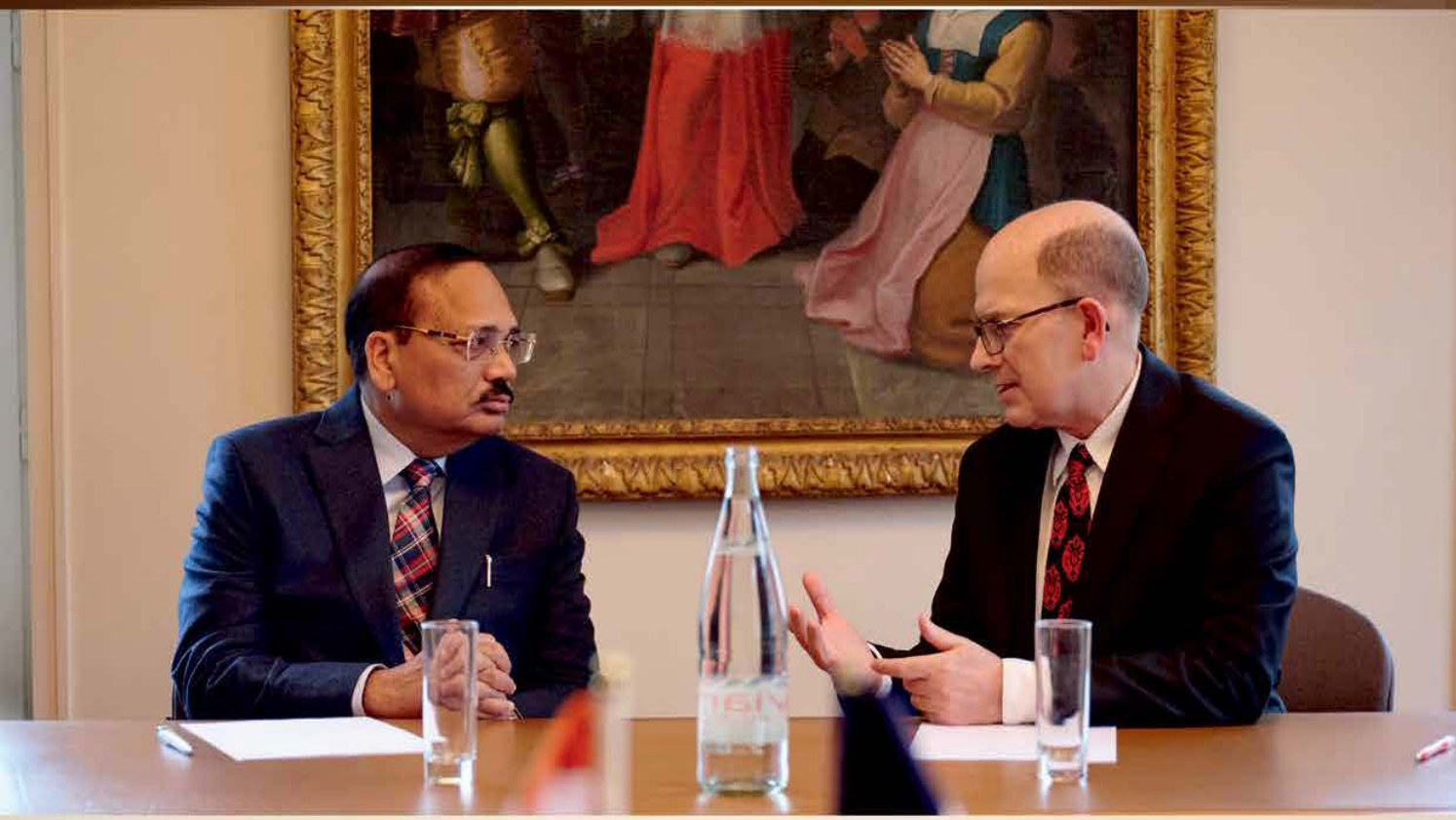
