

**ADDRESS BY HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHRI PRADEEP  
NANDRAJOG, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
AT THE FIRST COURT REFERENCE TO LATE SHRI  
VIDYADHAR RAMCHANDRA DATAR, FORMER JUDGE OF  
THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020 AT 10.30  
A.M. IN THE COURT ROOM NO.52.**

**Hon'ble Smt.Justice Bharati Dangre,**

**Shri Ashutosh Kumbhkoni, Advocate General of Maharashtra,  
And on behalf of Shri Anil C. Singh, Additional Solicitor General of  
India**

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

**Shri Milind Sathe, President, Bombay Bar Association,**

**Shri Sanjeev P. Kadam,  
President, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

**Shri Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla,  
President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society,**

**Members of the bereaved family of Late Shri Justice V.R.Datar.**

**Members of the Bar,**

**Members of the Judiciary,**

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Albeit a little late, we assemble here today to pay regard and homage, our acknowledgment and tributes to late Shri Vidyadhar Ramchandra Datar, a distinguished Judge of this Court who parted company with this world on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the age of four score, two years and four months. I did not have the privilege to be personally

associated with him. We do not have to be personally associated with him because his memories and the fragrance which he generated in life transcends death. We do not know whether any spirituality transcends death but we know one thing that one's reputation transcends death and late Justice Datar transcends us because he was a very straightforward, frank and a very honest person. His principles in life were honesty, discipline, punctuality, humility and simplicity. I am told that he shunned grandeurs and though he was not against programs like felicitations, he personally did not accept such proposals and preferred to live the life quietly. He believed in helping people silently and guided his junior colleagues who still hold him in high esteem. Moreover, he was extremely strong at relationship building in forthright manner and made a lot of personal and long lasted friends across the judiciary. He always believed in "Work is Worship". I am given to understand that he was a highly spiritual person and was a disciple of Shree Gondavlekar Maharaj. His spiritual reading and pursuits were many. He used to listen old Hindi classics and his favourite music composer was Naushad.

Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1937 at Madha in Solapur District. He completed his schooling and college at Solapur. He obtained Bachelor's Degree in Science and completed his Law from the ILS Law College, Pune. He joined legal fraternity as a lawyer on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1962 and practiced in the District Court for six years and seven months. He chose to join judicial service and appointed as Civil Judge on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1968. He was promoted to the upper Division of the District Judiciary in 1979. He rendered services on the administrative side and worked as an Additional Registrar from 1991 to 1994 and thereafter from 1994 till his elevation as Registrar. He joined as Additional Judge of this Court

on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1995. He was made permanent on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1997 and he demitted office on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1999. 3 years and 3 months is not a very long tenure for a Judge to influence times but he did a lot. When I browsed through the more research, I found he had penned dozens of decisions under Company Laws, Penal Laws, Land Acquisition as well as Arbitration, Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Act and Bombay Municipal Corporation Act. After retirement, he served as Chairperson of various Tribunals including DRAT, Pune University and Shivaji University. He left behind a legacy of two brothers and three sisters. His elder brother Mr.P.R. Datar was also a Judge at the Pune Small Causes Court and his father was also a practising lawyer. He is survived by one son Abhay Datar. He was blessed with one grand-daughter Ananya Datar who is settled in Mumbai. His soul joined the soul of his wife Shailaja Datar who had previously been passed away in the year 2012.

On behalf of myself and on behalf of Judges of this High Court and on behalf of the entire gathering here, I pay my homage to the memory of the departed soul and we all pray that departed soul may rest in peace.

Thank you.

-----

**ADDRESS BY SHRI ASHUTOSH KUMBHAKONI, ADVOCATE  
GENERAL OF MAHARASHTRA AT REFERENCE TO LATE  
HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE VIDYADHAR RAMCHANDRA  
DATAR, FORMER JUDGE, OF THE HIGH COURT OF  
JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY ON FRIDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 AT  
10.30 A.M.**

My Lord, Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

My Lady Hon'ble Smt. Justice Bharti Dangre,

Respected office bearers of all the esteemed organizations of the legal fraternity,

Family members of Late Hon'ble Shri Justice Vidyadhar Ramchandra Datar, including his nephew Shri. Rajesh Datar Advocate, and

other professional colleagues at the Bar.

