

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,
My esteemed brother and sister Judges,
Mr. Sanjay Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India,
Mr. Rajiv Khosla, President,
Mr. Jatan Singh, Vice-President,
Mr. Abhijat, Honorary Secretary,
Office Bearers and Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association,
Mr. K.K. Manan, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi,
Standing Counsels,
Additional Standing Counsels,
Public Prosecutors,
Members of various other Bar Associations,
Officers and Staff of the Registry,
Members of my personal staff,
My family members, friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured and touched by the kind words and appreciation poured upon me, which perhaps I might not deserve. This day, when I am demitting the office as a Judge of this Court, I look back to May 1977, when I joined the prestigious Delhi Judicial Services and was ultimately elevated as a Judge of this premier Court in October, 2010.

My long career of over 33 years in the judicial service gave me an opportunity to work on various jurisdictions, including holding the post of the Principal Secretary, Law and Justice, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. As the Law Secretary, I had the occasion and experience of analysing things from the point of view of the Government which also rendered assistance to me in discharging my functions as a Judge as well as on the administrative side as member of various Committees. I was fortunate enough to be District &

Sessions Judge and head the District Judiciary of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

I have been a Judge of this Court for about 5 years. I have had an opportunity to work on various rosters including Civil Division Bench, Criminal Division Bench, Civil and Criminal Writ Jurisdiction, Motor Accident Claims Cases, Criminal Single Bench and Original Side. My experience of working in Division Benches with my senior colleagues, some of whom are still adorning this Court, proved out to be a great learning experience and training ground for me. But for my experience with my senior partners, I would not have been able to discharge my functions as a Single Judge in various jurisdictions with so much of ease and comfort.

Law is a deep ocean and one goes on learning. I am still a student of Law and got to learn newer things even till the last day of my office. As a Judge, I pride myself on never deciding matters in haste. I never hesitated to discuss about the precedents on any issue with my colleagues so as to reach a just, legally sound and fair conclusion.

Most of the people and even certain lawyers harbour a wrong notion that the Judges have so much of power. However, they fail to understand that with great power comes greater responsibility. Infact, Judges do not have any power. They have only the responsibility to protect life, liberty and rights of the people and to do justice to all concerned. Passing judgments so as to do complete justice is not an easy task. Sometimes, a Judge is faced with the dilemma of having to choose between two rights where facts and Law are on one side and justice on the other. The Judge has to make a difficult choice as per his conscience.

In most of the cases, either as a partner in a Division Bench or independently in Single Bench, the decision on an issue was not far to seek. However, in certain cases, reaching a decision was not that straightforward. The facts were so intricate and the law so ambiguous with favourable judgments on

either side that even after hearing lengthy oral submission and scanning through voluminous documents and written submissions, I was unable to make up my mind. I had to spend hours and hours on doing my own research and take out more precedents with the assistance of the Law Researchers so as to reach a just conclusion. Once I was able to make up my mind, I would start penning it down and made sure that the law on the subject is well explained so as to be of assistance to all in future.

I am thankful to all my brother and sister Judges for giving me so much of support, love and affection that I always felt at home in this Court.

I am also thankful to the members of the Bar for rendering their valuable assistance which enabled me to discharge my functions in a manner so as to reach just and fair decisions.

I am further thankful to the members of my personal staff, particularly my Private Secretary and Personal Assistants who always most willingly and many a times worked with me till late hours and some times, seven days a week.

I am also thankful to my Law Researchers, both past and present, who have been helping me by doing important research work on complex and complicated issues.

I am further grateful to the staff of the Registry, Accounts Branch, Protocol Branch and other branches who have been rendering all possible assistance to me and my family even at odd hours.

I am most thankful to my family as well, particularly my wife, who gave her untiring support and has been a source of inspiration for me. There was never any grudge or murmur on her part even if I was unable to spare any time for her.

I am leaving this Court with a sense of utmost satisfaction; With my appointment as a member of the Competition Commission, I venture in a new arena where apart from performing *quasi*-judicial functions, I will be part of a

team to regulate anti-competitive activities of various entities. I hope and pray to the Almighty to help me as He had always been, to discharge my duties efficiently and to the best of my ability.

It goes without saying that I will always miss this Court.

I express my gratitude to all of you who have assembled here to bid farewell to me.

Thank you.