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ADDRESS BY HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE ALOK ARADHE, HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE R.G. SINDHAKAR, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 10.00 AM, IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

My esteemed Sister and Brother Judges,

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

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

**Mr. Nitin Thakker,
President, Bombay Bar Association,**

**Mr. Prashant Relekar,
Chairman, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

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

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Sindhakar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We have assembled here to pay tribute to late Mr. Justice Ratnakar Gopinath Sindhakar, a former Judge of Court, who left for heavenly abode on 7th November, 2024.

Late Justice Ratnakar Gopinath Sindhakar was born on 12th May, 1930 in a family of lawyers at Nagothane, Alibaug. His

father who was a practising advocate in Thane and Bhiwandi and was a close friend of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who would often visit their home at Thane. Late Justice Sindhakar lost his mother when he was two years' old and was brought up by his paternal grandmother and by his step-mother.

Late Justice Sindhakar completed his early education at New English School, Thane and graduated from Khalsa College. He obtained Bachelor's degree in Law from Government Law College, Mumbai and started his career in Law on 27th March, 1952. Justice Sindhakar practised as a Pleader in District Court, Thane and on 27th March, 1957, was enrolled as an advocate in the Bombay High Court. Late Justice Sindhakar initially practised under the guidance of his father and dealt with civil and criminal matters before the District Courts and Sessions Courts.

Justice Sindhakar started his career as Judge as Civil Judge, Junior Division in December, 1958. During his long tenure in District Judiciary, he served as Civil Judge, Senior Division, Assistant Judge and Additional Sessions Judge in various places in the State of Maharashtra. He also served as Registrar of the Bombay High Court, first Principal Judge of the Family Court in Bandra, Mumbai.

Late Justice Sindhakar was elevated on 23rd November, 1989 as an Additional Judge of Bombay High Court and was confirmed as a Permanent Judge on 29th October, 1990. He demitted office on 12th May, 1992.

I am told that His Lordship was highly respected by the Bar and the Bench. Throughout his judicial career, he was admired for his calm and composed demeanor, which earned him widespread respect in the legal community. He had a firm and disciplined approach, but was friendly. He embodied the principles of fairness and justice.

Late Justice Sindhakar, as a Judge of the Bombay High Court, authored several notable judgments and skillfully addressed the intricate legal questions and dealt with interpretation of statutes. The decisions rendered by him have stood the test of time and are highly regarded in the legal domain. Law reports bear testimony to his erudition.

After his superannuation, late Justice Sindhakar served as a Presiding Officer of the Industrial Tribunal and National Tribunal and subsequently, as the Presiding Officer of the College and University Tribunal for Mumbai University and SNTD Women's University. He also chaired the Committee for the welfare of tribal people residing in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. His Lordship also led the Sindhakar Commission of Inquiry, established by the Government of Goa, manifesting his continued commitment to addressing critical social and administrative matters.

He also actively participated in Lok Adalats for Motor Accident Claims and served as a member of Advisory Board established under Preventive Detention laws, including COFEPOSA and FEMA.

Late Justice Sindhakar was frequently invited as Chief Guest at both national and international moot court competitions, where he motivated students with his insights and experience.

He was deeply committed to social causes and played an active role in addressing community issues. He championed a campaign against the burden of heavy school bags and successfully secured directives from the Human Rights Commission to reduce their weight, a reform that continues to benefit students even today.

His Lordship promoted waste management initiatives and he was a member of the 'Save Mangroves' Committee in Versova and contributed to the protection and preservation of mangroves in the region.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Kunda Sindhakar and two daughters, Archana and Seema who, following the footsteps of their father have excelled in the field of teaching and medicine respectively.

On behalf of my Sister and Brother Judges and on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May God give them the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss. I pray to the Almighty to bestow peace to the departed soul.

ADDRESS BY DR. BIRENDRA SARAF, ADVOCATE GENERAL FOR MAHARASHTRA AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE R.G. SINDHAKAR, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 10.00 AM, IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

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

**Mr. Nitin Thakker,
President, Bombay Bar Association,**

**Mr. Prashant Relekar,
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**Mrs. Ferzana Behramkamdin,
President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society,**

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Sindhakar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

As we have assembled today to pay tribute to Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Your Lordship.

Being a third-generation lawyer, Justice Sindhakar started his practice in the Thane Court. He had the good fortune of interacting

with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who visited his Thane home at times. Starting his career from the first rung of the Judiciary as a Junior Division Judge, he gradually rose right upto the highest Court in the State. During his journey, he discharged various roles in different Courts including serving as the Registrar General of the Bombay High Court. Whatever duties he was assigned, he discharged them with the fullest commitment and dedication.

He made valuable contribution in the setting up of the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court and as the first Principal Judge of the Family Court, he was also instrumental in setting up of the Family Court at Bandra in 1980. Even after his retirement as a High Court Judge, his commitment to the cause of dispensation of justice was relentless and he served the cause in various capacities including as the Presiding Officer of the Industrial Tribunal and thereafter the Presiding Officer of the College and University Tribunal.