Late Hon'ble Shri Justice V. R. Datar, as he was known in the legal circles, had great love and affection personally to me. We have many things in common. Let me mention a few.

Both of us are from District Solapur, where we finished our schooling in Marathi medium. Like him, I also graduated from Solapur in the Science stream, B.Sc. and completed legal education, LLB, at ILS Law College, Pune. Like him, I also practiced initially at Solapur District, in various Courts including Revenue, Cooperative, mainly on the Civil side, for about ten years, he for about 7 years. Like me, his father was also a lawyer.

After joining judiciary, he left Solapur, but whenever he used to visit our native place, he would definitely spend some quality time with my family, especially with my father.

As his name indicates 'Vidyadhar' he was a very learned man, a thorough gentleman. Simplicity was the basis of not only his entire work, behavior and conduct, but also of his personal life. Not just a teetotaler throughout his life, he would eat only twice a day, a dilatory regime, which has recently gained a lot of publicity and popularity, in the name of a renowned Doctor. Even his meals were very simple. Jawar Roti known as BHAKRI and a bowl of DAL or SABJI, preferably made up of a leafy vegetable.

Outside the Court, save and except at official functions, I do not remember of him wearing so to say "suit and boots". I would describe him largely as introvert. Even during casual conversations, I found him very soft spoken and as we say, 'MITABHASHI'.

Numerous Judgments delivered by him, throughout his career as a Judge, not just of the Hon'ble High Court but also of other Courts, demonstrate the fact that, despite completing his basic education in Marathi medium, he had full command over Legal English language.

Not the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA), but the name of the place where he was born and brought up, MADHA, though is a taluka place, even today is not better than a village, in every respect. Coming from a very humble background, he rose to a high position in the judiciary, with his extra ordinary qualities and in-depth knowledge of law. His life will keep on inspiring all those, who come from remote places, villages and say "Yes. I have a dream". His entire life will always encourage junior lawyers to achieve their goals.

Late Hon'ble Shri Justice V. R. Datar, will forever remain a role model for the District Court lawyers, an epitome of hard work, honesty, integrity and simplicity. His life demonstrates that, if these simple principles are truly practiced in real life, no matter what your background is, you will always rise in this august institution, the Judiciary.

I fully join in the sentiments expressed by My Lord, Hon'ble the Chief Justice. On behalf of Shri Anil Singh, the Additional Solicitor General, who has not been able to be here on account of his personal difficulty, myself and the Bar, I extend our deepest condolences to the entire bereaved family of late Hon'ble Shri Justice Vidyadhar Ramchandra Datar.

May his soul rest in peace.

-----

**ADDRESS BY DR.MILIND SATHE, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION AT THE FIRST COURT REFERENCE FOR JUSTICE V.R.DATAR AT COURT ROOM NO.52, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON FRIDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020 AT 10.30 A.M.**

**The Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr.Pradeep Nandrajog**

**Hon'ble Smt.Justice Bharati Dangre,**

**Shri Ashutosh Kumbhkoni, Advocate General of Maharashtra and on behalf of Shri Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India**

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

**Shri Sanjeev P. Kadam,  
President, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

**Shri Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla,  
President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society,**

**Members of Late Shri Justice V.R.Datar Family**

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

We assemble this morning to mourn the sad demise of Hon'ble Justice V.R. Datar, Former Judge of this Court, who passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at Mumbai, at ripe old age of 83.

I fully associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the learned Chief Justice and my fellow speakers.

Justice V.R.Datar, B.Sc., LL.B., was born on March 2, 1937 at Sholapur.

He was enrolled as an Advocate on March 20, 1962. He practiced for six years and seven months in the District Court, Taluka Courts, Revenue Courts and Revenue Tribunal in Solapur. He practiced consisted of both Civil and Criminal matters.

