

**FAREWELL SPEECH ON THE ELEVATION OF HON'BLE MR.
JUSTICE SHRIPATHI RAVINDRA BHAT AS CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT ON 03.05.2019 AT 3:00
P.M.**

**JUSTICE RAJENDRA MENON
CHIEF JUSTICE**

My esteemed brother Justice Shripathi Ravindra Bhat,
My esteemed brother and sister Judges,
Shri K.C. Mittal, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi;
Shri Kirti Uppal, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association;
Smt. Maninder Acharya, Additional Solicitor General;
Shri Rahul Mehra, Standing Counsel (Criminal), Govt. of NCT of
Delhi;
Standing Counsels for 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,
Family members of Justice S.R. Bhat,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have assembled here today to bid farewell to our esteemed colleague Justice Shripathi Ravindra Bhat on the occasion of his elevation as Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court. While bidding farewell, I can only say it is an event, and absolutely a pleasant and delightful one, for he is going to head the Rajasthan High Court, at the same time, it is also an occasion which has some saddening effect on our minds as all will indubitably feel his absence personally as well as institutionally.

Justice Bhat was born on 21st October, 1958 at Mysore, had his early education at Bangalore and Gwalior and completed his schooling from Central School Faridabad. After graduating i.e. B.A. (Hons.) in English Literature from the prestigious Hindu College, Delhi University in 1979, he studied law at Campus Law Centre, Delhi University and was enrolled as an Advocate on August 9, 1982.

Justice Bhat started his legal practice before the Delhi High Court, Supreme Court of India and before various other judicial fora. His practice included a diverse range of litigation in the field of Public and Constitutional law, service and labour law, indirect taxation, banking, consumer law and educational law. He worked as government counsel for the State of Uttar Pradesh in Supreme Court from 1998 to 2000 and also worked as a counsel for Union of India in Central Government Agency 'B' panel. He also worked as Special Counsel on behalf of State

of Punjab in the Ravi Beas Water Disputes Tribunal from 1986 to 1998. On 16th July 2004, he was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court and became a permanent Judge on 20th February 2006.

Justice Bhat has always been acknowledged for being a pleasant yet forthright and upfront person. He is also an outstanding and hard working judge known for giving a patient hearing to everyone. The Bar has deep admiration and respect for him. He had shown keen interest in the e-court project and was always in favour of re-engineering the legal system and make it technologically advanced. According to him, this will save time and will make working in the courts easier and ensure speedy disposal of cases. He has to his credit the honour of being the first Judge in the country to preside over a first paperless court.

On the administrative side, Justice Bhat served as a Member and Chairman of various committees. He served as a Member on the Administrative and General Supervision Committee, the Building Maintenance and Construction Committee. He served as a Chairman on the Court Development Planning Committee, Committee to examine the pendency of cases in Delhi High Court, Committee to take up the matter with the Government for providing the infrastructure for the subordinate judiciary etc. He also served as a Chairman of the Delhi State Legal Service Authority.

Justice Bhat served as Chairman of Editorial Committee, which published the first annual report of this Court. He also served as a Member of Editorial Board of the Book titled "Courts of India : Past to Present", which was published by Supreme Court of India. He also served as a Member of "High Level Committee to review the Institutionalisation of Arbitration Mechanism in India".

Throughout his distinguished career as a Judge, Justice Bhat has delivered many landmark judgements, few of which deserve special mention. In ***F. Hoffmann Case***, Justice Bhat gave special consideration and attention to the third party interest by holding that a right was available to the general public to have access to lifesaving drug. In ***Subhash Chandra Aggrawal Case***, Justice Bhat had dealt with the issue of assets declaration by Supreme Court Judges under the Right to Information Act. In ***Bayer Corporation Case***, Justice Bhat clarified that under Section 156 of The Patents Act, 1970, the Government and its Officials, as grantors, are bound by the patents, they have to respect patents and cannot infringe them, except to the extent it is sanctioned by law.

As a Judge of this Court, Justice Bhat has rendered all possible assistance that the institution expects from a Judge in discharging his constitutional obligations. He shall be remembered for his positive support in all our court related activities as well as the discipline he mentioned on and off the Bench. The Rule of Law can be maintained in its letter and

spirit only when we have judges like Justice Bhat, he is and has been a true custodian of the Constitutional values.

A true leader normally has four qualities; vision, is close to reality, maintains high standards of ethics and is courageous and in Justice Bhat we find that he is in possession of all these qualities to the hilt. Justice Bhat always believed that there was and is a solution for every problem and while discharging duties not only on the judicial side but also on the administrative side he had exhibited exemplary skills. As far as I am concerned, I am personally indebted to him for the able assistance and guidance given to me on the administrative side while dealing with various complicated administrative issues. I had known him even before I came to this High Court and our friendship gained strength after we started working together, in him I found a true friend, a philosopher and a guide who always stood for justice and truth. Not only me, all my brother and sister Judges feel the same way and we all would be missing him. However, now his professional skills and abilities get further recognition and I am sure that as head of the judicial family in the State of Rajasthan, the legal fraternity and the people of Rajasthan will be benefitted.

I extend my best wishes and congratulate his family members, mother: Mrs. Savitri Bhat, Wife: Mrs. Lalit Mohini Bhat, Brother: Mr. Darshan Bhat, Sister-in-Law: Mrs. Garima Bhat, Son: Mr. Anirudh Bhat, Niece: Ananya Bhat on this occasion.

While we bid farewell to you Justice Bhat, I, on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues on the Bench and on behalf of the entire court, extend congratulations and best wishes to him for a very successful tenure as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court and we are confident that he will achieve greater success and glory.

Jai Hind!