

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE ALOK ARADHE,
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, AT THE
FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE S.
RADHAKRISHNAN, FORMER JUDGE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON
18TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 4.45 P.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL
COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.**

My esteemed colleagues on the Bench,

Dr. Birendra Saraf,
Advocate General for the State of Maharashtra,

Dr. Uday Warunjikar,
Member, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa,

Mr. Nitin Thakker,
President, Bombay Bar Association,

Mr. Prashant Relekar,
President, Advocates' Association of Western India,

Mrs. Ferzana Behramkamdin,
President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society,

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Late Justice Radhakrishnan family,

Members of Registry and staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

.....

We have assembled here to pay tribute to Dr. Justice S. Radhakrishnan, who left us on 28th January, 2025. Late Justice Radhakrishnan completed his early education from erstwhile Madras, now known as Chennai. Thereafter, he secured a Bachelor's degree in Law from Government Law College, Mumbai. He also obtained Master's Degree in Law with a Gold medal and Doctorate in Law from Mumbai University. Late

Justice Radhakrishnan was enrolled as an advocate on 15th October, 1971. He practised in Constitutional, Civil, Labour and Criminal laws. He was designated as a Senior Advocate in December, 1991.

His merit was soon recognised and Dr. Justice Radhakrishnan was elevated as an Additional Judge of Bombay High Court on 15th April, 1996. He became a permanent Judge of this Court on 12th April, 1998 and had a tenure of more than ten years on the Bench. His Lordship was known for his dedication and commitment to rule of Law, respect for human rights and love for nature.

Late Justice Radhakrishnan had a deep passion for teaching and was well-known in academic circles. He taught Constitutional and Administrative Law, Public International Law and Press Laws for many years.

Late Justice Radhakrishnan was also involved in several Committees and Organisations, including National Law University, Jodhpur; Narsee Monji Institute of Management Studies University, Mumbai. After demitting office, late Justice Radhakrishnan served as Chairman of Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal from 2009 to 2014. During his tenure as Chairman of the Administrative Tribunal, the pendency of cases was reduced. His Lordship had also chaired the Committee for suggesting prison reforms and for recommending involvement of law students in providing legal aid to undertrial prisoners. He was known for his calm and compassionate nature and left indelible mark in the fields of law and education.

Late Justice Radhakrishnan is survived by his wife Smt. Rajalaxmi Radhakrishnan, son Vivek and sister Meera.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Bench as well as on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. I pray to the Almighty to give them the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss and to bestow peace to the departed soul.

SPEECH OF DR. BIRENDRA SARAF, ADVOCATE GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE S. RADHAKRISHNAN, FORMER JUDGE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 4.45 P.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

.....

We assemble today to pay tribute to Justice Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, former Judge of this Court. Justice Radhakrishnan became a Judge of this Court in the same year as I joined practice as a lawyer. I had the privilege of appearing before him right from my early days in practice and he was always patient and encouraging. He would always endeavour to keep the Court proceedings stress free. There were always lighter moments in his court when he would chuckle and make a tongue in cheek remark with a twinkle in his eye.

Justice Radhakrishnan was very committed to the cause of education. Prior to becoming a Judge, he taught various subjects to LL. B and LL.M students including Constitutional and Administrative laws, International laws and Press laws. He also sponsored education of poor children whose parents came from humble background and he would personally follow up on their progress. He encouraged his two Stenographers/Personal Assistants who had taken Voluntary Retirement to study law and both of them are now practicing as lawyers.

Justice Radhakrishnan had a very spiritual bent of mind. In fact, he was an ordained disciple in Hare Krishna Movement and his diksha name was `Radha Ras Bihari Das'. Subsequently, he returned back to a life of a regular householder but his interest in spirituality continued and he was a voracious reader of many books on religion and spirituality. He brought his spirituality which teaches compassion to his decision making.

