

ADDRESS BY HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE DR.MANJULA CHELLUR,
HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY AT THE FULL COURT
REFERENCE TO LATE MR.C.J.SAWANT, FORMER ADVOCATE GENERAL
OF MAHARASHTRA, ON 02ND SEPTEMBER, 2016 AT 11.00 A.M.
IN THE CENTRAL COURT.

My esteemed colleagues

Mr.Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India
on behalf of Advocate General of Maharashtra &
Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa.

Dr.Milind Sathe, President, Bombay Bar Association.

Mr.Rajiv Chavan,
President, Advocates' Association of Western India.

Mr.K.D. Kalyaniwalla, President,
Bombay Incorporated Law Society.

Senior Advocates

Advocates

Members of the bereaved family

Ladies & Gentlemen

Today, this assembly, this morning is to mourn the passing away of Mr.Chandrakant Jayram Sawant, former Advocate General of Maharashtra, a renowned Advocate in almost every branch of law, who left us for his heavenly abode on 5 August 2016 at about 6.00 p.m. in Kolhapur at the age of 86 years, after a massive heart attack.

The story of Mr. Sawant, who is popularly referred to as “CJ. Sawant”, is not so sacrosanct, coming from rags to riches overnight.

He rose from humble beginning as a Clerk in the Registry of this Court and went to occupy the highest position as an Officer of the State by sheer hard work, tremendous courage, conviction and determination.

Born in 1930 in a family of 8 siblings at Nandvi, dist. Mahad, Maharashtra, to his father, who was a primary school teacher, it was not an easy existence. The entire family had to depend on the meagre income of a school teacher. There did not stop the problem because at the age of 12 years, Mr. C.J.Sawant had to pay for the loss of his father. He had to think of his own and he had to grow on his

own. However, he was blessed with intelligence and his hunger for knowledge did no stop him at that stage. He completed primary education and moved to Mahad Taluka for his secondary education. He stayed in a boarding school and completed matriculation in the year 1947.

He came to Mumbai with a yearning to become a Doctor as he strongly believed in providing the villagers who are deprived of medical care so that no one would have to suffer like his father for want of medical attention. But the fate had something else in store for him. The cost of studying Medicine was not easy and without any support in Mumbai, he could not pursue it. He found a job in Vikram General Insurance on a meagre salary of Rs.50/-. Later he graduated from an Arts College with B.A. degree. He turned to the study of Law solely because it was a night college, which permitted him to work during the day. He had to work hard and even take tuitions in order to meet the monetary needs.

In 1953, he graduated in Law and to the surprise of many, he quit his job as a Clerk and started independent practice in the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court. He kept aside criticism as he wanted to stand independently as a lawyer. In 1965, acknowledging his intelligence and hard work, legal luminary Shri K.K. Singhvi offered him juniorship with him. From then onwards, there was no stop for Mr.Sawant for the development and improvement.

He also worked as a Lecturer at Siddharth Law College. He was very popular amongst students. He used to share all the cases he was arguing with the students.

In 1976, he became Additional Government Pleader (Writ Cell), and in 1988 he was offered Senior gown.

Mr. Sawant was very unique in his arguments and his submissions were precise, concise and to the points. He had thorough knowledge on constitutional and various other branches of law. He had very persuasive way of arguments. He would never mislead the Courts and he always pointed out the true facts. In recognition of his hard work and sheer determination, he was offered the chair of Advocate General of Maharashtra. He discharged his duties as such from 4th April 1995 to 4th November 1999. Even after completing his tenure successfully, on many occasions, he was asked to address the Court and represent the State in important matters. He was engaged in almost all contempt matters because of his persuasive nature to see that no Officer would face any unwanted consequences. He was known for his assistance in matters as also his opinion particularly in Bombay-Pune Express way and development of satellite cities like Navi Mumbai, functioning of authorities such as CIDCO, MIDC, MSRDC, PCNTDA, MMRDA etc. as he was engaged regularly by them.

