

ADDRESS BY HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHRI DIPANKAR DATTA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN THE MEMORY OF LATE SHRI GOPAL HANMANT GUTTAL, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2022 AT 10 A.M., IN ROOM NO.46, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

My esteemed sister and brother Judges,

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

**Shri Nitin Gangal,
Vice-President, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

**Shri Nilesh Modi,
Honorary Secretary, Bombay Incorporated Law Society,**

**Esteemed Senior Advocates and other learned members
of the Bar,**

Bereaved Members of the Guttal family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We have gathered this morning to pay homage to late Justice Gopal Hanmant Guttal, a former Judge of the Bombay High Court, who breathed his last on 23rd September, 2022.

Late Justice Guttal was born on 24th August, 1932. Having completed schooling from Miraj High School, Miraj, Sangli and Lamington High School, Hubli, Karnataka, His Lordship graduated in Science from Karnataka College, Dharwad in Karnataka. His Lordship then obtained the Bachelor's degree in Law from the prestigious Government Law College, Bombay and upon enrolment as an advocate on

13th March, 1961, started practice on the Appellate Side of the Bombay High Court.

Very soon, His Lordship established a flourishing practice in Civil and Criminal matters. For two years between 1966 and 1968, His Lordship was a Lecturer at the Government Law College, Bombay.

After a little over 7 years of practice, His Lordship joined the Maharashtra State Judiciary, with his appointment as a Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court, Greater Bombay on 8th October, 1968. As a Judge of the City Civil Court, His Lordship had discharged his obligations to the satisfaction of one and all. During the said period, a Commission of Inquiry was appointed to inquire into the cause for the collapse of the Byculla flyover bridge. His Lordship as the Commissioner submitted a report, which was accepted by the Government and the Municipal Corporation.

His Lordship had also served as the Principal Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court, Greater Bombay. Eventually, after serving the District Judiciary for 18 years, His Lordship was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court for two years on 21st November, 1986 and was made a permanent Judge on 2nd November, 1988. On 22nd February, 1991, His Lordship was transferred to the Kerala High Court whereafter His Lordship demitted office on 24th August, 1994.

As a Judge, I am told, His Lordship was a champion of women's rights and like a beacon of hope for many. I have gathered that His Lordship was an excellent administrator and had in fact, while being the Principal Judge of the City Civil & Sessions Court, made many improvements in the working conditions of the staff therein.

Post-retirement, His Lordship took up legal consultancy. His Lordship also enrolled with the Indian Council of Arbitration and had undertaken many assignments of arbitration.

Beyond his legal career, His Lordship was a 'multi-talented personality'. His Lordship was an artist, a poet as well as a sportsman. His Lordship was an accomplished linguist as well, as apart from his fluency in English, His Lordship could speak with ease Marathi, Kannada, Hindi, Gujarati, Sanskrit and Telugu. In fact, at one point of time in his life, he learnt French as well. His Lordship was a Sanskrit scholar and would recite Sanskrit slokas at ease until the week before he passed away.

His Lordship had a passion and keen interest in writing poetry and turned it into a collection of poems by publishing a book in the year 2014 under the name "Twilight Melodies". Thereafter, in 2018, His Lordship published his second book of poems, "Wild Fragrance". His Lordship was also supposed to publish his third volume; however, due to his demise, it

remains unpublished. I am told, the same would soon be published in the near future by His Lordship's daughters.

His Lordship was a sports enthusiast as well and took active part in playing tennis since his college days. I am told that as a matter of fact, His Lordship used to play tennis every week until the age of 86 years.

His Lordship is survived by his wife Roopa and three daughters, Madhavi, Priya and Sampada, who are all married and well settled in their respective lives.

On behalf of my esteemed colleagues and on my personal 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 irreplaceable loss and also pray that the noble soul of Justice Guttal attains "sadgati".

Om Shanti ! Shanti !! Shanti !!!

