

**ADDRESS BY HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA,
CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE
TO LATE PRAVINKUMAR MUKUTLAL SHAH,
SENIOR ADVOCATE,
HELD ON FRIDAY, 22nd JANUARY, 2021
IN THE COURT HALL NO.1 OF AURANGABAD BENCH**

...

My esteemed colleagues,

Mr.Ajay Talhar, Assistant Solicitor General of India,

Mr.D.R.Kale, Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor, High Court,

Ms. Surekha Mahajan, President of the High Court Bar Association,
Senior Advocates and other Members of the Bar,

Mr. Amol Sawant, on behalf of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa,

Members of the family of Late Pravinkumar Mukutlal Shah,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

...

We have assembled here this morning to mourn the sad demise of Pravinkumar Mukutlal Shah, Senior Advocate and to offer our respects to the departed soul. Late P. M. Shah left for his heavenly abode on 11th September, 2020 at Aurangabad at the age of 72 years.

Late P. M. Shah was born in a family of freedom fighters on 30th November, 1948. His parents were Mukutlal Harikisandas Shah and Smt.Ushadevi Mukutlal Shah. His grandfather (Late Balubhai Mehta) was conferred with the title of "Khandesh Gandhi" for his close association with the father of the nation – Mahatma Gandhi.

Late P.M. Shah, after completing his LL.B., from the Government Law College, Mumbai, in the year 1972, started practice as a trial court lawyer under the able guidance of his father. Soon he started appearing before the Hon'ble Bombay High Court (Principal Seat) in several matters. He relentlessly, selflessly and successfully fought for the cause of cultivators and actively pursued their matters from the Mofussil Court upto the Hon'ble Supreme Court for re-grant of lands to the cultivators.

While practicing at Dhule, late P.M. Shah was appointed as Special Counsel for the State of Maharashtra in matters related to "Sardar Sarowar Project".

Late P.M. Shah shifted to Aurangabad from Dhule in 1996 and started practicing at the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court. In 2000 late P.M. Shah was designated as a 'Senior Advocate' by the High Court under Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961. He appeared before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and various Courts at all levels in multiple faculties of law. He was legal advisor to various Local Authorities, Societies, Educational and Financial Institutions, counsel for North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. He appeared in several important matters including Larger Bench References and PILs. And has several reported judgments to his credit on diverse subjects.

Late P.M. Shah was elected as Member and Vice Chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in 1992 and 1996 respectively.

Apart from a law practitioner, late P.M. Shah was also associated with legal education. He was the honorary visiting lecturer at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad and other law colleges for some time including Commerce College. He had participated in many workshops and conferences on the subject connected with law. He played an active role in forming the Dhule Chapter of the "Progressive Law Association, Dhule" which was dedicated for imparting and sharing legal knowledge. Several legal luminaries/jurists were invited to conduct workshops arranged on behalf of the Association. The Association was originally founded at Bombay by Hon'ble Shri Justice P.B. Sawant. Late P.M. Shah delivered several guest lectures on different subjects of law at various institutions including the Judicial Academy at UTTAN, Law Colleges and Bar Associations across the State of Maharashtra.

Late P.M. Shah was closely associated with social organizations. He was Member/ Trustee of Dhule Education Society, Matruseva Sangh and Kasturba Maternity Home, Dhule, Rajwade Sanshodhan Mandal and Bank, Dhule, Vidhywardhini Sabha, Dhule, Saraswati Bhuwan Education Society, Aurangabad, and Ethics Committee, Kamalnayan Bajaj Hospital, Aurangabad.

Late P.M. Shah is survived by his wife Smt. Anjana and practicing lawyer son Subodh and daughter Sarika.

I did not have the good fortune of meeting late P. M. Shah. However, whatever I have heard of him from my dear colleagues and having learnt of his illustrious career as an advocate and a jurist, I can visualize how the legal fraternity misses him even today.

We wish he had remained in the service of the society for a little longer. His memory will always remain with us. In the passing away of late P.M. Shah, we have lost a eminent lawyer so also a good human being. In this hour of grief, on behalf of my colleagues and on my personal behalf, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them strength to bear the great loss and overcome the grief.

