

Full Court Reference in the memory of
Late Prabhakar Ramrao Deshmukh,
Senior Advocate, High Court of Bombay,
On Saturday, 19th June 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
in Court Hall No.1 High Court Building, Aurangabad .

(SPEECH OF JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA,
CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY)

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My esteemed colleagues,

Mr. Ajay Talhar, Assistant Solicitor General of India,

Mr. D.R.Kale, Government Pleader, High Court of Bombay, Bench at
Aurangabad,

Mr. V.D.Salunke, Member, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa,

Ms. Surekha Mahajan, President, High Court Bar Association, Bench at
Aurangabad,

Members of the Bar,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Members of Deshmukh family including my dear brother Justice Sunil
Deshmukh,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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We have assembled this morning to pay obeisance to Prabhakar Ramrao Deshmukh, who left for his heavenly abode on 27th January, 2021 at the ripe old age of 98 years.

2. Late P. R. Deshmukh was born on 12th July, 1923 in a small town called Ashti in Beed District. He completed his schooling in Ashti and Ambajogai and college upto intermediate level at Aurangabad. The medium of education has seen 3 transitions Marathi-Urdu-English. He graduated in Arts with Political Science and History from Osmania

University at Hyderabad. Having obtained Law degree from Osmania University in the year 1946, he started his practice at his native place Ashti. He went back to Hyderabad to practice in the High Court around 1947. He joined the chamber of late Shri Sadashivrao Maha, a renowned senior advocate. He soon became a lawyer to be reckoned with in Hyderabad. He went to Bombay after the States' reorganization in 1956, where he had the good fortune to appear before great Judges like Shri M. C. Chhagla, Shri J. C. Shah, Shri P. B. Gajendragadkar and many other eminent Judges. He got the opportunity to appear with and against the likes of Shri Y. V. Chandrachud, Shri M. A. Rane, Shri C. R. Dalvi and interact with a lot of stalwarts in law. Shri V. M. Tarkunde was his mentor. However, concerns of health of parents, family and many other domestic responsibilities, required him to go back to Ashti, his native place. Sometime later, his friends beckoned him to come to a district place like Aurangabad. He practiced in the District Court at Aurangabad. He served as District Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor for a term. After establishment of the Bombay High Court, Bench at Aurangabad, he started practicing in the High Court from 1981. He was acclaimed as an exceptionally brilliant, noble and forthright advocate and jurist. He was designated as Senior Advocate by the Bombay High Court and incidentally was the first one from and amongst the bar association lawyers in Aurangabad. He appeared in large number of matters involving complex Constitutional issues and many important matters having wide legal ramifications. From 2006, late P. R. Deshmukh stopped practicing in the Court.

3. During his college days in Aurangabad, late P.R. Deshmukh used to take active interest and part in various social, political thought processes including organizing debates, speeches of several renowned thinkers. He came across the thought processes of Late Manavendranath Roy (M. N. Roy), the founder of Radical Humanism. He was also a lecturer in Manikchand Pahade Law College. He was the President of the Marathwada Legal and General Education Society. He took keen interest in the academic development of the institution and to bring the institution to prominence. During all his life he lived by rationalist conviction.

4. Late P. R. Deshmukh was a felicitated freedom fighter. In Aurangabad he was associated with Padmvibhushan Shri Govindbhai Shroff, Shri Waghmare, Shri Bhausahab Vaishampayan, who were well known social and political leaders. He came in contact with a renowned royist Dr. Gopalbhai Shroff and all through his life adored him.

5. Shri Arvind Savant, former Chief Justice of Kerala High Court in his condolence message said and I quote, "the void caused by Shri Prabhakarrao's passing away cannot be filled in. His loss is not only family's loss, but is the loss of the society at large and in particular, of the legal fraternity. Shri Prabhakarrao deserved much more in life. But typical of a Royist he was a contended soul. Shri Prabhakarrao was a known Royist and had his social commitments of which he made no secret. The members of the Bar and Bench at Aurangabad will miss Shri

Prabhakarao's leadership and guidance.”

