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FULL COURT REFERENCE

Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice S.J. Vazifdar, Hon'ble Judges, Hon'ble Former Judges, Advocate General, Haryana Sh. Baldev Raj Mahajan, Advocate General, Punjab, Sh. Ashok Aggarwal, Chairman, Bar Council, Hon'ble Senior Advocates and Hon'ble members of the Bar. Today we are gathered here on the sad demise of M.M. Punchhi, a former Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.

From being the lone boarder in a convent school at the tender age of five to a refugee at a camp in post partitioned India. From being a farmer at heart and a judge by intellect Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi had come a long way. He possessed a remarkable ability to recite Sanskrit Shalokas and Urdu couplets, many of which found their way in his judgments too. The Bar always remember him as a kind hearted and patient Judge. He was particularly kind, benevolent and encouraging towards young lawyers. When Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Punchhi was elevated as a Judge of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on October 6, 1989. For his oath ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, Mr. Justice Punchhi ensured to have his only surviving teacher Sister Declan from the Sacred Heart School, Amritsar being invited to attend the oath ceremony and made arrangements for her travel. After the oath ceremony, he held Sister Declan's hand and introduced her to the then President of India-His Excellency Sh. K.R. Narayanan. Such is the respect he showed to his Teachers and mentors.

Mr. Justice Punchhi delivered several landmark judgments during his tenure as Judge of this Court as well as the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. His minority view in the 1993 Judges Appointment case is today being echoed in the Supreme Court, which is yet again seized of the matter on the same issue. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed as a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at Hague in Netherlands. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Punchhi was appointed as the Chairman of the Centre-State relations Commission. On the personal front, Justice Punchhi was a farmer at heart. He used to grow his own grain at his farm and had immense love for cattle.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Punchhi is survived by his wife, two sons and two married daughters.

I, on the behalf of Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Association express my heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and pray to God to give peace to the departed soul.


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