

Speech of Hon'ble the Chief Justice in Full Court Reference held on 29.06.2020 on the sad demise of Sh. B. S. Salathia, Sr. Advocate and a former President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu.

- My esteemed Sister and Brother Judges;
- Learned Advocate General;
- Learned President and Members of the Executive of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Srinagar;
- All Bar Associations of J&K;
- Learned Senior Advocates;
- Learned ASGI, Jammu;
- Learned Members of the Bar;
- Judicial Officers;
- Officers of this Court;
- Family members of Late Advocate Sh. B. S. Salathia;
- Members of the Court Staff;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled virtually today to express our grief and pay our heartfelt tribute to the memory of Sh. B. S. Salathia, Sr. Advocate of this Court, who passed away on 27th June, 2020.

It is clear from what has been said by Sh. D. C. Raina, Ld. Advocate General and Sh. Abhinav Sharma, President of the Bar that Sh. B. S. Salathia was not only an accomplished lawyer, but a person with rare qualities and a wide public acclaim.

There can be no excellence in the law without excellence in lawyers. Sh. B. S. Salathia, Sr. Advocate, had a unique style and led by example making efforts to raise the standards of the Bar exhibiting knowledge, wisdom, fairness and professional commitment.

We have learnt that Sh. B. S. Salathia received his early education from his native village Gurha Salathia, Samba. He completed his Graduation in the faculty of Science in the year 1971 and thereafter obtained his law degree in the year 1975 from Jammu University. Upon enrolling with the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana on 26th April 1979, Sh. Salathia started his practice in Munsiff Court, Samba. He shifted practice to the Jammu wing of the High Court and soon established a very good reputation. In recognition of his contribution to the development of law, Sh. B. S. Salathia was designated as a Senior Advocate by this Court on 11th April, 2011.

Sh. B. S. Salathia was blessed with ability to stand up for his convictions and a ready wit. He was known for his constant guidance and help to young lawyers in the profession. I understand that as at present there are large number of promising lawyers in the Jammu Bar, who owe their very existence in the Bar to the guidance and mentorship that they received from Sh. Salathia during their formative days in the profession.

Sh. B. S. Salathia was a man with acknowledged strength, knowledge and leadership qualities. He acquired distinction, was widely respected and was able to handle difficult cases also with ease.

Sh. Salathia an active member of the Bar, was dedicated to its welfare. It was this commitment which made him a popular leader and led him to successfully contest three Bar

elections in 2007, 2010 and 2017 and elected as the President of the Bar Association.

I am told that beyond his professional activities Sh. Salathia was an active social activist.

Sh. Salathia's unwavering commitment to his views on the welfare of the lawyers was unshakeable.

Sh. B. S. Salathia unfortunately lost the battle for his life on 27.06.2020 at the age of 69 years in PGI, Chandigarh after a brief illness. Sh. Salathia leaves behind his wife Smt. Kanchan Salathia, two daughters - Ms. Kafie Salathia, Ms. Meenakshi Salathia and one son Bhanu Singh Salathia. Meenakshi is an Advocate, who is presently pursuing her Masters Degree in law from England, while Bhanu Singh Salathia, is practicing in the High Court. Sh. Salathia was deeply attached and took a deep pride in his children and during our interactions, talked about them often.

On the demise of Sh. Salathia, we have lost not only a lawyer of eminence, but also a noble soul. While his untimely demise is a loss to the society at large, it shall be an irretrievable loss to the legal fraternity as a whole.

We now look to his daughter Meenakshi and son Bhanu Singh Salathia to carry on the legacy which their father has left behind.

Personally, I have fond recollections for the regard with which Sh. Salathia had received my appointment to this court and the warm reception which he had led the Bar to host for me and the other newly appointed judges in September, 2019.

I, on behalf of my esteemed colleagues, and, on my own behalf mourn the sad demise of Sh. B. S. Salathia and pray to

the Almighty to rest his soul in peace and bestow immense strength to the bereaved members of the family to bear the loss.

As a mark of respect to the departed soul, we shall stand in silence for two minutes.

Sd/
(Gita Mittal)
Chief Justice

Copy of this condolence reference speech be sent to the bereaved family.