

**ADDRESS BY HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE MOHIT S. SHAH, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY AT THE FULL COURT - REFERENCE TO LATE MR. BAL APTE, SENIOR ADVOCATE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON FRIDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER 2012.**

My esteemed colleagues, Mr.D.J.Khambatta, Advocate General, Mr: Kevic Setalwad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr.Dara Zaiwalla, Vice President of Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Rajiv Patil, President, Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr.Priyahans Jani, Vice-President, Incorporated Law Society, Mr.Karan D. Bhosale, Vice Chairman of Bar Council, Advocates, Members of the bereaved family, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have assembled here this morning to mourn the sad demise of late Mr. Bal Apte, Senior Advocate of this Court, who left for his heavenly abode on Tuesday, 17th July 2012 at Mumbai at the age of 73 years.

Mr. Apte was born on 18th January 1939 at Rajgurunagar in Pune District. He completed his school and part of college education in Rajgurunagar and Pune. He completed MA and LLM from University of Mumbai. He taught law in the LLB and LLM classes at New Law College, Mumbai and University of Mumbai. He was examiner for LLM Examination. He was an excellent and inspirational orator.

Mr. Apte was President, Advocates Association of Western India, Bombay High Court. He was also Additional Advocate General, State of Maharashtra for the period 1996 to 1998 and also appeared in many important cases.

He was Member, Senate of University of Mumbai. He was a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from 2002 to 2010.

Mr. Apte was National President of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad and was active in the Parishad for 38 years. He was a guardian to thousands of Paraishad workers who regarded him as a friend, philosopher and guide.

Mr.Apte argued several important cases in various branches of law including Cooperative Laws, Tenancy Laws and several constitutional matters. Mr.Apte appeared as Additional Advocate General in case of Madhav Karmarkar versus State Government to finalise rules of recruitment of Judges of Cooperative courts and Cooperative Appellate Courts in accordance with the constitutional mandate with the specific direction that the rules should not provide for appointment of executive officers as Judges of the Cooperative Courts or Cooperative Appellate Courts. This Court directed the Government to follow the provisions of Article 50 of the Constitution to separate the Judiciary from the Executive. The Court held that the Cooperative Courts and Cooperative Appellate Courts must be manned by judicial officers and that "in no set of circumstances, appointment of judicial officers can be left to the executive". Normally, as a matter of rule, the recommendations made by the High Courts for appointment of the Judges of Cooperative Courts and Cooperative Appellate Courts should be accepted. Mr.Apte also appeared before the several Full Benches.

Mr.Apte's learning and skills did not remain confined to law and advocacy.

Reading and writing was Mr. Apte's hobby. He had a deep knowledge and liking for literature, especially Marathi Literature. He was well versed in Sanskrit language and literature. He was on Governing Council of Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, an educational institution running 20 colleges and schools for about two decades.

Mr. Apte authored many celebrated books.

Mr. Apte visited USSR as a member of Indo-USSR Youth Meet in 1978. He visited China, South Korea, Panama, UK and USA as a member of parliamentary delegation. He attended the 119th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Geneva in October 2008.

Mr. Apte was not only an Advocate but he was a human being and qualities of head and heart. He kept honesty and modesty in the legal profession. He was warm, friendly and gentle as a person. His proven ability, vast experience talent and inner instinct of social work and motto to serve the society and the nation persuaded him to join the politics. We all know death is inevitable but it is through our deeds that makes our life immortal. His passing away will not only leave a void in our lives but also in the hearts of all those who knew him.

Mr. Apte is survived by his wife Smt.Urmila and daughter Mrs.Janvi.

My colleagues and I share the feelings of all those who have gathered here in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them strength to bear the great loss and overcome the grief.

May the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI D.J. KHAMBATA, ADVOCATE GENERAL, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. BALAVANT PARASHURAM APTE, SENIOR ADVOCATE, ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012.**

My Lord the Hon'ble the Chief Justice Shri Mohit Shah, Hon'ble Judges of the Bombay High Court, Shri Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri Karan Bhosale, Vice-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Shri D.R. Zaiwalla, President, Bombay Bar Association, Shri Rajiv Patil, President, Advocates' Association of Western India and Shri P.A. Jani, Vice-President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society and members of the Bar,

We gather here today to mourn the death of a respected Senior Advocate of this Hon'ble Court Shri B.P. Apte but much better known as Bal Apte or Balasaheb Apte.

