

**FULL COURT REFERENCE HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT 3:00 P.M. ON THE SAD DEMISE OF SHRI ARUN JAITLEY, SENIOR ADVOCATE**

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**D. N. PATEL, Chief Justice**

My esteemed brother and sister Judges,  
Smt. Maninder Acharya, Additional Solicitor General,  
Shri Ved Prakash Sharma, Co-Chairman, Bar Council of India  
Shri K.C. Mittal, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi,  
Shri Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,  
Shri Jatan Singh, Vice-President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,  
Shri Abhijat, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association,  
Shri Rahul Mehra, Standing Counsel (Criminal), Govt. of NCT of Delhi;  
Shri Ramesh Singh, Standing Counsel (Civil), Govt. of NCT of Delhi;  
Shri Rajiv Nayyar, Senior Advocate,  
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 other District Bar Associations,  
Senior Advocates,  
Members of the Bar,  
Family members of Shri Arun Jaitley,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have assembled here today, to express our grief and pay our heartfelt tribute, to eminent Senior Advocate of this Court, Shri Arun Jaitley, who left for his heavenly abode on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.

The personal, educational and professional profile of Late Shri Arun Jaitley has been extensively dealt with by the previous speakers and I do not wish to repeat them again.

The life Shri Jaitley lived, is a remarkable text-book example of how one's faith in himself, devotion, grit and determination in his cause can lead the trajectory of one's life to the zenith of each and every field one touches upon.

Even at a young age, he made his exceptional leadership felt. He was a successful student leader and the faith put in him by the students was well earned. He understood the significance and power of youth in standing up to the authority, and not accepting injustice. He was a remarkable person and a self-made man. As Delhi University Student Union President, he built consensus not only within the university but also brought the elected heads of student unions across the country to support the JP movement, thus turning contribution to the movement into a wave. Even when he was imprisoned for 19 months, he did not panic or lose hope. He utilised this time to become an expert in the Constitution and in the political history of India. He learned through the experience of others and imbibed the true value of empathy.

When it comes to the domain of law, he was a stalwart and a lawyer of exceptional calibre who was respected for his sharp legal acumen and his suave mannerism. He was one of the most loved senior members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association as well as of Supreme Court Bar Association.

Shri Jaitley always supported the various initiatives of the Bar, including the recently launched Delhi High Court Advocates Welfare Trust. He had a very trusting nature, and always made time for those seeking his help. He was one of the most humane, humble and down to earth person who did not hold any grudge against anyone. He was at his articulate best, in the court. The ease with which, he used to dissect, any case threadbare, with his legal acumen, elephantine memory and sharp argumentative skills elevated not just the experience of the court but inspired a new generation of legal minds in this country.

In recognition of his contribution to the practice of law, Shri Jaitley was appointed the Additional Solicitor General of India in 1989 and designated as a Senior Advocate by Delhi High Court in January 1990. He was part of a delegation on behalf of Union of India to the United Nations General Assembly Sessions in June 1998, where the *Declaration on Laws Relating to Drugs and Money Laundering* was approved. There are so many landmark judgements, which can directly be attributed to his diligence and hard-work.

When it comes to another domain of his life, he came to inhabit, own and redefine politics in this country. He was respected across the entire spectrum. Leaders cutting across party lines, sought his advice, on different matters on numerous occasions. He embodied the spirit of service, to people and to the nation. He was a master consensus builder, in the most trying of the times and a genius trouble-shooter, whenever rays of hope flickered and solutions seemed hard to achieve. He knew the art of persuasion. His charming nature, made it hard, for the opposition, to negate him. The flair with which, he put forward his arguments, in the court and in the Parliament, was uncanny and made everyone in the room take note.

Shri Jaitley was a man with admirable strength, knowledge, wit and humour. He acquired distinction, in all the fields he touched upon, in life as if he had that proverbial Midas touch in his hands. He was a lawyer of great repute and a mentor to many.

Many of us present here, like myself, will recollect, with great fondness, the quiet strength and dignity with which, Shri Jaitley exuberated his brilliance.

Palkhivala has said I quote "It is not true that law defiles, it is not true that law degrades. The legal profession has produced some of the finest and most independent characters whose names are imprinted on the scroll of history". Shri Arun Jaitley was one of those who imprinted his sublime marks on the sands of time.

With the demise of Shri Jaitley, a void has been created and both the Bench and the Bar would be deprived of his professionalism and guidance which was readily available to the lawyers, particularly juniors. Shri Jaitley, during his life, had shown complete professionalism and devotion to duty and the same is a sterling example to the legal fraternity and will act as a guide in future.

The legend never dies. His life and noble deeds continue to inspire.

We have lost a unique talent and a national treasure.

Shri Arun Jaitley left behind several friends and admirers, almost every one of us has a story to tell of his warmth, kindness and generosity.

- A great debator,  
conversationalist,  
foodie, and  
history buff,
- he was a wonderful host and a loyal friend.
- A key strategist and trouble-shooter,
- an eminent lawyer,
- an excellent orator,
- a very good administrator  
and
- an outstanding parliamentarian.

He was an obedient son, loving husband and caring father.

If the tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, we would walk upto heaven and bring him back home, again.

Shri Jaitley is survived by his wife Mrs. Sangeeta Jaitley, daughter Ms. Sonali Jaitley and son Mr. Rohan Jaitley, both are practicing Advocates.

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

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**(AFTER REFERENCE IS OVER)**

**The Chief Justice:**

*I request you all to pay homage in the memory of Shri Arun Jaitley by standing in silence for two minutes.*

**After Two Minutes of Silence:**

(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).

**The Chief Justice:**

*"As a mark of respect to the departed soul, the Court is adjourned for the rest of the day".*

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