

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN FULL COURT
REFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 30, 2017 AT 3:30 P.M. ON THE
SAD DEMISE OF JUSTICE V. KHALID A FORMER CHIEF
JUSTICE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND A
FORMER JUDGE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA.**

**JUSTICE BADAR DURREZ AHMED
CHIEF JUSTICE**

Esteemed brother Judges,
Mrs Seema Shekar, Sr Additional Advocate General,
Shri B. S. Salathia, President, J&K High Court Bar Association,
Jammu,
Judicial Officers,
Senior Advocates,
Standing counsel of the Central and State Governments,
Executive Members of the J&K High Court Bar Association,
Jammu,
Advocates,
Members of the High Court Registry,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today, we have assembled here to condole the demise of Justice V. Khalid who was a former Chief Justice of this High Court and a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India. Justice Khalid was born on 1st July, 1922 in a lower middle class family in Kannur in the State of Kerala. He had his initial education in a

madrassa. Thereafter, he studied in Municipal High School, Kannur; and Government Brennen College, Thalassery. He graduated in mathematics from Presidency College, Madras. He also learnt several languages. Apart from Malayalam and English he was well conversant with Urdu and Arabic and had some acquaintance with Persian.

At the age of 21, he started his career as a teacher at Malappuram Government High School. After one year he went to study law at Madras Law College. After successfully graduating in Law, Justice Khalid got himself enrolled as an advocate of the Madras High Court on 08.03.1948. However, he started his practice as an advocate on the Criminal and Civil sides at the Munsiff's Court at Kannur in the year 1948. After sometime, he shifted his practice to Thalassery. Ultimately, he moved to the Kerala High Court in the year 1964. It was a move into the unknown as he had no godfather in the profession. But, through sheer dint of hard work and brilliance, he succeeded in his practice as a lawyer.

This did not go unnoticed and he was asked to join the Bench. Justice Khalid was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Kerala on 03.04.1972 and as a permanent

Judge of that Court on 07.03.1974. Nine and a half years later he was appointed as the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court on 24.08.1983. He remained Chief Justice of this Court till 24.06.1984 and took oath as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 25.06.1984. Justice Khalid retired as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 30.06.1987.

In something which is quite rare, he also held the charge of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir from 20.02.1984 to 01.03.1984. In his retirement, Justice Khalid devoted most of his time to reading and religious studies apart from being involved in Tribunals and Commissions. He passed away on 15.11.2017 at the age of 95 years. He is survived by his wife Ms Rabia and daughter Ms Tahira.

Justice Khalid was an extremely well read and sophisticated person. His background of science and mathematics coupled with his knowledge of several languages proved to be a boon for his distinguished career as a Judge. In fact his knowledge of Urdu and Arabic in particular enabled him to master muslim law as most of the original works in the field of islamic jurisprudence or fiqh were in Arabic.

I did not know Justice Khalid personally but have appeared before him as a young lawyer on several occasions before the Supreme Court during his tenure there from 1984 to 1987. As a Judge, his demeanor in Court was exemplary. He was polite, down to earth, self-effacing and very grounded. Even as Chief Justice of this Court, I am told, Justice Khalid would always remain cool and calm during Court proceedings. He would give a patient hearing to the advocates. During his tenure as Chief Justice of this High Court, Justice Khalid delivered many landmark judgments on different branches of law including Civil and Constitutional law.

Justice Khalid by nature was judicious in everything that he did. And, this tempered his career as a Judge of the Kerala High Court, as a Chief Justice of this Court and as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

We are gathered here to condole the death of Justice Khalid and in my view we cannot pay better homage to him than to take a leaf out of his exemplary book of life and to shape our lives according to that. He was an epitome of learning, simplicity, humility, integrity and firmness with decency.

In his death we have lost a legal luminary. I, on behalf of my brother Judges and on my behalf, extend heartfelt condolences to the members of his family. May the Almighty give strength to them to bear this irreparable loss and may his soul rest in peace.

Badar Durrez Ahmed
Chief Justice