After he joined the Judicial Service in Maharashtra, within few years he was promoted as Additional District Judge in 1979 and as a District Judge in 1987. He also worked as Judge of the Family Court from 1989 to 1991. He was Additional Registrar of this Court from 1991 to 1994. He thereafter worked as Registrar of the Bombay High Court from December 12, 1994 till his elevation.

Justice Datar was a very good and efficient Administrator. During 1991- 1992, Justice P.D.Desai was Chief Justice of this Court who is remembered for toning up, sprucing up and revamping entire High Court Administration and the Registry. Justice Datar during that time as Registrar of this High Court was a great assistance to the learned Chief Justice P.D.Desai, who acknowledged Justice Datar's contribution in that endeavour.

He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court for a period of two years with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1995 and was made permanent Judge on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1997. He retired on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1999.

During his short tenure of three and half years as a Judge of this Court, he left his mark dealing with variety of subjects and acts both in civil and criminal matters by quick and efficient disposal of cases. He has authored various judgments which are reported. He has also been a member of the Benches which have delivered important judgments.

Some of the Judgments delivered by him include the following:

1. In *Principal Suhail Lokhanwalla Vs. Mohan Rawle* (1999-2 LJ 24), he delineated the law relating to necessary parties in Election Petition, while deciding Election Petition against Central Mumbai MP Mohan Rawle.
2. In *Tulsidas Khimjui V/s. Khushiram Chimanlal* (1999- 1 LJ 396), in deciding the issue of jurisdiction of a Small Causes Court under the Bombay Presidency Small Causes Courts Act in a suit against Licensee, he elucidated principle relating to factors deciding jurisdiction of the Court on pleadings and change, if any, after recording evidence.
3. In *Vinod Jatia V/s. MCGM* (1999- 1 LJ 78), he decided the question relating to grant of hearing to a Notice under Section 351 of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act relating to unauthorized structures.

In death of Justice Datar, we have lost an intelligent and a genius Judge, a great Administrator and a multifaceted human being.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of Justice V.R.Datar.

On behalf of Bombay Bar Association, I express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Let the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

\*\*\*\*\*

SPEECH BY V. B. KONDE – DESHMUKH, EX – CHAIRMAN,  
MEMBER, BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA AND GOA.

My Lords,

1. Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, Hon'ble Justice Smt. Bharti Dangre, Judge of Bombay High Court, learned Advocate General, Mr. Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, President of Advocates' Association of Western India Mr. Sanjeev Kadam, President of the Bombay Bar Association Senior Counsel Mr. Milind Sathe, and President of Bombay Incorporated Law Society Mr. Kalyaniwala.

2. Sir I fully endorse the views expressed by Hon'ble Chief Justice and my colleagues and I beg to add a few words.

3. Sir, we have assembled here to pay tributes to Shri. Vidyadhar Ramchandra Datar, the then Judge of the Bombay High Court who expired on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Mumbai.

4. Justice Datar was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1937 at Madha in Solapur District. Justice Datar completed his schooling and did graduation @ Solapur from Science faculty. Justice Datar completed L.L.B. from ILS Law College, Pune. Justice Datar after enrolling with the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa as an Advocate had joined the chambers of Adv. E. T. Mane. Justice Datar practiced for a period of seven years and then joined the judiciary and was appointed as a civil judge and his first posting as a Judge was at Avsa. Justice Datar was elevated to the bench of Bombay High Court in November 1995.

5. I had an occasion to appear before Justice Datar in civil as well as criminal matters. Justice Datar handled each and every legal problem with wide outlook and deep insight. Justice Datar's vast experience of law and social systems and human approach helped to solve various legal problems. Justice Datar had a great depth of law and quick grasp of facts and a great desire to do justice. No one ever suffered injustice in Datar's Court during his tenure as a Judge of the Bombay High Court.

