

**ADDRESS BY HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE R.M.BORDE,
SENIORMOST JUDGE, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE OF
BOMBAY, BENCH AT AURANGABAD, AT THE COURT
REFERENCE TO LATE SHRI JUSTICE S.B.MHASE, HELD AT
AURANGABAD, ON WEDNESDAY, 4th OCTOBER, 2017.**

My esteemed colleagues,

Mr.S.B.Deshpande,

Assistant Solicitor General of India,
at High Court Bench at Aurangabad.

Mr.A.B.Girase,
Government Pleader,
High Court Bench at Aurangabad.

Mr. R.M. Deshmukh,
President,
Advocates' Association of Bombay High Court
at Aurangabad.

Senior Advocates,

Members of the Bar,

Members of the bereaved family

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled here this morning to pay tributes to Mr.Justice S.B. Mhase, former Judge of this Court, who left for his heavenly abode on 2nd September, 2017 at Aurangabad.

On the strength of his intellectual abilities, ethical norms and high professional standards, though initiating humble beginning and coming from rural background, due to sheer hard work and dedication, Justice Mhase achieved the highest goal in his life.

Shri Justice S.B. Mhase was born on 28th October, 1947 in a family of agriculturists. He had his initial schooling in rural part of Maharashtra since his father was employed in the State Revenue Department, which gave him an opportunity to observe the rural life and had an insight in the socio-economic trends of rural life. On completion of initial schooling, he registered himself and got graduation degree in Arts at B.P.H.E. Societies' Ahmednagar College, Ahmednagar. After completing graduation, he enrolled with ILS Law College, Pune and was awarded degree in Law by Pune University.

In the year 1971, Shri Justice S.B.Mhase started his career as a junior advocate in the Chambers of advocate Shri Chandrabhan Athre Patil who was also a sitting member of the Parliament. During the implementation of amended provisions of Ceiling Act, Justice Mhase, as an young lawyer, assisted several farmers in filling ceiling returns and thereby saved multitudes of families from loosing their lands - the only source of income. As an young advocate, Shri Justice Mhase was mindful of the fact that profession of law is essentially a service oriented profession. He had respect for 'Rule of Law' and was sensitive to the human problems while discharging his professional duties. He picked up roaring practice and his clientèle includes Co-Operative Societies and leaders of the Co-Operation movement as well as several Sugar factories, Federal Societies, Co-Operative Banks, Agricultural Produce Market Committees, Zilla Parishads and several Public and Private Trusts.

Recognizing his commitment, integrity and service to the community, soon he earned reputation as 'lawyer of the masses'. In recognition of his legal expertise and devotion to the profession, unquestionable integrity, he was invited to assume office of the Judge of the Bombay High Court and took oath of office on 15.04.1996. While functioning as a Judge, he was mindful of the problems and miseries faced by the agricultural class and socially backward segments of the society. The judgments pronounced by Shri Justice Mhase are reflective of his social philosophy.

He was also associated with the Education field in the capacity of a Life-Trustee of 'Ahmednagar Zilla Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj'. After his elevation to the Bench, he tendered resignation.

He contested election to the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa and was elected as a Member. He continued his Membership till his elevation to the Bench.

Late Shri Justice S.B.Mhase believed in women empowerment and strived for gender justice. He initiated reforms from his home and it is reflective from the fact that he persuaded his wife to continue her studies after marriage and due to persuasion and able guidance of Shri Justice S.B.Mhase, Madam Mhase did graduation in Law and acquired Master's Degree in Arts. He is blessed with two daughters, Mrs.Madhveshwari is a member of this Bar, whereas, his other daughter - Mrs.Rajeshwari is an Architect.

After successful and distinguishable career as Judge, Shri Justice S.B.Mhase demitted the office on his retirement in the year 2009. He was thereafter appointed as President of the Maharashtra State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. He took efforts to ensure use of 'State language' Marathi at the appellate forum. As a token of recognition, he was felicitated with the award for "Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan".

