

Justice Manmohan, Hon'ble the acting Chief Justice

My esteemed brother and sister Colleagues,

Mr.Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General of India,

Registrar General and all the Registrars, including the staff of this Court

Mr. Surya Prakash Khatri, Chairperson Bar Council of Delhi

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

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

Mr. Sandeep Sharma, Honorary Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

President and Executive Members of all the Bar Associations,

Delhi Government Standing Counsel (Civil) and all Standing Counsels of the Central Government and all Law Officers of the Central and State Government,

Senior Advocates and Members of the Bar,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I thank all the previous speakers who said all truth about me and my family members,

While sitting here at this moment, I feel:-

“A milestone is less about the finish line and more about the path you've walked to reach it.”

The journey has not been so easy for me.

As you all know, I belong to a very humble background. I was born and brought up in a village. I passed Matriculation in the year 1979 from Govt. High School

at my Village, where most of my classes were under trees only, however, I hardly got the feel of a class room.

After passing Matriculation in the year 1979, I got admitted in Pre-University in the University College Kurukshetra, from where I graduated in Humanity.

For my higher studies, I applied in two Courses, i.e., LL.B. and Masters in Political Science. I chose Political Science over LLB as I had a fear in my mind being a first Generation Lawyer. However, destiny had chosen LLB for me. So, on completion of my Post Graduation in Political Science in the year 1985, I got admission in LL.B. in Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi.

“ना वकील बनना था, ना जज बनने का शौक था, पर किस्मत ने कहा, 'तू पढ़ाई कर, फैसला हम सुनाएंगे!’”

After completing my Law, once I was sitting with my brother to discuss from where to start practice in law profession, like Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Chandigarh or Delhi. My father heard and intervened while saying, *“You can decide as you like but my suggestion to you is to not start practice at Kaithal, Karnal or Kurukshetra. But to start practising legal profession at either Chandigarh or Delhi”*. He said that in small cities, growth will be small and in big cities Sky is the limit.

Having no God father and being the first generation in legal profession, I happened to meet Late Sh. Watan Singh, Advocate, practicing in criminal side at Patiala House Court Complex and practised with him for almost four years. He was indeed my first Guru in profession, who taught me to learn criminal law but with heart.

Thereafter, in the year 1996, I came on the Panel of Railways and Union of India to defend their cases before this Court. I was thereafter appointed as the Standing Counsel for the Central Government on 3rd of June, 2004.

"मंज़िलें चाहे कितनी भी मुश्किल हो, हौसले की उड़ान से छोटी लगती हैं, राहें हों चाहे कितनी भी कठिन, मेहनत की मशाल से रौशन होती हैं।"

On 05th September, 2008 i.e. Teacher's Day I was elevated as a Judge of this Court. With highest regards, I pay my gratitude to Hon'ble Dr. Justice M.K. Sharma, the then Chief Justice of this Court and the Collegium Members Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manmohan Sareen, who recommended my name. Thereafter, approved by the Supreme Court's Collegium headed by the then Chief Justice K.G.Balakrishnan.

I am grateful to the then Chief Justices; Justice A.P. Shah, Justice Dipak Mishra, Justice D. Murgesan, Justice N.V.Ramanna, Justice G Rohini, Justice Rajendera Menon and Justice D.N.Patel; who showed immense confidence in me. I am also thankful to Justice Satish Chander Sharma, the then Chief Justice and now Supreme Court Judge and Justice Manmohan, for their trust in me.

I have been very fortunate to hold Division Benches with very senior and outstanding Judges like Justice Madan B. Lokur, Justice A.K. Sikri, Justice Vikramajeet Sen, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Justice Sanjeev Khanna, Justice S Ravindra Bhat, Justice Hima Kohli, Justice Pradeep Nandrajog, Justice B.N.Chaturvedi, Justice Anil Kumar, as the Judges of this Court.

I convey my sincere regards to Justice Pradeep Nandrajog, who has been my mentor and my *guru*. I am blessed to have his guidance as and when I needed.

I also convey my thanks to my fellow colleague Judges, with whom I held the Division Benches.

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani, who has quick understanding of the case.

Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain, who is a relief giver.

Justice Saurabh Banerjee, who works with great enthusiasm.

Justice Girish Kathpalia, who goes by law to give relief.

Justice Manoj Jain, who loves to work and make quick disposal.

Justice Shailender Kaur, who has a soft heart and good application of law.

I am most thankful to Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, for her unlimited support and vast contribution in early disposal of family appeals.

Today, sitting here on this Chair, I remember my respected **Father Late Shri Sahab Dia Ram**, without whose efforts it would not have been possible for me to reach this height. My father's mission of life was to educate all children and he used to say if you get a job of even a Peon in some Government Department, your life would be far better than other villagers.

I remember, once my father was cutting grass with hand driven weeding machine single handedly and I was doing my homework. I left my homework and got up to help him out. But he outrightly said, never leave your studies for any other work.

I also deeply remember **my mother- Late Smt. Shanti Devi's** silent sacrifices and dedication to ensure we had the best opportunities from our limited resources.

Seeing my father's hard work, I made up my mind to live up to his expectations and give my best in my studies so to change graph of our lives.

On this day, I also remember my eldest brother **Late Shri Jeet Ram Kait**, who studied uptill 10th class and was working as UDC when he got married. However, with my father's inspiration, he continued to study and in the year 1973, got selected in Indian Revenue Services through UPSC. In the year 1974 my brother was selected as an IPS officer, however, he continued to work in Central Excise and Customs Department, where he reached upto the level of Commissioner and thereafter, in the year 2001 he was selected as Member of The Custom Excise and Service Appellate Tribunal who retired in the year 2005.

