

ADDRESS BY HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE MOHIT S. SHAH, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY AT THE FIRST COURT - REFERENCE TO LATE MR. JUSTICE SUBHASH CHHAGANLAL PRATAP, FORMER JUDGE OF THIS HIGH COURT, HELD ON FRIDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2012.

My esteemed colleagues, Mr. D.J. Khambata, learned Advocate General Mr. Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. M.P. Rao, Secretary, Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Rajiv Patil, President, Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. Priyahans Jani, Vice President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Mr. Karan Dilip Bhosale, Vice Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, Senior Advocates, Advocates and Members of the bereaved family of Justice S.C. Pratap.

We have assembled here this morning to mourn the sad demise of late Mr. Justice Subhash Chhaganlal Pratap, former Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court and a former Judge of this Court, who left for his heavenly abode on Friday, 14th September 2012 at Mumbai at the age of 82 years.

Justice Pratap was born on 1st July, 1930. He did his schooling from St. Teresa's High School and graduated from St. Xavier's College at Bombay. He was instrumental in starting the Social Service League at the college and was also awarded Best Student of the Year Prize. He studied law at Government Law College. After obtaining the LL.B. Degree, he enrolled as an Advocate of the Bombay High Court on 10th February, 1954 and of the Supreme Court on the 1st August, 1959. Justice Pratap practised in Civil, Criminal and Constitutional Law in the Bombay High Court. He was appointed as Assistant Government Pleader and Assistant Public Prosecutor in the year 1968.

Justice Pratap was a part time lecturer at K.C. Law College and taught Constitutional Law for several years. He was a member of the Board of Studies of the University of Bombay.

At the age of 47, he gave up his vast and lucrative practice and accepted judgeship and was appointed as an Additional Judge, Bombay High Court on 19th September, 1977, and as permanent Judge on 3rd April, 1978. He was also appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on 1st January 1991. He was appointed as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court on 25th March 1991. He retired on 30th June 1992.

Justice Pratap delivered a number of judgments as Judge of the High Court in various fields of law including Administrative Law, Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, Bombay Rents, Hotel & Lodging House Rates Control Act. His judgments show deep knowledge and analysis of complex questions of law in simple language which could be understood easily by the litigants. Justice Pratap also brought pride to this Court for independence of the Judiciary by entertaining and allowing a writ petition against a sitting Chief Minister of the State.

Justice Pratap acquired reputation of his own and was known for qualities of head and heart. He was known to be a soft-spoken, courteous and at the same time firm in dispensation of justice. Justice Pratap was an equity oriented judge and did not hesitate to grant relief wherever the ends of justice demanded. Justice Pratap encouraged junior advocates and motivated them to work hard to excel in the legal profession.

Justice Pratap groomed young talented lawyers; three of whom came to be elevated as Judges of this Court including Justice P.S. Patankar, Justice Ajit Prakash Shah, who was Chief Justice of Madras and Delhi High Courts and Justice Ranjana P. Desai, who is presently a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

As Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, Justice Pratap made his mark as an able and affable administrator and introduced several judicial reforms and gave an impetus to Lok Adalat movements. He was very much concerned about the well being of the judicial officers and staff members of the District Judiciary and also of the High Court. He extensively travelled throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh for administrative work. His deep insight into the Constitution of philosophy, his understanding of the principles of governance and his congenial temperament enabled Chief Justice Pratap to maintain positive and fine equilibrium with the other constitutional functionaries and the State Administration in Andhra Pradesh.

After demitting the office of Chief Justice, Justice Pratap returned to Bombay. He was examiner for thesis for Ph.D. In Law appointed by the Nagpur University, Marathwada University and Mumbai University. Justice Pratap also devoted his time to arbitration in several branches of law and was a much sought after arbitrator on account of his legal acumen and pragmatic approach.

In the passing away of Justice Pratap, the legal fraternity has lost a friend, philosopher and guide. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Sweeta Pratap, his son Mr. Prashant Pratap, who is a Senior Advocate of this Court, and daughter Mrs. Abha Desai.

