

**ADDRESS BY HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHRI  
DIPANKAR DATTA, AT THE FIRST COURT REFERENCE  
IN THE MEMORY OF LATE SHRI VIJAYKUMAR  
GOVARDHANDAS GANGAPURWALA, ADVOCATE AND  
FORMER PRESIDENT OF ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION  
OF BOMBAY HIGH COURT IN COURT HALL NO.1,  
HIGH COURT BUILDING, AURANGABAD, ON 16<sup>th</sup>  
FEBRUARY, 2022 AT 10 AM**

My esteemed sister and brother Judges,

Shri A.G. Talhar

Assistant Solicitor General, High Court Bench at  
Aurangabad,

Shri D. R. Kale

Government Pleader, State of Maharashtra, High Court  
Bench at Aurangabad

Shri V.D. Salunke, Member,

Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa

Shri Amol S. Sawant, Member

Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa

Shri Suhas P. Urgunde,

Secretary, Advocates' Association of Bombay High Court  
at Aurangabad

Esteemed Senior Advocates and other learned members  
of the Bar,

Bereaved members of the Gangapurwala family including  
brother Justice Sanjay Gangapurwala,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

**VIJAYKUMAR GOVARDHANDAS GANGAPURWALA,**

doyen of the Aurangabad bar, has left us all for his heavenly abode on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022 at the age of 87 years. The assembly this morning is for paying obeisance to late *Vijakumarji* Gangapurawala.

Born at Nandurbar on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1935 to his parents Govardhandas and Bishakaben; and in a family which was involved in agriculture and wholesale grain business, *Vijakumarji* had his primary schooling in Gujrati Vidyalaya, Aurangabad. Later, he completed his secondary school up to matriculation from Saraswati Bhuvan High School.

Having graduated in Science from Milind Mahavidyalay, Auarangabad, where Justice Mr. Arvind Savant, former the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court was his contemporary, *Vijakumarji* took legal education from Manikchand Pahade Law College of Marathwada Legal and General Education Society, Aurangabad. In the law college, Justice Mr. S. P. Kurdukar, former Judge of the Supreme Court, was his classmate and friend with whom *Vijakumarji* shared immense mutual respect.

Vijaykumarji spoke Marathi, English and Urdu fluently. Apart from a sound academic career, he was an acclaimed Urdu scholar.

Vijaykumarji was a sportsman. He played tennis, cricket, billiards and table tennis with remarkable prowess. He was a known table tennis champion in his college days and had received a trophy at the auspicious hands of the architect of our Constitution late Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

After graduating in law, Vijaykumarji initially joined the chamber of Barrister Das and later, joined the chamber of renowned advocate Mr. Dattopant Deshpande. Soon, he became a force to reckon with as an accomplished and astute lawyer and reputation followed as a practitioner with impeccable integrity and values with deep insight in law. He made tremendous mark in the art of cross-examination of witnesses and was regularly invited by various organizations and institutions for delivering talks on the subject.

While practicing law, *Vijaykumarji* had an opportunity to appear with and against stalwarts like Mr. S. N. Loya, Mr. R. R. Jethaliya, Mr. P. R. Deshmukh and the like.

After formation of the Bench of the Bombay High Court at Aurangabad in 1981, *Vijaykumarji* began practicing here and gained prominence in no time.

A man of high reputation, *Vijaykumarji* was engaged as Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor and continued during 1987 to 1995 without any interruption till he attained 60 years of age. He had dealt with several confirmation cases during his tenure in the office. There too, he had acquired reputation as an absolutely dependable lawyer as well as an officer of the Court. While holding such office, he had guided innumerable Assistant Government Pleaders, who remember him as a man of great virtues.

During the course of his practice, *Vijaykumarji* had very ably handled various important Constitutional matters too. He had a remarkable convincing capacity and the Judges used to hear his submissions with keen interest.

I am informed that with the elevation of his able son, brother Justice Sanjay Gangapurwala, as a Judge of this Court on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, the curtains were drawn by Vijaykumarji on his professional life. This amply demonstrates his strength of character to sacrifice what he hitherto before did so passionately.

