

**Welcome Address by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol, Judge, in the honour of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh, on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.**

My Lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mr. Justice Surya Kant, My esteemed and Distinguished Colleague Brothers; Justice Dharam Chand Chaudhary, Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Justice Sureshwar Thakur; Justice Vivek Singh Thakur, Justice Ajay Mohan Goel, Justice Sandeep Sharma, Justice Chander Bhushan Barowalia, learned Advocate General Shri Ashok Sharma, Chairman, Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh Shri Ramakant Sharma; President, Himachal Pradesh High Court Bar Association Shri Rajiv Jiwan; learned Assistant Solicitor General of India Shri Rajesh Sharma, esteemed Members of the Bar, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

For me to welcome a friend in his capacity as Chief Justice of this Court is a great privilege and honour.

At the threshold, on behalf of my colleagues, and the entire legal fraternity of the State of Himachal Pradesh, I extend my heartiest welcome and congratulations to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, esteemed members of his family and other guests.

For the last 21 years, in one capacity or the other, we have been interacting with each other, and our bondage and relationship has ever grown.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant is not new to this Court, and as such needs no introduction. However, as my solemn duty, I undertake to introduce him as the Chief Justice of this Court.

He has been a brilliant student, always standing first in academics. After graduating in law, in the year 1984 he wore the robes to practice at the Bar at Hissar and Chandigarh. In July, 2000, he adorned the august office of the Advocate General of the State of Haryana and as such, with grace, discharged his duties effectively and efficiently. His unparalleled contribution in the field

of dispensation of justice, ultimately led to his elevation, at a relatively young age, as a Judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, with effect from 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2004. Unquestionably, his contribution in every sphere has been immense and the judgments rendered on various aspects, including constitutional issues, are well known. Even outside the Court, services rendered for achieving the moto 'access to justice for all' that of the Legal Services Authority, has been unparalleled.

I find Hon'ble the Chief Justice to be warm, affectionate and a simple person. He is kind at heart, in thought, language and action. Gentleness is sublime and all prevailing. Equally brilliant and ever-smiling Madam Mrs. Savita and two loving daughters Miss Anupriya and Miss Mugdhmani, make a very happy family. My greetings to them.

Despite our Court being young and small, it has produced finest Judges of the country, who subsequently have adorned distinguished positions

at various levels, be it national or international. I too wish him the same.

Himachal Pradesh has got endless beauty with kind hearted people. Here people are peace-loving, honest and law abiding. Litigants of this State are poor. Litigation is also peculiar. It is neither a luxury nor a choice. Himself being a compassionate environmentalist, I am sure Hon'ble the Chief Justice would fully appreciate the ground realities and enjoy his tenure. Here, institution of Judiciary as a whole and the High Court, in particular, is immensely respected by one and all in the State.

Every Judge has a distinct personal approach and philosophy of his own. But then each Court has its own character and settled traditions, norms and conventions. Unless so warranted and for public good, it is in the larger interest of every institution to continue with the same.

On the judicial side, Chief Justice of the High Court is only the first amongst equals,

however, administrative control of the High Court fully rests in him. Distribution of business of the High Court, both judicial and administrative, is his sole prerogative. However, I must apprise him of the rich tradition of this Court, and that being, all decisions taken in consultation and as far as possible in unanimity.

Indulgently, I take this opportunity of thanking my brother Judges for guiding me in taking effective decisions, be it administrative or otherwise, in a purely democratic manner. Each one of us has only accepted his due. For upholding the rule of law, none has exceeded its authority or jurisdiction. Our not using the Court Room and the personal Chambers of the Chief Justice is reflective of such fact. Even for today's function, I sought guidance of my brother Judges. I thank all of them for their valuable support and guidance.

Sir, here the Members of this Bar are extremely courteous. I am sure you would find them matching your expectations. I have no doubt

that ever-growing relationship between the Bar and the Bench, which are two wheels of the same chariot, would further flourish, as is so warranted for proper dispensation of justice. In fact such relationship would blossom, more so with the help of junior members of the Bar, in whose progress and development we all have equal interest.

Here, I may add, to the advantage of the cricket lovers, we now have Kapil Dev amongst us.