His Ph.D. was on the subject of Human Rights which was close to his heart and he was very sensitive towards the rights of the marginalized sections of the society. As a Judge, he always took an equitable and a very compassionate approach towards the cause of the disadvantageous section of the society. This approach of his, led him in being appointed to head a committee to recommend prison reforms and steps for modernization of prisons. The report prepared by him laid special emphasis on prioritizing health of prisoners and permitting them to meet their children. He made recommendations to avoid crowding and for provision of better facilities based on the Model Prison Manual. As the Head of the Panel, he got law students to visit the prisons to encourage them to provide legal aid to the less fortunate.

Even in his personal life, he was fierce defender of human rights. During the Bombay riots, he kept one of his juniors who were feeling scared and unsecure with him throughout the critical period. The junior later said that his faith in humanity was restored. Just before he passed away, Justice Radhakrishnan donated a big amount to the cause of cancer research.

In the passing away of Justice Radhakrishnan, we have lost not just a kind and compassionate Judge but a great human being. I join the Hon'ble Chief Justice and on behalf of the State of Maharashtra and the entire body of lawyers, I convey our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Radhakrishnan and the entire family.

May his soul rests in eternal peace.

SPEECH OF DR. UDAY P. WARUNJIKAR, MEMBER, BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA & GOA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE S. RADHAKRISHNAN, FORMER JUDGE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 4.45 P.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

.....

I fully associate myself with the feelings expressed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and the Advocate General. On behalf of all lawyers registered in the State of Maharashtra, State of Goa as well as Union Territory of Dadra Nagar, Haveli, Daman and Diu, I offer our deepest condolences to the family members of late Justice Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was a member of a Bombay Bar who was known for his academic excellence. Justice Radhakrishnan was topper in the LLM. Later on, he was associated with the New Law College and for a period of around 11 years, he was teaching the students of Law. Not only that, he was one of the popular Professors in the Bombay University so far as the LL.M. course was concerned. Justice Radhakrishnan joined practice on 15.10.1971. He was designated as a Senior Lawyer by the Bombay High Court in the year 1991. Very soon in 1996, he was elevated as a Judge of our Court. Justice Radhakrishnan got a tenure of around 12 years as a Judge of our Court.

I feel myself very fortunate that I had appeared before Justice Radhakrishnan. He was known as one of the Judges who followed the principles of equity. He had encouraged large number of Junior Lawyers. In his unique style, he used to encourage young juniors. In soft-spoken words and in the typical Bombay style, Justice Radhakrishnan used to deliver his orders in his Court.

After attending the age of superannuation, Justice Radhakrishnan was appointed as President of Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal established under the provisions of Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985. For a period of five years, he was Chairman of Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal.

I feel myself as one of the fortunate lawyers who argued a matter for a Petitioner about the jail reforms and the State of Maharashtra accordingly appointed Dr. Radhakrishnan as a Chairperson of the committee for the prison reforms. In 2017, Justice Radhakrishnan submitted a report and today, the implementation and supervision about different aspects of that

report is going on. In the year 2020, Justice Radhakrishnan was further appointed as a Member of a Committee with reference to the Punjab Maharashtra Cooperative Bank assets distribution.

I feel myself very fortunate that he had shared certain tips for my books which were in pipeline at that point of time. Justice Radhakrishnan was known as an expert in the field of Constitution as well as Administrative Law.

In his demise, we have lost a scholarly Judge of our Court, who was known for his unwavering commitment for justice.

On behalf of Chairman, Vice Chairman, BCI Members, and all other elected members of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, I offer our deepest condolences to the family members of late Justice Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

Let the soul rest in peace.

Om Shanti !!! Shanti !!! Shanti !!!

SPEECH OF SHRI NITIN THAKKER, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE S. RADHAKRISHNAN, FORMER JUDGE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 4.45 P.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

.....

We have gathered today to pay tributes to our former Judge Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

I fully associate myself with what is said by my Lord the Chief Justice and my previous speakers.

I propose to remember that side of Justice Radhakrishnan's life which is known to a very few people. His humility, his love for green spaces, nature and his spirituality and his generosity.

My learned friend Dr. Saraf has mentioned about his spirituality. Let me elaborate a little further.