His passing away has left void in our lives and also in the hearts of all those who knew him.

In this hour of grief, my colleagues and I share the feelings of all those who have gathered here in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them strength to bear the great loss and overcome the grief.

May the departed soul rest in peace.

ADDRESS BY SHRI D.J. KHAMBATA, ADVOCATE GENERAL, AT THE
FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE S.C. PRATAP, ON 7TH
DECEMBER, 2012.

My Lord the Hon'ble the Chief Justice Shri Mohit Shah, Hon'ble Judges of the Bombay High Court, Shri Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri Karan Bhosale, Vice-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Shri M.P.Rao, Secretary, Bombay Bar Association, Shri Rajiv Patil, President, Advocates' Association of Western India and Shri P.A. Jani, Vice-President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society and members of the Bar,

We gather here today to mourn the death of Justice S.C.Pratap, former Judge of this High Court and Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Justice Pratap spent his college life at St. Xavier's College, Bombay. In College, he was an active participant in extra-curricular activities and was instrumental in starting the social service league.

After he graduated from Government Law College, he joined the Chambers of Shri Dahyabhai Patel, in 1954. Within a short time he amassed a substantial and varied practice in civil, criminal and constitutional matters on the Appellate Side of the Bombay High Court.

Justice Pratap had an academic side to him. That, coupled with his passion for law prompted him to teach as a part time lecturer in Constitutional Law at K.C.Law College for several years. He was also associated with the University of Bombay in various capacities as Member of the Board of Studies and a paper setter and examiner.

He first answered the call of duty in 1968 when he accepted appointment as Assistant Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor, Government of Maharashtra. The call came a second time a few years later and again he rose to the challenge. Undeterred by the prospect of large financial sacrifice, he accepted Judgeship at the age of 47 in 1977.

Behind a soft and kindly face lay great resolve and determination to do justice. Justice Pratap was and will always be remembered as an independent, bold and sound Judge. The law reports for the years 1978 to 1991 stand testimony to this. All of us who have appeared before him remember his Court to be a court of quiet logic, common sense and justice.

Justice Pratap reached the pinnacle of his judicial career when he was elevated to the office of the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in 1991. It is said that he developed a rapport with the then Governor and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. This had a positive result, particularly in the matter of reforms concerning Lok Adalats.

He proved that his justice was without fear or favour. He admitted a Petition against a sitting Chief Minister holding that public confidence in a welfare State would otherwise be undermined. This was the iron fist in a velvet glove!

He was judicially disciplined and later dismissed a Petition which sought judicial review and interference with the power of the Chief Justice to assign work to two Judges who had been cited as witnesses to a criminal complaint [R.J.Mehta v. Chief Justice V.S.Deshpande AIR 1982 Bombay 125]. Critical of the Judges, with great eloquence he observed that *"A cloudy sky is anathema to a judicial universe"* but nevertheless held that *"Every public question is not capable of constitutional adjudication."*

In Bhiwa Yeshwant v. Regional Director, ESI Corporation and others 1978 Mh.L.J. 589, Justice Pratap held that a private person could not assert appearance in a court as a matter of right and claim right of audience. He wisely restricted that right to the litigant himself or his Advocate holding that a power of attorney holder who was not an Advocate, had no right of audience.

His judicial experience extended to diverse matters such as education, election, tenancy laws, human rights and the subject he had once taught, constitutional law.

In his later years, his love of education saw him being appointed as Examiner for the thesis for the Ph.D. in law by the Nagpur, Marathawada and Bombay Universities.

He was also a much sought after arbitrator. This was because of his fairness, long experience and wealth of knowledge.

He has left a cherished legacy in this Court. So many of us remember his wonderful smile and the way he radiated warmth and civility. As society moves, regrettably, to more direct and aggressive interactions he was one of the last reminders of a more courteous age. He enjoyed all round respect without having to command it. In later years he received one of the greatest satisfactions of a practicing lawyer when he saw three of his juniors elevated as judges of the Bombay High Court and later one of them as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

On behalf of the Bar I extend our deepest condolences to his wife, his son Prashant who is a successful Senior Advocate of this Court, his daughter and to the entire bereaved family.