Even the Registry of this Court has maintained high standards of discipline. I am sure you would find none to be wanting.

In the end, I must state that all of us sitting on the Dias have taken the solemn oath of bearing true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India, for upholding the sovereignty and integrity of India and to the best of our ability, knowledge and judgment perform our duties of office without fear, favour, affection or ill-will. Firm, strong, impartial and independent judiciary is absolutely necessary. I on my behalf and on behalf of my

brother Judges, fully assure unflinching support and cooperation for fulfilling this avowed object with efficacy. God's divine functions can only be discharged by maintaining absolute impartiality and independence of thought and action, which in fact is absolutely imperative for strengthening the third and the strongest pillar of Indian Democracy. I pray to God Almighty to guide us by his Divine Wisdom, help enable us to discharge the duties so ordained by Him for dispensation of justice, to the best of our ability, lest we are found guilty of the dictum in the Holy Bible – of the Salt losing its savour.

I again extend warm and cordial welcome to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, his family members and guests and wish him good health and success in his new Office for achieving greater heights.

**Jai Hind.**

**REFERENCE BY THE LD. ADVOCATE GENERAL  
HIMACHAL PRADESH TO WELCOME THE  
HON'BLE JUSTICE SURYA KANT ON HIS  
LORDSHIPS ASSUMING THE OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF JUSTICE OF HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL  
PRADESH.**

My Lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice Shri Surya Kant Ji, His Lordships better half Mrs Sharma, His companion Judges of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Ramakant Sharma, Chairman Bar Counsel of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Rajeev Jiwan President H.P. High Court Bar Association, Shri Rajesh Kumar Ld Asstt. Solicitor General of India, Learned Senior Advocates, My Colleagues and all the Esteemed Members of the Bar Distinguished Guests, Members of Print & Electronic Media present here, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Its my proud privilege to welcome His Lordships Justice Surya Kant Ji on His Lordships assumption of office of the Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal Pradesh on behalf of the State of Himachal Pradesh and on my own behalf. In fact, I feel immense pleasure and privilege in welcoming My Lord the Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. My Lord, the Hon'ble Chief Justice was born in a respectable middle class family of District Hisar on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1962. My Lord did his Matriculation from a village school in the year 1977. My Lord, did his Graduation from the Government Post-Graduate College, Hisar in the year 1981 and thereafter earned his Bachelor's Degree in



Law in 1984 from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. My Lord started practicing law at the District Courts, Hisar in the year 1984 & shifted to Chandigarh in 1985 to practice at the Punjab & Haryana High Court. My Lord has represented a number of Universities, Boards, Corporations, Banks and High Court of Punjab & Haryana before earning the distinction of being appointed the youngest Advocate General of the State of Haryana on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2000. Due to my Lord's hard-work and acumen in the field of law, My Lord were designated as Senior Advocate by the Punjab & Haryana High Court in March, 2001 at a young age of 39 years. My Lord held the office of the Advocate General, State of Haryana till his Lordship's elevation as a Permanent Judge of the Punjab & Haryana High Court on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2004. My Lord was also nominated as a Member of the National Legal Services Authority on February 23, 2007 for two consecutive terms till February 22, 2011.

My Lord the Chief Justice has a vast and extensive experience in dealing with various branches of law, both at Bar as well as the Bench. My Lord's judgments are a treasure of knowledge and reasoning. My Lord's deep knowledge of various fields of law is amply reflected in my Lord's judgments. Your Lordship's logic and reasoning is apparent from the judgments, reflecting My Lord's commitment to maintain

the dignity, efficiency of the judicial process and upholding the rule of law. The State of Himachal Pradesh feels honoured and proud to have an efficient and noble Chief Justice. I assure My Lord all necessary cooperation and assistance on behalf of the State in the administration of justice at all times. In addition to this, I on behalf of my entire team of Law officers assure the Hon'ble Chief Justice that we shall make every endeavour to render assistance, to your Lordship's so as to develop the faith of the people in the administration of justice.