May the departed soul attain sadgati.

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.

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Date: 22.01.2021

Adv. Surekha Mahajan

**FULL COURT REFERENCE to late Shri P.M. Shah,
Senior Counsel, High Court of Bombay Bench at
Aurangabad.**

1. My lord, the Chief Justice Mr. Dipankar Datta, Hon'ble Justice Mr. S. V. Gangapurwala, Hon'ble Justice Mr. T.V. Nalawade, Honble Justice Mr. S. P. Deshmukh , Hon'ble Justice Mr. R. V .Ghuge. Learned Assistant Solicitor General of India, Adv Ajay Talhar. Learned Govt. Pleader Adv. D.R. Kale, Learned members of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa Adv. V.D. Salunke & Adv. Amol Sawant, respected Sr. counsels, my Colleagues, members of HCBA & the Family members madam Adv. Anjana Shah, son Adv. Subodh Shah and his wife Swati Shah , daughter Sarika and her son Arnav who are present here today.

2. We have assembled here this morning to mourn the sad demise of late Shri P. M. Shah, who left for his heavenly abode on 11th Sept 2020. He was born on 30th Nov 1948 in

Dist. Dhule. He completed his graduation BA (Economics) from Pune University. He obtained the LLB degree from Govt. Law College, Mumbai. He was enrolled as an advocate Bombay High Court in the year 1972. He started his career as junior lawyer in the chamber of his father, Adv . Mukutlal H. Shah. He was elected as a Vice Chairman and member of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in the year 1992 and 1996 respectively.

He also did the pious work of teaching in Mercantile Law in Palesha Commerce college Dhule and Ambedkar College of Law at Dhule.

3. He started his practice as lawyer at Dhule. Initially he practiced at trial court, appellate court in Dhule district. He also simultaneously started his career as an advocate on Appellate side of Bombay high court at its principal seat at Mumbai. While practicing at Dhule he was appointed as a special Counsel for State of Maharashtra in the matters related to Sardar Sarowar Project. He migrated to Aurangabad in the year 1996 as District Dhule came under the jurisdiction of High Court of Bombay Bench At Aurangabad. He had a versatile practice. He conducted

several matters including trials of Election Petitions Under the Representation of People's Act and matters relating to direct and indirect taxes. During his initial days at the Aurangabad Bench, he was standing counsel for North Maharashtra University. He was legal advisor to various Local Bodies, Societies, Education And Financial institutions.

4. As a lawyer he had a lucrative practice in civil & criminal side. In a very short period of time, he proved himself to be an outstanding & accomplished lawyer. In recognition of his rare qualities he was designated as Senior Advocate by the Bombay High Court in the year 2000.

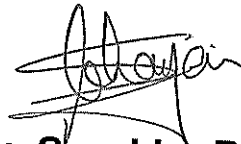
5. This achievements of his life was the outcome of his honest, upright & humane approach to the various complex problems which he efficiently resolved the by his innovative method of perception through an analytical approach leading to the final conclusion. He will always be remembered for contents of his arguments. The best quality in him was his composed nature. I have not observed him being panic, jittery during his arguments any time.

6. I had occasion to work with sir, in a PIL No.124/2014 which is filed for good governance of water of water and non implementation of Maharashtra Water Regulatory Act, 1972 decades. Sir was engaged as a Counsel during assisting him I learnt how a great mind works, his visionary and his great potential to resolve the issue of great concern for each individual. Ultimately by order dt: 13.07.2015 the Hon'ble Court granted Interim Relief and now the PIL is pending for final disposal.

7. The passing away of. Late Shri. P. M. Shah, Sr Counsel the legal fraternity has lost a "mentor". In this moment of grief, I on behalf of HCBA Aurangabad convey our heartfelt condolence to the members of the family of Late Shri. P. M. Shah Sr. Counsel. May almighty give them strength to bear the great loss.

May the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

Om shanty...



Adv. Surekha P. Mahajan
President
HCBA, Aurangabad.