After his schooling in Pune, he graduated in Arts from Ruia College and then went on to obtaining a Master's degree as well as graduate and post-graduate law degrees from Mumbai University. Being academically minded he taught law as an honorary Professor of the New Law College, Mumbai for twelve years for the LL.B. course as well as in the University of Mumbai for the LL.M. course. In later years he was a member of the Senate of Mumbai University.

He swiftly rose at the Bar to become one of its leaders. He had a gravitas about him not only when he advanced submissions but in his very persona. He had a dignified deportment and he exuded a quiet confidence even when you passed him in the corridor. He was gifted with the talent of oratory and inspired Judges and opponents alike with his address. His appointment as the Additional Advocate General, State of Maharashtra did not surprise anyone and he discharged the duties of that office with honesty and courage, between 1996 and 1998.

The universal respect he enjoyed at the Bar, culminated in his election as President of the Advocates Association of Western India.

He argued several matters in which important principles of law were decided.

Appearing for the Petitioner in a matter before a Division Bench of this Hon'ble Court, Bal Apte was successful in convincing the Bombay High Court to hold that rejection of an application for cross-examining a witness with reference to an earlier statement made by him touched the most important aspect of a trial and affected the substantive rights of the complainant. Consequently such an order was not an interlocutory order within the meaning of Section 397 of the Cr.PC.

In another matter he ably assisted the Court in deciding whether a person was adopted that person could have any vested right in the coparcenery and joint family property of his birth. It was held that the adoptee could not take away such property to his adoptive family.

In Tata Hydro-Electric Power Supply Company Ltd. & others v. Principal Secretary, Energy and Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra and others 1999 (4) Bom CR 566, appearing as the Additional Advocate General for the State of Maharashtra in a challenge to the grant of a licence for an LPG storage and handling facility he dissuaded a Division Bench of our Court from judicially reviewing policy and technical matters.

But Bal Apte's life's calling was not his love of law. It was his devotion to his ideology that marked his life. For that he was jailed from December 1975 to February 1977 under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act during emergency.

He was the National President of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and was actively involved with the ABVP for 38 years.

He would say that ideology gives you strength to face challenges and mitigate the fear of hurdles. Bal Apte's life was his message. For 38 years, the best part of his youth, he forged the ABVP into a formidable force. Unyielding as he was as a disciplinarian, he was also revered as a guardian angel by thousands of ABVP workers.

No one could fault the strength of character, unshakeable integrity and patriotism of Bal Apte. Of particular value was a project he organized for the ABVP, "My home is India", under which students from the North-east of our country were invited to live with families in Mumbai and elsewhere with the objective of national integration. At least two Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh were enriched by this experience and several families gained a deeper appreciation of the diversity of India and the glorious idea that is India.

One of his closest associates described him as a sage - politician who would never compromise on principles. His integrity was constant as the North star and those who dared question or test it faced the wrath of the incorruptible.

He was a member of the Bharatiya Janta Party. He was twice elected to the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra, in 2000 and 2006. He was Vice President of the BJP during 2002 to 2010 and also a member of its Central Parliamentary Board.

He was also a member of the Governing Council of Shikshan Prasarak Mandali, an educational institution running 20 colleges and schools for about two decades in addition to serving as Trustee of several charitable institutions.

He was also a keen scholar of Marathi literature and Sanskrit and a writer himself.

When his life is weighed it can be said that he was not found wanting in the balance, he toiled for the causes he was devoted to, he never wavered from his chosen path and he never succumbed to life's temptations and failings. Can one wish for a better epitaph?

