

- 1 My Lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Madam Gita Mittal.
- 2 My brother and sister Judges of this Court (sitting and retired).
- 3 Mr. S.S.Nanda Sr. Additional Advocate General of the Union Territory of J&K.
- 4 Mr. B.V.R.Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary.
- 5 Mr. Dilbagh Singh, DGP.
- 6 Other Officers of the Civil Administration and Police of this Union Territory.
- 7 Mr. Abhinav Sharma, President, Bar Association, Jammu.
8. Mr. Rohit Bhagat, Vice President, Bar Association Jammu.
9. Mr. Abhishek Wazir, General Secretary Bar Association Jammu.
10. Mr. Vishal Sharma, Assistant Solicitor General of India.
11. Senior Additional Advocate Generals, other law Officers of the Central and State Governments.
12. Senior Advocates and other Members of the Bar.
13. District and Sessions Judges and other Judicial Officers.
14. Officers of the Registry and High Court Staff.
- 15 Print and Electronic Media.
16. Ladies & Gentlemen.

The learned Sr. Additional Advocate General has in his address referred about certain things which in his estimation I possess. I feel humbled by the reference so made by him. I believe of having not any such feature or characteristic in me for which I could have earned at praise.

Any how, this has to be a swan song for me on laying the robes, after being on Bench for a brief spell. Just a peep into the past rewinds me of a trail of countless events. As a school boy and even as a lawyer and public servant, having to cover a distance of at least six kilometers on foot on a muddy hilly road daily and up to 30 kilometers per day on quite a number of occasions in a week, reminds me how a determined effort makes it easy to achieve a goal.

Long back, when I started my career as a lawyer in 1980, I along with other friends used to read with great zeal the judgments pronounced by Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court at that time, more particularly the judgments of Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N.Bhagwati and Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.R.Krishnaayyar. We also used to read almost good number of

judgments authored by Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.N.Wazir, Hon'ble Justice Murtaza Fazal Ali, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mufti Baha-ud-Din Farooqi, Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.K.Kotwal. We often used to have an in-depth study of law of pleadings authored by P.C. Moga the able Revenue Minister of Maharaja. Certain other books which we commonly read were D.D.Basu's Constitutional Law and commentary on criminal procedure code. The Judgments so read along with other material greatly shaped our basic skills in preparing the briefs and in understanding the various propositions of law.

It were the blessings of my parents which helped me in walking through the rough terrains of different facets of my life. Equally, it were the blessings of my teachers, most of whom have left for heavenly abode, which paved the way to move ahead and to be conspicuous. I remember a number of my teachers including Sh. Gopi Kishan Ji of Natipora, Chadoora, Mr. Razdan of Habakadal and Mr. Ghulam Rasool Bhat of Batmaloo. Literally, Gopi Kishan Ji used to love me more than his own children. I owe my gratitude to a number of teachers at

University level and various senior members of the Bar who used to guide me whenever need was felt.

I am now associated with the Justice Dispensation System for more than three decades. Certainly, a number of cases have been decided by me both at Subordinate Judiciary level as well as at High Court level. I, however, do not feel there being anything to be proud of in handling and deciding such cases.

My Lord Chief Justice and my esteemed colleagues at the Bench have been working hard to dispose of the cases in order to reduce the pendency in the High Court and to provide justice to the needy. Their efforts are really appreciable. Under the able leadership of Lord Chief Justice, certain measures have been taken both at District Judiciary level as well as at High Court level to make the justice accessible with least inconvenience. A number of programmes have been organized for imparting legal education and to provide legal aid particularly in remote areas.

The fact, however, remains that there is huge pendency both at Subordinate Judiciary as well as High Court level.

Whatever may be the reasons for this alarming pendency, I, as a part of this system, feel really disturbed and pained. We are required to take more effective and efficient steps and have the use of technology. We have to equip all the Courts with proper infrastructure which is used worldwide in Justice Dispensation System, in making the justice delivery system more effective.

Gandhiji had emphasized the need to be alive to his vision of '**talisman**' when we find ourselves in a dilemma or in doubt. We have to recall the poorest and a weak man and to see the steps which at our level we have to take and what we are required to do to lessen his sorrow and to make him blissful.

Whatever little I have been able to do in past, was due to the cooperation and proper guidance of the Bar Members both at Jammu and Srinagar who are extremely competent and have been aptly guiding whenever the need was felt. I must express my sincere thanks to the Members of the Bar for the assistance they rendered. Truly, the importance and significance of vibrant and competent Bar in a successful Judicial System requires to be underlined at every level.

I must also thank my colleagues at the Bench whose advice at times has steered my functioning. I have been able to improve myself and infuse more energy in myself by this. I am equally grateful to former Judges of this Court, who have, at times, been reminding me of certain skills to be taken care of in being meaningful. You all have supported me in professional discharge of duties.

It also requires to be underscored that the role of the staff and officers of the Registry is significant. Without their cooperation, it is really impracticable to proceed ahead. This prompts me to express my thanks to all the officers of the Registry, my personal staff at Srinagar and Jammu. The services rendered by them at the cost of their personal engagements are highly appreciable. They have worked diligently and dutifully.

I must thank my wife Shaheen as without her support, it would not have been possible for me to achieve whatever little I have done in this institution. My daughter Faizan and son

Mursheed also deserve to be appreciated being supportive and handling the family affairs.

Today, I am short of words to thank you all, especially the Hon'ble Judges, Officers of the Registry and staff, my colleagues at District Judiciary level for supporting me so much. Without their help, it was almost difficult to attain whatever has been done.

Before parting, I once again record my sincere thanks and gratitude to one and all of you particularly the Lord Chief Justice, the brother and sister judges of this Court. I also record my appreciation to the Registrar General, Principal Secretary to Lord Chief Justice, Registrar Judicial of both the wings of this Court, Personal Secretaries and also to my personal staff, my driver and Jamadar. May God bless you all and your family members.

Thank You.