Justice Sindhakar retired as a High Court Judge much before I started practising. However, I had the good fortune of regularly appearing before him when he was the Presiding Officer of the College and University Tribunal. I used to appear before him as a raw junior and he was always soft spoken, indulgent and encouraging.

He continued to serve the society at large after his retirement in various capacities including as a member of the Advisory Board in relation to Preventive Detention matters and the Committee of AICTE and also by participating in Lok Adalats. My Lord, I remember Justice Sindhakar as an excellent human being, a very unassuming and down to earth person who placed others before himself.

Apart from the legal field, he also made valuable contributions to the society. He was the force behind the campaign against heavy school bags and filed a case in Human Rights Tribunal in this regard. He succeeded in getting directives issued which helped to reduce the weight of school bags. He made pioneering efforts in garbage management and the separation of dry and wet wastes by organizing meetings of housing societies and interactions with BMC officials.

He espoused the cause of the retired High Court Judges and his efforts were instrumental in ensuring medical reimbursement for retired Judges and their families. He was even involved in the 'Save Mangroves' Committee of Versova. He loved nature and planted trees wherever he was posted only to return there and take great delight in seeking the saplings which he had planted having grown into towering trees.

He lived a fulfilling and contented life and passed away at the age of 94 leaving behind his wife Mrs. Kunda Sindhakar, His two daughters, Archana and Seema. His son-in-law Mr. Abhay Patki is a lawyer and also an Additional Government Pleader.

On behalf of the State of Maharashtra and the entire Bar, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the family members of Late Justice Sindhakar and pray that his soul rests in eternal peace.

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ADDRESS BY DR. UDAY P. WARUNJIKAR, MEMBER, BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA & GOA AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE R.G. SINDHAKAR, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 10.00 AM, IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

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Advocate General for the State of Maharashtra,**

**Mr. Nitin Thakker,
President, Bombay Bar Association,**

**Mr. Prashant Relekar,
Chairman, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

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

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Sindhakar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I fully associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and learned Advocate General. On behalf of lawyers registered in the State of Maharashtra, State of Goa, and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, I offer our deepest condolences on this occasion.

Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar was known as one of the fortunate persons who had personal interaction with the father of the Constitution of India, Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar completed his school education from Thane and joined service as a Civil Judge, Junior Division. Gradually, he was promoted as Assistant Judge as well as District Judge. He had also served as Additional Registrar of the Aurangabad Bench of our High Court. Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar was also known for his contribution in establishing the Aurangabad Bench of our Court at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar.

Several Senior Members of the local Bar at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar still remember Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar as one of the proactive Registrar, who took pains for establishing the Bench. Not only that, he was known as first Principal Judge of the Family Court at Bandra.

Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar later on became the Registrar General of Bombay High Court which was known as the post of Registrar prior to unification of cadres. In 1989, he was elevated as Judge of our Court and in 1992, he attained the age of superannuation.

I feel myself as fortunate litigant who had appeared before Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar when he was the Presiding Officer of the Bombay College and University Tribunal during the period between 1996 and 1999. Though my sanad is from 1994, I followed the tradition of joining college for delivering the lectures. In connection with the action of management, I myself and several other part-time Assistant Professors were required to knock the doors of the college universities tribunal at Mumbai. At that time, I had occasion to

appear before Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar who delivered the detailed Judgment in our favour which was upheld by this Hon'ble Court. He was a respected Judicial Officer who was also Member of Lok Adalat under the Motor Vehicles Act.

Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar was also appointed by the State of Goa to conduct an inquiry and I am told that his recommendations were accepted by the Goa Government.

I am also told that Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar was proactive for Welfare of Former Judges. After attaining the age of superannuation, Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar was involved in various social causes. He joined hands with environmentalists and came forward to save mangroves in Mumbai, more particularly at Versova area. Plantation of trees and steps for zero garbage where initiatives taken by Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar in housing societies.

Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar followed the tradition by keeping him aloof from society when he was on the dais. However, after attaining the age of superannuation, he actively participated in various social issues. His son-in-law, Shri Abhay Patki, is also a very good lawyer of our Court. Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar has been survived by his wife, two daughters and son-in-law.

On behalf of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, BCI Members and all other Hon'ble Members, I offer deepest condolences to the family members of Late Justice R. G. Sindhakar.

Late his soul rest in peace.

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti.

ADDRESS BY MR. NITIN THAKKER, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE R.G. SINDHAKAR, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 10.00 AM, IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

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**Mr. Prashant Relekar,
Chairman, Advocates' Association of Western India,**

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

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Sindhakar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We have gathered today to remember and pay homage to a public-spirited citizen who was crusader for environmental protection of mangroves who led the movement to make BMC's zero garbage policy successful, who tirelessly worked for welfare of retired high court judges. He guided the movement to lighten the weight of Heavy School Bags. His efforts resulted in Human Rights Commission intervening and the burden of school bags lightened. The Times of

India's edition of 5th December 2008 noticed his efforts with the headline "Retd. Judge to check weight of school bags".

