

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF FAREWELL OF
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. N. CHATURVEDI

My esteemed colleagues, Mr. A. S. Chandhiok, Additional Solicitor General, Mr. K. C. Mittal, President and other office bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association, learned members of the Bar, Special Invitees, ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled here today to bid farewell to Justice B. N. Chaturvedi, who is laying down office of Judgeship of this Court after an illustrious and satisfying innings.

Justice Chaturvedi has been a Judge for long 39 years. After being an Advocate for a short span of two years, he had joined Uttar Pradesh Civil Service (Judicial) as an Additional Munsif Magistrate at Bijnor on 14th November, 1970. Thereafter on 21st September, 1971, he joined Delhi Judicial Service. On 14th August, 1984, he

was promoted to Delhi Higher Judicial Service. As a Judicial Officer, he served the Judiciary in various capacities from time to time. He also worked as Registrar, Railways Claims Tribunal from 1996 to 1999. He was elevated to the Bench of this Court on 1st December, 2000. He came to this court with wide judicial and administrative experience.

Justice Chaturvedi is a man of few words with amiable personality. Like Associate Justice of U.S. Supreme Court, Judge Antonin Scalia before Senate Judiciary Committee at confirmation hearing had said "My only agenda is to be a good Judge", for Justice Chaturvedi as well it can be said that only agenda in his entire career as a Judge for 39 years has been "to be a good Judge". It can be said without any hesitation that he has been a good Judge with distinction. If one were to count the qualities of a good Judge as patience, wisdom,

courage, firmness, incorruptibility and humaneness, we can find all these traits in Justice Chaturvedi.

Going through his judgments can be a learning exercise. It would be difficult to find in his judgments anything more than, necessary, without leaving any arguments unaddressed presented before him. His judgments in true sense reflect brevity, clarity and focused approach.

Justice Chaturvedi though is parting company with us but he would always be close to our hearts. We would certainly like him to contribute in the growth of judiciary in Delhi with his vast experience of having served as a Judge at all levels. I am sure his services would be available to us as and when we need them. As one American thinker had put it:

“Age is only a number, a cipher for the records. A man can't retire his experience. He must use it. Experience achieves more with less energy and time”.

I, on behalf of all the Judges of this Court and on my own behalf wish Justice Chaturvedi a full and satisfying retirement.

(Ajit Prakash Shah)
25.09.2009