

**ADDRESS BY HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE MOHIT S. SHAH,  
CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT  
BOMBAY AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE  
SHRI JUSTICE DEVIDATTA MANGESH REGE, FORMER  
JUDGE OF THIS HIGH COURT, ON TUESDAY 13 AUGUST  
2013 IN CENTRAL COURT HALL.**

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Mr. D.J. Khambata, Advocate General, Mr. Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Rohit Kapadia, President, Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Rajiv Chavan, President, Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. D.R.Zaiwala, President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Mr. Anil Singh, Member, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, Senior Advocates, Members of the Bar, Members of the bereaved family and Ladies and Gentlemen

We have assembled here this morning to mourn the sad demise of late Shri Justice Devidatta Mangesh Rege, former Judge of this Court, who left for his heavenly abode on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Mumbai at the age of 90 years.

Justice Rege was born on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1923. He completed his school education from Cambay High School, graduated from Elphinstone College and education in Law from Government Law College, Mumbai.

After obtaining Degree in Law, he was enrolled as an Advocate on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1945 in this High Court. He practised on the criminal as well as civil side. After practising at the Bombay High Court for about 20 years, Justice Rege joined the judicial service as Judge of the Bombay City Civil & Sessions Court on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1965, Additional Principal Judge on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1969 and the Principal Judge on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1970. Justice Rege was elevated as an additional Judge of this Court on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1972 and was made permanent Judge on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1974. He retired on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1985.

As an Advocate he was meticulous, painstaking and well conversant with the factual and legal aspects. By sheer dint of hard work and industry, he earned good reputation and acquired large practice.

During his tenure as a Judge of this Court, with his industry and legal attainment, Justice Rege earned the goodwill of the members of the Bar and the Bench.

Justice Rege was highly respected by the Bar and the Bench for his amiable nature. Mr. Taraporwala, Advocate and contemporary of Justice Rege has told that one of his distinct greatest quality was his amiable nature.

Justice Rege was the first Judge to sit at Goa in 1982 after establishment of the High Court. Justice Rege earned so much of respect and admiration from the people and the Bar of the High Court of Bombay at Goa that there was a request for Reference at Panaji, after 30 years of his sitting in Goa. In fact, the Full Court reference is given to Justice Rege in deference to the sentiments of the Goa Bar and the suggestion of the Advocate General.

While sitting at the Bench, Justice Rege delivered a number of important judgments, which have been reported in the Law Reports, including under -

- i. The Constitution of India
- ii. Arbitration Act, 1940
- iii. Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
- iv. Fatal Accidents Act, 1855
- v. Conservation of Foreign Exchange & Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974
- vi. Bombay Rents, Hotel & Lodging House Rates Control Act, 1947
- vii. Presidency Small Causes Act, 1882
- viii. Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, 1909
- ix. Customs Tariff Schedule

After his retirement, Justice Rege led an active and healthy life. He functioned as President of All India Institute of Local Self Government from 1985 to 1990. Justice Rege kept himself busy and utilized his knowledge and experience by doing arbitration work.

It was in 2011 that the health of Justice Rege started deteriorating. He had a sudden fall in the house due to Alzheimer's disease and sustained head injury and was bed-ridden thereafter.

Let us, therefore, pay our respectful homage to the departed soul and pray that his soul may rest in peace.

After a long and distinguished career, he has now passed into history. Our sympathies go out to the members of his family on this sad occasion. He will always be remembered with affection by all who knew him.

In this hour of grief, on behalf of my esteemed colleagues, on my own behalf and on behalf of all of you assembled here, I convey our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and in particular to his wife Dr. (Mrs.) Lalita Rege, son Mr. Sunil Rege and daughter Ms. Janaki Rege Catanzarite, who is an advocate settled in USA. May the Almighty give them strength to bear this great loss.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI D.J. KHAMBATA, ADVOCATE GENERAL, AT  
THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE D.M. REGE, ON  
13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2013.**

My Lord the Hon'ble the Chief Justice Shri Mohit Shah, Hon'ble Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Shri Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri R.A. Kapadia, President, Bombay Bar Association, Shri Rajiv Chavan, President, Advocates' Association of Western India, Shri D.R. Zaiwalla, President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Smt. Rege and members of Justice Rege's family and members of the Bar,

I associate myself with all that the Hon'ble Chief Justice has said of Justice D.M.Rege.