ADDRESS BY SHRI KEVIC SETALVAD, ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR
GENERAL OF INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE
JUSTICE S.C. PRATAP, ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2012.

My Lord, the Chief Justice, the Hon'ble Judges of this Hon'ble Court; Mr. Darius Khambata - the Hon'ble Advocate General of Maharashtra, Mr. Karan Bhosale, Vice-President of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa; Mr. M.P. Rao, Secretary of the Bombay Bar Association; Mr. Rajiv Patil - the President of the Advocates' Association of Western India; Mr. Jani, Vice-President for the Incorporated Law Society, and members of the Bar.

We assemble here for this Full Court Reference to honour the memory of Justice S.C. Pratap, a Judge who most of us knew well, and knew to be a gentle and soft spoken man, and a firm and an erudite Judge. A former Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court (from 1991 until his retirement in the year 1992), and a well-loved Judge of this Court (from 1977 until 1991); who sadly passed away in September this year at the age of 82.

Prior to Justice Pratap's elevation to the Bench in 1977, he had a flourishing practice in Constitutional, Civil as well as Criminal law. As a lawyer, Justice Pratap quickly built a reputation for himself with his meticulous preparation of individual matters. Eminent judges like Justice Ranjana Desai (a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court) and Justice A.P. Shah (who retired as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court) started their practice in his chambers. He was appointed Government Pleader in the year 1968, whereafter he ably represented the Government in several important matters.

He was a member of the Board of Studies of the University of Bombay; and was a paper setter and examiner in different subjects of the LLB course of the Bombay University. Justice Pratap enjoyed teaching and was a part time lecturer at KC College where he taught Constitutional Law for several years. I remember his lectures to be very well attended, including by students from other law colleges.

As a Judge, Justice Pratap was party to several important judgments. As Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court he presided over the Full Bench which delivered the Judgement of Smt. Vanaja v State Transport Authority reported in AIR 1992 AP 333 - which resolved the conflict between various Division Bench Judgments in connection with the conflict of power of the State Transport Authority and the Regional Transport Authority, to alter the conditions of stage carriage permits granted under the Motor Vehicles Act.

Justice Pratap as part of the Full Bench of this Hon'ble Court (of which he was the junior most member) gave the Judgement in the case of Suryakant Walchand Shah v Shahanavaz Hanifasaheb reported in 1985 (87) BLR 545- which decided that : A notification once issued by the State Government under the Rent Act extending Part II or Part III thereof to the area of a municipal district or a municipal corporation would also apply to the areas subsequently included in the limits of such local authority; and that no fresh notification was required.

What probably best epitomizes Justice Pratap, as a person, and a Judge, were his words used in a Judgment, given on behalf of the Division Bench of this Court in *Mohmood Abubakar Marwari v Union of India* (1982 Cri LJ 53), which dealt with the validity of an Order of detention under Section 3 of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA); where in the absence of formulation of grounds against the detainee he felt compelled to allow the Petition. However, when disposing off the Petition he observed with these words - and I quote - *Even so, however, it is not without reluctance that relief is being granted on this petition. But for the lacunae in fulfilling the minimal constitutional requirement and mandate the present petition would have failed. Unfortunate though it very much is, that a likely smuggler, a possible hoarder or a suspected black-marketer also gets benefit, such result is but a consequence of a live rule of law which, in a democracy, operates equally. That such persons, whose respect for law and love for the country is based on quid pro quo, get freed is not in the least any credit to them. They, whose nefarious activities and notorious manipulations have been eating into the very vitals of the nation's economy, are the worst stigma of dimaying dimensions on the country. Enraptured as they are by their secreted profits and ignoble affluence, they evoke no mercy and no sympathy. Undeterred, as they seem to be, by the normal laws of the land, they deserve nothing less than what the special laws enacted in that behalf rightly and justly contemplate and envisage. But the scales of justice act even-handed. Relief, as in this petition, is the price which the nation as a whole pays at the alter of rule of law and democracy.*- unquote.

