Supreme Court Chronicle

Issue XIX | May 2025

Highlights

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- *Supreme Courts of Nepal and India sign MoU to strengthen judicial cooperation*
- *Supreme Court Pays Tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary*
- *Justice Gerard Hogan, Judge, Supreme Court of Ireland visits Supreme Court of India*



Chief Justice's Corner



Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to present to you the May 2025 edition of *Supreme Court Chronicle*. In every edition, we strive to capture the pulse of our institution—its solemn duties, spirited initiatives, and the human stories that shape its soul. This month is particularly meaningful to me.

As the 51st Chief Justice of India, I have had the privilege of serving this institution with a heart committed to both judicial and administrative justice. Now as I pass on the baton to the Chief Justice of India-Designate Justice BR Gavai, this edition will highlight his distinguished career and the journey that brought him here. I wish Justice Gavai every success in his future endeavours.

I would like to highlight two columns started recently – "Beyond the Court," which showcases the creative side of our Supreme Court family, and "Bid Adieu," which pays heartfelt homage to our retiring colleagues. These truly reflect the inclusive spirit of this organisation. These have been our sincere efforts to bring every pillar of this institute together in shared respect and affection. These activities are not merely editorial additions, but quiet affirmations of the human spirit that sustains our judiciary.

In this edition, we offer a glimpse into a moment of transition and continued global engagement. Internationally, the Supreme Court of India took part in the Conference of Chief Justices of Supreme Courts of SCO Member States in Hangzhou, China, reaffirming its commitment to global judicial dialogue. Strengthening bilateral relations, the Supreme Courts of India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at deepening judicial cooperation through knowledge exchange, training, and research. Justice Gerard Hogan of the Supreme Court of Ireland graced the Court with his visit, engaging in insightful discussions on constitutional values and the rule of law. In heartfelt remembrance, the Court paid tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary that celebrated his enduring contributions to social justice.

Alongside these landmark moments, the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee continued to drive innovation in dispute resolution, and the Bar and Bench alike remained active across training, legal aid, and outreach initiatives. As always, our curated selection of judgments under "Fresh from the Bench" sheds light on the evolving jurisprudence of the Court. In "Beyond the Court," cultural, literary, and environmental reflections rounded out another vibrant month in the life of the judiciary.

I hope these pages inspire a deeper appreciation of the institution we are privileged to serve and the enduring ideals we strive to uphold.

Happy Reading!

Sanjiv Khanna
Chief Justice of India

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Published by
Communications Division
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi-110001

Website
https://www.sci.gov.in/supreme-court-chronicle/

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Gayatri Balasamy vs M/S ISG Novasoft Technologies Limited 2025 INSC 605

"Whether courts can modify arbitral awards in certain circumstances under s.34/37 Arbitration Act? If so, to what extent?"

Coram: Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, Justice Sanjay Kumar, Justice KV Viswanathan, Justice Augustine George Masih

In the judgment dated **30 April 2025**, a five-judge bench decided the questions of law in Reference regarding the court's power to modify arbitral awards under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The core issue was whether Indian courts have jurisdiction to modify an arbitral award under Section 34/37 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Court took note of the conflicting judicial pronouncements on this question, especially as to whether courts may go beyond setting aside and proceed to vary or modify arbitral awards. The issue was referred to a larger bench pursuant to doubts raised over existing precedents. The case specifically dealt with an award passed in a domestic arbitration between Gayatri Balasamy and ISG Novasoft Technologies Limited, where the claimant had sought modification of the award on certain grounds, rather than its complete setting aside. Various High Courts had previously adopted divergent approaches – some allowing limited modifications and others strictly disallowing them, interpreting Section 34 narrowly.

The Court analysed several past judgments, including *McDermott International Inc. vs Burn Standard Co. Ltd.*, where the Court had previously defined the limited scope of judicial intervention under Section 34 of the 1996 Act, in contrast to the broader powers under the Arbitration Act, 1940. The Court also considered instances where it had used its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to modify interest rates in awards, as seen in cases like *Pure Helium India (P) Limited vs Oil & Natural Gas Commission and Mukand Ltd. vs Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.*

The Court also discussed cases like *Vedanta Limited vs Shenzhen Shandong Nuclear Power Construction Company Ltd.*, where it modified interest rates in an international award, aligning them with the respective currencies of the parties, and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited vs Western GECO International Limited, where the Court discussed setting aside or modifying awards depending on the severability of the offending part.

The Court observed:

- The 1996 Act limits the supervisory role of the court to specific grounds under Section 34.
- The court does not possess the power to correct errors of fact, reconsider costs, or engage in a review of the merits of the arbitral award.
- Interference based on public policy violations under Section 34(2)(b)(ii) is limited to the fundamental policy of Indian law.
- The arbitral tribunal is the master of evidence.

The Court also examined arguments related to the scope of 'recourse' under Section 34, the public law aspect of land acquisition under the National Highways Act, 1956, and the principles of natural justice. It emphasised the need for transparency, fairness, and the prevention of the abuse of process. The Court discussed the doctrine of implied powers, inherent powers under Section 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and the limitations on the exercise of power under Article 142 of the Constitution. It also considered the legislative intent behind the 1996 Act, the importance of party autonomy, and the need to minimise judicial intervention in the arbitral process. The Court also analysed the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and the differences between appellate powers and the powers under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act.

A Constitution Bench (by 4:1) of the Supreme Court held that Appellate Courts have limited powers to modify arbitral awards while exercising powers under either Section 34 or 37 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

The majority judgment by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna held that the Courts have a limited power under Section 34/37 to modify arbitral awards. This limited power can be exercised in the following circumstances :

1. When the award is severable by separating the invalid portion from the valid portion of the award.

2. To correct any clerical, computation or typographical errors which appear erroneous on the face of the record.

3. To modify post-award interest in some circumstances.

4. The special powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution can be applied to modify awards. But this power must be exercised with great caution within the limits of the Constitution.

Justice KV Viswanathan delivered a dissenting opinion on certain aspects. He held that Court cannot modify the award unless expressly authorised by the law, since it tantamounts to exercising a merits review. Courts exercising Section 34 power cannot change, vary or modify arbitral awards as it strikes at the core and the root of the ethos of the arbitration exercise.

He disagreed with the view of the majority that the Courts can modify post-award interest. If there is any need for modification of interest, the matter has to be remitted back to the Tribunal. Also, this can lead to uncertainties and difficulties in enforcing foreign awards. Justice Viswanathan also disagreed with the view that Article 142 of the Constitution can be used to modify awards. If such a power is recognised, it will lead to uncertainties in the arbitration litigation, he opined. However, Justice Viswanathan agreed that clerical or typographical mistakes can be corrected under Section 34.

Answering the reference questions, Justice Viswanathan opined that: (i) modification of arbitral awards is impermissible under Section 34; (ii) modification and severance are distinct powers, and only the latter is available under the statute; (iii) the power to set aside does not include the power to modify; and (iv) the judgment in *Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd. vs Union of India (Hakeem)* correctly affirms this position, subject to the limited exception for correcting manifest errors.

Shahed Kamal & Ors vs M/S A Surti Developers Pvt Ltd & Anr 2025 INSC 502

"Peaceful protests regarding grievances in a builder-buyer relationship are protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, and criminal defamation proceedings are an abuse of process when based on such protests"

Coram: Justice KV Viswanathan, Justice N Kotiswar Singh

In the judgment dated **17 April 2025**, the Supreme Court quashed criminal defamation proceedings against homebuyers who had erected banners to protest against their builder, M/S A Surti Developers Pvt Ltd The appellants, who were homebuyers, erected banners visible to the public highlighting various grievances against the builder, such as non-formation of a society, poor maintenance, and unresolved defects in the building. The developer filed a criminal complaint under Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) alleging defamation. The Metropolitan Magistrate Court issued summons against the appellants, which was upheld by the High Court. The appellants then approached the Supreme Court seeking to quash the proceedings.

