. speaking for the majority struck down clause (b) of regulation 236 of the U. P. Police Regulations authorising "domiciliary visits" as violative of Article 21 of the Constitution as the said administrative regulations were not backed by authority of any legislation and rejected rest of the challenge to the above referred regulations. In the majority judgement, Ayyangar J. held as under:

"As already pointed out, the right of privacy is not a right guaranteed under our Constitution and therefore the attempt to ascertain the movements of an individual which is not merely a manner in which privacy is invaded is not an infringement of a fundamental right guaranteed by part III."

The Supreme Court has, however, subsequently modified its views & has now recognised 'right to privacy' as a part of Art. 21. In State of Maharashtra and another vs. Madhukar Narayan Mardikar (AIR 1991 Supreme Court, 207) the delinquent police officer was dismissed on the ground that he had visited the hutment of one Banubi on the night of 13th November 1965 all alone in police uniform and had tried to ravish her. There was some evidence on record that Banubi was unchaste woman. In the above referred judgement, Ahmadi J. speaking for the Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed as under:

"She was honest enough to admit that dark side of her life. Even a woman of easy virtue is entitled to privacy and no one can invade her privacy as and when he likes. So also it is not open to any and every person as and when he wishes.... She is equally entitled to
the protection of law. Therefore, merely because she is a woman of
easy virtue, her evidence cannot be thrown overboard."

In **Smt. Saroj Rani vs. Sudarshan Kumar Chadha** (AIR 1984,
SC 1962) the Supreme Court over ruled the Judgement of High
Court of Andhra Pradesh in the case of **T. Sareetha vs. Venkata
Suppiah** (AIR 1983 Andhra Pradesh, 356) and upheld constitu-
tional validity of Section 9 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 providing for
remedy of restitution of conjugal rights. The Andhra Pradesh High
Court had declared that the said section was a savage and
barbarous remedy violating the right to privacy and human dignity
guaranteed by Art. 21 of Constitution. The learned Judge of High
Court of Andhra Pradesh referred to the Scarman Commissions
report in England recommending abolition of the remedy.

The Supreme Court of India upheld Constitutional validity of
section 9 of the Act on the ground that the object of Section 9 of the
Act was to preserve the institution of marriage.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sabyasachi Mukarji speaking for the
bench observed that Section 9 of the Act served a social purpose
as an aid to the prevention of break up of marriage and must be
viewed in its proper perspective.

**COMPENSATORY JUSTICE FOR VIOLATION OF ART. 21.**

As Justice D. R. Dhanuka has rightly observed -

"The Indian Judiciary has totally revolutionized this branch of the
subject by laying down that the State or the Central Government
shall be liable to pay compensation to the victims of violation of
fundamental rights and such compensation could be awarded by
the writ court while disposing of writ petitions without directing the
party aggrieved to file a separable suit."
Article 39-A of the Constitution reads as under:—

"39-A. Equal justice and free legal aid -

The State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities."

“The said directive principles is read by the Apex Court in Article 21 of the Constitution as an integral part thereof.”

RIGHT TO A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AS A RIGHT TO LIFE

In the Doon Valley Case (AIR 1985 SC 652) Art. 21 was invoked to prevent the degradation of the Mussoorie Hills due to the mining operations there. The Court held that Art. 21 included in its sweep a right to clean environment and that the permanent assets of mankind cannot be allowed to be exhausted in our generation.

In M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India (AIR 1988 SC 1037) the Supreme Court reiterated the fundamental right to a clean environment and held that pollution treatment plant is a pre-condition of the existence and continuation of an industry.

It observed;

"Just like an industry which cannot pay minimum wages to its workers, cannot be allowed to exist, a tannery which can not set up a primary treatment plant cannot be permitted to continue."

In the Oleum Gas Leak Case (AIR 1986 SC) the rule of strict liability was applied without exception to a polluting undertaking employing hazardous process of manufacture. This was again a
writ under Art. 21 of the Constitution.

Bhagwati C.J. Observed in this case:

'An enterprise engaged in hazardous or inherently dangerous industrial activity posing a potential threat to the health and safety of persons working in the factory and residing in the surrounding area was under an obligation to pay compensation for the injury caused.'

