ADDRESS BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KAROL, JUDGE ON 22.4.2017

It is my belief, that Full Court Reference is an occasion to celebrate and rejoice. Celebrate for what all stands achieved and rejoice by sharing, and replicating all that, with vigour and perseverance, in a changed atmosphere, set in different circumstances.

2. Prior to his joining as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, in extenso, I need not dilate upon the laurels achieved by his Lordship, save and except, that having been born in the illustrious family of Zamindars and after undertaking initial education in a rural background, with conviction and resolve, he rose, step-by-step, to join and serve this august office, w.e.f. 27th November, 2013.

3. My Lord, I have no reason not to believe that journey of your judicial career since 1993, has been quite fulfilling and satisfying to yourself. Borrowing the expression, in Jammu and Kashmir, you were called as the ‘darling of the bar’. I am sure, the sentiment is all continuing, as you would have yourself observed. To my mind, and I say so with full conviction, your journey in this Court too, also has been equally satisfying to yourself. I have no doubt that your
Lordship demits the office with no regret at heart and with contentment of having discharged the constitutional duties and obligations to the best of ability and knowledge.

4. The judicial work rendered by your Lordship came to be fully acknowledged on 19th August, 2016 by Hon’ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, the then Chief Justice of India at the time of inauguration of the Hostel Block of New Campus of Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy, at Ghandal. What else can be said, for nothing is left.

5. My first meeting with your Lordship, on the eve of your elevation as the Acting Chief Justice of this premier institution is still fresh in my mind. It was inside the Golden Lobby of Hotel Peterhoff, where you spent your first night in Shimla. Sir, it is your brotherly hug, full of warmth, that we heartily reciprocate on the twilight of your demitting this office. Believe me Sir, over the years not only such warmth has continued to grow, but the same shall be cherished for all times.

6. I do remember, while welcoming your Lordship to this Court, the speakers having drawn various similarities between the State of Himachal Pradesh and your native State,
i.e. the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and the glorious journey of 42 years of this premier institution. Change is the only constant. People come and go. But Institutions are forever and happily it is with this conviction one finds that with each passing day, the institution continues to grow.

7. In the welcome address, these speakers had urged your Lordship of getting the matters settled through the Alternate Disputes Redressal Mechanism. I am happy to place on record, that immediately with your joining, I was taken into confidence and assigned the responsibility of officiating as the Executive Chairman of the H.P. State Legal Services Authority.

Let me, unhesitatingly and unreservedly inform all, that ever since then, only under your continued guidance and stewardship, the said Authority has done great service in rendering quick and satisfactory justice to the poor litigants of this State. It brought immediate succour to the most needy. Indeed under your continued guidance, the Authority brought several laurels and the endeavour, particularly in the field of educating and sensitizing the school children about their legal rights and fundamental duties, as also planting trees, came to be acknowledged by Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, the then
Chief Justice of India, in the presence of Hon’ble the Prime Minister of India. Also, you were able to persuade his Excellency the Governor of Himachal Pradesh Acharya Devvrat to come and bless the children in the Auditorium of the High Court. This was the first visit of any Governor to the High Court premises. Another first in the country, under your able guidance, was holding of a very-very successful pre-litigation mediation. For all this, I am personally grateful and indebted to your Lordship for having reposed unflinching faith, confidence and belief in me. Here, I must also acknowledge the co-operation and efforts of the Members of the Bar in making the programmes successful.

8. It was under your able guidance and stewardship, that the new complex of Himachal Pradesh State Judicial Academy came to be inaugurated by the then Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India. So also foundation stone of the National Law University came to be laid. Happily, the University commenced imparting education to its first batch of students, so admitted during the academic session 2016-17. I am sure you would have got full co-operation from my brothers Hon’ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Sharma, Judge; Hon’ble Mr. Justice
Dharam Chand Chaudhary, Judge; and Hon’ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Judge.

9. With earnestness, your Lordship filled up vacancies of this Court. In fact, out of the eight judges, today sharing the dias with your Lordship, five are your recommendees and appointees.

10. Your Lordship’s contribution to the legal system as also social and cultural system is immense. Your understanding of diversified fields like poetry, religion and history, truly makes you a good human being with a large heart.

11. You have been living a disciplined life. You are a frugal eater, perhaps the reason for your good health and ever smiling glow on your face. I am sure, ever smiling madam Mrs. Nageena Mansoor and your charming daughter Ms Sonam Mansoor, have also contributed a whole lot on this count.