The Bar's condolences are extended to his wife, his daughter and to his entire bereaved family.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI KEVIC SETALVAD, ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. BALVANT PARASHURAM APTE, SENIOR ADVOCATE, ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012.**

My Lord, the Chief Justice, all the Learned Judges of this Hon'ble Court; Mr. Darius Khambata - the Hon'ble Advocate General of Maharashtra, Mr. Karan Bhosale, Vice-President of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa; Mr. D.R. Zaiwalla, the Vice-President of the Bombay Bar Association; Mr. Rajiv Patil - the President of the Advocates Association of Western India; Mr. Jani, Vice-President for the Incorporated Law Society, and the members of the Bar.

Mr. Balvant Parashuram Apte - Mr. Bal Apte, was the son of Mr. Parashuram Apte who in turn was a renowned lawyer and a very well respected social worker. Mr. Bal Apte was born on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1939 in a small village of Rajgurunagar, in Pune District. However, by the time he sadly passed away - from complications arising out of a lung infection on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012, at the age of 73, he had led a full and diverse life of a Senior Advocate, an Additional Advocate General of this Hon'ble Court; an active Politician and an able Educationalist. He also endured a prison sentence during the dark days of the Emergency.

After completing his schooling in Pune, Mr. Bal Apte moved to Mumbai for pursuing higher education and was a first class student and obtained a double Masters' degree when he completed his MA and LL.M. From the University of Mumbai.

Advocate: As a Senior Advocate, and an Additional Advocate General of Maharashtra, from 1996 to 1998, Mr. Bal Apte appeared in many important matters - amongst which were the matter of *Govinddas Mannulal Shroff v. State of Maharashtra* decided by a Full Bench of this Hon'ble Court - which pertained to the additional reservation of seats of medical colleges on the basis of population. He also appeared in the matter of *Arun Punjabrao Ghanvate vs. the Chancellor, Amravati University* - which related to an interpretation and application of Sub-Section (2) of Section 37 of the Maharashtra Universities Act 1994; and the matter of *Kirit Somaiya v. the Chief Election Commissioner* - which sought to address the issue of large number of discrepancies in the electoral roll of the various parliamentary constituencies in the State of Maharashtra.

Mr. Bal Apte also served as the President of the Advocates' Association of Western India and taught law as an Honorary Professor in New Law College (Mumbai) and University of Mumbai, for 12 years.

Politician: Mr. Bal Apte served as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party and was one of the national Vice Presidents of the BJP. He was a two-time member of the Rajya Sabha, being elected to the Rajya Sabha in May 2000 and then re-elected in the year 2006. He earned fame for his report - which came to be called the "Bal Apte Report" which he framed on the reasons for the BJP's defeat in the 2009 General Elections.

Educationalist: Mr. Bal Apte was an active cog in the wheel for the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), for 38 long years, and served as its National President from the year 1974 until 1977. The ABVP, as is well known, runs projects and programmes aimed at national integration and using social consciousness to solve economic and other problems. They also run programmes designed to improve the social and educational abilities of individual students. As part of the ABVP, Mr. Bal Apte travelled the length and breadth of the nation seeking the growth and spread of education to all corners. Education was his passion and he wanted to spread the work

of ABVP for the betterment of students, all over the country. He was actively involved with ABVP's fine project - *My Home is India* - pursuant to which students from other parts of India were invited to live with families in Mumbai so as to inculcate a true sense of nationality. He was also involved in the launch of the *World Organisation of Students and Youth*, which works to bring together young persons and students from various countries and communities to promote comradeship and peace.

Mr. Bal Apte was closely associated with several educational organizations and Universities including the Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Mumbai University, Jawaharlal University and Vishwa Bharti. He wrote about education in his book "Education Change", during the period of his detention at Nasik Road Central Prison during the period 1975-77. He also authored other literary works such as Marathi Language "Yeshwant", "Report on Violation of Fundamental Rights of Citizens in Ayodhya" and "Supreme Court on Hindutva".

Mr. Bal Apte had the foresight of a forward thinker and propounded the participatory role of younger people and students as the citizens of today and the leaders of tomorrow. He mooted, in the late 1960's, the concept "The Student is a Citizen of Today", which then was a relatively novel concept; but which has proved to be apt today, in our Nation where the average age of the population is less than 30 years, and falling.