**ADDRESS BY SHRI VITTHAL B. KONDE-DESHMUKH, MEMBER,
BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA & GOA, AT THE FULL COURT
REFERENCE IN THE MEMORY OF LATE SHRI GOPAL HANMANT
GUTTAL, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON
MONDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2022 AT 10 A.M., IN ROOM NO.46,
MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.**

My Lord the Chief Justice,

The Hon'ble Judges of this court,

Shri Nitin Gangal,

Vice-President, Advocates' Association of Western India,

Shri Nilesh Modi,

Honorary Secretary, Bombay Incorporation Law Society,

**Esteemed Senior Advocates and other learned members of
the Bar,**

Bereaved Members of the Guttal family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is with utmost grief that we have assembled here this morning to pay homage to late Justice G. H. Guttal, former Judge of this Hon'ble Court who left for his heavenly abode on 23rd September 2022 at this age of 90.

I fully endorse the views expressed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and I bet to add a few words.

I had no occasion to appear before His Lordship, but I heard about him from seniors. Justice Guttal was born on 24th August 1932. His Lordship enrolled as an Advocate and started practicing on the Appellate Side of the Bombay High Court. His Lordship was appointed as a Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court, Greater

Bombay on 8th October 1968. His Lordship was appointed to enquire into the cause of the collapse of Byculla flyover bridge and his report was accepted by the Government and the Municipal Corporation. His Lordship also worked as a lecturer in the Government Law College, Bombay from 1966 to 1968. His Lordship was appointed as the Principal Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court, Greater Bombay. His Lordship was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on 21st November 1986 and then as a permanent Judge on 2nd November 1988. His Lordship demitted office on 24th August 1994 on attaining superannuation.

His Lordship enjoyed the cool and calm and dignified persona. His Lordship commanded respect from the Bar and the Bench. He had a very keen understanding of law. I greatly value his Lordship's wisdom and intellect. His Lordship's contribution made to this Hon'ble Court and to this society continues as a legacy. He will always be remembered for virtues such as hard work and simplicity. His Lordship's demise is a great setback for the legal fraternity.

In his death, we have lost a jurist par excellence, a lawyer with human heart and a great human being.

I, on behalf of 225000 advocates enrolled with the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa and on my own behalf, express heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Justice Guttal and pray that the almighty bestow upon them the strength to cope with the loss.

|| OM SHANTI ||

ADDRESS BY SHRI NITIN GANGAL, VICE PRESIDENT, ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN THE MEMORY OF LATE SHRI GOPAL HANMANT GUTTAL, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2022 AT 10 A.M., IN ROOM NO.46, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

My Lord the Chief Justice,

The Hon'ble Judges of this court,

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

**Shri Nilesh Modi,
Honorary Secretary, Bombay Incorporation Law Society,**

**Esteemed Senior Advocates and other learned members
of the Bar,**

Bereaved Members of the Guttal family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of former Judge of the Bombay High Court, Shri G. H. Guttal. I resonate the sentiments expressed by the former speakers. Justice Guttal hailed from an illustrious chamber of Shri Deshpande, who became the Judge of this Hon'ble Court. Justice Guttal made a mark as Judge of City Civil and Sessions Court, Greater Mumbai. He was appointed to inquire into the cause for collapse of Byculla flyover bridge and his report was accepted by the Government and the Municipal Corporation. He had a short stint as a lecturer in Government Law College, Mumbai. Justice Guttal did not see the personalities before him. He was very meticulous person, going into every detail of the matter and was sincere to his work.

He rendered some important judgments:

In the case of *Dino F Byramji*, Justice Guttal interpreted section 5 (6A) of Bombay Rent Act to distinguish between paying guest and tenant to determine the real relationship between them.

In Abdul R. Khan, a matter under National Security Act, he dislodged the petition on the grounds by setting parameters on delay, oblique motive and not furnishing particulars to detenu.

With his demise, we have lost a scholar in legal field. On behalf of Advocates' Association of Western India and Shri Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India, who has regretted his absence today, I express my deep condolences to the family of late Justice Guttal.

May his soul rest in peace.

ADDRESS BY SHRI NILESH MODI, HON. SECRETARY, BOMBAY INCORPORATE LAW SOCIETY, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN THE MEMORY OF LATE SHRI GOPAL HANMANT GUTTAL, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2022 AT 10 A.M., IN ROOM NO.46, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

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**Esteemed Senior Advocates and other learned members of
the Bar,**

Bereaved Members of the Guttal family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society and on behalf of the members, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the demise of Justice G. H. Guttal.

OM Shanti! Shanti!! Shanti!!!