The appellants contended that the banners simply expressed their grievances and did not constitute defamation. They argued that the defamation suit was a means to exert pressure and suppress their rights. The respondents, on the other hand, argued that the banners had damaged their reputation and were made with the intent to defame.

The Court observed:

- That the banners did not contain any defamatory language such as "fraud" or "cheating." They were merely expressions of dissatisfaction regarding unaddressed grievances. The Court highlighted that the language used in the banners was mild and not intended to harm the reputation of the respondent.
- The imputation in the banners fell within the 9th Exception to Section 499 IPC, which protects imputations made in good faith for the protection of the interests of the person making them or for the public good. The protest was seen as an expression of legitimate grievances in a business relationship.
- There was no evidence of malice in the appellants' actions. The protest was conducted without the intent to harm the reputation of the developer but to highlight genuine concerns regarding the building's maintenance and contractual obligations.
- The peaceful protests are protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. It was emphasized that the appellants' actions, including the erection of the banners, fell within their constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression, as long as the protest was peaceful and conducted without abusive language.
- The criminal defamation proceedings, when based on such peaceful protests, would amount to an abuse of process. The Court stressed that allowing such proceedings to continue would create a chilling effect on free speech and prevent individuals from airing legitimate grievances.
- The Supreme Court quashed the defamation proceedings and set aside the summons issued by the Metropolitan Magistrate Court. The complaint under Section 500 IPC was dismissed, with the Court affirming the appellants' right to peaceful protest under the Constitution.

State of Rajasthan & Ors vs Combined Traders
2025 INSC 496

"The State Government cannot frame rules to cancel declarations under the Central Sales Tax Act when such rules conflict with the Central Registration Rules"

Coram: Justice Abhay S Oka, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

In the judgment dated **16 April 2025**, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Rajasthan High Court, declaring sub-rule (20) of Rule 17 of the Rajasthan Rules as ultra vires the provisions of the Central Sales Tax (CST) Act. The respondent, Combined Traders, challenged the validity of sub-rule (20), which allowed the State authorities to cancel declarations under the CST Act. The High Court had ruled that the State Government lacked the power to create rules allowing the cancellation of validly issued declarations, which the appellants (State of Rajasthan) sought to overturn. The Court found that the State Government's power was limited and could not conflict with the rules prescribed by the Central Government under the CST Act.

The appellant argued that sub-rule (20) was enacted to prevent fraud and to check the evasion of taxes. However, the Court found that the State Government's rule-making power did not extend to cancelling declarations that had already been issued under the CST Act, as this power had been exclusively granted to the Central Government under Section 13(1)(d) of the CST Act. The Court held that sub-rule (20) of Rule 17 of the Rajasthan Rules was inconsistent with the Central Registration Rules, which do not grant powers to cancel Form C declarations once issued. The Court also clarified that the State Government could not frame rules under Section 13(3) that conflicted with the rules made by the Central Government.

The Court observed:

- The rule-making power conferred on the State Government under Section 13(3) of the CST Act must align with the Central Government's rules.
- The Central Government had the exclusive authority to prescribe the form and content of declarations under Section 8(4) of the CST Act. No provision in the CST Act conferred power on the State Government to cancel these declarations.
- The State Government's rules were inconsistent with the Central Registration Rules, which did not provide for the cancellation of Form C declarations. The State's attempt to cancel declarations conflicted with the Central Government's power to regulate such declarations.
- While the State Government had the power to make rules to carry out the purposes of the CST Act, it could not make rules that conflicted with the Central Government's rules, particularly in matters of cancellation of declarations.

The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal, upholding the Rajasthan High Court's decision. It ruled that the State Government did not have the authority to cancel Form C declarations issued under the CST Act. The Court confirmed that the power to cancel such declarations rested with the Central Government, and sub-rule (20) of Rule 17 of the Rajasthan Rules was ultra vires the CST Act.

The Correspondence, RBANMS Educational Institution vs B Gunashekar & Another 2025 INSC 490

"Supreme Court mandates that Courts and Sub-Registrar Offices must notify Income Tax authorities of any suits or registered documents that disclose cash transactions exceeding ₹2 lakh"

Coram: Justice JB Pardiwala, Justice R Mahadevan

In the judgment dated **16 April 2025**, the Supreme Court set aside the decision of the Karnataka High Court and allowed the application of RBANMS Educational Institution for rejection of a civil suit filed against it under Order VII Rule 11(a) and (d) of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC). The respondents had filed a suit seeking a permanent injunction to restrain the appellant from alienating a property, claiming rights under an agreement to sell executed with third parties not involved in the litigation.

The appellant argued that the agreement to sell did not create any legal interest in the property under Section 54 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, and that the respondents, being mere agreement holders, had no cause of action or *locus standi* to seek relief against a third party in possession. The suit was also challenged as an abuse of process due to lack of privity, absence of declaratory relief, and clear legal bars.

The Court found that a contract for sale does not confer ownership or enforceable rights against third parties. It further held that the respondents' claims were barred by statutory law, fictitious in nature, and amounted to clever drafting to create an illusory cause of action. The Court emphasized that the vendors themselves were not impleaded and that the suit lacked both title and possession elements essential to maintain an injunction suit.

The Court observed:

- An agreement to sell does not create any right, title, or interest in immovable property under Section 54 of the Transfer of Property Act.
- Only the owner or an authorised person can sue for declaration or injunction; a proposed purchaser cannot maintain a suit against third parties.
- When the plaintiff lacks title, possession, and legal interest, and does not seek a declaration, a bare injunction suit is not maintainable.
- Filing such suits without title or possession constitutes an abuse of process and speculative litigation.
- Cash transactions over ₹2 lakhs, as alleged in this case, must be reported under Section 269ST of the Income Tax Act, and courts have a duty to alert tax authorities.

The Supreme Court allowed the appeal, rejected the plaint, and directed that the judgment be circulated to all High Courts, State Chief Secretaries, and Income Tax authorities to ensure compliance with its directions on frivolous litigation and large cash transactions.

Murlidhar Aggarwal (D.) Thr. His LR. Atul Kumar Aggarwal vs Mahendra Pratap Kakan (D.) Thr. LRs. and Ors., 2025 INSC 564

"The bona fide need of the landlord to reclaim possession of a property for personal use is upheld, with consideration given to the hardship of both parties"

Coram: Justice MM Sundresh, Justice KV Viswanathan

In the judgment dated **24 April 2025**, the Supreme Court allowed the appeal filed by the appellant, Murlidhar Aggarwal, and set aside the judgment of the High Court of Allahabad, which had dismissed his writ petition. The case involves a dispute over the eviction of a tenant, Mahendra Pratap Kakan, from a cinema property owned by the appellant, Mansarovar Palace. The appellant had initially sought eviction under Section 21(1)(a) of the Uttar Pradesh Urban Buildings (Regulation of Letting, Rent and Eviction) Act, 1972, on the grounds of bona fide need for the premises. The tenant had been occupying the premises for over 30 years. The Prescribed Authority found that the appellant's need for the property was bona fide, while the Appellate Authority reversed this finding. The appellant's son, Atul Kumar Aggarwal, continued the litigation after the death of Murlidhar Aggarwal, claiming that the need for the property persisted. The Court upheld the finding of the Prescribed Authority, which had determined the bona fide need of the appellant.

