

PRESS RELEASE

It is extremely unfortunate that an item of fake news has been made viral on social media at the instance of a lawyer practicing in Orissa High Court by publishing a photograph and making wholly scurrilous and false statements without knowing the real facts. The photograph shows the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa speaking to a person at the head of a table with four other persons sitting in a semi circle. The person sitting at the head of the table is Shri Manoj Bhimani, the Managing Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospital. The other persons are three doctors of the said heart hospital apart from Mr. V.K. Pandian. The date on which the photograph was taken was 12th March, 2022 at the Satya Sai Seba Organisation, Bhubaneswar. The occasion was the inauguration of a 3 days Free Mega Heart Camp conducted by the Sathya Sai Heart Hospital of which Shri Bhimani is the head, where Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.R. Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of India was invited as the Chief Guest and Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar, the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court was invited as the Guest of Honour and Mr. V.K. Pandian, the 5T Secretary, Government of Odisha was also invited as the Mega Heart Camp was in association with the Government of Odisha. The photograph is taken at a time when the Guests were awaiting the arrival Justice M.R. Shah from Puri. This was therefore not at all a 'closed door meeting' or a 'private meeting' between the Chief Justice and Mr. Pandian as has been projected. In fact it was not a meeting at all. It was a public function by a charitable organization providing free treatment to thousands of poor children of Odisha suffering from heart ailments. A copy of the invitation card is enclosed.

After this event Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.R. Shah visited the High Court of Orissa and interacted with the Judges of the High Court.

It is extremely unfortunate that a sinister attempt has been made to deliberately malign not only the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court but the institution of the judiciary as a whole. Further, certain section of the media has unfortunately carried the news item making negative comments without verifying the above facts. These facts could have easily been got verified both from the organization which conducted the programme and also from the Registrar General of the High Court before publication of such news item.

