

Speech delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Manoj Kumar Mukerji, Chief Justice on the occasion of oath taking ceremony on 12.11.1991

His Excellency Mr. B. Satya Narayan Reddy, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Brother Judges, Mr. V.K.S. Chaudhary, Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Murli Dhar, President, Bar Association, High Court, Allahabad, (Mr. S.C. Misra, Secretary Awadh Bar Association, High Court, Lucknow Bench, Lucknow), distinguished guests, learned Members of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I deem it a great privilege to be here in the midst of all of you, as one who has been entrusted with the solemn duty of administering justice with the aid and assistance of the learned brothers in the Bench and the members of the Bar.

This Court with its resplendent heritage and glorious tradition has been contributing immensely in the making of law, which serves humanity and it has been greatly benefited by its close association with such luminaries as Pt. Moti Lal Nehru and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. This Court is a 'SANGAM' of knowledge, devotion to the cause of justice and undaunted and untiring effort to attain the truth of life. The history of Indian Judiciary owes a great deal to the history of this Court. In the formative years of our post independence judiciary, when statutes were being enacted and interpreted to suit the demands of a newly liberalised society, this court played a very important role in enunciating the law in its correct prospective.

The rule of law is now under severe stress and strain and the judiciary in India is passing through turbulent days of controversy and complications. Justice, however, cannot be relegated to the back ground merely because in different walks of life discipline, perseverance and sense of respect for the civilized norm are disappearing. We have to restore life to its rightful place with all its pristine glory. As in all civilized nations, so in India, it is through the process of law that we can bring back honour and dignity for human life. Over the decades social problems of varied dimensions have been brought to the law Courts for solution and it is unlikely that the number of such cases would decline in future. As a result pending cases have achieved an alarming proportion which has added to the duties and responsibilities of the Courts. Subject to limitation of human ability, Judges are now being asked to dispose

of the pending proceedings with utmost dispatch. The task is obviously arduous and very pressing too. I have no hesitation to say, however, that with the help and assistance of the members of the Bar, myself and my learned brothers would be able to dispose of, devoting out time and energy, as many cases as possible. I do not, for a moment, suggest that it would be possible to get rid of entire backlog of cases by a magical wand. But I can say with confidence that concerted, sincere and combined effort of Bench and the Bar can deliver Justice in true sense of the term. 'Social Justice' is a solemn promise which we have made ourselves in the Preamble of our Constitution which is a glittering human epic of law, life and liberty: and the Preamble, being the signature tune of the Constitution must not ever be ignored. We are bound to provide social justice to the people of this Country and with that end in view we must reach the poorest of poor, no matter how long the distance between him and the Court is. Justice should not only be done but must appear to have been done under all circumstances through the process of law, which I honestly believe is by the people, of the people and for the people.

Before I conclude, I express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the warm reception that has been accorded to me and the kind words that have been spoken about me.