

SPEECH OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIJENDER JAIN, CHIEF JUSTICE, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT, CHANDIGARH ON 21.03.2008 AT MATA GUJRI COLLEGE, FATEHGARH SAHIB.

I am immensely pleased to be here today, in the institution which has completed more than half a century of its existence and which was founded in recognition of the supreme sacrifice of Mata Gujri ji, revered mother of tenth Guru Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji. I am glad to notice that the faculty and the staff here are working with the same missionary zeal and enthusiasm which permeated the life of our tenth Guru.

I will come to other aspects later on, let me congratulate you on your acquiring the degrees which have been distributed to you. Without doubt, it is a great day for all of you, who have been handed over the degrees but let me sound a note of caution here. Please do not feel discouraged by what I am going to tell you just now. I am not here to discourage you, but as one who has traversed the path, which you will

be following hereinafter wish to caution you. Let me tell you that acquisition of the degree is not the end of the matter. In fact, it is the beginning of something new. You have a whole life before you and sky is the limit. All of you would choose one vocation or the other. Some of you would be Judges, others doctors, administrators and so on and so forth. However, what I want to impress upon you is that life is a great struggle; it is a battle which has to be fought and won. Even if you have excelled in the academics, do not rest on your oars but be prepared and gear yourself up for the forthcoming challenges.

The Annual Convocation, which you are attending today, is not an empty ritual but is an occasion to guide you as to what lies ahead. In days of yore in Gurukuls, Gurus used to teach their students and disciples and when the parting time came, Gurus used to give them final sermons which contained the essential teachings which the students used to keep in mind for the future. The present occasion is one such.

As a Judge, who has been in public life, for more than 40 years, I can tell you from my experience that there is one virtue which you should always keep in mind and that is, 'integrity and uprightness'. If you have integrity, nothing else matters and if you do not have integrity nothing else matters. Always remember one thing that whatever you do is going to be public one day or the other. You may enter a cave and do something in pitch darkness but let me tell you, that your own experience will tell you one day that whatever you had done, created a reaction and is not a secret.

We are a big democracy and are governed by rule of law. We are on the threshold of a revolution. With the advancement in the field of information technology, the world has become a small village. You must have seen on the television a film star telling us everyday that the life now is not dependent upon passport but on 'password'. Life has become very fast and transparency is the watchword to follow. Conduct yourself in such a manner that your life is an open book for others as it was in the

case of Mahatma Gandhi, and do what righteousness dictates you. Follow just these two of my simple requests and I can assure you that at the end of the day, you would feel that you led a complete life. You will not regret as to what you had done in your life.

I do not want to give you long sermons, I would end just by repeating what the tenth Guru prayed when he said:-

“O Lord of Power... Please grant me the boon that I may not deviate from righteousness and remain enthusiastic to do what is good for the humanity.”

Jai Hind.....