

VOTE OF THANKS

by

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey,
Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh,
on the occasion of the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony
of the New High Court Complex of the Union Territories
of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh
at Rakhi Gund Aksha, Bemina, Srinagar,
on 14.05.2022**

**Hon'ble Shri Justice N. V. Ramana, Chief Justice of India;
Hon'ble Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister for Law and Justice,
Union of India; Hon'ble Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit,
Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Shri Justice
Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India;
Honble Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, UT of Jammu
and Kashmir; Hon'ble Shri Radha Krishna Mathur, Lt.
Governor, UT of Ladakh; Hon'ble Shri Justice Pankaj
Mithal, Chief Justice, High Court of the UTs of Jammu
and Kashmir, and Ladakh; Hon'ble Shri Justice Rajesh
Bindal, Chief Justice, High Court of Allahabad; my
Brother and Sister Judges of the High Court; Advisors to
the Hon'ble Lt Governors of the two UTs; Shri D. C.
Raina, learned Advocate General; Former Chief Justices
and Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh Shri**

Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, UT of Jammu and Kashmir; other civil and security force dignitaries present; Judicial Officers of all ranks; Former Advocate Generals, Senior Advocates, Law Officers of the Central and UT Governments; Presidents and Members of the Bar Associations, Members of the Electronic and Print Media; Ladies and Gentlemen.

- 1. Very Good Afternoon to all of you present here.**
- 2. I consider it to be my proud privilege to have this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you on this auspicious occasion of the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the New High Court Complex of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, at its new site, namely, Rakhi Gund Aksha, Bemina, Srinagar.**
- 3. Recapitulating to mind what we have faced and witnessed a few decades earlier, when we were caught in the worst ever dark period of extreme agony, despair and uncertainty, I am overwhelmed by the joy of not only witnessing but participating in this memorable occasion which, I am sure, will be a milestone in the direction of a great future awaiting the people of the two Union**

Territories. I feel proud to be a member of the judicial fraternity of the two UTs. Probably all of you may not be knowing that the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has the distinction of being the 7th of the oldest High Courts in the country, having been actually established 94 years back, in the year 1928, the other six being the High Courts of Bombay, Kolkata, Madrass, Allahabad, Karnataka and Patna. It has also the unparalleled distinction of the fact associated with it that the Supreme Court of India for the first and the last time had to, and constituted a 3-Member Special Bench, headed by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, to hold its sittings outside its ordinary place of sitting at Delhi to hear and decide 17 appeals at Srinagar which were then pending adjudication before the Board of Judicial Advisers akin to the privy Council in British India. Since the time of independence the Institution of the Justice Delivery System in the two UTs has progressed by leaps and bounds in all its spheres.

4. The instant site of the new High Court Complex, I understand, would be the fourth in series to relocate and house the High Court eversince its establishment in 1928; the earliest two locations having been in the old Saddar

Court Complex near Lal Chowk and the third one being its present location adjacent to the Assembly Complex. The instant one is, indeed, a huge and spacious project, involving about 500 Kanals / 62 acres of lands and equally a huge sum of money to the tune of one thousand Crore of rupees. All that could not have been possible without the active and keen concern and effort of the local and the Central Government.

5. This moment, therefore, is undoubtedly of a great significance in the overall developmental and judicial history of the two Union Territories of J&K, and Ladakh, which cannot be let pass without expression of due and sincere gratitude to all concerned whose untiring efforts have culminated into today's unparalleled and tangible achievement.

6. I express special thanks on behalf of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh and on behalf of the Governments of the two UTs of J&K, and Ladakh, respectively, headed by Hon'ble Shri Manoj Sinha and Hon'ble Shri Radha Krishna Mathur, Lt. Governors; the Institution of Justice Delivery System in the two UTs, headed by Hon'ble Shri Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice; Presidents and the

Members of the Bar Associations spread through the length and breadth of the two UTs; and the people of the two UTs, to his Lordship Hon'ble Shri Justice N. V. Ramana, Chief Justice of India, to have kindly agreed to and laid the Foundation Stone of the New High Court Complex of the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, and to Hon'ble Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice, Union of India who has taken keen interest in ensuring timely start of this project for the benefit of people of J&K and Ladkah, and to their lordships Hon'ble Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Hon'ble Shri Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judges of the Supreme Court of India, to have agreed to spare their valuable time and be present at, and to grace, this occasion.

7. On behalf of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, I am deeply thankful to Hon'ble Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, for the efforts put in by him and the team of concerned authorities/officers involved in seeing this Project through and for sparing valuable time by his Excellency to grace this occasion. I express akin thanks to Hon'ble Shri Radha Krishna

Mathur, Lt. Governor, UT of Ladakh, for sparing time to be with us to grace the occasion.

8. My sincere thanks are also due to all the concerned authorities/officers of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, including the Public Works Department; the Police Department and other security agencies; Hospitality and Protocol Department; the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and Srinagar District Administration; the Commissioner, SMC; the Medical Department and every concerned officer for their keen cooperation extended to make this programme and ceremony a success. I am also thankful to the Members of the Committee of Judges of High Court constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice to supervise the arrangements regarding today's function and ceremony.

9. I am also deeply thankful to Hon'ble Shri Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Justice, High Court of Allahabad; Former Chief Justices and Judges of the High Court of J&K; the Judicial Officers of different ranks; Former Advocate Generals, Senior Advocates, Law Officers of the Central and UT Governments; Presidents and Members of

the Bar Associations for their kind gesture of accepting our invitation to participate in this ceremony.

10. I also express my thanks to the members of the national and local print and electronic media for participating in this function to observe the historical event of the positive and progressive change undertaking place in the UT of J&K under the able dispensation of the central leadership.

11. Last, but not the least, I pray to the Almighty that this moment and ceremony may usher in the golden era in the history, especially the judicial history, of the two UTs of J&K, and Ladakh.

12. I once again thank you all from the core of my heart. May God bless you all.