IILS: The pride of North Bengal By Shamidip Dutta

IILS was a man's dream when he was still a law student. Gradually, he pursued the dream of his institution,so, this institution is not just a business for him, but a temple. Joyjit Choudhury is a firm believer in constant enhancement and advancement in the education sector.

Why did you venture into this business?

Joyjit Chowdhury - I have never seen this institution as a business. I have reared this dream since my post-graduation days. After finishing the North Bengal University in 1994 with a post-graduation degree, I started practising law in Calcutta High court. Advocate Subodh Chandra was a Barrister that time. Students used to come to court directly from college that time. I found an enormous capability in them. I had decided to open a Law School in North Bengal, as it is my birth place. I started this school gradually with my savings. Besides, I also sold my property in Hakimpara to make my dream come true. You could say that I spent everything behind this institution, be it my money, my time or my hard-work. I am glad that my efforts didn't go in vain.

Do you have any family experience in this business?

Answer- In the 80's, the law specialists came to a consensus that at least one law school is mandatory in every state. Under that norm, one Law school was established in Kolkata. However, I knew that there is a great scope for a good law institution in North Bengal. From the very beginning I had a wish, to establish a Law school for Law students of North Bengal besides students from Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal. So, I dedicated myself towards this institution.

All of my family members are service professionals and are not into any business. My grandfather used to tell every time that I will be an Advocate. And that is what happened. During advocacy days, I learned administrative works observing the administrative works of Siliguri Regulated Market, many government organisations including the Municipality. My parents, brother, wife all gave me a lot of courage and unwavering support to establish this institution and accomplish this noble mission.

Do see any difference in the scenario today when you compare it with the time when you started the institution?

Answer - I cannot find much difference in the situation. Actually, I believe that change is a continuous process. I emphasized on modern ways of education, online projects and others. The Indian Institute of Legal Studies imparts education to its students keeping in mind the latest technological

advancements.Our aim is to go beyond the conventional teaching methods, so we do not follow any one. Rather, we are followed by others.

Why did you choose North Bengal for this institution?

Answer- I have never considered North Bengal as an underprivileged area. After getting an identity from the Gold Cup, Siliguri never turned back. In fact, Siliguri is developed on many fronts. I want everybody to know more about Siliguri. My institution is also a small initiative in this direction.

Do you have any plans to spread your business in other parts of the state or in any other state?

Answer – Now, my main aim is to develop a SAARC Study and Research Centre. There, the students of SAARC countries will get the facility to research on Contemporary Global Acknowledgement. I do not have any other aim regarding opening new branches of this institution inside or outside the state.

Do you have any plan to start any other business besides this one?

Answer - I am attached with this Law Business, hence I do not have any plan to start any other business. I won't venture into anything that I am not prepared for. Law is my niche and hence, this business suits me the most.

How do you see the infrastructure of your institution? Do you believe there is an scope for modernization?

Answer- I have already said that I believe in evolution. One has to match step with the times. I believe in constantly upgrading the facility and infrastructure of my institution so that my students have an edge over other law students. Self-satisfaction makes one static and being static leads you to nothing but doom.