6. One of the admirers of Late P. R. Deshmukh while reminiscing said that late P. R. Deshmukh besides being an eminent jurist with exemplary devotion, sincerity and integrity, was an icon and beacon to the legal fraternity. He was a renowned Rationalist, with palpable sensitivity of social consciousness, and an excellent human being who gave strikingly finer dimensions to what it means being human.

7. One of the juniors of late Prabhakarao said and I quote, “if any problem had occurred on account of failure of the junior, he used to subscribe it to his office and to himself as the man at the helm of the affairs and never made his juniors a scapegoat for the same. Fairness was his aptitude and fearlessness his virtue. Integrity was his soul. Honesty was his breath. Spotless and unblemished character was the crown of his personality. Humility adorned his greatness. His smiling was akin to the blush of the dawn. His speech was alike the movement of the pearls along the string.”

8. I did not have the occasion to meet late P.R. Deshmukh; however, I do visualize the character traits of this great son of the soil.

9. Late P.R. Deshmukh is survived by his sons Sunil and Anil, two daughters, sons-in-law and an extended family.

10. On behalf of my esteemed colleagues and on my personal behalf, I convey heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray to God to give them the strength to bear this irreplaceable loss. May the noble soul attain sadgati.

11. Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!

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Mr. Ajay Talhar, Assistant Solicitor General of India

My Lord, The Hon'ble Chief Justice and the Hon'ble Shri Justice S.V Gangapurwala, Hon'ble Shri Justice Ravindra Ghuge, Hon'ble Shri Justice V.K Jadhav, Hon'ble Shri Justice S. K. Shinde and my esteemed colleagues at bar, my brothers and sisters.

Today, we have assembled here for a very sad purpose of mourning the departure of senior counsel Shri. P.RDeshmukh from this world. A man who has left a legacy of phenomenal legal advocacy, he was no less than the greatest captain in our legal fraternity.

I have been put in a very tough spot of telling you all about his profoundness and his eminence in these few words. My paragon, Senior Counsel Shri. P.R Deshmukh came to earth on 12th July 1923 in Ashti in Beed District, and graduated from Hyderabad in History and Political Science, he completed his LL.B. from Osmania University. After practicing law in Hyderabad and Bombay he came to Aurangabad High Court and became the District Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor. Due to his extraordinary legal advocacy he became the first designated Senior Counsel from Aurangabad Bench High Court Bar Association. A recognized freedom fighter and humanist by personality, senior counsel Shri. P.R Deshmukh also professed law in M.P Law College in Aurangabad. He is and will be an epitome of prodigious legal advocate and champion.

Since we are gathered here to remember him, it is my honest belief that he has not ceased to exist. He still lives and will continue to live within our hearts. He still lives with us as our confidence and strength. I trust that his soul has unfolded itself like a lotus of countless petals.

On behalf of the office of the Assistant Solicitor General of India and on my personal behalf I pay my tribute and salute Shri P.R.Deshmukh. With great reverence I convey my deep sorrow and grief to his family members. May they find strength to overcome this sadness. May his godly soul rest in eternal peace.

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**Mr. D.R.Kale, Government Pleader, High Court,
Bench at Aurangabad**

Date: 19.06.2021

Hon'ble the Chief Justice Shri Dipankar Datta, Hon'ble Justice Shri.S.V. Gangapurwala, Justice R.V. Ghuge, Justice V.K. Jadhav, Justice S.K. Shinde, President of Bar Association, Senior Advocates, Member of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Standing Counsel for Union of India, Members of the Bar, my colleagues at the office of the Government Pleader, Family Members of Late Shri P.R. Deshmukh, Friends, Brother and Sisters.

Today with heavy heart we gather here to pay homage to one of the towering personalities of our Bar - Advocate Late Shri P.R. Deshmukh, Senior Counsel who left us on 27th January, 2021.

Advocate Late Shri P.R. Deshmukh was born on 12th July, 1923 at Ashti, Dist. Beed. He had completed his primary education at Ashti, High School education at Ambajogai, upto inter he studied at Aurangabad. He completed graduation from Hyderabad with History and Political Science. He completed the LL.B. Degree from Usmaniya University, Hyderabad.