Today, while going through one of daily newspapers, I came across a news item wherein a reference was made to the farewell address of Shri Krishna Murari Hon'ble Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court wherein His Lordship's referred to my Lord's as Dravid of Punjab & Haryana High Court. The State as well as the High Court is very fortunate to get such a great personality and a man of deep insight, vision and stability as the Chief Justice of this High Court. This Court as well as the State is privileged to have my Lord as the Chief Justice. On behalf of the Government of Himachal Pradesh, we welcome the Hon'ble Chief Justice with the profound hope that his Lordships would lead us in increasing the efficiency of the judicial system, confirming the faith of the people in it and in making

the judicial system accessible to one and all. I hope and trust that this Hon'ble High Court would be enriched by Your Lordships, vast and varied experience and immense knowledge of my Lordships.

Once again, I welcome My Lord, the Hon'ble Chief Justice Surya Kant as the Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal Pradesh and wish him all success and happiness in life.

**Dated: 05/10/2018.**

**( Ashok Sharma )  
Advocate General,  
Himachal Pradesh.**

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA (RAJESH KUMAR SHARMA) IN THE HONOUR OF HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE SURYA KANT ON HIS ASSUMING THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.**

Hon'ble the Chief Justice and his Hon'ble Companion Judges; Ld. Advocate General; Chairman, Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh; President, HP High Court Bar Association and members of this August Bar. It is my great honour and privilege to welcome Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant ji on his lordship's elevation and assuming the office of Chief Justice of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Government of India and Office of Assistant Solicitor General of India.

Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant has a very long and tall association with the judicial system with bundles of experience not only as a judge but as an eminent lawyer. Hon'ble <sup>Chief</sup> Justice Surya Kant was born on February 10, 1962 in a middle class family of District Hisar; earned his Bachelor's degree in Law in 1984 from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. Started practicing Law at the District Courts, Hisar in 1984 and shifted to Chandigarh in 1985 to practice at the Punjab and Haryana

High Court. Specialized in Constitutional, Service and Civil matters, His Lordship represented a number of Universities, Boards, Corporations, Banks and the High Court before earning the distinction of being appointed the youngest Advocate General of Haryana on July 7, 2000 and was designated as Senior Advocate in March, 2001. His Lordship held the office of Advocate General, Haryana till his elevation as a Permanent Judge to the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 09<sup>th</sup> January, 2004, remained member of the National Legal Services Authority from 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2007 till 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011, for two consecutive terms. A keen debater since his student days, His lordship is a passionate environmentalist associated with various National/International N.G.Os. and Law Associations.

The High Court of Himachal Pradesh is a small High Court as far as volume of litigation is concerned, but the quality of the judgment delivered by this Hon'ble High Court has done proud to the judiciary. Many stalwarts have guided this Hon'ble High Court and hope that your lordships will add feather to the cap.

At the end, I once again welcome and congratulate Hon'ble the Chief Justice Surya Kant ji on behalf of Central Government

and my colleagues, on his assuming the office of Chief Justice of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh and wish him success in his new venture, as a Chief Justice and hope that by his simplicity, honesty and sincerity towards his work, he will be able to achieve his goals.

**Jai Hind. Thank you.**

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF BAR ASSOCIATION OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIGH COURT (RAJIV JIWAN) IN THE HONOUR OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT ON HIS ASSUMING THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Hon'ble Chief Justice and his Hon'ble Companion Judges, Id. Advocate General, Chairman Himachal Pradesh Bar Council, Assistant Solicitor General of India for Himachal Pradesh High Court members of this August Bar and distinguished gathering.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant stands elevated as Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal Pradesh. We one and all in the legal fraternity welcome him on assuming the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. State of Himachal Pradesh may not be alien to Justice Surya Kant as he comes from the foothills of Shivaliks after having a long and distinguished stint as a Judge of Punjab & Haryana High Court. Above the Shivaliks the environs and social and economic woof and warp assumes all together new tone, tenor and texture. It is on the strength of the sinews of the unadulterated & un-feigning forest that the Country is able to breath freely. Albeit the green cover of this part of Himalayas has sustained some ruptures owing to indiscriminate felling and pollution yet we can safely say with pride that this state of India is providing lungs to the ecology of the country. This Court has been playing a pivotal role from time to time in salvaging the pride of the forest. Now with Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant being in the helms of affairs as the head of judiciary in the State of Himachal Pradesh, the state is looking for an era when judiciary is going to handle a very tender and sensitive issue of environment. Simple and uncomplicated natives of the state cannot have a better succor from a Judge coming from a rural background, empathizing with the poor and the deprived. Justice Surya Kant needs no introduction in so far as sensitizing the authorities with the plight of the tiller or be it a rape victim.