M. P. Law College and its students will always remember Vijaykumarji for his erudite lectures. He used to zealously teach Constitutional law and various other law subjects viz. Contract Act, Code of Civil Procedure, Indian Evidence Act, etc. He was so popular amongst his students that he used to be surrounded by them after lectures. His passion to share his learning with the youngsters continued over the years.

I have gathered that Vijaykumarji was a great human being, soft spoken but a man of principles. His public demeanour had been very impressive which earned him a reputation of a very high order. Any odd digression in life used to be dealt with by him in a firm manner. He endeared himself with people in all walks of life. He was fondly called "*Bhai*" by his colleagues in close circles. I

had the occasion to meet *Vijaykumarji*, once during my last sitting at Aurangabad and was fortunate to receive his blessings.

*Vijaykumarji* was a former President of Marathwada Legal and General Education Society and during such time, the said institution and its colleges had made rapid strides to inculcate moral value in the students. He was also a former President of Aurangabad District Court Bar Association during 1973-74 and High Court Bar Association, Aurangabad during 1996-97. He had also adorned the President's post in Gujrati Samaj as well as that of Dwarkadhish Temple Trust. He used to be an active participant in social causes.

*Vijaykumarji's* cheerful attitude and smile will be missed in the Court but his loving heart has left a beacon of light for all of us. Although his demise is a great loss for the legal fraternity, let us not grieve but celebrate his life and works. He was a true leader in the real sense of the term and a leader, it is said, never dies.

*Vijaykumarji* is survived by his wife Snehlataben, sons Justice Sanjay Gangapurwala and Mr. Sandeep

Gangapurwala, daughters-in-law, three granddaughters and a grandson.

On behalf of my esteemed colleagues and on my own behalf, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. I pray that the Almighty give them enough strength to bear the irreparable loss and also pray that the noble soul of V. G. Gangapurwala attains "sadgati".

Om Shanti ! Shanti !! Shanti !!!

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## **Court Reference**

### **Shri. V.G. Gangapurwala**

My Lord, The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and the Hon'ble Justice Shri Nitin Suryawanshi. The President and Secretary of Advocate's Association, Members of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, counsels for the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra, my esteemed colleagues at the Bar, Brothers and Sisters.

We are assembled here to mourn the separation of Late Shri. V.G. Gangapurwala, Advocate and Former President of the Advocates Association. There comes a time when God gifts this sacred institution legal legends who redeem our pledge of the historic tryst with destiny. Shri. V.G. Gangapurwala was one such wonder.

Today he is no more among us in his physical form, so let us remember him and his life as a glorious tribute to him. Called to the Bar way back in 1959, he was revered because of his beautiful eloquence and his sincere love for justice. He served the cause of the constitution in myriad ways. He was appointed as Asst. Government Pleader for 7-8 years and later as President of the High Court Bar Association of Aurangabad. He loved teaching and used to teach law in M.P. Law College Aurangabad as a visiting professor. He was an active sportsman in table tennis and an activist who had a sublime sentiment towards the social upliftment of society. He also served as the President of District Bar Association Aurangabad, President of Marathwada Legal and General Education Society of Aurangabad and

President of Dwarkadish Temple Trust Aurangabad. He was empanelled as a counsel for Central Bank and Indian Oil Corporation and represented in various important constitutional and civil matters in the High Court bench at Aurangabad.

Adv. V.G. Gangapurwala believed that social welfare and upliftment can be achieved primarily through active legal education. He was loved extremely by his friends, family and all those people who surrounded him. He is gone but his brilliance, radiance and excellence still run through the very fabric of this hallowed hall of justice where we stand today. May I in all humility without indulging in flattery mention that the same luminance now presides this Court.

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

Om Shanti.



**Ajay Talhar**

Assistant Solicitor General of India  
Aurangabad Bench

## REFERENCE

**Date: 16.02.2022**

Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Hon'ble Justice Shri N.B. Suryawanshi, 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 Advocate Late Shri V.G. Gangapurwala, 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 V.G. Gangapurwala, who left us on 3rd February, 2022.