12. To the youngsters, I must remind that his Lordship has been extremely affectionate. His demeanor in Court, as I understand, is highly appreciable and commendable. Courtesies inherent in nature, were extended to all, be it an
Usher or a colleague on the Bench. I am sure, Sir, you have had same reciprocity from the Bar as also your colleagues on the Bench, both sitting and retired.

13. It has always been my endeavour, in fact, endeavour of all of us to render all assistance and help, as and when sought for or required.

14. I am quite sure, in the pursuit that your Lordship has been for the last so many years, henceforth you would be contributing a great deal more to a much wider sphere of our lives, i.e. service to mankind, embracing all the nobility of good things.

15. Everyone knows about the love which his Lordship has for his God Almighty. It is one thing to have a belief in God, yet it is another thing to be godly in life. To me God has chosen you, as also us, to discharge his divine functions and it is with this belief, that we all breathe every moment of life, in pursuing the lofty goals of the constitution and bringing happiness, prosperity and wellness to all mankind and living beings of this world and another world, if any. I am sure every night each one of us sleeps with the satisfaction of having lived the day, upholding our constitutional oath and as
the proverb goes ‘A clear conscience is a good pillow’, you shall have a sound sleep.

16. I, on my behalf and on behalf of my esteemed brother colleagues assure continued assistance and help to your Lordship and further wish you, Madam Mrs. Nageena Mansoor, children Mr. Shahabaz Sikandar & Ms Sanam Mansoor, Mr. Bahri and your heartthrob Master Molvi Mohammed Arsh, a very-very happy and a healthy life. I wish you all the peace and prosperity for the years that beckon in the near future. And with the parting words, as I have always been saying, “दुआओं में याद रखना”.

Thank you very much.

JAI HIND
FAREWELL ADDRESS BY THE ADVOCATE GENERAL, STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH and CHAIRMAN, BAR COUNCIL OF HIMACHAL PRADES TO HON’BLE MR JUSTICE MANSOOR AHMAD MIR, CHIEF JUSTICE ON THE EVE OF HIS DEMITTING THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

Hon’ble the Chief Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir,
Hon’ble Companion Judges, President of Himachal Pradesh High Court Bar Association, Learned Assistant Solicitor General of India for HP High Court, Hon’ble Senior Members of the Bar, Hon’ble Members of the Bar Council, Hon’ble Members of the Bar, Officers and officials of Registry, Ladies and Gentlemen:-

We have assembled here today to bid farewell to Hon’ble Mr. Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir, Chief Justice who shall demit office on 24th April, 2017(A.N.) on attaining his age of superannuation.

Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir, was born on 25th April, 1955 at village Rajpora, Tehsil and District Pulwama. After his schooling from same village joined Amar Singh College and completed his graduation in 1976. Completing his L.L.B in 1978 joined bar in the same year and practiced in all fields of law till 1993.

Securing 1st position in the State of Jammu & Kashmir in Higher Judicial services examination in the year 1992 His
Lordship was appointed as Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara on 27th May, 1993.

From the year 1993 to 2002 My Lord remained posted at Anantnag, Srinagar, Budgam. In the year 2002 My Lord was placed in super time scale and posted as Presiding Officer, designated Court of TADA/Special Judge, POTA for Kashmir Division where My Lord remained till 2004. My Lord also remained posted as Principal District & Session Judge, Srinagar from 2004 till elevation as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir.

My Lord was sworn in as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir on 31.01.2005 and as Permanent Judge of the same court on 07.07.2007.

On transfer My Lord took oath as Judge and assumed the charge of the Acting Chief Justice of this High Court on 27th November, 2013 (Forenoon) and subsequently My Lord took oath as Chief Justice of this High Court on 18th June, 2014.

His Lordship is known for his honesty, sincerity and devotion towards his duties. During his entire tenure as a Chief Justice, his Lordship has shown keen interest and dedication to the justice delivery system. The friendly approach of Justice Mir would be surely missed. His Lordship had been very much cooperative to the Members of the Bar. My Lord's commitment in the Court to preserve and maintain the efficacy of judicial process and the rule of law to inculcate
respect for fair judicial process and the faith of the people in efficacy of law has always been reflected through his judgements and his contribution to provide justice to the needy persons.

Personally I have found His Lordship to be a man of warmth, honest, sincere and an excellent human being. Undoubtedly he is a man of great vision and wisdom and has upheld the dignity of his office. His Lordship has been considerate in discharging his duties as a Judge and dispensing substantial justice.