Justice D.M. Rege's Court was a Court of justice. A justice that was not outside or despite the law but within the law. Nor was it a Court which mechanically applied the law ignoring the justice of the case. He dispensed justice within the law - a most difficult goal to achieve and that is what made Justice Rege one of the great judges that this Court has known.

Justice Rege was a judge who wore his conviction of liberalism on his sleeve, well before that had become fashionable. At the time that he sat the trend of Courts tended towards the socialist and Justice Rege stood out as a shining exception. Populism was never his calling.

Justice Rege started his practice in the Chambers of the last English barrister to practice before this Hon'ble Court, F.J.Coltman, as junior to his uncle Shri Y.B.Rege who was in large and accomplished practice at the time. He absorbed and carried with him for the rest of his life, the courtesies and humour that are a daily part of life in traditional Chambers. He never lost that something of an advocate in him and would from the Bench often try to persuade Counsel to his point of view – not always with success.

His mark on the records of this Hon'ble Court is diverse and permanent. From a masterly exposition (speaking for a Full Bench) on the law of maintenance, to judgments under the Arbitration Act 1940 to the procedural intricacies of the CPC, to the jurisdiction of the Insolvency Court and its right to decide questions of title, to one of the leading judgments under the Maharashtra Ownership Flats Act, to judgments on sales tax, and income tax, Justice Rege has left his indelible imprint on the annals of this Hon'ble Court.

But that is not all. So many remember his contribution even as a member of a Bench although he did not finally write the judgment. Two cases stand out.

The first was the Trisure case (1983) 54 Company Cases 197 where he was a member of a Division Bench that gave the leading judgment on the duties and liabilities of a Director under the Companies Act 1956, and the degree of skill, diligence and care required of them. Those who appeared in that matter remember the gentle but firm persuasion of Justice Rege in steering the Bench to its final conclusion and his deep appreciation of the underlying principles of corporate law.

The second was the famous Escorts case (1985) 57 Company Cases 241 where too as member of a Division Bench he granted reliefs in a Writ Petition filed by Escorts against public financial institutions subjecting their right as shareholders to the then still nascent doctrine of reasonableness. It was in many ways a path breaking judgment and again one to which Justice Rege contributed in the fullest measure. That the Supreme Court ultimately reversed this decision to my mind does not in any manner detract from its intrinsic worth as a great judgment and that is a view shared by many not least of all the great H.M. Seervai.

In the early 1980s Justice Rege also formed a formidable Income Tax bench sitting with Justice S.K.Desai.

Justice Rege did not fade away after his retirement as a Judge. Some would even say that he found his *métier* after retirement. He above all truly evolved the notion of a retired Judge arbitrator. Immediately after retirement, Justice Rege became the arbitrator of choice for most and he soon established a huge arbitration practice that to my mind has to this day not been matched. Justice Rege's name became synonymous with commercial arbitration in India. There was scarcely an important matter in which Justice Rege was not either Sole Arbitrator or part of the Tribunal.

Justice Rege revealed all those golden qualities of head and heart, of justice tempered with mercy and of a subtle appreciation of the principles of commercial law and evidence.

As juniors it was often the first opportunity to conduct a matter in arbitration and what better forum than Justice Rege. Justice Rege contributed greatly not only to the development of the law but to the development of the junior Bar that appeared before him.

To know Justice Rege was to love him. Who can forget that twinkle in his eye, that mischievous smile and that infectious *joie de vivre*. He used his wit to break any tension that might develop in a matter before him.

Of him it can be truly said that he passed the ultimate test which is that could you walk out of his Court or arbitration having lost a matter but still feeling very good about the entire process. Justice Rege embodied decorum not only when he sat as a Judge but in his everyday life. He was one of the most humble people that I knew and totally bereft of any conceit. He also possessed that essential quality – the ability to come to a mature judgment. He personified the dictum of Socrates who said: *“Four things belong to a judge : to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially”*.

Justice Rege had each of these qualities. Here was a great Judge.

