

**FULL COURT REFERENCE ON THE SAD  
DEMISE OF JUSTICE T.P.S CHAWLA, CHIEF  
JUSTICE OF THIS COURT.**

My Lords the Hon'ble Judges of the Delhi High Court, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. President and office bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi, learned Standing Counsel for the Central Government and Government of Delhi, learned Members of the Bar, Members of the bereaved family, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of Justice T.P.S. Chawla, who breathed his last on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006, at the age of 81 years.

Justice T.P.S. Chawla, was born on 16.08.1925 in Lahore and did his schooling from Cathedral School and St. Anthony's School, Lahore. He did his further education from Government College Lahore and Cambridge (U.K.). He was Bar-at-Law. He was enrolled as an Advocate of the East Punjab High Court at Lahore on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1956.

**Justice Chawla worked as part time Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Delhi University during 1949-61 and as Standing Counsel for the Sales Tax Department from 1957 to 1963.**

**Justice Chawla was appointed as Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court w.e.f. 06.01.1972 . Justice Chawla was elevated as Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court w.e.f. 20.08.1986 and later on became the Chief Justice w.e.f. 26.09.1986.**

- (i) He was a life member of the Delhi Golf Club and Delhi Gymkhana Club.**
- (ii) He was the national President of the Youth Hostel Association of India for the last many years.**
- (iii) His hobbies were trekking, gardening and bee keeping.**
- (iv) He was a man with varied interests, a man of principles and a perfectionist.**

**At the time when Justice Chawla was elevated as Judge of this Court, the speech delivered by him**

**indicates his conviction. Justice Chawla, at that time, said that :-**

**“The Bar has for long been, and I hope will always, be the training ground for judges. Despite the miseries and the hardships of the early lean years, the Bar provides a life rewarding in many ways. The endless toil is more than compensated by the elation produced by an argument well-propounded and well-received. The warm friendship formed, the mutual respect born from strong opposition in court, the feeling of being involved in a profession concerned with public ideals, the realization of the limits of human wisdom and the elusiveness of that which we call Justice, these are some of the sensations which make life at the Bar an experience of a higher kind.....**

**.....Without wishing to be falsely modest, I confess, I feel a small man entrusted with a Herculean task. However, I derive comfort from the thought that My Lord the Chief Justice and the other judges of this Court will be there to guide me, and that I will not be alone. But, most of all I feel secure in the thought that you will be**

there to assist me, and I hope that with your assistance I shall not go wrong too often. I hope that I shall remember to show the courtesy to the Senior Members of the Bar which is their due. I hope, I shall not forget to show the courtesy and the encouragement to the Junior Bar, which in my own younger days, I did not always find. I do not yet know how difficult will be the transition from over-speaking counsel to the reticence of a judge. I apprehend that whilst the turbulent blood of counsel still courses my veins, I may unwittingly tend to drop the mantle of a judge and descend into the arena. Even though I walk with judges, I hope that I shall not lose the common touch.....

..... I am resolved to do my best. It may be that my best is not good enough, but of that you alone shall judge. When my time as a judge is up, if I can secure from you, for my judicial career, the epitaph "He did his best", I shall rest well content."

He had great convictions and had faith in his own ideas. He was a man who never bended, he preferred to break. After retirement, he never sought any protocol duties from the Institution which he presided as

**Chief Justice and served as a Judge. In his last days also, he never informed anyone for any help as that would disturb the working of brother Judges or friends.**

**On the death of Justice T.P.S Chawla, we have lost a stalwart, a legal luminary a man who has left no pallel. His death, undoubtedly, is a grievous loss to us all, and, in particular, to his wife.**

**We send our condolences to his wife and wish her strength to bear this irretrievable loss. May God bestow peace to the departed soul.**

**I request you all to pay homage by standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of Justice T.P.S. Chawla.**

**(VIJENDER JAIN)  
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE**

**19<sup>th</sup> October, 2006**

**(The Hon'ble Judges will take their respective seats for a moment after the silence, and it will be announced by Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice as under):**

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