

Full Court Reference addressed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice Dipankar Datta in the memory of Late Justice G. D. Patil, Former Judge and Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Bombay, on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 10 a.m. in Central Court Hall, Room No. 46, High Court Main Building.

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My esteemed colleagues,

Mr. Anil C. Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India for himself and on behalf Mr. Ashutosh A. Kumbhakoni, Advocate General for the State of Maharashtra,

Mr. Subhash J. Ghatge, Member and Former Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa,

Mr. Nitin Thakker, President, Bombay Bar Association,

Mr. Kuldeep Patil, Secretary, Advocates' Association of Western India,

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

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Family members of Late Justice G. D. Patil,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

...

We have assembled here this morning to pay obeisance to late Justice Gulabrao Deorao Patil, former Judge and Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, and former Lokayukta of Maharashtra. His Lordship passed away at Nagpur on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at the age of 80 years.

Justice Gulabrao Patil was born on 18th March, 1941 at village Loni, Taluka - Arni, District- Yavatmal. His father late Deorao Patil was an agriculturist who later on became Member of both houses of Parliament.

Justice Patil took his primary education in Loni and secondary education at Yavatmal. He graduated in Arts stream from Amravati and took his Law degree from Nagpur. On 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1968, he enrolled with the Bar Council of Maharashtra as an advocate and joined the office of late C. S. Dharmadhikari, who subsequently adorned the seat of Judge of the Bombay High Court. He started his practice in Nagpur High Court and in due course of time handled various types of matters, mainly, on writ, revenue, and civil sides. He taught law to the students in University Law College, Nagpur for one year. In 1978 he was appointed as an Assistant Government Pleader but left

the assignment for personal reasons in one year. Later on in 1988, he was again appointed as an Assistant Government Pleader.

On 30th July, 1990 Justice Patil came to be elevated as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Bombay and on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1992 he took oath as Judge of this Court. He was also Acting Chief Justice for two terms in 2001 and 2002. He demitted office on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2003.

Justice Patil was appointed as the Lokayukta of Maharashtra in January, 2004 and he graced the said office till January, 2009.

I have learnt from my colleagues, who had the occasion to appear and argue before Justice Patil, that he was known for his kindness and a deep, sensitive, and abiding concern for the poor and the discriminated. His Lordship was an amiable and courteous human being with a fine blend of judicial conduct, which reflected his deep learning, adjudication skills and leadership qualities. The foot-prints that His Lordship has left on the shifting sands of time, will continue to help us, guide us, and inspire us to act in furtherance of institutional interest in the future years.

Justice Patil is survived by his wife Smt. Durgatai, two sons and three married daughters. On behalf of my colleagues and on my own behalf, I share their grief and sorrow. I also extend heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Justice Patil and pray to God to give them the strength to bear the irreplaceable loss. May his noble soul attain sadgati.

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!

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Full Court Reference addressed by Mr. Anil C. Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India in the memory of Late Justice G. D. Patil, Former Judge and Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Bombay, on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 10 a.m. in Central Court Hall, Room No. 46, High Court Main Building.

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My Lord the Chief Justice,

The Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

Mr. Subhash Ghatge, Member and Ex-Chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa,

Mr. Nitin Thakker, President, Bombay Bar Association,

Mr. Kuldeep Patil, the Secretary, Advocates Association of Western India,

Mr. Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, the President of Bombay Incorporate Law Society,

The family members of late Justice Gulabrao Patil,

Members of the Bar and Officers of the High Court Registry,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with profound grief we have assembled here to pay our homage to late Justice Gulabrao Patil, former Judge of the Bombay High Court.

Justice Patil came from a well-known political family. His father was member of the Parliament Loksabha, Rajyasabha consequently and was also Chairman of National Food Corporation of India for some time. Justice Patil's elder brother Uttamrao Patil represented Yavatmal Loksabha constituency for 6 times in a row.

After completing his law degree from Nagpur in 1968, Justice Patil got enrolled with the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa and joined the Chamber of Late Justice C.S. Dharmadhikari and started his practice in Nagpur High Court.

Justice Patil has made immense contribution in the development of law. He had handled various types of matters mainly revenue, ceilings and writs. He also lectured law subjects to the students in University Law College, Nagpur for one year. Justice Patil had deep knowledge of Civil, Criminal and Constitutional law.

In 1978, Justice Patil was appointed as Assistant Government Pleader, but has to leave the assignment for personal reasons in one year. Later on, in 1988, Justice Patil was again appointed as Assistant Government Pleader.