My Lord, The Hon'ble Chief justice of Bombay High Court and Hon'ble Justice Shri S.V.Gangapurwala, Hon'ble Justice Shri T.V.Nalawade, Hon'ble Justice Shri Sunil Deshmukh, Hon'ble Justice Shri Ravidra Ghuge and the Hon'ble judges of High Court., President of High Court Advocates' Bar Association, Members of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Standing counsels for Government of India and Government of Maharashtra, my colleges at the Bar, family members of Late Senior Advocate Shri P.M.Shah, Brothers and Sisters.

Today, we have assembled here to share the grief of separation of Senior Advocate P.M.Shah from our lives. He was a self-made man of honour, who rose to become an ideal in our legal fraternity. Advocate Shah was a lawyer blessed with prodigious legal acumen, monumental knowledge and strong leadership. The wisdom of this esteemed Advocate was justified in all his works.

It is impossible to cumulate within words the glory of this very distinguished and eminent Senior Advocate and former Vice Chairperson of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa. Senior Adv. P.M.Shah was born on 30th November 1948. He started his astounding journey as a trial court lawyer under the able guidance of his father late Adv. Mukutlal Shah. He started practicing at Aurangabad Bench of Bombay High Court since 1996 and appeared before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in some matters. He was a legal advisor to various Local Authorities, Societies, Educational and Financial Institutions and counsel for North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. He appeared in important matters including Larger Bench references and PILs and was appointed as Amicus Curiae. Then in 2000, he was designated as Senior Advocate by the Hon'ble High court.

His exceptional work didn't limit him to law and so while practicing at Dhule, he was appointed as Special Counsel for State of Maharashtra in matters related "Sardar Sarowar Project". He relentlessly, selflessly and successfully fought for the cause of cultivators and actively pursued their matters from Mofussil Court upto Hon'ble Supreme Court for re-grant of lands to the cultivators. He was a man of honour who continues to teach us the importance and significance of independence at the level of mind.

We adore and idealize his name, for the eminent virtues, and for his illustrious actions and his spirit of sincerity. He was meticulous, constant and consistent from the beginning to the end of his life and continues to live with us with his ideas, visions and contributions.

On behalf of the office of the Assistant Solicitor General of India and on my personal behalf I pay my tribute and salute Senior Advocate P.M. Shah. With great reverence I convey my deep sorrow and grief to his family members. May they find strength to overcome this sadness. May his godly soul rest in eternal peace.



Ajay Talhar
Assistant Solicitor General of India
High court of Bombay Bench at
Aurangabad

Date: 22.01.2021

Hon'ble the Chief Justice Shri Dipankar Datta, Hon'ble Justice Shri S.V. Gangapurwala, Hon'ble Justice T.V. Nalawade, Hon'ble Justice S.P. Deshmukh and Hon'ble Justice R.V. Ghuge, President of Bar Association, Senior Advocates, Standing Counsel for Union of India Mr. Talhar, Members of the Bar, my colleagues at the office of the Government Pleader, Family Members of Late Shri P.M. Shah, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today with heavy heart we gather here to pay homage to one of the towering personalities of our Bar – Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah, who left us on 11th September, 2020.

Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah was born on 30th November, 1948 in a family of Freedom Fighter at Dhule. He had completed his schooling education and B.A. [Hon] degree. He has completed LLB in the year 1972 from Government Law College, Mumbai and registered as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa.

Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah practiced as a Trial Court Lawyer under able guidance of his father Late Advocate Shri Mukutlal Shah. while practicing at Dhule he was appointed as Special Counsel for State of Maharashtra in the matters related to "Sardar Sarovar Project". He has practiced at Hon'ble Bombay High Court. Since 1996 he shifted to Aurangabad and started practicing at Hon'ble High Court Bench at Aurangabad. He appeared in some of the matters before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah designated as 'Senior Advocate' by the Hon'ble High Court in the year of 2000. He was also a Legal Advisor to various Local authorities, Societies, Educational and Financial Institutions. He was Counsel for North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. The Hon'ble High Court appointed him as 'Amicus Curiae' in various important matters.

Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah elected as Vice Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in the year 1996.