He was known for his successful canvass in the petition of a medical student challenging the admission of the daughter of then Chief Minister of Maharashtra which ultimately resulted in the then Chief Minister stepping down. His challenges to the SRA scheme, the challenge to **Arun Bhatia's** transfer, **Girish Vyas** case etc., all of you must be aware of.

He became very popular when he argued the case of a notorious gangster of Mumbai where he submitted that the State should not be allowed to give police protection round the clock and ultimately, his submissions, the Division Bench of this Court accepted and refused the relief sought.

He was a man who believed in amicable settlement. He always advised his clients to see if there is an amicable resolution of the disputes. Many a time, the Court would request him to act as a mediator and he was very successful in such an exercise.

He was a voracious reader. His popular and favorite books were "*How To Live Twenty Four Hours a Day*" and another "*How to Win Friends And Influence People*".

His zest for life and zeal for learning is an inspiring story for all of us, especially for members of the Bar. He came from nothing, but became one of the most sought after intellectuals in the field of law, only because of his hard work, perseverance and patience.

I was told that he was also very much involved in charities in Mumbai as also in his native place at Nandvi. He was General Secretary of Maratha Mandir Trust, Mumbai Central, for almost 30 years.

He used to love playing badminton even at the age of 80 years. He was a good swimmer and he used to swim across river. He used to enjoy solving cross-words of evening newspapers. He had widely travelled not only throughout the country but extensively outside the country as well.

The last two-and-a-half years of his life was spent at Kolhapur with his elder daughter Amita Jadhav.

He is survived by his wife Poornima Sawant, two daughters; elder one being Amita Jadhav, a retired Bank Officer; and the younger one being Varsha Kandalkar. He has four grandchildren.

In passing away of Mr.C.J.Sawant, we have lost a friend, an eminent lawyer, a guide and above all, a good human being. In this hour of grief, on behalf of all of us, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them the strength to bear the great loss and overcome the grief.

May the departed soul rest in everlasting peace !

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ADDRESS BY MR. ANIL C. SINGH, ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA ON BEHALF OF ADVOCATE GENERAL OF MAHARASHTRA AND BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA AND GOA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. C.J. SAWANT, FORMER ADVOCATE GENERAL OF MAHARASHTRA, ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CENTRAL COURT.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

President of Bombay Bar Association, Dr. Milind Sathe,

President of Advocates' Association of Western India,

Mr. Rajiv Chavan.

The President of Bombay Incorporated Law Society

Mr. Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla,

Family members of late Shri C.J.Sawant,

Members of the Bar,

Ladies & Gentlemen

We assemble this morning to pay our respectful homage to Mr. C.J.Sawant, former Advocate General of Maharashtra, who breathed his last on 5th August, 2016.

Born on 7th April, 1930 in a family of 8 siblings, his father was primary school teacher who expired when Mr. Sawant was only 12 years old. He matriculated in 1947. Mr. C.J. Sawant joined an Arts College and graduated with B.A. (Honours). He used to take tuitions and worked as a Court Clerk in the Hon'ble Bombay High Court and studied Law at a night college. He graduated in Law in the year 1953. Soon thereafter, late Mr.Sawant quit his job as a Clerk and started independent practice at the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and City Civil Court. In 1965, Mr.Sawant started his journey as an Advocate under the able guidance of Mr. K.K. Singhvi. In the same year, he was appointed as a Lecturer in Siddharth Law College, the same college where he had learnt Law. His practice at that time was however not confined to the High Court and he used to work in different Courts.

Late Mr.C.J. Sawant's expertise in various fields of Law was aptly noted by the Judges of the Hon'ble High Court. He was a man who devoted good time to his family in spite of his busy schedule as a lawyer. I had an opportunity of going through biography of late Mr.C.J.Sawant written by Pramod Baburao Potnis titled "Jeewan Jhale Amrut". In the said biography, I had the opportunity to have a glimpse of his personal life as well. He had great affection towards his wife, children, grandchildren and friends. He has left a strong legacy. One of his junior Justice R.M.

