

ADDRESS BY HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE B.R GAVAL,  
SENIORMOST JUDGE AT NAGPUR, AT THE COURT REFERENCE TO  
LATE SHRI JUSTICE W.M. SAMBRE, HELD AT NAGPUR  
ON FRIDAY 22 JULY 2016.

Shri Rohit Deo, Acting Advocate General of Maharashtra, Shri A.R. Patil, President - High Court Bar Association, Nagpur, the Presidents and the Office Bearers of all the Lawyers' Associations at Nagpur, Shri Aniruddha Choube, the Representative of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, Smt. Pratibha Sambre and the Members of the Family of Justice Sambre, the Members of the Bar and Friends.

We have all assembled here this morning to pay our homage to Hon'ble Shri Justice W.M. Sambre.

If we look at the life of Justice Sambre, we will come to know as to how a person with humble beginning, with a sheer hard work, devotion and dedication has reached to a highest pedestal.

Justice Sambre was born on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1932 at Wardha. Immediately after passing matriculation, in the year 1950 at the tender age of 18 years, he took upon himself the responsibility of supporting his family. For that he joined the services as Clerk in Khadi and Village Industry at Sewagram. His attachment to Khadi which started at that time, continued till his end. As all of us know that Justice Sambre used to wear only Khadi clothes.

After serving in Sewagram for 4-5 years, he worked as a Clerk-cum-Typist in Municipal Council, Wardha. In the year 1954, he shifted to Nagpur and obtained a degree of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.).

He joined the services of this august institution initially as a Clerk and was later on promoted as Assistant Superintendent. While he was serving in the High Court, he also worked as Secretary and thereafter as President of the Maharashtra State Government Employees' Association. While he was serving in the High Court, he utilised his spare time to complete the education in law and obtained a LL.B. Degree.

After completing his LL.B., he left the services in the High Court and joined the legal profession. He was enrolled as an Advocate on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1968 and worked with Advocate Shri Ghule, for a period of 2-3 years.

Justice Sambre set up his independent practice at High Court and the other Courts at Nagpur. He handled various Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Labour and Revenue Cases. Justice Sambre also had a passion for teaching and was a Lecturer in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University College of Law at Nagpur. He also worked as Examiner and Valuer. Justice Sambre handled various cases of Maharashtra State Co-operative Marketing Federation, various Trade Unions and various Zilla Parishads. He also served as a Legal Advisor of Mill Mazdoor Sangh.

In the year 1977, he was elected as a Member of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa and continued as such till his elevation. In April 1984, he was elected as a Chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa.

In 1981, he was appointed as the Government Pleader of High Court, Nagpur and was thereafter elevated as a Judge of this Court on 21.11.1986. As a Judge of this Court, he discharged his duties as a Single Judge as well as a Presiding Judge on the Division Bench. The ground realities faced

by him in his life had imbibed a sense of real justice in him. Some of the views taken by him may appear to have been revolutionary at that point of time. But if we look at the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the last decade or so, permitting even serious criminal offences to be compounded if the parties agree and there is no element of public law involved, would show that his views at that point of time stand ratified. The conditional orders which were not known till then, are his invention. The saving of the Court's precious time by passing such orders, has now resulted this practice which was invented by Justice Sambre, to be an accepted rule of procedure. After rendering valuable services as Judge of this Court for 8 years, he retired on 23.06.1994.

Justice Sambre will always be remembered for his simplicity. He had a great passion for agriculture. After his retirement as a Judge of this Court, he devoted himself to agricultural activities. He used to go to his agriculture field near Kalmeshwar by M.S.R.T.C. Bus and thereafter used to travel to his field in the interiors on a scooter.

Justice Sambre used his practical experience which he had gained while serving as a staff member of this institution, while discharging his duties as a Judge.

Taking encouragement from Justice Sambre, many members of his Family including his brother, sons and nephews and nieces have entered the legal profession. It is a matter of rare distinction that Justice Sambre's elder son Justice Nitin Sambre occupied the two august offices of the Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor of High Court Bench at Nagpur and a Judge of the Bombay High Court, which distinguished offices were adorned by his eminent father Justice W.M. Sambre.

The contribution of Smt. Pratibha Sambre in giving him complete support in not only bringing up her own children but the extended Sambre family needs special mention. The legacy of Justice Sambre in the legal profession is carried forward by his two sons Justice Nitin Sambre, Advocate Sachin Sambre and the other members of the Sambre family.

On 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, Justice Sambre left for heavenly abode. In him, we have lost a noble soul. Justice Sambre will always be remembered for his hard work, devotion, dedication, industry and simplicity.