Born in Village Petwar of Hisar District, Justice Surya Kant did his bachelors from Govt. college Hisar in 1981. Precautious he was as far as his talent for learning was concerned since his childhood. He did his LLB from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak in 1984. He started his innings with the Bar practicing in District Courts Hisar in July 1984. It was only 1985 he shifted his practice to Punjab & Haryana High Court and was regarded as an eminent Service, Constitutional & Civil Lawyer. He

was appointed Advocate General of State of Haryana on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2000 and was designated Senior Advocate by the High Court. He held the office of Advocate General till his elevation as the Judge of the Punjab & Haryana High Court on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004. He was also a member of National Legal Services Authority for two consecutive terms between 2007 to 2011. He is also associated with various National & international Non Govt. Organizations and law associates. A journey through the profile of Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant tends to paint his portrait as a lawyer with a sack of experience at his back in the legal field and incisive peep into the legal turf, interspersed with his heart for the poor and deprived.

Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant deservedly stood elevated as the judge of the Punjab & Haryana High Court following his furrow carving trail in the field of law. High Court of Himachal Pradesh has witnessed many doyens in the field of law assuming the office of the Chief Justice of this Court. It is in rich league with the highest of traditions and magnanimity of the providence that a dexterous judge is going to be the mentor of this High Court. The High Court of Himachal Pradesh is eagerly awaiting a jurist with the heart for the under privileged pounding against his ribs to discharge the functions of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. I extend my heartiest welcome and felicitation to Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant on my behalf and on behalf of Himachal Pradesh High Court Bar Association. Justice Surya Kant will find a Bar ever welcoming and keen to learn with the pride at its disposal of witnessing very many of its members elevated to the Bench and some reaching to the Apex Court. It is a magic of Indian Constitution which always seduced the belief of the people of the Country in its preamble that a jurist from a neighboring state seasoned in all together different social and legal environs is easily expected to feel the nerve of the litigation in this state. I am sure it is only his evolution as a judge with an egalitarian outlook, Justice Surya Kant will definitely be able to perceive and hear the heartbeat of Socio Economic matrix of the state. This High Court has witnessed a galaxy of stalwarts in the legal arena, to name a few, Justice Beg, Justice Pathak & Justice Desai were the ones who could be showcased in its archives by this High Court. Such jurists have left behind such footprints for the posterity which are un-washable. I am of the firm belief that the judgments passed by the galaxy of jurists of this High Court in the past will not be only emulated by Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant but the legal fraternity will be able to see the aforesaid judgments even in the present day contexts from altogether new view point under his stewardship. I am sure



with his visionary thought process of Hon'ble the Chief Justice, this High Court may witness the judgments ushering into an era when the pulse of the judgments will beat at the rhythm of commonsense fairly comprehensible not only to the legal fraternity but easily utterable by tiller in the field, a porter laboring his way to the destination, a student humming his way to the school and for that matter any and every person from every walk of life.

Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant during his innings as judge of the Punjab & Haryana High Court has passed such judgments which could be said to have been passed by having a tour on the unchartered waters. The issues like providing the right to procreate to the jail inmates, which may be termed to be a Pariah by the legal purists has been dealt with such sensitivity and sensibility of a human touch which will even summon tears from a statue. The utterances like '**stop treating human beings as office files**', **deprecating 'giving posthumous awards to the farmers'** in the judgments passed by Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant will always not only perch on the tongue of a commoner but will sink in to the psych of the society.

At length I may without any gainsaying say that on the map of the Indian Peninsula, Himachal Pradesh may be a tiny dot but every citizen of the state is fairly alive to the fundamental duties leaving much less turf for the administration to maintain the law and order. A judgment from this Court reaches with dispatch a courier man, a traffic police man, a teacher but sometimes officials sitting in the higher echelons tend to miss the current of the judgment. The trend and current of the judgments passed by the Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant here to fore in the state of Punjab will definitely goad and stir the administration to provide all basic services to the citizens of the state with alacrity and thus providing some credibility and respect to Right to Services Act, 2011.

