

Hon'ble retired Chief Justices and their spouses, Hon'ble retired Judges and their spouses, my colleagues and their spouses, Advocate General Haryana and Advocate General Punjab, members of the Bar Association, Judicial Officers, Employees of the High Court, ladies and gentlemen.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my warmest greetings to all of you.

First of all I would like to convey my gratitude and pay homage to our great national leaders, martyrs, freedom fighters and all those who participated in our long freedom struggle. It is because of their supreme sacrifices that we won freedom from the colonial rule to emerge as citizens of the world's largest democracy.

I would also like to convey a special word of gratitude to the brave personnel of the armed forces and paramilitary forces who during conditions of freezing cold, scorching heat and torrential rains guard our frontiers with utmost dedication and sincerity.

Independence Day celebrations provide us good opportunity to remind ourselves what our priorities should

be. It is time not only for celebrations but also for introspection.

Our national leaders and the freedom fighters fought not just for political freedom but also for socio-economic justice. Their resolve was translated by the Framers of the Constitution into various provisions of the Constitution particularly the Preamble and the Directive Principles of State Policy. We have to ensure that our resolve to secure and promote socio-economic justice is faithfully, fruitfully and effectively carried out.

The judiciary is the most significant wing of the Constitutional system for fulfilling the mandate of the constitution. Judicial interventions have been the instruments of distributive justice in the past. I am sure the judiciary will continue to do so in the future also.

The increased recourse to the Courts by the people for redressal of their grievances is a rich tribute to the Justice delivery system as convincing manifestation of the common man's faith in the administration of Justice. But at the same time inordinate delay in disposal of cases is a matter of serious concern. Every citizen of this country has a right to speedy and inexpensive justice. He is waiting with expectation but human hope has its limits and waiting

endlessly is not possible in the current life style. We the members of the legal fraternity have to meet the challenge and have to respond positively and quickly.

It is our earnest endeavour to eradicate the arrears but the menace of mounting arrears of court cases cannot be eradicated without the full and unstinted cooperation of all the stakeholders/participators of justice delivery system-judges, members of the bar, court employees and also the litigants and I solicit the same.

I am happy to inform you that all the Judges here are making earnest efforts to bring down the pendency of the cases. As against 62599 cases filed in the High Court from January to July 2010, 63292 cases have been disposed of, bringing down the pendency. Still more strenuous efforts will be made to reduce the pendency of the cases. The co-operation of the Bar has always been there and I have no doubt that the Bar of Punjab and Haryana will continue to help the Judiciary in delivering justice.

The Father of the Nation once said: "Every tear should be wiped off every eye". Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of the country, less than a month before independence said: "There will be no complete freedom as long as there is starvation, hunger, lack of

clothing, lack of necessities of life and lack of opportunity of growth for every single human being, man, woman and child in the country.”

We have many achievements to our credit but there are several tasks to be completed and several challenges to be addressed. In a gradually liberalizing and globalizing economy we have also to guard against the widening of socio-economic inequalities and have to ensure that the benefits of development also reach the poorest of the poor.

It is time for us all to take a pledge on this occasion that all out efforts to root out social evils from the Society would be made. This would be our real and true Tribute to those who laid down their lives for the freedom of this country.

Let us join hands to build strong, united and progressive India of the dreams of the Father of the Nation and the freedom fighters and work hard with dedication and sincerity for the welfare of the people and the progress of the nation to transform the country into a leading and prosperous nation for which it was always known through out the world.

JAI HIND