The Court observed:

- The term "bona fide need" under Section 21(1)(a) of the Uttar Pradesh Urban Buildings (Regulation of Letting, Rent and Eviction) Act, 1972, should be interpreted liberally. A landlord's bona fide need for a property can include the need of the family members and must be evaluated based on the circumstances of the case. Even if a landlord has limited resources, as long as they show a genuine need to use the property for their own business or residential purposes, their claim for eviction will be upheld.
- Under Section 21 of the 1972 Act, the prescribed authority must consider the comparative hardship to both the tenant and the landlord. While the tenant had been in possession of the premises for a long time, the hardship faced by the appellant, particularly given his minimal income and pressing family needs, outweighed that of the tenant. The tenant had other businesses and could potentially relocate, but the appellant had no other source of income or alternative property for his family's needs.
- One of the factors in determining comparative hardship is whether the tenant has made any effort to find alternative accommodation. The tenant had been in possession of the premises for 63 years but failed to show that he had attempted to find another place for his business. This failure to make such an effort weighed in favour of the appellant.
- Rule 16(2)(c) of the Uttar Pradesh Urban Buildings (Regulation of Letting, Rent and Eviction) Rules, 1972, considers the existing business of the landlord and the availability of other premises. However, there was no substantial evidence that the appellant's family business was extensive enough to outweigh the genuine need for the premises. The tenant's argument that the appellant had other businesses was dismissed, as the claims were not backed by solid evidence.

- Judgments like Joginder Pal vs Naval Kishore Behal (2002) 5 SCC 397 and Dwarkaprasad vs Niranjan and Anr. (2003) 4 SCC 549 liberalized the interpretation of "bona fide need" to favour landlords who required the premises for personal or family use. The appellant's claim for eviction was supported by these principles.
- Section 21(7) of the 1972 Act allows the legal heirs of a deceased landlord to continue the eviction proceedings based on their own need. Atul Kumar Aggarwal, the appellant's son, could continue the proceedings, as his need was genuine and supported by the circumstances.

The Supreme Court allowed the appeal, set aside the judgment of the High Court, and reinstated the order of the Prescribed Authority. The tenant was granted time until 31 December 2025 to vacate the premises and deliver vacant possession, subject to the tenant filing an undertaking and clearing any arrears of rent or occupation charges within four weeks.

Varshatai vs The State of Maharashtra
2025 INSC 486

"The use of Urdu alongside Marathi on a municipal signboard in Maharashtra, does not violate the 2022 Official Languages Act and language is a means of communication, not a symbol of religion"

Coram: Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Justice K Vinod Chandran

In the judgment dated **15 April 2025**, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench), holding that the use of Urdu on the signboard of the Municipal Council, Patur, did not violate the Maharashtra Local Authorities (Official Languages) Act, 2022. The appellant, Mrs Varshatai, a former member of the Municipal Council, challenged the display of Urdu alongside Marathi, arguing that only Marathi could be used for official purposes as per the 2022 Act.

The High Court had earlier dismissed the petition, stating that while Marathi was mandated as the official language, the Act did not prohibit the use of additional languages, such as Urdu, on municipal signboards. The appellant sought to overturn this decision by invoking Section 308 of the Maharashtra Municipal Council Act, 1965, but the Court noted that, post the 2018 amendment, only the Chief Officer of a Municipal Council could move the Collector under Section 308—not a private individual.

The appellant contended that the new 2022 Act implicitly barred any non-Marathi language use for official purposes. However, the Court found that neither the 2022 Act nor the Constitution prohibited the use of Urdu, which is a language recognised under the Eighth Schedule. The Court also emphasised that language is a tool for communication, not a marker of religion, and that Urdu and Marathi enjoy equal constitutional recognition.

The Court observed:

- The 2022 Act mandates the use of Marathi but **does not expressly prohibit** additional languages for public communication.
- **Section 308 of the 1965 Act,** as amended, permits intervention by the Collector **only on the application of the Chief Officer,** which was not the case here.

- The **use of Urdu**, spoken by a significant portion of the local population, was a legitimate effort to facilitate communication and inclusion.

- Both **Marathi and Urdu are included in the Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution, and linguistic plurality must be celebrated, not restricted.

- The **historical and cultural importance of Urdu** in India, as well as its continued use in courts and governance, underscores its relevance in public life.

The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal, affirming the Bombay High Court's judgment. It ruled that the use of Urdu alongside Marathi on the Municipal Council's signboard was lawful and did not contravene the provisions of the Maharashtra Local Authorities (Official Languages) Act, 2022. The Court reiterated the constitutional values of diversity, inclusion, and tolerance in matters of language and cultural expression.

State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of Tamil Nadu 2025 INSC 481

"Judicial review of the exercise of power by the Governor under Article 200 and by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution"

Coram: Justice JB Pardiwala, Justice R Mahadevan

In the judgment dated **8 April 2025**, the Supreme Court examined the exercise of powers by the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution concerning the withholding of assent or reserving bills for the President's consideration. The Tamil Nadu government challenged the Governor's inaction in reserving bills for the President, asserting that such delays hindered the legislative process. The Governor had reserved several bills for the President's assent without clear, reasonable grounds, resulting in unnecessary delays. The State government argued that the Governor's actions were unconstitutional and beyond his discretionary powers. The Court ruled that such exercises of power are subject to judicial review if they transgress the limits defined by the Constitution.

Legal Reasoning and Analysis:

1. The exercise of power by the Governor under Article 200 and by the President under Article 201 is subject to judicial review. The Court reaffirmed that judicial review can be exercised when the Governor's actions deviate from constitutional principles or are made arbitrarily. The Governor's powers under Article 200 are not absolute; they must be exercised in a manner that aligns with constitutional requirements and the principles of democracy.
2. The Governor has discretion under Article 200, such discretion is limited by constitutional boundaries. The Governor cannot withhold assent arbitrarily or act out of political or personal dissatisfaction. The Court made it clear that if the Governor withholds assent or reserves bills for the President, it must be for constitutional reasons and with clear justification.
3. The Court highlighted the necessity of time-bound actions. The Governor must act on bills within a reasonable time frame. If the Governor does not act within the prescribed time limits, this action will be subjected to judicial review. The Court emphasized that such actions must not lead to unnecessary

delays, as they impact the legislative process and governance.

4. The Court ruled that when a bill is reserved for the President's consideration, it is the President's duty to act on it within a reasonable time frame, generally three months. If the President fails to act within this time, the matter could be subject to judicial review, and the courts may issue a writ of mandamus compelling action. This ensures that the legislative process is not stalled indefinitely due to inaction at the highest levels.

5. The Court examined the President's role in withholding assent to a bill, specifically in the context of reserving a bill for further consideration. The Court clarified that the President must act on the bill within three months of it being reserved for assent. The President must also provide reasons if the assent is withheld. The Court reinforced that such powers must not be exercised arbitrarily, and if the President fails to act within the prescribed time, judicial intervention is possible.

6. The Court held that while the Governor does have discretionary powers, these powers must be exercised within the confines of the Constitution. The Court emphasized that discretion, though granted, is not unfettered and must be reasonable, in line with the constitutional provisions, and subject to judicial scrutiny. The Court also referred to previous judgments that stressed the importance of judicial review in such matters, particularly when the exercise of power impacts the democratic process and the functioning of the legislature.

7. The Court emphasized that in cases where the Governor delays action on bills, it hampers the legislative process and the right of the legislature to function effectively. The Court also noted that failure to act within the prescribed timelines can be considered an act of procedural delay, and the courts have the jurisdiction to intervene. This ensures that the Governor does not act in a manner that disrupts the smooth functioning of the state government.

8. The Court also discussed the importance of transparency when the Governor reserves a bill or withholds assent. The Governor must provide clear and detailed reasons for any decision that impacts the legislative process. The Governor cannot withhold assent or reserve bills without substantial justification. Any delay or non-communication would be viewed as contrary to the principles of transparency in governance.

9. The Court reiterated that the power vested in the Governor to withhold assent or reserve a bill is not absolute and must be used in accordance with the Constitution. It clarified that these powers must be exercised in a manner that respects the democratic principles of governance and that any misuse of power will be subject to judicial review.

