

OBITUARY REFERENCE

My Lords, Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi, Mr. Justice Ajit Prakash Shah and his Hon'ble Companion Judges, Mr. K. C. Mittal, President, Mr. J.P. Sengh, Vice-President, Mr. D.K. Sharma, Secretary and other office bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Praveen H. Parekh, President of Supreme Court Bar Association, Central Government Standing Counsels, Ms. Mukta Gupta, Standing Counsel for Government of NCT of Delhi (Criminal), Mr. Najmi Waziri, Standing Counsel for Government of NCT of Delhi (Civil) and Counsels for various statutory authorities and other bodies, my esteemed colleagues at the Bar, His Lordship's bereaved wife Smt. Prabha Tai, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhananjay Chandrachud and Ms. Neema and other family members of Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Y. V. Chandrachud, ladies and gentlemen.

2. Late Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Justice Y. V. Chandrachud was born in July, 1920 at Poona. His Lordship had early education in Poona and graduated from Elphinstone College, Bombay and passed his law from University of Bombay, Law College, Poona in 1942. In law, he stood First in First Class and had to his credit several awards of the Bombay University including the Sir Nathubhai Mangaldas Legal Scholarship, the Judge Spencer Prize, Gussie K. Kanga Scholarship. His Lordship was enrolled in Bombay High Court in 1943 and simultaneously worked as a part-time Professor of Law in the prestigious Government Law College from 1949 to 1952. In 1952 his Lordship was appointed as Assistant Government Pleader at Bombay High Court and six years later became a Government Pleader. His Lordship was the senior-most Standing Counsel on the appellate side of the Bombay High Court from 1958 until March, 1961. His Lordship was well known and respected for his brilliant Advocacy. As Govt. counsel many important cases including the famous and the well known Nanavati Appeal in Bombay High Court were handled by His Lordship.

3. His Lordship was appointed as a Judge of the Bombay High Court on the 19th of July, 1961. His Lordship was appointed as a One-man Commission for enquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Deen Dayal Upadhyay, a well-know political leader.

4. His Lordship was elevated as a Judge of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 28th of August, 1972 and on 22nd of February, 1978, his Lordship was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and he served as Chief Justice of India from 22nd of February, 1978 till he retired on 11th of July, 1985 and remained as Chief Justice of India for seven years 4 months, longest in the history of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

5. His Lordship held the office of the President of the International Law Association, India Chapter, President of the Indian Law Institute from March 1978 until 1985. His Lordship visited various countries at the invitation of foreign Governments including the Governments of U.K., U.S.A., Australia, USSR, China, South Korea and South Africa and delivered lectures in various Universities. His Lordship took part in various International Conferences of Lawyers and Judges and in that capacity visited a large number of countries including France, Japan, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Trinidad and Tobago, as an invitee. His Lordship lectured in Banjui, West Africa in 1990 on a Seminar on the "Role of the Indian Supreme Court in upholding Human Rights and the performance of that Court in the sphere of Public Interest Litigation". His Lordship held various positions in social organizations, his Lordship had been the Chairman of the Asiatic Society which conducts an internationally known library in various cities including Mumbai.

6. Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandrachud's birth was a great gift to this noble profession. His Lordship was a man always clear in his

thoughts and visions. His Lordship was a patient judge without any arrogance and possessed genuine sense of humility. His Lordship treated lawyers and litigants alike. His Lordship was a great human being, a true judge, a stalwart of judiciary and the judicial system. His Lordship never liked wasting the Court's time. His Lordship possessed excellent temperament, a great legal acumen, clarity, deep knowledge, unassuming personality, quest for justice, honesty, impeccable integrity, humane approach and gentle behaviour. His Lordship was a true jurist and will always be remembered for the precedents set by his path-breaking judgments.

7. His Lordship was an upright man, an upright judge and upright arbitrator. Appearing before his Lordship was always a matter of pride and pleasure. His Lordship was a man full of compassion and robust integrity.

8. His Lordship is survived by his wife Smt. Prabha Tai, his daughter Neema who practices law in Indianapolis, USA and his Lordship's son, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhananjay Chandrachud who is a sitting Judge of the Bombay High Court.

9. I, on behalf of the Government of India, my esteemed colleagues, Central Government Standing Counsels and other Government Counsels request the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi to convey our deepest condolences to Smt. Prabha Tai, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhananjay Chandrachud, Ms. Neema and other members of the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.

(P. P. Malhotra)
Additional Solicitor General of India

Date : 25-07-2008.