



27th August, 1940 – 14th August, 2025

Full Court Reference in the memory of

Late Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta

Senior Advocate

held on Tuesday, the 11th November 2025

at 10.30 a.m. in the Court of The Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India

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Letter from the Registrar, Supreme Court of India

Kuntal Sharma Pathak
Registrar
Supreme Court of India



Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi – 110001.
Mobile – 9435110065
Tel: - 011-23112536

F.No.99/Ref/2025/SCA(Genl)
15th November, 2025

Madam,

A Full Court Reference was held in the memory of late Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta, Senior Advocate on 11th November, 2025 in the Hon'ble Chief Justice's Court. Rich tributes were paid to Shri Gupta by Shri R Venkataramani; Learned Attorney General for India; Shri Vikas Singh, President, Supreme Court Bar Association and Hon'ble Mr. Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, the Chief Justice of India. After the references were read, two minutes' silence was observed in his memory.

I humbly forward a booklet containing memorial speeches delivered at the Full Court Reference, as aforesaid, along with heartfelt condolences of the Officers and members of the staff of the Supreme Court Registry to you and other members of the family.

Encl.: As above.

Yours sincerely,

Registrar (Court & Building)

To,

Mrs Sushma Gupta,
282, Windsor Green,
Plot No. F-28, Sector-50,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh – 201301.

*List of Business for 11th November, 2025 in respect of
Full Court Reference*



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

LIST OF BUSINESS FOR TUESDAY THE 11TH NOVEMBER, 2025

CHIEF JUSTICE'S COURT

AT 10.30 A.M.

**FULL COURT REFERENCE IN THE MEMORY OF
LATE DR. SHARAT S. JAVALI
AND
LATE SHRI JAGDISH CHANDRA GUPTA,
SENIOR ADVOCATES**

Coram of Hon'ble Judges at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Chief Justice of India*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.B. Pardiwala*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.V. Viswanathan*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satish Chandra Sharma*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice R Mahadevan*

- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manmohan*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Vinod Chandran*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Joymalya Bagchi*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Anjaria*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Bishnoi*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Atul S. Chandurkar*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Aradhe*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipul M. Pancholi*

xxxxx

Reference made on 11th November, 2025

by

Attorney General for India

Shri R. Venkataramani

in the memory of

***Late Dr. Sharat S. Javali and
Late Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta,
Senior Advocates***

1. *Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, the Solicitor General of India, Additional Solicitors General, President and Office Bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association, President and Office Bearers of the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association, offices and members of Supreme Court Registry, members of the Bar, and family members of Late Dr. Sharat S. Javali and Late Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta.*

2. *Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Shri Sharat S. Javali

3. *Even before late Shri Javali moved to Delhi to begin his practice in Supreme Court, he had already gathered a pan India understanding. Born in Pune, initial schooling in Dharwad, Completion of Schooling in the prestigious Mayo College Ajmer, and graduation and law from Bangalore, he knew what India is.*

4. *His father was the late Shri S.C. Javali, an eminent Senior Advocate of the High Court of Karnataka and his grand uncle was a former educationist, late Dr. D.C. Pavate, former Vice Chancellor, Karnatak University and former Governor of Punjab. This genealogy gave him all that was necessary to be groomed into a fine and cultured personality.*

5. *He initiated his law practice at Supreme Court of India in July 27, 1964, within two years of his enrollment. This was not an easy trek from Bangalore to Delhi those days. He had the privilege of joining the Chambers of late Shri S.V. Gupte, Sr. Advocate and the then Solicitor General and later Attorney General of India and also a reputed author of*

Hindu Law. Shri Javali soon established his independent private practice. The law reports are replete with cases in which he briefed stalwarts like M.C. Setalwad, M.C. Chagla, Asoke Sen, Vishwanath Sastry, etc.