Strong words from a normally soft spoken judge but words, which no doubt demonstrate, - his fairness, his respect for the Constitution and the dignity of the law.

After his retirement as a Judge in 1992, Justice Pratap continued to be in active practice, this time as an arbitrator, when I had the privilege of appearing before him on several occasions when he acted as a Sole Arbitrator, and also when he was a part o the 3-Bench Tribunal..... I shall now, miss those opportunities.

On behalf of the members of the Bar, I convey our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Pratap, our friend Prashant Pratap, and Prashant's sister Abha.

May Justice Pratap's Soul rest in peace.

ADDRESS BY SHRI KARAN DILIP BHOSALE, VICE-CHAIRMAN, BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA AND GOA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE S.C. PRATAP, ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2012.

My Lords, the Chief Justice and other Judges of this Court, Mr. Darius J. Khambatta, Advocate General of Maharashtra, Mr. Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. M.P. Rao, Secretary of Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Rajiv Patil, President, Advocates Association of Western India, Mr. Jani, Vice-President, Incorporated Law Society, Sr. Advocates, my friends, colleagues and members of the family of late Justice Subhash Chhaganlal Pratap.

We are assembled here to pay tribute to the memory of Justice S.C. Pratap, who passed away on 14th September, 2012. On behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, I associate myself with what has fallen from My Lord the Chief Justice and other speakers.

Justice S.C. Pratap's life journey, as I have learnt, took him from being a sincere student during his college days to an advocate having proliferate practice in civil, criminal and constitutional law to an ardent and admired academician to an equitable Judge and finally a well-recognized arbitrator.

Justice S.C. Pratap was born on 1st July, 1930. Right from an early age, he took keen interest in striving for the welfare of the society and while he was studying at St. Xavier College, Mumbai he started the Social Service League and was also awarded the best student of the year. Having graduated from the Government Law College, Mumbai he joined the chamber of Mr. Dhayabhai Patel. During his practice as an advocate at the Bombay High Court, his unceasing love for academics and his inherent nature of being an educationist drove him to take up part-time lectureship of Constitutional Law at K.C. Law College.

Despite his vast and lucrative practice as an advocate, Justice S.C. Pratap accepted Judgeship at the age of 47 years and was appointed as a Judge of the Bombay High Court in the year 1977. During his tenure as a Judge of the Bombay High Court, he delivered several important and landmark judgments.

In 1991, Justice S.C. Pratap, was appointed as the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court. As the Chief Justice he is known to have had an excellent working relationship with the then Chief Minister as well as Governor of Andhra Pradesh, which eventually helped in many judicial reforms and Lok Adalat. Justice S.C. Pratap retired in 1992 and returned to Mumbai, where he once again took up teaching and was an examiner of thesis of Ph.D. in law at Nagpur University, Marathwada University and Bombay University.

I am sure that it gave him immense pleasure and pride in knowing that three of his juniors were elevated as Judges of the Bombay High Court and one of them is presently the lady Judge at the Supreme Court of India.

The lawyers of my generation, unfortunately, did not have an occasion to observe Justice Pratap as a lawyer or as a Judge. However, from what we have heard about him will definitely keep inspiring us and the generations of lawyers to come. In passing away of Shri Pratap, the legal fraternity has lost a great Judge and guide.

In this hour of grief, on behalf of the State Bar Council and lawyers at large in the State of Maharashtra, I join Your Lordships in offering my condolences to the bereaved family.

May his soul rest in peace.

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ADDRESS BY SHRI M.P. RAO, SECRETARY OF THE BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE S.C. PRATAP, ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2012.

My Lord the Hon'ble the Chief Justice Shri Mohit Shah, Hon'ble Judges of the Bombay High Court, Shri Darius Khambata, Advocate General, Shri Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri Karan Bhosale, Vice-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Shri Rajiv Patil, President, Advocates' Association of Western India and Shri P.A. Jani, Vice-President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society and members of the Bar,

In the sad demise of Justice S.C. Pratap, the Court has lost one amongst the old batch of Judges who adorned this Court and sustained the glory of the Bombay High Court.

