

Welcome address by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Augustine George Masih, Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court on the occasion of Inaugural Ceremony of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Rajasthan High Court on 14.10.2023 at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre, Jaipur

Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
Chief Justice of India

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi,

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal,
Judges of Supreme Court of India

Hon'ble Former Judges of the Supreme Court & their spouse

Hon'ble Former Chief Justices & Judges of Rajasthan High Court & their spouse

Esteemed Sister & Brother Judges and their spouse

Learned Advocate General, Rajasthan &
Learned Additional Solicitor General, Union of India

Chairman, office bearers and members of the
Bar Council of Rajasthan

Presidents, office bearers and members of the Executive
Committee of:-

(i) Rajasthan High Court Advocates Association, Jodhpur

(ii) Rajasthan High Court Lawyers Association, Jodhpur

(iii) Rajasthan High Court Bar Association, Jaipur

(iv) The Jaipur Bar Association, Jaipur

Learned Senior Advocates

Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan

Director General of Police, Rajasthan

Distinguished Guests,

Judicial Officers

Officers of Registry,

Members of Print & Electronic Media

Ladies & Gentlemen

1. It is a matter of immense pleasure and pride that the Rajasthan High Court on entering its 75th year of successful and productive existence, is today holding the Inaugural Ceremony of celebrating its **Platinum Jubilee**. This is really a momentous and glorious occasion; To make this memorable, High Court has put in place various seminars, programmes and activities with a view to not only refresh the memories attached with this institution, but to express our gratitude for the commendable services and significant contributions made by all stake holders in upholding the constitutional values, the rule of law ensuring judicial independence which has taken this Institution to a greater height. It would also be an occasion and opportunity to introspect, learn from the past experiences and plan for times to come.

2. Rajasthan is one of the most colorful and vibrant States, which is deeply rooted in its dynamic past. With its opulent palaces, historic forts and plethora of cultural offerings, it wins over hearts at first glance. It is the land of warmhearted, generous and passionate people.

3. The State of Rajasthan was formed on 30th March 1949, when the States of the Rajputana Agency of the erstwhile Indian Empire were merged into the new Indian Union. Prior to formation of the State of Rajasthan, the

princely States were having their own High Courts and subordinate Judicial set-up. These High Courts were abolished by the Rajasthan High Court Ordinance, 1949 and High Court of Judicature for Rajasthan was inaugurated at Jodhpur on 29th August, 1949. Under the States Reorganization Act, 1956, a new High Court came into existence as the High Court of Rajasthan with Principal Seat at Jodhpur. Bench of the Rajasthan High Court was established at Jaipur and started functioning with effect from 30th January, 1977.

4. While discharging the constitutional functions, multi-dimensional efforts are being made to ensure that truth and righteousness prevail; judicial independence is maintained; the constitutional values & rule of law are upheld; and the rights of the people enshrined under the Constitution of India as guaranteed under various laws are protected and safeguarded. Our High Court has not only stood the test of time but has gone from strength to strength and has earned reverence and is held in high esteem.

5. The High Court, since its inception, has been blessed with many stalwarts and eminent personalities, who were and are endowed with great sense of justice, possessing all the sterling qualities and notions of fairness, integrity and unflinching courage to rise against any authoritarian and oppressive executive fiat for upholding the cause of the wronged, marginalized and downtrodden. There are galaxy

of eminent legal luminaries produced by the Bar Council in the districts, High Court and even the Supreme Court, who have made remarkable contribution for development of law. The Judges of this High Court have made a mark for themselves wherever they have taken up the responsibility as Judge or Chief Justice. The High Court has the proud distinction of having contributed many distinguished Judges to the Supreme Court and even adorned the highest office of the Chief Justice of India. Let us not forget to acknowledge the role of the Registry and the staff of our Courts who work tirelessly backstage day-in and day-out to make the working of the Court functional and smooth.