6. *Shri Javali was designated as a Senior Advocate by the full court of the Supreme Court in 1989 in due recognition of his standing at the Bar. He was a distinguished Sr. Advocate in the Supreme Court of India. Javali has represented Karnataka State in several landmark cases. His tryst with Inter-State water disputes is a part of legal history of Irrigation of Karnataka. River Cauvery will ever remember him. For over five decades, Shri Javali represented the State of Karnataka alongwith Sr. Advocates, Mr. Fali Nariman and Mr. Anil Divan before the Cauvery Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal.*

7. *This association naturally continued, continuing in the legal team in Cauvery (1983 - 2018), Almatti Dam Dispute (1996-2000), Krishna Surplus Water (2004 to 2018), Mahadayi (2013 - 2018), and Cauvery Surplus Water (2018 onwards).*

8. *Among colleagues, he is often mentioned as a Kalaji Lawyer (caring lawyer) for his sense of concern towards the cause and his no-nonsense approach in instilling seriousness by doses of timely advice to apparatchiks in Government. Beneath his quietness, he was a strategist par excellence in litigation. When I told on the drafting the historic Ordinance overriding the interim order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in 1991 that was likely to be construed as legislative disobedience, he is reported to have said inter-state litigations are like a Mahabharat. He meant, something good may come out of a constitutional battle even in defeat. He was not off the rails. The opinion of the Constitution bench, while striking down the belligerent Ordinance, clarified the constitutional position of inter-state water based on equality of States. The opinion mitigated the rigours of colonial agreements between the Maharaja of Mysore and the British Madras.*

9. *It is said that Advocate General of Karnataka, V.S. Malimath, persuaded him to appear for Karnataka before the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (1969-1976) headed by then Justice R.S. Bachawat.*

10. *He was also Counsel for the Jain Commission investigating the assassination of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Former Prime Minister of India. Additionally, Shri Javali also appeared for Karnataka in the Belgavi border dispute between States of Karnataka and Maharashtra before the Supreme Court.*

11. Mr. Javali's engagement with Public Service Commission is another chapter of his multi faceted personality. He was in the Union Public Service Commission panel, selecting candidates to posts in the Ministry of Law from 1974 to 1980. He was also associated with the Rajasthan and Kashmir Public Service Commissions in selecting candidates to the State Judiciary.

12. Shri Javali did not stop only with his practice. His contribution to legal education are indeed worthy of mention. He had a deep connection with the University College of Law, Dharwad, and Karnatak University, Dharwad (KUD). He instituted the National Moot Court Competition in memory of his late father Shri S.C. Javali in 1997 under the auspices of the College of Law, Karnatak University. Over a dozen Chief Justices of India, scores of Supreme Court and High Court judges, and top legal minds have engaged with students and young lawyers in the course of this moot competition.

13. Following the establishment of a Bench of the Karnataka High Court at Dharwad, Shri Javali donated a Law Library known as the 'S.C. Javali Legal Research Centre' which is benefiting the members of the local Bar who are grateful to Shri Javali.

14. He served the cause of education beyond Karnataka and was on the management of the Mayo College, Ajmer for several years and served with distinction as a member of their Board of Governors, as well as on the management of the Delhi Kannada High School, Delhi. He also served as a member of the Academic Council, National Law School of India University, Bangalore.

15. In March 2014, Mr. Javali was awarded the Honorary Doctorate in Law by the Karnatak University, Dharwad. He was also honoured by the Delhi Karnataka Sangha, as a distinguished Delhi Kannadiga in the year 2012.

16. In due honour to his grand uncle, Shri Javali, also helped establish the prestigious Pavate Fellowship to Cambridge University, by establishing the Dr. D.C. Pavate Foundation in 1999, which supports Fellows from India in collaboration with Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University and Karnatak University. So far 60 Fellows from India have completed a fellowship from Cambridge University. In October 2024, he was bestowed the rare distinction of chosen as a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, a rare distinction, indeed.

17. Mr. Javali completed 60 years of law practice in 2024, with opportunities to work in various branches of law and was felicitated by the Supreme Court Bar Association in December 2024.