One by one over the year we are losing Judges who made this Court what it is today. Justice S.C. Pratap meticulously adhered to the tradition, spirit, the culture and the ethos which has been the hallmark of this Court. An incident he narrated is an example. Upon his elevation as Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, the State Government place 5-6 chairs for the dignitaries viz. The Governor, the Chief Justice, the Chief Minister, the Speaker, etc. On the date of the function, the Chair placed for the Chief Justice was found vacant. Two months later when a Central Minister arrived in Andhra Pradesh, a function was organised in Secunderabad Airport when again the Chair assigned to Justice S.C. Pratap remained vacant. A few days later the Chief Minister of the Andhra Pradesh queried Justice S.C. Pratap why he did not attend functions which senior dignitaries attended. Justice S.C. Pratap informed the Chief Minister that he attends functions which Protocol caused him to attend and this was he learnt from the Bombay High Court. Justice Pratap's Court typified kindness, compassion, soft spokenness and patience which he abundantly showered on junior lawyers.

We missed him in 1991 when he was elevated. We miss him today too.

On behalf of the Bombay Bar Association, I convey our deep and heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family. We pray that his soul rest in peace.

ADDRESS BY SHRI RAJIV PATIL, PRESIDENT OF THE ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE S.C. PRATAP, ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2012.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mr. Mohit Shah, Honourable Judges of the Bombay High Court, Honourable Mr. Darius Khambata, Advocate General of Maharashtra, Honourable Mr. Kevic Setalwad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Karan Bhosle, Vice-Chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Mr. M.P. Rao, Secretary, Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Prakash Jani, Vice-President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Mr. Prashant Pratap, Senior Advocate, Members of Justice Pratap's family, Ladies and Gentleman.

Justice Subhash Chhaganlal Pratap, a humane Judge, a guide of young advocates and a complete gentleman with equity, passed away on 14th September 2012 at the age of 82.

Justice Pratap was an Appellate Side Advocate. An advocate with tremendous work, well known for his draftsmanship of the Appeals and man with unimpeachable character. He was source of confidence. A very active person in the Bar Association. He was elected as Honorary Secretary of AAWI in the year 1962-63 and successfully organized programmes on completion of 100 years of AAWI. He was also a Vice-President of AAWI in the year 1969 to 1971. Though he was active in Bar Association he never overlooked the interest of his client in Court. He was man of few words who believed in action. His contribution to the Bar and the Bench is well known. He gave eminent jurists to legal fraternity. Justice Ajit Shah, Justice Ranjana Desai and Justice P.S. Patankar are from Justice Pratap's Chamber. He was elevated to the Bench on 19th September 1977 and retired as a Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court on 1st July 1992. After his retirement as a Judge he was most sought after Arbitrator in Mumbai. He was associated with Mumbai, Nagpur and Marathwada Universities.

A very versatile man having tremendous working expertise and knowledge of law always encouraged young advocates to develop their professional skills. He was a man with humanity and was concerned about a common litigant approaching the Bombay High Court.

Though I did not seem him as an Advocate, I saw him as a Judge, a complete Judge. I calm face on a dais from 11 am to 4.45 p.m., a Judge who never got disturbed by any act or statement of advocate in Court. It was great experience and encouragement for me when I had a maiden appearance before him in Court No. 34 for arguing my first Second Appeal. It was a winter of 1982. I was pushed in the Court by my father to argue the Second Appeal before the High Court. I was really tensed and bit scared. I had no experience of arguing the Appeals before High Court within few months of my career. At that time I was getting used to request the Court to keep the matter back or to take time for removing objections. All of a sudden I was asked to conduct Appeal for admission and that was a real test for me. I requested my senior Mr. Vilas Kamat to guide me how to appear and argue. Mr. Kamat told me that your best guide is a Judge himself, be ready with the facts and Judge will take care of law. I appeared before Justice Pratap with trembling hands. I was not sure whether my shiver was because of the winter