6. Judiciary is required to create a vibrant, strong and modern legal system for the society so that the fundamental equilibrium of our society is maintained. Courts are the agencies of sovereign people to protect and to enforce the laws, to expound the Constitution and to ensure that its mandates are strictly respected and followed both in letter and spirit.

7. Legitimacy of the judiciary lies in the faith and confidence it commands from the people. The summum bonum of judiciary is to seek unalloyed truth and protect the truthful. The sagacity displayed by the erudite Judges of this Court has endeared them to all law abiding citizens. I have no hesitation in saying that the State Judiciary is truly living up to the faith and confidence of the people by upholding

the Rule of Law and enforcing and ensuring the right to personal liberty and freedom. The common man holds the Rajasthan judiciary in exalted trust and reposes deep faith and confidence in it.

8. It is said that the legal profession acts as a great healer of the society. It is engraved with the spirit of service. An Advocate is an integral part of the justice delivery setup. He is an Officer of the Court. The crucial position, as enjoyed by an Advocate, in fact, imposes a responsibility upon him to ensure that justice is made available to all. No wonder, the members of this profession are expected to uphold its high traditions and serve the society with sincerity and honesty, which they have done. One cannot expect a proper justice delivery system without the honest and active participation of the Advocates. The Bench and the Bar work in tandem to ensure justice to the needy, aggrieved and oppressed.

9. Anybody who is not an insider and who does not have the resources, was earlier hesitant and felt discouraged to approach the Courts. This notion was required to be changed, which Judiciary has now, to a great extent, succeeded in. The various Legal Services Authorities are ensuring that not only the common people have easy access to courts but early finality to dispensation of justice is achieved. In this direction, Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, with the motto of "Access to Justice for all", is working very hard and putting in best efforts to provide free

and competent legal services to the weaker, underprivileged and marginalized sections of the society. It is ensuring that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any person by reason of economic or other disabilities. That apart, mediation proceedings and Lok Adalats are also being held at regular intervals for amicable settlement of the dispute between the parties, besides spreading legal literacy and awareness amongst public at large by organizing legal literacy camps etc. I am happy to share with you all that in last 05 National Lok Adalats held during July, 2022 to September, 2023, Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority was able to dispose of 1,50,57,781 (One crore Fifty lacs fifty seven thousand seven hundred eighty One) cases and disbursed compensation to the tune of around Rupees 5400 crores.

10. This platinum jubilee celebration and ensuing activities will provide us a platform to pledge and recommit ourselves to secure equality, liberty and justice to the people; to explore and identify fields and areas where improvement can be made in the justice delivery system; devise new methods to reduce inflow of cases; to make maximum use of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms; to ensure complete digitization; to use technology to modernize the judicial system; to take measures to improve the ease of justice through artificial intelligence so that the common man is able to get speedy and inexpensive justice. Our Court has initiated steps in this direction and results will follow.

11. The discussions, deliberations and views expressed, shared and exchanged by and with the distinguished dignitaries, particularly Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, who are here to share their thoughts, will certainly guide and inspire us all to achieve the pinnacle in serving the society; ensuring equal justice to all, particularly the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged sections; and achieving the cherished values of our Constitution.

12. It is my good fortune that during my tenure, Rajasthan High Court is celebrating its 75th year of existence, which is a magnificent milestone in the life of any Institution. On this auspicious and historic occasion, I extend my heartiest congratulations to august gathering, legal fraternities associated with the task of dispensation of justice and the people of State of Rajasthan.

13. I consider it to be a great honor and proud privilege to welcome the distinguished and dignified galaxy of guests present here, especially our dynamic and ever energetic Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, who bear and encompass multi-talented personalities needing no introduction. We know them all well. The High Court shall always remain indebted to them, as despite their tight and busy schedule, they accepted our invitation and spared their precious time to grace the occasion. Their benign presence has added to the glory and grandeur of the function and their words would be a food for thought for us.

14. As an Institution, our duty and our work should be to pursue the noble cause of dispensing justice and to live upto the motto of "Satyameva Jayate", that means Truth alone Triumphs, for which we strive and will achieve together.

THANK YOU.

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