There would be no parallel example of a person rising from a humble beginning as a Clerk on the establishment of the High Court and rising to be a Judge of the said High Court and occupied the seat as such in the same building.

I on behalf of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, myself, my brothers and sisters pay deep homage to the memory of Justice Sambre and pray Almighty that He gives courage and strength to the Members of the Family to bear this unbearable loss.

May the departed soul rest in peace.

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ADDRESS BY SHRI ROHIT DEO, ASSOCIATE ADVOCATE GENERAL AND  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA, AT THE COURT  
REFERENCE TO LATE SHRI JUSTICE W.M. SAMBRE, HELD AT NAGPUR  
ON FRIDAY 22 JULY 2016.

My Lords,

Hon'ble Shri Justice B.R. Gavai, Senior Administrative Judge, Bombay High Court, Bench at Nagpur, Hon'ble Shri Justice V.M. Deshpande, Hon'ble Shri Justice N.W. Sambre, Members of the family of late Justice W.M. Sambre, Mr. Arun Patil, President of the High Court Bar Association , Smt. Bharti Dangre, Government Pleader, Mr. Anirudha Choube, representative of Bar Council.

I join the sentiments expressed by My Lord Justice Gavai. We are here to pay tribute to late Justice W.M. Sambre, fondly known and remembered as "Bhausahab". He was not only a great Judge but was a great human being. Late Justice W.M. Sambre had a roaring practice as a lawyer and he dealt with the matters of utmost importance in Constitutional and Labour Law. His stint when he adorned the august office of the Government Pleader was in a difficult times. Those were the days when the doyens of the Bar and true legends living and some who are no more were at their brilliant and ferocious best. The fact that the Government could weather the storm and the fact that Government Pleader's office held its own is an eloquent testimony to the calm, dignified and competent leadership, which Justice W.M. Sambre lent to the office of the Government Pleader. Late Justice Sambre answered the call of duty and was elevated as a High Court Judge. As a High Court Judge, his contribution to development of law; both in the Judgments which he has authored and to which he was a party is immense. Above all, Justice W.M. Sambre was a great human being. Never to live in ivory tower, never to insulate himself from the harsh ground realities of life, late Bhausahab sensed injustice from miles and when he

did, he strove to undo the injustice. The procedural niceties and complexities of law did not fetter or shackle his sense of justice. The Court which he ruled with iron hand was a veritable boon for the juniors.

Juniors like me have fond memories of Justice W.M. Sambre. No adjournment was the rule and no junior went to his Court room seeking an adjournment. However, a Junior who did not seek adjournment was received well, was encouraged, was nurtured and his Court was truly a great learning experience for juniors like me. I distinctly recollect one incident when I was a very raw junior in 1988. I was arguing a Second Appeal in which there was a dispute between the family and out of my ignorance, I did a cardinal scene of pestering the Court and ultimately after listening to me for one hour, he leaned back and with a smile told me that Mr. Deo it was only because I am tired of listening to you that I am issuing a notice. The matter was listed for admission and I had told my client to be prepared for the worst and I had expected summary dismissal. One of doyens of the Bar in Civil Law appeared and to my surprise, Justice Sambre told him and I can name him Mr. Chandurkar, he said that what your client did was legal but was he just. He gently persuaded the parties to arrive at a settlement. The matter was settled and till today the family is happy and united. His distinction between what is legal and just rings true even in the present times.

We are really fortunate that the legacy of Justice W.M. Sambre is being not only preserved but has been furthered and enriched by his illustrious sons, one who adorns the Bench My Lord Justice Nitin Sambre and his son Mr. Sachin, who is an illustrious lawyer himself. In this hour of grief, the thoughts of fraternity are with the family of Late Justice Sambre. The void which has been left behind cannot be filled. His loss, his departing from the mortal life is indeed a great loss to the fraternity, to the Bar and to us junior lawyers, whom

he has nurtured and cultivated more particularly. In this hour of grief, I condole the family of late Justice W.M. Sambre and we hope that God will give strength to the family to sustain the loss. We pray on behalf of entire Bar that His Almighty would give them strength and the soul of Justice W.M. Sambre would rest at peace.

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ADDRESS BY SHRI A.R. PATIL, PRESIDENT, HIGH COURT BAR  
ASSOCIATION, NAGPUR, AT THE COURT REFERENCE  
TO LATE SHRI JUSTICE W.M. SAMBRE, HELD AT NAGPUR  
ON FRIDAY 22 JULY 2016.