Timelines prescribed by the Court:

1. In case of either withholding of assent or reservation of the bill for the consideration of the President, upon the aid and advice of the State Council of Ministers, the Governor is expected to take such an action forthwith, subject to a maximum period of one-month;

2. In case of withholding of assent contrary to the advice of the State Council of Ministers, the Governor must return the bill together with a message within a maximum period of three- months;

3. In case of reservation of bills for the consideration of the President contrary to the advice of the State Council of Ministers, the Governor shall make such reservation within a maximum period of three months;

4. In case of presentation of a bill after reconsideration in accordance with the first proviso, the Governor must grant assent forthwith, subject to a maximum period of one-month.

The Court concluded that the exercise of power by the Governor and President under Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution must be in line with constitutional principles and subject to judicial review. Any delays in decision-making or arbitrary actions will be scrutinized by the courts to ensure the legislative process is not impeded. The Governor's actions must be transparent, timely, and based on constitutional grounds, with judicial oversight ensuring adherence to these principles.

Biswajyoti Chatterjee vs State of West Bengal & Anr. 2025 INSC 458

"A consensual relationship between two adults, knowingly entered into despite of subsisting marriage, cannot be construed as rape or cheating under the IPC in the absence of fraudulent intent, coercion, or a false promise made in bad faith"

Coram: Justice BV Nagarathna, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma

In the judgment dated **7 April 2025**, the Supreme Court set aside the decision of the Calcutta High Court, allowing the discharge of the appellant, Biswajyoti Chatterjee, from criminal proceedings under Sections 376(2)(f), 417, and 506 of the IPC. The appellant, a retired judicial officer, was accused by the complainant of sexually exploiting her on the false pretext of marriage. The High Court had earlier refused to discharge the appellant, holding that there was prima facie evidence to proceed to trial.

The appellant argued that the relationship was consensual and that the complainant was fully aware he was a married man, though separated. It was also submitted that there was no dishonest inducement or coercion, and that the complainant had voluntarily entered and continued the relationship for over a year, receiving financial and personal support.

The Court found that the allegations did not constitute the offence of rape under Section 376 IPC, as there was no evidence of a false promise made in bad faith at the outset. The complainant was an adult capable of reasoned decision-making and knowingly entered into the relationship. It also held that the requirements of cheating and criminal intimidation under Sections 417 and 506 IPC were not satisfied, as there was no evidence of fraudulent inducement or threats.

The Court observed:

- Consent under Section 375 IPC must involve deliberate and reasoned participation, not induced by deceit or coercion.
- A failed promise of marriage, in the absence of bad faith or fraudulent intent at the time of the promise, does not constitute rape.
- Mere continuation of a consensual relationship, even if one party later withdraws, cannot transform the relationship into a criminal offence.
- Criminal law should not be used to settle emotional grievances arising out of failed personal relationships.

The Supreme Court quashed the criminal proceedings and discharged the appellant. It held that allowing the matter to proceed further would amount to abuse of the legal process and cause unnecessary hardship to both parties, who were living separately. Accordingly, the impugned order of the Calcutta High Court was set aside, and the appeal was allowed.

GC Manjunath & Others vs Seetaram
2025 INSC 439

"Prior government sanction is mandatory under Section 197 CrPC and Section 170 of the Police Act when alleged acts by police officers are reasonably connected to their official duties, even if excessive"

Coram: Justice BV Nagarathna, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma

In the judgment dated **3 April 2025**, the Supreme Court set aside the decision of the Karnataka High Court and quashed the criminal proceedings initiated against two retired police officers, accused of assault and intimidation of a complainant in connection with multiple criminal cases. The complainant/respondent, Seetaram, had alleged that the officers tortured, defamed, and falsely implicated him in fabricated cases during 1999–2000. He filed a private complaint in 2007 seeking cognizance under various IPC sections, including 326, 500, and 506(b).

The Magistrate took cognizance and issued summons, which was upheld by the Sessions Court and later by the High Court. The accused (appellants) challenged these orders, arguing that the proceedings were initiated without obtaining prior sanction as required under Section 197 of the CrPC and Section 170 of the Karnataka Police Act.

The appellants contended that the acts in question, though allegedly excessive, were connected to their official duties and thus attracted statutory protection. They argued that the absence of prior government sanction rendered the proceedings invalid. The respondent claimed that the assaults were personal and unrelated to official functions, making sanction unnecessary.

The Court found that the acts—though grave and possibly excessive—occurred in the context of the accused discharging their official duties. It held that the statutory protection under Section 197 CrPC and Section 170 of the Police Act extended to acts done under the "colour of duty" or in excess thereof, provided there was a reasonable nexus with official functions.

The Court observed:

- The requirement of prior sanction protects public servants from vexatious litigation for acts reasonably connected to their official duties.
- Even if public officers exceed their authority, the protective umbrella under Section 197 CrPC and Section 170 of the Police Act remains available, provided the act bears a reasonable connection to their duty.
- Cognizance taken without prior sanction in such cases is impermissible and vitiates the proceedings.

Considering the passage of time and the fact that the remaining accused had retired, the Court quashed the criminal proceedings against them. The appeal was allowed, and the orders passed by the Magistrate, Sessions Court, and High Court were set aside.

Chief Justice of India-Designate: Justice BR Gavai

Hon'ble President of India has signed the Warrant for appointment of Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as the next Chief Justice of India and the notification of his appointment has accordingly been issued by the Department of Justice, Government of India. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai will take over as the Chief Justice of India on 14 May 2025.

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was born on 24 November 1960 at Amravati. He joined the Bar on 16 March 1985 and began his legal career working with late Barrister Raja S Bhonsale, former Advocate General and Judge of the High Court, until 1987. From 1987 to 1990, he practised independently at the Bombay High Court. After 1990, he mainly practised before the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court, specialising in Constitutional Law and Administrative Law.



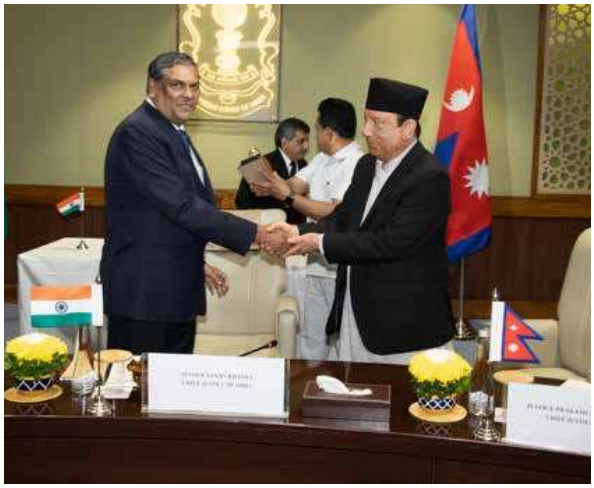
During his distinguished career at the Bar, Justice Gavai served as Standing Counsel for the Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation, and Amravati University. He regularly appeared for various autonomous bodies and corporations such as SICOM, DCVL, and several municipal councils in the Vidarbha region. From August 1992 to July 1993, he served as Assistant Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor in the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Nagpur Bench. He was appointed Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor for the Nagpur Bench on 17 January 2000.

Justice Gavai was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on 14 November 2003 and became a permanent Judge on 12 November 2005. He presided over benches handling all types of assignments at the Principal Seat in Mumbai, as well as at the Benches in Nagpur, Aurangabad, and Panaji. His elevation to the Supreme Court of India came on 24 May 2019.

In the last six years at the Supreme Court, Justice Gavai has been part of around 700 benches dealing with a wide array of matters, including constitutional and administrative law, civil law, criminal law, commercial disputes, arbitration law, electricity law, education matters, and environmental law. He has authored around 300 judgments, including Constitution Bench judgments, addressing critical issues and upholding the rule of law while safeguarding the fundamental rights, human rights, and legal rights of citizens.

Justice Gavai has also represented India at various international conferences held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), New York (USA), Cardiff (UK), and Nairobi (Kenya). He has delivered lectures on constitutional and environmental issues at prestigious institutions, including Columbia University and Harvard University. He is due to retire on 23 November 2025.