We are thankful to his Lordship for his co-operative, friendly and encouraging behaviour as a Judge of this Court.

My Lord is an example. A man from village has reached the present position on account of sheer hard work, dedication, devotion and sincerity to his job, honesty and unimpeachable integrity. In fact His Lordship would have been asset for Apex Court and the legal fraternity would be deprived of his unparallel abilities in the field of law after his retirement. Personally I fail to understand as to where the present system failed to recognise the talent and what criteria and merit one must possess before further elevation. I leave the topic here as it is being hotly debated in recent times.

Justice Mir would be remembered by this Bar and the legal fraternity not only for the knowledge of law which he possesses but also for his computerised memory. Justice Mir
would conveniently refer to any page of a bulky file, any Annexure attached to it and the provision of procedural law. The Bar Members have learnt a lot from him.

The judgments authored by My Lord would reflect the deep knowledge of English literature and use of appropriate expressions. The sequence of narration of facts, evolving points involved and then dealing with all the submissions of both the parties in dispassionate manner shows clarity of mind of My Lord. Flow of thought visible in the judgments shows extensive reading and the acumen possessed by My Lord.

True human approach can be seen on Friday when My Lord would sit in a Single Bench and deal with cases relating to motor accidents. The nerves of the families whose only bread earner is lost and ordeal is followed by protracted litigation is aptly felt by Justice Mir and large number of cases were decided on every Friday. Not only just compensation is given, it is given quickly and balance is maintained between claimants and the party obligated to pay the compensation.

Another contribution to remember is establishment and functioning of Institutions like Judicial Academy in State of Art form, National Law University at Gandhal near Shimla. National Law University will have second academic session this year.

During tenure of My Lord we have maintained very good bar-bench relations.
We also appreciate organisational ability of My Lord from organising a conference on drug menace of international level held at Manali in April, 20015 where not only Supreme Court judges participated but dignitaries from all fields and walks of life also expressed their views on the subject.

State of Himachal Pradesh and this High Court has always been lucky to have excellent Chief Justices of our High Court. Justice Mir is one of them.

Administrative capability of Justice Mir in not unknown. Expansion of lower judiciary by creating many new posts, filling of almost all the posts in time, creating the best infrastructure for best development of lower and higher judiciary are some of big achievements of Justice Mir.

I, on behalf of the State of Himachal Pradesh, on behalf of Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh and its members with entire legal fraternity of the State and on my own behalf wish him good health, prosperity and happy life in future.


( SHRAWAN DOGRA )  
Advocate General, HP & Chairman, Bar Council Himachal Pradesh.
Farewell reference by President H.P. High Court Bar Association on demitting the office by Chief Justice Mansoor Ahmed Meer as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Companion Judges, Ld. Advocate General & Chairman Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh, Ld. Assistant Solicitor General of India for Himachal Pradesh High Court, august members of Himachal Pradesh High Court Bar Association, ladies and gentlemen. We have assembled here on the occasion of the farewell reference in respect of Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mansoor Ahmed Meer who is demitting the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh after a respectful innings.

Hon'ble Justice Meer, a native of Village Rajpora, Tehsil Pulwama, Distt. Pulwama, in Jammu & Kashmir after completing his Bachelor of Law in 1978 joined the Bar and practiced Law till 1993. After securing 1st position in the Higher Judicial Services Examination in the year 1992 he was appointed as Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge, Kupwara in the year 1993. Whereafter he discharged his judicial functions in various capacities the state of Jammu & Kashmir till he was elevated as Additional Judge of The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in the year 2005 leading to his appointment as permanent Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in the year 2007. It was on his transfer from Jammu & Kashmir he was sworn in as the Judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh and assumed the charge of the office of the acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 27/11/2013. Subsequently he was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh in the year 2014.

It was in the year 2013 when Justice Meer started his judicial innings in the State of Himachal Pradesh. Justice Meer has an affable personality. He held his Court with all serenity and the Bar felt at ease in his Court. Even a junior member of the Bar could present his case in his Court without any hesitation and without any fear. Justice Meer remained a kind hearted person and took compassion on the litigants coming from the weaker section of the society.

Justice Meer particularly while dealing with Motor Accident cases ensured that the compensation belonging to the bereaved and the grieved is not confined to the case file but actually reaches them immediately. In his such
pursuit he ensured speedy disposal of accident claims cases resulting in reaching the relief to the deserving expeditiously.