On 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1990, Justice Patil came to be elevated as Additional Judge of Bombay High Court. He was also acting Chief Justice for some period. Justice Patil had retired on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

Justice Patil was appointed as Lokayukta of Maharashtra by the State Government in January, 2004 and gracefully completed his five years period as Lokayukta in January, 2009.

During Justice Patil's stint as a High Court Judge, he passed several judgments in various fields of law, in both, Civil and Criminal side.

Justice Patil was always known to be extremely patient and was highly encouraging towards the junior advocates. His judgments reflect that they were always passed after thorough and meticulous reading of law.

Justice Patil is survived by his wife Smt. Durgatai, two sons, Advocate Dhananjay Patil practicing at Nagpur High Court, Advocate Makrand Patil, Assistant Government Pleader at Bombay High Court and three married daughters.

Justice Patil has left behind him a legacy that will continue to inspire young advocates and judges alike.

I myself and on behalf of the Advocate General of State of Maharashtra express my deepest condolences for the departed soul.

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Full Court Reference addressed by Mr. Subhash J. Ghatge, Member and Ex-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa in the memory of Late Hon'ble Shri Justice G. D. Patil, Acting Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and Ex-Lokayukta of Maharashtra on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 10 a.m. in Central Court Hall, Room No. 46, High Court Main Building.

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My Lord the Chief Justice,

The Hon'ble Judges of this court,

Mr. Anil C. Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India,

Mr. Nitin Thakker, President of Bombay Bar Association,

Mr. Kuldeep Patil, Secretary of Advocates' Association of Western India.

Mr. Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, President of Bombay Incorporated Law Society,

Family members of late Justice G. D. Patil,

Members of legal fraternity,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me associate myself with the feelings expressed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and other Hon'ble Speakers. I myself, along with the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa and its about 1,90,000 Advocates members throughout Maharashtra & Goa, sincerely feel that on account of sad demise of Justice Gulabrao D. Patil, we have lost a very good Judge with an analytical mind with strong legal acumen.

Hon'ble Justice Gulabrao D. Patil was born in small village Loni, Taluka Arni, District Yavatmal. After graduating in Art from Amravati College, he obtained degree in the field of Law from Nagpur University. He enrolled with Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa on 02/08/1968. He joined Chamber of Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari, who was an eminent lawyer at that time and elevated as a Judge of this Hon'ble court. He continued the legacy which he had received from the Chamber of Justice Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari at Nagpur. He practised in Revenue, Civil, Criminal and Constitutional matters at Nagpur Bench of this Hon'ble Court. Hon'ble Justice Gulabrao D. Patil was appointed as an Assistant Government Pleader in the year 1978 for a period of one year and again in the year 1986. Soon thereafter,

Justice Patil was elevated as an Additional Judge of this Hon'ble Court on 30/07/1990 and appointed as a permanent Judge on 28/9/1992. Justice Patil had maximum sitting at Nagpur Bench of this Hon'ble Court. He was thereafter transferred at Bombay and later on he was Acting Chief Justice of our Hon'ble Court and retired on 18/03/2003.

After attaining age of superannuation, Justice Gulabrao D. Patil was appointed as a Lokayukta by State of Maharashtra on 27/01/2004 and he had worked as Lokayukta for the period of five years and thereafter settled at Nagpur.

Justice Patil came from the family, which is active in the field of politics and social work. His father Shri Deorao Patil was a Member of Parliament from Yavatmal constituency. His elder brother Shri Uttamrao Patil was Member of Parliament on six occasions from Yavatmal constituency. Son of the soil, who came from a small place in Yavatmal District became an Acting Chief Justice of this Hon'ble Court.

On 08/05/2021, at Nagpur, Justice Patil took his last breath. On account of his sad demise, we have lost a sincere, hardworking and kind-hearted Judge of our High Court. He always encourages the juniors and also gives inspiration to junior lawyers. He has left behind him two sons, Dhananjay and Makarand, both are Advocates and three daughters. Let God give enough strength to the members of the family of late Justice Gulabrao D. Patil to bear this loss.

Let the soul of Justice Patil rest in eternal peace.

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Full Court Reference addressed by Mr. Nitin Thakker, President of Bombay Bar Association in the memory of Late Hon'ble Shri Justice G. D. Patil, Acting Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and Ex-Lokayukta of Maharashtra on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 10 a.m. in Central Court Hall, Room No. 46, High Court Main Building.