18. *Safe, but strong, gentle but assertive, persuasive without sound, were his forensic skills, which are disappearing. I have recollections of forty years of my association with him and admirable he was to all, rare are such noble ones.*

19. *He passed away peacefully on April 16, 2025 in Delhi. He is survived by his wife Smt. Shalini Javali, daughter Ms. Anupama Shankar settled in USA, son Shri Kirit S. Javali, a qualified Barrister and a practicing in this Court and the Delhi High Court, apart from being an Arbitrator, and his wife Dr. Shweta K Javali, a practicing Dentist. Shri Javali had four grandchildren. May his soul rest in peace.*

Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta

1. *Late Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta was born in a lawyers' family, hailing from Mathura. He graduated from Allahabad University with distinction and acquired degree in law with similar distinction. He was fortunate to be born in a family of reputation and socially recognized for their contributions, which placed great emphasis on education & family values.*

2. *He married a wonderful lady from Agra in 1966 & started his own family by having three sons, who, imbibing the family values, are all well settled in India & abroad.*

3. *Practicing in Mathura did not wet his appetite. Shifting practice to Allahabad High Court was the most natural choice for a mind like him, looking for lasting contributions. In a short span established himself. Destiny took him to another route. He sat for Higher Judicial Services and qualified credibly.*

4. *He gave up his lucrative practice, and true to the familial values joined the Higher Judicial Services, as an Additional District Judge.*

5. *He served in this capacity in various districts, Etah, Kanpur, Ghaziabad and again as District Judge in Sultanpur, Dehradun, Ghaziabad. His distinguished service in the higher judiciary rightly earned him his elevation to the Allahabad High Court in 1996. He remained in the Allahabad High Court till his retirement in 2002. He served the High Court with equal amount of judicial contributions with many cited judgements to his credit.*

6. *On retirement he began his practice as a Senior Lawyer in Uttarakhand High Court and thereafter shifted to Supreme Court. He continued his practice almost till his demise.*

7. *I happen to know him personally and my bar room library interactions showed his acumen in the legal field and also his deep understanding of Indian thought. He was always keen to extend his services to education and legal education particularly.*

8. *The fine art of 'work life balance' was maintained by him with ease. Being born & brought up at Mathura, his religious bend of mind informed his ethical roots and conduct ensured that his family also imbibed the cultural richness. An avid sportsman during his graduating days, he, till his last, was a great cricket fan following all the matches, local & international both as a critic & with a sense of pride.*

9. *A great human being, he will be missed by his family, friends, peers & others. God grant him eternal peace.*

xxxxx

Reference made on 11th November, 2025

by

Shri Vikas Singh (Sr.)

President, SCBA

in the memory of

Late Dr. Sharat S. Javali and

Late Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta,

Senior Advocates

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai; Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant (Chief Justice of India, Designate); Hon'ble Judges of this Court; Learned Attorney General for India, Shri R. Venkataramani; Learned Solicitor General of India, Shri Tushar Mehta; Law Officers of the Government of India; respected family members of Late Shri Sharat S. Javali and Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jagdish Chandra Gupta; Members of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association; Shri Vipin Nair, President, SCAORA; Members of the Executive Committee of SCAORA; Members of the Bar; Ladies and Gentlemen.

From time to time, history bestows upon us individuals whose lives leave an indelible imprint—personalities whose contributions continue to resonate long after their physical presence has departed. Today, we are solemnly assembled to honour the enduring legacy of Late Shri Sharat S. Javali and Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jagdish Chandra Gupta, and to pay heartfelt homage to their lives of service, wisdom, and integrity. I am deeply saddened by their passing, for they were cherished members of our legal fraternity, with whom we have shared treasured memories over the years.

Shri Sharat S. Javali

Late Shri Sharat S. Javali was born on 16th September 1939 in Pune. He hailed from a family deeply rooted in Karnataka's legal and academic fields. His father, the late

Shri S.C. Javali, was an eminent Senior Advocate of the High Court of Karnataka, and his grand-uncle, Dr. D.C. Pavate, was a Cambridge alumnus, former Vice Chancellor of Karnatak University, and Governor of Punjab.

