

ADDRESS BY HMJ RAJAN GUPTA
Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court & Member, BOG, CJA

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishna Murari, Chief Justice, High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Mrs. Justice Daya Chaudhary, Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana and the President, Board of Governors, Chandigarh Judicial Academy, my esteemed sister and brother Judges, Sh. Balram Gupta, Director (Academics), Mrs. Shalini Singh Nagpal, Director (Administration), Chandigarh Judicial Academy, the faculty, judicial officers, Trainee Judicial officers, their parents, distinguished dignitaries, members of the press, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure to be here on the occasion of today's induction programme. Sixty judicial officers have been selected from Punjab Civil Services (Judicial Branch) and they would be undergoing one year training at the Academy.

First of all let me congratulate you all for joining judicial service. You would be undergoing training in this Judicial Academy which is having state of the art facilities.

With the ever increasing public awareness, economic growth and technological advancement, litigation is also on the rise and it is important that judges in order to work efficiently should continuously keep on updating their knowledge and in this context training plays an important role because learning is a continuous process.

Sharing of knowledge is also gaining of knowledge and judicial education through training forms a very essential part of judicial career for enhancing the skills as a judicial officer. The training which you would be undergoing will be helpful in improving your efficiency and productivity and the same would give you a chance to develop judicial acumen. It would provide you an opportunity to enhance your rationality in interpretation and application of laws.

Since you are to embark upon a new journey of your judicial career, therefore, you should always keep in mind that a judicial officer has to lead a disciplined life, has to observe punctuality and above all integrity. While holding court you should also be courteous to the litigants, witnesses and the members of the bar.

You will often hear from people that a Judge is next to God. I may clarify here that a judge like all others working in their respective fields performs his duties to best of his ability. If the police officer, with whom the citizen comes in contact for the first time, does his job well, he can also give justice to the citizens. Same is true of the officers of the civil administration. Only difference is that in case the citizen has to ultimately knock at the doors of the court, his grievance is dealt with by a legally trained mind. This in fact, is last ray of hope, that is why the onerous duty, the Judge has to perform. While performing this duty,

humility should be the hallmark of the officer and not a bureaucratic bent of the mind.

Another important aspect is that you should keep on updating yourself with the latest development in law and avoid delay in disposal of cases. Your decisions should reflect judiciousness, fairness, equality and compassion.

I hope your training at the Chandigarh Judicial Academy would be of immense help to all of you. You would get a chance to interact with new thoughts, views, ideas and suggestions which would be discussed and exchanged during the course of your training.

Last but not the least, I am sanguine that under the Leadership of Hon'ble the Chief Justice Krishna Murari, who is President and Patron-in-Chief of the Academy, enthusiasm of the administrative and academic wings shall be enhanced as the academy now comes into operation after a little lull for some time. Thus, wherever necessary, innovative changes shall be made to revitalize the Academy even by revamping the systems which may have become redundant or outdated.