I do not think that I can ever say that we have lost Justice Rege, for Justice Rege has passed into the firmament of this Court. May his soul rest in peace and may his family, both at home and at Court, always revel in the warm afterglow of a great life, long and well lived and remembered with boundless affection and gratitude.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI KEVIC SETALVAD, ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE D.M. REGE, ON 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2013.**

My Lord the Hon'ble The Chief Justice, the Hon'ble Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Mr. Darius Khambata – the Advocate General of Maharashtra, Mr. Rohit Kapadia – the President of the Bombay Bar Association; Mr. Rajiv Chavan – the President of the Advocate's Association of Western India, Mr. Zaiwalla, Hon. Secretary, Bombay Incorporated Society and the members of the Bar.

Justice Rege had a long and eminent tenure as a judge and by the time he retired in March 1985, he had delivered numerous reported judgment on diverse aspects of the law. The judgments delivered by Justice Rege included several judgments on subjects such as the Central Excise Act, 1944, The Public Trust Act, Food Adulteration Act and the Electricity Act.

Illustratively, Justice Rege delivered judgments under the Central Excise Act in *Union of India and Anr Vs. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited* [1987 (3) ELT 383 (Bom)] when he ruled on the meaning of the expression “vessel bound for any foreign port” and the expression “Ocean going vessel on foreign run”, and held that any vessel which was principally a foreign going vessel would not lose its character even if temporarily engaged in some coastal trade. In *International Tractor Co of India Ltd v/s. Union of India* [ 1977 (1) ELT 133] Justice Rege decided the question of whether – while assessing the value of tractors, excise duty would be payable on the value of accessories fitted to tractors. The matter also involved interesting questions under The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 whether a “tractor” was an “agricultural machinery”.

Justice Rege's judgments include rulings on issues relating to jurisdiction such as in *Laxmi Bai Narayan Satasa Vs Dattatraya Tukaram Jarande* [AIR 1983 (BOM) 289 ]; issues pertaining to Cantonment boards such as *Phiroze Temulji Anklesaria Vs. H. C. Vahistha and others* (AIR 1980 (Bom) 9); the constitutionality of the Electricity (Maharashtra Amendment) Act, 44 of 1976, in *Thane Electric Supply Co Ltd, Bombay v/s. MSE Board* [ 1985 AIR (Bom) 48]; *the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in Nagpur Hotel Owners Association v. Corporation of the City of Nagpur* [ 1979 AIR (Bom) 190 ] - and of course the Arbitration Act in *Goa, Daman and Diu Housing Board v. Ramakant V P Darvotkar* [ 1984 AIR (Bom) 120].

After his retirement from the Bench, Justice Rege had a first rate practice as an arbitrator and was a first choice arbitrator for many.

I had a personal experience in my very early days at the Bar, which I wish to relate. I was briefed in a pending arbitral proceeding before Justice Rege. It was a large brief, which contained the pleadings, the oral and documentary evidence led and the cross examination. I was briefed only for an adjournment because the Counsel who had been briefed to conduct the matter was held up in a part heard matter in the High Court. My solicitor warned me however that the matter had been peremptorily fixed to be gone on with, and that the other side would oppose any application for an adjournment. The brief had come to me only the night before and I had burnt the midnight oil to try and come to grips with the matter, but to very little avail. When the arbitral proceedings commenced, I requested for an adjournment. Sure enough, the application was strenuously opposed. Justice Rege smilingly requested me not to worry and to proceed with the matter. He then, over the next two hours virtually held my hand and guided me through my arguments, and the oral and documentary evidence and the cross examination – which obviously he knew like the back of his hand. I came out of that arbitration hearing with the Solicitor thumping me on my back saying – Well done! But of course I had done nothing, it was Justice Rege who had virtually argued the matter for me.

In his later years, and despite having a thumping arbitration practice until the very end, Justice Rege found the peace within to hang up his boots and really retire, after finishing all his pending arbitration matters.

We, at the Bar, shall miss him and shall remember him with fondness in our hearts.

On behalf of all assembled here, I offer deepest condolences to his family.