Sawant is a sitting Judge of this High Court, many of his juniors are renowned lawyers practising in this Hon'ble Court, including Senior Advocate Mr. Anil Sakhare.

As an Advocate General of the State of Maharashtra, he defended the Government and its policies and his work was so well appreciated that even after his tenure, he was asked to continue to represent the State in important matters. Mr. C.J.Sawant was the first choice of almost all top ranking Government officials in representing them in contempt proceedings.

Mr.C.J.Sawant has been a part of many landmark judgments of this Hon'ble Court such as **Sahara Ambi Valley** case, **Enron Power Project** and cases relating to Coastal Regulation Zone. He has assisted the Hon'ble Court many times in matters pertaining to paving the road for completion of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, development of satellite cities like Navi Mumbai, functioning of authorities such as CIDCO and MIDC. He was at ease in any branch of law, be it the Co-operative Societies Act, Town Planning Act, Land Laws, Service Laws or Labour Laws. Mr. C.J.Sawant was engaged by several authorities such as MIDC, CIDCO, MTDC, MSRDC, MMRDA etc.

In the case of **Arun Gulab Gawli v. State of Maharashtra**, (2000) 102 Bom. L.R. 390, the petitioner had prayed for police protection claiming that it was enshrined under the

meaning of Article 21 of the Constitution of India that gave the right to life and personal liberty. Mr.C.J. Sawant's arguments were instrumental to the Court in holding that such a right does not flow from Article 21. The Hon'ble Court also accepted Mr.Sawant's submission which was to the effect that a distinction between law-abiding person on the one hand and a person having a criminal background on the other hand for the purpose of deciding whether armed police protection round the clock is to be granted or not and it would not be violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

In the contempt case against late Mr. Balasaheb Thackeray in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Hon'ble Court sought the opinion of Mr.C.J.Sawant to the question whether his permission as the Advocate General of Maharashtra was taken before initiation of such contempt proceedings as this was a condition precedent to initiation of contempt proceedings. Mr.Sawant replied saying that his permission was never sought for and even if he had been asked, he would have refused to give such a permission. Subsequently, the proceedings against Mr.Balasaheb Thackeray were dropped.

As one of the highlights of his career, it is imperative to mention that Mr.C.J.Sawant had successfully canvassed the petition of a medical student challenging admission of the daughter of the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra, as a result of which the then C.M. had to step down. His other cases included numerous

challenges to the SRA Scheme, the challenge to Arun Bhatia's transfer, Girish Vyas case, etc.

Apart from being a great Advocate, he was also a very good human being. He had a kind word for almost everybody, whether a junior lawyer or a subordinate Judicial Officer. Humility which is rare virtue among men, he possessed in ample measure. He used to treat all people equally irrespective of whatever position they held in the society. Many employees, who are still working in this High Court and in the office of the Advocate General as well as in his private office, would vouch for his simplicity and kind heartedness.

His zest for life and zeal for learning is an inspiring story for generations to come.

On behalf of myself, the Advocate General of Maharashtra and Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, I express my deepest condolences for the departed soul.

ADDRESS BY DR. MILIND SATHE, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR.C.J. SAWANT, FORMER ADVOCATE GENERAL OF MAHARASHTRA, ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CENTRAL COURT.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice Dr. (Mrs.) Manjula Chellur, the other Hon'ble Judges of this Court, Mr. Anil Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India and representing Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa and Advocate General of Maharashtra, Mr. Rajiv Chavan, President, Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr.Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Members of the family of late Mr. C. J. Sawant, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled this morning to mourn the sad demise of Mr. Chandrakant J. Sawant, Senior Advocate who passed away on 5th August, 2016.

I fully associate myself with the sentiments expressed by My Ladyship the Chief Justice and my fellow speakers.

Chandrakant J. Sawant or "CJ" as he was popularly known as is an illustration of what a person can achieve with hard work, grit, perseverance and intellect without any godfather in the legal profession.

Coming from a very humble background, he rose to become the top law officer of the State in 1995 though he deserved that honour much earlier.