Shri Javali's early education began at KE Board School in Dharwad, followed by Mayo College, Ajmer. He earned his B.A. from St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, in 1959 and completed his law degree from Government Law College, Bangalore, in 1961. Enrolled with the Karnataka Bar Council on 28th March 1962, he embarked on a remarkable legal journey that began in the Supreme Court of India on 27th July 1964, joining the chambers of the late Shri S.V. Gupte, then Solicitor General and later Attorney General of India. Under Gupte's mentorship, Shri Javali gained exposure to sensitive constitutional matters and honed his skills in the company of legal legends such as M.C. Setalvad, M.C. Chagla, and Vishwanath Sastry.

Designated as a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court in 1989, Shri Javali's legacy is most profoundly etched in the annals of inter-state river water disputes. His tryst with Karnataka's irrigation history began when the then Advocate General of Karnataka, V.S. Malimath, persuaded him to represent the state before the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (1969–1976), headed by Justice R.S. Bachawat. Despite the complexity and political overtones of the matter, Shri Javali committed himself to the cause, and his association continued for decades. He was a key member of the legal teams in the Cauvery dispute (1983–2018), Almatti Dam dispute (1996–2000), Krishna surplus water (2004–2018), Mahadayi (2013–2018), and Cauvery surplus water (2018 onwards). Working alongside stalwarts such as Sachin Choudhary, Fali Nariman, and Anil Divan, he played a pivotal role in securing Karnataka's equitable share of water to irrigate millions of acres of drought-prone land.

Among his peers, he was affectionately known as a "Kalaji Lawyer"—a caring lawyer whose quiet demeanor belied his strategic brilliance and unwavering commitment to justice. His advice to government officials was often laced with timely wisdom and seriousness. When cautioned that the 1991 Ordinance overriding the

interim order of the Cauvery Tribunal might be seen as legislative disobedience, he remarked that inter-state litigation was akin to a Mahabharat, where even defeat could yield constitutional clarity.

Beyond the courtroom, Shri Javali's contributions to legal education were profound. He maintained a deep connection with Cambridge University for over 30 years and was honored in 2024 as a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College—a rare distinction. In memory of his grand-uncle, he established the Dr. D.C. Pavate Foundation in 1999, which instituted the prestigious Pavate Fellowship in collaboration with Cambridge University and Karnatak University. Over 60 Indian scholars have benefited from this initiative. He also served on the management boards of Mayo College, Ajmer, and Delhi Kannada High School, and was a member of the Academic Council of the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. His commitment to nurturing young legal minds was evident in his three-decade-long association with the University College of Law, Dharwad, where he instituted the S.C. Javali Memorial National Moot Court Competition in 1997. His efforts brought Chief Justices of India, Supreme Court and High Court judges, and eminent jurists to Dharwad, contributing to the eventual establishment of a High Court Bench there. Upon its formation, he generously donated the S.C. Javali Legal Research Centre, which continues to serve the local Bar.

Shri Javali also served on the Union Public Service Commission panel for selecting candidates to the Ministry of Law (1974–1980) and was associated with the Rajasthan and Kashmir Public Service Commissions for judicial appointments. He appeared before the Supreme Court in the Belgavi border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra and served as Counsel for the Jain Commission investigating the assassination of former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

In December 2024, he was felicitated by the Supreme Court Bar Association for completing 60 years of legal practice. He was also honored by the Delhi Karnataka Sangha in 2012 as a distinguished Delhi Kannadiga and received an Honorary Doctorate in Law from Karnatak University in 2014.

