

**ADDRESS BY HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE D.K. UPADHYAYA,  
CHIEF JUSTICE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT, AT THE FULL  
COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE  
MADHAV SAKHARAM RANE, FORMER JUDGE OF THE  
BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 10  
AM, IN CENTRAL COURT HALL (ROOM NO.46), MAIN  
BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.**

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**My esteemed Sister and Brother Judges,**

**Dr. Birendra Saraf,  
Advocate General of Maharashtra;**

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

**Shri Nitin Thakker,  
President, Bombay Bar Association;**

**Shri Sanjeev Kadam,  
President, Advocates' Association of Western India;**

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

**Learned Senior Advocates and other members of the  
Bar,**

**Bereaved Members of Rane family,**

**Members of the Registry and the staff,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

We have assembled here this morning to pay homage to late Justice Madhav Sakharam Rane, a distinguished former Judge of the Bombay High Court, who departed for his heavenly abode on January 6, 2024 at the age of 86 years at his Mumbai residence.

Death is an inevitable part of life cycle and is the ultimate reality but the intellectual vibes and profound memories of the departed soul continue to resonate around us. With the demise of His Lordship late Justice M.S. Rane, we mourn the loss of a highly intelligent and genius Judge and a great person. Yet, his legal acumen continues to reverberate within the framework of our judicial system, leaving an indelible mark that endures beyond his physical presence.

Late Justice M.S. Rane was born on November 22, 1937 in a humble family in a small village of Konkan Region in District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. Having lost his father at a very young age, His Lordship came to Mumbai in late 1950. After completing his schooling from a school at Girgaon, His Lordship pursued his Graduation in Law from Siddharth Law College at Fort.

I have learnt that in the early years, as a young village boy, life in Bombay posed formidable challenges for His Lordship. During that period, His Lordship was actively engaged with the Maharashtra Mukti Sangram. He began his career by undertaking clerical duties in nearby offices and later joined his maternal uncle, Advocate R.L. Belosay.

Late Justice M.S. Rane was enrolled as an advocate on February 12, 1965 and practised mostly in civil matters in various Courts at Mumbai including the High Court, City Civil & Sessions Court, Metropolitan Magistrates' Courts, Small Causes Court, Co-operative Courts, Revenue Tribunals and various other District Courts in Maharashtra.

His Lordship was appointed as a Judge of City Civil & Sessions Court, Greater Bombay, on December 5, 1977 and after serving in various capacities, was promoted as Principal Judge of the Bombay City Civil and Sessions Court on April 1, 1990.

While serving as a Special Judge, His Lordship was assigned the responsibility of heading a Commission of Inquiry into the incident of 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1987 viz. storming of a Police Lock-up at Jacob Circle, Mumbai, resulting into the death of the dreaded gang leader from central Bombay, Babu Gopal Reshim, who was lodged in the police lock-up. The said task was successfully completed by His Lordship by conducting due investigation into the incident and submitting his report to the Government.

On November 9, 1992, His Lordship was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court and confirmed as a permanent Judge on January 14, 1994. His Lordship demitted office on superannuation, on November 11, 1999.

His Lordship had a profound understanding of Constitutional, civil and criminal laws and due to his vast legal expertise, while being a Judge of this Court, His Lordship was appointed as a Judge of the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992 on February 11, 1997, where he continued as such, till his retirement on November 21, 1999. During this period, apart from handling the regular matters of the High Court, His Lordship had also tried and disposed of various criminal matters pertaining to the Special Court and notably, concluded three criminal trials prosecuted by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

As a Judge of the Bombay High Court, His Lordship authored numerous landmark judgments addressing legal intricacies arising out of interpretation of various enactments. Many of these judgments continue to remain relevant and influential in the legal landscape even today.

I did not have any occasion to interact with His Lordship personally but I have gathered that His Lordship was a very distinguished Judge of this Court, who commanded respect from both the Bar as well as the Bench. His Lordship, throughout his legal career, was known and admired for his cool and calm temperament. His Lordship was an amiable, firm and disciplined Judge, hearing all parties with commendable patience and earned respect and reputation in the legal fraternity. He was a great human being and pure soul.

Post-retirement, His Lordship was appointed as the President of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, where he continued till 2004. At the time when His Lordship took charge, the State Commission was facing numerous challenges, including concerns about the inadequacy of its premises, pendency, etc. His Lordship, employing a tactful and resolute approach, effectively addressed these issues in coordination with all stakeholders at the State Commission. His Lordship had extensively travelled across the State of Maharashtra and instilled a sense of courage and confidence in each of the Consumer Fora at District level.