We are paying homage to a judge who started his judicial career as a Civil Judge Junior Division in 1952, promoted as Civil Judge Senior Division, thereafter Assistant Judge, Additional District Judge, District Judge, Additional Registrar Appellate Side and Registrar General. The final recognition came when His Lordship was promoted as a High Court Judge. His judicial career did not end with retirement as a High Court Judge in 1992. But as was mentioned by the learned Chief Justice, he was appointed in various tribunals. So, we are paying homage to sixty years of judicial service.

During his tenure as high court judge he did not sit on Original Side. But from the various reported judgements one can find that he dealt with variety of laws and subjects. His desire to do justice with compassion was evident when we read his judgement reported in 1991 SCC Online BOM 9, where His Lordship upheld the claim of a divorcee to get maintenance of Rs. 300/- per month by interpreting provisions of S.125 of Criminal Procedure Code reversing the judgement of Sessions Court which had reversed the order of the Magistrate.

Justice Sindhakar was very much influenced by thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, who he had a fortune to meet when he was young. Dr Ambedkar advised him 'to look far and not near'. This became his mantra and he realised later on the deep meaning of that message.

He attended flag hoisting ceremony at High Court on last 15th August and also ground-breaking ceremony. He was very fond of

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former Chief Justice Dhananjay Chandrachud. His daughter who accompanied him at the function tells me that she offered to take him home due to his age but he refused and wanted to listen to the chief justice, as he had heard him when the young Dhananjaya appeared before him as a lawyer. In his last days he relived the groundbreaking ceremony Again and again by watching YouTube video.

I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Your Lordship and my previous speakers.

On behalf of myself and Bombay Bar Association, I pray that his noble soul attains eternal peace. He has passed away at the age of 94 therefore we join the family members, daughters Seema and Archana and his son-in-law Shri Abhay Patki in paying tributes to His Lordship.

Om Shanti.

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ADDRESS BY MR. PRASHANT RELEKAR, CHAIRMAN, ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE R.G. SINDHAKAR, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 10.00 AM, IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

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

Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Sindhakar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Today, we gather here in solemn remembrance of Justice Ratnakar Gopinath Sindhakar, a distinguished jurist, whose service to law and commitment to justice has left an indelible mark on the Bombay High Court and the legal community at large.

His Lordship began his career in 1952 as a Pleader in the Thane District Court and soon after, in 1956, as an Advocate of the Bombay High Court. His deep understanding of the law and commitment to fairness led him to join the judicial services in 1958 as a Civil Judge

(Junior Division) and Judicial Magistrate (First Class).

Throughout his career, he served with distinction at various levels of the judiciary. His promotions in 1971 as a Civil Judge, in 1977 as a Joint Judge and in 1981, as a Selection Grade District Judge were a testament to his legal acumen and keen judicial temperament. His tenure as the Registrar of the Bombay High Court from 1985 to 1989 was marked by efficiency and a keen sense of administrative diligence, further solidifying his reputation as a pillar of the institution.

In 1989, he was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court, later becoming a Permanent Judge in 1990, until his retirement in 1992. His Lordship headed the Sindhakar commission of enquiry appointed by the Goa Government.

His judgements reflected not only his vast knowledge of the law but also his deep sense of justice, fairness and compassion.

Justice Sindhakar was not merely a Judge who interpreted the law; he was a guardian of justice, ensuring that the principles of equality and integrity always prevailed. His contributions to the judiciary will continue to inspire generations of legal professionals who walk these halls in pursuit of justice. He was blessed with a sharp intelligence which was evident till the end at an old age of 94 years. He led a fulfilling and meaningful life and expressed contentment even on his last day.

His Lordship's passing is an irreplaceable loss to the legal community. However, his legacy will live on through the wisdom he imparted, the judgments he delivered and the fairness he upheld.

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On behalf of the Advocates' Association of Western India, I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Thank you.

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ADDRESS BY MRS. FERZANA BEHRAMKAMDIN, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE R.G. SINDHAKAR, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 10.00 AM, IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, MUMBAI.

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Learned Senior Advocates and members of the Bar,

Bereaved Members of Sindhakar family,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I associate myself with all that has been stated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and my co-speakers in respect of Justice Sindhakar.

Mr. Justice Sindhakar was a judge of our Court from November 1989 till his retirement in 1992. I unfortunately never had the opportunity of appearing before His Lordship, but have heard that he was well respected. His legal acumen is evident in his various judgements. Even after his retirement, Justice Sindhakar continued to

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take up social causes and environmental issues, including the issue of reducing the weight of school bags.

On behalf of The Bombay Incorporated Law Society and myself, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and pray that his soul rests in eternal peace.

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