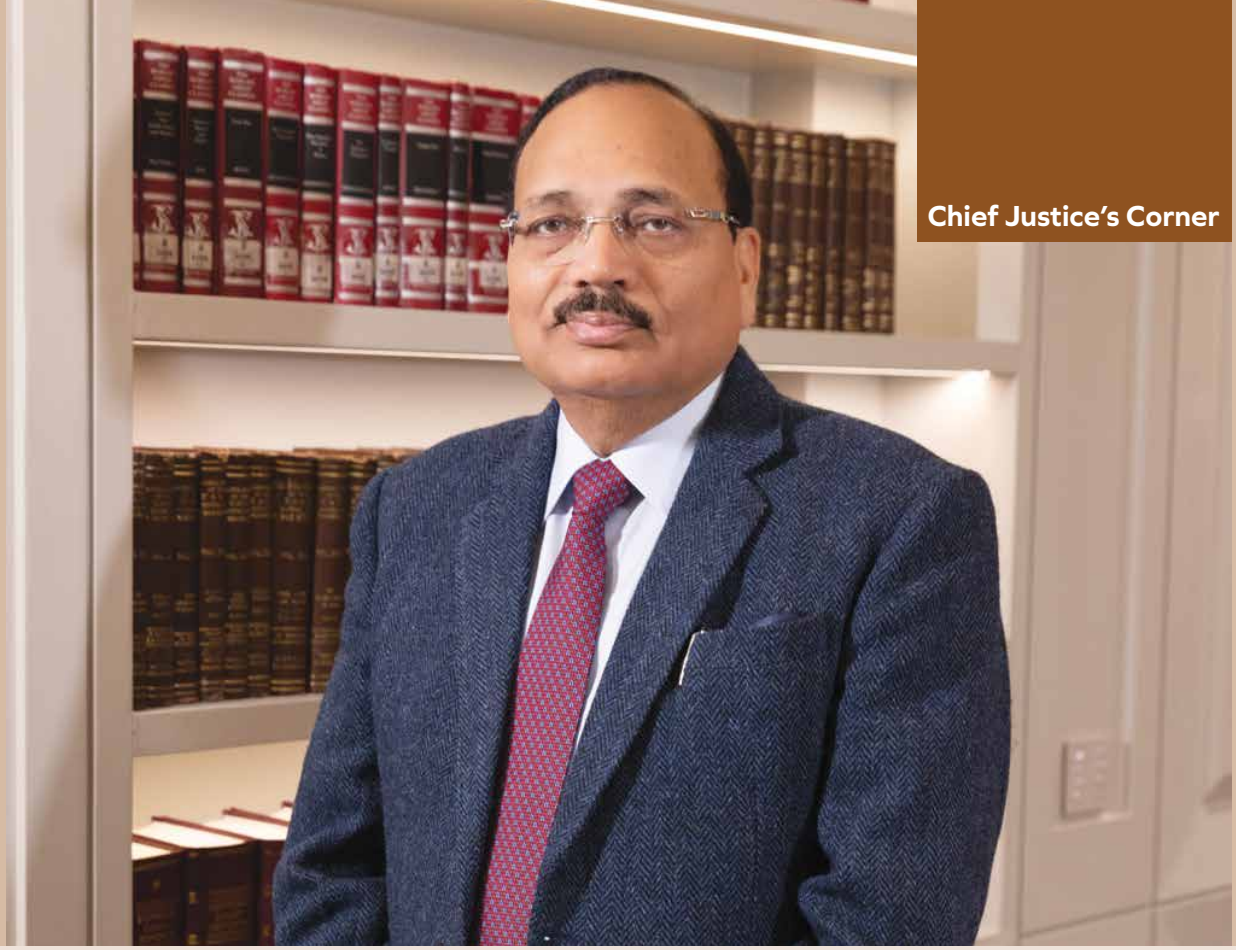
SUPREME COURT *Chronicle*