His is a story of which legends are made of. Schooling in a humble village in Raigad District of Konkan Region, of which heritage he was justifiably proud of, he began his career as an employee of this Court to become its First Lawyer in a span ranging from 1948 to 1995.

However, when he began practice it did not take long for him to acquire large practice and to be spotted by the veterans at the Bar as a future leading lawyer, and he proved that trust in ample measures. His senior Mr. K. K. Singhvi was therefore rightly proud of his distinguished pupil.

He excelled in several fields of law, including Constitutional Law, Service Law, Education, Co-operative Societies and Land Revenue Code amongst others.

He was Advocate General of the State of Maharashtra in 1995-99. One of the most difficult and trying case he had to handle was the Enron Power Project now known as Ratnagiri Power Company Ltd. He had to defend the State from its several flip-flops in several public interest litigations and disputes between Enron and State not only in this Court but in International Arbitration as well.

I had occasion to work with him in large number of matters relating to State Transport and CIDCO and Electricity Board. However, one of the most memorable and momentous matter we did together was the first election petition raising an issue relating to what was meant by "Hindutva", in which, election of Dr. Ramesh Prabhu was challenged. The petition was heard by Justice Bharucha (as he then was) in this very Court Room. We had to cross-examine a large number of witnesses. He was so meticulous in preparation that we spent one whole day touring the constituency and visited every nook and corner where the meetings were held and the complained speeches were delivered. He brilliantly argued the proposition that 'Hindutva' was way of life and culture and not religion, quoting from Upnishadas and essays of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. His argument was accepted in the High Court as well as in the Supreme Court, though on facts, we lost the case, since the Court found that the offending speeches were not promoting Hindutva.

Law reports are replete with cases he fought very valiantly. He had to defend the State Government in its action to transfer a popular Commissioner of Pune Municipal Corporation (Arun Bhatia). He had to defend a curious case of improper oath being taken by the then Deputy Chief Minister (Mr. Gopinath Munde). He also successfully defended a Contempt Petition filed by activist lawyer Late Mr. M. P. Vashi against the State Government in relation

to an order of the Supreme Court relating to grants in aid to all law colleges in Maharashtra (1997 - 1 BCR 35) and also ensured that all law colleges started receiving grant-in-aid.

He also was concerned in a Criminal Contempt case against a leader of local political party (Mr. Bal Thackeray) who was convicted for contempt by Nagpur Bench of this Court which was eventually set aside by the Supreme Court on the ground that prior consent of the Advocate General was not obtained and also on the basis of an assertion by Mr. Sawant as AG that if such consent was asked for it would have been refused (Bal Thackeray V/s. Harish Pimpalkhute – 2005 (1) SCC 254). This demonstrated that he had courage of his conviction.

His spheres of activities did not confine to legal practice alone. He was president of Advocates' Association of Western India in 1986-87.

He had tremendous love and affection for Marathi theatre, probably because of which or it was the other way round, he was the Chief Trustee of Maratha Mandir Trust as well as Shivaji Mandir which hosts Marathi plays regularly.

He was also a keen sportsperson and never missed his few sets of Badminton every morning despite his hectic schedule.

In passing away of Mr. C.J. Sawant, we have lost a very popular leader of the Bar who was friend to everyone.

He had left a large legacy in law which is evident from the law reports and platoon of juniors, some of whom had been and are Judges of this Court and leading practitioners.

He is survived by his widow and two daughters and his extended legal family of which all of us are part.

On behalf of Bombay Bar Association and myself, I express my heartfelt condolences and pray almighty that let the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

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ADDRESS BY MR. RAJIV CHAVAN, SENIOR ADVOCATE AND PRESIDENT, ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. C.J.SAWANT, FORMER ADVOCATE GENERAL OF MAHARASHTRA ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CENTRAL COURT.

My Lady The Hon'ble Chief Justice Dr. Smt. Manjula Chellur, Hon'ble Judges of High Court, Additional Solicitor General Mr.Anil Singh, Dr. Milind Sathe, President of Bombay Bar Association, Mr.K.D. Kalyaniwalla, President of Incorporated Law Society, Members of late Mr.C.J.Sawant's family, learned Advocates, Ladies & Gentlemen.

