

03.04.2020

SPEECH OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE INDER SINGH MEHTA

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

I extend my warmest regards to everyone for the positive role you all have played in my time at Delhi High Court.

The Bar and the Bench has a unique relationship and this unique relationship consciously and unconsciously is in the process to determine the right of the citizens within the four corners of the Constitution of India. It is the Bar who brings the factum of right of the citizen being violated, right being accrued or right of the citizen has to be compensated under the legal provisions and assist the Bench to determine the rightful liquidated amount. This process of untiring assistance to each other is a continuous process from the time immemorial to fulfill needs of the Society of the hour.

As I stand here today, I consider myself blessed being able to count so many of you as friends. I have been indeed incredibly fortunate to have been surrounded by so many friends, mentors and role models - all of you have contributed towards special in your respective and unique ways. I have found each of you, so much entrenched with care and affection, and sharing wonderful thoughts and lighter moments.

Today is a very emotional day for me as I stand here going down the memory lane and revisiting the old memories of my life. Today when I remember those old times, one thing always occurs to me that I might not have been here today had I not ventured to opt law.

I would like to share with you all, at this occasion, the story which turned my life:

I come from a very modest village 'Lippa' in District Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh. When I look back at the years of struggle that my parents,

Late S.C. Mehta, Father and Late Sonam Pati, Mother had put into for me, I can say that I would have been nothing without them. I thank God for such wonderful parents. I can never forget their contribution, support and blessings which they extended to ensure that I would get best education and career in Delhi which eventually led me to serve as a Judge of this Court as well as to the people of the country.

I joined the Law Faculty in Delhi University in 1979 after graduating from Hans Raj College. I did not realize at that time, while I was enjoying studying Law, that how I was being shaped by my teachers and friends. I have myriad of experiences, too many to mention, that have impacted on my life in a memorable and meaningful way. I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to all the teachers and friends in Law Faculty.

What followed from all the teachings and experiences was an advocate who started his practice in Himachal Pradesh, and gained immense experience by serving my very own *Janambhoomi*. In truest meaning I made my *Janambhoomi* my *Karambhoomi* too.

After 13 years of practicing Law, in March 1995, I was selected as the youngest Additional District & Sessions Judge in Delhi Higher Judicial Service. Subsequently, I was appointed as first District Judge of South-West District Courts, Dwarka, Delhi in the year 2008 and later I was posted as first District and Sessions Judge of New Delhi District in Patiala House Courts, New Delhi where I was handling various NIA cases and I was also nominated to participate on behalf of India in a seminar organized by Global Counter Terrorism Forum in 2014 at Hague, Netherlands on the Role of Judiciary in Handling Counter Terrorism and Other National Security Cases.

I am so thankful to the Almighty God for giving me this opportunity to join this dedicated, forward looking and highly respected profession where I can serve the society with all I have.

When I came to know that I have succeeded in DHJS, the first thing that struck me was that the decisions I will be going to take will impact someone's life, someone's family, their reputation, their stature in the society and could have lifelong impact. I was also conscious of the fact that I got this opportunity where I can help shape someone's life and bring Justice to them.

It is not always easy to be unbiased, and look and think beyond what is presented in our court rooms. But I always tried to respect our legal framework and trusted my intuition and operate in the realm of law.

The judgments I gave, the decrees I passed, the cases I settled and the Law I interpreted are like seeds which I have planted for our future generations and our legal framework. I wish and I hope that I did justice to each and everyone, not just to the litigants but to all the Advocates, staff and other stakeholders of this Legal Fraternity and most importantly to young lawyers.

By becoming a Judge, in my humble way, I have always tried to contribute whatever I could to responsibly uphold and improve the administration and preservation of Justice.

Life has deeply touched and taught me great lessons. I have at times saw and heard about events around us and it becomes very difficult to

remain unperturbed. However, I took those times as challenge where I pulled myself together and upheld the Constitution.

During my tenure here from 2014 to 2020, I had the privilege of dealing with plethora of cases in various jurisdictions including Civil, Criminal, Matrimonial, Rent control, Company matters, Labour matters, Intellectual Property, MACT, Service matters, Regular first Appeals, and the Division Bench appeals, Writ Petition, etc.

I had grown and tried to excel in all the fields, which I hoped to do for the longest time. During all this period my family has been my pillar of strength. My wife, Hira has acted as guide and also stood by me whenever I needed her support the most. Even my children, Jyotsna and Tarun have at all times respected me and showered their love. They have always kept my name, position and dignity high.

I want to extend my gratitude to our Hon'ble Chief Justice Shri. D.N. Patel and my brother and sister Judges who extended their unmatched support.

I would like to say that whatever I could do, was part of my duty and responsibility as a Judge. By becoming a judge, I took responsibility to advance the cause of justice, improve the administration of justice as well as for preservation of justice. I have tried to contribute whatever I could, in my own humble way.

I want to extend my gratitude to the learned advocates who appeared before me as they have co-operated immensely and have always shown

their readiness and keenness to argue the complicated matters. Their service is indispensable to the judicial system.

I take this opportunity to thank my entire staff — my Private Secretary - Kamal Kant Mendiratta, Court Master - Rajesh Kumar, Personal Assistants - S. Radhika, Namita Dhyani and Vaishali Pruthi, ACM - Manohar Lal, Restorer - Rahul Mehta, Chauffeur - Mukesh, Usher - Jagdish Kumar, Court Attendants - Arun Kr. Gupta and Ranjit Singh who always stood by me and were very supportive. I would also like to thank my PSO - Rakesh Tyagi and Somvir Verma and Law Researchers - Sang Rattan Negi, Nidhi Markose, Praveen Negi, and Kunal Israney. It was their support which was imperative for my duty and made the task a joy. I was privileged to have them besides me and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

I will be failing in my duty if I failed to record my appreciation to the officers and staff of the Registry, Protocol, Medical, P&P and Judges` lounge. I am grateful for the assistance and contribution of 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 - all Registrars; Mr. J.K.Batra, Mr. Naresh Garg - Joint Registrars and Mr. Desh Raj Choudhary, Deputy Registrar.

Every journey that ends embarks beginning of a new era. As my 25 years of journey ends, I look forward to being with my family.

Jai Hind. Jai Bharat.