Issue XXVIII | February 2026



Highlights of the Issue:

- Indo-French General Counsel and Business Conference
- Judicial Dispute Resolution Network (JDRN) Meeting
- SCAORA International Legal Conference



Chief Justice's Corner

Dear Readers,

As the year progresses, I am pleased to present the February edition of the *Supreme Court Chronicle*, highlighting significant developments and engagements that reflect the Court's enduring dedication to its institutional ethos, meaningful collaboration, and continued advancement.

This issue features the inaugural Indo-French General Counsel and Business Conference, organised by the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (**IFCCI**) in partnership with the Paris Bar Association, bringing together distinguished members of the legal and business communities for a dynamic exchange of perspectives.

The edition also covers the Fourth Judicial Dispute Resolution Network (**JDRN**) Meeting, co-chaired by the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Federal Court of Malaysia, underscoring the importance of sustained global dialogue and cooperative engagement among judicial institutions.

Additionally, readers will find coverage of the Second SCAORA International Legal Conference, organised by the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (**SCAORA**), which provided an important forum for members of the Bench and the Bar to reflect upon pressing contemporary legal questions.

This edition also marks the return of *Beyond the Court*, a cherished segment among members of the Supreme Court staff that celebrates their talents and creative pursuits.

Collectively, these engagements illustrate the judiciary's continuing resolve to evolve while steadfastly preserving the foundational principles of justice.

Happy reading!

Justice Surya Kant
[Chief Justice of India]

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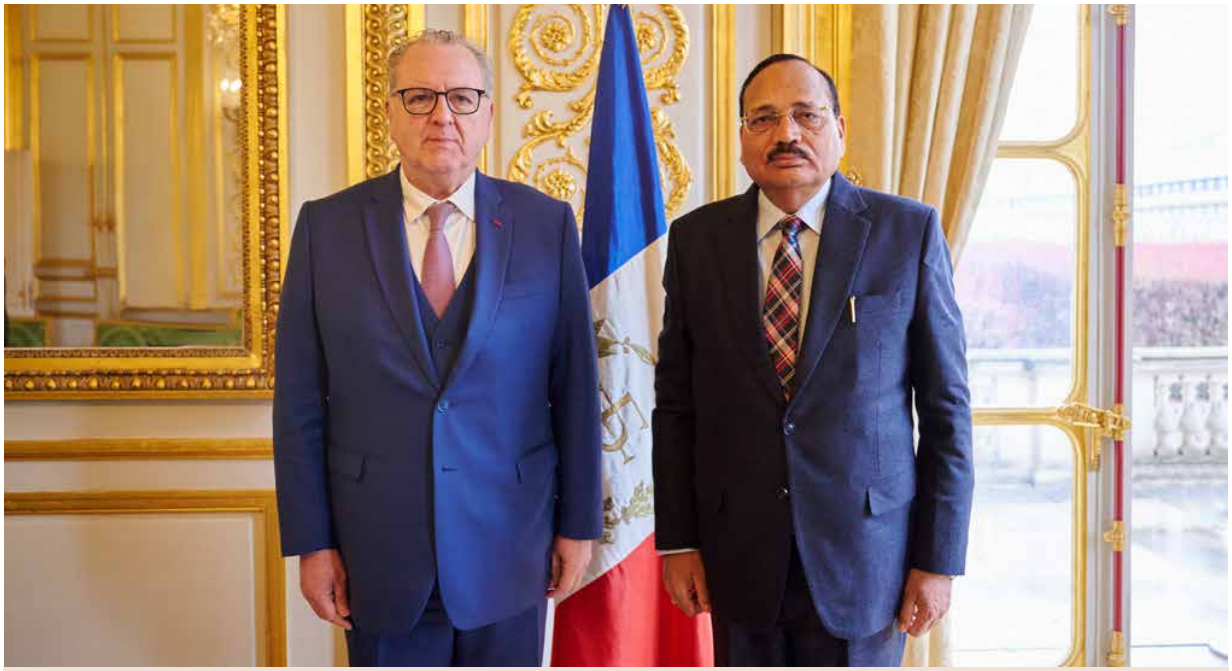
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Global Engagements

France: Official Engagements



30 January - 1 February 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with His Excellency Richard Ferrand, President of the Constitutional Council of France

30 January - 1 February 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, visited Paris as part of an official engagement in France, where he participated in a series of bilateral judicial meetings and the first edition of the 'Indo-French General Counsel and Business Conference'. The visit aimed to strengthen judicial cooperation and foster institutional exchanges between the two countries.

During the visit, Justice Surya Kant led a delegation from the Supreme Court of India. The delegation was accompanied by Mr Sanjeev Singla, Ambassador of India to France and Monaco. Members of the Supreme Court delegation included Mr Rakesh Kumar, Registrar (International Relations); Mr Kuntal Sharma Pathak, Registrar (J)-cum-Principal Private Secretary to the Chief Justice of India; and

30 January - 1 February 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, signing the Visitors' Book at the Constitutional Council in the presence of His Excellency Richard Ferrand, President of the Constitutional Council of France



Ms Saavni Kamath, Assistant Registrar (Research)-cum-Assistant Fellow, Supreme Court of India.