Today we pay our last respects and tribute to a man of wisdom and humility, whose success rested upon mastery of law and the convincing power of his personality. A man who confronted the brutality of poverty with dignity and rose to become, in the words of his former junior Mr.Justice R M Sawant, I quote," the Dronacharya of the legal profession".

Former Advocate General of Maharashtra, former President of Advocates' Association of Western India – Chandrakant Jayaram Sawant, fondly called "CJ" by all of us passed away on 5th August 2016 at Kolhapur.

Chandrakant Jayaram Sawant had a very humble beginning. He was born on 7th April 1930 in a small village called Nandvi in Raigad District, about 140 kms. away from Mumbai. His father Jayram Sawant and mother Laxmibai had eight children, four sons and four daughters, and CJ was their 4th child. Mr. Jayram Sawant was a man of great principles. A very hardworking and dedicated primary school teacher who would often call students at home to tutor them at night for extra wage. Children would carry their own lantern as there was no light at their teacher's home. Life was a sheer struggle due to exhaustive working conditions and naturally so his health deteriorated. Mr. Jayaram Sawant passed away in 1942 leaving behind a large family. CJ himself was hardly 12 years old and watched helplessly his father die. He had finished elementary school education available in Nandvi Village. But High School education was further off in Mahad. Since there was no support to pay school fees, books and even two meals, CJ decided to join a Military School at Mahad which provided boarding. This school had a few reserved seats for children of non-military families from Konkan region. He was soon considered a bright student in the High School. During weekends, he would visit his home at Nandvi walking the distance of twelve kilometres from his school eager to meet his mother who would wait for his arrival every week-end. CJ would longingly eat his first complete meal made by

her. Money was really hard to come by, so he sometimes sold balloons, and even sought alms to survive. More hardships were in the offing. When he reached his Matriculation class, the school decided to stop admitting children from non-military families and it looked as if CJ would have to discontinue his education. But then he got admission in a boarding school where students from poor families were admitted. He successfully completed his Matriculation in 1947. As mentioned earlier, CJ felt helpless during his father's illness and subsequent death since there was no means to avail of timely medical help then. So he was driven by a desire to become a Doctor, make money and open a small dispensary in his village to serve the local people. This in mind, he decided to come down to Mumbai.

Two of his sisters being married by then were living in Mumbai and at last there was a silver lining. While one of them was married to a tram conductor, the other was married to a bus conductor. He utilised this newly found connection to travel freely all over Mumbai. But pursuing a medical education dream was becoming a difficult prospect since it meant taking admission in a science faculty and attending a full day college. He could not afford that. He had to earn his living which meant working the whole day. So he took admission in Siddharth College of Arts and simultaneously also got a job in Vikram General Insurance for a salary of Rs.50/-. The next job was at a rationing office where he

earned Rs.90/- p.m. When he turned 18, he became eligible for a Government employment. Ironically, on 16th June 1948, he got a job in this very High Court as a Clerk and entered for the first time the portals of this magnificent Court little knowing that herein lay his incredible destiny and future. In 1951, he completed B.A. He decided to study Law thereafter. He would attend the Law college until 9.45 a.m. and from 10.00 a.m. onwards he would work in the High Court. However, someone conveyed to the Principal that he had taken up work after college hours and he was asked to make a choice between work or pursuing his law studies. Prudently, CJ gave up the job and continued with his study. He started taking tuitions at a social night school. At times, he also washed utensils, somehow managed to eat one meal, study under the street lamp and at the end of the day, he would go to Kshatriya Maratha Credit Society's office to sleep. With sheer tenacity and without compromise, he pursued and successfully completed LL.B. in 1953 and soon thereafter started practice in the Police Criminal Court earning 5 to 10 rupees a day. However, the flip side was that there he got guidance from great Advocates like Godiwala, Mengde, Nadkarni. Around 1962-63, he resigned from his Police Court assignment. He joined Advocate K.K.Singhvi as his junior. In 1965, he started teaching in Sidewards College of Law.