"It is of considerable public interest to point out that in English law the Courts recognize certain limitations and exceptions to the doctrine of absolute liability as propounded in the case of Rylands vs Fletcher."

"We, in India, cannot hold our hands back and I venture to evolve a new principle of liability which English Courts have not done. We have to develop our own law and if we feel that it is necessary to consider a new principle of liability to deal with an unusual situation which has arisen and which is likely to arise in future on account of hazardous or inherently dangerous industries which are concomitant to an industrial economy, there is no reason why we should hesitate to evolve such principles of liability merely because it has not been so done in England."

ENUMERATION OF POLITICAL AND CIVIL FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

The political and civil rights are termed as 'Fundamental Rights' and enshrined in Part-III of the Indian Constitution which includes the following rights:—

(1) Right to equality - Articles 14, 15 and 16.
(2) Right to six freedoms - Article 19.
   (a) Freedom of speech and expression.
   (b) Freedom to assemble peacefully and without arms.
(c) Freedom to form associations or unions.

(d) Freedom to move freely throughout the Territory of India.

(e) Freedom to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.

(f) Freedom to practice any profession or carry on any occupation, trade or business.

(3) Right to life and personal liberty - Articles 20, 21 and 22.

(4) Right to freedom of religion - Articles 25, 26, 27 and 28.

(5) Cultural and educational rights - Articles 29 and 30.

(6) Right to property - Article 31.
   (The 44th amendment has deleted this right and re-enacted it in Article 300 A, as constitutional right).

(7) Right against exploitation - Articles 23 and 24.

(8) Right to Constitutional remedies - Article 32.

**ENUMERATION OF CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS UNDER THE DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

Part-IV of the Indian Constitution detailing 'Directive Principles of State Policy' lays down the following rights. The socialist and welfare precepts have particularly been incorporated in Article 39 of the Constitution.

(1) Right to adequate means of livelihood - Article 39 (a).

(2) Right against economic exploitation - Article 39 (e). The health and strength of both sexes and tender age of children are not abused and are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.
(3) Right to both sexes to equal pay for equal work - Article 39(d).

(4) Right to work - Article 41.

(5) Right to leisure and rest - Article 41.

(6) Right to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age sickness (Social Security) - Article 41.

Part IV of the Constitution also incorporates the Directive Principles of economic and social justice and certain ideals which the State should strive to achieve. Article 38 directs the State to bring about the welfare of the people by securing and protecting effectively a social order where justice, social, political and economic shall inform all the institutions of national life.

(7) It directs the State to create conditions where there will be no concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment and where the ownership and control of the material resources, of the community are so distributed as best to sub-serve the common good. [Article 39 (b) and (c)].

Further, the Directive Principles are provided in the Articles of the Constitution mentioned herein below:

(8) Article 42 - Just and human conditions of work and maternity leave.

(9) Article 43 - Mandatory Payment of living wages etc. to workers.

(10) Article 44 - Uniform Civil Code.

(11) Article 45 - Free and Compulsory Education.

(12) Article 46 - Promotion of educational and economic interests of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections.

(13) Article 47 - Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the Standard of living and to improve public health.
(14) **Article 48** - Organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry.

(15) **Article 49** - Protection of monuments and places and objects of national importance.

(16) **Article 50** - Separation of Judiciary from Executive.

(17) **Article 51** - Promotion of international peace and security.

By 42nd Amendment of the Constitution, three more Articles were added therein:

(18) **Article 43A** - Participation of workers in management of industries.

(19) **Article 39A** - Equitable justice and free legal aid.

(20) **Article 48A** - Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wild life.

These additions by amendments are unexceptional.

Thus, a broad statement of the eminent scholar, K. Subba Rao, may be aptly acceded to: "What American and other highly developed democratic countries have achieved through judicial decision and pragmatism has been crystallized, embodied and improved upon by the Indian Constitution. (K. Subba Rao, Enforcement of Basic Human Rights in Law and the Commonwealth, 73).

