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ADDRESS BY
HON'BLE **SHRI JUSTICE RAJESH KUMAR AGRAWAL**
CHIEF JUSTICE, MADRAS HIGH COURT,
IN REPLY TO THE WELCOME ADDRESS
24.10.2013

Vanakkam.

Vande Mataram.

My esteemed sister and brother Judges of this Court, my colleague Mr. Justice Abhinava Upadhyaya of Allahabad High Court, to which I originally belonged, Thiru A.L. Somayaji, Advocate General, Thiru G. Masilamani and Thiru P. Wilson, Additional Solicitors General of India, Thiru R.Muthukumaraswamy, President, Madras Bar Association, Thiru R.C.Paul Kanagaraj, President, Madras High Court Advocates Association, Tmt. D. Prasanna, President, Women Lawyers Association, Thiru Selvam, Chairman, Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, Respected Senior Advocates, Advocates, my Guru respected Sri Bharat Ji Agrawal, Senior Advocate, who is amongst us here and at whose feet I have learnt the ABC of Law, my respected parents, late Sri Raja Ram Agrawal and late Smt. Ram Mani Agrawal, whose blessings and

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the path shown by them have guided me to adorn this exalted office, and my dear wife late Dr. Reshma Agrawal, my parents and my wife, all of whom I greatly miss and are not in this world to see this great day but I believe that they must be the happiest persons wherever they are, judicial Officers, officers and staff of the High Court Registry, my family members present here, ladies and gentlemen,

ANAIVARUKKUM YEN INIYA KAALAI VANAKKAM (A very good morning to all of you),

I have no words to express my thanks to the learned Advocate General and the Presidents of the various Bar Associations for speaking so high of me. I am reminded of a famous saying that '*one does not find any fault in your near and dear ones*'. May be because of that feeling, they have done so. In fact, I do not deserve such praise.

Friends, if you go down the memory lane, about eight months back, in my reply to your welcome address on 7th February 2013, I had expressed my hope that you would treat me as a humble Parsi and my hope was fulfilled. During these

eight months, all of you have regarded me as one of you. Today, I treat this Court as my High Court and say with great pride that I belong to Madras High Court.

It has been my earnest endeavour to maintain the high traditions of this chartered High Court. You are the best Judge to decide whether I have been able to do so or not. I may, rather, I must have made mistakes. But I intend to learn from them. I welcome suggestions from you on what I, as an individual, or we, as an institution, can do to improve the functioning of our Court. I do realise that I alone cannot bring about a change. We need to work together in unison and in harmony with each other so that this institution can deliver justice and better serve public interest. I exhort all of us to wholeheartedly work together to maintain the glory of this Court.

My doors are always open to resolve any problem which you may face in this court. However, I wish to emphasize that world-over, disagreements or discord within a body of people are resolved by mutual discussion and dialogue, not by

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rebellion or non cooperation. We have succeeded in achieving a lot in the last few months by a consultative process, and there is lots more that I hope to do in the future.

I once again express my sincere thanks for all your kindness showered upon me.

Nandri. Vanakkam.

Jai Hind.