Justice Meer had been essentially a pleasant Judge who kept the dignity of the Bar intact. Even after dealing with a situation where he expressed his anguish on the conduct of the litigant, he used to indulge in light banter, easing the lawyer who was on the receiving end, normally very cool Judge and full of sympathy to litigants who deserved so.

Justice Meer had been God fearing person and he not only followed his religious tenets with all solemnity but such facet of his personality was also reflected in his day today conduct and his dealing with the Bar and his stance while conducting the Judicial Proceedings.

I, on behalf of HP High Court Bar Association bid him and his family a farewell wishing healthy and prosperous life ahead.

Dated: 22/04/2017

President

H.P. High Court Bar Association
Reference on the occasion of His Lordship Shri Mansoor Ahmad Mir, demitting the office of Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh.

My Lord Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir ji, Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sureshwar Thakur, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Mohan Goel, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Sharma, Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.B. Barowalia all Ld.Judges of High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Learned Advocate General and Chairman, Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh Shri Shrawan Dogra, Shri B.P. Sharma Senior Advocate and President, H.P. High Court Bar Association, Principal Secretary Law to the government of Himachal Pradesh, Dr. Baldev Singh, Registrar General and Registrars of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Learned Senior Advocates, Learned Members of the Bar, Staff of the Registry, Representatives of Electronic and Print Media present here, Ladies & Gentlemen.

Today, we have assembled here to bid farewell to His Lordship Hon'ble Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir, as His Lordship will be demitting the office of Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal Pradesh on the mid night of 24.04.2017 after a glorious career of about 22 years, first as a Member of Higher Judicial Services in the State of J&K and thereafter, as Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and subsequently, as Acting Chief Justice and Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal Pradesh. His Lordship was born on 25.04.1955 in Village Rajpora in District Pulwama in the State of J&K. His Lordship did his Graduation from Amar Singh College in the year 1976. Immediately thereafter, My Lord joined the legal studies and
after completing his LL.B. in the year 1978 from the Kashmir University, My Lord started practice in all disciplines of law in the District Courts at Pulwama. Due to the sincerity, hard work and intellect, My Lord earned a great name in his stint as an Advocate. My Lord appeared in the Higher Judicial Services Examination in the year 1992 and qualified the same. My Lord not only qualified the examination, but My Lord was the topper of the examination. Consequently upon My Lord's selection to the Higher Judicial Services, My Lord was appointed as Principal, District & Sessions Judge in District Kupwara w.e.f. 27.05.1993. Thereafter, My Lord rendered his services to the judiciary of State of J&K in various capacities at various places. My Lord was a first Judge to be appointed as Special Judge TADA/POTA Court in May, 2002.

Keeping in view the intellect and hard work, My Lord was appointed as Additional Judge of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir on 31.01.2005. My Lord was made a permanent Judge of High Court of J&K on 07.07.2007.

My Lord after serving the State of J&K for about 20 years as a Member of Higher Judicial Services and thereafter as Judge, High Court of J&K, assumed the office of Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 26.11.2013 and at that stage, the legal fraternity of the State came in contact with My Lord and had the privilege of learning and sharing so many legal propositions with My Lord. On June 18, 2014, His Lordship was elevated as Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal Pradesh. This is just a brief introduction of the career of My Lord, which does not completely reflect the personality of My Lord.
My Lord is not only a complete Judge, but a complete human being. My Lord is a true nationalist and religious person. The spiritual level of My Lord is always reflected in My Lord’s conduct inside and outside the Court. There are only few in this world who after attaining the great heights have a feeling for the fellow beings on the lowest ladder of the society, but My Lord always felt for the downtrodden and the persons lowest in the ladder. The compassion of My Lord for the deprived and underprivileged is reflected in the working of My Lord. My Lord always took care that the underprivileged and deprived should not go out of the Court empty handed as he cannot afford to come to the Court without grievance and even for coming to the Court, he had to suffer so many hardships.

My Lord has been treating Himachal Pradesh as second home. While discharging judicial functions, My Lord always tried to protect and uphold the public interest. It is due to the efforts of My Lord and his companion Judges that the developmental works particularly with regard to the construction of four-lane Highways by the National Highway Authority have been put on fast-track by the orders passed by His Lordship in the writ petitions. My Lord had also taken care that the residents of the State get best possible medical facilities and in order to ensure that, His Lordship has been passing various directions from time to time on the judicial side. It is due to the efforts of My Lord and his companion Judges that various Trauma Centers have been sanctioned by the Government of India for the State of Himachal Pradesh and the money has also been sanctioned for those Trauma Centers. Apart from expanding the reach and role of judiciary in the State, My Lord Justice Mir has facilitated and established the
National Law University at Shima, which will go a long way in making Shima a much sought after destination. In nutshell, I can say that public interest was a paramount consideration in My Lord’s mind while passing the orders on judicial side.