Beyond legal pursuits, His Lordship was a passionate reader with keen interest in Marathi plays, classical songs, and old Hindi movies. His Lordship took delight in the simplicity of popular actors like Bhagwan and Johny Walker. Sudhir Phadke's music "*Geet Ramayan*" held a special place in his heart as his favorite musical choice. His Lordship harbored a deep affection for his native Konkan, showcasing a profound love for his roots.

Unfortunately, His Lordship suffered from Parkinson and Dementia since 2019 and was undergoing treatment. I am informed that in April, 2023, when he was asked by his neurologist to speak any few lines completely, His Lordship uttered, with ease, the famous quote of Lokmanya Balgangadhara Tilak, that is inscribed on the plaque just outside this grand Court Room, which reads—

*"There are higher powers that rule the destiny of things and it may be the will of Providence that the cause I represent may prosper more by my suffering than my remaining free."*

Such was the devotion and conviction of His Lordship towards the legal field that even in such a state of medical condition, he could easily utter those lines with great ease and precision.

His Lordship is survived by his wife, Nilima Madhav Rane; his son, Milind Madhav Rane, an I.T. professional and two daughters, namely, Ms. Manjiri Thakoor, an Author and Research Scholar, currently serving as an Adjunct Faculty at Mumbai University and Advocate Anjali Thakoor, who practises criminal law at the Bombay High Court. His Lordship had a

fully contented life as everything was well settled and was extremely happy with the progress of all his family members.

I hope and trust that His Lordship's family members will faithfully carry forward the legacy of His Lordship with pride and in fond remembrance of His Lordship's principles of dedication, hard work and sincerity.

On behalf of my sister and brother Judges and on my personal behalf, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved Rane family and pray to Almighty to bestow peace upon the departed soul.

May the departed soul rest in eternal peace!

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!!!

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**ADDRESS BY DR. BIRENDRA SARAF, ADVOCATE GENERAL OF MAHARASHTRA AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE MADHAV SAKHARAM RANE, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 10 A.M., IN CENTRAL COURT HALL (ROOM NO.46), MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.**

**The Hon'ble the Chief Justice**

**Hon'ble Judges of this Court,**

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

**Shri Nitin Thakker,  
President, Bombay Bar Association;**

**Shri Sanjeev Kadam,  
President, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

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

**Learned Senior Advocates and other members of the  
Bar,**

**Bereaved Members of Rane family,**

**Members of the Registry and the staff,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

I speak today also on behalf of the Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Devang Vyas, who could not remain present today. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my Lord, the Chief Justice.

Born in Natu Nagar, a small village in Konkan, in a middle-class family of farmers, Justice Rane lost his father when he was only five years old. He was brought up by his maternal uncle Advocate R. L. Belosay in Mumbai. His family remembered him as a quiet child who would often enjoy sitting in a temple listening to chantings or reading books. I think it is this calmness which he imbibed in himself from his childhood which he carried with him while discharging his role as Judge.

Justice Rane's life was one dedicated and committed to the dispensation of justice. Within 12 years of his enrolment as a lawyer, he started his journey as a Judge of the Bombay City Civil and Sessions Court and from then on, he relentlessly served the cause of justice delivery in different capacities for nearly two decades. However, his commitment to the cause of justice was indefatigable. After retirement, he took over as the Chairman of the State Consumer Redressal Commission where he took up the cause of improvement of the infrastructure of the Consumer Court leading to the Supreme Court taking cognizance of his complaints. His endeavours brought about much needed improvements in the infrastructure of the Consumer Commission. Even thereafter, he continued as a sought-after arbitrator.

I appeared before Justice Rane in the first three years of my practice. My recollection of him is that of a very kind and patient Judge. We juniors may have ourselves been unsure about what we were arguing, but he patiently heard us. At times, he helped the juniors by guiding them on what they should look up further including judgments and adjourn the

matters to enable them to come better prepared. I never recollect Justice Rane being angry or upset in Court. His calm and relaxed demeanour in Court set the tone and avoided unnecessary heated arguments between the lawyers also.

I also had the privilege of knowing Justice Rane on a personal level. His unassuming and pleasant personality was always an example to emulate. In Justice Rane, we have lost not just a very just, courteous and conscientious judge, but also a great human being.

On behalf of the Union of India, the State of Maharashtra and all my fellow lawyers, I express my heartfelt condolences to the family of Justice Rane and pray his soul rests in eternal peace.

