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CONVOCATION ADDRESS OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIJENDER JAIN, CHIEF JUSTICE, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT, CHANDIGARH ON THE 8TH CONVOCATION OF PUNJAB POLICE ACADEMY, PHILLAUR ON 22.12.2007.

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I feel privileged in participating on the convocation day of Punjab Police Academy, Phillaur. Punjab Police Academy has got unique distinction of housing the Academy in a Fort, which was built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh as a counter-measure to British occupation of the Ludhiana Fort. The first police training school in this part of the country was set up in the historic fort at Phillaur on 9.9.1891 with Mr. J.M.Bishop as its first Principal. It was raised to the status of the college in the year 1967. It is one of those police academy which is affiliated with Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar in 1996. This Academy caters to the training facilities of not only Punjab State but also of 12 other Indian States and Union Territories as much as central police organizations.

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I have been told that the governments of Maldives, Afgthanistan, Palestine etc. sent their police personnel for training in Punjab Police Academy. The Academy also has partnerships with British and Ethiopian Police Organisation in the field of research and specialized training. The Academy is the first Police Training Institution in the country which has started imparting education by awarding degrees of M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D. in the discipline of Police Administration, which is much appreciated at the national and international level.

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be associated with the convocation of the Punjab Police Academy, Phillaur as it is first Police Training Institute in Asia, which is affiliated to the University for instructions of M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D. in Police Administration.

The Police Training Institute at Phillaur became first institution in India where a department of Social Science was set up in 1992, which became instrumental in establishing new

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academic features in the Academy. The imparting of police training and all round higher education to police personnel ensures a meaningful base for nurturing a radiant outlook into a disciplined force. The initial training, promotional training and specialized training courses provides well-groomed police officers.

In a developing country like ours, and the system of administration that we have inherited, assumes greater responsibility on the persons in uniform as they have not only to perform the onerous task of maintaining law and order, i.e., policing, but often are used for purposes which are other than policing. It is a scientific temper based on erudite knowledge coupled with moral convictions which makes a police officer independent to do his duty in accordance with spirit of the Constitution rather than the whims and fancies of the people in power who would like to use police for their partisan ends.

I am confident that imparting of education in police administration will also help the young officers to manage the

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posts in a competent manner and would cater to building a highly advanced knowledge based society as much as addressing the paradoxes, inequities and the challenges which are faced by common people. Their adequate response by the police force is the need of the time and I am happy to note that Punjab Police Academy, Phillaur is imparting knowledge and skills which are not only relevant in enriching the police officers but will be useful in safeguarding the principles of justice in its own working in particular and the society at large.

For any educational course, its value lives in its structure and its contents. A course that instills learning for knowledge its own sake as well as imparts practical application in day to day life is the best. 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.

The Punjab Police Academy has got unique record in imparting training and education and I am sure that they will

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continue to do so. The experience which they have garnered will not only bring benefit to them individually but will also help the police force in general and public in particular.

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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