Shri V.G. Gangapurwala was born on 05th August, 1935. He completed his primary education in Gujrathi School Aurangabad. Further education was completed in Milind Science College Aurangabad. He had completed his LL B in M.P. Law College Aurangabad. He was the President of Marathwada Legal and General Education Society Aurangabad. He had worked as Assisnat Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor in High Court Bench at Aurangabad for 7 to 8 years. He was President of the District Bar Association Aurangabad. He was also President of the High Court Bar Association Aurangabad. He was visiting professor of M. P. Law College Aurangabad and also President of Dwarkadish Temple Trust Aurangabad. He was Panel counsel of Central Bank, Indian Oil Corporation and was active sportsman in Table tennis. He had handled various important constitutional, civil and commercial matters in High court bench at Aurangabad. He was appointed as Special Counsel on behalf of Government in various important matters.

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He was a radical humanist person. His son namely Shri S.V. Gangapurwala is sitting 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 Vijaykumar Gangapurwala 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 V.G. Gangapurwala because he devoted His Excellency in the legal fraternity.

Advocate Late Shri V.G. Gangapurwala 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 V.G. Gangapurwala. Om Shanti.

  
[Dnyaneshwar R. Kale]  
I/c. Government Pleader,  
High Court Bench at Aurangabad.

## **SPEECH**

1) Hon'ble Lordship Shri. Dipankar Datta, Chief Justice, High Court Bombay, Hon'ble Shri. Justice N. B. Suryawanshi. All Hon'ble seating judge<sub>s</sub> of High court Bench at Aurangabad.

2) The Learned Additional Solicitor General, Shri. A. G. Talhar, The Learned Govt. Pleader, Shri. D. R. Kale, My colleague Amol Sawant member Bar council, Shri. Suhas Urgunde, Secretary, High Court Bar Association, Family Members of Late Shri. V. G. Gangapurwala and all other dignitaries present.

3) We gather here to pay homage to Late Adv. Shri. Vijaykumar Gangapurwala. Late Shri. Vijaykumar Gangapurwala was popularly known as Vijay Bhai. We use to Say "bhai" only. He was enrolled with Bar Council on 10.8.1962. He started practice at Dist. Court, Aurangabad. He was one of the known reputed Lawyer in Marathwada Region. He was a towering personality in the legal field. He was best Teacher, guide and philosopher. He was our mentor. In real life, he was my "Guru". who taught me Constitution of India. I still remember his first Lecture attended by me in the year 1978 in M.P. Law College.

4) Late Shri. Gangapurwala was the member of Marathwada Legal Education Society. He was Secretary and President of the said society.

5) He was one of the morally reputed Assistant Govt. Pleader in High Court, who had courage to say in the Open Court that, there is no case in favour of prosecution and Lordship may grant bail and no Judge was suspecting the stand taken by Shri. Gangapurwala.

6) He was the best <sup>Tennis</sup> Badminton Player, though most senior he was keeping friendly relations with Junior and Senior Advocates.

7) He was the President of Aurangabad District Court Bar Association, when first resolution was passed for establishment of High Court Bench at Aurangabad. He was the instrumentally in establishment of this Bench. He was also a President of High Court Bar Association in the year 1997. I am very fortunate, who got opportunity to work with him as a Secretary and got benefit of his guidance about moral values in administration of public bodies. Our Bar still remember the grand function arranged by our Committee in the Honor of Justice B. N. Deshmukh at his retirement.

8) Late Shri. Vijay bhai was born in the family of Agriculturist on 26.07.1935, after long successful inning of 88 years life, he left heavenly abode on 03.02.2022 at Aurangabad, leaving behind his Lordship Justice, Shri. S. V. Gangapurwala, Shri. Sandeep Gangapurwala and a educated family.

9) I myself personally and being a Member of Bar Council pay homage to the departed sole on behalf of all the Advocates from Maharashtra and Goa.

May I pray God, <sup>may</sup> his soul rest in peace.

OM Shanti !