Superannuation or demitting an office is an event, which is imminent, once a person joins an office. The occasion is to ponder over the entire tenure. As I have already said, His Lordship has done great service to the judiciary of State of Himachal Pradesh as well as to the State of J&K. His Lordships way of conducting the Court, jovial nature, Endeavour to accommodate all the Advocates irrespective of their standing at the Bar and landmark judgments will always be remembered. This may be My Lord’s last day in this Court, but we have association with My Lord, which will remain there till our lifetime. This Court will always be missing My Lord. The demitting of the office does not mean that the person has done his duty to the society. In fact, the real life and the long lasting contribution to the Society begins now. One’s loss is other’s gain. During the service tenure, it was the legal fraternity at large, which was gaining from My Lord’s intellect, hard work and sincerity. Now it will be the society at large, which will be privileged to learn and earn from My Lord’s rich experience, commitment and sincerity.

On this occasion, I alongwith my colleagues wish My Lord a happy and long career in whatever capacity My Lord decide to serve the society.

Jai Hind.
Dated: 22.04.2017

(Ashok Sharma)
Assistant Solicitor General of India
FULL COURT REFERENCE
BY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANSOOR AHMAD MIR,
CHIEF JUSTICE
HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

My esteemed brother Judges,

Negeena Ara, Madam Chief Justice,

Madams of brother Judges,

Sh. Shrawan Dogra, Advocate General, Himachal Pradesh and Chairman Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh,

Sh. B.P. Sharma, President, Himachal Pradesh High Court Bar Association and Executive Members,

Sh. Ashok Sharma, Learned Assistant Solicitor General of India,

Learned Senior Advocates and Members of the Bar

Registrar General and other Registrars,

District and Sessions Judge, Shimla,

Director Judicial Academy,

Member Secretary, Legal Services Authorities,

LR-cum-Principal Secretary Law,

Other Judicial Officers present here

Press and Media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

*Good Evening all of you,*
1. The Full Court Reference, being held on the eve of my demitting office gives me an opportunity to extend my gratitude and thanks to all with whom I worked and with whose cooperation and support, I was able to keep the stream of justice dispensation flowing unabated, and undiminished, first as Acting Chief Justice and then as Chief Justice of this High Court.

2. I joined on 27th November, 2013 as Acting Chief Justice and in the last about three and half years, had the privilege of working with the distinguished personalities of the legal fraternity, be on the Dias or off the Dias. It was a pleasure to share Dias, with brother Judges.

3. I am indeed grateful for the very kind and generous terms in which you have referred me. Many great things were said about me and I am afraid that I deserve even half of them. I am aware of my imperfections and thank you all for recollecting the good points and overlooking the bad ones. I attribute all the good things said about me to all of you, as I would not have been able to achieve even a fraction of them
without your cooperation. I shall cherish these words throughout my life. To be told that one’s work has been appreciated gives one a great satisfaction, and enough has been said about me to make me feel happy. So I am demitting my office with the belief that I carry with me your good-will and good wishes in abundance for a peaceful-existence.

4. I started my career in a small place. I never dreamt of becoming a Chief Justice. It is due to blessings of Almighty Allah that I have been able to adorn this august Chair. I hope that I was able to fulfill the trust reposed by Almighty Allah in me and measuring up to his expectations.

5. I started my judicial journey as District and Sessions Judge and I am aware of the difficulties being faced by the Subordinate Judiciary and the staff. Thereafter, I was elevated as a Judge of the High Court and had close interaction with the Hon’ble Judges and the staff, which gave me an opportunity to observe the working of the staff of the High Court. I tried my best to take steps to improve the working conditions of the subordinate judiciary and staff of the Subordinate Courts and High Court. I hope
that I was able to improve their working conditions a little bit.

6. Judicial institutions are backbones of the democracy. The independence, integrity and ability of the judiciary are the benchmarks of the civilization. I tried my best to maintain these core values and to provide speedy justice to the people. I was disturbed by the large pendency of cases in High Court and the Subordinate Courts and tried my best to reduce this pendency and to bring relief to the large number of litigants whose cases were pending before the Courts.

7. The ability of the Institution can be improved by the quality of training being imparted to the Judicial officers. I am happy that I was able to get constructed a State of the Art Judicial Academy complex for the State of Himachal Pradesh. I hope that with the requisite infrastructure in place, the Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy will serve not only the judiciary but also the other departments. This, I hope, will improve the overall quality of justice.