Supreme Courts of India and Nepal Sign an MoU on Judicial Cooperation



The Supreme Court of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Supreme Court of Nepal to develop, promote and strengthen the judicial cooperation between the two countries today. The MoU was signed in the presence of Justice Prakash Man Singh Raut, Chief Justice of Nepal and Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Chief Justice of India. Inspired by the cordial and friendly relations existing between the two countries and their people, the MoU aims at developing, promoting and strengthening cooperation between the judiciaries of the two countries. The MoU shall not only encourage mutual exchange of information on latest developments in the field of law and justice but also promote interaction among judges and officials at various levels of judiciaries through programmes such as exchange of visits, short- and long-term training and academic programmes. Recognising the importance of use of technology in clearing backlogs, expediting court procedures and providing better services to stakeholders, the MoU provides for sharing information pertaining to technology employed in their respective Courts and other institutions. As per the MoU a Joint Working group consisting of the officials of the two judiciaries shall be formed to work out plans and modalities for promoting and further strengthening judicial cooperation.



Signing of an MoU between Supreme Court of Nepal and the Supreme Court of India for Judicial Cooperation

Visit of Justice Gerard Hogan Judge, Supreme Court of Ireland









2 April 2025, Justice Gerard Hogan, Judge, Supreme Court of Ireland, his spouse MsCatherine Quirk, and other delegates meet the Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and judges of the Supreme Court of India during their visit and tour of the Court premises including Judges' Library, the National Judicial Museum, and the Supreme Court Archives

Supreme Court Pays Tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar



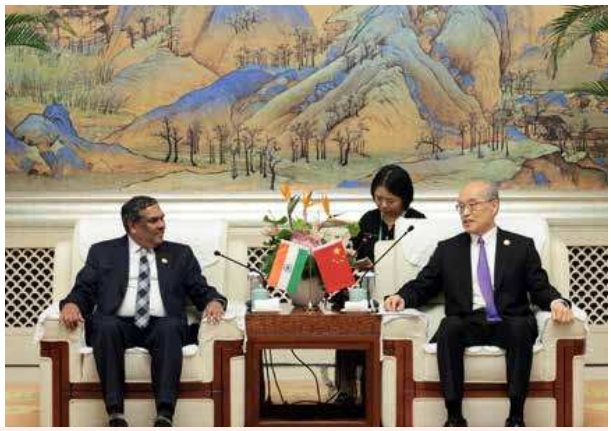




14 April 2025, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, and Justice Surya Kant and other dignitaries pay tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at the Supreme Court

Programmes and Conferences





22-23 April 2025, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar participate in the 20th Meeting of Chief Justices of Supreme Courts of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in Hangzhou, China



29 March 2025, Justice KV Viswanathan participates in the International Seminar on "India: The Next Global Manufacturing Hub" and chairs the Session on "The Role of Finance, The Fight Against Financial Crime and PPPs for India's Growth" at Delhi High Court

27 April 2025, Supreme Court Judges, Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, and Justice Vikram Nath, along with Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat at the Mega Legal Awareness & Empowerment Camp on the theme 'NALSA SAMVAD SCHEME, 2025' organised by the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority & District Legal Services Authority, Narmada







27 April 2025, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Chief Guest, at the closing ceremony of the induction training of the newly posted Magistrates, Juvenile Justice Boards of Bihar,at Bihar Judicial Academy, Gaighat, Patna





26 April 2025, Justice Vikram Nath, Chief Guest, at the 4th Annual International Arbitration Conference in Ahmedabad organised by MCIA in collaboration with the Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association at Ahmedabad





26 April 2025, Justice Bela M Trivedi, Visitor, GNLU along with Justice Aravind Kumar preside over the Convocation and confer degrees and awards during the 15th Convocation of Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar



26 April 2025, Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Augustine George Masih attend the National Conference commemorating "Seventy-Five years of the Supreme Court of India" at Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab



26 April 2025, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah attends the Annual General Council Meeting of the Chanakya National Law University at Patna, Bihar



20 April 2025, Justice N Kotiswar attends the National Conference on Indianisation of Legal System organised by Dr BR Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat, Haryana

21 April 2025, Justice Surya Kant delivers special lecture on 'The Right to Education of Persons with Visual Impairments and unveiling of the Braille Version of the Constitution of India' at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi

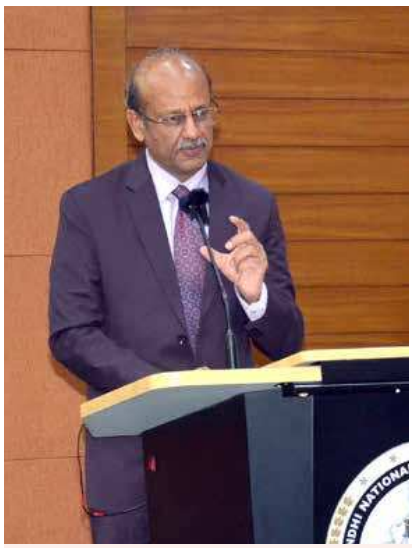




19 April 2025, Justice Surya Kant delivers an inaugural address on 'Optimizing Court Appearances:Harmonizing Physical, Virtual and Hybrid Modes with Live Streaming Restrictions' at One Day Programme of the High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong

19 April 2025, Justice Surya Kant delivers lecture on 'Defending Democracy: Constitutional Law and its impact today' at Distinguished Lecture Series at the National Law University, Meghalaya







19 April 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal addresses the audience during the National Conference of the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law on the theme "Seventy-Five Years of the Constitution of India" at Patiala, Punjab

18 April 2025, Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice KV Viswanathan along with Justice Hima Kohli, former judge, Supreme Court of India release the book "Women Laws From The Womb To The Tomb – Rights & Remedies" authored by Senior Advocate, Ms Mahalakshmi Pavani at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi





18 April 2025, Justice KV Viswanathan addresses the gathering during the book release function of Senior Advocate, Ms Mahalakshmi Pavani's "Woman Laws from the Womb to the Tomb - Rights & Remedies" at India International Centre, New Delhi



14 April 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal addresses the gathering during the All India Forensic Science Summit on the theme "Role of Forensic Science in Effective Implementation of New Criminal Laws and Combating Terrorism" organised by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and National Forensic Sciences University, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

14 April 2025, Justice KV Viswanathan attends the book release of "The Basic Structure Doctrine" written by Justice Rohinton Nariman (former Supreme Court Judge) at India International Centre, New Delhi







12 April 2025, Justice PS Narasimha addresses the Telangana Judges' Association Biennial Conference in Hyderabad













12–13 April 2025, Supreme Court Judges, Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, along with Justice NV Anjaria, Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka, and Justice Anu Sivaraman, Judge, High Court of Karnataka, participate in the Southern Zone Regional Conference organised by the the Family Courts Committee of the Supreme Court of India, in association with the High Court of Karnataka and Karnataka Judicial Academy on the theme "Family: The Basis of Indian Society" at Bengaluru



12-13 April 2025,
Justice Rajesh Bindal addresses the participants during Sessions 1 & 4 on the themes "Addressing Docket Exclusion: Enhancing Inclusivity and Optimising Court Management" and "Bridging the Digital Divide : Role of E-Services" organised by National Judicial Academy in collaboration with the High Court of Uttarakhand and the Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy at Dehradun, Uttarakhand

10 April 2025,
Justice N Kotiswar Singh attends the Conference on "Need for institutionalisation of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)" at Srinagar organised by Kashmir Jurists Bar Association





9 April 2025,
Justice Rajesh Bindal along with Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of Law & Justice at the valedictory function of completion of one year Induction Training Programme of Judicial Officers of the State of Punjab by the Chandigarh Judicial Academy at Chandigarh



6 April 2025,
Justice Surya Kant along with Secretary General of Supreme Court of India, Shri Bharat Parashar attend 24th Commonwealth Law Conference (CLC), 2025 preceded by Patron Chief Justices' Meeting at St Julian's Bay, Malta



6 April 2025, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, Chief Guest, attends the valedictory ceremony of the 5th Late Shree Abhay Bharadwaj Moot Court Competition at Marwadi University, Rajkot, Gujarat



5 April 2025,
Justice MM Sundresh attends Annual Sports Day 2025 Celebrations of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) at Vellore, Tamil Nadu



4 April 2025, Justice PS Narasimha addresses, Chief Guest, during the opening conclave of 'Kartavyam' organised by the Campus Law Centre, at University of Delhi



3 April 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Guest of Honour, at the 'Bharat Shiksha Summit 2025' on the theme "Legal Education and Training : Bridging Theory and Practice" organised by Balaji Foundation at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Legal Aid

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched a nationwide competition for law students on 3 January 2025 titled "Connecting with the Cause," inviting entries in Reels and Short Films to promote legal awareness. Participants from across India, including remote states like Assam and Manipur, creatively depicted themes related to NALSA Schemes, Lok Adalat, and Mediation. The competition saw over 100 entries across four zones—North, South, East, and West—with 16 teams (one winner and one runner-up per zone in each category) felicitated by dignitaries at the award ceremony on 30 April 2025.