As part of the engagements, Justice Surya Kant met with the President of the Constitutional Council of France, His Excellency Richard Ferrand. During the meeting, they discussed key areas, including technology and judicial training, where the judiciaries of both nations could collaborate and exchange best practices to enhance justice delivery.

Further, Justice Surya Kant met with the Vice President of the Council of State, Mr Didier Tabuteau. The discussions focused on the functioning of their respective judiciaries, the structure of the court systems, and the processes followed in case adjudication.

Among other engagements, Justice Surya Kant attended the Indo-French General Counsel and Business Conference as the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. The conference was organised by the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI), in association with the Paris Bar Association.



30 January - 1 February, 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with His Excellency Mr Didier Tabuteau, Vice-President of the Council of State, during his visit to Paris, France



30 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, delivered the keynote address at the Indo-French General Counsel and Business Conference, in Paris



30 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with Mr Vincent Vigneau, President of the Commercial Chamber of the Cour de Cassation; Mr Sanjeev Singla, Ambassador of India to France and Monaco; Ms Payal S Kanwar, Director General, Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI); Ms Carine Denoit-Benteux, Vice President, Paris Bar Association; Ms Vanessa Bousardo, Former Vice President, Paris Bar Association; and Mr Akshay Jaitly, Founding Partner, Trilegal, at the the Indo-French General Counsel and Business Conference

In his address, Justice Surya Kant highlighted the deep civilisational and strategic partnership between India and France, framing the India–France Year of Innovation 2026 as a natural extension of shared democratic values, cultural exchanges, and growing economic cooperation. Innovation was emphasised as a collaborative platform centred on co-development, priority sectors such as AI, clean energy and academic mobility, positioning bilateral innovation as both a technological and institutional endeavour. He concluded by advocating deeper Indo-French cooperation through joint ADR panels, institutional partnerships, judicial exchanges, and online dispute resolution.

Justice Surya Kant also met with Mr Vincent Vigneau, President of the Commercial Chamber of the Cour de Cassation, to discuss developments in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution, especially arbitration and mediation, and ended with a shared resolution to integrate the legal fraternities of both jurisdictions.



30 January – 1 February 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, along with his spouse, Smt Savita Vashisht, and other members of the delegation, during his visit to Paris, France

Fourth Meeting of the International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network (JDRN)



26–27 January 2026: Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Alok Aradhe, Judges, Supreme Court of India; along with other delegates, at the Fourth JDRN Meeting, Philippines

26–27 January 2026: Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Alok Aradhe, Judges, Supreme Court of India, along with Shri Rajesh Sharma, Registrar (J), Supreme Court of India, participated in the Fourth Meeting of the International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network (JDRN), in Philippines. The Meeting was co-chaired by the Supreme Court of Philippines and Federal Court of Malaysia.

The JDRN is a voluntary and non-binding network of like-minded judiciaries that seeks to collectively promote the early, amicable and cost-effective resolution of court disputes through Judicial Dispute Resolution processes, with a view to achieving fair outcomes for litigants.

The Meeting witnessed participation from delegates representing the Philippines, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Dubai, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Zimbabwe. In addition, member courts from Australia, China, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Qatar, Rwanda, and the United Kingdom joined the proceedings through videoconferencing.





26–27 January 2026: Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Alok Aradhe, Judges, Supreme Court of India; along with other delegates, visited the Supreme Court complex and Intramuros in Manila as part of the Grand Judiciary Tour, which commemorated the 125th anniversary of the Supreme Court of the Philippines

On the first day, Session 3 featured a special joint presentation by Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Alok Aradhe, on the topic 'Information and Technology in Court System', highlighting key innovations such as the National Judicial Data Grid and the eCourts system.

The delegates visited the Supreme Court complex and Intramuros in Manila as part of the Grand Judiciary Tour, commemorating the Court's 125th anniversary by offering an immersive experience of the rich history of the Philippine judiciary.

The Meeting brought together representatives from various jurisdictions to deliberate on recent developments and share best practices in Judicial Dispute Resolution. The JDR process entails proactive, judge-led case management, coupled with the use of a range of court-annexed alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms to facilitate the resolution of disputes, in whole or in part, thereby saving judicial time. The event underscored the commitment to enhancing judicial efficiency and strengthening collaboration among member courts.

