

ADDRESS BY HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHRI ALOK ARADHE, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE NARENDRA P. CHAPALGAONKAR, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 20TH MARCH, 2025 AT 4.45 PM. AT AURANGABAD.

My esteemed Colleagues on the Bench,

**Shri Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India
(Through V.C.)**

**Dr. Birendra Saraf, Advocate General, State of Maharashtra,
(Through V.C.)**

**Shri V. B. Konde-Deshmukh, Member, Bar Council of
Maharashtra & Goa (Through V.C.)**

**Shri Avinash Borulkar, President,
Advocates' Association of Bombay High Court at Aurangabad,**

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Chapalgaonkar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

..

We have assembled here to pay tribute to late **Justice Narendra Purushottam Chapalgaonkar**, a former Judge of this Court, who left for heavenly abode on 25th January, 2025.

Justice Chapalgaonkar was born on 10th April, 1937 in District Beed. He obtained Master's Degree in Arts with specialization in Marathi. Thereafter, he secured the Bachelor's Degree in law in 1962.

On 16th June, 1962, His Lordship was enrolled as an Advocate and commenced his practice in Beed. Late Justice Chapalgaonkar shifted his practice in 1979 to the High Court. His merit was soon recognized and he was elevated as an Additional Judge of this Court on 19th January, 1990. He rendered services as Judge of this Court with dedication and distinction and demitted office on 9th April, 1999. Law reports bear testimony to his erudition.

Late Justice Chapalgaonkar was involved with literary and social organizations. He made contributions to the institutions like the Indian Law Society, Yashwantrao Chavan Open University and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University.

Late Justice Chapalgaonkar authored around thirty five books including notable works like "Karmayogi Sanyasi" and "Law of Elections". His Lordship's literary contributions extended to various periodicals and columns from prominent newspapers. His books which very often portray well-known political and social personalities, have been appreciated and translated into Hindi and English.

His Lordship was awarded numerous awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maharashtra Foundation and the Marathwada Sahitya Parishad. His Lordship's works are documented and his Autobiography, "**Aathvanitle Divas**" (आठवणीतले दिवस) has also been published. Late Justice Chapalgaonkar's contribution to law and literature will be remembered and cherished forever.

His Lordship is survived by his wife – Mrs. Nandini, son – Mr. Shridhar and 3 daughters, namely, Mrs. Sayali, Mrs. Meghana and Mrs. Bhakti.

On behalf of my esteemed colleagues and on my own behalf, I extend heartfelt condolences to the family members of Late Justice Chapalgaonkar and pray to the Almighty to bestow peace to the departed soul.

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**ADDRESS BY SHRI ANIL SINGH, ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR
GENERAL OF INDIA (THROUGH V.C.): -**

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

**Dr. Birendra Saraf, Advocate General, State of Maharashtra,
(Through V.C.),**

**Shri V. B. Konde-Deshmukh, Member, Bar Council of
Maharashtra & Goa (Through V.C.),**

**Shri Avinash Borulkar, President,
Advocates' Association of Bombay High Court at
Aurangabad,**

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Chapalgaonkar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

..

A great human being, a jurist of extra-ordinary intellect and sincerity, an avid reader, a profound thinker, a prolific writer and scholar, who made immense contribution to law and literature. These are only some of the qualities that can describe a great personality like late Justice Narendra Purushottam Chapalgaonkar.

Justice Chapalgaonkar is an inspiration to anyone aspiring to become a lawyer, Judge and who wants to do something in service of the legal fraternity, society and humanity.

His career commenced in Beed, where he practiced until 1978, demonstrating remarkable legal insight and deep commitment to justice. He later shifted to Bombay High Court in 1979 and subsequently to Aurangabad Bench in 1981, where he fortified his legacy as a distinguished legal mind. He was elevated as a judge of Bombay High Court in January 1990. His tenure extended until his retirement on 10th April 1999. He was known as a great judge with judicial integrity and commitment to the constitution.

Before embarking on his legal career, Justice Chapalgaonkar held the prestigious position of Head of the Marathi Department at Dayanand College, Latur. His passion for literature and jurisprudence is manifested in his extensive body of work, philosophy, history and political thought.

Beyond the courtroom, he was an engaged public intellectual. He served as a member of the Municipal Council and held office in the Samajwadi Yuvak Sabha, reinforcing his commitment to social justice and democratic governance. His judicial philosophy, informed by an acute awareness of socio-political realities, reflected his broader engagement with legal and political theory.

