

My Lord the Chief Justice,
Mr. Advocate-General,
Mr. President of the Bar Association, and
Members of the Bar.

I am extremely grateful to you for all the praises bestowed on me and the good wishes that you have expressed, which I hardly deserve. I have no words to thank you.

Gentlemen, as you are well aware, I am entirely new to this Court, which can justly be proud of the best traditions it has laid down and maintained during the last 110 years of its existence. Coming from a District Bar, I cannot but feel a little different as to whether I will be able to measure upto the expectations in very kind sentiments expressed by you. I may, however, assure you of my best endeavour to achieve the high standards set by the great Judges of this Court.

To most of you, I may be a stranger and, therefore, I wish to recall the time when I joined the District Bar at Meerut. Most unfortunately for me, my father Sri Brij Nath Mithal, who was a leading Civil lawyer in the Meerut Division died suddenly in June, 1953 just before I joined the Bar. My future looked dark both personally and professionally. I was unfortunate not to be able to learn at the feet of my father. It was, however, my good fortune that by then my elder brother Sri Raghubar Dayal Mithal

had already acquired eminence as a Civil lawyer, whose guidance and affection more than compensated for my loss. It is he who taught me the key notes of the profession. He gave me honesty as a gift-honesty towards Court, honesty to the client and honesty to the work, which are the essential virtues of a good lawyer. The little I know and whatever I am today, is because of him, and I am happy that he is present here today amongst us.

I would be failing in my duty if I were not to remember the Senior and other brother members of the Meerut Bar in whose midst I learnt a lot. Meerut Bar has the privilege of producing legal giants like late Pt. Kishan Lal, Pt. Pyare Lal Sharma and Gopi Nath Sinha all of whom were stalwarts in their own line. I am also thankful to my juniors who have been helping me in my work with all earnestness.

In the light of my background, I do hope that my senior brother Judges and members of the Bar would be kind enough to ignore my faults and short-comings.

With this confidence, I hope to work to the best of my ability. However, I know without the help and cooperation from you gentlemen it will not be possible for me to perform the duties adequately and I would beg of you to give me your support and I can assure you that it would not be in vain.

I thank you so much once again.