6. Justice Datar dealt with large number of important cases. Justice Datar gave courteous treatment to all the Advocates. Justice Datar was very sharp. The junior lawyers felt confident in appearing before him as he would always encourage and guide them when required. Justice Datar retired on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1999. Justice Datar after retirement was the Chairperson of various Government Tribunals including DRAT, Pune University and Shivaji University.

7. On behalf of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, I convey my deep condolences to the bereaved family and pray that the great soul may rest in peace.

-----

**SPEECH OF MR. SANJEEV KADAM, ADVOCATE AT THE FIRST COURT REFERENCE PRESIDED OVER BY THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO LATE SHRI JUSTICE V.R. DATAR ON 17TH JANUARY 2020 AT 10.30 A.M. IN COURT ROOM NO.52.**

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Justice Smt. Bharati Dangre,

Mr. Ashutosh A. Kumbhakoni, Advocate General of Maharashtra, and on behalf of Shri Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India.

Mr. Vitthal B. Konde-Deshmukh, Ex-Chairman & Member of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa

Dr. Milind Sathe, President of Bombay Bar Association,

Mr. Kaiwan Kalyaniwala, President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society,

Members of family of late Justice V.R. Datar

He was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1937 at Madha in Solapur District. Solapur also happens to be his native place. He finished his schooling and college at Solapur with a Degree in Science (B.Sc). He completed his LL.B. from ILS Law College, Pune. Thereafter, he started practicing at Solapur District Court under the guidance of Advocate E.T. Mane and practiced for a period of seven years. He then opted for the judiciary and his first posting as Civil Judge was AUSA. He got posting on Administrative Side in High Court. He got elevated to the Bombay High Court in November 1995 and continued till 31<sup>st</sup> March 1999.

Thereafter, he was Chairperson at various Government Tribunals including DRAT, Pune University and Shivaji University. He retired from active working life in 2010. He was a very straight forward and honest person. His principles in life were honesty, discipline, punctuality, humility and simplicity. Though he was not against programs like felicitation etc., he personally did not like to accept such proposals and preferred a quiet life. He believed in helping people silently and guided a lot of his junior colleagues, who still hold him in high esteem; moreover, he was extremely strong at relationship building and made a lot of personal and long lasting friends across the judiciary. He was always believed in “Work is Worship”. He was considered an expert in civil work by his seniors and juniors. He was a highly spiritual person and was a disciple of Shree Gondavlekar Maharaj. His spirituals reading and pursuits were many. He also enjoyed listening to old Hindi classics; his favorite music composer was Naushad.

He left for his heavenly abode on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019. May the departed soul rest in peace.

.....

**SPEECH OF MR. KAIWAN KALYANIWALA ON BEHALF OF BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY AT THE FIRST COURT REFERENCE PRESIDED OVER BY HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO LATE SHRI. JUSTICE V. R. DATAR ON 17TH JANUARY 2020 AT 10.30 A.M. IN COURT ROOM NO.52.**

My Lord the Chief Justice,

My Lady Justice Dangre,

Mr. Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, Advocate General of Maharashtra and on behalf of Shri Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India.

Mr. Konde-Deshmukh – Member Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa,

Dr. Milind Sathe, President of Bombay Bar Association,

Mr. Sanjeev Kadam, President of Advocates Association of Western India

Members of family of late Justice V.R. Datar

I address this Reference as President of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society on whose behalf, I express condolences on the sad demise of Justice Vidyadhar Ramchandra Datar.

I counter with the sentiments of my Lord the Chief Justice, and the feelings that have been expressed by my colleagues at the Bar.

Justice Datar was admired by the Members of the legal fraternity as an astute judge who had served at the District Courts, Family Courts and as the Registrar of our High Court before being elevated as a Judge of the Bombay High Court.

In the passing of Justice Datar, we have lost not only a fine Judge,  
but also a distinguished gentleman.

Our heartfelt condolences to the Members of his Family.

May his soul rest in peace.

Kaiwan Kalyaniwala,  
President,  
The Bombay Incorporated Law Society.

-----