

**Welcome speech by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court in the West Zone-I Regional Conference on contemporary judicial developments and strengthening justice through law and technology on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 at Jodhpur**

1. Hon'ble Shri Kalraj Mishra, Governor of Rajasthan;
2. My esteemed Hon'ble Justice Dr. B.S. Chauhan, with whom I started my career as a Judge on the Bench of Allahabad High Court;
3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Sahi,  
Director, National Judicial Academy;
4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta,  
Administrative Judge & Chairman, Rajasthan State  
Judicial Academy;
5. My Brother and Sister Judges of Rajasthan and other  
High Courts;
6. Mr. M.S. Singhvi,  
learned Advocate General, Rajasthan
7. Delegates of all ranks from Rajasthan, Maharashtra,  
Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh High Courts;
8. My esteemed Resource persons;
9. Chairman, Bar Council of Rajasthan
10. Learned Additional Advocate General, Rajasthan
11. Presidents of the Bar Associations, Jodhpur
12. Officers of the Registry and Members of Judicial Service;
13. Ladies and gentlemen.

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खम्मा घणी !

पधारो म्हारे देस !

आप सभी का 'सूर्यनगरी जोधपुर' में स्वागत है !

It is a great opportunity for the Rajasthan High Court and the Rajasthan State Judicial Academy to host the West Zone-I Regional Conference on "**Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology**" at Jodhpur. I thank Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Sahi from the core of my heart for giving this opportunity to us.

Recently when I was in Jammu & Kashmir, he entrusted me with the responsibility of hosting North Zone-I Regional Conference on the same subject, which was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. It is really a matter of pride for me to host two conferences within a short span of five weeks.

First of all, I on behalf of the Rajasthan High Court, Rajasthan State Judicial Academy and on my own behalf, extend heartiest welcome to all esteemed legal luminaries, distinguished guests and the delegates to this City of Jodhpur, popularly known as "Sun City".

We all are blessed by the presence of Hon'ble Shri Kalraj Mishra, the Governor of Rajasthan, who has very gracefully accepted our invitation to attend the inaugural session. We are thankful to him for sparing his valuable time to grace this conference. He is a noble, kind hearted and a towering personality, who commands high respect not only in the State of Rajasthan but throughout the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh to where he belongs. Myself and Justice A.P. Sahi are fortunate to be hailing from the same State. So is Justice

Chouhan. His unique style of working and commendable contributions towards qualitative education, betterment of tribal people and upliftment of people living below poverty line has added to his popularity. His presence and kind words of wisdom would surely inspire the Judiciary, especially the young Judicial Officers.

I welcome Justice A.P. Sahi, Director of National Judicial Academy and my long time colleague at Allahabad, both at the Bar and the Bench. He is a voracious reader and has the ability to narrate anecdotes and *urdu* couplets aptly to keep the listeners agile and attentive. I need not talk about his qualities as a Judge, but he is certainly a good human being with impeccable character and a razor sharp intellectuality who had always aspired to work for the benefit of the Institution. His leadership anywhere has given new dimensions to the institutions. Today also he is leading from the front.

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome the resource persons of this Conference, Dr. Justice B.S. Chauhan who is not new to Rajasthan and to me as well, Mr. Shekhar Naphade, Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice G.R. Swaminathan, Justice R.C. Chavan, Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque, Justice Suraj Govindraj and Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan, all stalwarts in their respective fields, who spared their precious time to enlighten all of us on the theme of this conference to use technological tools effectively so as to take the judicial institutions to a new height. In the conference held in Jammu & Kashmir last month, I had the occasion to listen Justice R.C. Chavan, Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan and Mr. Shekhar Naphade on the subject. Now I am getting an opportunity to

hear and listen some more such distinguished speakers and we all are keenly waiting to hear them.

I also welcome the Brother and Sister Judges from participating High Courts who have travelled a long way to Jodhpur and have missed their weekend leave to attend this Conference.

I extend a warm welcome to all the Judicial Officers of the participating States and from the State of Rajasthan. I am sure that they will be immensely benefitted by the discussions and deliberations which will take place in this conference in next two days.

The Constitution of India aims to secure to all its citizens justice social economic and political, which keeps varying with the times and are ever expanding. The Indian judiciary is playing a pivotal role in dispensing justice keeping in mind the developments taking place in the country, the changes in the lives of the citizens and the society. One of the major changes in the life of the people of the country is due to advent of information technology.

The National Judicial Academy is seeking to achieve the object of sensitizing the judicial officers with the tools of technology by organizing zonal conferences, seminars, workshops and training programmes so as to equip them and make them friendly with latest technological tools so as to ensure more efficiency and judicial excellence.

In the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, under compulsion the courts began using facilities of e-filing and video conferencing and now it has become an order of the day. The Pandemic has made us realize that law and technology have

an inter-connected relationship. The use of technology and the internet has not only expanded the scope of individuals rights but also their access to the basic services that help them to realise these rights and liberties.

The use of information and technology, as we all know, had facilitated the filing of a petition at the Supreme Court or as a matter of fact in many High Courts, sitting in the remotest areas of the country or even abroad and at any time of the day and night. Previously, as we are all aware, the petitions could only be filed in the courts during the working hours of the courts normally between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is the kind of minor change that the technology has brought into the judicial system with a major development in the working of the courts. In the recent past the use of modern technology in many ways has been introduced into the judicial system. Hopefully, during the tenure of Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud as Chief Justice of India, we may see tremendous changes and important developments in this line. His regime would be an eventful regime so far as the e-court project is concerned.

"A healthy balance between the use of technology and human intervention has to be maintained. Technology, we must understand, is the facilitator of change, but the driver of change has been, is, and must continue to be the human mind. The only limitation on the human mind is human commitment to change and to adapt," said Justice Chandrachud.

We all recognize that technology has completely transformed our lives. We, as Judges and Members of the Bar, both stakeholders in the matter of dispensation of justice

have to adapt to the new tools of technology as for sure technology has to stay forever.

Thus, in the present state-of-affairs, the topic "contemporary judicial developments and strengthening justice through law and technology" chosen by the National Judicial Academy assumes great significance and it is the need of the hour to hold Conference like the present one. I am sure with my experience of Srinagar, this Conference will also provide a good platform to the judicial officers to get themselves updated with the latest developments in law and to take resort to the modern technology to better serve the cause of justice.

I am confident that the manner in which the Conference has been meticulously planned singly handed by none other than the Chairman of the Rajasthan Judicial Academy, it will definitely receive applaud throughout the judicial echelons and would accomplish the goals and objects sought to be achieved. Wishing a remarkable success of the conference.

THANK YOU.

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