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**ADDRESS BY DR. UDAY WARUNJIKAR, MEMBER, BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA & GOA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE MADHAV SAKHARAM RANE, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 10 A.M., IN CENTRAL COURT HALL (ROOM NO.46), MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.**

**The Hon'ble the Chief Justice,**

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Advocate General of Maharashtra;**

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President, Bombay Bar Association;**

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President, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

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President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society;**

**Learned Senior Advocates and other members of the  
Bar,**

**Bereaved Members of Rane family,**

**Members of the Registry and the staff,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

On behalf of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa representing around 2,40,000 lawyers in the States of Maharashtra and Goa, I fully associate myself with the feeling expressed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and the earlier speakers.

In my individual capacity, I am fortunate that I got an opportunity to appear before Justice Madhav S. Rane, when

he was a judge of our High Court. Not only that when Justice Rane joined as the President of the Maharashtra State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, I had the opportunity to appear before him for several matters before him.

Justice Rane was a son of the soil, who completed his education; joined the profession and started practice in the City Civil and Sessions Court at Bombay. In 1977, he became a judge of the City Civil Court. Later on, he was promoted as a Principal Judge of the City Civil Court, Bombay. Several senior advocates have informed that Justice Rane was known as a popular judge on the civil as well as criminal side in the City Civil and Sessions Court. Our former Vice Chairman Sudeep Pasbola has informed me that after a month of the unfortunate incident of Jacob Circle case, Justice Rane submitted a comprehensive report running into several pages, which led to reforms with reference to the prisoners and the police stations.

Justice Rane had a tenure of around seven years as a judge of our High Court. He was additionally looking after the Special Court matters relating to securities scam involving Harshad Mehta and other notified parties, and the orders, which were passed by Justice Rane gave a confidence to a common investor in the share market. He was a member of the Full Bench also, which had decided the issue framed with reference to Preventive Detention. After attaining the age of superannuation, Justice Rane was appointed as the President of the Maharashtra State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. Those were the days when consumerism was in its initial stages. Justice Rane took active interest in the

administration also and set the pattern for filing of cases before the Consumer Fora and the Consumer Commission. The judgments delivered by Justice Rane in the capacity as the President of the Consumer Commission are relied and referred to even outside the State of Maharashtra.

Justice Rane is survived by his wife, two daughters and son. His one of the daughters is active in the practice and she is a member of local Bar Association of which I am incidentally, the President, namely, Consumer Courts Advocates Association, Maharashtra. His son is practicing at Singapore as a Medical Professional and another daughter is in Mumbai.

Let God give enough strength to his family to sustain the loss.

On account of demise of Justice Shri. Madhav S. Rane, we have lost a disciplined, hardworking, sincere and upright Judicial Officer, who had shaped the Consumer movement in the States of Maharashtra & Goa. Let his soul Rest in Peace.

I myself alongwith Chairman, Vice Chairman and all elected Members of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa and Member-Bar Council of India and on behalf of 2,40,000 Lawyers from the States of Maharashtra & Goa express our deepest condolence to the family members of late Hon'ble Justice Shri. Madhav S. Rane.

OM SHANTI!!

OM SHANTI!!

OM SHANTI!!

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**ADDRESS BY SHRI NITIN THAKKER, PRESIDENT,  
BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION, AT THE FULL COURT  
REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE MADHAV  
SAKHARAM RANE, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY  
HIGH COURT, ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 10 A.M., IN  
CENTRAL COURT HALL (ROOM NO.46), MAIN BUILDING,  
HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.**

**The Hon'ble the Chief Justice**

**Hon'ble Judges of this Court,**

**Dr. Birendra Saraf,  
Advocate General of Maharashtra;**

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

**Shri Sanjeev Kadam,  
President, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

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

**Learned Senior Advocates and other members of the  
Bar,**

**Bereaved Members of Rane family,**

**Members of the Registry and the staff,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

We have gathered today to remember and honour the life and legacy of a humane and a compassionate soul - Justice Madhav Sakharam Rane. I associate myself with the tributes paid by the learned Chief Justice and my previous speakers. Justice Rane began his journey in the legal profession on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1965, when he was enrolled as an Advocate. But he was destined to be a judge because to do justice was his motto. He was calm and soft

spoken but firm while on the Bench. He believed in 4Ds i.e., Discipline, Dedication, Devotion and Determination. These 4Ds helped him traverse his judicial journey without any hiccups. Whether dealing with Harshad Mehta case and other notified persons' matters in Special Court or Jacob Circle Lock up matter, he was calm and disposed off the cases efficiently. In the courtroom, Justice Rane was known for his sharp legal acumen, unyielding commitment to justice, and a compassionate heart that understood the human element within each case.

Justice Rane always encouraged juniors and accommodated them. Whatever he experienced in early days of his practice, he put it in practice as a judge. In his formative years, he got a matter in Small Causes Court at the eleventh hour. Still, he handled the matter with brilliance. At the end of the trial, the Judge complimented the then young Rane and the seniors who observed his performance in the court also appreciated. That gave him confidence. He passed on the lessons he learnt by instilling confidence in juniors appearing before him.

