

LAW CENTRE-II, FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
(Foundation, Growth and Development)

*Harish Chander**

Our Centre was the only Institute when it was opened to give the concept of South Campus which was only at the planning stage at the time in the year 1971. Initially, only 1st Year of the LL.B. Course of the Faculty of Law started in the month of August, 1971. We were only six teachers initially which were sufficient enough to give proper training to the students of the Centre.

The present Professor-in-Charge was the first one to join the Centre as a Lecturer in Law.

To start with Dr. A.S. Bedi was transferred from Campus Law Centre as Reader-in-Charge of Law Centre-II. He continued for eight months as Reader-in-Charge and was the Founder Reader-in-Charge of Law Centre-II. However, due to special circumstances, Dr. A.S. Bedi resigned as In-charge and came back to Campus Law Centre. We still remember his services rendered to the Centre.

Then we had the privilege, after about two and a half years, to have Prof. Upendra Baxi who was considered as a good scholar and had come from Australia and had worked with Prof. Julius Stone who was one of the most learned Jurist and was known as international authority on jurisprudence in the World. Under the leadership of Prof. U. Baxi our Centre grew in the right direction, both in teaching and research.

As stated, we were the first Institution established in South Campus implementing the plan for South Campus of the University of Delhi. We were the Institution which deserved to have a proper building at the South Campus itself. At that time renowned scholar Prof. Amrik Singh was the first Director, appointed for the South Campus. There cannot be any doubt about the scholarship and talent of Prof. Amrik Singh. However, he lived for a short duration as Director of South Campus because he was

* Professor-in-Charge, Law Centre-II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi.

honoured by being appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Patiala University, Panjab.

Then we had the honour to have Prof. K.B. Rohtagi, when he was appointed as the Director, South Campus. At that time the South Campus had two rented buildings in South Extension and the office of the Director, South Campus, Prof. K.B. Rohtagi, was also at the South Extension. He was really interested to provide proper site and building for Law Centre II at the South Campus. It is unfortunate that because of some administrative problems in the University building could not materialise for Law Centre-II at that time.

By this time our first batch of LL.B. students came out very successfully compared to the batches of other Centres of the Faculty of Law. And by this time Prof. U. Baxi became the Dean, Faculty of Law. So Mr. Baldev Kohli was appointed as the Reader-in-Charge of the Centre. Under his leadership, though there was no deterioration in the academic standards, but he being a soft person, did not move towards achieving the goal of having a building for our Centre. Though there was no proper facilities and infra-structure and building for Law Centre-II at South Campus, its teachers did their work with sincerity and keen interest.

Upto this time there was no principle of rotation for Professor-in-Charge of the Centre and so some of the In-charges went for years together and this process went on.

Then again we had the opportunity when Professor K. Ponnuswami was appointed as the Dean, Faculty of Law. It is because of his vision and proper academic understanding, he thought that even In-chargeship should be rotated like the Deanship. On this basis, Prof. Tahir Mahmood was appointed as the Professor-in-Charge. After him Prof. A.K. Koul was appointed as Professor-in-Charge of the Centre. During his tenure he tried his best to see that the building for Law Centre-II should be made and we were fortunate enough to have Prof. U. Baxi as the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University who had worked with us as a revered colleague at Law Centre-II. At that time even the foundation stone was laid down on a site at South Campus for the building of Law Centre-II. We were also informed that a grant of Rs. One crore was sanctioned by the U.G.C. for building of Law Centre-II at the South Campus. We really wonder what went wrong with the plan after Prof. U. Baxi resigned as Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Right from this time our Centre developed academically. Our students were toppers in the University and our teachers like Prof. Tahir Mahmood in Family Law, Prof. Gurdip Singh Bahri in International Law, Prof. A.K. Koul in Trade Law and Prof. Harish Chander in Criminology and

Jurisprudence, Comparative Labour Law were known not only in India but even abroad for their writings and reputation. Now we have come to know that in the site meant for our Centre, where foundation stone was laid down, has come up the Administrative Block of the South Campus. It may be mentioned that Prof. Balbir Singh provided Chairs (costing Rs. 1,50,000/-) for the building of the Centre. These chairs are still lying in the South Campus.

We have made utmost earnest efforts for procuring the building for Centre-II for training our students for LL.B., LL.M., Ph.D. and help other Centres of the Faculty also. Our teachers are renowned teachers not only in the University of Delhi but abroad also. So our Centre has maintained international standards both in academic life, teaching and research inspite of the fact that we work under stress without proper infra-structure and proper building.

Today is the age of Globlisation. In this direction, we have already started our "National Capital Law Journal" which is very popular not only in India but abroad also because it maintains international standards. As the facilities like internet, computerisation, proper auditorium etc. are essential in this age of Globlisation, we urgently need our own building for the Centre.

After having our own building for the Centre, we will be able to provide leadership to the legal fraternity not only in India but also abroad by having social scientists and good researchers who should be able to lead the international community in the field of Law and Social Sciences. Because the age is of Globlisation and we are inter-dependent on each other that is why many collaborative Institutes are coming not only in India but abroad also.

Our teachers are very dedicated, our students are really serious which come from basically South Delhi and also include students upto the level of High Commissioners who are basically living in South Delhi. In fact some of them want to study day classes at our Centre due to high standards of our Centre. Some of the students travel long distances to study in our Centre. Therefore, we deserve a proper building at the South Campus to start both day classes as well as evening classes.

We hope our goal will be achieved.

God Bless us.