

**FAREWELL REFERENCE ADDRESS BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH  
CHANDRA SHARMA, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF DELHI ON HIS  
ELEVATION AS JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

My esteemed sister and brother Judges at the High Court,  
Shri Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General of India,  
Shri K.K. Manan, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi,  
Shri Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,  
Shri Jatan Singh, Vice-President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,  
Shri Sandeep Sharma, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association,  
Shri Sanjay Lao, Standing Counsel (Criminal), Govt. of NCT of Delhi,  
Shri Santosh Tripathi, Standing Counsel (Civil), 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,  
Principal District and Sessions Judges and other Judicial Officers of Delhi,  
Members of the Bar,  
Members of Print and Electronic Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
A very Good Afternoon to all of you.

I am indebted to all of you for the kind words that you have spoken for me. I am truly heartened to see that so many of you have gathered to share this special moment with us. As I speak on this occasion, I cannot help but reminisce my journey which began from Bhopal. I was a first-generation lawyer and started my practice before the Jabalpur Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. In 2008, I was called on the bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. From Jabalpur, I was called to the Karnataka High Court and later to Telangana High Court. Last year, I got the opportunity to serve on the bench of this Court. As I look back today, I have no hesitation in saying that I owe all the milestones in my journey to the kindness and support of those who found me on my way, and showed me the right path from time to time. In legal profession and in life, journey becomes beautiful when you travel with others and make an effort to grow as well as to help people around you to grow.

During my 15 years on the bench, I have been fortunate to have dealt with cases concerning people from all walks of life and from all parts of the society. As a Judge, I have always tried to spread the wings of my jurisdiction in a manner that the litigant goes back with a relief. Justice to the litigant has always been a consistent goal. Whether or not I have succeeded in doing the same, I cannot tell and in fact, I should not. Afterall, we all know that I cannot be a Judge in my own cause. But I can confidently share that judgeship has given me a great sense of satisfaction. The ability to alleviate the sufferings of a litigant and to be able to uphold their rights, is the hallmark of judgeship. When I joined the bench 15 years ago, I was full of gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of Madhya Pradesh. Today, as I

proceed to the Apex Court of the land, I am filled with the same sense of gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of this great country.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention about the support of my family – especially my parents, my wife and my children. The innumerable sacrifices made by them on a day-to-day basis have enabled me to work to the best of my ability. I may have failed to talk about them as often, but they have never gone unnoticed in my heart. I am indebted for the unwavering and selfless support of my wife. She has truly been an enabler in my journey.

As I bid farewell to this Court, let me say that this is not a good-bye moment for me. Rather, it is a thank-you moment for me. I am thankful to my colleagues on the bench for gracefully accepting me and for providing me a cordial working environment. I have benefitted immensely from my sister and brother Judges, both on the judicial side and the administrative side. As a Chief Justice, one is required to indulge in a lot of administrative work, and at this level, work brings with itself certain challenges. In those moments, I could not have sailed through without the support of my colleagues here.

I am equally thankful to the members of the bar for always assisting me and for always holding me in high esteem. Bar and bench must always share a bond of mutual respect as it is important for the ultimate goal of delivery of justice. As I see it, the pursuit of justice is our common goal. Law officers of the Central Government,

Law officers of the NCT of Delhi, Senior Advocates and other members of the bar – I thank you all for joining me in the pursuit of justice.

I may also thank the officers and officials of the Registry, especially the Registrar General, who collectively acted as my support system and helped me in the administration on a daily basis. I thank the members of my Secretariat, my residential staff, my usher, my driver, my PSOs and my law clerks for helping me in performing to the best of my ability.

An ending in this Court is going to bring a fresh start in another. Before I conclude, I may borrow these beautiful words from a song called “*We’ll meet again*” by Vera Lynn:

**“We'll meet again**

**Don't know where**

**Don't know when**

**But I know we'll meet again, on some sunny day”**

Thank you and Jai Hind.