Whenever His Lordship presided over on Original Side, we experienced him putting in practice the 4Ds. He was excellent in conducting trials. However, Justice Rane's commitment to justice did not end with his retirement. He continued to contribute to the legal fraternity as the President of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, where he carried his sense of doing justice. After that, he acted as arbitrator.

Beyond the courtroom, Justice Rane was a mentor and guide, sharing knowledge generously with aspiring legal minds. In his passing away, we have lost a noble soul. In this hour of grief, our hearts reach out to the bereaved family members and we express our solidarity with them.

On behalf of myself and all the members of Bombay Bar Association, we extend our heartfelt condolences.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!!!

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**ADDRESS BY SHRI SANJEEV KADAM, PRESIDENT, ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA, IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE MADHAV SAKHARAM RANE, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 10 A.M., IN CENTRAL COURT HALL (ROOM NO.46), MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.**

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Bar,**

**Bereaved Members of Rane family,**

**Members of the Registry and the staff,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Justice Madhav Sakharam Rane was born on November 22, 1937. Did his school education at village in Konkan and then, Girgaum, Mumbai at his uncle's place. He completed his law from Siddharth College of Law, Mumbai. He was enrolled as an advocate on February 12, 1965 and practiced in Civil and Criminal matters. He was appointed as a Judge of the Bombay City Civil and Sessions Court on December 5, 1977. On April 1, 1990, he was promoted as the Principal Judge of

the Bombay City Civil and Sessions Court. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on November 9, 1992 and as a Permanent Judge on January 14, 1994. His Lordship retired on November 11, 1999.

Thereafter, His Lordship was appointed as the Chairman of the State Consumer Redressal Forum, Mumbai. His Lordship lost his father when he was five years' old and he grew up as very lonely child. In the small village of Konkan where he was born, the school teachers looking at his talents and sincerity and hard work, helped him in his education.

For further education, His Lordship's maternal uncle brought him to Girgaum, Mumbai, when he completed his graduation from Elphinstone College and LL.B. from Siddharth Law College. As a young boy, he also worked as a Clerk at various offices for his living.

In his early years as a struggling lawyer, he believed in helping the poor and needy, even when his pocket would show no sign of compatibility. He also stood for them for justice.

City Civil and Sessions Court Judge, thereafter the Principal Judge of the same court, then High Court and lastly, President of Maharashtra Consumer State Commission was his journey of delivering justice for almost 28 years. I was fortunate to appear before him in Sessions Court, High Court and then in Consumer State Commission.

He was honest to the core and worked for the welfare of all without discrimination. He was very gentle and affable

Judge, very junior-friendly. He was just, equitable and above all, a humanitarian. He delivered justice with kindness and compassion.

Justice Rane left for his heavenly abode on January 6, 2024.

On behalf of Advocates' Association of Western India, myself and members of the Bar, I offer my heartfelt condolence on his demise, to his family and my colleague Mrs. Anjali Thakoor.

May his soul rest in peace.

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**ADDRESS BY MRS. FERZANA BEHRAMKAMDIN,  
PRESIDENT, BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY,  
IN MEMORY OF LATE JUSTICE MADHAV SAKHARAM  
RANE, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT,  
ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 10 A.M., IN CENTRAL  
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Bar,**

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**Members of the Registry and the staff,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Justice Madhav Sakharam Rane was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1937. He was enrolled as an Advocate on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1965. He was appointed as a Judge of the Bombay City Civil and Sessions Court on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1977. He was promoted as the Principal Judge of the Bombay City Civil and Sessions Court on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1990.

He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1992 and as a permanent Judge on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1994. He was appointed as a Judge of the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transaction in Securities) Act, 1992 on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1997. He retired on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1999. After retirement, Justice Rane was appointed as the President of the Maharashtra State Consumer Forum.

I reiterate all the sentiments expressed by my learned friends.

Justice Rane will always be remembered as a calm and polite Judge, who patiently listened to all the Advocates regardless of whether they being seniors or juniors. He was always encouraging and supportive.

In fact, I had the opportunity of appearing before him on several occasions both for ad-interim and interim reliefs. Appearing before him was always free of stress. I distinctly remember that one of the first cross-examinations I conducted, was in his court. I didn't have any prior experience in doing so. Justice Rane was not only very supportive but also guided me through it, correcting the mistakes that I made. It is an experience that I will not forget.

On behalf of The Bombay Incorporated Law Society, I extend my deepest condolences to Justice Rane's family and pray that his soul rests in eternal peace.

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