In 1954, CJ at 24 got married to Mrs. Shashi Choudhary who was just 18. It was an inter-caste love marriage. The fondness perhaps began around the time she was his student taking tuitions from him during her college days. They got married around the time she got a job in the Telephone Exchange and he began his practice. Both their families did not consent to this marriage. So there was no support from family members. Some friends gave the newly married couple a place to live while Mrs. Shashi's friends in the Telephone Exchange gave them some utensils and from thereon they embarked on their journey of life together.

I spoke to some of his juniors who shared some remarkable and insightful memories of him with me. They showcased the man, who has left us with some really fond memories. May I recount some of their experiences with him.

When Advocate Vijay Patil who wished to learn under the tutelage of CJ met him for the first time he was nervous and overawed, uncertain of what to expect when he met him. Recognising the mental state of a nervous and edgy junior, CJ effortlessly used his charm to relieve that nervousness and comfort him. This noteworthy quality helped CJ a great deal in his practice as well. Clients were always at ease and could open up to him. CJ never lost his composure, was never perturbed or agitated. Never aggressive but firm. He stood his ground.

CJ Sawant was the first choice of almost all top ranking Government officials appearing and defending them in contempt petitions. He could manage to get them off the hook in many a tight situations with his persuasive arguments.

Even after his tenure as AG, he continued to be the first choice of Government officials representing them in contempt proceedings. This speaks volumes about CJ Sawant's abilities as a lawyer.

Advocate Prashant Naik fondly recalls that CJ was a constitutional expert and had mastered all branches of law such as Labour Law, Co-operative Law, Revenue Law, to name a few. But what was most striking about him was his phenomenal memory.

Advocate Prashant Chavan had a very interesting take on his senior's practice. He quips, I quote, "CJ's practice can be described in cricket lingo as a Twenty-Twenty facet. A solicitor firm Little & Co. had once received instructions from MSEB to brief a Designated Senior Counsel at the last minute. By the time these instructions were received by Mr. Khatlawala, Partner of Little & Co., the matter was barely one away from being called out. Rushing to the Court he saw CJ sitting, awaiting his own matter wherein he had been already briefed. Mr. Khatlawala requested CJ to appear in his matter. There was absolutely no time to even read the Petition. CJ

orally heard the facts, read the prayer clause and argued for three quarters of an hour and secured the dismissal of the Petition. This speaks volumes of the legal prowess of this man”.

Advocate Deepa Chavan, another junior of CJ, remembers that he was often branded as a Respondent's Counsel. This was because in most of the challenges to the enactment or subordinate legislations, CJ would invariably be briefed by the Respondent Government. However, this was a misnomer. In a constitutional challenge to the extension of the Municipal limits of the Karad Municipal Council before the Bench presided over by Justice R.A. Jahagirdar, a posse of Senior Advocates were appearing for the Petitioners in various Petitions. CJ was briefed to appear in one of the Petitions, for the Petitioner. The hearing for admission went on for three consecutive days. At the end of the hearing on the third day, CJ hurried into the Court room just as Justice Jahagirdar indicated that the Bench was dismissing the Petitions. Profusely apologising for his absence, CJ implored the Hon'ble Judges to hear him. The Bench was reluctant as the Hon'ble Judges indicated that they had heard the matters for admission for three days and all facets concerning the issue had been deliberated. The Bench very reluctantly agreed. CJ adhered to his time limit but to the Respondent's chagrin, the consequent result had drastically altered in those ten minutes, as the Petitions were not only admitted but the impugned Notification had been stayed.

Advocate Nitin Deshpande proudly says that “CJ made it to the top without any influential middle name”. He recounts that he came in contact with CJ when he led him in a labour matter when together they represented Kirloskar Filters. CJ made handling complicated matters look so simple. One could approach him for a matter during lunch time, brief him and walk away with a favourable order. Such was his ability to quickly grasp the issue and then present it before the Judge in exact words and persuade him to pass favourable order. “The hardships in his formative years did not make him a dry person”, says Nitin Deshpande.