Our condolences go out to Mr. Bal Apte's family. May his soul rest in peace.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI KARAN D. BHOSALE, VICE - CHAIRMAN, BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA AND GOA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. BALWANT PARSHURAM APTE, SENIOR ADVOCATE, ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012.**

My Lords, the Chief Justice and other Judges of this Court, Dr. D.J. Khambatta, Advocate General of Maharashtra, Mr. Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Dara Zaiwalla, Vice-President, Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Rajiv Patil, President, Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. Priyahas A. Jani, Vice-President, the Incorporated Law Society, and my learned friends.

We are gathered here to pay tribute to the memory of Shri Balwant Apte who was popularly known as Balsaheb Apte.

On behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, I associate myself with what has fallen from My Lord, the Chief Justice and the learned speakers before me. When I joined the Bar, Shri Balasaheb Apte was a Senior Advocate and active in politics. Unfortunately the Advocates of my general and I did not have any occasion to see Shri Balasaheb Apte in action in Court. But I know, which I learnt from Senior Members of the Bar, that he was very forceful, forthright, fearless and a persuasive Advocate. The Judges and members of the Bar always appreciated his knowledge of law and industry.

I had not the advantage of a close personal interaction with Shri Balasaheb Apte. However, the Senior members of the Bar who had close associations with him and have had the privilege of a personal interaction with him remember him as an excellent orator with astute leadership qualities. He was one of the persons, who was successful not only in the profession but also in politics and achieved several honors in the profession as well as in politics.

Shri Apte was born in Pune, and completed his M.A. And LL.B. from the University of Mumbai. His contribution in the field of academics through lectures at New Law College in Mumbai and University of Mumbai are highly regarded.

Shri Apte was the National President of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad and was active therein for 38 years. Shri Apte often feared as an unyielding disciplinarian. He was a guardian to thousands of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad workers who regarded him as a friend, philosopher and guide. He was also a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from 2002-2010.

During the dark hours of the emergency, Shri Apte was arrested and sent to the Central Jail at Nashik for almost two years between 1975-1977.

Shri Apte went on to become the Additional Advocate-General for the State of Maharashtra during 1996-1998 and appeared in several reported cases.

Before I conclude, it would not be out of place to make a reference to an event, which I witnessed in 1992. It was the inaugural function of the State Lawyers Conference in Mumbai organized by the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa. The conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachalaiah, the then Chief Justice of India.

Shri Balasaheb Apte, having regard to his inherent qualities, was invited by the State Bar Council to compeer the inaugural function at the conference. He performed a brilliant job, for which the Bar Council is indebted to him even today. The function and his performance left a lasting impression on my mind and the minds of several other lawyers present at the function. Shri Balasaheb Apte always associated himself with the State Bar Council activities whenever he was requested. His associations with the Bar Council activities, including the lecture series endeared himself to the members of the State Bar Council during all these years.

My Lords, on behalf of State Bar Council and the Lawyers at large in the State of Maharashtra, I offer my sincere condolence to the bereaved family and friends of Shri Apte. May his soul rest in peace.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI DARA R. ZAIWALLA, VICE PRESIDENT OF BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. BALWANT PARSHURAM APTE, SENIOR ADVOCATE, ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012.**

My Lord the Chief Justice, respected Judges of the Hon'ble Court, Mr. Khambata, Advocate General, Mr. Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Karan Bhosale, Vice-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Mr. Rajiv Patil, President, Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. P.A. Jani, Vice-President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society, members of the Bar and Ladies and Gentlemen;

