

**Speech by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinay Krishna Khanna
Acting Chief Justice Allahabad High Court**

My Lord, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, Chief Justice of India, my Lord, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.C. Agarwal, my esteemed brother Judges, Judicial Secretary, Mr. A.K. Srivastava, Director of the Institute of Judicial Training and Research, Mr. A.B. Hajela and distinguished guests and all the officers of my judiciary,

I consider it my proud privilege that Head of the Indian judiciary, who is a glowing luminary in the galaxy of law, has spared some of his most valuable time for the officers of my judiciary. I am deeply thankful to his Lordship.

On this occasion, I only wish to say to members of my judiciary that the position of a judge carries great honour. This adds to your responsibilities. About 90 percent of the judicial matters are dealt by you and it is on your satisfactory performance that the success of the judicial system largely depends. For proper dispensation of justice, you have to imbibe the qualities of a judge. Simon Lee, a great writer, in his famous book 'Judging Judges' has, aptly, quoted professor Abraham and professor Coldman as saying that the judges' qualities are to demonstrate judicial temperament; professional expertise and competence; absolute personal as well as professional integrity; an able, agile and lucid mind; appropriate professional educational background or training; ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, especially the latter; ability to handle judicial powers sensibly. The Law Commission of India, in its 14th Report, observes that "the life of a Judge whether on the Bench or otherwise is a difficult one. He is called upon to adjudicate on contending claims, sift truth from falsehood, uphold lawful claims and reject the rest; and in doing his duty, he even arouses hostility. He has to tread a weary path in order to have no room for any litigant to apprehend prejudice or to court favour. Not only he has to be impartial, but he has to conduct himself in a manner so that every one can feel that he is impartial. The stern necessity for so ordering his conduct invades even his private and social life for risk of being mis-understood and laying himself upon to a suspicion that he has been influenced in his decisions. Judge has to earn for himself an unassailable reputation for independence, fearlessness, strict impartiality, so that the public can resort to him with confidence for the just solution of their disputes." I am sure

that the Institute of Judicial Training and Research, Lucknow, will go a long way to produce judicial officers of this calibre.

The inspiring presence of the personality of our Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the wisest exhortations by his Lordship will be a source of great strength to you and I am confident that you will equip yourself with all that is necessary to meet the challenges of your task and you will project a clean image of good persons before the society and will prove to be real judges dispensing justice without fear or favour. The past history of my judiciary has left rich and glorious traditions and I am confident that members of my judiciary will maintain the same. My best wishes to you.

I, also, take this opportunity of offering my sincere thanks to my Lord, the Chief Justice of India, and other learned speakers.

I thank you all.
