

**FULL COURT REFERENCE TO BID FAREWELL TO HON'BLE  
MRS.JUSTICE RUMI KUMARI PHUKAN AND HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE  
HITESH KUMAR SARMA, JUDGES OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT ON  
LORDSHIPS' SUPERANNUATION ON 30<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2022 AT  
3 P.M. IN COURT NO.1(NEW BLOCK)**

My esteemed colleagues on the Bench,

Mr. Bimal Chetri, Senior Vice-President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association,

Mr. Satyadhar Matak, President, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association.

Mr. G.N.Sahewalla, Chairman, Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram,  
Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

Mr. Dilip Mazumdar, Addl. Advocate General, Assam,

Mr. Diganta Das, Advocate General, Mizoram,

Mr. B. D. Goswami, Addl. Advocate General, Arunachal Pradesh,

Mr. R.K. Dev Choudhury, Assistant Solicitor General of India,

Mrs. M. Kechii, Govt. Advocate, Nagaland,

Mr. H. K. Das, Standing Counsel, Gauhati High Court

Members of the legal fraternity,

Members of the Registry and distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

Today, we have assembled here to bid farewell to Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan and Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, who are to demit office today.

Parting of association in life of everyone whether it is of short duration, or long is always painful regardless of the cause which results in parting. It makes one emotional but is indeed inevitable in everyone's life. Today's parting

also has the same feeling in our mind and heart for Justice Phukan and Justice Sharma, because from tomorrow we will be missing their association which we had been enjoying every day till date.

As I have joined very recently, I cannot possibly claim any personal proximity with Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma of long duration. However, even a duration of a few days is long enough to assess and apprise an individual. Later in course of time, I came to know about the exceptional qualities of Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma and their judgments which were rendered more particularly in criminal side. I am told, both Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma always had a striking impact on the members of the Bar as well to the brother and sister Judges on the Bench because of their depth in knowledge of law and loving attitude to others. Their judgments are highly appreciated by the members of the Bar as well by the litigant public for clarity of thoughts and lucidity.

Born on 01.07.1960 at Jorhat, Justice Phukan passed BA (Hons in Economics) from JB College, Jorhat in the year 1981 and later obtained LL.B degree from Jorhat Law College in the year 1987 and also B.Ed. degree from Post Graduate Training College, Jorhat in 1987. Justice Phukan enrolled herself in the Bar Council of Assam in 1987 and started practicing at Jorhat District Court for a period of one year. Later Justice Phukan joined Assam Judicial Service on

01.12.1988 and then worked in different capacities like Chief Judicial Magistrate (Kamrup) Guwahati, District & Sessions Judge, (Kamrup) Guwahati, Principal Judge, Family Court, Guwahati, Registrar (Judicial), Registrar (Administration) and Registrar General of Gauhati High Court and was promoted to selection grade on 04.12.2014 w.e.f. 11.01.2013. Before her elevation to the Bench on 07.01.2015, Justice Phukan served as the District and Sessions Judge, Dibrugarh and became permanent Judge w.e.f. 06.01.2019.

Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma was born on 1st July, 1960 at Pathsala, Assam. After completing his schooling from Bajali HS & MP School, Pathsala, he completed his graduation in Arts from Bajali College, Pathshala, in the year 1981 and obtained LL.B from JB Law College, Guwahati, in the year 1985. Prior to joining Assam Judicial Service on 08-12-1988, Justice Sarma initially started his legal journey by joining the Barpeta District Bar. Justice Sarma served in various capacity in judicial side as well as in administrative side of the High Court. He served as the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kamrup Metro, Additional District & Sessions Judge (FTC), Kamrup Metro, District Judge, Sivasagar, District Judge, Goalpara and Kamrup (Metro). Justice Sarma also served as Legal Remembrancer and Secretary to the Judicial Department, Government of Assam and thereafter, posted as Special Judge, CBI and NIA, Assam. Justice Sarma served in the Registry of the High Court in different capacities as Deputy

Registrar, Registrar (Judicial), Registrar (Administration), Registrar (Vigilance) and as Registrar General till his elevation till his elevation as Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 19-05-2017 and became permanent Judge w.e.f. 25.04.2019.

Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma, I am told, have given their opinions on a variety of branches of law, but particularly in criminal law. I am also told that both Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma carries an extremely good impression amongst the members of the Bar. Their friendly and composed nature are well known amongst the brother and sister Judges as well.

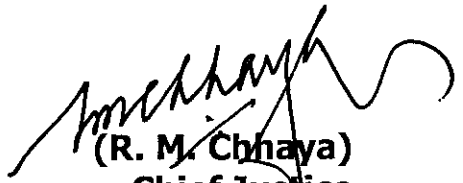
With the retirement of Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma, we will have a void, which will be difficult to fill as they have been dealing with most of the important criminal benches in the High Court for a long time. In any case, we shall continue to seek Justice Phukan's and Justice Sharma's sagacious advice in future for the sake of the Institution, to which we all belong.

Both Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma fully deserved the effusive praise showered upon them by the learned members of Bar. Indeed, Gauhati High Court will be deprived of the valuable services of such seasoned and matured Judges in near future. I am sure my colleagues on the Bench would agree with

me that we all are going to miss Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma a lot in weeks and months ahead.

I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my esteem colleagues of the Bench, wish Justice Phukan and Justice Sarma, good health, success and a very long life and I quote a wonderful saying by John Anthony West, an American writer *"Don't act your age in retirement. Act like the inner young person you have always been."*

Thank you,



**(R. M. Chhaya)**  
**Chief Justice**  
**Gauhati High Court,**  
**Guwahati.**