The many faceted life of Mr. Bal Apte has been enumerated in detail by My Lord the Chief Justice and the speakers preceded who me. I do not want to repeat the same. I would however like to mention my association with Mr. Bal Apte. We were both Professors in New Law College and I became very close to him. I did not know of his political affiliations until he told me one fine day that he has been national President of Akhil Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad. Ultimately I came to know that he was well known even in political circles of Mumbai and Maharashtra and rose to become the Vice-President of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He was elected to Parliament and was Additional Advocate General of the State of Maharashtra. His multifaceted personality was reflected in the various Committees that he presided over and as Member of Parliamentary Committees. It was my pleasure and honour to appear before him in one of the Committees relating to Law and Justice on behalf of the Bombay Bar Association which was held at the Lands End Taj, Mumbai. He dealt with all of us very courteously despite the fact that it was a High Powered Parliamentary Committee. It was obvious that he had immense knowledge of the difficulties of the Judiciary and the Bar. In fact, whilst addressing us he himself suggested various reforms which I remember. In his passing away, his family undoubtedly have lost a dear member, his political party has lost a leader, the Bar has lost a stalwart and I personally have lost a dear friend of so many years. On this occasion, our thoughts are with the members of the family of late Mr. Apte and on behalf of the Bombay Bar Association I take this opportunity to pray that his soul may rest in eternal peace.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI RAJIV PATIL, PRESIDENT, THE ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. BALWANT PARSHURAM APTE, SENIOR ADVOCATE, ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012.**

Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Mohit shah, Honourable Judges of the Bombay High Court, Honourable Mr. Daraius Khambatta, Advocate General of Maharashtra, Honourable Mr. Kevic Setalwad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Karan Bhosale, Vice-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, Mr. Dara Zaiwalla, Vice-President, Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Jani, Vice-President, the Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Mrs. Urmilatai Apte, Mr. Ram Apte, Senior Advocate, Members of the Apte Chamber, Member of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Balwant Parsuram Apte, a legendary President of Advocates' Association of Western India, popularly known as Balasaheb passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at Mumbai after brief illness. He was 73.

A well known legal eagle, a leader of the Bar, a Parliamentarian, a social activist and a kind human being late Balasaheb left us by leaving a vacuum in the legal fraternity.

Balasaheb entered the corridors of this Honourable High Court in the year 1962 through the chambers of the late Shri K.J. Abhyankar, Senior Counsel of this High Court. Within a short span of deviling he earned his own recognition and became an authority in law. He conducted matters after matters on the civil side concerning personal laws, property law and torts. He was not only a good advocate but he was also a good professor. His command over the language, a guiding voice and his discipline made him the most popular faculty. In the true sense he was a friend, philosopher and guide. His commitment to the society and the common man was incomparable.

In the social field he was the most active workers of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad for 38 years and was also its National President. He sculptured Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. He was a Parliamentarian for 12 years and remained an integral part of national politics till his death. A Parliamentarian who followed his principles throughout his life and his contribution to the Indian Democracy is part of the records of Sansad Bhavan. His courageous political steps amazed many senior politicians when during the black days of emergency in 1975 he courted arrest by Satyagraha in precincts of the Mumbai University along with his followers and co-workers. He was detained in Nashik Central Prison from December 1975 till February 1977 as he made an attempt to save the fundamental rights of citizen of India in a civilized democratic society. During his detention he contributed his thoughts and ideology for the younger activists. His work during emergency was well appreciated by veteran leaders.

As a member of the Bar I had a good opportunity to associate with him for long period of 26 years in the Bar Association. Though I am from different ideological background, I never had any reservation or apprehension that Balasaheb would not accept me in his team. We kept our ideologies away while working together for the Bar. He was my idol as a leader of the Bar, as a law teachers and as a social activist. I saw him as an Advocate, I saw him as President and I saw him as a Parliamentarian. He was a torchbearer for all of us.

Sometime in the year 1986, I was introduced to him by one of his junior colleagues Mr. Vinayak Dixit, now Senior Advocate of this Curt. At that time a group of junior activists advocates was thinking of introducing new ideas for betterment of juniors on the Appellate Side of Bombay High Court. We were apprehensive about the support from senior Members of the Bar. We were trying to see who will be sympathetic to us

and thus we met many senior advocates. In this process we also met Balasaheb Apte, who tried to understand our problems and assured support for our ideas. Considering our group formation Balasaheb laughed at us. We had varied differences. We were from different areas of Maharashtra, everybody had different background, different ideas and ideologies but Balasaheb was really amazed to see our unity. Balasaheb was concerned about junior advocates and their problems and their upbringing and therefore he along with others supported us in introducing new programmes in AAWI. We wanted to have State Level Junior Advocates Conference at Mumbai. We had great enthusiasm and spirit. We collected our all resources and planned State Level Junior Advocates Conference at Taj Mahal Hotel in the year 1989. It was first of its kind and we received a mass response from throughout the State. Balasaheb appreciated everybody, who were working very hard for the programme. Balasaheb stood behind us like a wall. Since then he became everybody's idol. We saw a senior who was empowering juniors to stand on their own.