Described by legal luminary Barry Sen in his autobiography as a lawyer with the values of an old-timer, Shri Javali was known for his Victorian elegance, humility, and occasional wit. His style of conversation, though sometimes tinged with sarcasm, was always tempered by grace. He was a mentor to many, including those who sought his guidance at the start of their careers. His famous quip— "Everyone wants to catch a fast-moving duck"—was a gentle warning to young lawyers about the challenges of Supreme Court practice without foundational experience. His legacy, as Victor Belfort aptly said, "is not what he did for himself but what he did for the next generation."

Shri Javali left for his heavenly abode on 16th April 2025 in New Delhi at the age of 85. His life and career spanned over six decades of distinguished service to the law, the judiciary, and the nation. Though originally from Dharwad, Karnataka, he made Delhi his home for over half a century. He is survived by his wife, Smt. Shalini Javali; daughter, Ms. Anupama Shankar, a tax consultant based in the USA; son, Shri Kirit S. Javali, a qualified Barrister and practicing Advocate before the Supreme Court of India and Delhi High Court; daughter-in-law, Dr. Shweta K. Javali, a practicing dentist; and four grandchildren. His passing marks the end of an era, but his legacy will continue to inspire generations of lawyers, jurists, and public servants.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta

Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jagdish Chandra Gupta was born on 27th August 1940 in Mathura into a family of lawyers. Justice Gupta was nurtured in an environment that placed great emphasis on education, discipline, and family values. He completed his schooling in Mathura, graduated from Allahabad University, and earned his LL.B. in 1961. As the third of four siblings, he was fortunate to grow up in a household that instilled in him a deep respect for learning and tradition.

In 1966, he married Mrs. Sushma Gupta, a gracious lady from Agra, and together they built a loving family with three sons—Pankaj, Sameer, and Sukant—all of whom are well settled in India and abroad, carrying forward the values of humility, service, and excellence that defined their upbringing.

Justice Gupta began his legal career practicing in Mathura before shifting to the Allahabad High Court, where he quickly established himself as a promising advocate. However, guided by the advice of a trusted mentor and driven by a sense of duty, he chose to appear for the Higher Judicial Services examination. Despite the financial sacrifices involved, he opted for public service over personal gain, joining the Uttar Pradesh Higher Judicial Service as an Additional District and Sessions Judge on 8th September 1977.

His judicial postings took him across the state, serving in Etah, Kanpur, and Ghaziabad as ADJ, and later as District Judge in Sultanpur, Dehradun, and Ghaziabad, among others. His career reached its pinnacle when he was elevated as a permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 22nd March 1996. He served with distinction until his retirement on 26th August 2002, contributing significantly to the development of jurisprudence, with several cited judgments to his credit. He also served as a Member of the Administrative Committee and as Administrative Judge for various districts, playing a vital role in judicial administration.

Post-retirement, Justice Gupta settled in Noida and resumed legal practice—first as a Senior Advocate in the Uttarakhand High Court and later in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. His dedication to the law remained unwavering, and he continued to practice almost until his final days.

Justice J.C. Gupta left for his heavenly abode on 14th August 2025, leaving behind a legacy of integrity, wisdom, and service—and a vacuum that is hard to fill.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Justice Gupta was a man of profound personal grace. Rooted in the spiritual ethos of Mathura, he maintained a religious and culturally rich household. He exemplified the art of work-life balance, seamlessly integrating his professional responsibilities with personal devotion and family life. An avid sportsman in his youth, he remained a passionate cricket enthusiast throughout his life, following both domestic and international matches with keen interest and insightful commentary.