May his Soul rest in peace.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI R.A. KAPADIA, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY  
BAR ASSOCIATION, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE  
TO LATE JUSTICE D.M. REGE, ON 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2013.**

My Lord the Chief Justice, and the other Hon'ble Judges of this Hon'ble Court, my learned friends sitting with me here today, members of the bereaved family, friends at the bar and Ladies and Gentleman,

We have gathered here today to pay homage to Mr. Justice D. M. Rege, who passed away a short while ago.

As I stand before you today, I wonder whether I should dwell upon his legal abilities or speak about Mr. Justice Rege, the man.

He was a man with two passions in life – his family and the law. His father was also an Advocate. He was the Diwan of the Nawab of Khambhat. He spent his formative years including his schooling in Khambhat. His long association with Gujarat was responsible for his fluency in Gujarathi and the love for things spicy.

When he was called to the Bar, he joined the chambers of Mr. Coltman and particularly his senior the late Mr. Y. B. Rege, who was a leading Barrister of those days. He was fortunate to have been mentored by great names like Mr. E.B. Ghasvala, Mr. Reginald Mathalone and Mr. C.K. Daphtary. He learnt from them the forensic ability, advocacy, coolness and a love for chocolates. He also learnt from Mr. Ghasvala, a love for photography and a hot cup of tea at the Tea Centre. Mr. Mathalone taught him that the law was as much of the rule of law as it was to see humour in the situation. It was his ability to see humour in the situation that he displayed in dealing with the memorable trials of which the speakers before me have spoken.

As Mr. Khambatta said, Mr. Justice Rege often tried to persuade the counsel appearing before him of the learned Judge's point of view. But that was because he believed that Justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done also.

His relationships were lifelong and he was closely attached to Mr. Vicaji Taraporewala, who is here with us today, Mr. K. S. Cooper and many other members at the bar and above all Mr. Justice Lentin. Mr. Justice Rege and Mr. Justice Lentin were inseparable and often travelled to this Court in the same car. He partook of the Parsi

Bhonu of Mr. Justice Lentin almost every day. They were both Judges of the Bombay City Civil and Sessions Court before they came to High Court. Mr. Justice Rege preceded his friend to the High Court by three months. When Mr. Justice Lentin was appointed to the High Court, Justice Rege was perhaps happier than any other individual at his elevation. He was almost like a small boy and he displayed the joy of a small boy would be when he receives a Christmas present.

He was a rock to his family. His daughter, Janaki is a Lawyer and is very adventurous. Although Mr. Justice Rege would not have done half the things that his Children did, he never tried to make them to do things his way. His Courtship lasted 8 years primarily because he waited for his wife to finish her studies abroad and married her when she came back. 13<sup>th</sup> August is their Wedding Anniversary. They would have been married for 53 years today.

For all his achievements, he was a remarkably humble individual who never complained. He was loved by one and all as is witnessed by the large turnout today although he retired as far back as 1985.

He leaves behind him, his wife, his son and daughter. Our thoughts and condolences go out to them.

May his soul rest in peace.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI RAJIV CHAVAN, PRESIDENT OF ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE D.M. REGE, ON 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2013.**

My Lord the Chief Justice, the other Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, Learned Advocate General, Learned Additional Solicitor General of India, Representative of the Bar Council of Maharashtra, President of the Bombay Bar Association, Hon'ble Secretary of Bombay Incorporated Society and Members of the Bar:

We have assembled here this morning to mourn the sad demise of Mr. Justice Devidatta Mangesh Rege who left for his heavenly abode, at the age of 90 on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Mumbai. Justice Rege, hailed from a place called Aronda in Sindhudurg District. When he was about seven years old he participated in the Dandi March. The march was going through Cambay (Khambhat), which was where he lived at the time. He wanted to join the march but his father forbade this, so this may have been the only time he disobeyed his father, because he sneaked out and walked that walk for a short time. His father, a lawyer, was the Divan to the nawab of Cambay (Khambhat). This was a time when young Maharashtra boys did not speak to their fathers or voice demands, out of respect. But he still participated in the Dandi march. If something was really important to him, he would take a position regardless of the consequences, and this trait had manifested itself as early as when he walked with other freedom fighters.

He was educated in Cambay High School, Elphinstone College and Government Law College.

