



DELHI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

SHER SHAH ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003 TELEPHONES : 011-2338-5562, 2338-5943

FAREWELL REFERENCE : JUSTICE TIRATH SINGH THAKUR

Hon'ble The Chief Justice, Mr. Justice A.P. Shah, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Mr. Justice A.P. Shah, Hon'ble Judges, Mr.P.P. Malhotra, ASG, Standing Counsels, Delhi Government & Central Government, Senior Advocates, Mr. J.P. Sengh, Vice President, Mr.D.K. Sharma, Hony. Secretary, Members of the executive of Delhi High Court Bar Association, fellow members, Members of the family of Justice Tirath Singh Thakur, ladies and gentleman.

Today, we have assembled to bid farewell to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tirath Singh Thakur, who has since been appointed as the Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court. A humble and soft-spoken Justice Thakur is well known, admired for his patient hearing of the cases, which has always given the greatest satisfaction to an Advocate, appearing and arguing for either of the parties. He is not an impatient Judge. He never lost his temper, but in his own style, he would go into the depth of complex legal issues. His forthrightness, capability and capacity to grasp has been par excellence.

Belonging to a well-known family of Jammu & Kashmir, he seems to have inherited a lot from his father, Late Sh. D.D. Thakur, Sr. Advocate. I had on few occasions, briefed him and even opposed but every time, it was a new experience to learn, particularly the manner of presentation of a case in the Court. He used to articulate his point and with a smiling face used to present his assignment demolishing the basic ground of the other side. I remember I along with Justice Thakur when he was practicing, appeared in one Contempt matter in High Court at Jammu and his presentation with creative expression was excellent and unheard.

Ever since, he joined the Delhi High Court in July 2004, he has been very courteous and decent to the Bar and has always worked for the dignity of the Bench and Bar, presumably because he was himself the President of the Jammu Bar Association in 1986. I had the opportunity to interact with him and also deal with various issues concerning the Bar, as he himself headed the most important committee, i.e. the Building Maintenance Committee of the High Court of Delhi. The outstanding contribution made by Justice Thakur, Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and the then member Mr. Justice Kailash Gambhir of the B.M.C. can never be forgotten.

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Today, the facilities, which have been extended for the members of the Bar Association largely goes to the credit of Justice Thakur and his team. Initially when we mentioned about the Mother Diary, Justice Thakur was slightly reluctant because of certain apprehensions in his mind, but when the things were explained, it hardly took any time for him to give clearance. I will be failing in my duty, if I do not mention that Justice Thakur and his team always took keen and extra-ordinary interest for the welfare of members of the Bar and that is why the Railway Booking Counter is also going to be a reality, despite some resistance from the Northern Railway. Basement of Block II was also got vacated to give some respite to parking problem.

One major historic contribution by Justice Thakur and his team was to agree to our proposal for a fully automatic multi-level parking as a long-term measure to deal with the acute parking problem in the High Court. Despite some initial doubts about the funding and the recurring expenditure, the project was cleared and thanks to the vision of Justice Thakur for involving Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for its execution. I cannot refrain mentioning the contribution by Dr. Justice M.K. Sharma, the Former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. I would also give total credit to Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Shah, present Chief Justice for taking keen interest for funding of the project by Govt of NCT of Delhi, perhaps without his efforts, it would not have happened.

I must mention that the positive and rationale approach of the Building Maintenance Committee has helped in implementing some of the projects and much more is to come and I am pretty sure that with the new composition of the Building Maintenance Committee, we will be able to work with same speed and attitude.

I remember during this period, I have been troubling Justice Thakur on number of occasions even over phone and his approach was always fantastic and he and the other team members have been telling me to take up issues one by one for their resolution and this has really proved.

On two occasions, Justice Thakur and other members of the Committee even had a personal visit of the Chamber Blocks and parking lot and other areas of the High Court and took decisions on the spot. We had some problem because of the electricity, which also could be resolved. We extend our thanks to Justice Thakur and other members of the Committee.

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The new team of Building Maintenance Committee, where there is an addition of Mr. Justice Manmohan Sarin, Justice Vikramjit Sen, Justice Manmohan and Justice Aruna Suresh have also been extending all their co-operation and I hope and trust that the pending issues would also be resolved with same zeal and speed. The Bar Association and all the Members are really indebted to Justice Thakur and his team and would always remember the contribution made to provide facilities to the Bar and the last contribution they made was a quality food outlet permitted in the Canteen on the 1st Floor of Old Chamber Block which is likely to be made functional next week.

I have taken so long to mention these issues for a reason that as and when we get opportunity, we must appreciate the kind positive approach, which is a healthy sign for harmonious and cordial relation between the Bench and Bar, which indeed helps in the qualitative growth of this institution.

The understanding and knowledge of Justice Thakur on various branches of law need hardly to be highlighted by me since that is well known in the Bar.

I on my own behalf and on behalf of the office bearers and executive members of the Bar and the members wish him a historic and glorious period as Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court and convey our heartiest congratulations and since the time is on his side, I am sure he would do wonders to uphold the dignity and work for the all-round growth of this institution for which we all are committed. We also wish him to come back soon to Delhi via Chandigarh.

(K.C. MITTAL)
PRESIDENT