Justice Gupta was not only a jurist of high repute but also a compassionate human being whose warmth and wisdom touched many lives. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the legal fraternity.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

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Reference made on 11th November, 2025

by

***Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India
Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai***

in the memory of

***Late Dr. Sharat S. Javali and
Late Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta,
Senior Advocates***

1. *My esteemed colleagues, Shri R. Venkataramani, learned Attorney General for India, Shri Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General of India, Shri Vikas Singh, President and Office Bearers of SCBA, Shri Vipin Nair, President and Office Bearers of SCAORA, Distinguished members of the Bar and the dear family and friends of Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta and Dr. Sharat S. Javali.*

2. *We gather here today with deep sorrow and a heavy sense of loss to pay tribute to two towering figures of our legal fraternity.*

Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta

3. *Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta was born on 27th August 1940 in Mathura. After completing his legal studies at Allahabad University, he obtained his law degree in 1961 and was enrolled as an Advocate in December 1962, commencing practice at the Mathura Bar. His intellect, diligence, and integrity soon earned him recognition at the Allahabad High Court.*

4. *Guided by his mentor and impelled by a deep sense of duty, Shri Gupta entered the Higher Judicial Service in September 1977, leaving behind a flourishing practice of nearly fifteen years. His judicial career was marked by distinction and diversity, serving as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Special Judge (E.C. Act) at Kanpur, Additional District Judge in Etah and Ghaziabad, and as District and Sessions Judge in Sultanpur and Dehradun, among others.*

5. On 22nd March 1996, Shri Gupta was elevated to the Allahabad High Court, where he served with distinction until his retirement on 26th August 2002. During this tenure, he was associated with more than five hundred judgments, many of which continue to be cited for their clarity of reasoning and depth of analysis.

6. Among his notable judgments was his separate concurring opinion in the Full Bench decision of **Ram Babu Gupta v. State of Uttar Pradesh**¹, where he clarified the scope of a Magistrate's powers under Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. He emphasized the delicate balance between the discretion of the Magistrate and the duties of the police, underscoring that investigations must be conducted effectively without compromising judicial oversight.

7. Even after demitting judicial office, Shri Gupta remained deeply engaged with the profession. As a designated Senior Advocate, he continued to practise before the Uttarakhand High Court and later before the Supreme Court of India, earning enduring respect for his scholarship and experience.

8. Beyond law, Shri Gupta was a man of faith, simplicity, and warmth. A son of Mathura, his life was deeply rooted in spirituality and guided by moral compass. He believed that integrity in public life must be matched by grace and kindness in personal life. He cherished his family, valued relationships, and carried himself with quiet dignity and humility.

9. Despite the demands of his profession, he always found time for those around him mentoring younger colleagues, sharing words of encouragement, and offering gentle wisdom. A keen sportsman in his student days and an ardent follower of cricket, he retained a youthful curiosity and an infectious enthusiasm for life that never dimmed with age. In every sense, he exemplified how a life of purpose can also be a life of warmth and joy.

10. In his passing on 14th August 2025, we have lost not merely a jurist of stature, but a gentleman of rare grace and character.

11. We are joined today, virtually, by his wife, Mrs. Sushma Gupta, his sons, Mr. Pankaj Gupta, Mr. Samir Gupta, and Mr. Sukant Gupta, and his nephew, Mr. Rajat

¹ Ram Babu Gupta v. State of U.P., 2001 SCC OnLine All 264.

Gupta. On behalf of this Court and the entire legal fraternity, I convey our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the members of his family and to all those who held him dear.

12. May they find comfort in the knowledge that his life and work have left an enduring mark on the institution he served with such distinction.

Dr. Sharat S. Javali

13. Dr. Sharat S. Javali was born on 16th September 1939 in Pune. Though born in Maharashtra, he hailed from Karnataka and belonged to a distinguished family of lawyers and educationists. His father, Shri S.C. Javali, was an eminent Senior Advocate of the High Court of Karnataka, and his grand-uncle, Dr. D.C. Pavate, served with distinction as the Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka University and later as the Governor of Punjab.

14. Dr. Javali completed his schooling at K.E. Board School, Dharwad, and Mayo College, Ajmer. He obtained his B.A. degree from St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, in 1959, and his law degree from the Government Law College, Bangalore, in 1961.

15. He was enrolled as an Advocate with the Karnataka Bar Council in March 1962, and began practice before the Supreme Court of India in July 1964, under the mentorship of the late Shri S.V. Gupte, Senior Advocate.