30 April 2025, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, and Justice Surya Kant at the felicitation ceremony of the Nationwide Competition for Law Students in Reel Making and Short Films: "Connecting with the Cause" at the Administrative Building Complex, Supreme Court of India

On 26 April 2025, NALSA, in collaboration with GSLSA, celebrated "Three Decades of NALSA and the Western Regional Conference" in District Narmada, Gujarat. The event was attended by the august presence of Justice BR Gavai and Justice Surya Kant, Judges, Supreme Court of India; Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat; Justice Biren A Vaishnav and Justice AS Supehia, Judges, High Court of Gujarat. Highlights included the screening of a three-part documentary on NALSA's journey and the launch of key initiatives such as the JAGRITI, revised DAWN, and SAMVAD Schemes. The conference also featured the release of awareness materials, dissemination tools, and publications like the *SOP on Child Marriage, Nari ki Udaan*, *ASHA, and Green Verdicts.*










IN COLLABORATION WITH
NMENT OF NAGALAND
DLSA KOHIMA
SERVICE
April, 2025 (Saturday)
Convention Centre, Kohi

On 12 April 2025, NALSA and Nagaland State Legal Services Authority (NSLSA) organised a State Mega Legal Services Camp in Nagaland to raise awareness about legal rights and welfare schemes. Justice BR Gavai emphasised legal outreach and praised Article 371(A) for protecting Naga identity, while Justice Surya Kant highlighted NALSA as a people's movement. Justice N Kotiswar Singh advocated for effective implementation of the Mediation Act, 2023, to promote community harmony.





5 April 2025, Justice BR Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta attend a state-level conference in Rajsamand, Rajasthan, organised by Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority to promote eco-humanism and gender empowerment. The event, held in Nathdwara, featured the theme "Green Justice: Role of Legal Services Institutions for Green & Clean Environment and Sustainable Development"

Training Hub







19 April 2025, Training Cell conducts a valedictory and certificate distribution session to mark the successful completion of the English Learning Course for Registry officials, with 104 participants receiving certification. The event was inaugurated by Mr Bharat Parashar, Secretary General, in the presence of Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, OSD (Registrar), Training Cell, and Mr Rujith R, Head of Operations, STEP, The Hindu Group



22–30 April 2025, Training Cell conducts an induction training programme (Batch 5) for newly inducted Junior Court Assistants. The sessions were led by senior officers and experts from various branches of the Court, including Registrars, Assistant Registrars, Branch Officers, and staff from the Judges' Library



19 April 2025, Training Cell, in collaboration with GSICC, conducts a training programme on 'Gender Sensitization for Branch Officers', led by Ms Anindita Pujari in presence of Mr Santosh Kumar, Registrar (Judicial-III) and Ms R Arulmozhiselvi,OSD (Registrar). Attended by 76 officers, the session focused on gender awareness, workplace inclusivity, and legal safeguards, aiming to foster a respectful and equitable work environment

Centre for Research and Planning

In November 2024, the Chief Justice of India tasked CRP with identifying short, infructuous, and old cases to assist the Court in an expeditious disposal of cases. During this endeavour, CRP processed 10,000+ matters from November 2024 to April 2025. The CRP team processed and classified matters across four categories: miscellaneous after notice matters with no coram, regular matters with no coram, miscellaneous after notice matters with coram and regular matters with coram. As part of this exercise, CRP was successfully able to classify 3,374 main matters (with 901 connected matters) as short, infructuous and old.

Of these matters, 2,374 main (with 850 connected matters) have already been listed, and 1,356 main matters (with 189 connected matters) were disposed of within one or two hearings. These include 711 miscellaneous no coram matter where our disposal rate is highest at 66% of all listed matters. Under regular criminal cases, 358 or 53.1% cases were disposed of in around 12 regular hearing days. This effort contributed to the Supreme Court's increased criminal disposal rate, which reached 111.89% for the year, partly due to benches disposing of at least 2-5 CRP cases per Thursday hearing. In civil matters, 199 civil matters have already been listed, and 96 have been provided judicial resolution. In the last category, miscellaneous coram 191 of 427 identified cases were disposed of in the first hearing.

Additional measures undertaken by CRP include assistance in review of matters where the tax incidence was lower than Rs 5 crores. CRP further assisted in providing briefs for cases where the main matter had been disposed of, and the connected matters were still pending in the Court. Nearly 500 connected cases of this nature were disposed of under this category by different benches.



'Case Management at the Supreme Court of India'

On 5 April 2025, CRP organised a lecture on 'Case Management at the Supreme Court of India' by Mr Pavanesh D, Registrar (Judicial Listing-I), providing an in-depth overview of procedural and institutional efforts to streamline the listing and disposal of matters before the Apex Court. The journey of a case—from initial filing and scrutiny, curing of defects, assignment of diary and case numbers, to eventual appearance in the cause list—was discussed. This process is centrally coordinated by the Filing and Listing Sections of the Registry under the directions of the Chief Justice of India.



Mr Pavanesh D outlined positive steps taken to manage the Court's caseload since November 2025. These include prioritising matters of personal liberty—such as death penalty, bail, habeas corpus, eviction, dispossession, demolition, and jail petitions—and listing of older cases. Special benches now hear thematically grouped cases, while short, infructuous, and old cases are disposed of through CRP. The filing proforma is also being revised based on recommendations from the Case Categorisation Advisory Committee. As a result, the current disposal rate stands at 104.5%.

The lecture was further enriched by inputs from Ms Gracy L Bawitlung (Registrar, Judicial Administration II), Ms Kaveri (Registrar, Judicial Administration I), Mr Vipin Kumar Mittal [Deputy Registrar, Listing (Misc.)], and Mr Manish Mittal [Deputy Registrar, Listing (Supplementary)].

Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee

In April, 2025, fourteen Forty Hours Mediation Training Programmes were conducted in different states/UTs – Chandigarh (06), Jharkhand (02), Madhya Pradesh (03) and Telangana (03). These programmes were conducted and organised under the aegis of the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India.

In addition to these training sessions, MCPC, in collaboration with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), has been conducting two batches of Forty Hour Mediation Training Programme in Hybrid Mode for advocates which started with effect from 7 February 2025 and 28 February 2025 respectively.

The Interactive/Practical Sessions (Roleplay) of the said training programmes were conducted by the MCPC in collaboration with NALSA on 5 April 2025 and 19 April 2025 respectively at the Administrative Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India. The session held on 5 April, 2025 was attended by 30 advocate participants, 2 Resource Persons from MCPC, as well as officers and officials from both MCPC and NALSA. The session held on 19 April 2025 was attended by 29 Advocate participants, 2 Resource Persons from MCPC, as well as officers and officials from both MCPC and NALSA.