Justice Rege joined the Original Side Bar in 1961 and later joined the chamber of Barrister Y.B. Rege, an authority on the Hindu Law who also happened to be his uncle. Justice Rege also taught law in Siddharth Law College & Sydenham College of Commerce. His other uncle Mr. G.K. Rege was the Presidency Magistrate and during the initial days of his career Justice Rege lived in his uncle's house.

He married Dr. Lalita Rege who worked as a general practitioner for many years. There are two famous temples in Goa-Goddess Shantadurga & Goddess Mangeshi. Justice Rege's family were the devotees of Goddess Shantadurga while Dr. Lalita Rege's family were the devotees of Goddess Mangeshi.

Justice Rege was appointed a Judge of this High Court on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1972 and retired on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1985. I did not, unfortunately, have any occasion to appear before him. But my senior colleagues at the Bar tell me that he was courteous, pleasant, kind-hearted, humourous and a Judge who listened to advocates patiently. He enjoyed listening to members of the bar and a good argument made his day. The first time learned Advocate General Mr. Darius Khambatta appeared before him, he proudly said "this really smart young man appeared before me and I can see he is going far". When he saw promising juniors, his eyes gleamed and his face lit up with a proud smile, something that most juniors never forgot. Advocate Mr. Goolam Vahanvati, Mrs. Zia Mody, Ms. Rajni Iyer, Mr. Janak Dwarkadas, Mr. J.J. Bhat, Tulzapurkar brothers, all who were budding talents at that time certainly brought a proud smile on his face.

His wife Dr. Lalita Rege remembers him as "a usually serious person and man of few words who, in the company of lawyers, became jovial and sparkled with scintillating conversation. Anger was not a word in his dictionary at all". She also said that "he was a perfect family man, a sincere husband and father". Justice Rege was a voracious reader and loved to watch cricket. According to his daughter Janaki, "he believed that one should not give loans but only give gifts. He believed that if you gave a loan and it remained unpaid then it soured relationships. On the other hand gifts left no expectation of return and so strengthened relationships". He was a simple man in many ways. Once while sitting next to Amitabh Bachchan he asked him, with great respect and naive charm, what he did for a living? Even the superstar was amused.

Mr. A.G. Sabnis, Senior Advocate and a member of AAWI, told me two interesting anecdotes about Justice Rege, which highlight the kind of man he was. Once Mr. Sabnis was arguing a matter concerning a Chinese restaurant situated in Colaba and his clients – Petitioners- were of Chinese origin. The moment the matter was called out, Justice Rege asked Petitioner's Advocate : "Mr. Sabnis, could you please tell me the names of your clients?" Mr. Sabnis replied in the affirmative. The names of his clients were typically Chinese. Mr. Sabnis pronounced the name of the first client and then left the more difficult one to the Judge to pronounce. Justice Rege in his usual jovial manner pronounced the name loudly, causing great laughter in the Court room and obviously easing the tension created during the preceding matter. That's how Justice Rege used humour to ease the tense atmosphere in the Court without hurting the lawyers or the litigants. Another incident that Mr. Sabnis told me reveals Justice

Rege's humility and courage to admit that there were others who were more articulate and gifted with a greater power of expression than himself. Advocate Sabnis was arguing a matter in Room No. 53. At the end of the argument he submitted that he would be relying on the judgment of Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer. The moment Justice Rege heard this he equipped: "Mr. Sabnis, have you got a dictionary? to which Mr. Sabnis replied: "My Lord, I have got one dictionary for myself and one for your Lordship also". Justice Rege burst out laughing and the whole court followed suit.

Another Senior Advocate Mr. Avinash Rana described him as "no doubt he was a good Judge, but he was a great human being". So many lawyers told me that in his Court there used to be discussion, deliberation and adjudication in its true sense.

He was involved in establishing the Bombay High Court's bench at Goa and for almost a whole year he worked hard to complete the task of establishing that bench.

After he retired as the Judge of this High Court, Justice Rege took over as the President of the prestigious All India Institute of Local Self Government, designated to promote and support activities in the areas of Research & Training in Municipal Administration.

