



DRK's News Letter

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RECEIVING MEMENTO FROM HON'BLE JUSTICE SHRI. T.S. THAKUR, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA AT THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY

Retreat of Supreme Court Judges at NJA, Bhopal

I had received many honours, medals and appreciations in the past. But I would consider as a singular recognition and honour to be invited as a Resource Person at the three-day Retreat of the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court at the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal – and that too after my retirement from the service of Government of India 15 years back.

It was not my first visit to the NJA at Bhopal. I had been there a couple of times earlier on invitation to address the senior judges from various High Courts. On the first day at the traditional and impressive

dinner hosted by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri. Shivraj Singh Chauhan, two of the Judges were gracious enough to remind me that they were among the High Court Judges, when I addressed them a decade ago at the same Academy.

The Academy has now become more comfortable and beautiful with flowers, plants and green lawns everywhere. I was well looked after with great care and

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warm hospitality. It was a great privilege to have met the Judges over breakfast, lunch and dinner on all the three days with informal conversations on wide range of matters. It was a great learning for me not only on various important aspects of law, justice and governance, but also in humility, compassion and culture.





I was given the honour of addressing exclusively, the Chief Justice and all the Judges of the Supreme Court. I had the unique privilege of answering their queries on various matters including Forensic investigation and CBI. After my presentation and interaction with the judges, the Chief Justice of India thanked me graciously and presented me with a Memento on behalf of the Chief Justice and all the judges of the Supreme Court.

I had the privilege of having interesting informal conversations with the eminent judges including the Chief Justice of India Hon'ble Shri. T.S. Thakur, an embodiment of dignity and grace.

Among others who were invited as Resource Persons are eminent personalities from various walks of life including Shri. Ajit Doval, the National Security Advisor; Dr C

Rangarajan, Former Governor of RBI and AP State; Dr Vijay Khelkar, Economist; MS. Sunita Narain, Environmentalist; Dr K Kasturi Rangan, Space Scientist; Shri. Sainath, Journalist; Shri. HK Dua, Journalist; Prof. Abhijit Sen, Economist; Dr SY Quraishi, Former Chief Election Commissioner; Prof. Trilochand Sastri, Academician; Shri. Vinod Rai, former Comptroller and Auditor General of India and Shri. Shivshankar Menon, former Foreign Secretary and

National Security Adviser.

The Chief Minister hosted a traditional dinner with traditional music. The Chief Justice of India hosted a dinner in honour of the President of India, who inaugurated the Retreat next morning.

I could interact a lot with the MP Chief Minister Shri. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, whom I found to be a very simple, humble and dynamic person. I could gather at Indore, Ujjain and Bhopal that he enjoys wide appreciation of the public as the most accessible leader, who has done a lot for the development of Madhya Pradesh, which has emerged from a sick state into one of the fastest developing States in India.

I also had opportunity to interact with the then Chief Justice of MP High Court Hon'ble Shri. Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar and senior officers including the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Madhya Pradesh.





I also had the opportunity to spend some valuable time again with Hon'ble Shri. M.N. Venkatachalliah, former Chief Justice of India – former Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission – and former Chairperson of the Constitutional Reforms Commission. I have had the privilege of working with this great scholarly jurist, in the National Human Rights Commission as Director General on his gracious invitation. He is the founder of the National Judicial Academy at Bhopal.

Russia National Day in Delhi

On the personal invitation of my good friend of over 40 years, the Russian Ambassador Mr. Alexander M. Kadakin, I make it a point to attend some of the important functions at the Russian Embassy, whenever I

am in Delhi. I have special attachment with Moscow, where I was a diplomat in the Indian Embassy, when Shri. D.P. Dhar and Shri. IK Gujral were Ambassadors to the then USSR.

I was Head of Chancery and Head of the Consular wing of the Indian Embassy there.

Even then I had official

interaction with Ambassador Kadakin. He is an expert on India and speaks Hindi fluently. His memory is phenomenal – a very warm and friendly personality.

My daughter Kanchana was born in Moscow in a local Russian hospital as my dear wife Kala preferred it to a diplomatic hospital, as the gynecologist Dr. Georgi Georgivitch there was a very kind person.

Very many interesting experiences, including my stay at the Kremlin, coordinating arrangements during the visit of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. My first meeting with Shri. Rajiv Gandhi took place at the Kremlin.

I was the first Indian diplomat to return home from Moscow by train – the Trans-Siberian railways – the longest train journey of 6 days. More on these later.



CSI St. Pauls School - 300rd Years of Service to Education

I had the privilege of being
invited to a function –



Even granting 100 persons got
educated every year, the school
has given the gift of education
to at least 3,00,000 students –
and that too mostly from poor
and neglected sections of the
society at that time.

Among the old students,
honoured by me was Justice
Kanakarajan and the celebrated
percussionist Sivamani, who
gave a scintillating performance
for the gathering.

“அன்ன சத்திரம் ஆயிரம் வைத்தல்
ஆலயம் பதி னாயிரம் நாட்டல்
பின்ன ருள்ள தருமங்கள் யாவும்
பெயர்வி ளங்கி ஒளிர நிறுத்தல்,
அன்ன யாவினும் புண்ணியங் கோடி
ஆங்கோர் ஏழைக் கெழுத்தறி
வித்தல்”-

"anna chathiram aayiram vaithal
aalayam pathinayiram nattal
pinnayavinum punniyam kodi
aangor ezhaikku ezhutharivithal
"

- Maha Kavi Subramaniya
Bharathiyar

Meaning: More than serving a
thousand people with food,
more than building ten thousand
temples of faith, what is better is
to educate an underprivileged
person.

celebration of 300 years of
dedicated service to the cause of
education – of mostly
underprivileged children. The
school is CSI St. Pauls Higher
Secondary School, Vepery,
Chennai.

The school has produced any
number of eminent citizens
from various walks of life,
including education, science,
engineering, medicine, law,
administration and judiciary.

I quoted the famous lines from
the revolutionary national poet
Subramanya Bharathiar

“anna chathiram aayiram vaithal
aalayam pathinayiram nattal
pinnayavinum punniyam kodi
aangor ezhaikku ezhutharivithal ”
”

He says, imparting education to
a poor child is far more
meritorious than building places
of worship and other charitable
deeds.