Advocate Late P.R. Deshmukh has practiced at Hyderabad from 1947 to 1956. After reorganization of States, he shifted to Bombay and from 1956 to 1959 he practiced at Bombay High Court. Due to domestic responsibilities, he had to return to his native place Ashti and he practiced at Ashti Court. From 1960 onwards he practiced at Sessions Court, Aurangabad. He was District Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor. After establishment of Bombay High Court Bench at Aurangabad, he started practice at Bombay High Court Bench at Aurangabad. He conducted several Constitutional, Civil, Commercial and Tax matters. He was the first designated Senior Advocate from

Aurangabad High Court Bar Association.

Apart from practice as a lawyer, he was Professor at M.P. Law College, Aurangabad and his number of students appointed as Hon'ble Judges of Bombay High Court and Hon'ble Supreme Court. He was a recognised freedom fighter and also a radical humanist. His son namely Sunil Deshmukh is presently Hon'ble Judge of Bombay High Court.

Under his valuable guidance several Juniors have achieved highest position in the society in legal and other fields. He was great Advocate and human being.

Advocate Late Shri P.R. Deshmukh was a great man, a wonderful intellect and a great soul of matchless courage, We meet to pay a tribute of love and respect to Advocate Late P.R. Deshmukh because he devoted His Excellency in the legal fraternity.

Advocate Late Shri P.R. Deshmukh had that compassion towards the sufferings of the litigants. His love for reading and learning was immense. We will continue to celebrate his gifts and we mourn the loss his kindness and wisdom leaves behind.

A great soul serves very one all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again.

I pray Almighty of God that the departed soul may rest in peace.

On behalf of the State of Maharashtra and my colleagues at the office of the Government Pleader, I pay homage to Advocate Late P.R. Deshmukh.

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Mr. V.D.Saluke, Member, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa

1. Hon'ble Lordship Shri. Dipankar Datta Chief Justice High Court Bombay, Hon'ble Justice S.V. Gangapurwala, Hon'ble Justice R.V. Ghuge, Hon'ble Justice V.K. Jadhav, Hon'ble Justice S.K. Shinde, Hon'ble Justice S.P. Deshmukh and family members of his Lordship.
2. The Ld. Assistant Solicitor General Shri. Ajay Talhar, Ld. Govt. Pleader Mr. D.R. Kale, the President of Advocate Association Miss. Surekha Mahajan and all the dignitaries present for today's function.
3. It is with deep sense of sorrow that, we have come to condole the passing away of Shri. P.R. Deshmukh, Senior Advocate, a towering personality in the legal fraternity of Maharashtra State, who left for the heavenly abode on 27th January 2021 at his native place in Aurangabad. He leaves behind him a legacy of qualities of great jurist.
4. Late Adv. Shri. Prabhakar Ramrao Deshmukh (Dada) was born on 12th July 1923 at Ashti, Dist. Beed. The parents of Shri. P.R. Deshmukh were resident of village Bramhagaon in Ashti Taluka. He completed Primary Education at Ashti, Secondary Education at Ambejogai and up to inter he studied at Aurangabad. He completed graduation from Hyderabad with History and Political Science.
5. Adv. P.R. Deshmukh completed Law Graduation and initially started practice at Ashti Court for few days and then practice at Hyderabad from 1947 to 1956. After reorganization of States he started practice at Bombay High Court since 1956 to 1959 however due to some family responsibilities he had to return to Ashti. He started practice at District Court Aurangabad from 1960. He was District Govt. Pleader, he was also lecturer in M.P. Law College Aurangabad.

6. He was a recognized Freedom Fighter and also a radical humanist. He was strong supporter of establishment of High Court bench at Aurangabad. He started practicing in High Court at Aurangabad after its establishment. He was the first designated Senior Counsel from Aurangabad Bar Association.

7. Adv. P.R. Deshmukh was a eminent lawyer, he was known for his ethical practice, he was disciplined person and he may be the only Advocate, who used to pay the yearly contribution of the Bar Association before the due date as per the Rules, by Cheque.