8. The quality of adjudication depends not only upon the quality of the judges but also on the quality of lawyers. I had a vision of establishing a National Law
University in Himachal Pradesh to improve the quality of legal education. I was fortunate to have the cooperation of Hon’ble Chief Justice of India, His Excellency the Governor, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Hon’ble Law Minister and my brother Judges in this regard and we were able to establish Himachal Pradesh National Law University, which has started functioning within the premises of Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy. People will see the difference, when the students will pass out from the institution. These institutions were close to my heart and I hope that they will achieve the success, which I have visualized for them.

9. I came to the State on 27th November, 2013, as a stranger having no acquaintance whatsoever with any of you, including my brother Judges. I was apprehensive whether I would be able to discharge my duties in a strange environment, but the affection provided to me by everyone made it possible to achieve some of the things I had intended to do.

10. The retirement is compulsion of time and cannot be avoided. I did not have any grievance about it, but I
would be missing the company of my brother Judges who were so kind and affectionate to me.

11. I also take this opportunity to remember and extend my sincere thanks to Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.D. Sood, Hon'ble, Mr. Justice Kuldeep Singh Kanwar, Mr. Justice Rajiv Sharma, Hon'ble, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.K. Sharma and Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S. Rana, the former judges of this High Court with whom I had the opportunity to work and share my thoughts.

12. I was fortunate to have been associated with such illustrious Bar who left no stone unturned in bringing justice to the people. There is no doubt that Bench and the Bar are the wheels of the chariot of justice and they play a vital role in the dispensation of justice. The Bar always worked the extra mile and I hope that it will continue to do so in future as well.

13. Sh. Shrawan Dogra, Learned Advocate General and his colleagues always stood for the cause of justice. When the State was at fault, the Advocate General minced no words in acknowledging so, I admire courage, conviction and the efforts made by him to help in delivering justice to the common man during my tenure.
14. Sh. Ashok Sharma, learned Assistant Solicitor General of India and his team relentlessly worked to uphold the Rule of Law and provided valuable assistance while dealing with the cases relating to Union of India.

15. I thank the State Government and its officers who always acceded to my requests for providing additional infrastructure without any hesitation. The dedication of the Government to the cause of justice is admirable. I hope that this cooperation will continue in the future as well.

16. My Registrars, Staff of the Registry, Judicial officers and the staff of subordinate Courts, Member Secretary, Administrative Officer and staff of Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, Director, Deputy Director and Staff of Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy also deserve a mention as all of them really worked hard and did not mind spending time beyond their duty hours for doing the work assigned to them. I also thank Additional Registrar-cum-Principal Private Secretary Sh. Prem Chand Verma, Rajesh Sharma, Protocol Officer and other members of my personal staff who took care of me as family members. I cannot
forget the valuable assistance rendered by the other staff of this Court in discharge of my duties. I pray to Almighty Allah to shower his blessings upon them.

17. I must acknowledge the contributions made by my family and specially by my wife Negeena Ara, who always took care of my family and children when I was busy, first as a lawyer and then as a Judge. It would not have been possible for me to devote time to the profession without the support provided by her. My children, Abdul Bari, Sanam Mansoor, Shahbaz Sikandar and Moulvi Mohd. Arsh also deserve mention as the extra time I spent in the Court was rightfully theirs for which they never complained and it is at their cost that I was able to achieve success.

18. I should emphasize that men may come men may go but the institutions remain forever. This High Court has glorious history. We should not do anything to damage its name. It takes years to build a reputation but only a moment to destroy it. We have to remember that danger is from within and not from outside. The respect, status and reputation we get in society is all because of this great institution. If this Court faces loss of public confidence, we will be the worst affected in the society. Let us think of a better tomorrow and work
towards it. It is time, that we stand together and take a solemn pledge—to strive hard to retain the glory of this great institution, and to forebear from doing anything, which may even remotely harm it.

19. I wish all of you a very happy and bright future. It was a great pleasure and privilege for me to function as a Chief Justice of this High Court for all these years. I am sure that with your best wishes, my post retirement life will be happy and filled with contentment. I thank you all for the nice words and affection shown by you.

20. Parting is always painful. I conclude by quoting the couplet of Allama Iqbal.

Thank you. Jai Hind.

Shimla:
Date: 22.4.2017:

(Mansoor Ahmad Mir),
Chief Justice.