or because of my first appearance before the Court. Justice Pratap was known for his homework and if he was convinced about the point in his reading he would not even ask the advocate about the matter and would simply admit the matter. I tried to do rehearsals of my arguments. When the matter was called out I just started whatever I rehearsed and it went on for about five minutes. Justice Pratap didn't stop me nor looked at me till I completed my first delivery of arguments. When I got exhausted and stopped he looked at me with a smiling face and told me that you did your best and probably I may grant you some relief in some other matter at some other time. I couldn't understand the meaning of what he said being a novice, but one of the seniors who was sitting next to me asked me to say I am obliged and sit down. Justice Pratap passed an order. In confused state of mind I went to my senior and narrated the entire episode. My Senior also smiled, which was very rare, he said that your appeal is dismissed but it seems that you have got good experience of your first case. I realized that appearance before Justice Pratap gave me a kind of confidence that I can argue the matter before Bombay High Court. Justice Pratap was very great Court for young advocates. He always encouraged young advocate to argue petitions especially writ petitions. If he finds that young advocate is not ready with legal submissions, he used to keep the matter back at 2.45 p.m., made him read the books in Kirtikar Law Library and took the test in afternoon session. Many of us who were from different backgrounds, survived and learnt a lot in the profession because of his encouragement and guidance. Any young advocate coming up with sincere attempt to argue any petition whether maintainable or not was never scolded about his knowledge of law. Myself and my contemporaries took lessons of advocacy in his Court and we have instances after instances to quote. He made us argue good points and submissions and therefore we are indebted to him. Of course the time was different. Litigation and situation too is changed today.

Justice Pratap had a unique nature of understanding of the mind set of litigant and he always persuaded the advocates to find the resolution of dispute.

As my earlier speakers said, Justice Pratap delivered many important and landmark judgments. He conducted very sensitive cases one of which related famous mill workers strike of Mumbai.

After Justice Pratap was elevated as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court the AAWI felicitated him at the Bar Association. Justice Pratap was very happy about his experience as a Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court. In his speech he told us everything about High Court including the fact that the Andhra Pradesh high Court has its own flag. We could feel that we are having the tour of Andhra Pradesh High Court. This showed his closeness to his Bar Association. He wanted to share whatever he knew.

We have lost a great Jurist and human being. On behalf of Advocates Association of Western India, I express gratitude and convey deep condolences to the family.

May his soul rest in peace.

ADDRESS BY SHRI PRIYAHAS A. JANI, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE S.C. PRATAP, ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2012.

My Lord the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Mr. Darius J. Khambatta, the Advocate General, State of Maharashtra, Mr. Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General, Western Region, Mr. Karan D. Bhosale, Vice-Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Mr. M.P. Rao, Secretary of the Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Rajiv Patil, President, the Advocates' Association of Western India, my colleagues at the Bar, family members of Justice S.C. Pratap, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with deep sorrow that I, on behalf of the members of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society, associate myself with the sentiments, which have been expressed here today.

I was fortunate to have appeared in the Court of Justice Pratap. He was extremely polite and courteous to all the Juniors who appeared in his Court. He always encouraged them. He protected them from Seniors appearing against them.

Regardless of race, religion, geographical area or time period, every human has wondered about the one fact of life that unifies us all: What is death?

Throughout history, different mythologies and theologies have explained the nature of death in countless ways, ranging from total annihilation to immediate life after death in the presence of God.

Regardless of a person's particular belief, the fact remains that death is the end of life or at least the life as we know it. Death, dying, and the afterlife are all shrouded in deep mystery, cloaked in darkness and generally surrounded by fear and apprehension. The very idea of death strikes fear into many people's hearts. But it doesn't have to be this way. I respectfully join my Lords and my colleagues in the prayer that the soul of Mr. Justice Subhash Chhaganlal Pratap may rest in eternal peace and his abiding memories may live for long. I extend on behalf of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society condolences to the members of his family.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.