

Farewell Speech of Mr. Rakesh Gupta, Chairman, Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Council, Chandigarh, on the eve of retirement of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Kumar Garg, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Mohunta, Acting Chief Justice,
Hon'ble Judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court,
Former Chief Judges and Judges of High Court,
Advocates-General of Punjab and Haryana
Senior Advocates

My colleagues and distinguished guests,

Nearly seven years ago, when Mr. Justice Rakesh Kumar Garg was elevated to the Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, no one could really say His Lordship would be so talked about in the years to come. Some were critical of His Lordship's firmness in the Courtroom, others were his staunch admirers. But no one can really say His Lordship was not what a judge is expected to be.

His Lordship's forth-rightness and straight-forward-ness were his forte.

Mr Justice Garg never believed in pretensions and was the same inside and outside the courtroom. Rather, His Lordship never allowed a line to be drawn between the Bench and the Bar. So many times during functions, His Lordship could be seen sitting with his old colleagues and associates, rather than with Hon'ble Judges.

Perhaps, His Lordship frankness stems from his agricultural background. Mr. Justice Garg was born in Bhucho Mandi township of Bathinda district and belongs to a progressive agriculturist family. His Lordship, in fact, took keen interest in agriculture activities and sports in his early school days. Even now, His Lordship so often quips that he will go back to farming.

His Lordship was brilliant In studies got himself enrolled with Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana in January 1976.

His Lordship initially started practice at Bathinda district. Having keen interest in the welfare of advocates, he contested Bathinda Bar Association elections in 1981-82; and his fame saw him emerge victorious.

His popularity as a lawyer did not take much time to spread among advocates and judicial officer, because of his behaviour and accommodating nature, soon he shifted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court; and his aptitude in legal profession resulted in his appointment on government panels.

His popularity only increased over the years; and His Lordship was elected as Vice-President of the Punjab and Haryana Bar Association in 1999-2000. Since then, he never looked back and climbed the ladder of success, rung by rung, to reach new heights of professional magnificence.

His Lordship remained cooperative and dispensed justice to the public to the best of his ability.

During his tenure, His Lordship delivered very important and historical judgments, which could be referred to by lawyers and the litigants in the years to come.

On the eve of his retirement, I on behalf of the Bar Council of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh extends best wishes to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Kumar Garg.

Thanking You

Sd/-
(Rakesh Gupta)
Chairman