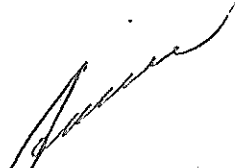
Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah was a great man, a wonderful intellect and a great soul of matchless courage, We meet to pay a tribute of love and respect to Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah because he devoted His Excellency in the legal fraternity.

Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah had that compassion towards the sufferings of the litigants. His love for reading and learning was immense. We will continue to celebrate his gifts and we mourn the loss his kindness and wisdom leaves behind.

A great soul serves very one all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again.

I pray Almighty of God that the departed soul may rest in peace.

On behalf of the State of Maharashtra and my colleagues at the office of the Government Pleader, I pay homage to Senior Counsel Late Shri P.M. Shah.


[Dnyaneshwar R. Kale]
I/c. Government Pleader
High Court Bench at Aurangabad

Full Court Reference Speech

My Lord, The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and the Hon'ble Justice Shri. S.V. Gangapurwala and Hon'ble Justice Shri. T. V. Nalawade and Hon'ble Justice Shri. Sunil P. Deshmukh and Hon'ble Justice Shri. Ravindra V. Ghuge and the Hon'ble Judges of Bombay High Court, the President of High Court Advocates Association, Members of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Assistant Solicitor General of India, Government Pleader, Bombay High Court, Bench at Aurangabad and my esteemed colleagues of the Bar, the Family Members of Late Shri. P.M. Shah, Senior Counsel.

Today, we have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of Shri. P.M. Shah, Senior Counsel, who left for his heavenly abode. Shri. P.M. Shah completed LL.B in the year 1972. Initially Shri. Shah started practice at Dhule with the office of his father, who is the renoun Advocate in Khandesh Region. While doing practice, Shri. Shah also worked as Lecturer in various Colleges. Shri. Shah elected as Member of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in the year 1992 and thereafter elected as Vice Chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in the year 1996.

It is always difficult to encapsulate in just a few words a tribute to a great person. This is more difficult when the person had such a multi faceted life. The career of Shri Shah was molded by his passionate concern for the poor and down trodden. In his practice though he sought a big corporate houses, he never appeared against labour or a down trodden. He exuded such simplicity in his conduct that, his persona touched everyone's heart. It was not an exception Mr. Shah was epitome of the Sanskrit adage "विद्या विनयेन शोभते".

In his Chamber various juniors who presently became very successful Lawyers. I have had the fortune to be a Junior to Shri. Shah. When Shri. Shah aware about the fact that, I am tne first generation lawyer, then Shri. Shah treated me as a family

Amol S. Sawant
Adv

member of his family. It was with Shri. Shah's divine touch and blessings that, transformed me into this self confident and able lawyer, that I am today. His suggestions, guidance and tips have remained as a treasure with me for life. His unparalleled command on Constitutional Law, Civil Law and to visit the hidden and underlined meaning of statutory interpretation was unmatched. It was an enriching experience to assist him in his legal endeavors. Not for myself, but for all juniors of our office, Shri. Shah is Pitamah. He was a lighthouse to hundreds of us. He was an inspiration for anyone aspiring to make a mark in the legal profession. His life was an object lesson for juniors. He conducted number of cases without charging a single pai. He served the society when the services were the need of the hour.

When the news of sad demise of Shri. Shah came, a great shock to everyone. For myself it is difficult to accept the same as I instructed Shri Shah in virtual hearing on previous day. The case is posted for further arguments and the news of sad demise came.

He was an excellent lawyer and meritorious Law Teacher. His lectures of law of writs, Indian Evidence Act are all remarkable pieces, that exemplify his command with law. His mind was a ready reckoner for cases on each and every point of law. In his passing away we lost the great human being and eminent Senior Counsel. If death is inevitable, it is also ordained that, some people will tower over time, that they will be larger than life and that, their imprints and footprints will remain indelible. His demise is a great loss to the legal fraternity and to this Bench. Lastly I can only say that, he will be greatly missed by all of us.

Shri. Shah is lost to us, but is secure in the annals of the history of this Bench as an eminent counsel and great human being. May the almighty give the strength to the family to bare this great loss and may the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

Amit S. Sonant
Adv