

FULL COURT REFERENCE HELD ON 31ST MARCH, 2022 AT 3:45 P.M. ON THE SAD DEMISE OF JUSTICE SAT PAL AND JUSTICE ARUNA SURESH {Former Judges of this Court}

My Esteemed Sister and Brother Judges;

Mr. Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General of India;

Mr. Murari Tiwari, Chairman, Enrolment Committee, Bar Council of Delhi;

Mr. Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association;

Mr. Jatan Singh, Vice President, Delhi High Court Bar Association;

Mr. Abhijat, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association;

Mr. Santosh Kumar Tripathi, Standing Counsel (Civil) Govt. of NCT of Delhi;

Standing Counsels of the Central and State Government;

Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association;

Office Bearers of Bar Council of Delhi and District Bar Associations;

Senior Advocates;

Members of the Bar;

Family members of Late Justice Sat Pal;

Family Members of Late Justice Aruna Suresh;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled today to condole the demise of Mr. Justice Sat Pal, Former Judge of this Court, and the Punjab and Haryana High Court; and Justice Aruna Suresh, Former Judge of this Court, and the Orissa High Court.

Justice Sat Pal was born on 15th July, 1936 at Gujranwala in undivided India. At the tender age of 11, he lost his father in 1947. He then moved to Ludhiana where he completed his schooling. He completed his Bachelors and Masters Degree, and then obtained LL.B. Degree from Delhi University. He was enrolled as an Advocate in the Delhi High Court on 29th January, 1970.

He was appointed as a Central Government Standing Counsel, and Senior Prosecution Counsel of the Income-Tax Department in 1983. During those days, I joined Mr. Rajendran Dutt, Advocate, who too was one of the Central Government Standing Counsels, and our Chamber was adjoining that of Shri Sat Pal. I had the occasion to regularly interact with him during those days and I have fond memories of discussing some batch matters wherein both – Mr. Dutt and Mr. Sat Pal were engaged. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court on 19th March, 1991, and as a permanent Judge of this Court on 23rd January, 1992. He was then transferred to the Punjab & Haryana High Court on 1st September, 1994 where he served till his retirement on 15th July, 1998. Even after his retirement, Justice Sat Pal continued serving justice to the people as head of the permanent Electricity Lok Adalat for almost seventeen years. He also served as an Arbitrator in Indian and International Arbitrations.

Justice Sat Pal is survived by his wife Dr. Swadesh and his two daughters, Advocate Monika Garg (married to Captain Manoj Garg) and Anubha Sharma (married to Advocate Shailendra Sharma), and his grandchildren Shrinika and

Sumedh. Justice Sat Pal is remembered as a sharp legal mind, who was also known for his kindness.

Justice Sat Pal left for his heavenly abode peacefully on 2nd July, 2020 at the age of 84. With the passing of Justice Sat Pal, the judiciary has been left poorer.

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

x x x x x x x x x

Mrs. Justice Aruna Suresh was born on 19th February, 1950. She was the daughter of late Justice J.D. Jain, a prominent Judge of this Court. She graduated from the Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University in the year 1969. She then studied law at Campus Law Centre, Delhi University and obtained her LL.B. Degree in 1972.

Within one year of completing her Law Degree, her long judicial career commenced on 1st February, 1973 with her joining the Delhi Judicial Services at

a young age of 23. She steadily kept rising through the ranks. She gained varied experience while discharging her duties in different capacities, firstly as an officer of the Delhi Judicial Service, and thereafter, as an officer of the Delhi Higher Judicial Service.

After 33 years of her selfless service in the subordinate Judiciary, Justice Aruna Suresh was elevated as an Additional Judge of this Court on 4th July, 2006 and became a permanent Judge of this Court in February 2008. Thereafter, she was transferred to the Orissa High Court, where she served from 28th October, 2010 till her retirement on 18th February, 2012. After her retirement, she was an active Arbitrator.

In times when very few women would take up the legal profession, Justice Aruna Suresh made her mark in the judicial field. I remember her fondly, as we sat side by side on the lunch table till she was a Judge in this Court. I have also had the occasion to meet and befriend her versatile husband Mr. Suresh Chopra.

Justice Aruna Suresh left for her heavenly abode on 17th May, 2021 at the age of 71. Her husband Shri Suresh Chopra, and one of her sons, Mr. Rajneesh Chopra are practicing advocates. Her another son Divyang Chopra is managing his own business. Her sad demise has created a void not just for her family and friends, but for the entire legal fraternity at large.

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

(AFTER REFERENCE BY LAWYERS IS OVER)

As a mark of respect to the departed souls, we shall now observe silence for two minutes. (The Hon'ble Judges will take their respective seats for a moment after the silence, and it will be announced by Hon'ble the Chief Justice as under).

“As a mark of respect to the departed souls, the working in the Court is adjourned for the rest of the day.