

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN FULL COURT  
REFERENCE TO CONDOLE THE SAD DEMISE OF  
JUSTICE P. N. KHANNA, FORMER JUDGE, DELHI HIGH COURT**

My brother and sister judges, Mr. A.S. Chandhiok, Learned Additional Solicitor General of India and the President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Rajeev Mehra, learned ASG, High Court of Delhi, Mr. J.P. Sengh, Vice-President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Mohit Mathur, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. R.S. Goswami, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi, Mr. Murari Tiwari, Secretary, Bar Council of Delhi, Ms. Zubeda Begum, Standing Counsel, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, learned members of the Bar, members of the bereaved family, ladies and gentlemen.

We have assembled here today to express our profound sense of sorrow on the sad demise of Justice P. N. Khanna, a former Judge of the High Court of Delhi. Justice Khanna breathed his last on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2013 at Delhi after a short spell of illness.

The life of Justice Khanna shows his great courage and determination. He was born to Rai Sahib, the then District Judge, Lahore & Mrs. Dina Nath Khanna on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1912. Justice Khanna after completing the academic career (M. A. in Economics), acquired a degree in Law from Punjab University and enrolled himself as an Advocate of the Lahore

High Court on 16.03.1942. After partition, he shifted to Delhi and started practicing at the Delhi High Court. He joined as an Honorary Law Consultant of MCKR Trust in the year 1944 and remained there till 1947. He was elevated as Judge in Delhi High Court in the year 1968 and very soon on 20.01.1969, he was appointed as a Permanent Judge of Delhi High Court. He had delivered judgments on various subjects especially in Company Law. I am told by my Judges and the members of the Bar that Justice Khanna was a very hard-working and conscientious Judge.

Justice Khanna retired from active judicial service on 28.01.1974, but immediately appointed an Ad-hoc-Judge and he finally retired from the Delhi High Court in December, 1974. After retirement, Justice P. N. Khanna kept himself busy in doing Arbitration Cases in a number of important matters. He was the Founder Director of Paper Products Limited from where he retired in 1999. He also worked as Chairman and Director of Various Public Limited Companies like Controls and Switchgear Co. Ltd., Controls and Switchgear Contractors Ltd., C&S Protection and Controls Ltd., R. S. Components & Controls (I) Ltd. and many others. He was also associated with several trusts and charitable institution like Mool Chand K. R. Hospital, Salwan Public School and similar social organizations. He was also trustee of MCKT Trust since 1948-49, Dayal Singh Library Trust Society and Dayal Singh College Trust Society, Karnal.

He was a member of Governing Bodies of Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, New Delhi and Sanatan Dharma College (Lahore), New Delhi.

Justice Khanna had a fulfilling life, with the centenarian remaining active throughout and even playing golf till the age of 91 years. He is survived by four sons and two daughters. His two sons Sati and Anil are highly educated and have been leading in their professional areas of specialization. The other two sons Ravi and Ashok are Graduates in Electrical & Mechanical Engineering from IIT-Kharagpur and IIT-Madras, respectively and are Gold Medalists. Justice Khanna followed the foot steps of his illustrious father. With the demise of Justice Khanna the legal fraternity has lost a stalwart and it will be difficult to fill the vacuum created by his death.

We all present here, expressly convey our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray to God to give them strength to bear this irrecoverable loss. May almighty bestow peace to the departed soul.

**(AFTER REFERENCE BY LAWYERS IS OVER)**

I request you all to pay homage by standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of late Justice P. N. Khanna.

*(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”.