

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
HONOURABLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
ON THE LECTURE SERIES OF JURIS/LEGAL EXL'83
- 28.03.2013 – 5.00 P.M. –**

My brothers Mr. Justice V. Dhanapalan and Mr. Justice S. Manikumar, Mrs. Justice Prabha Sridevan, Chairperson, IPAB, my esteemed brother and sister Judges, Mr. T.K. Viswanathan, Secretary General, Lok Sabha, Mr. R. Muthukumaraswamy, Senior Advocate and President, Madras Bar Association, senior advocates, alumni of Madras Law College 1980 – 1983, ladies and gentlemen,

I thank the Committee of Hosts for having invited me to this august gathering.

I must say that the alumni here is the most resourceful alumni for most of the prominent names here belong to this alumni. Mrs. Justice Prabha Sridevan, Mr. Justice V. Dhanapalan, Mr. Justice S. Manikumar, Mr. Justice R. Subbiah and Mr. Justice C.S. Karnan. When your teacher is Mr. T.K. Viswanathan, we cannot expect less!! And I thank him for raising such a talented team and the society owes its gratitude to you.

With the avowed objective of giving back to the society what it gave to you, you created a trust JURIS / EXL 83. I am happy to note that the objects of the Trust include holding lectures and seminars on legal issues, assisting distressed families of members, granting scholarships to deserving law students and promoting the cause of law in general.

In these times of dwindling societal values, it is heartening to note that you are assisting the family members of your classmates. True to the adage, 'a friend in need is a friend indeed', you are helping the family members and may your tribe increase.

I was not fortunate enough to attend your Lecture series and I am told that the Lecture on 'Respect' delivered by Mr.Gopalakrishna Gandhi, former Governor of West Bengal, is still respected in the corridors of the Court.

Coming to the today's Lecture 'Agenda for digital civilization – Role of law in the new millennium', the digital revolution has both good and bad sides – in fact more good than bad. *Today, with the advancement of science and*

technology, we are moving to a paperless world where the entire record would be in the digital form. The traditional old civilizations have given way to a new concept which will be known as digital civilization. With the advent of science and technology, there is every possibility of it being misused and where the rule of law comes into picture. Gone are the days when we have to be physically present everywhere, be it booking offices in railways, payment of bills in government utilities, in Teller counters in banks or in shops paying bills. Now, Cards – with different names – credit cards, debit cards, smart cards and e-cards – have replaced humans and we swipe and trade. Some web sites offer e-aarthis also. My only problem is remembering the passwords for each card or each account I hold. Some days I long to revert to age old system of manual interaction. But, we must admit, that e-system is more convenient, less time consuming and highly accurate. The flip side is impersonators have a field day in this system. Though the technology comes up with several security features like passwords, PIN, OTP, 128 bit encryption etc. the charlatans find ways to beat the system and we hear the words, phishing, spoofing, vishing, skimming etc. This is where the role of law

acquires importance and the legislations like Cyber Act etc. help the concerned to assert or protect their rights. As the jurists and legal pundits, you have a responsible role to play in this. I hope to hear more on this from your teacher Mr.Viswanathan.

I once again thank the Committee of Hosts for having invited me to this Lecture.