8. His Endeavour was to enrich the young minds to pursue a profession of excellence and commitment. Life is an opportunity to be an example to others. By setting exemplary standards, and he lived by this quote. Our values are ultimately our greatest wealth and we must never ever forget the same. Adv. P.R. Deshmukh was the man of principle.

9. In our region the term Dada is addressed to the most respected person in the family i.e. father or elder brother. Shri. P.R. Deshmukh was Dada of our legal fraternity in every perspective.

10. I myself personally and being a Member of Bar Council, pay homage to the departed sole on behalf of all the Advocates in Maharashtra and Goa.

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Ms. Surekha Mahajan, President,
High Court Bar Association, Bench at Aurangabad

My Lord Hon'ble The Chief Justice Shri Dipankar Datta, Hon'ble Justice Shri S.V.Gangapurwala, Hon'ble Justice Shri R.V.Ghuge, Hon'ble Justice Shri V.K. Jadhav, Hon'ble Justice Shri S.K. Shinde. Learned Assistant Solicitor General of India, Adv. Ajay Talhar, Learned Government Pleader Adv. D.R.Kale, Learned members of the Bar Council of Mah. & Goa, Adv. V.D.Salunke and Adv. Amol Sawant, Respected Senior Counsels, My colleagues, members of High Court Bar Association and the family members of Late Shri, P.R.Deshmukh, senior Counsel who are present here today.

The last several months has been difficult time for the human species, so much, so that, we have not been able to contemporaneously mourn, the loss of our illustrious member of Bar who adored the hello cheers in these esteem portals and have given the shape and direction to this Bar Association and also to this institution.

We have assembled here today to mourn the sad demise of Late Shri Prabhakar Ramrao Deshmukh who left for his heavenly abode on 27th Jan 2021. He was born on 12th July 1923 in Tq. Ashti, Dist-Beed. He completed his graduation from Osmania University, in Political Science and History, Hyderabad. He further completed his Law graduation in 1946 from Osmania University Hyderabad. After enrolling as an Advocate, he started practice at Ashti. He started practice at High Court Hyderabad in the year 1947. He began his career as a junior Lawyer in the Chamber of Late Shri Sadashivrao Maha in the year 1956. He also practiced at Trial Court, Appellate Court and District Court, Aurangabad.

He also simultaneously practiced at Bombay High Court at its Principal Seat at Mumbai during this period. He had been shouldered the responsibilities of the District Government Pleader and Public

Prosecutor. With the establishment of High Court of Judicature of Bombay bench at Aurangabad, in the year 1981, he set on motion his practice at High Court of Judicature Bombay bench at Aurangabad. He had a versatile practice in Criminal as well as in Civil litigation. He is known for his thorough knowledge of Law and perfect interpretation of Law. He spent his seven decades in practice as a Lawyer. In a very short period he proved himself to be an outstanding and accomplished Lawyer.

In recognition of his rare qualities he was designated as Senior Advocate by the Bombay High Court. He was first designated Senior Counsel from Bar Association Lawyers' in Aurangabad. This achievement of his life was the outcome of his honest, uprightness and humane approach to the various complex problems which he efficiently resolved.

He had a multifacet personality. He was elected twice as the President of Marathwada Legal Society and General Education. He was also member of Executive Committee of Saraswati Bhuvan Education Society. He also did the pious work of teaching in M.P. Law College Aurangabad.

He contributed in Hyderabad Mukti Sangram. He was recognized freedom fighter. He was impressed by ideas and belief of great personality Dr. M.N.Roy.

After completing more than seven decades in legal fraternity, he stopped his practice in the year 2006. He was very composed and peace loving person. The passing away of Late Shri P.R.Deshmukh, Senior Counsel the legal fraternity has suffered a great loss. In this moment of grief, I on behalf of High Court Bar Association Aurangabad, convey our heartfelt condolence to the members of the family of Late Shri P. R. Deshmukh, Senior Counsel.

May almighty give them strength to bear the great loss. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace. 'Om Shanti'.

Thank You,

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