These are just a few anecdotes of some of those who were fortunate to have been associated with CJ.

CJ was always inspired by the legendary Acahrya Prahlad Keshav Atre. In the year 1962-63, Municipal Corporation elections were to be held in Mumbai. Atre, who wished to have a man of mettle, elected to the municipal body, advised CJ to contest these elections. CJ hesitatingly agreed but lost the election. Many conceded that it was perhaps the best outcome since the legal profession would have become poorer without this legal eagle.

CJ had many interests. He was passionately and actively involved in the development of the Maratha Mandir. He worked there first as its Secretary and later in 1979 as its General Secretary.

In 1988, CJ underwent a bypass heart surgery. Everyone of his family was anxious. He reassured them with a subtle humour, a one liner, I quote, “you can bypass the bypass”. Prophetically, he did just that. He continued to work till the end.

When he turned 75 years, he was asked, “How do you feel when you look back in the past?” He simply said, “Normally I don't look back. When I remember those days I get goose-bumps.”

In the words of Poetess Smt. Shirish Pai, “CJ was a worshiper of whatever is good, whatever is noble, whatever is elegant.”

It was our good fortune to have been around such a towering personality. His strength, his purity of will, his objectivity, his sagacity -- all these are seldom found joined in a single individual. My Lady, I cannot do justice to Chandrakant Jayaram Sawant with this piece of writing but on behalf of each and every member of AAWI, I offer my tribute and heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

ADDRESS BY MR. KAIWAN KALYANIWALLA, PRESIDENT, THE BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE TO LATE MR. C.J. SAWANT, FORMER ADVOCATE GENERAL OF MAHARASHTRA, ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CENTRAL COURT.

My Lady the Chief Justice, the Hon'ble Judges of the Bombay High Court, Mr. Additional Solicitor General, Presidents of the Bombay Bar Association and the Advocates' Association of Western India.

I have the honour, albeit sadly, to address this Reference as the President of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society on whose behalf, I express condolences on the sad demise of Mr.C.J. Sawant.

Much has already been spoken in praise of the man, Mr. Sawant was. Even so, that would not be enough.

Mr. Sawant had a distinguished career as Senior Counsel of this Court and the Advocate General of our State. In the annals of this great institution, the likes of Mr. C.J. Sawant, who stood tall amongst his peers, will always be remembered.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of briefing Mr.Sawant in several Writ Petitions. His ability to quickly grasp key issues, made an instructing Attorney's task much easier. In the passing away of Mr.Sawant, not only have we lost an accomplished lawyer, a leader of the Bar, but also a fine gentleman.

I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the members of his family, and in particular, to His Lordship Mr. Justice Rajendra Sawant, who was closely associated with Mr. C.J. Sawant, having practised in his chamber during his days at the Bar.

May the departed soul rest in peace.

Date: 29th August 2016.

From :

**D. A. DHOLAKIA,
REGISTRAR, ORIGINAL SIDE,
HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.**

To,


1. The Registrar,
High Court of Judicature at Bombay,
Nagpur Bench, Nagpur.
2. The Registrar,
High Court of Judicature at Bombay,
Aurangabad Bench, Aurangabad
3. The Registrar,
High Court of Bombay at Goa
Panaji-Goa.

Sir,

I inform you that there will be a Full Court Reference presided over by Hon'ble the Chief Justice on Friday, 2 September 2016 at 11.00 a.m. in Central Court Room No.46, Second floor, High Court Main Building, to the Late Shri C. J. Sawant, a Senior Member of AAWI, Senior Advocate and Former Advocate General of State of Maharashtra, who expired on 5th August 2016.

I am, therefore, to request you to kindly place this letter for the kind perusal of the Hon'ble Judges sitting at Nagpur/Aurangabad Benches and High Court of Bombay at Goa including the Visiting Hon'ble Judges.

