

**FAREWELL SPEECH ON THE ELEVATION OF HON'BLE MR.
JUSTICE VIPIN SANGHI AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF
UTTARAKHAND HIGH COURT ON 27.06.2022**

BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SIDDHARTH MRIDUL

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipin Sanghi, The Acting Chief Justice;

My Esteemed Sister and Brother Judges;

Mr. Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General of India;

**Mr. Murari Tiwari, Chairman (Enrolment Committee), Bar Council of
Delhi;**

Mr. Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association;

Mr. Jatan Singh, Vice President, Delhi High Court Bar Association;

Mr. Abhijat, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association;

Mr. Sanjay Lao, Standing Counsel (Criminal) Govt. of NCT of Delhi;

Standing Counsels of the Central and State Government;

Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association;

Office Bearers of Bar Council of Delhi and other District Bar Associations;

Senior Advocates:

Members of the Bar;

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have assembled today to bid farewell to our esteemed colleague Justice Vipin Sanghi on the occasion of his elevation as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court.

In the course of his judicial career of over 16 years so far, Justice Sanghi has delivered several landmark Judgments and decisions in many areas of substantive and procedural law. Justice Sanghi has been part of several rosters dealing with

constitutional, civil, taxation, criminal, IPR laws, matrimonial, tender matters, service matters amongst others.

Throughout his distinguished career as a Judge, Justice Sanghi has delivered many landmark judgements, few of which deserve special mention.

In the ***Suo Motu COVID-19 matter***, bench headed by Justice Sanghi played an instrumental role in ensuring that the administration and the Courts are accessible to meet the grievances of the people of Delhi. The day-to-day hearings, which often went on till late evening, were of great significance, to tackle the health crisis in Delhi. The situation was such which prompted Justice Sanghi to keep the doors of the Court open and ensure to provide relief in times of adversity. Justice Sanghi once remarked,

“Will we shut our eyes to people dying in Delhi?...Enough is enough...who is asking for a dime more than allocated? Don't do this, Don't do that. We don't appreciate this.”

Something which never came to public domain is that his own close relatives were suffering from Covid at that time despite that he devoted himself to save the public at large. While acting as a humanist Judge, he made sure that the grievances of the people of Delhi regarding hospitals, oxygen, vaccines and medicines were met instantaneously. Dr K. K. Aggarwal, his brother-in law, who was not only a trouble shooter to him and his family, but to the whole nation was hospitalized and succumbed to Covid. Amongst others, Justice Sanghi held the court continuously for weeks and passed several orders to overcome the scarcity of oxygen, medicines, beds in hospital, ambulances, ramping up of testing facilities. Justice Sanghi passed an order wherein, the hospitals were required to add more beds and regularly update the availability of beds in the hospital on a dedicated portal. He also directed the Hospitals and government to set up their own oxygen plants, further, directed the government to issue a notification with

respect to the compulsory licensing of drugs, and also cut down custom duty on Oxygen concentrators, take action against black marketers as well. His Lordships shall always be remembered for being the pro-citizen Judge even amidst a pandemic.

The refence would be incomplete without mentioning how invested Justice Sanghi is in the welfare of this City. Justice Sanghi kept a close judicial lens in various matters including but not limited to control Mosquito Infestation by directing the constitution of the **Dengue Task Forces**, pulled up Municipal corporations over non-payment of salaries to doctors, health workers, sanitisation workers. It is because of his sheer concern for balancing the equities of all the stakeholders, Justice Sanghi over the course, passed several orders to ensure that the authorized Street Vendors/Hawkers earn their livelihood, however, at the same there is no illegal encroachment which hampers the rights of the Citizens.

To assuage problems being faced by the kins of families who have lost their lives to COVID-19, Justice Sanghi in *Sunil Kumar Aledia v GNCTD*, directed the authorities to disburse the ex-gratia amounts to the construction workers, as disbursed since March, 2020 even to those, whose registration may have lapsed, but are subsequently renewed by the Board after due verification. The Court also directed the DSLSA to monitor the compliance of the direction issued by the Court.

In yet another notable judgment of *Delhi Sarkari Ration Dealers Sangh Delhi v Commissioner Food And Supplies, GNCTD & Ors.*, Justice Sanghi held that though the GNCTD is entitled to frame a scheme for doorstep delivery of rations to the beneficiaries, however, the same has to be done by the GNCTD from its own resources in compliance with the prevailing laws.

Poonam Sethi v Sanjay Sethi is one of the many judgments of Justice Sanghi, where the well-known adage, “*Not only must Justice be done; it must also be seen to be done*” is reflected. In the instant case, Family Court had directed the father to pay maintenance for the minor son but refused any relief with regard to maintenance of two daughters who were above 18 years of age. The bench led by Justice Sanghi while allowing the appeal, held that simply stating that the daughters are major and earning an income, without adducing how, and how much, is a *non sequitur*. His lordship gave due consideration to the welfare of daughters and remarked,

“Court is hopeful that the mother would play a positive role in bridging the gap between the father and the daughters and that he would be welcomed at the wedding functions of his daughters.”

Yet another noteworthy judgment by Justice Sanghi was *Jujhar Singh v. M/s Hotz Industries Ltd.* in which he held that Execution Petition is maintainable in respect of orders passed Order 39 Rule 1 & 2. The Court placed reliance on Section 36 of CPC, which provides that the provisions of the Code relating to the execution of decree shall, so far as they are applicable, be deemed to apply to the execution of orders.

Besides, the office of Executive Chairperson, DSLSA was adorned by Justice Sanghi, from **08.02.2021 to 26.06.2022**. Justice Sanghi’s vision as the Executive Chairperson was to promote an inclusive legal system and to ensure meaningful access to justice to the marginalized sections of NCT of Delhi. It was Hon’ble Acting Chief Justice’s expert guidance and foresightedness that during the unprecedented times of COVID-19, DSLSA stood the test of time and launched

a number of innovative projects to reach out to the doorsteps of the justice seekers.

