

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM

FAREWELL SPEECH

BY

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH K AGNIHOTRI

CHIEF JUSTICE

on

6/29/2018

COURT ROOM NO. 1

**ADDRESS/REPLY SPEECH BY HIS LORDSHIP
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH K AGNIHOTRI,
CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM
ON 29.06.2018**

ON THE EVE OF HIS LORDSHIP'S BID FAREWELL

- My Esteemed Colleagues on the Bench, Sister & Brother Judges
- Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Mr. Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan;
- My elder brothers, Mr. Justice A.P. Subba and Mr. Justice S. P. Wangdi;
- My beloved wife Yogmaya;
- Madam Manasa, Madam Subba & Madam Wangdi;
- Mr. Pratik Sharma, Mr. Mahesh Bhardwaj and Mr. Bibudendra Misra
- Mr. A. Moulik, Senior Advocate;
- Mr. A. K. Upadhyaya, Senior Advocate;
- Mr. Karma Thinlay, Senior Government Advocate;
- Other Senior Advocates;
- Mr. Jorgay Namka, General Secretary and other office bearers of the Bar Association of Sikkim;
- Legal Remembrancer-cum-Secretary, Law Department, Government of Sikkim;
- The Registrar General, the Registrar;
- District & Sessions Judge, East Sikkim, Gangtok.
- Judicial Officers of the State Judiciary stationed at Gangtok;
- Learned members of the Bar;
- Officers of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority;
- Other Officers & Officials of the Registry;

- Print and Electronic Media;
 - Ladies and Gentlemen.
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Exactly after 18 hours from this moment, I shall be hanging up my boots of Judiciary.

I stand here before you today humble and in awe that so many of you considered my superannuation ceremony worthy of your time.

I am deeply touched and overwhelmed by the kind words that you have all expressed today for me.

I express my sincere gratitude to all of you and also sincere gratitude for my time spent here in this High Court along with you. I am privileged and honoured today by overwhelming presence of all high functionaries, who have been associated with me during my tenure as head of the institution. During this tenure I have been able to improve myself, I have become more enthusiastic and learnt nitty-gritty of the administration. Thank you all who made me what I am today.

I am thankful to my sister and brother judges, Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Mr. Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, who have stood by me and were always a pillar of strength for me.

I am equally grateful to former Judges of this Court, who have at times been reminding me of my duty in the peculiar settings of this Institution.

I sincerely express my thanks to all from the bottom of my heart for support, care and concern in my entire tenure and enriching my life. You have been just my second family. You all have supported me in my professional discharge of responsibility and me in my personal life.

The Registrar General and all members of the staff of this Court and the entire State judiciary always considered me as head of this family and also helped me in performance of my constitutional duty.

Members of the bar have been equally cooperative and extremely cordial to me and to the functioning of the Court. At times, in the course of my professional discharge of duty I have been harsh, rude but I must make it clear that my intention was always clear and this was only for the sole purpose of betterment of the institution.

I am extremely proud of what we have achieved together and I can never ever forget. We have achieved a lot by working in cordial cooperation and harmony. My professional responsibility was challenging and rewarding. I have been put in well reward by the love and affection shown by you all. Today I am short of words to thank you all, especially the Hon'ble Judges, Registry officers and staff for

supporting and encouraging me so much. With the help of your support, kindness, friendship and appreciation I could achieve this.

I am also going to miss this institutional as well as climatic environment and also my colleagues who always stood by me. I have full trust that this great institution will continue to grow and enrich itself constitutionally, legally and academically.

I came here as a Judge on transfer on 23.05.2016 from Madras High Court, Chennai. I interacted with you, learnt your legal knowledge, benefitted from your legal wisdom, moved as a friend and now I am parting as your brother.

We have worked together to demystify the Courts and make it a more acceptable place for the litigant public.

We were not just marking time. We made a difference.

We made the courts more accessible to the people of Sikkim, up-gradation of the website helped the litigant in understanding the legal system.

The Bar is the Judge of Judges. I have endeavoured, which you will judge how successfully, to adhere to the Judge's Prayer:

"Give me grace to hear patiently, to consider diligently, to understand rightly and to decide justly. Grant me due sense of humility, that I may not be misled by my willfulness, vanity or egotism."

Before parting I once again record my sincere thanks and gratitude to one and all of you particularly my Sister and Brother Judges, who extended their fullest support to me both on administrative and judicial side.

I record my appreciation to the Registrar General, Registrar, Chief Protocol Officer. I owe much to my Personal Secretaries and also to my personal staff, my Drivers, my Zamadars, my Residential Orderlies and Peons.

People ask how I feel about leaving and the fact is, "**parting is such sweet sorrow.**" The sweet part is Sikkim. The sorrow - the goodbyes, of course, and leaving this beautiful place.

My wife Yogmaya and I take back sweet memories of our stay here and feel blessed by the love and affection showered on us. It is very hard for me to say Goodbye.

May God bless you all and your family members.

शुभास्ते पंथानः संतु = May our roads be auspicious

JAI HIND! VANDE MATARAM!
