

REFERENCE SPEECH

Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

My Brothers and Sisters colleagues.

Ms. Maninder Acharya Ld. ASG.

All Government 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 the 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 Distt. Bar Associations

Learned senior Advocates

My family members, relatives and friends

and

My dear Advocates.

A very good afternoon to all of you.

I am extremely overwhelmed and humbled by the kind and generous words spoken about me by all the previous speakers.

I truly wonder if I really deserve the compliments showered on me. I accept the honour with gratitude and great humility.

I am very happy to see all of you here to bid farewell to me when I demit the office and express my gratitude to everyone.

Let me tell you that I was born in a village Hassanpur in Distt. Palwal in the State of Haryana. My father late Shri Chander Bhan Goel was an agriculturist. Before my birth he was Sarpach of the village. In 1961 the Govt. appointed him as village Headman, a position he enjoyed till Feb 2001 when he left for his heavenly abode. For several years he remained Member Distt Faridabad Grievance Committee irrespective of any government in power. He got resolved many issues of public importance. He was fond of reading religious & law books.

My mother late Smt. Vedwati was a homemaker and a very pious and ardent believer in God.

I completed my schooling from the Govt. school in the village. My father sent me for further studies to Rohtak where I did my B.com from Vaish College Rohtak.

It's my late father who advised me to study law. I did LL.B. from Panjab University, Chandigarh in April, 1980. Simultaneously I joined the office with late Seth Mani Subrat Jain, Sr. Adv., a friend of my father as a law intern. Both of them used to advise me to join his office after completion of LL.B. As a law intern with late Sh. Jain I was groomed to industry, hard work and commitment to

preparation and presentation of the case to the best of ability. I am happy that his son Mr. Adarsh Jain advocate from Chandigarh is present among the audience.

I joined the Bar in July, 1982 in the Distt. courts at Faridabad & Palwal.

Then I associated myself with the office of late Shri Lakhman Pal Mangla, Advocate, a renowned civil lawyer and a good friend of my father and a relative. The *mantra* which I had learnt from late Sh. Mangla is that the lawyer should be loyal to his profession and client and at the same time never mislead the court and present the matter within the framework of law. It gives me pleasure that his son Mr. Atul Mangla Advocate Palwal, who is Addl Advocate General for State of Haryana in Supreme Court is present with his wife Mrs. Manisha Mangla among the audience.

On 31st December, 1997, I joined as Additional District & Sessions Judge.

During the journey of about 22 years in judicial career I had the opportunity to work in different jurisdictions. Initially a Civil Court was assigned to me in Tis Hazari Courts in May, 1998.

After completion of 3 years, I presided over the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Patiala House Courts and then Labour Court, Karkardooma Courts.

In January, 2006, I was given the responsibility to deal with the corruption cases investigated by CBI till July 2009. Later I was assigned a civil court to deal with IPR matters.

From 15th December 2009 till July 2012, I discharged the functions of Mediation In-Charge, Karkardooma Court Complex. During this stint I was satisfied that I could settle several hundred cases. Every month I used to conduct mediation training programs for Judicial and Advocate Mediators. It was a very

satisfying experience when parties would settle their disputes in the mediation and were seen happy and comfortable while leaving the Mediation center. Their satisfactory resolution of disputes would always give me inner peace and satisfaction. This encouraged me to do more in the field.

Apart from mediation I was assigned petitions under the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 and an infamous case, commonly known as L.N. Mishra's murder case having a voluminous record.

The case involved a complex web of facts and law. It was eventually decided in December, 2014 and in the meanwhile, I joined as District & Sessions Judge Shahdara on 01.02.2013.

Speaking for myself, I must tell that I used to read the articles of eminent Jurist

and Senior Advocate Sh. Fali S. Nariman published in the newspaper 'The Tribune' when he had been a nominated member of Rajya Sabha during the period 1999-2005. One of his articles titled as 'The Independent Judge', has made a great impression on me. In it he made a reference to Justice D.M. Chandrashekhar of Karnataka High Court who would direct detenu detained under preventive detention laws to be brought to the Court at the time of hearing of their cases and for this reason he was transferred to the Allahabad High Court. He referred to the resignation of Justice H.R. Khanna.

He also referred to Sir Harry Gibbs who was the Chief Justice of Australia in 1980s when there were allegations of grave nature against one of his senior colleagues Justice Murphy. When asked how we would define an independent Judge Chief Justice Gibbs said,

I quote

“that Judge who has nothing to hope for
nothing to fear
in respect of anything done for the purpose of his judicial functions,
that Judge who is able to successfully resist pressure of any kind.”
(unquote)

This beautifully summarizes the essence of an independent judge and this has been imbibed in my heart and I followed in my judicial carrier.

The then Chief Justice Ms. G. Rohini appointed me as Registrar General of this premier High Court in January, 2015.

I was elevated as Judge of this Court on 8th November 2016.

I am indebted to and thank Ms.Justice G.Rohini, our former Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed and Mr. Justice Pradeep Nandrajog who recommended my name for elevation to this Court which was finally endorsed by Hon’ble Mr. Justice T.S.Thakur, former Chief Justice of India, Hon’ble Mr.Justice Anil R. Dave and Hon’ble Mr.Justice J.S.Khehar who later on became Chief Justice of India.

I take this opportunity to pay my regards to Hon’ble Mr.Justice Dipak Misra, former Chief Justice of India, Hon’ble Mr.Justice M B Lokur Hon’ble Mr.Justice A.K. Sikri Hon’ble Mr.Justice N.V.Ramana Hon’ble Ms.Justice Indira Banerjee and Hon’ble Mr.Justice S K Kaul who are benevolent and always a source of inspiration to me.

