

Farewell Reference Speech

of

Mr. Rakesh Gupta

Chairman, Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Council,

Chandigarh

On the transfer of

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Chief Justice,

Punjab and Haryana High Court

to High Court of Madras

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Chief Justice,
Hon'ble Judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court,
Advocate Generals for States of Punjab and Haryana,
Senior Advocates,
My colleagues, and distinguished guests,

When His Lordship was elevated as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in June last year, our colleagues in other High Courts told us, that the scales of justice were clearly balanced in favour of judicial and administrative reforms.

In just about 13 months, the full import of their assertion dawned not just on the legal fraternity, but also the litigating public.

We now realized that the Hon'ble Chief Justice has done more for this High Court and the subordinate judiciary, than could have been done in years and years to come.

From logging on to advance program such as e-filing of cases, to new inquiry system, for automatically informing the advocates the status of their cases through short message service on their mobile phones, Chief Justice virtually rebooted the entire system to make it techno-effective. Thus,

His lordship brought justice closer to the litigants, and also made things all the more convenient for the lawyers, Litigants and the Judges.

During his brief stay as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, His lordship enhanced the image of judiciary by delivering historical judgments. His contribution towards the development of Law will be remembered for long, undoubtedly. Initiatives by His lordship on the judicial side saw the pulling down of shutters of opening liquor vends along the highways and effective checks on drug trafficking. His lordship not only promoted alternative means of dispute redressal, but also redesigned the roster to come out with first to file, first to be disposed of system for deciding old cases.

His lordship streamlined the justice delivery system and allowed it to run like a well-oiled machine. As a part of the process, he applied brakes to the indiscriminate use of public interest litigation as a weapon by the warring sides to emerge victorious in personal battles on the legal turf.

His lordship framed vital guiding principle by way of a judicial pronouncement on entertaining personal interest litigations, under the garb of Public Interest Litigations.

His efforts to make the justice delivery system paperless

and bring down the pendency of cases by recommending names for elevation were just some of the highlights of his short, but effective tenure as the Chief Justice.

Always sensitive towards the needs of the lawyers, the Judges and the litigants, some of the measures adopted by him will show his efficacy in times to come.

Acting on the administrative side, his lordship acceded to the demand of Bar Council as well as lawyers from Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh for observing second and fourth Saturday of every month as holiday in the subordinate Courts.

This was not all.

The High Court, under his effectual directions, worked tirelessly and simultaneously on several fronts to enhance efficiency; and to keep pace with the changing trends and technology.

His lordship had many aces up his sleeve, which he was in the process of pulling out. But some of his recent initiatives are all set to yield dividends in the near future.

The plans, the proposals and schemes include, paperless courts, e-filing for all type of cases, arbitration centre, visitor centre, multi-level parking lot, food court,

additional administrative area, new judges library and SMS acknowledgement and intimation on filing, objection and copies of judgments.

His lordship showed keen interest in the welfare of the advocates.

His lordship also brought the Bench and the Bar on the same platform for removing the hitches affecting the system; and improving the Bench-Bar relations.

On his transfer, I being the Chairman of Bar Council on behalf of all the advocates of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh with pain and heavy heart express good wishes to his Lordship.

We are sure that his legal and Administrative acumen will bring about competence and good organization there also
Again we collectively articulate our best wishes to him. Thank you very much.