He openly voiced his thoughts on various issues. He was guide and philosopher for large number of people. He was a true follower of Gandhian thoughts and was completely devoted to social cause. He had a deep knowledge of Maharashtra political and social landscape especially Marathwada. His biographical work on Swami Ramanand Tirth helped to introduce his contribution to the younger generation. He ensured that his intellectual writing

reached the common man by carefully choosing his words. He worked tirelessly to promote Marathi literature, language and culture. He had ability to analyse social development with balance and critical insight.

I have already mentioned that Justice Chapalgaonkar was also a prolific writer. His scholarly contributions enriched legal and historical discourse. Among his most distinguished works are:

- . लोकशाही आणि हुकूमशाही – A comparative study of democratic and autocratic governance.
- . लोकमान्य टिळक आणि महात्मा गांधी – An exploration of the ideological and strategic divergences between two stalwarts in India's freedom struggle.
- . तीन न्यायमूर्ती आणि त्यांचा काळ – A study of three eminent jurists and their contributions to the judiciary.
- . कहाणी हैद्राबाद लढ्याची – An account of the Hyderabad liberation movement.
- . राज्यघटनेचे अर्धशतक – An analytical review of fifty years of India's constitutional development.

His works were widely translated, analyzed, and referred in scholarly circles. He was also associated with large number of esteemed institutions. His election as the President of the 96th All-India Marathi Literary Meet in Wardha in February 2023 further exemplified his towering presence in literary and intellectual spheres.

Justice Chapalgaonkar was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Maharashtra Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Marathwada Sahitya

Parishad's Lifetime Contribution Award. His autobiography, offers invaluable reflections on his legal career, intellectual pursuits, and personal philosophies.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra while speaking on demise of Justice Chapalgaonkar said that the void which is created in the society due to passing of Justice Chapalgaonkar cannot be compensated.

Justice Chapalgaonkar will be truly missed by all of us, but his independent voice would continue to resonate in public life, his demise is not only an immense loss to the legal fraternity, but to the entire nation. His legacy will continue to shape the discourse of legal theory, constitution and legal thought for future generations.

Justice Chapalgaonkar's legal legacy is carried forward by his nephew, Justice S. G. Chapalgaonkar, who is a sitting Judge of the Bombay High Court.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. May his soul attain eternal peace, and may his work continue to inspire those committed to the cause of justice and intellectual inquiry.

**ADDRESS BY DR. BIRENDRA SARAF, ADVOCATE GENERAL,
STATE OF MAHARASHTRA (THROUGH V.C.) -**

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

Shri Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India

**Shri V. B. Konde Deshmukh, Member, Bar Council of
Maharashtra & Goa**

**Shri Avinash Borulkar, President, Advocates' Association of
Bombay High Court at Aurangabad,**

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Chapalgaonkar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

..

We gather today to pay tribute to late Justice Narendra Chapalgaonkar, a luminary who left an indelible mark not just on the judiciary but on the society as a whole.

On being asked by his nephew as a child as to what is required do to be a good lawyer, Justice Chapalgaonkar's answer was "Empathy" and this was his answer when asked about the quality required to be good in any profession. This was guiding principle with which he conducted his practice as a lawyer. As a distinguished Judge of the Bombay High Court, Justice Chapalgaonkar demonstrated unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of justice, equality and fairness. His judgments were marked by clarity, precision and a deep

understanding of the human conditions in the society. He was a true champion of social justice.

Inheriting his ideological heritage from his father, who was an active participant in the freedom struggle and the Hyderabad liberation struggle, he himself did a deep study of political and social structure of the State and in particular Marathwada.

Justice Chapalgaonkar's impact extended far beyond the court room. He was involved with various social causes and even headed a Forum to look after the interests of the litigants.

His literary pursuits earned him widespread acclaim. In a remarkable convergence of the legal profession and literature, Justice Chapalgaonkar embodied the rare distinction of being both a respected Judge and prolific author. This unique blend of legal expertise and literary flair enabled him to make a lasting impact on both the judiciary and the world of literature. His writings explored a wide range of subjects including social history, politics, judiciary and philosophy. His biography of Swami Ramanand Tirth, a freedom fighter of the Hyderabad Liberation Struggle is a testament to his research and engaging story telling. One of his notable literary work "Three Judges and their Times" offers a fascinating glimpse of one of the foundational periods of Indian judicial system through the lives of three iconic figures of Indian Judiciary. His commitment to promoting Marathi literature lead to him becoming the resident of 96th All India Marathi Literary Meet.

The intersection of law and literature in Justice Chapalgaonkar's life serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative potential of words - whether spoken in the court

room or written on the page. His legacy will continue to inspire future generation of lawyers, writers and social leaders, cementing his place as a true luminary in the world of law and literature.