My Lords, The Learned Assistant Solicitor General of India and Acting Advocate General of Maharashtra Shri Rohit Deo, The Learned Government Pleader, Nagpur Bench, Bombay High Court Mrs. Bharti Dangre, Senior Advocates, Presidents of DBA, VLLPA, Co-operative Court Bar Association VLLA, Adhivakta Parishad, Senior Members of the Bar, Family Members of bereaved Sambre Family.

We have all assembled here under the shadow of sad demise of Hon'ble Shri Justice Wasudeorao Mahadeorao Sambre, former Judge of the Bombay High Court, died on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

He was popularly known and called as "Bhau" in Bar, Bench and Society. Born in a family of Agriculturist in Wardha District on 24/6/1932. Did his schooling at Wardha. After passing HSSC, i.e. 11<sup>th</sup> Metric as it was then, immediately shared responsibility to support his joint family by joining as Clerk in "Khadi Village Industry" Sevagram. Being born in Wardha District had a great impact of philosophy of "Mahatma Gandhi" having worked in "Khadi Gramodhyog". A born "Khadi Dharni". Throughout his life worn "Khadi". He was a social Engineer by nature.

After working for about 4-5 years with "Khadi Gramodyog" joined Municipal Council, Wardha as Clerk. While earning continued his desire of learning. Obtained B.A. Degree from Nagpur University and joined Ministerial Services of High Court Registry as Clerk at Nagpur.

Because of his hard work, sincerity good attitude and aptitude towards his job promoted upto the post of Superintendent. While in employment obtained LL.B. Degree in 1968 from Nagpur University.

Being socialist, master in maintaining harmonious relationship adorn the posts of -

- President -
- 1) Maharashtra State Employees Association
  - 2) Member of Students Council
  - 3) Coordinator Advisor of Weekly English Paper – (WHIP)

Joined practice as Lawyer at Nagpur from 18/12/1968 in the Chamber of Shri Ghule, practicing in High Court. Handled cases on all sides like Civil, Labour, Criminal, Service matters, Co-operative Societies, Zilla Parishads, Government Departments. Joined as Lecturer (Contributory) with University Law College, Nagpur.

I had first seen him in 1969 when I was just 15 or 16. A team of young Lawyers', as it was then, with Bhau – Hon'ble Shri Justice – Ashok Desai, Girish Chaube, PRK Murthy, Shri N.N. Tengre, Hon'ble Justice Bhau Wahane – used to visit my father's Chamber for discussion on various social issues at our Ramnagar House.

Within a period of 7-8 years practice “Bhau” established himself well Reputed Lawyer in Nagpur. He was elected as Bar Councilor in 1977. Became Chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa in 1984. During this period appointed as Govt. Pleader in 1981. Later on after about more than 30 years his son My Lord Justice Nitin Sambre adorned the same post of G.P, a

remarkable Distinction. One and only father & son Duo to achieve this position in Nagpur.

He was elevated as High Court Judge on 21/11/1985 and retired on 25/6/1994. He had in-depth knowledge of ground level problems; used to solve them with great ability & mastery as a Judge. A Great human being after all. He set an example that a man with humble beginning can achieve the Highest Post in the same field with hard work & dedication. A rare example of Great Achievements in Life.

He has left a rich legacy of Lawyers in the family after him.

His younger brother Rambhau Sambre, popularly known as "Ram Kaka" in Bar Room No.309 in Nyay Mandir, conducted hundreds of criminal Trials in Sessions Courts successfully. Master in Cross Examinations.

His illustrious son Hon'ble Justice Nitin Sambre is a sitting Judge of this Court. Younger son Shri Sachin Sambre has earned reputation as Expert Labour Lawyer, practicing in Labour & Industrial Courts at Nagpur. His nephew Shri Abhay Sambre is well known reputed Lawyer in High Court at Nagpur. His son-in-laws are well established and settled in their fields.

We have lost a great man a Great Soul. It is loss to the society, legal fraternity and a family.

On my behalf, on behalf of my family and on behalf of Members of HCBA, BBA, VLLPA VLLA – Co-operative Court Bar Association, I pay respect and homage to the departed soul & pray with Almighty God to rest his soul in peace.

We altogether convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray with God to give courage to them to bear the loss.

Om Shanti Shanti.

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ADDRESS BY SHRI A.K. CHOUBE, ADVOCATE, AT THE COURT  
REFERENCE TO LATE SHRI JUSTICE W.M. SAMBRE,  
HELD AT NAGPUR ON FRIDAY 22 JULY 2016.

I myself and on behalf of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa pay  
homage to the departed soul of Hon'ble Mr. Justice W.M. Sambre, former Judge  
of the Bombay High Court. I pray Almighty to rest his soul in peace.

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