In the year 2012, after his retirement as a President of State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, he in fact intended to shift to Delhi and start his career as a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court. He was also conferred with the designation as "Senior Counsel" by the Supreme Court of India in the year 2014. However, due to health issues, he could not continue at Delhi and had to return back. He was also invited to head the 'State Backward Class Commission' by the State of Maharashtra. In January 2017, he accepted new responsibility though his health did not permit. He could not complete the assignment and left for eternal journey on 02nd September, 2017.

Shri Justice Mhase will always be remembered for high professional standards which he maintained while in profession and for his sensitivity to human problems and the accommodative social philosophy befitting the agriculturists, rural masses and socially backward segments of the society.

I, on behalf of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, myself, my Brother and Sister Judges, pay homage to the memory of Justice S.B. Mhase and pray Almighty that He bestow courage and strength on the Members of the Family to sustain this unbearable loss.

May the departed soul rest in peace.

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Date 4/10/2017

Reference to mourn the death of Late Shri. Justice S.B. Mhase was held at Aurangabad Bench on 4/10/2017.

Late Shri. Justice S. B. Mhase was born on 28/10/1947. He completed his school and college education at Ahmednagar, Pune and Satara and he acquired degree B.A. (Hons.), L.L.B .

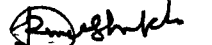
He was enrolled as an Advocate on July 14, 1971. District Court and other Civil Courts at Nagpur since 1971, Worked as part time professor in the Law College at Ahmednagar from 1975 to 1980, Worked as the legal Adviser for the Zilla Parishad from 1984 to 1991, for the Ahmednagar District Central Bank and the Agriculture Produce Market Committee of Ahmednagar.

After the establishment of the High Court Bench at Aurangabad, he shifted to Aurangabad for practice since 1988.

He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on April 15, 1996 and permanent judge on April 12, 1998 and he retired on 28/10/2009.

He was appointed as a Chairman, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, State of Maharashtra and he joined on 28/10/2009 and he worked till July, 2013. He introduced new and transparent selection process for the post of President, District Consumer Forum.

Recently he was appointed as a Chairman, Maharashtra Backward Class Commission. He passed away at Aurangabad on 2nd September, 2017.

I was very much impressed by his personality, his soft nature and generous attitude, we have lost a distinguished Judge and towering personality. He lived the life with high dignity and richness. He will always be remembered with affection by all who knew him, and specifically by Advocates Association at Aurangabad, I express sincere gratitude and sentiments on behalf of legal fraternity and on behalf of Advocates Association of Bombay High Court at Aurangabad. I convey my heartfelt condolences to the member of the family. 

Ravindra M. Deshmukh

President,

Advocates Association of Bombay High Court
At Aurangabad

Date: 4.10.2017

Hon'ble Judges, Senior Advocates, Members of the Bar, my colleagues at the office of the Government Pleader, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today with heavy heart we gather here to pay homage to one of the towering personalities of our Bar - Hon'ble Justice Mhase, Former Judge of the Bombay High Court.

Justice Mhase was a wonderful spirit who changed the life of everyone he met for better. A responsible Son, An ideal student, a caring Father, a devoted junior, a dynamic Lawyer, an upright Judge - he was at his best in all of these roles. The exposure of law that he had at his disposal was humongous.

He was simply heroic as a Lawyer. His transition as a Lawyer from the District Court to the High Court was revolutionary. It was sheer industry and hard work that took him to the top in the legal profession. He had a passion for teaching. He worked as a part-time Professor in the Law College at Ahmednagar from 1975 to 1980. He also was a member of the Local Managing committee at New Law College, Ahmednagar. He also was a member of the Board of Studies in Law at Pune University. As a Hon'ble Judge of the High Court and as well as Chairman of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, the reforms he brought in were truly phenomenal. The desire to reach for the stars is ambitious. The desire to reach hearts is wise. His Lordship was successful at both. Not only did he reach the pinnacle of success in legal profession but also had the rare ability to win hearts of people. In today's era when the only definition of being 'Social' is being active on Social media, His Lordship's feat of personally connecting with people from all

walks of society is admirable. It is this quality of winning hearts that also led him to be elected as Member of the Bar Council.