My said brother was 18 ½ years elder and was a fatherly figure to me, who along with my father, took our family's education graph to the next level. My brother had no child and despite availability of all possible medical facilities, he chose to treat his younger siblings as his children and ensure their good education, including me.

My brother's role in making me achieve this height would not be complete until I mention name of my **Bhabhi Smt. Kaushalya Ji**, who is like my mother and sitting in the audience.

I am also grateful to my second elder brother **Shri Baljeet Singh Kait**, who was also a genius and National Scholarship Holder. However, the irony of his life was that despite having secured a seat in IIT, Kanpur, he could not make his place due to financial crunch, despite my family's best efforts, and had to pursue B.Sc. He got selected as Probationary Officer in Bank of Baroda in the year

1975. He could reach upto the level of Chief Manager despite his health issues. **Why I am mentioning his name is, because he has brought a revolution to our culture.** He married my late **Bhabhi Sushila Ji** in the year 1976, who was Post Graduate in Political Science and when he brought her in *doli*, for the first time in our village, **the new Dulhan was without veil i.e. parda** and despite resistance by the family and villagers, my father stood as a rock to his decision. Since then, there is no *parda* system in our family.

My younger brother, **Mr. Kuldeep Singh Kait**, also did his M.Phil and Ph.D from JNU and is now posted as a Professor in Geography in a PG College at Gurgaon. I wish him all the very best in his life.

I also convey my regards to my sisters who gave me immense affection and took care of me.

I remember and convey my heartiest regards to my first school Teacher Sh. Ram Chandra.

My parents named me Suresh and as per Hindu Mythology, one of its' synonym is **Indra**. The creator of this world is **Brahma**, who is said to have emerged from the flower **Lotus**, which has its synonym - **Saroj**. So, the Creator has gifted me the best of flower- **Saroj** and I am extremely blessed to have her as my life partner.

Achieving this place, would not have been possible without **Saroj**. I remember when I joined profession as an Advocate and had a very few cases in hand and was struggling to establish my practice, Saroj extended full support, both morally and financially. She has turned out to be an excellent architect and designer of my life, my home and my career.

Also, Brahma and Inder are both worshipped as protectors of historical Budha and often depicted as giving first bath to the infant Budha, who is always a source of inspiration for me.

I am blessed with **two sons**, who are my pillar of strength. Whatever, I could perform was because of support of my sons, who never sought time from the judicial work for their pleasure. They always supported me in doing work even on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays either in Court or at my residence. I wish them all the very best in their life and profession, being Advocates.

We have added one more member to our family, my **daughter-in-law Dr. Deeksha Kait**, who is pursuing PG in Ophthalmology from Maulana Azad Medical College. I feel the vacuum of not having a daughter at home is now filled by her.

My work would not be accomplished without **assistance of my competent staff**, who without bothering for working Hours or holidays, extended their full support.

I convey my thanks to my Private Secretaries – **Mr.J.K.Batra and Mr.Rohtash Singh** for their brilliant work and support.

I thank my current Private Secretary **Ms.Prem Bala Chhabra**, who has now been promoted as Deputy Registrar, for tirelessly extending me support to handle administrative matters.

My **Court Master- Mr.Bharat Gulati**, who has been a big support in handling the Court sessions.

I appreciate the work and conduct of **Ms. Rosy Munjal**, Private Secretary, **Mr. Rohit Kumar**, Senior PA; **Ms.Umang Khanna**, Senior P.A. and **Ms.Alka Bobal**, Senior PA for extending their support in taking orders and judgments, during late working hours and even on holidays.

I am also thankful to **Mr. Arjun Singh**, Assistant Court Master and **Manoj Singh Rawat**, Restorer posted with me.

I appreciate the assistance rendered by **Mr. Tushar, Ms. Ridhi Sharma, Ms. Shaurya Yaduvanshi** as Law Researchers.

I thank **Mr. Sikander, Mr. Parvesh, Mr. Umesh, Mr. Ajay and Mr. Patel,** Court Attendants, for their dedicated service.

I also thank my Chauffer- **Mr. Anand Singh Chauhan,** and Personal Security Officers, **Mr. Rohit Arya and Mr. Gulzari Lal,** attached with me, for their outstanding services.

At the last and most important **Mr. Jyoti Prakash Sharma,** My Usher, for taking care of my needs with utmost sincerity.

I cannot forget the services rendered by **Protocol officers** including the Medical Protocol of this Court. I especially appreciate the services of **Mr. S.P. Singh Premi and Mr. Deepak Massand,** who have wholeheartedly taken care of medical needs of my family, even sometimes during odd hours, sacrificing the timings of their family.

I am also thankful to **Dr. K.J.S. Bansal, CMO Incharge; Dr. Anju Jethani; Dr. Sanat Kumr Sahu,** for their timely consultancy in the hour of need.

I am also thankful to **Protocol Officers- Prashant and Kuldeep** for making my and my family's travel comfortable.

I am very thankful to all the **Registrars** and the **staff of the Registry of this Court** for their services in the Judicial Dispensing System, without whose sincere work justice cannot be imparted so smoothly.

Judges are known by the Bar, as the Bar is the mother of the Bench. I have received immense love and affection from the Bar of Delhi. I can say, having appointed as a High Court Judge, I brought a blank Canvass, which has been beautifully coloured by the members of the Bar. I never had any dispute with any one in all these years and even if I said something during court hearings, that was only with the intent to maintain the decorum of the Court for dispensation of justice and nothing was ever personal.

I have also received immense love from Bar and Judges of Hyderabad and I am looking forward to have the same from Bar of Madhya Pradesh.

Last but not the least, I am a person, who hails from a rural background, but has been able to achieve this height because of our Constitution and for this I pay my homage to Father of Constitution- **Dr. B.R.Ambedkar**.

I thank you all for your support and the privilege of serving with you.

Jai Hind