

Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi, Hon'ble Judges of High Court of Delhi, Mr. Jatan Singh and Mr. Abhijat, the Vice-President and Hony. Secretary of DHCBA, Standing Counsel of Union of India; Mr. Rahul Mehra and Mr. Raman Duggal, Standing Counsel for Govt. NCT of Delhi, Hon'ble Senior Members & Members of the Bar, family members of Late Justice Mahesh Chandra and Justice H.C. Goel, my colleagues, ladies & gentlemen.

Mr. Sanjay Jain, Ld. ASG is indisposed and therefore unable to attend this reference and I am thus appearing on his behalf. Today we have gathered to remember and pay our respect to 2 distinguished former Judges of the Delhi High Court, Late Justice H.C. Goel and Late Justice Mahesh Chandra.

Justice HC Goel

Late Justice Hukum Chand Goel, B.Sc. was a practicing lawyer at Ambala between 1951 to 1954 where after he joined PCS (Judicial). He served as a Subordinate judge from 1954 to 1963, mostly at Delhi. He was on deputation as Law Officer, Law Commission of India between 1963 and 1967. Thereafter, he served as Judge Small Cause Court, Delhi in 1968, and served as Senior Sub Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge, Delhi upto 1970. He got promoted to the Delhi Higher Judicial Service as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Delhi in 1970. He served as Judicial Member, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal at Indore and Bombay from 1974 to 1978. He also served as an Additional District and Sessions Judge, Delhi from 1978 till 1980. Served as one-man Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal, Delhi from 1980 to 1981, where after he served as first Additional District and Sessions Grade, Delhi till his appointment as Additional Judge, Delhi High Court in 1983 where he served as a Judge of this High Court till his retirement in 1989.

The biography that I have read out, as available on the website of the Delhi High Court, speaks for itself. Late Justice H.C. Goel had judicial experience in various areas of law. His prowess in the field of law is also exhibited in the many judgments his lordship authored as a judge. A disciple of black letter law, Justice Goel mastered the canon of strict interpretation as reflected in his numerous decisions on criminal and taxation law. The simplicity with which he elucidated the interplay between factual matrix and legal propositions is testimony of the depth of his knowledge.

After his retirement, His lordship was conducting arbitration matters. I too had an opportunity to appear before him. I enjoyed the interactions that I had with him.

Seniors members of our bar, who have appeared before him, praise his warm and affable nature.

Justice Mahesh Chandra

Justice Mahesh Chandra was born in 1928 and was appointed to the Delhi Judiciary in 1957. He became an Additional District & Sessions Judge, Delhi in 1972 and was appointed permanent Judge of Delhi High Court in 1986, till his retirement in 1990. As additional session judge, late Justice Chandra passed the verdict awarding death sentence to the assassins of Late PM Indira Gandhi. The verdict was confirmed by the bench of 3 judges of this humble court who upheld the conviction and death sentence.

Hon'ble Justice Mahesh brought his vast experience gained as an additional district judge along with his elevation to this Hon'ble Court. This is evident from the clarity of thought and expertise in the field of law exhibited in the various judgments his lordship authored during the short period he remained a judge of this court. Though I did not have the occasion and pleasure of appearing before Justice Chandra, however, my seniors at the Bar have shared their experiences and have high praise for him. Seniors members at the bar remember him fondly.

Late Justice Chandra had command over civil procedure and arbitration laws. The observations made by his Lordship in the judicial pronouncements indeed reflect on his sense of fairness, and good conscience. Justice Chandra will always be remembered for his all round contribution in law.

Late Justice Chandra Mahesh and Late Justice H.C. Goel will continue to guide us with their views expressed in judicial pronouncements. Today I on behalf of Ld. ASG and Union of India request the Hon'ble Chief Justice to convey our deepest condolence to the families of the Late Justice Mahesh Chandra and Late Justice H.C. Goel. May their souls rest in peace.

Sanjeev Narula
Standing Counsel
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