

DRI UTKRISHT SEVA SAMMAN, 2018



Shri M.L. Wadhawan belongs to the 1956 batch of IRS. He started his career in January 1957 as an Indian Custom Service Officer. In his career spanning for more than 3 decades he served the department in various capacities. Shri Wadhawan was the longest serving Director General of DRI. He retired as the Additional Secretary. He was the Founding Director General of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau in December 1985, prior to which he was serving as Member, CBEC. After his retirement he also worked as a Member of the Task Force on internal security constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and got the commendation from the then Home Minister of India for his dedication and devotion.

On the anti-smuggling side, it is difficult to find a match for Shri M. L. Wadhawan, when it comes to consistency in performance. He held many challenging posts, including that of DG,DRI, which he held for a record period of above six years during the eighties, and that of Collector of Customs (Preventive) Mumbai, during one of the most turbulent periods, when smuggling was at its peak and preventive detention law was introduced for the first time in 1975. He is credited with detection of some of the biggest cases of smuggling during his tenures in DRI and preventive formations. He became synonymous with excellence in preventive work. His capabilities were recognized internationally also and he was elected as Chairman, Drug Sub Committee of Interpol. He was also invited by the Government of Mauritius for a specific assignment related to drug smuggling. He remained unflappable even in the most difficult situations, always principled and uncompromising in his integrity.

Shri Wadhawan served the DRI in various capacities. First he served DRI as Assistant Director during 1965. Later on he was Deputy Director Intelligence, Headquarters during 1972 to 1975. Finally he led the organization as DGRI during 1979-1985.

Shri Wadhawan has also served as the First Director, Emergency Risk Insurance Scheme under the Department of Insurance. He created the Directorate from scratch and gave it a pan India dimension. He was considered a master of the subject and also wrote a manual on the scheme. His contribution at that point of time was appreciated by the Public Accounts Committee and he was appreciated for the services he rendered in administrating the Emergency Risk Insurance Acts and Schemes with great ability and devotion to duty.

DRI feels privileged in honoring Shri M.L. Wadhawan the first “DRI Utkrisht Seva Samman, 2018”.