I believe the journey of Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant is in continuum and this will reach him dizzy heights. I once again welcome Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant as the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court wishing him on behalf of Himachal Pradesh Bar Association a very successful innings.



हिमाचल प्रदेश विधिज्ञ परिषद्  
**BAR COUNCIL OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**  
High Court Complex, Raveneswood, Shimla-171 001

Ref. No. ....

Dated .....

**Welcome Address by Mr. Ramakant Sharma, Chairman, Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh, read on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 in honour of Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant on the occasion of His Lordship's assumption of office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh.**

My Lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges, Learned Advocate General, Learned President of the High Court Bar Association, Learned Assistant Solicitor General of India for High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Learned Members of the Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh, Learned Senior Advocates, Learned members of the Bar, Officers of the High Court, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be here today at this special sitting of the High Court to welcome Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant on his appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. On my behalf, as also on behalf of the members of the Bar Council of the Himachal Pradesh and the entire legal fraternity of the State, I extend to your Lordship a warm welcome, congratulations and best wishes on your Lordship's assuming the exalted office of the Chief Justice of this High Court.

Your Lordship was born on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1962 at village Petwar in District Hissar Haryana. After receiving early education in District Hissar, your Lordship, obtained Law degree in 1984 from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. Your Lordship started practice in the District courts, Hissar in the year 1984, and soon thereafter in the year 1985, shifted to the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh. During his career, Lordship represented a number of Universities, Boards, Corporations, Banks and the High Court. Your Lordship's vast experience at the Bar was recognised soon and was appointed as Advocate General of Haryana on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2000 and earned the distinction of being the youngest Advocate General of Haryana.

Your Lordship was designated as Senior Advocate in March 2001 and held the office of the Advocate General, Haryana till your Lordship's elevation as a permanent Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court on 09<sup>th</sup> January, 2004 at the age of 41.



## हिमाचल प्रदेश विधिज्ञ परिषद्

# BAR COUNCIL OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Your Lordship was nominated as a member of the National Legal Services Authority on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2007 for two consecutive terms till 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011. You earned another distinction of first class Master's degree in Law in the year 2011 from the Directorate of Distance Education from Kurukshetra University.

Your Lordship's appointment as judge was highly acclaimed as an acknowledgment of your personal contribution to the exposition and application of Law. My Lord is a keen debater since the student days, and is a passionate environmentalist and associated with various national/international NGO's and Law associations. My Lord has also attended various National and International conferences. My Lord had been a very popular Judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and gave numerous landmark judgements in the public interest. To name a few, directions to control violence in Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh in the case of Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, relief for the patients in PGI, students in Punjab University by directing the authorities to provide healthy and clean food, directions to the authorities regarding safety of the school going children in the buses, Land Acquisition cases in which numerous agriculturists and landless were benefitted. My Lord has the credit of disposing of 50,000 (fifty Thousand) cases in fourteen years tenure as judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. In addition to this, my Lord is well known for his administrative skills. In the farewell speech by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, appreciating these skills of My Lord, he compared my Lord to the former captain of the Indian Cricket team Rahul Dravid, and said, I quote

**"Whenever there was an administrative issue, he never hesitated to take a hard decision, but that decision was based on humanity and for the benefit of everybody"**

Your Lordship's background as a successful Lawyer, educator, social worker and then as a Judge and your fine personal attributes and experience in careful analysis and exposition of Law is bound to serve you well in the discharge of duties of your new office and enrich the legal precedents of this High Court. We all are confident



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that your Lordship's journey, which began in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and now in this High Court, is bound to culminate in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in New Delhi.

Considering the fact that your Lordship belongs to the neighbouring State of Haryana, with which we share a common border and to a great extent social and lingual affinity, Your Lordship will be able to appreciate the difficulties and problems of the people of this hilly State while dispensing justice. With this faith and these hopes, I welcome your Lordship here. In the end, I once again offer my Congratulations and best wishes to your Lordship on this august occasion.

Shimla  
October 5, 2018

Ramakant Sharma  
(Chairman)  
Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh