

OBITUARY REFERENCE BY MS. MUKTA GUPTA,  
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Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges,  
Ld. Addl. Solicitor General, President of High Court  
Bar Association, and esteemed friends.

Death is an ultimate and inevitable end to the worldly pleasures and agonies, but the intellectual vibrations of a personality always echo around us and we often find its glimpses in our walk of life. On Saturday afternoon the news of sudden death of respected Bipin Bihari Lalji brought a gloom on our faces. Born on 18.6.1919 and having done M.A. in History from St. Stephens College and LL.B. from Law Faculty of the Delhi University, he enrolled as an advocate in the then Lahore High Court in 1944 and continued to practice till his death on Saturday the 24th July, 2004. It was difficult to reconcile that the towering figure who was always at our back is no more. Trained in the office of the legendary criminal lawyer late Shri Tarachand Mathur of the post independence India, Mr. Lal himself became one of the most leading criminal lawyers of the country.

Shri Lal as a defence counsel handled most tedious cases of the time to mention a few are ; the Bank Van Robbery case in the year 1971, Vidya Jain murder case in 1973 and Meena Tandon murder case.

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In view of his command in criminal law he was later on required to handle as Special Public Prosecutor several leading cases for State and C.B.I. which included the Sanyal murder case, where the late Sh. Sanyal, the then Solicitor General of India was murdered, the Kashmir Conspiracy case, the Hijacking of Indian Airlines Plane to Dubai, Nityanand Dhawan Murder case where Sh. Nityanand, who was the then President of Delhi Bar Association, was murdered. Not only he acted as Special Public Prosecutor in a number of important and sensational cases, he was also appointed Counsel to several Commissions of enquiries including Justice Mathew Commission of Enquiry enquiring into the sensational Bomb Blast case in which Sh. Lalit Narain Sinha, the then Union Railway Minister was the victim. He was also a Counsel to Justice Chandrachud Commission of Enquiry in Din Dyal Upadhyay murder case.

As a leading criminal lawyer, he trained a good number of lawyers who attained eminent positions thereafter like, Justice A.B. Saharya, who retired as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Mr. Dinesh Mathur, Sr. Advocate and many others. His son Akshay Bipin is also a noted criminal lawyer and is holding the fort for the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi as Additional Standing Counsel (Criminal) in the High Court.

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Mr. Lal was a friend of all and was always ready to help the members of the bar on account of which he was persuaded to hold the position of the President Delhi Bar Association in 1968. One can never forget the grace with which he conducted himself. Even while opposing him one learnt a lot. He would miss no chance in explaining the nice-ties of law to youngsters even though it went against him.

His death is a great loss to the Bench and the Bar. May I request My Lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice to convey the heart felt condolence to the beloved family on behalf of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, on behalf of my colleagues representing Government of Delhi and on my own behalf. May God give the strength to the members of his family to bear this loss.

  
MUKTA GUPTA )  
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Dated: 28th July, 2004