

24.01.2020

SPEECH OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE CHANDER SHEKHAR

**Hon'ble the Chief Justice Sh. D.N. Patel,
My esteemed Brothers and Sisters colleagues,
Smt. Maninder Acharya, Ld. Additional Solicitor General,
All Standing Counsels for the Central Government,
Mr. Rahul Mehra, Ld. Standing Counsel (Criminal),
Mr. Ramesh Singh, Ld. Standing Counsel (Civil),
Other counsels of the Government of NCT of Delhi,
Mr.K.C. Mittal, Ld. Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi,
Mr.Mohit Mathur, Ld. President,
Mr.Jatan Singh, Ld. Vice-President,
Mr.Abhijat, Ld. Hony. Secretary, and
Other office bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association
Former Presidents and office bearers of the Bar Association
President, Hony. Secretaries and office bearers of District Bar
Associations
Learned Senior Advocates
My Family Members, Relatives and Friends, Staff Members,
Dear Advocates
Ladies & Gentlemen**

A very good afternoon to all of you.

I am highly grateful for the kind words said about me which truly reflect the respect, kindness and affection of the Bar & Bench towards me. I am deeply touched and overwhelmed.

Time is the essence of everything in life and it is the cycle of time which brings joy, happiness, success, sadness and failure as well. Superannuation is another event which came along during the same course of time. I have been a Judge in this premier institution for a little more than 3 years and prior thereto was a part of the District Judiciary for about 16 years. My journey, especially in this Court, has been an extremely enriching experience, which has evolved me to be a better human which I am today.

During my tenure here as a Judge of this Court, I have noticed what makes this Court a premier institution amongst all is its ability to effectively and head-on meet the challenges thrown at it every day. And the credits for such a laudicious place are shared equally by the Bench and the Bar and by the way each one of us conduct ourselves while dealing with situations and cases which impact our social, cultural and economic ethos. I thank my God everyday that I was believed capable enough to serve as a Judge of this High Court.

A vibrant Bar, such as the one we have here, is a major contributor to any justice delivery system. I have seen the Bar growing not only in numbers but also in terms of the quality of litigation and the vexed questions they bring on the table every day. Their questions and the

answers from the other side are a good food for thought and there are galore of matters which reflect on their hard work and raise the standard of intellectual creativity. There is immense amount of effort and research seen behind every matter and certainly, the Bar deserves to be complimented and commended for this.

Another important facet, I have come across is that this bar is, in fact, the most travelled bar in the country. I am aware of the large number of lawyers from this bar travelling to other Courts outside Delhi constantly, thus, bringing with them more valuable experience which enriches this Court. As compared to lawyers who travel outside to conduct matters, the number of lawyers coming to Delhi is miniscule, for which reason also this Bar deserves to be complimented.

Achievements and accolades are always accompanied by higher responsibility. And it is our responsibility as members to not only maintain but also raise the standards of the bar. The onus lies, more particularly, on the Senior Counsels, who owe it to the institution to train young lawyers and give them opportunity to excel in the profession and leave behind legacies of their achievements, which would live long after they have left the profession.

The Delhi High Court secures a unique position in the system of law and adheres high quality of judicial services to the Nation. The efforts made by each of the members that form a strong base for the functioning of the Court to upkeep the high esteem deserve a huge round of appreciation. I recognise full worth and praise of those who had put their keen efforts towards the development of infrastructure,

administration and technology. The Hon'ble Chief Justice and the Judges who man these exercises richly deserve to be complimented for their efforts. They have been the shining lights of this Court and shall continue to remain so.

I take this opportunity to pay my regards to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde – present Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra & Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur – Former Chief Justices of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri and Hon'ble Ms. Justice G. Rohini, who are benevolent and always remained a source of inspiration to me.

I cannot thank enough our Hon'ble Chief Justice, Sh. D.N. Patel, for his continued guidance, encouragements and full trust in me. His Lordship is a symbol and role model of humility, compassion, firmness and wisdom. I express my heartfelt gratitude to His Lordship, who within a short span of time has left a mark of these remarkable virtues. Sir, the entire High Court, the officials of the Registry, the Bar and the District Judiciary have been fortunate to have you as a Chief Justice. You are indeed a role model for all of us. I myself, in my personal capacity, am indebted to the Chief Justice for always being kind to me, guided me and helped me from time to time. Thank you, Sir.

