

**FAREWELL REFERENCE ADDRESS BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH
CHANDRA SHARMA, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF DELHI ON THE
RETIREMENT OF HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MUKTA GUPTA, JUDGE,
HIGH COURT OF DELHI**

Sister Justice Mukta Gupta,

My esteemed sister and brother Judges,

Justice Pradeep Nandrajog, Former Judge of this Court and Former Chief Justice of
Bombay High Court

Shri Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General of India,

Shri K.K. Manan, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi,

Shri Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Shri Jatan Singh, Vice-President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Shri Sandeep Sharma, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Shri Sanjay Lao, Standing Counsel (Criminal), Govt. of NCT of Delhi,

Shri Santosh Tripathi, Standing Counsel (Civil), Govt. of NCT of Delhi,

Standing Counsels of the Central and State Government,

Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Office Bearers of Bar Council of Delhi and other District Bar Associations,

Senior Advocates,

Members of the Bar,

Members of Print and Electronic Media,

Family members of Justice Mukta Gupta,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very Good Afternoon to all of you.

We have assembled here to bid farewell to Hon'ble Justice Mukta Gupta, who has been serving on the bench of this Court since 2009.

Justice Gupta was born on 28th June, 1961 and finished her schooling from Montfort school. She pursued her graduation in science stream and graduated in Zoology Honours from Hindu College, University of Delhi in the batch of 1980. Thereafter, she enrolled in the LL.B. course at Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi. She completed law in 1983 and enrolled as an advocate with the Delhi Bar Council in 1984. Justice Gupta's practice as an advocate was spread across diverse subject matters including, but not limited to, criminal, constitutional, service and civil laws. In 1993, she was appointed as an Additional Public Prosecutor in Delhi High Court. Thereafter, in 2001, she was appointed as the Standing Counsel (Criminal) for the Government of NCT of Delhi.

Although, Justice Gupta has contributed across the spectrum of subject matters, her involvement and contribution to criminal law stands out as exceptional. She was involved in significant criminal cases of her time, both at the Supreme Court and High Court level, including the Parliament and Red Fort shoot-out case, Jessica Lal case, Naina Sahni case, Nitish Katara case, only to name a few. Notably, Justice Gupta was also appointed as a Special Counsel for CBI. During this tenure as well, she was involved in various significant cases of her time such as the Naval War Room Leak case and Priyadarshini Matoo case. Even a cursory look at these cases

would reveal the significance of these cases in the development of criminal law in India. It would certainly be appropriate to say that Justice Gupta's journey has progressed synonymously with the development of criminal law. She has not only witnessed a phase of momentous development in the criminal law but has also contributed immensely to it and ultimately, to the society at large.

Justice Gupta was also included as a Member in Delhi Legal Services Authority. During this tenure, she was deeply involved in issues concerning rehabilitation of delinquent women, juveniles and prisoners. Upon elevation, Justice Gupta brought immense expertise on the bench and continued to contribute towards the cause of justice. A look at her tenure on the bench of this Court reflects a keen approach towards administration of law as well as towards legal policy. Her intervention on the judicial side has played a significant role in streamlining criminal procedures and in safeguarding procedural rights of under-trials and convicts. Even on sentencing, Justice Gupta's approach reflected a fine balance between the competing rights of society and the individual.

In her long career, Justice Gupta has contributed immensely to the advancement of the cause of justice. She is certainly a role model, especially for the women practitioners. She has always encouraged women to litigate and has led by example, on and off the bench. I am certain that Justice Gupta's career would leave a lasting impact on the society and would inspire many men and women out there to follow the path laid down by her.

As we bid farewell to you Sister Mukta today, I, on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues on the bench, congratulate you for a long and successful career in the profession. I can confidently say that with your services rendered in different capacities, the system has benefitted immensely. Today, you are leaving the system better than you had found it. Before I conclude, I may borrow some words from **Ralph Emerson**, a 19th century poet who observed the meaning of success in the following words, and I quote:

“To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”(Unquote)

I also congratulate and extend my best wishes to your esteemed family members, On behalf of this court, I wish you all the very best for all your future endeavors. We pray for your good health for all times to come.

Thank you and Jai Hind!