Faithfully Yours,



Registrar, Original Side,
High Court, Bombay.

Date: 29th August 2016.

From :

**D. A. DHOLAKIA,
REGISTRAR, ORIGINAL SIDE,
HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.**

To,


1. The Registrar,
High Court of Judicature at Bombay,
Nagpur Bench, Nagpur.
2. The Registrar,
High Court of Judicature at Bombay,
Aurangabad Bench, Aurangabad
3. The Registrar,
High Court of Bombay at Goa
Panaji-Goa.

Sir,

I inform you that there will be a Full Court Reference presided over by Hon'ble the Chief Justice on Friday, 2 September 2016 at 11.00 a.m. in Central Court Room No.46, Second floor, High Court Main Building, to the Late Shri C. J. Sawant, a Senior Member of AAWI, Senior Advocate and Former Advocate General of State of Maharashtra, who expired on 5th August 2016.

I am, therefore, to request you to kindly place this letter for the kind perusal of the Hon'ble Judges sitting at Nagpur/Aurangabad Benches and High Court of Bombay at Goa including the Visiting Hon'ble Judges.

Faithfully Yours,



Registrar, Original Side,
High Court, Bombay.

Date: 29th August 2016.

From :

**D. A. DHOLAKIA,
REGISTRAR, ORIGINAL SIDE,
HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.**

To,

1. The Registrar,
High Court of Judicature at Bombay,
Nagpur Bench, Nagpur.
2. The Registrar,
High Court of Judicature at Bombay,
Aurangabad Bench, Aurangabad
3. The Registrar,
High Court of Bombay at Goa
Panaji-Goa.

Sir,

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Faithfully Yours,



Registrar, Original Side,
High Court, Bombay.

My Lord,

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All Courts will, therefore, be in session, after the said Reference is over.

Respectfully submitted.

29.08.2016.

Registrar (O.S.)

My Lord,

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29.08.2016.

Registrar (O.S.)

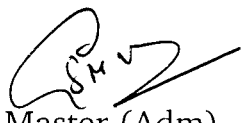
**SUBMITTED TO THE REGISTRAR/PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE HON'BLE
THE CHIEF JUSTICE :**

Respected Sir,

I respectfully submit that the following members from various Associations will speak during a Full Court Reference to the Late Shri C. J. Sawant, a Senior Member of AAWI, Senior Advocate and Former Advocate General of State of Maharashtra on Friday, 2nd September 2016 at 11.00 a.m. in Central Court, Second floor, High Court Main Building :-

1. Shri Anil Singh,
Additional Solicitor General of India
on behalf of Advocate General of Maharashtra
and Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa
2. Shri Milind Sathe, President
Bombay Bar Association
3. Shri Rajiv Chavan, President
Advocates' Association of Western India
4. Shri K. D. Kalyaniwalla, President
Bombay Incorporated Law Society

31st August 2016.


Master (Adm)
General Department



ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA

Room No. 36, First Floor, High Court, Mumbai - 400 032, Maharashtra.

Date: 09/08/2016

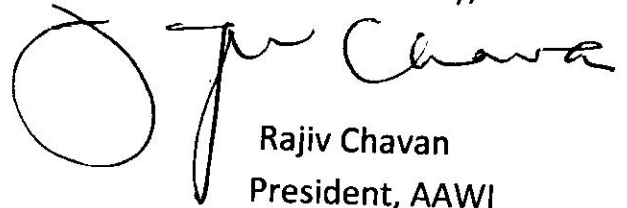
To,
The Hon'ble Chief Justice,
High Court At Bombay,
Mumbai

Respected Chief Justice,

A Senior Member of AAWI, Senior Advocate and Former Advocate General of Maharashtra State—Shri C. J. Sawant passed away on Friday, August 5th, 2016 at Kolhapur.

May I request My Lord to hold a Full Court Reference in the honour of late Shri C. J. Sawant.

Yours sincerely,


Rajiv Chavan
President, AAWI

6040
09/08/16

Submitted Respectfully
to the Registrar (08)
J.S.M.