My Lord the Chief Justice and the other Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

Mr. Anil C. Singh, Learned Additional Solicitor General of India,

Mr. Subhash Ghatge, Member and former Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa,

Mr. Kuldeep Patil, Secretary, Advocates' Association of Western India,

Mr. Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, President of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society,

Senior Advocates and the other Members of the Bar,

Registrar General and other members of the High Court Registry,

Family members of late Justice G. D. Patil,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Gentle and Disciplinarian would aptly describe Justice G.D. Patil.

He was inspiration for all who hail from hinterland - one can reach highest pinnacle of the profession if one works hard and one is honest.

Though his father and brother were in politics, he chose the noble profession of law.

His nature was gentle, helpful and humane. As his son shared with me, he had a large practice in Land Acquisition matters and Agricultural tenancy matters and several small farmers were his clients. Some of them would not be able to afford his fees. He not only appeared for them without charging fees, but would go out of his way to give to the farmer money so that he would reach home by bus. He carried his gentleness after he was elevated. He would encourage juniors to argue the

matters. Those not ready would receive lessons from the judge as to which sections to look up and what law to be researched.

He inherited discipline from his father and it was strengthened while he was devilling in the chambers of Justice Chandrasekhar Dharmadhikari.

A believer he would go with Mr. Justice Daga and others to Tirupati and other places.

I fully associate myself with the sentiments expressed by My Lord the Chief Justice and previous speakers.

On behalf of myself and Bombay Bar Association I extend heartfelt condolences to his family consisting of his wife, three daughters and two sons both of whom are lawyers.

We pray that the Almighty grants eternal peace to his noble soul.

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Full Court Reference addressed by Mr. Kuldeep Patil, Secretary of Advocates' Association of Western India in the memory of Late Hon'ble Shri Justice G. D. Patil, Acting Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and Ex-Lokayukta of Maharashtra on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 10 a.m. in Central Court Hall, Room No. 46, High Court Main Building.

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Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

Mr. Anil C. Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India,

Mr. Subhash J. Ghatge, Member and Ex-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa,

Mr. Nitin Thakker, President of Bombay Bar Association,

Mr. Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, President of Bombay Incorporated Law Society,

Family members of late Justice G. D. Patil,

Members of legal fraternity,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today we have assembled here to condole the demise of Justice G. D. Patil, who was the Judge of the Bombay High Court from 30<sup>th</sup> July 1990 till his retirement on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2003. During his tenure as a Judge of the Bombay High Court, I had numerous opportunities to appear and argue matters before him. Justice G. D. Patil always gave a calm and patient hearing to the advocates appearing before him. Justice Patil encouraged the junior advocates at the Bar to conduct matters before him. Justice G. D. Patil was a great human being and enjoyed abundance of goodwill and affection from every member of the Bar.

I completely concur with the views put forth by my earlier speakers. On my behalf and on behalf of the Advocates' Association of Western India, I express and place on record a deep sense of gratitude for his Lordship's contribution to the society and extend my deepest condolences for the loss. I pay my respectful homage to the departed soul. I pray to God to give strength and courage to his family members.

May his soul rest in peace.

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Full Court Reference addressed by Mr. Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society in the memory of Late Hon'ble Shri Justice G. D. Patil, Acting Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and Ex-Lokayukta of Maharashtra on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 10 a.m. in Central Court Hall, Room No. 46, High Court Main Building.

My Lord, the Hon'ble Chief Justice,  
Hon'ble Judges of the Bombay High Court,  
Mr. Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India,  
Mr. Subhash J. Ghatge, Member and Ex-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa,  
My colleague Mr. Nitin Thakker, President of Bombay Bar Association,  
Mr. Kuldeep Patil, Secretary, Advocates' Association of Western India,  
Members of the family of the Justice G. D. Patil,  
Members of the Bar,  
Learned Registrar General, other officers of the High Court,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I address this Reference as President of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society on whose behalf, I express condolences on the sad demise of Justice Gulabrao Deorao Patil.

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

Justice Patil served as a Judge of our High Court between 1990 and 2003 when he retired as Acting Chief Justice. Justice Patil was mild mannered and a soft-spoken gentleman. As a Judge, he sat mainly on the Appellate side of the High Court, and his experience as a revenue and criminal side lawyer spoke through many of his judgments. Justice Patil was admired by the members of the legal fraternity and was well-received as the Lokayukta of our State.

Our heartfelt condolences to the members of his family.

May his soul rest in peace.

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