16. During this period, he gained invaluable experience in constitutional and public law in matters of great significance.

17. Designated as a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court in 1989, Dr. Javali represented the State of Karnataka in several landmark matters. He appeared alongside Senior Advocates Mr. Fali S. Nariman and Mr. Anil B. Divan before the Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals concerning the Krishna, Cauvery, and Mahadayi river disputes, matters in which he remained engaged until 2022.

18. Over the years, he also appeared for Karnataka in the Belagavi border dispute, and served as Counsel before the Jain Commission probing the assassination of the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

19. *His legal acumen was equally visible on the civil side, as seen in cases such as Syed Dastagir v. T.R. Gopalakrishna Setty and Karnataka Board of Wakf v. Anjuman-E-Ismail Madris-Un-Niswan, where he demonstrated clarity in navigating complex statutory interpretation. In December 2024, the Supreme Court Bar Association felicitated him on completing sixty years of distinguished practice, a fitting acknowledgment of a lifetime dedicated to the law.*

20. *Beyond the courtroom, Dr. Javali made lasting contributions to legal education and public service. He maintained a deep association with the University College of Law, Dharwad, and the Karnatak University, where he was instrumental in nurturing future generations of lawyers.*

21. *Dr. Javali also served on several important public institutions, including the Union Public Service Commission and the Public Service Commissions of Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir. His contributions extended to educational institutions such as Mayo College, Ajmer, Delhi Kannada High School, and the National Law School of India University, Bangalore.*

22. *In 1999, he played an essential role in establishing the Dr. D.C. Pavate Foundation and the prestigious Pavate Fellowship at the University of Cambridge, which has since supported more than sixty Indian Fellows. His alma mater, Karnatak University, conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate in Law in March 2014, recognizing his outstanding contribution to the legal field. In October 2024, he was also conferred the honour of Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge, a distinction that reflected international recognition of his scholarly and professional stature.*

23. *In his passing on 16th April 2025, the Bar and the Bench have lost a jurist of rare distinction, a mentor of generosity, and a man of quiet dignity.*

24. *He is survived by his wife, Smt. Shalini Javali; his daughter, Ms. Anupama Shankar, who resides in the United States and is a tax consultant; his son, Shri Kirit S. Javali, a Barrister and practising Advocate before the Supreme Court of India; and his daughter-in-law, Dr. Shweta K. Javali, a practising Dentist. He is also survived by his four grandchildren. On behalf of this Court and the legal fraternity, we extend our deepest condolences to all members of his family.*

25. *The legal fraternity mourns the loss of Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta and Dr. Sharat S. Javali: jurists whose wisdom, integrity, and humanity leave an indelible mark. Though no longer with us in person, their legacy endures, guiding and inspiring the Bar and the judiciary for generations to come.*

26. *May their souls rest in peace.*

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List of Attendees at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ *Shri R. Venkataramani*
Ld. Attorney General for India.
- ❖ *Shri Tushar Mehta,*
Ld. Solicitor General of India.
- ❖ *Shri Vikas Singh, (Sr.)*
President,
Supreme Court Bar Association.
- ❖ *Shri Rahul Kaushik, (Sr.)*
Vice President,
Supreme Court Bar Association.
- ❖ *Ms. Pragya Baghel,*
Hony. Secretary,
Supreme Court Bar Association.
- ❖ *Shri Vipin Nair,*
President,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.
- ❖ *Shri Amit Sharma,*
Vice President,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.
- ❖ *Shri Nikhil Jain,*
Hony. Secretary,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.

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Family Members of
Late Shri Jagdish Chandra Gupta
Senior Advocate
at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ *Mrs. Sushma Gupta, Wife*
- ❖ *Mr. Pankaj Gupta, Son*
- ❖ *Mr. Samir Gupta, Son*
- ❖ *Mr. Sukant Gupta, Son*
- ❖ *Mr. Rajat Gupta, Nephew*

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THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

New Delhi - 110001

India