There was another incident which is recorded in the history of the Bombay High Court. While Balasaheb was a President there was much of a discussion about corruption in the judiciary. Situation was very volatile. Many juniors were of the opinion that why only talk about it instead of adopting action. Juniors were not appreciated. Ultimately a motion was initiated to pass a resolution which was passed with success. Balasaheb proved his true leadership and with a firm hand over the situation and without succumbing to any high level pressure led the AAWI to raise the voice against corruption. This leadership is a guiding example to all his successors.

Balasaheb was not only socially and politically active but he was one of the best senior advocates at the Bar. Myself and my contemporaries have seen him arguing many cases involving complex questions of law, and I had engaged him and learnt from him the lessons of advocacy. In my personal experience he was a good senior to work along with.

Balasaheb was the Additional Advocate General of Maharashtra in the years 1996 to 1998. I had an occasion to assist him as Additional Public Prosecutor in the Habeas Corpus Petition at Nagpur. Balasaheb due to his experiences of the detention during Emergency, had his reservations about the process of detention orders. We had three long meetings to discuss the details of the case at hand and he was open for all the suggestions. Thereafter Balasaheb defended the said detention order single handedly. Tremendous industry makes the advocate attain his best. Balasaheb was a live example of the same.

I experienced his skills as a Parliamentarian while I was representing the Bar Council before the Parliamentary Committee on the subject of proposed amendments to Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code in the year 2007. It was a tough time for me to make my submissions before the Parliamentarians as many of them were serious about their brief for amendment. Balasaheb made my task a bit easier when he assured me that all the Parliamentarians in the Committee would listen to my submissions without any interruption. It did work, as my presentation of 15 minutes

We have lost a great leader, we shall remember him all throughout for all the guidance that he gave us. We feel that there will be no another person like Balasaheb, who was a living legend. We assure his soul that we at AAWI will be the organization which will stand for common litigants and the Bar. We shall endeavour to walk on the path that he showed us.

On behalf of Advocates' Association of Western India we express our deep gratitude and pay our condolences. We pray that his soul may rest in peace.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI PRIYAHAS A. JANI, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. BALWANT PARSHURAM APTE, SENIOR ADVOCATE, ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012.**

My Lord the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Mr. Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General, Western Region, Mr. Darius J. Khambatta, the Advocate General, State of Maharashtra, Mr. Karan D. Bhosale, Vice-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Mr. Dara Zaiwalla, Vice-President, Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Rajiv Patil, President, the Advocates' Association of Western India, my colleagues at the Bar, family members of Mr. Bal Apte, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with deep sorrow that I, on behalf of the members of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society, associate myself with the sentiments, which have been expressed here today.

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012 this Court has lost a legal luminary, Western India Advocates Association lost its past President and an eminent member, Student world lost a good Professor in Law, Politicians in the present age lost a leader with clean image. Those who believe in freedom and human rights have lost their champion. In the death of Senior Advocate Shri Balvant Pershram Apte there has been a vacuum created which cannot be filled.

Although intellectually we all know that one day we shall die, generally we are so reluctant to think of our death that this knowledge does not touch our hearts, and we live our life as if we were going to be in this world forever. But to Bal Pate there was never tomorrow. He believed "No one is promised tomorrow. The only think we can count on is today".

I respectfully join my Lords and my colleagues in the prayer that the soul of Mr. Balvant Pershram Apte may rest in eternal peace and his abiding memories may live for long. I on on behalf of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society extend condolences to the members of his family.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.