

CONVOCATION ADDRESS OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIJENDER JAIN, CHIEF JUSTICE, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT, CHANDIGARH OF KHALSA COLLEGE, AMRITSAR ON 23.03.2008.

I deem it a privilege to be amongst you all on this occasion of this 102nd Convocation of the College. I am especially happy celebrating this occasion with the younger generation -the students who are the future of our country. Each of you would always remember this day because the degrees you are going to receive now would remind you the hard work you have put in to excel in the areas of your interest and also the bond you have developed with this institution.

Located in this region, the College enjoys a place of pride due to its historically important links. This College has shaped the thinking and outlook of generations of its students. Its alumni have distinguished themselves on positions of eminence and importance. The College has got unique distinction of housing, whose foundation stone was laid on 5th March, 1892 and started

towards the close of 19th Century with the objectives of spreading western education among the Sikhs and promoting the study of Sikh literature. Since the inception, the College has played multifarious role, namely, in the fields of Sikh educational movement among the Sikhs, sports, providing recruits in the higher echelons of the services, both civil and military and so on. Though the college was started to serve as backbone of the British rule in India, it did not fail to play its role in India's freedom struggle. Khalsa College is a composite institution with six wings consisting of the faculties of Agriculture, Commerce and Business Administration, Computer Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Natural Science and Physiotherapy.

I trust that the knowledge and wisdom which the College has bestowed on you will enable you to face the rigours of life and lead you to success. You have to dedicate yourselves to the best traditions of discipline, character building and national integration. The degrees that you have acquired is not only a

licence for employment but is a testimony of your capacity to think independently and take initiatives in various fields of activities.

In respect of marks and division, you may have secured, let me quote what noted historian Arnold Toynbee once said: ***“It is both absurd and unjust to classify a person, once for all, as being first class or third class when he is only twenty two years old. There are slow-growers who blossom late in life and conversely there are brilliant starters who fail to fulfill their early promise.”***

Toynbee goes on to give the example of Winston Churchill who was apparently backward as a child but brilliant as a young man, a failure once again in middle age to become an admittedly great man in his sixties. We have the examples of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru whose academic records in school and college were none too brilliant and gave an indication of the things and events that followed which put them on not only on national arena but on international arena.

This is not only the test. Many appraisals and re-

appraisals await you in life which you will have to face with the same if not greater seriousness. You are bound to succeed in those appraisals. Work hard, honesty and have faith in yourself. Believe it and achieve it.

The aim of education is to make a person fit to face the basic challenges of life. India that consists of diverse regions, talking different languages, following different religions, customs and traditions were welded together into a Nation by Mahatma Gandhi. The concept of Indian nationalism immediately took root and grew into a mighty movement for freedom and independence. This task was achieved by the educated leaders from the four corners of India who had imbibed the spirit of John Stuart Mill and the democratic traditions of the British. In inculcating the spirit of nationalism, democracy and freedom, noble service was rendered by the Universities. Just, as during the freedom movement, every university student was a nationalist at heart (whether he was active in the movement or not), even so every college student today must

be an integrationist at heart, whatever be his or her field.

When we receive knowledge that alone cannot make us wanted. To it is added your personality, character, dedication, commitment and interest in what you do. Knowledge not only brings maturity but also makes you humble and confident. I hope you have achieved that too.

Education adding to maturity to our knowledge shall also add ethical values in us. If you have already gained it in this institution, then you are a humble seeker of knowledge. If you are humble and ready to seek knowledge from whichever source it comes to you (whether from elder or younger) you will for possessing such qualities enjoy your life always. Being humble does not mean non assertive. Your in-depth knowledge in the subject would automatically make you assertive and confident provided you believe in yourself first.

Education is power. It is also known as freedom. It is also called as the technique of transmitting civilization by

enlightening understanding and enriching the character. If your education has made it possible for you to think for yourself on the problems which face you and which face the country, your college has done very well of you. If not you can still perceive it, as it is part of life's lessons. It is the day to celebrate for having the opportunity of acquiring knowledge and experience its bliss as in India majority of our populace are uneducated due to lack of economic stability and of opportunity. Every added degree we seek from the college shall add responsibility on us to contribute more to the nation and help the less privileged.

One of the aims of a College is to make better citizens. Virtues like tolerance, discipline, law abidance and punctuality, must be cultivated right from now. Your education should inspire you for honour of the motherland and humanism.

You should try to engage yourself in economic and social development which narrows down disparities and gradually assists society in raising its standards of behaviour and morality.

For any educational course, its value lives in its structure and its contents. An educational institution that instills yearning for knowledge as well as imparts practical approach for day to day life is the best college. I am sure those recipients who will be given degrees will achieve this milestone and will be well-equipped to respond to the challenges of the present and future.

I wish all the recipients of the degrees to take a pledge to maintain high standards of independence in judgment in dealing with the issues they confront in their jobs.

I wish you all the best in future.

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