

My dear brother Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur  
Brother and Sister Judges, Former Judges,  
Learned Advocate General, Senior Advocates,  
Law Secretary and Officers of Administration,  
Office bearers and the Members of the Bar,  
Officers and Staff of the Registry of the Court,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. We have assembled here today to bid farewell to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur.
2. Bidding farewell to someone with whom one has some degree of association is painful and is so in case of parting the company of Justice Thakur but equally it is an occasion of joy as Justice Thakur is going to join an important Presidency High Court which has tremendous historical and legal background. In a way it is an elevation in status.
3. I have had a short association of one and a half year with brother Thakur in this High Court but I knew him before. We had short meetings in various conferences and have travelled together once in a train from Chandigarh to New Delhi. I have found him to be a gentleman par excellence full of modesty.
4. Justice Thakur after completing his LLb from Jammu University joined the legal profession in the year 1989. He was enrolled as an advocate on the Rolls of Bar Council of Delhi and later his enrollment was transferred to the Bar Council of J&K on 26th November 2010. He had joined

the chambers of his brother Hon'ble Mr Justice Tirath Singh Thakur, who we all know rose to the highest echelons of judiciary.

5. He could soon make a mark in the legal profession with his good understanding of law, mild manners and oratory skills. His hard work and professional competence could establish him well in the profession and earned him many institutional clients. He was able to justify his engagement in every case in which he appeared in the courts of law.
6. Justice Thakur's work was well recognised and he was aptly rewarded by his appointment as Judge of this High Court vide Notification dated 7th March 2013. He took oath of the constitutional office on 8th March, 2013.
7. Everyone of you have known Justice Thakur for a long time but in my short association with him, I have found him to be a very sober, considerate and affable person. Family lineage reflects in his persona and he has successfully carried forward the family legacy and has even bettered it in few aspects. He possesses humility, politeness, wisdom and sharp understanding, the inherent qualities of a true judge. I have found him to be a caring and an emotional person. It was a delight to work with him. He has always impressed me with his silence and the last minute valuable suggestion in the meetings of the court which always helped me in taking a decision in a balanced manner in the right direction, one way or the other.

8. As a Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Thakur has disposed of quite a good number of cases and while doing so he has shown his prowess and legal acumen in all branches of law. Since his taking over as Judge, he has dealt with many ticklish issues with considerable ease.
9. Now that Justice Thakur, on his transfer is going to Bombay High Court, which is one of the oldest and biggest High Courts in the country, having the sanctioned Judge strength of 94, I am sure Bombay High Court would be greatly benefitted by having Justice Thakur serving on its bench.
10. I wish Justice Thakur his wife and children good health, prosperous life and a bright future. We all would deeply miss him on the bench of this High Court.

Thank you all.

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Speech delivered by Justice Pankaj Mithal, Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh at the Full Court Reference on transfer of Hon'ble Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur to the Bombay High Court.