It is my good fortune and privilege to have shared Division Benches with extremely eminent and affectionate Judges – Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, now a Judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice G.S.Sistani, Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar and Special Benches with Mr. Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Mr. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva. I had also the privilege to sit with Mr. Justice J.R. Midha for a few days during summer vacations who has always remained helpful and kind enough to guide me properly. I am also thankful to Ms. Justice Hima Kohli, Mr. Justice Siddharth Mridul, Mr. Justice Manmohan and Mr. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and all my other colleagues without naming them individually, due to paucity of time, for their friendly and brotherly love, affection and cooperation.

Special mention goes to the Registry of this Court for their dedication & sincere intent to ensure fulfilment of its responsibilities at all times even in case of limited access. I take this moment to also place on record my appreciation for my personal staff – my Private Secretary Kamal Kumar, Stenographers – Tushar Pandey and Rohit, Court Master – Kamal Krishna Agnihotri, ACM – Surender Singh, Restorer – Rakesh Kumar, Chauffeur – Kashi Ram, Usher – Kailash Chand, Court Attendants – Alok, Dipu & Vipin, who have at all times rendered impeccable services and assisted me in discharging my duties. I also would like to mention my Law Researchers – Chimee, Vaishnavi, Priya, Anshuman, Manoj and Shaurya, who have assisted me consistently in researching on the law as required by me.

I also wish to place on record the assistance and help rendered to me by the officers, particularly, Mr. Manoj Jain – Registrar General, Ms. Aditi Choudhary – Registrar Vigilance, Mr. Reetesh Singh – OSD,

Mr.Yash Pal – OSD; Mr.Ramesh Chand, Mr.Anil Kumar Koushal, Mr.Lorren Bamniyal, Ms.Anju Chhabra Khurana, Mr.K.K. Bhati, Mr.G.R. Grover, Mr.P.K. Uppal, Mr.H.K. Arora, Mr.Sunil Kukreja, Mr.Janardan Tripathi, Mr.Atul Kumar Sharma, Mr.T.R. Nagpal and Mr.S.P. Singh – all Registrars; Mr. J.K.Batra, Mr. Pramod Kumar, Mr.Ravinder Pahuja, Mr. Naresh Garg – Joint Registrars; Mr. Desh Raj Choudhary, Deputy Registrar and Mr. Shankar Singh, Deputy Registrar, who was my first Private Secretary in this Court. I take this opportunity to mention about one special person Mr.Umesh Khurana, Administrative Officer (Judicial) who has been with me for more than 13 years and has rendered services impeccably and truthfully at all times. I am grateful to each one of you for your contribution.

I come from a tiny village 'Hasole' in District Kangra and when I look back at the years of struggle that my parents, Late Sh. Ramesh Chander and Late Smt. Jagdishwari Devi, had put into for their children, I can say I would have been nothing without them. I thank Almighty for such wonderful parents. I can never forget their continued support and blessings which they extended to ensure that I would get best of education and career here in Delhi which eventually led me to serve as a Judge of this Court as well as to the people of the country.

Special mention to the love of my life, my wife, Suchitra for her undivided support and for bearing with me through thick & thin. She is right here still extending her support when she herself lost her father, so dear to her, just four days back. I thank you for your continuous support, dedication and efforts due to which I have been able to fulfil all my duties as a Judge. Thank you Suchitra.

My sons, Akshay and Aditya, always tried their best to keep my name high, showed respect to me in abundance and showered their love. I owe them a sincere apology for not being always there due to work. However, I really put my appreciations for both of them who tried their best to maintain my name, position and dignity. Thank You. Similarly, I also thank my two daughters-in-law, Chitragda and Niti who are not only respectful but also take care of every member of the family. God bless you. My blessings shall be there for my sons and daughters-in-law forever.

I would also like to place on record my deep love for the little angel of my life, my 5 years old Grand-son Ayan, who is my partner of the evenings. May God bless him and may he succeed and bring laurels to the family. I wish him all the best, good health, good education, peace, prosperity, name and fame in life. My blessings and good wishes are always with him.

I also take this opportunity to thank my siblings and other family members for their support and blessings.

As I said earlier, superannuation is an event in the cycle of time. There have been many before me and there will be many hereafter. I shall move on to a new assignment forthwith and will expect continued support and cooperation from all of you. I would part company with a small couplet which reads:

कभी - कभी यूँ ही चले आया करो दिल की दहलीज़ पर ऐ - दोस्तों
अच्छा लगेगा, यूँ तन्हाइयों में तुम्हारा दस्तक देना!!

Thank You very much. God bless you all.