John Marshall said:

“The power of Judiciary lies, not in deciding cases, not in imposing sentences, not in punishing for contempt, but in the trust, faith and confidence of the common man.”

Justice Sanghi, in order to instil the faith of common people in judiciary and follow the Constitutional mandate of Article 39A, undertook some major initiatives as the Executive Chairperson of DSLSA.

❖ **Inauguration of Front offices and Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel System as a Pilot Project in Dwarka District Court in March 2021:**

- On the occasion of 25 Years of Establishment of DSLSA and under the directions of NALSA, DSLSA inaugurated **easily accessible Front Offices with world-class infrastructure** for all District Courts of Delhi in the august presence of Hon’ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, The Chief Justice of India and Hon’ble Mr. Justice Vipin Sanghi.
- Under the able guidance of Justice Sanghi, DSLSA also implemented a Pilot Project titled, ‘**Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel System**’ in South-west District for providing more professional and improvised legal aid in Sessions triable cases on the lines of public defender system. The project yielded great results and will now be replicated in other districts of Delhi.

❖ **Pan India Legal Awareness & Mega Outreach Campaign in November 2021:** To commemorate “Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav” and Legal Services Week, DSLSA under the aegis of NALSA organized a 45-day long legal

awareness campaign. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipin Sanghi encouraged the legal aid fraternity to cover whole of the capital city of Delhi and spread message of inclusivity by way of varied activities including Cycle Rally which was flagged by HMJ Sanghi on 03.10.2021. Under his guidance, DSLSA conducted **2477** legal awareness programmes which successfully benefitted around **1 crore** people of Delhi.

❖ **Release of 9900 inmates by High-Powered Committee:** Pursuant to the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court on 23.03.2020 in *Suo Moto Petition no. 1/2020 in Re: Contagion of Covid-19 Virus in Prisons*, a **High-Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Vipin Sanghi** was constituted for ensuring social distancing and to control the outbreak of pandemic inside Delhi prisons. Remarkably, the committee ordered release of 9900 inmates on emergency parole and interim bail during the first two waves of COVID-19.

❖ **Activities during COVID-19 imposed Lockdowns:**

- Launch of Dedicated Helpline for Domestic Violence Victims 1516
- Distribution of dry ration, cooked food, sanitary pads, sanitizer, masks, milk, fruits etc.
- Registration of Construction Laborers
- Vaccination Registration for marginalized section, sex workers and labourers
- Legal Awareness and Legal Literacy through virtual platforms
- Mental Health Awareness Sessions for Judicial Officers, Lawyers, Students, Court Staff

❖ **Employment to Inmates, Acid Attack Victims and Transgender:**

DSLSA in collaborations Delhi Yuva Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal

Yojana and other Skill Development Institutes, imparted vocational training and organized job fairs for inmates. **In first of its kind Project Vidhik Sahayak, four jail inmates got employment offers from law firms. Moreover, DSLSA is employing 5 acid attack victims and 1 transwoman** in its office for encouraging their reintegration into the mainstream society.

- ❖ Justice Sanghi inspired to channelize the time and energy of young offenders in the best possible manner by including them in skill development and sports programmes. DSLSA organized Sports Week **from 14.02.2022 to 19.02.2022** for Male Juveniles lodged in Observation Home, Mukherjee Nagar.
- ❖ **Launch of Ojas Learning Centre at Tihar Prisons in March 2022:** To provide better legal services to inmates and steadfast their skill development, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipin Sanghi propelled the launch of "Refurbished Legal Aid Clinic and 'OJAS' Centre for Learning for Jail Inmates." Resultantly, in March 2022 the Legal Aid Clinic and Learning Centre was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.U. Lalit in Tihar Jail, Delhi.
- ❖ During the tenure of Justice Sanghi, **5 National Lok Adalats, 1 Special Lok Adalat and 1 Ghar Ghar Lok Adalat** was organized by DSLSA. Remarkably, awards worth **INR 2337 crore were passed in 4 lakh cases.** On 14.02.2021, **for the first time in Delhi "Ghar-Ghar Lok Adalat"** was organized for traffic challans to reach the doorsteps of citizens and ensure speedy justice during pandemic. Under this campaign, approximately **1.7 Lakhs Challans** were disposed of by **98 benches** all across Delhi. In each

of these Lok Adalats, Justice Sanghi personally visited various Lok Adalat Benches in different court complexes of Delhi.

❖ **Nation-wide telecasting of Social Documentary Films:** Most recent and innovative brainchild of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipin Sanghi is Social Documentary Films curated by DSLSA. DSLSA with **Ms. Juhi Chawla** as the Campaign Ambassador directed **three social documentary films on pertinent issues, namely, Domestic Violence, Senior Citizens and Child Sexual Abuse** to reach out to the masses in the most cost-effective manner. The documentary after official launch shall be telecasted on various platforms across the nation, including Public Utility offices, Police Stations, Courts, DM Offices, Cinema Halls, News Channels, OTT Platforms, Schools, Colleges and Social Media.

These initiatives bear testament to Justice Sanghi's commitment towards the cause of justice. Justice Sanghi is one of the finest and most conscientious judges of our times. He is also an outstanding and hardworking judge known for giving a patient hearing to everyone. He shall be remembered for his legal acumen, judicial discipline and benevolence on and off the Bench.

While we bid farewell to Justice Sanghi, I, on behalf of the entire Court, extend best wishes to him for a very successful tenure as Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand.

Farewell my brother and Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi.

THANK YOU

JAI HIND