In his young age, while he was at bar, he was under the influence of ideology of ISKON. He would keep Shikha and seek alms. He believed that if he deviates from the path of righteousness, the Lord would hold his Shikha and bring him to the right path. Seeking Alms was to inculcate humbleness. Later on, he removed Shikha and stopped seeking alms but he did not leave the path of righteousness and was always humble. It reflected in his treatment of juniors and seniors in his court. All were treated alike. On the contrary, the Juniors were encouraged to argue without fear in his court. A very competent junior was appearing in his court and his father, a very respected senior advocate, would go to his court and would assist the junior. Justice Radhakrishnan very politely told the senior that the junior was extremely competent and he should trust him and the judge - who would take care of him.

His Junior Shri Rui Rodrigues recounts that Justice Radhakrishnan was very clear about his ethics. Justice Radhakrishnan on his elevation told his junior that he should not appear in his court. Justice B. P. Sinha was the Chief Justice and he was presiding over a bench before which Shri Rodrigues argued a matter for 4 days. While the matter remained part heard, the bench changed and Justice Radhakrishnan joined the bench. Chief Justice knew that his Bench will not be able to take up the matter so he called Shri Rodrigues and told him that he would persuade Justice Radhakrishnan to allow you to appear in the matter as an exception and he should not return the brief. The Hon'ble Chief Justice spoke to Justice Radhakrishnan who remained firm that if he appears, the matter will have to be

removed from the board. The matter proceeded with another counsel appearing in the matter.

Justice Radhakrishnan believed in meditation and 'jap' as he believed this created inner strength and helped him maintain balanced mind and calmness in court while doing stressful work for the whole day. He would occasionally request High Court Doctor to check his Blood Pressure in evening after a very stressful day and would feel happy that it would remain normal. He credited meditation and jap for his calmness and equilibrium.

During Justice Radhakrishnan's 11 months tenure as a Visiting Judge at Nagpur Bench, he enrolled for the Gardeners Course conducted by the reputed NAGPUR GARDEN CLUB. His Lordship did not reveal his identity to the club as his co - trainees were Gardeners.

Subsequently at the conclusion of the course, at the certificates distribution event, a well-known Organic Farmer-Late [Krishi Mitra] MANOHAR BHAU PARCHURE, who was incidentally also a Lawyer spotted him amongst the Gardeners and was taken aback!!

He invited the Judge to be on the dais. But true to his nature, Justice Radhakrishnan politely declined the request & said that he would want to be seated with his co-trainees & receive the course completion certificate during his turn to receive it. His humbleness came to the fore. The Judge utilised his gardening knowledge to beautify the High Court complex at Nagpur through gardens and also made an excellent kitchen garden at the Judge's bungalow at Nagpur growing organic stuff, which he would distribute to his Colleague Judges. He also encouraged them to cultivate such kitchen gardens and promoted organic farming. He always saw and felt life in plants

and said we must touch them, feel them and speak to them. This comes with spiritual strait of mind.

He was on the Governing Council of Kaivalyadham. I was fortunate to share the meeting room with him when I joined the Governing Council last year. He was regularly visiting the institution and providing his valuable guidance. A few months ago, he stayed there for a week to practice yoga. He was expressing his desire to stay there longer.

Such a spiritual person's soul, I am sure, will achieve eternal peace.

On behalf of myself and all members of Bombay Bar Association, I join Your Lordship in conveying our heartfelt condolences to his wife and son and other family members.

Om shanti

SPEECH OF SHRI PRASHANT A. RELEKAR, PRESIDENT, ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE S. RADHAKRISHNAN, FORMER JUDGE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 4.45 P.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

.....

It is with profound sorrow that we gather here today to mourn the passing of Justice Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, a stalwart of the judiciary, whose contributions to the legal fraternity shall forever remain invaluable.

