Nation First Voting Must

On 1st October 2024, Baba Mastnath University's Faculty of Law organized a social awareness program titled *"Nation First Voting Must"* under the leadership of Dr. Rahul Goyat, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, and co-convened by Dr. Parmila, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law. This event aimed to highlight the significance of voting and the responsibility of every citizen in participating in the democratic process. The session was graced by Sh. Sanjay Kaswan, a renowned social thinker, who shared valuable insights on the importance of voting as a civic duty for the progress of the nation. The event witnessed the active participation of 61 individuals, including students and faculty members.

The program commenced with an inspiring address by Dr. Rahul Goyat, who emphasized the crucial role of voting in shaping the future of the nation. He shared statistics on voter participation in India and urged the attendees to recognize their power in electing representatives who can bring about positive change. Sh. Sanjay Kaswan, the guest speaker, further elaborated on the significance of voting as not only a right but also an ethical responsibility of every citizen, encouraging people to vote for leaders who represent their values and vision for a better nation.

Sh. Kaswan discussed the societal impact of voting, stressing that through active participation in elections, citizens contribute to building a stronger democracy. The session included engaging discussions, with students and faculty members sharing their views on the role of voting in social and political reform. Dr. Parmila, co-convener, ensured smooth coordination of the event and

actively encouraged everyone to promote the message of voting as a crucial aspect of nation-building.

The *"Nation First Voting Must"* campaign holds great importance in today's world, where democratic processes are vital for fostering a society based on equality, justice, and representation. In a country like India, with its diverse population and complex socio-political landscape, voting is one of the most direct ways citizens can influence governance and policies. The event encouraged participants to not only exercise their voting rights but also to educate others on the importance of voting in upholding democracy.

This initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16: *Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions*. SDG 16 aims to promote accountable, transparent institutions, and encourage inclusive, participatory decision-making. By advocating for the importance of voting, the event contributes to SDG 16's focus on strengthening the democratic process and ensuring the voice of the people is heard in governance. Furthermore, it aligns with SDG 10: *Reduced Inequalities*, by promoting equal participation in electoral processes for all citizens.

The event saw an enthusiastic participation of 61 attendees, which included students and faculty members. The discussions and insights shared during the lecture created a sense of civic responsibility among the attendees, motivating them to not only vote but also encourage others to do so. Many students expressed their commitment to becoming responsible citizens and actively participating in future elections.

The *"Nation First Voting Must"* social awareness campaign successfully emphasized the importance of voting as a civic duty and a cornerstone of democracy. By fostering a deeper understanding of the role of voting in shaping the nation, the event contributed to building a more informed and responsible society. It reinforced Baba Mastnath University's commitment to promoting democratic values and social awareness while contributing to global goals, particularly SDG 16 and SDG 10. Through such initiatives, the university continues to empower students to become proactive, socially conscious citizens, committed to a stronger, more inclusive nation.