

Chief Guest 2016

Dr. Justice Chandrashekhar S. Dharmadhikari (Retd.)

Gandhian Thinker

Dr. Justice C. S. Dharmadhikari (Retd.) is Khadidhari since his birth. At the age of fourteen, he took part in Quit India Movement and was responsible for various activities, which sustained and maintained Quit India Movement for further years. For his contribution to the national movement, the Government included his name in the nation's list of freedom fighters, without any request or application.

Justice Dharmadhikari was appointed as the Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in 1972 and was the Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. He retired in 1989 and was the Chairman of Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal from July, 1991 to November, 1992.

As a Judge, Justice Dharmadhikari's judgments were outstanding as he believes that the Judge should be impartial, but not impassive. Judgments delivered by him, relating to rights of women, adiwasi, tribes, children, labour, mentally challenged people, prisoners are land marks. Justice Dharmadhikari was known as a most up-right, independent and fearless Judge, with his judgment delivered during The Emergency (India) being the unique one.

As a Chairman of the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority, he has introduced a new concept and principle in the field of rehabilitation. The revolutionary concepts of 'Development without Tears', 'Pre-habilitation' and 'Pre-Afforestation'. As per this, before cutting a tree, authorities concerned are obliged to plant ten trees, before demolishing a house, authorities are obliged to construct a new house for a person who is likely to be displaced, and after the person is given a new house, where he shifts, then alone demolition of house is permitted. Under his leadership, such afforestation has taken place in Dahanu Taluka.

Justice Dharmadhikari is known as the best interpreter of Gandhian thoughts, across the country and is very popular among the youth. His ideologies on girl child and women's dignity in the community and empowerment are well appreciated and he is associated with the Maharashtra State as well as National Women's Commission.

Today, Justice Dharmadhikari is known as a backbone of Sarvodaya Movement. His thought provoking speeches provides an impetus and new insight for solving problems. He is a born orator and a deep thinker which are communicated in Hindi, Marathi and English. On India's Independence Day, Mahatma Gandhi had told the B.B.C. reporter to inform the world that Gandhi does not know English; hence from that day onward Justice Dharmadhikari decided normally not to speak in English.

Justice C. S. Dharmadhikari is associated with various educational, cultural and social organisations. To list a few, he is currently the

- President of Abhyankar Smarak Trust, Nagpur; Maharashtra State Federation of Goshalas and Panjarpol, Kushtarog Niwaran Samiti, Shantivan
- Vice President of Shiksha Mandal Wardha and Jabalpur and Patron of the International Leprosy Union and Global School Foundation, Singapore
- Chairman of Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha; Sarvodaya Ashram, Nagpur; Gandhi Reserch Foundation, Jalgaon and Member of Board of Advisors, Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya;

Advisory Board, Sane Guruji Rashtriya Smarak; Advisory Committee, Campaign Against Child Labour; Advisory Board, Sevagram Asharam, Wardha

- Trustee of Kushtarog Niwaran Samiti, Shantiwan; Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH) Gadchiroli, Jannalal Bajaj Foundation, Geeta Pratisthan, Fuiji Guruji Memorial Trust and Gandhi Labour Foundation, Puri
- Chairman, Council of Advisors, Jannalal Bajaj Foundation and Awards and Ladies' Wing of Indian Merchants' Chamber Jankidevi Bajaj Award.
- Actively connected with the Maharashtra Vyassan Mukti Movement, Prayas, Mahila Shantisena, etc.

Justice Dharmadhikari is majorly associated with the rural development organizations, which are working in the field of health, micro water shed development, agriculture, village industries, adiwasi welfare, women welfare, pollution awareness, afforestation and youth development, etc.

Justice Dharmadhikari's contributions and work have been recognized and honored by conferring upon him numerous awards, some of which are Padma-Bhushan by the President of India, Gopal Krishna Gokhale Award, Gandhi Jan Award, Gosewa Ratna Puraskar, Rashtra Gaurav Puraskar (World Peace Movement Trust), Justice Ranade Samaj Seva Puraskar. In recognition of his selfless services to humanity and country and above all his dedication to cause of justice, peace and progress, Justice Dharmadhikari was awarded Michael John Gold Medal by Tata Worker's Union, Jamshedpur. In 2007, describing him as Eminent Jurist, Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur conferred on him Honoris Causa Degree of Doctor of Laws.

Many authors have dedicated their books to him, in recognition of his social service and novel humanitarian contribution.

At the age of 88, Dr. Justice C. S. Dharmadhikari (Retd.) is proactive and continues to spread his work and wisdom through the socio-economic, educational, Gandhian and Sarvodaya activities.