Bar News Bulletin



27 April 2025, Justice MM Sundresh, Justice PS Narasimha and Justice KV Viswanathan participate in Annual Exhibition Match between CJI XI and the President SCBA XI organised by SCBA at Modern School Cricket Ground, Delhi. Shri Kapil Sibal, President, SCBA, was also present on the occasion



5 April 2025, SCAORA organises the 1st Session of the Help Desk conducted by Advocates on Record Ms B Sunita Rao, Ms Nandani Gore and Ms Abha Jain at SCAORA Room, main building, Supreme Court. This bi-monthly initiative aims to support bar members–particularly young lawyers–by enhancing the quality of their pleadings and addressing day-to-day professional challenges

Beyond the Court

World Health Day: 07 April

कोई ऐसी दवा है क्या

कोई ऐसी दवा है क्या, जो सेहतमंद बना दे
दुनिया के हर मर्ज को, एक चुटकी में दूर हटा दे

या कुदरत तुम्हें साफ़ हवा दे, बचपन मे लौटा दे
सारी खुशियाँ पकड़ के तेरी, मुट्ठी में पहना दे

कुदरत ने हरियाली देकर, सेहतमंद बनाया
मिलजुल कर इसे साफ़ रखो, यह जीवन का सरमाया

कुदरत ही गर चाहे तो, तुम्हें फिर से जवाँ कर देगी
सेहत की सौगात के संग, जीवन को रवां कर देगी

कुदरत ही है जो सारे, रोगों को मिटा सकती है
सेहत से भरपूर हो भोजन, कुदरत ही दिला सकती है

करती बेड़ा गर्क मिलावट, जीवन कर देती दुश्वार
मर्ज बढ़ा इंसानों का, तंत्रिका तंत्र करती बेकार

घूमो हरे भरे जंगल में, तन को स्वस्थ बनाओ
शुद्ध हवा से साँसों को, अपने मजबूत बनाओ

कुदरत हमें खनिज देती है, देती साफ़ हवा
खाने को भोजन देती है, देती जीने की वजह

कुदरत का ही सारे जहां में, एक छत्र है राज
जो इससे भिड़ने का सोचे, हो जाए बर्बाद

—**Mohd Tasvirul Islam**, Assistant Librarian

Dr BR Ambedkar Remembrance Day: 14 April

An humble tribute to a Legend

A torchbearer of Justice, a voice for the marginalized and the weak,
His contributions shall be treasured forever as something incredibly unique.

He fought for the rights of those on the margins of society,
His legacy shall ensure for he championed the right to equality and dignity.

With a flair for writing and a towering personality,
He fought for the rights of the oppressed through writings reflecting his intellectual calibre and creativity.

His vision for India was just, fair and futuristic,
He fought against beliefs and practices which were parochial and extremely anachronistic.

He envisioned a nation where all could flourish and thrive,
And not just exist and barely survive.

His words reflected indomitable courage and strength in face of social discord and strife,
He resolutely strove to blow to smithereens myriad forms of oppression and artificial social divide.
His work continues to inspire the succeeding generations to fight for what is right,
And not succumb to pressure of people wielding muscle power and political might.

I pay my humble tribute to a man of such towering stature,
Whom the world knows as Babasaheb Ambedkar.

—**Harshita Mishra**, Additional Registrar

डॉ बी आर अंबेडकर स्मृति दिवस

देश की मिट्टी में जन्मे थे, गुदड़ी के एक लाल
संविधान की रचना जिसने, करके किया कमाल

चौसठ विषयों के ज्ञानी वह, नौ भाषा पारंगत थे
विद्वानों में नंबर वन थे, दुनिया में थे मिसाल

गुरू महादेव के सच्चे शिष्य, भीमराव सकपाल
आंबडवेकर से अम्बेडकर बन, करते रहे धमाल

राजगृह की भरी किताबें, देतीं थी उन्हें पूरा ज्ञान
मस्तिष्क को देतीं उर्जा, अविरल ज्ञान हृदय में डाल

कहते थे शिक्षा है अमृत, बुनती ज्ञान का जाल
अपने ज्ञान से सबको चकित, और करते मालामाल

सीखने की ललक सदा, भरती है निर्गुण में ज्ञान
बापू ने था लोहा माना, ऐसे थे भारत के लाल

भारत के पहले विधि मंत्री, मन के बड़े विशाल
सबको दिलाते हक अपना, थे रखते बहुत ख्याल

गरीब, पिछड़ों, दलितो के लिए, करते थे खूब काम
महिलाओं की रक्षा के लिए, वह बन जाते थे ढ़ाल,

भारतरत्न थे भारत के, बाबा साहेब था उपनाम
संविधान रच भारत का, बनाया था कीर्तिमान

विकसित हो सारा समाज, संग जिये सब साथ
ऐसे उत्तम रत्न को दिल से, दुनिया करे प्रणाम

—**Mohd Tasvirul Islam**, Assistant Librarian

World Earth Day: 22 April

मैं गंगा

ब्रह्म सुता मैं, शिव की प्रिय, भागीरथ की जीवन गाथा।
सगर सुतों की मोक्ष दायिनी, भीष्म पितामह की माता
सूर्य वंश की अमिट धरोहर, कभी रही सुर सरिता
मेरा यौवन याद रखेंगे, सदा चंद्र और सविता ॥

मुझे पार करके रघुकुल मणि, कहलाए थे वनवासी।
मुझे थामने में सक्षम थे, जग में केवल कैलाशी
वर्षों तक भी लो सहेज, मेरा जल ऐसा अविनाशी
गरिमा मय मेरा अतीत, मत समझो मुझको उपहासी ॥

तुम्हें बनाती निष्कलंक जल, मैं ऐसी ज्योति हूँ।
मैली कर अपनी काया, कब निर्मलता खोती हूँ
तुम कहते पावन हूँ मैं, पर मैं मन में रोती हूँ
पाप तलक तो बात ठीक थी, मैला तक ढोती हूँ ॥

अश्रुधार है शेष, कहाँ तक नीर निचोड़ें हम अपना।
धरती को खुशहाल बनाने का, टूटा हर एक सपना
जग की कालिख आत्मसात कर, अंतर दुख सहती हैं
मैं ही क्या मेरी बहनें सब, एक हाल बहती हैं ॥

ब्रह्म अंश कहलाते हो तुम, क्या है फिर अपना नाता।
कभी तो सोचो एक घड़ी, यदि कहते हो मुझको माता
सगर सुतों की तरह तुम्हारी, संताने तरसेंगी
नहीं भागीरथ आज, जो मेरी बूँदें फिर बरसेंगी ॥

—**Brij Bhooshan Khare**, Chief Librarian

Dr BR Ambedkar : A Visionary, Fearless Fighter and The Greatest Humanitarian

Dr BR Ambedkar, father of the Indian Constitution,
Will be forever remembered for his contribution.

Dr BR Ambedkar, an advocate for the rights of Dalits and other marginalized classes,
Recognized as the conscience-keeper of modern India among the masses.

Dr BR Ambedkar, an erudite economist and a social reformer,
Fighting against caste discrimination, making him a true warfarer.

Dr BR. Ambedkar, independent India's first Law Minister,
A distinguished jurist, a scholar and a prolific writer.

Dr BR. Ambedkar, whose 7-feet-tall statue in a lawyer's gown, holding a copy of the Constitution in his hand, adorns the Supreme Court,
Is a tribute to him in recognition of his relentless service to the mankind and unwavering support.

Dr BR Ambedkar, whose birthday is celebrated on 14th April every year,
Salute to him for promoting democracy as a way of life in every sphere.

Dr BR Ambedkar, Happy Birthday,
Let's celebrate him today, tomorrow and everyday.