As a Judge of this High Court, he presided over many important and delicate cases. The more significant ones were "Escort Case, Manavat Murder case, Vinita Datta Samant's case. During the Escorts case he received several letters of threat that naturally caused great anxiety at home. At times his family members thought it was a risk not worth taking, but his position was he had to do his job and do it right. He conducted the enquiry of the Avro Plane crash as well as the enquiry of the Mandavi Bridge crash. He did arbitration work till 2011 after which he stopped working.

Since he did his schooling in Cambay, Justice Rege was fluent in Gujarati; naturally, he was able to befriend a number of Gujarati and Parsee lawyers. The late Justice Bhaktawar Lentin was his closest friend. He had great friendship and rapport with senior Advocates Mr. Ashok Desai, Mr. Fali Nariman, late Mr. Khatoo Coopar, late Mr. Mahendra Shah, Justice P.B. Sawant, late Mr. V.T. Walawalkar, and late Sakhardande brothers. Senior Advocates Dr. Veerendra and Mr. Virag Tulzapurkar were also his good friends and he usually walked with them at Shivaji Park.

My Lord, there is one thing I wish to highlight and that is Justice Devidatta Mangesh Rege and his charming wife Dr. Lalita had a long blissful married life together. They were devoted to each other; each literally lit the other's path which made their life's journey joyful and happy; without her support he could never have achieved the things he achieved. They brought up their children, Son-Sunil and Daughter- Janaki, with great care and immense love. Janaki spoke to me from the U.S. And asked me to remember her with I speak about her father here today. Both children were very attached to their father. His demise has created a void that could never be filled.

My Lord, on behalf of Advocates Association of Western India, I fully associate with the sentiments that have been expressed here by Your Lordship as well as my colleagues at the Bar and I pay humble respects on behalf of the Association to the departed soul and offer our condolences to the bereaved family.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI DINSOO R. ZAIWALLA, PRESIDENT OF THE BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE JUSTICE D.M. REGE, ON 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2013.**

The Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mr. Mohit Shah, the Hon'ble Judges of this Court, Mr. Darius J. Khambata, the learned Advocate General, Mr. Kevic Setalvad, Additional Solicitor General, Western Region, Mr. Rohit Kapadia, President of the Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Rajiv Chavan, President, the Advocates' Association of Western India, Members of the family of Justice Rege, and my colleagues at the Bar.

1. On behalf of the Incorporated Law Society and the fraternity of Solicitors, I today speak to convey our members grief on the passing away of Justice Rege.

2. With respect I concur with the sentiments so eloquently expressed by my Lord the Chief Justice as also so gracefully submitted at Your Lordships' Bar today by my earlier speakers and commands no repetition.

3. When I as a young lawyer joined the profession, Justice Rege was already elevated as the Judge of the Bombay City Civil Court where he had made a name and from 14<sup>th</sup> December 1972 till 18<sup>th</sup> March 1985 he presided as the Judge of this Court.

4. I remember his rapport with the Bar but most of all I remember his quiet uncanny ability to hit at the root and eliminate frivolous issues.

5. Justice Rege was a luminary of the Bombay High Court and he leaves behind an exemplary legacy of judicial politeness as guidance to the Bench and the Bar. Even a Junior Counsel would be at ease when appearing before him as he knew Justice Rege's temperament. We who have interacted with him shall always remember his courteous composure at the Bench in keeping with the highest tradition which this Court today commands.

6. In passing away of Justice Rege we have lost one of the great judicial thinkers. Our stone built Courts of law vibrate with the spirits of remarkable souls who have passed through its corridor leaving an indelible mark in the field of administration of justice. Justice Rege has now joined the ranks.

7. Legal profession has lost one of his great stalwart and his family its hero. I am indeed sure and pray that nature when it strikes the blow will also give the near ones he has left behind the strength to bear the loss.

8. Even as we today stand in silence which is more profound in its eloquence than any words may I be permitted to express our sentiments to the members of the family of Justice Rege and as and by way of solace by quoting the profound words of Rabindranath Tagore:

“Death is not extinguishing the light, it is putting  
out the lamp because the dawn has come.”

9. I therefore on behalf of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society convey our grief to the members of Justice Rege's family and request this congregation to pray that the spirit of Justice Rege shall continue to guide the Bench and the Bar of this great Court and that his spirit remain in abiding peace.