

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN THE FULL
COURT REFERENCE ON THE SAD DEMISE OF
SH. N. C. SIKRI, SENIOR ADVOCATE**

My esteemed brother and sister Judges of the Bench, Mr. P. P. Malhotra, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. K. C. Miittal, President and other office bearers of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, learned Members of the Bar, members of the bereaved family, Ladies and Gentlemen present.

We have assembled here today to mourn the sad demise of Mr.N.C.Sikri, Senior Advocate who breathed his last on 2nd March, 2008.

It is clear from what has been spoken by the previous speakers, that Mr. Sikri chartered his life in a disciplined manner. Mr. Sikri was a well accomplished lawyer of this Court who had won the hearts of one and all by his pleasing manner and inimitable style of advocacy. Even his opponents never felt offended inside or outside the court. He had ambition and definite focus from the very beginning. With commitment and hard work he succeeded in realizing his dreams. I think secret of his success was his strong will- power and determination to go ahead, which he depicted till the end.

His practice achieved heights and soon he became a name to reckon with in his area of specialization. He became Advocate-

on-Record in the Supreme Court and within few years, was designated as the Senior Advocate by this Court. He appeared not only in the various Courts in Delhi including Supreme Court but had the distinction of appearing in almost all the High Courts in this country. He built up his practice brick by brick and one could find that at the peak of his career he had a host of prestigious clients, number whereof kept on increasing.

I had the occasion to see him in his prime when he used to appear in my Court after I joined this Court in the year 1994. I was greatly impressed by his pleasing manner and style of advocacy. He always remained respectful to the Court and never raised his voice in anger. At the same time he was very persuasive.

On his demise, I visited Justice Sikri to condole his death. At that time Justice Sikri revealed many other traits of his multifaceted personality and various aspects of his life. One of such instances narrated by Justice Sikri was the time of elevation of Justice Sikri, when late Mr. N.C.Sikri reminded him that **"he was going to shoulder great responsibility and that it was not going to be an easy path but he should do what he thinks right and not to worry about the consequences."**

I was also told that he was a religious person. He believed that religion is an individual approach towards truth. One has to go alone; one has to go in his own way; one has to find once own

way. For him spiritual growth was a journey out of the microcosm into an every greater macrocosm. It was a journey of knowledge and not of faith alone. He tried to acquire such knowledge from all sources. According to him the difference between the impossible and possible lies in a person's determination.

With his demise, the legal fraternity has lost a stalwart. Shri N. C. Sikri is survived by his wife Smt. Sikri, daughters and sons including Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Sikri.

We send our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray the Almighty to bestow upon them the strength to bear the irretrievable loss.

May I now request you all to pay homage by standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of late Sh. N. C. Sikri.

(Mukundakam Sharma)
Chief Justice

(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)

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

(Mukundakam Sharma)
Chief Justice