—**Poulami Paul**, P.S. to Registrar



—**Rohan Sain**



—**Avneet Kumar Narnolia**,
Junior Court Assistant

धरती का गीत

सूरज की किरणों में वो जागती है,
चाँद की चादर में सोती चुपचाप,
हवाओं के साथ वो नाचती है,
हर कण में बसता उसका संताप।

पहाड़ों की गोद में बादल ठहरते,
सागर की गहराई में सपने बहते,
खेतों में सुनहरी फसलें लहरते,
धरती की धड़कन से जीवन गढ़ते।

कभी वो हँसती है फूलों की माला,
कभी रोती है सूखे की चीत्कार,
पुराने मंदिर, किले, और थाला,
उसके सीने पे लिखे
तिहास का भार।

हिम की चादर, रेत का आलम,
हर रूप में वो अनोखी कहानी,
शहरों के शोर में भी उसका बलम,
प्रकृति की वो अनघट रानी।

हम उसके बच्चे, उसकी संतान,
उसके आँचल में पलते-पोसते,
फिर भी काटते हैं उसका सम्मान,
अपने हाथों से खुद को खोते।
धरती बोलती है, सुनो मेरी पुकार,
मेरे पेड़, मेरे पानी को बचाओ,
ये धरोहर नहीं बस एक संसार,
इसे प्यार से, संभाल से सजाओ।

वो अनंत है, हमारी शुरुआत,
उसकी गोद में ही अंत की राह,
हर साँस में बसती उसकी बात,
धरती हमारी, हम उसकी चाह।

—**Rafiq Uddin**,
Court Assistant, Section IV_B



—**Rituja Chouksey**, Research Assistant

World Heritage Day: 18 April



—**Kartik Bawa**, Junior Court Attendant



—**Nilesh Kalbhor**, Deputy Registrar



—**Jatin Bajaj**, Court Assistant



—**Naina Bakshi**, Junior Court Assistant



—**Jitesh Kumar Rai**, Junior Court Attendant



—**Harshita Mishra**, Additional Registrar

Bid Adieu



Mr Rakesh Kumar former Deputy Registrar joined the Supreme Court as a Junior Court Assistant in March 1987. Originally from Sonipat, Haryana, Mr Kumar shifted to Delhi in 1990. During his 38 years of service he contributed in various sections including Section XIII (Decree), Admin (J), Section XIV, Section I-A, Receipt and Issue Branch and Care Taking Branch with an additional charge of Copying Branch in various capacities.. His present primary responsibilities include provision of clean and safe environment to the building users as well as ensuring provision of certified copies of judgments to the entitled stakeholders thereby touching a wide range of administrative as well as judicial functions of Registry. During the Corona pandemic period, his valuable services enabled the Registry to maintain continuity of judicial functions by this Apex Court through evidence-based contamination.

He expressed that his services for "My Institution (Apex Court)" has been truly recognised by the Registry which has also provided ample opportunity for learning and sharing of knowledge. After retiring, he desires to spend more quality time with his family.



Mr Sanjay Kumar Gupta joined the Supreme Court in April 1991 as a Junior Court Assistant. Over the years, he served in various departments, including Administration (Material), Copying Branch, Section XII, Chief Secretariat, and the Supreme Court Guest House. He retires in April 2025 as Deputy Registrar, overseeing Transport and Protocol—a role he describes as both challenging and full of responsibility. Reflecting on his career, Mr Sanjay describes his journey in the institution as seamless and says the 35 years felt like just 35 days. He appreciates the digitisation efforts within the Court and recommends that the institution move towards becoming fully paperless. After retirement, he plans to take up new work or assignments to stay active and engaged.



Ms Daya Rani Khanna, a resident of Delhi, joined the Supreme Court in 1987 as a Junior Court Assistant. Over the years, she served in the PIL Section, Section XI-A, Section XIV, and the Criminal Section. Reflecting on her career, Ms Khanna shares that she thoroughly enjoyed her work and had a very positive experience at the Supreme Court. She appreciates the recent efforts made to prioritise the disposal of old matters. After retirement, she plans to rest at home and spend quality time with her family. She retired in April 2025 as an Assistant Registrar.



Ms Babita Goyal, from Punjab, joined the Supreme Court in April 1987 as a Junior Court Assistant. During her career, she worked in different branches like the Typing Cell, Computer Cell, Criminal Section, Copying Branch, and Section IV-A. Reflecting on her journey, she appreciates the Court's shift towards digitisation, which, she shares, made the functioning of the institution more efficient and convenient. She retires in April 2025 as an Assistant Registrar of the Record Room, where she looks after the filing of court records. She describes her journey at the Court as a good learning experience and after retirement, she plans to rest and spend more time with her family and friends.



Mr Chandran MV, a native of Kannur district in Kerala, joined the Supreme Court of India in December 1990 as a Junior Court Assistant and retired as an Assistant Registrar in April 2025. Over his 34-years long career, he served in various branches including Admn J, Record Room, Listing Branch (Miscellaneous and Regular), and Section IX A. Before his retirement, he was posted in the Chamber Listing Section, where he responsibly supervised the allocation of chamber matters with precision. After retirement, Mr Chandran plans to travel to his hometown and spend time with his family.



Ms Ramni Arora from Ghaziabad joined the Supreme Court in 1990 as a Junior Court Assistant. Over the years, she worked in Admn J, Section IV, Section X, the Library, and the Copying Branch. She retired in April 2025 as an Assistant Registrar. Reflecting on her journey, she shares that working in the Supreme Court has been a valuable experience. She suggests that more attention should be given at the administrative level to address rising pendency. After retirement, she looks forward to travelling, exploring new places, and enjoying life.



Mr Nivarthi Sivaram, a native of Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, joined the Supreme Court of India in August 1991 as a Junior Court Assistant and retired as Branch Officer in April 2025. Over his 33-years long career, he served in various sections, including Admn J, Section III A, Section XI A, Section XIV, and Section XIVA. He appreciates the infrastructural developments in the institution, which made work more efficient and convenient. Reflecting on his long journey, Mr Sivaram described his experience at the Supreme Court as highly positive. Despite the ups and downs, he is deeply grateful to the institution for the opportunities and support throughout his career.



Mr Krishnan Kumar Joshi, a native of Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, joined the Supreme Court in 1980 as a Class IV employee. Over the years, he served as an Attendant and later as a Stenographer, working with at least 20 Judges during his tenure. He was also posted in various sections, including IV-A, R&I, and the Computer Cell. He retired in April 2025 as a Personal Secretary to the Registrar. Mr Joshi had a good time at the Supreme Court and now plans to relax with his family.



Mr Rajendra Kumar, a native of Delhi, joined the Supreme Court in 1985 as a Junior Court Attendant. He worked in the Editorial Branch and the Record Room before being appointed as an Usher. Following the retirement of former Chief Justice of India Dr DY Chandrachud, he was placed in the general pool. Reflecting on his long tenure, Mr Kumar describes his experience at the Supreme Court as deeply fulfilling. He suggests that the Supreme Court consider issuing permanent ID cards to retired employees, to ease their access to the premises for purposes such as medical or pension-related matters. Looking ahead, Mr Kumar, who retired in April 2025, shares his excitement about travelling the Country post-retirement.



Mr Yog Raj a native of Himachal Pradesh, joined the Supreme Court in 1986 as a Junior Court Attendant. He worked in the Admn J, XIII-B, and the Decree Section. In 2012, he was appointed as an Usher. Over his nearly 39 years of service, he has worked with at least four judges. He describes his experience at the institution as very positive and shares that everyone treated him with great respect. He retired in April 2025 as Usher to Justice SVN Bhatti.



Mr Hans Raj Singh, Photocopying/Digital Duplicating Machine Operator, joined the Supreme Court in February 1991. During his service, he worked at the residences of Justice Justice K Ramaswamy, Fathima Beevi, Justice VN Khare and Justice Dipak Misra as well as in the Editorial Branch and the E-Committee. Reflecting on his journey, he expresses heartfelt gratitude to his supervisors and colleagues for their constant support and encouragement. He suggests introducing post-retirement health and medical benefits for employees. After retiring in April 2025, he plans to travel and open a chemist shop.



Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001

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Design Team, Editorial, Supreme Court of India

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