It is my good fortune and privilege to have shared Division Bench with extremely eminent and affectionate judges Mr. Justice G.S.Sistani, Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar, Ms. Justice Hima Kohli and Mr.Justice Siddharth Mridul.

I had the privilege to sit with extremely brilliant Judges Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, now a Judge of the Supreme Court, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, now Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court, Mr. Justice Vipin Sanghi for a few days and Mr. Justice Vibhu Bhakru in an urgent matter on a day during summer vacation.

I found Ms. Justice Rekha Palli an extremely bright and promising judge with whom I shared the Division Bench for a short stint during the summer vacation of 2018.

It was great learning experience to sit with all of them.

I am thankful to my all colleagues without naming them individually due to paucity of time for their friendly and brotherly love affection and co-operation.

We are very lucky to have Hon'ble Mr. Justice D N Patel a most excellent and compassionate Chief Justice. I am very fortunate to work under his leadership even if only for two months and found him to be an extremely humble, polite and a firm judge. I thank him for having treated me always with love and affection.

While advertizing to Bar, I would like to say that I received immense love and affection from the members of the Bar at Tis Hazari Courts, Patiala House Courts and Karkardooma Courts. Here the members of the High Court Bar have showered over me plenty of love and affection. Really I am overwhelmed by their kind gestures.

I have learnt a lot from the members of the Bar. I must appreciate that here lawyers even youngsters always come well prepared with latest case laws and are eager to argue. They work very hard and are fully updated.

If I tell you my inner feelings I always found a student in myself who is ready to learn from the Bar members.

I personally feel that the Bar members are not only our teachers but the real umpires to judge the Judges.

I found that the members of the Bar have been very-very cooperative in maintaining cordial relations with the Bench and the dignity of the great institution.

I am very thankful to the learned members of the Bar for their kindness and cooperation to me in the discharge of my duties.

I express my gratitude to each and every member of the Bar.

I am thankful and grateful to my parents as I believe that it is only because of their blessings and good deeds that the Almighty made my elevation to the Bench possible. Had they been alive they would have been the happiest persons to see me as a Judge in this premier High Court.

On 27th February, 1985 I was married to Smt. Darshan Rani. My wife had never complained for my work calling. She is my source of strength and always encouraged me throughout ups and down of my life.

My son Anshu Goel and daughter-in-law Aditya have always taken care to see my comforts and I recall their love and affection. My grandchildren Aadya and Aayansh are dearest to me.

My daughter Mayuri Goel son-in-law Mr. Mohak Aggarwal along with their daughter Saanvi desired to come from London to attend the ceremony but they could not make it for some unavoidable reasons. They conveyed their good wishes for this moment. I am thankful to them and convey my love to them.

I am thankful to Mrs. and Mr. Dinesh Kumar, who are parents of my son-in-law, Mrs. and Mr. Bharat Bhushan who are parents of my daughter-in-law, and Mr Praveen Aggarwal nephew of my wife for their presence.

The staff members are really tools without which no Judge can successfully perform his duties as Judges have to concentrate on their judicial work and in the process they forget their other personal problems which are looked after by the support staff.

I am thankful to the whole Registry of Delhi High Court, including the Registrar General Registrar Vigilance and Registrar Protocol.

Let me make a special thanks to Shri Desh Raj Chaudhary, Deputy Registrar Medical Protocol Branch, for rendering all possible assistance to me & my family members even at odd hours.

I am thankful to my staff in the office of Registrar General particularly my the then PA Ms.Geetha Gopinathan, Deputy Registrar, Mr.Bharat Singh Rawat, Administrative Officer (Judicial), Mr.Pramod Kumar, Senior Judicial Assistant and Usher Mr.Deepak for their distinguished services.

I am thankful to my personal staff in the court my PS Mr.Dharmender Kumar Bainsla, Ms.Ashu Goyal PS, Mr.Shailender Kumar PA, Mr.Sandeep Kumar PA, Mr.Lokpal Singh, Court Master, Mr.Inderjeet, Assistant Court Master, Mr.Amit, Restorer as well as my former PS Mr.Jitender Kumar, my Court Attendants Mr.Rajneesh Kumar, Mr.Naiter Singh and Mr.Vinod Kumar, and Driver Sh Mahender Prajapati for their distinguished services.

I cannot forget the quality assistance provided by my Law Researchers Mr.Vivek Punia, Mr.Viksit Singh and Ms.Priyanka Bhat apart from my former

Law Researchers Ms.Shivani Joshi, Mr.Pragalbh Bhardwaj and late Sh. Amogh Tiwari.

I am also thankful to my personal staff posted at my residence namely Mr.Roshan Lal, Mr.Dharamvir Singh, Mr.Rajesh Sharma and Mr.Parshu Ram Singh, my personal security officers Mr.Mangat Ram and Mr.Krishan Kumar for their distinguished services.

Retirement is an incidence of service. It is always painful to say good-bye. Here I would refer to a couplet from Mahabharat on parting of ways and I quote:

*“Yatha Kashtham Ch Kashtham Ch Sameyantam Mahodadho
Sametya Ch Vyapay Yataam Tadam Bhoot Samagam”.*

It means ‘as two pieces of wood come together in the great ocean by the stroke of a wave, and after coming together separate, so does the association of living beings’

This is aptly applicable to the services.

I would carry to cherish the sweet memories of the moments I spent with all of you.

Its an old saying ‘too err is human’ and If I had caused hurt to anyone by my conduct of commission or omission or words spoken, please forgive me.

Thank you all.