

ILI: A PRIME LAW LEARNING CENTRE*

The first president of the ILI, Chief Justice Shri S.R. Das, at the time

of the inauguration of the Institute on the 12th December, 1957, had said, "the main objectives of the Institute are: to study the science of law, to promote advance studies and research in law and its administration, to promote reform in our administration of law and justice and give impetus to the healthy development of law, suitable to the economic, social and other needs of the community."

Today, when we look back it can be legitimately acknowledged that the Institute has made several strides in achieving the objectives, set out for it by its creators. It has not only given impetus to legal research in the country but also influenced legal education, giving it a healthy boost.

It was in fact, as a result of the realisation of the importance of disseminating legal knowledge in different areas of law that the Institute commenced diploma courses in such vital areas as Administrative Law, Corporate Laws & Management, Environmental Law, Human Rights Law, Intellectual Property Rights Law, International Trade Laws including ADRs, Labour Law and Tax Laws.

I am very happy to learn that these diploma courses are pursued not only by the law graduates but also by graduates in other disciplines. The areas covered range from Municipal Law to International Trade Law. The law is, thus, made an effective instrument of administration, leading to social transformation and moulding the functioning of the different branches of the human activity in the country. The graduates from this Institute, work in different Departments and contribute towards the day-to-day administration in accord with the Rule of Law.

The Institute is taking an active interest in research in disparate areas in the realm of law. Its prestigious publication viz. the Journal of the Indian Law Institute (J.I.L.I.) has won several accolades. Another publication, the Annual Survey of Indian Law (A.S.I.L.), giving an yearly update of different branches of law in India, is a highly reputed periodical. I have been a regular reader of this Journal for the last 25 years. I read it from cover to cover to update myself with advancements in the field of law, over the year.

It is, therefore, no wonder that the Institute's dream of becoming a Deemed University has come true. Its vision has been brightened; its mission widened. Its achievements have been commendable. Its aspirations have, therefore, been legitimately accomplished. It has, however, miles and miles yet to go. I hope the Institute's aspirations, to be the Centre of Excellence in legal research and education, will be accomplished.

You, the products of this Institute in yet another branch of learning would justify the cause for which this Institute exists. The diplomas, conferred on you today will give you a sense of fulfilment and pride of accomplishment. I compliment you for your yearning for learning and also congratulate you for your achievement.

* Convocation Address delivered at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi on
25th January, 2005.