**UNENUMERATED INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OR 'NATURAL RIGHTS' UNDER WRITTEN CONSTITUTION**

The general rules of interpretation in this context may be borne in mind:-

(a) Generally a statutory enumeration excludes every thing other than what is enumerated. (Crawford, Statutory Constitution; P. 333).
(b) Nonetheless, a liberal or progressive interpretation is not debarred from being given to the express provisions of the Constitution, to meet the growing needs of civilization or the changes in the social background; for, a Constitution is an organic instrument for the governance of the country.

In India, the Supreme Court has propounded the theory of 'emanation' has departed from the traditional view that Part III of the Constitution provides an exhaustive list of Fundamental Rights. The theory, basically means that even though right is not specifically mentioned in Part III, it may still be regarded as a fundamental right if it can be regarded as an integral part of a named fundamental right; in other words, "it 'emanates' from a named fundamental right or its existence is 'necessary' in order to make the exercise of a named fundamental right meaningful and effective". (Maneka vs. Union of India, A.I.R. 1978 S.C. 597, Para 77).

Applying the 'emanation' theory, the Supreme Court has evolved the following unenumerated rights as, Fundamental Rights:

1. The right to privacy (as an emanation from Arts 19(1)(d) and 21).
2. The right to human dignity (as an emanation from Arts. 14, 19, 21).
3. The right to travel abroad (as an emanation from Art. 21)
4. The right against torture, cruel or unusual punishment or degrading treatment, (as an emanation from Art. 21); such as solitary confinement.
5. The right to speedy trial (emanating from Art. 21).
6. The right to free legal aid in criminal trial (from Art. 21).
7. The right against delayed execution.
8. The right against custodian violence.
The right to shelter, to doctor's assistance, the right to health.
The right to pollution free environment.
The right to education of a child until he attains the age of 14.
The freedom of Press, and right to listen, and right to know.

The role of media as a watchdog is equally important in the protection and promotion of human rights. It is however, witnessed that the media fails either to highlight the instances of human rights violations, or willfully collaborates with the state agencies to cover-up the incidents. At times, the media also plays a negative role by sensationalizing an incident (sometimes referred to as trial by media), which can have grave repercussions for both the society and the individual. Hence media must be sensitized to play an important role in securing rights of the people.

It would not be wrong to say that the violation of human rights can be controlled only when there is a firm determination for the human dignity and values. It is equally important that the Indian society at large, including the political elite, both civil and police administration, the media, civil society and intellectuals who yield influence in moulding the opinion in the society should have proper approach and attitude towards the protection of human rights.

I have certain suggestions for protection of human rights.

- Education related to Human Rights be included as a part of the general curriculum.
- Research in the field of human rights to be encouraged with financial assistance which will help to develop a modern theory for human rights useful in modern times.
- The Law Enforcement Agencies be sensitized and trained to ensure the observation of human rights standards.
• A Special Law giving statutory recognition to human rights be enacted.
• Policies and programs be implemented to ensure that people have access to their rights.
• Special care be taken for protection of rights of Women and Children.

While concluding, I would say that, these rights belong to you, they are your rights, and therefore you must be familiar with them. You must help to promote and defend them for yourself as well as for your fellow human beings."
# BIO-DATA

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Dr. ANANT NAMDEORAO KALSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office held and assumption of Office</td>
<td>Principal Secretary: Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat &amp; Secretary, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Maharashtra Branch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>B.Sc., LL.M., Ph.D. (Law), Mumbai.</td>
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</table>
| Career (in outline only) | • 1979-1981 – Advocate, District and Sessions Court, Aurangabad.  
• 1981-2003 – Joined Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat; served in various capacities.  
• 15 July 2003 – Secretary.  
• 2 March 2007 – Principal Secretary. |
| Conferences, Seminars attended/ visits abroad | CONFERENCES OF PRESIDING OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN INDIA.  
• 2000, Hyderabad  
• 2001, Chandigarh |
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**Academic Information**


**VISITING FACULTY:**

1. Mumbai University Post Graduate Law Department.
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<td>6. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Speech before the Constituent Assembly of India dated Thursday, 4th November 1948–Compilation.</td>
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22. Financial Control : Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
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24. Judicial Activism and Basic Structure Theory – Brief Overview.
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