

Speech

*By Dr. N. P. Asthana,
President of the High Court Bar Association, Allahabad
Delivered on November 25, 1966, on the occasion of the Inaugural Ceremony*

Mr. President, Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court and High Court, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen-

It is a privilege of the High Court Bar Association to participate in the celebrations of the Centenary of this Court; because the Bar Association attached to the High Court is an important limb of the High Court itself. It assists, strengthens and enlightens the High Court, because the High Court Judges come into contact with the public and public opinion through the lawyers who practise before them. It is a matter of great satisfaction to my Association that it has inherited traditions from Munshi Hanuman Prasad and Pandit Ajudhia Nath, who travelled from Agra to Allahabad with this High Court itself, and those traditions were nurtured and maintained by lawyers, who were members of the Association, like Sir Sunder Lal, Pt. Moti Lal Nehru, Munshi Ram Prasad, Mr. Yogendra Nath Chaudhary and others. Subsequently, we had, as our members Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. K. N. Katju, Mr. Pearey Lal Banerji and others. You will also see that the members of my Association have not failed in their duty towards the country, when a call came to them to abjure professional work and to contribute their might to the cause of the nation. Look at Pt. Moti Lal Nehru who was a real Tyagmurti and his son, Jawahar Lal Nehru who, after practising for about three years in this Court, went out to serve the country. Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya practised for a short while and then dedicated himself to the noble cause of education. Also, we had Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon, who was a genius so far as law and literature are concerned, but he forsook this Court and his professional prospects for the sake of the country. Similar was the case with Dr. Kailash Nath Katju, who is still a member of my Association. The last, but not the least, we have one of our members, Mr. G. S. Pathak, who has given up a lucrative practice in the Supreme Court to accept the Law Ministership of the Union.

We have inherited the best of traditions, which we hope to maintain. Your presence, my Lord the Chief Justice of India, at this function has added dignity and grace, colour and cheer, to the gathering. Your presence has been a great inspiration to the members of my Association, because it is your first visit to the Allahabad High Court after you were appointed the head of the Judiciary of the Indian Republic. I have no doubt that the history of the hundred years' existence of this High Court is also the history of the existence of the Bar attached to it; and, as I have already said, the Bar has given its very best for the assistance of the High Court in its judicial administration. I am sure we will maintain those traditions and be of service to the High Court as well as to the country at large. I have no doubt that in the years to come we will find that this Court has advanced from step to step and that its administration of justice is valued and appreciated by the public.