National Engagements

At Bombay High Court: Official Engagements



24 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with his spouse, Smt Savita Vashisht, attended a felicitation ceremony held in his honour by the Bombay High Court following his elevation as the Chief Justice of India. The event was also attended by Justice Dipankar Datta, Justice P B Varale, and Justice A S Chandurkar, Judges, Supreme Court of India; Shri Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra; and Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay

24 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, attended a felicitation ceremony hosted in his honour by the Bombay High Court following his elevation as the Chief Justice of India. During his address, Justice Surya Kant expressed gratitude while underscoring that such honours reflect respect for institutions rather than individuals.

Furthermore, Justice Surya Kant attended Fali Nariman Memorial Lecture on *'The Sentinel on Qui Vive Article 226 as the Guardian of Access to Justice'*, organised by the Bombay Bar Association at the University of Mumbai, Mumbai.

In his Keynote Speech, Justice Surya Kant used Nariman's legacy to examine Article 226 as the cornerstone of access to justice and federal balance, highlighting the High Courts' expansive writ jurisdiction, their role as the citizen's first constitutional forum, and their transformative function in public interest litigation, interim relief, and gap-filling governance.



24 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India and Justice A S Chandurkar, Judge, Supreme Court of India, along with Shri Nitin G Thakker, President, Bombay Bar Association, at the Fali Nariman Memorial Lecture on 'The Sentinel on Qui Vive Article 226 as the Guardian of Access to Justice', organised by the Bombay Bar Association at the University of Mumbai, Mumbai

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for Integrated Court Complexes in Uttar Pradesh



17 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India; Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, State of Uttar Pradesh; Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Manoj Misra, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judges, Supreme Court of India; Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice, High Court of Allahabad and Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi, Judge, High Court of Allahabad, attended the Foundation Stone Laying and Ground Breaking Ceremony for Integrated Court Complexes in six districts of Uttar Pradesh, held at Chandauli

17 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, laid the foundation stone and performed the ground breaking ceremony for six integrated court complexes in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh. The event was also attended by Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, State of Uttar Pradesh; Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Manoj Misra, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judges, Supreme Court of India; and Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice, High Court of Allahabad.

The court complexes will be in Chandauli, Mahoba, Amethi, Shamli, Hathras and Auraiya. During the ceremony, the Chief Justice described the moment as a formal commitment to strengthening access to justice across eastern Uttar Pradesh. He emphasised that the new court buildings are not merely structures of brick and stone, but foundations for fulfilling the judiciary's promise to citizens in remote and rural areas.

Highlighting the constitutional vision behind district courts and High Courts, he noted that India's Constitution framers deliberately empowered state-level judicial institutions so that fundamental, human, and social rights could be protected closer to people's homes. He stressed that true access to justice requires integrated court complexes not only at the district level, but progressively at subdivision and block levels as well.

At Patna High Court: Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony and Other Engagements



03 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India; Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judge, Supreme Court of India, along with Judges of the High Court of Patna, attended the Bhumi Pujan at the new site for Bihar Judicial Academy

03 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with Judges of the Supreme Court, attended the foundation stone laying ceremony for the ADR Building and Auditoriums, IT Building, Administrative Block, Multi-Level Car Parking, Hospital, Residential Complex, and the Annexe Building of the Advocate General's Office at the Patna High Court. He also attended the Bhumi Pujan at the new site for the Bihar Judicial Academy.

During the foundation stone laying ceremony, Justice Surya Kant emphasised that justice systems must be supported by robust administrative, technological, and human capacity, as delays and inefficiencies risk rendering rights illusory. Highlighting the importance of the Administrative and IT Blocks, he observed that sound administration and thoughtful use of technology enable efficiency, transparency, and inclusion, particularly for vulnerable users.

At the Bhumi Pujan ceremony, the Chief Justice of India emphasised the role of judicial academies as "silent pillars" of the justice delivery system. He highlighted that judges are shaped through continuous training that refines legal knowledge and reinforces constitutional values. In a rapidly changing legal landscape marked by technological advancement and evolving rights jurisprudence, he stressed the necessity of ongoing judicial education.



03 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India; Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judges, Supreme Court of India; along with the Judges of the High Court of Patna, attended the Function of Laying of Foundation Stones of ADR Building and Auditoriums, IT Building, Administrative Block, Multi Level Car Parking, Hospital, Residential Complex, and Annexe Building of office of the Advocate General, at High Court of Patna

Keynote Address at Judicial Academy, Assam



11 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with Justice Ashutosh Kumar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Gauhati, Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Former Judge, High Court of Gauhati and Director, Judicial Academy, Assam, and Ms Saavni Kamath, Assistant Registrar (Research)-cum-Assistant Fellow, at the oration on "Redefining Judicial Excellence: Essential Traits of the Modern Indian Judge"

11 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with his spouse, Smt Savita Vashisht, visited the Judicial Academy, Assam, and delivered a keynote address to judicial officers on the theme *"Redefining Judicial Excellence: Essential Traits of the Modern Indian Judge"*.