On behalf of the State of Maharashtra and my fellow lawyers, I pay homage to the great soul and convey our heartfelt condolences to his family members.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

ADDRESS BY SHRI V. B. KONDE-DESHMUKH, MEMBER, BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA & GOA (THROUGH V.C.) -

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

Shri Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India

Dr. Birendra Saraf, Advocate General, State of Maharashtra,

Shri Avinash Borulkar, President, Advocates' Association of Bombay High Court at Aurangabad,

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Chapalgaonkar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

..

Today, we have assembled here this evening to pay tribute to late Hon'ble Shri Justice N. P. Chapalgaonkar, former Judge of Hon'ble Bombay High Court, who left for his heavenly abode on 25th January 2025 at Aurangabad.

Justice N. P. Chapalgaonkar was a distinguished Judge, Marathi writer and intellectual, who left a remarkable legacy.

Justice Narendra Purushottam Chapalgaonkar, born on 10th April 1937, was enrolled as an Advocate on 6th October 1962 and practiced at Beed from 1962 to 1978. Thereafter, he practiced in the Bombay High Court from 1979 to 1981 and at Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court since 1981. He was appointed as

an Additional Judge in the Bombay High Court on 19th January 1990 and permanent Judge on 20th November 1990 and retired on 10th April 1999. He has delivered several landmark Judgments during his tenure of ten long years as a Judge of Bombay High Court.

Before his judicial career, he was the First Head of the Marathi Department at Dayanand Science College, Latur. Later, he served as an Independent Non-Executive Director at Garware Polyester Limited and played a key role as a Trustee of the Narhar Kurundkar Trust.

His contribution to literature and legal field though was immense, his books such as “कायदा आणि माणूस”, “कहाणी हैद्राबाद लढ्याची” and “तीन न्यायमूर्ती आणि त्यांचा काळ” reflect his deep understanding of law, history and society. His literary journey was recognized with prestigious awards, including the Maharashtra Foundation’s Dilip Chitre Smruti Sahitya Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar (2022) and the Bhairuratan Damani Award (2011).

Beyond his legal and literacy excellence, he presided over various Marathi literary conferences, including the 96th All India Marathi Literary Conference in 2023. His dedication to justice, literature and social thought continues to inspire us.

Let us cherish his legacy and strive to uphold the values he stood for.

He had attended and participated in various law conferences and has been invited to speak at various seminars.

He was not only a tall legal luminary but devoted humanist whose contribution to uphold the rule of law will be echoed in the corridor of this Court for a long time to come.

In his death, we have lost a Jurist par excellence, a Lawyer with human heart and a great human being. In this hour of grief, I, on behalf of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, share my heartfelt condolence with the family of late Justice Narendra Purushottam Chapalgaonkar. I sincerely convey my deep condolence to his entire family. I am sure the memories of Justice Narendra Purushottam Chapalgaonkar shall show us a path for better civilized society.

May his soul rest in peace.

Om Shanti!!! Shanti!!! Shanti!!!

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ADDRESS BY SHRI AVINASH BORULKAR, PRESIDENT, ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF BOMBAY HIGH COURT AT AURANGABAD -

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

Shri Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India

Dr. Birendra Saraf, Advocate General, State of Maharashtra,

Shri V. B. Konde Deshmukh, Member, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Chapalgaonkar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

..

Justice Narendra Chapalgaonkar left for heavenly abode recently on 25th January 2025.

Justice Narendra Chapalgaonkar was multi-faceted personality, he was a Judge, Author and Scholar.

Very few people must be knowing this fact that before joining the profession as a lawyer, he served as a head of Marathi Department in Dayanand College at Latur. He inherited the ideology he carried from his father, who was Freedom Fighter in Marathwada Mukti Sangram.

As a Judge, his judgments will always guide us. Justice Narendra Chapalgaonkar had justice in his heart and Marathi literature in his soul.

Apart from being a Judge, he was a well known author in Marathi literature. He was President of 96th Marathi Sahitya Sammelan which was held at Wardha. In his speech, he stressed on the importance of the freedom of expression.

The list of books authored by him is long, I will mention few such as 'Sanyasi Yodha' of Ramanand Tirth, 'Kahani Hyderabad Ladhyachi', 'Nyayachya Goshti' and 'Sahitya aani Swatantrya'.

Justice Narendra Chapalgaonkar's personality was not only known to legal fraternity, but he was well known figure in the field of social work also.

Justice Narendra Chapalgaonkar received the lifetime achievement award from Maharashtra Foundation for his contribution in Marathi Literature.

I pay my highest tribute to Justice Narendra Chapalgaonkar.

May his soul rest in peace.

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