

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur**, Judge, Supreme Court of India;

**Hon'ble Ms. Justice G. Rohini**, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi;

**Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal**;

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.K. Gauba**;

**My colleague on the dais Madam Rekha Rani**, Ld. District & Sessions Judge (West);

**Sh. Vinod Goel**, Registrar General, High Court of Delhi;

**Sh. H.C. Suri**, Registrar-cum-Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Delhi High Court;

**Sh. B.T. Kaul**, Chairperson, Delhi Judicial Academy;

**My dear colleague Id. District & Sessions Judges** (Ms. Anu Malhotra, Sh. Yogesh Khanna, Ms. R. Kiran Nath, Ms. Ravinder Kaur, Sh. Talwant Singh, Dr. T.R. Naval and Sh. Amar Nath);

**Ld. Senior Advocates**;

**Principal Judges**, Family Courts;

**My other colleague Judicial Officers**;

**Sh. Sanjeev Nasir**, President, Delhi Bar Association;

**Sh. D.D. Sharma**, Hony. Secretary, Delhi Bar Association;

**Presidents and Secretaries of other Bar Associations**;

**Ld. Public Prosecutors**;

**Police Officers**;

**Distinguished guests**;

and,

Ladies & Gentleman !

I am greatly honoured and pleased to welcome you all on this historic occasion of 'the inauguration of vulnerable witness deposition complex' at Tis Hazari Courts.

For an effective justice delivery system, it is imperative that the witnesses, particularly, who are vulnerable, are provided a conducive environment so that they can depose freely and comfortably.

To elicit and secure complete and reliable evidence of such witnesses and with a view to minimize their secondary victimization, it is essential to ensure that special measures are adopted and due assistance is provided in recording their testimonies. Creation of Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Complex at Tis Hazari Courts is one such step in that direction.

On this occasion, it is my profound privilege to welcome **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur**, Judge, Supreme Court of India. His Lordship has vast experience in Civil, Criminal, Constitution, Revenue and Service Laws. His Lordship has been Additional Solicitor General of India before His Lordship came to be appointed as the Judge of Delhi High Court and has also been the Acting Chief Justice of our own High Court. His Lordship's interest in judicial reforms, computerization of courts, judicial education, legal aid services, juvenile justice and ADR is well

known and does not require any elaboration. Today, on this historic occasion, the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur reflects the concern of His Lordship towards Vulnerable Witnesses, who come in contact with the Justice Delivery System and who are **undoubtedly** the backbone of our justice delivery system.

**We welcome you, Sir.**

We are also proud to have with us **Hon'ble Ms. Justice G. Rohini**, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi. Her Ladyship has been actively practicing in the Andhra Pradesh High Court dealing with Civil, Criminal, Labour and Service Matters before being elevated as a Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. Her Ladyship has taken up the issues of protection of girl child, working women and better relationship between the Bar and the Bench. Her Ladyship, as we all know, has then the distinction of becoming the First Woman Chief Justice of our Delhi High Court. Her Ladyship has always encouraged and guided us in this project and has been our continuous support.

**We welcome you, Ma'am.**

**Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal**, Judge, High Court of Delhi, who is the Chairperson of the Committee to Monitor Proper Implementation of Several Guidelines Laid down by the Supreme Court as well as High

Court of Delhi for dealing with matters pertaining to Sexual Offences & Child Witnesses, prior to Her Ladyship's appointment as a Judge of Delhi High Court, have had an illustrious legal practice in all the courts, besides other Judicial Forums. As a Judge of Delhi High Court, Her Ladyship has equally presided over various jurisdictions. Besides others, relevant to the today's event, Her Ladyship gave the landmark judgment in the case of Virender Vs. State of Delhi taking note of the fact of embarrassment and reservations of those concerned including the prosecutrix and the witnesses, which result in a camouflage of the trauma of the victim's experience. Her Ladyship is the force behind the creation of the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complexes at Karkardooma and Saket and now, the Tis Hazari Courts. Her Ladyship's, striving efforts to ensure long denied justice for the victimized; indomitable spirit in turning challenges into opportunities; and, Her Ladyship's visionary tenacity in striving to uphold the basic right to human dignity, were recognized way back in 2008, when Her Ladyship was awarded Distinguished Alumna Award 2008 by the Hon'ble Vice President of India. It is with Her Ladyship's personal efforts and constant and able guidance that the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complex has come to be created at Tis Hazari Courts Complex.

**We welcome you Ma'am.**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.K. Gauba** joined the Judicial Service shortly after completion of His Lordship's studies of law and has dealt with almost all the jurisdictions of law quite brilliantly and His Lordship, before elevation as a Judge of Delhi High Court, has been instrumental in the creation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complex at Saket Court Complex, which is functioning quite smoothly and effectively. Now, His Lordship is here with us to push the project further as a Member of Vulnerable Witness Committee of High Court of Delhi.

**We welcome you, Sir.**

I once again, extend a very warm welcome to each one of the distinguished guests present today. I hope, we will succeed in our endeavour to provide a viable environment for recording the testimonies of vulnerable witnesses.

Thank you.