Justice Radhakrishnan enrolled as an advocate in 1971, and quickly rose to prominence in the Bombay High Court, excelling in constitutional, civil, labour, criminal, company and administrative law set him apart, earning him the distinction of

Senior Advocate in December, 1991. His Lordship's legal acumen was complemented by his exceptional academic achievements, having stood first in LL.M. at Mumbai University – a testament to his intellectual brilliance. As a Judge, His Lordship exemplified the highest ideals of fairness, integrity, and judicial propriety. His judgments were marked by profound legal insight, careful reasoning, and a firm commitment to justice. His Lordship's tenure was defined by a deep sense of responsibility towards the rule of law.

Justice Radhakrishnan's courtroom was a place of wisdom, patience and fairness. Justice Radhakrishnan was also a great mentor. He believed in encouraging young lawyers, ensuring that juniors had the opportunity to argue their cases. If he saw promise in a young advocate, he let them present their case fully. If he felt, they needed guidance, he would gently ask them to return with their senior the next date. This simple but meaningful gesture helped shape the confidence and morale of many young lawyers, a legacy that will live on in the Bar for years to come.

Once the then Senior Lawyer late Mr. V. T. Walawalkar remarked, "The test of a good Judge is how pleasant and comfortable the Lawyers feel in appearing before that Court, whatever be the outcome of the case! He further added that Justice Radhakrishnan fulfilled that test 100%".

His Lordship's Court was known to deliver Justice tempered with mercy!

The bar also expects the same from the Judges.

Justice Radhakrishnan was known to be protective towards the Juniors and would not allow the Senior Members of the Bar

on the opposite side, to ride roughshod over the Juniors. Our Association sincerely expects such an exemplary approach towards the juniors by the present Judges as it goes a long way in building confidence in an upcoming junior.

Beyond his judicial excellence, Justice Radhakrishnan was known for his humility, compassion, and sense of duty. His passing is not just a loss to the legal fraternity but also to the ideals of justice that he so steadfastly upheld.

As we bid farewell to this legal luminary, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. His Lordship's legacy will continue to inspire generations of legal professionals and serve as a guiding light for those who seek to uphold the rule of law.

May his soul rests in eternal peace.

Thank you

SPEECH OF MRS. FERZANA BEHRAMKAMDIN, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE S. RADHAKRISHNAN, FORMER JUDGE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 4.45 P.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

.....

I associate myself with all that has been stated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and my co-speakers with regard to Justice Radhakrishnan.

Justice Radhakrishnan started his practice as an Advocate in 1971 and was designated as a Senior Counsel in 1991. He practised constitutional, civil, labour and criminal law matters. He was the standing Counsel for Bombay University and

appeared in several important matters. He was elevated to the bench in 1996 and retired in December, 2008. Amongst the various judgments that he delivered in his judicial career spanning 12 years, one of the landmark judgments he delivered was in the Textile Mill Lands' case where he determined that the mill owner's share in the mill lands would be restricted to 1/3rd whilst MHADA and BMC would get the balance 2/3rd of the lands for housing poor and providing amenities.

He was also a dedicated academic and actively promoted legal education. For several years, he taught Constitution and Administrative Law to LL.B. Students and Public International Law to LL.M. Students and Press Laws. He completed his Doctorate in Human Rights when he was a sitting Judge of this Hon'ble Court. After his retirement, Justice Radhakrishnan served as a Chairperson of the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal from 2009 to 2014.

In January, 2018, he was appointed as Chief of the Panel to look into prison reforms. He decided to bring in law students to visit prisons and provide for legal aid to the less fortunate. His work in prison reforms was directed towards reducing overcrowding in jails and improving the health conditions of inmates.

I had the privilege of interacting with Justice Radhakrishnan not only when he was a Counsel but also of appearing before him when he was a Judge of this Hon'ble Court and after his retirement, appearing before him when he was appointed as an Arbitrator in my matters. It is his smile, affable nature and the twinkle in his eyes which I will always recollect whenever I think of him. He was humble, always approachable,

friendly, kind hearted and helpful to all, who sought his assistance especially to juniors at the bar.

Justice Radhakrishnan leaves behind a void and will be missed by all of us at the bar, but his legacy will live on.

On behalf of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society and myself, I extend my heartfelt condolences to all the members of Justice Radhakrishnan's family and pray that his soul rests in eternal peace.
