

My esteemed Justice Ashok Bhushan,

Shri Justice Vineet Saran,

Shri Justice Krishna Murari – all Judges of the Supreme Court,

Chief Justice Shri Govind Mathur, Allahabad High Court,

Chief Justice Shri Vikram Nath, Gujarat High Court,

Shri Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Chairman, Committee for Monitoring Construction of Musuem,

My other brother and sister Judges,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am glad to be part of the e-inauguration of the Law Musuem and Archies which perhaps is the first of its kind in the country.

*“A country that has few museums is both materially poor and spiritually poor ...museums, like theatres and libraries, are a means to freedom.”*

**– Wendy Beckett**

My father inspired me in many ways. He was very particular in taking children to various musuems whenever there was an occasion. He used to take us to the National Musuem, Dolls Musuem and Rail Musuem, Delhi.

He even took us to Prince of Wales Musuem, Mumbai and Salarjung Musuem, Hyderabad. His above habit of taking us to museums developed in me a passion for museums.

My interest in musuems got wings when Chief Justice Govind Mathur nominated me as Chairman to supervise the construction of the Judicial Museum at Allahabad. He entrusted the responsibility solely upon me, but on my request permitted me to have Shri Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta as the other Member. Subsequently, Shri Justice Siddhartha Varma was also added in the team. All three of us meticulously planned the construction of the musuem under the guidance and plan drawn by the Chief Justice.

The foundation of the musuem was laid some time in September, 2019 by none other than the present Chief Guest and all the Judges of the Surpeme Court. I am happy that it was completed in record time of about a year or more despite COVID – 19 pandemic.

Musuems are storehouses of history of traditions. In the words of Marcus Tullius Cicero –

“To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?”

The concept of Law Museums and Archives is a novel one. A law museum is necessary to make aware the newcomers in the judicial profession about the history of Law Courts and the traditions of the Courts. Such a museum, I think, lays the solid foundation of a judicial career of a person.

Initially, Allahabad High Court had a small museum confined to one room where few rare documents, such as the Original Charter of the Queen establishing the High Court alongwith some other unique and valuable documents and artefacts were being kept. It was being managed by Shri Ahed, the grand old man from the staff of the High Court.

Recently, during sesquicentennial celebrations, Justice Tarun Agarwala, the Chairperson of the celebrations collected artefacts from the State of Uttar Pradesh and displayed them in the High Court premises. A glance at those artefacts would reveal how rich a Law Museum can be with the rare artefacts of the past and the historical judgments. This made all the

more necessary to have a proper and exclusive place to keep and display all these artefacts and documents. The present museum, I think, would serve the purpose best. It will also open the doors of judiciary to the young people and attract them in the profession of law.

At one time, I had suggested of having a Law Museum and an archive on PAN India level at Lucknow in the old High Court which itself is a heritage monument and is presently lying in disuse.

I thank Chief Justice Shri Govind Mathur for taking the lead in establishing this Law Museum and Archives at Allahabad and for having constructed a separate and a huge building exclusively for the purpose. It is on account of his special interest and personal supervision that we are having this wonderful museum.

I hope and trust this museum will be profitable to all sundries.

Thank you.

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