DATE: 16.02.2022



**ADV. V. D. SALUNKE**  
**MEMBER**

**BAR COUNCIL OF MAH. & GOA**

### Reference Speech

My Lord, The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Shri. Dipankar Datta, Hon'ble Shri. Justice Nitin B.Suryawanshi and other Hon'ble judges of Bombay High Court, the president of Bar Association, Assistant Solicitor General of India, Government Pleader of Bombay High Court Bench at Aurangabad, Senior Advocates and my esteem colleagues of the bar, the family members of Late Shri. V.G. Gangapurwala

Today, we are assembled here to mourn the said demise of Late Shri. V.G.Gangapurwala Advocate and former President of Bar Association who left for his heavenly abode. Late Shri. Gangapurwala was born in the year 1935. After completion of Law Degree at Aurangabad he started practice in District Court Aurangabad. After establishment of this bench he was practicing at High Court. Almost for 7 years he was worked as Assistant Government Pleader.

Late. Shri. Gangapurwala was popularly known as "Bhai".

He was generous and having affection towards Junior Advocates. Whenever he was requested to appear as a counsel for

Juniors he never accepted the fees from Juniors. He was fatherly figure for everyone in the bar. Even my senior use to consult with him on many occasion. I shared a warm bonding with Late Shri Gangapurwala. Incidentally, we shared a common Bar room. Many a times I mustered courage to ask my doubts to Shri. Gangapurwala Sir. He was always patient, kind and gentle to answer and all my queries, howsoever minor the issue might be

He was an eminent lawyer and meritorious law teacher also. He rarely used notes while delivering a lecture. No wonder, those who have had the privilege to learn under his guidance feel blessed for being a student. In his passing away we lost the great human being and eminent advocate. His demise is a great loss to the legal fraternity and to this bench. Lastly I can only say that he will be greatly missed by all of us.

Late. Shri. Gangapurwala is lost to us, but is secure in the annals of the history of this bench as an eminent advocate and great human being. May the almighty give the strength to the family to bare this great loss and may the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

*Sawant*  
Adv. Amol S. Sawant  
Member, BCMC

## Court Reference

My lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Hon'ble Shri Justice N.B. Suryawanshi, My lord's Hon'ble companion judges, members of the Registry, the Ld. Assistant Solicitor General Shri. A.G.Talhar, Ld. Government Pleader Shri. D.R. Kale, Member of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa Shri V.D. Salunke, Shri. Amol Sawant, Designated Senior Councils, President Shri. N.L. Choudhary & other office bearers of High Court Bar Association, respected senior members of the Bar, my junior colleagues & family members of Adv. Shri. V.G.Gangapurwala.

We have assembled here today to mourn the sad demise of Adv. Shri. V.G.Gangapurwala. On behalf of High Court Bar Association. I convey our deepest condolence on the sad demise of Adv. Shri. V.G.Gangapurwala who left for his heavenly abode on 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2022.

Although I was not fortunate enough to interact with Adv. Shri. V.G.Gangapurwala. I received inputs from my esteemed colleagues & senior members of the Bar. After completing his law studies at M.P.Law College, Aurangabad Adv. Shri. V.G.Gangapurwala started his practice as a lawyer at District Court in the year 1959. He had a mastery over the Marathi, Gujrathi, Hindi & English language. As well he was a lecturer at M.P.Law College. He worked as a Assistant Government Pleader at High Court. Being a Assistant Government Pleader; he was fair enough before the Court, while dealing with the cases on behalf of State.

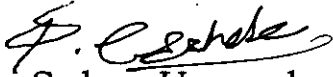
He was elected as a President of District Bar Association with lead & in the year 1996-97 he was the President of High Court Bar Association, Aurangabad. In the year 2013, he donated his entire library to the Aurangabad High Court Bar Association.

Thus, what I came to know about him is that, he was the multipotentialite as he was the good father, a good lawyer, a good teacher, a good administrator & had a motivating inspiring personality.

Hon'ble Shri. Justice S.V. Gangapurwala who is the "Gem" of the legal profession & He is the son of Shri. V.G. Gangapurwala a great son of a great father.

The demise of Adv. Shri. V.G.Gangapurwala is a great loss for the legal fraternity. We have lost a great personality in qualities, achievements & contributions.

On behalf of Bar Association & on my behalf; I express my deepest condolences & pray to God for the departed soul to remain in peace forever. With these words I conclude the message of condolence Omshanti.

  
Adv. Suhas Urgunde  
Secretary  
High Court Bar Association,  
Aurangabad