It was His Lordship's compassion for the peasant class that made him deliver marathon lectures across Ahmednagar District for enlightening the farmers about the effects of the Maharashtra Ceiling on Holding [Amendment] Act, 1975. All of this was selfless.

His Lordship was never shy of his religious faith and beliefs. He bowed to the Philosophy of 'Poornavada' which envisages The Six pillars of a meaningful, purposeful life. They are : [i] Expertise [Naipunya], [ii] Planning [Yojakata], [iii] popular opinion [Lok-mat], [iv] Togetherness [Loksangrah], [v] Relevance of time [Kaal], [vi] Divine pursuits [Upasana]. His Lordship's life was a constellation of all of these qualities that he possessed.

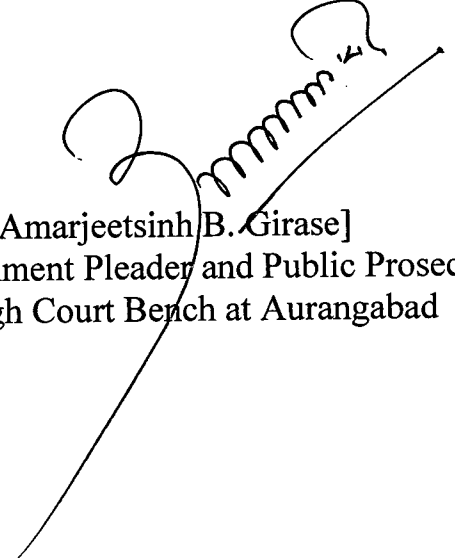
His Lordship commands a special place in my career as a Lawyer. It was before a bench headed by His Lordship that I had my maiden appearance as a Junior lawyer. The lively conversation His Lordship used to have at the time of hearing of any case were full of his enriching experiences of life and times. He truly had empathy and sympathy for the causes involved in the matters taken up by his bench. Rarely have there been instances where the Court directs the responsible officers to award the Freedom fighter pension to the Freedom fighter, at his doorsteps, at his home. Justice Mhase 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.

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To summarise the essence and ethos of his life and work, I recollect a Sanskrit verse

“ अस्माकं कार्याणि अस्मान्सावधीकरिष्यन्ति ” - it means - Only action will define us.

On behalf of the State of Maharashtra and my colleagues at the office of the Government Pleader, I pay homage to Hon'ble Justice Mhase, Former Judge of Bombay High Court.


[Amarjeetsinh B. Girase]
Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor
High Court Bench at Aurangabad

Speech by S.B. Deshpande, Assistant Solicitor General of India, High Court Bench at Aurangabad.

My Lord Justice R.M. Borde, My Lord Justice V.V. Kanakvadi the family members of late Justice S.B. Mhase, the President of Bar Association Mr. R.M. Deshmukh, the Government Pleader Mr. A.B. Girase, Senior Counsels and fellow lawyers.

We have assembled here to mourn untimely death of Justice S.B. Mhase. The news of death of Justice Mhase came as a bolt from blue for the legal fraternity.

Justice Mhase who practiced in District Court rose to heights in his legal career due to his intellectual capacities and hard work. He was also a part time lecturer in Law College. Justice Mhase shot into fame due to his handling of a celebrated election petition. This case is a textbook example of his legal acumen and professional skills for all junior as well as senior lawyers. He authored many path breaking judgments on cooperative and other laws. Therefore, foot prints of his intelligence have become immortal on the pages of law journals.

Justice Mhase while working as President of State Consumer Commission made it a point to make the Consumer Protection Act an effective tool for redressal of grievances of consumers. Recently he was appointed as Chairman of State OBC Commission. Everybody was looking towards him for solution of a few contentious issues facing the community. Unfortunately destiny has something otherwise in mind. Therefore, without guiding us on the vexed issue Justice Mhase passed away.

On behalf of the office of the Assistant Solicitor General of India and on my personal behalf I pray to the almighty to give eternal peace to the departed soul. I also pray to god to give strength to the family members of Justice Mhase to overcome grief of his sudden death.