While delivering the Keynote Address, he emphasised that judicial excellence is cultivated over a lifetime rather than conferred at appointment. Rejecting the myth of the *"perfect judge"*, he stressed that honesty, humility, and self-correction sustain justice more than flawlessness. He outlined core attributes of the modern judge: intellectual integrity, judicial temperament and restraint, the ability to balance adjudicatory and administrative roles, institutional humility, and the capacity to remain locally grounded while thinking nationally.

Highlighting the responsible integration of technology and the importance of infrastructure, he concluded that justice flows from conduct rather than architecture, and that the robe signifies a lifelong commitment to disciplined authority, fairness, and constitutional fidelity.



11 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with his spouse, Smt Savita Vashisht, and Justice Ashutosh Kumar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Gauhati, along with his spouse, Dr Tanuja Singh, visited the Judicial Academy, Assam and interacted with judicial officers from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

Interaction with Delegation from Harvard Club of India and Ivy League Universities



05 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, was visited by a 51-member delegation of the Harvard Club of India and students of Ivy League universities

05 January 2026: A 51-member delegation of the Members of the Harvard Club of India and Students of the Ivy League Universities on India-Trek, visited the Supreme Court of India and had an interaction with Justice Surya Kant, the Chief Justice of India.

Justice Surya Kant interacted with the delegation on the issues of national and constitutional significance and also addressed the delegation on themes of Judicial Independence, Judicial Review, Separation of Powers, Rule of Law and the Role of the Supreme Court in the world's largest democracy.



05 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, interacted with a 51-member delegation of the Harvard Club of India and students of Ivy League universities

Interaction with Delegation from O P Jindal Global University



06 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, interacted with a 17-member delegation from O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat, who visited the Supreme Court of India

06 January 2026: A 17-member delegation, comprising 11 American Scholars & Practitioners on behalf of Motwani Jadeja Institute for American Studies (MJIAS) at O P Jindal Global University and Office-bearers of the MJIAS and O P Jindal Global University, visited the Supreme Court of India and interacted with Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India.

Professor (Dr) C Raj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, O P Jindal Global University, also participated in the interaction with the Chief Justice of India. During the visit, the Delegation also visited National Judicial Museum & Archive and the War Room. Mr Anupam Patra, OSD (Registrar), Technology briefed the Delegation about e-initiatives taken by the Supreme Court of India.

06 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, was presented with Jindal Global University Calendar 2026, themed "India's Sporting Glory- A Journey in Pursuit of Excellence" by Professor (Dr) C Raj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat



Convocation Ceremonies



18 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, at the 15th Convocation of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. He emphasised that legal education is not about ready answers but about cultivating a way of thinking that endures beyond classrooms



03 January 2026: Justice K Vinod Chandran, Judge, Supreme Court of India, participated as the Chief Guest and delivered the Annual Address at the 19th Annual Convocation organised by the National University for Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi, Kerala. The Convocation was also attended by Justice Nitin Jamdar, Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala

Public Events, Speeches and Other Engagements



15 January 2026:
Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, at a commemorative event honouring the fifteen women members of the Constituent Assembly, held at the Supreme Court Ladies Bar Room under the theme "Celebration of the Founding Mothers". He emphasised that the Founding Mothers were not symbolic participants but active architects who shaped constitutional commitments to equality, dignity, and social reform



20 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, interacted with students from the Panjab University Campus Students' Council, who were participating in a two-day academic course at the Institute of Parliamentary Studies and the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies





20 January 2026: Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India, attended the release of the "Samadhan Calendar-2026" by the Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre (Samadhan) at the Delhi High Court premises, and formally unveiled the Calendar. The event was also attended by Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi, and Justice V Kameswar Rao, Judge, High Court of Delhi and Executive Chairman, Delhi State Legal Services Authority

24 January 2026: Justice B V Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered the inaugural address at the Two-Day National Consultation on "The Treatment of Children in Conflict with the Law as Adults : Rights Implications" organised by the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad





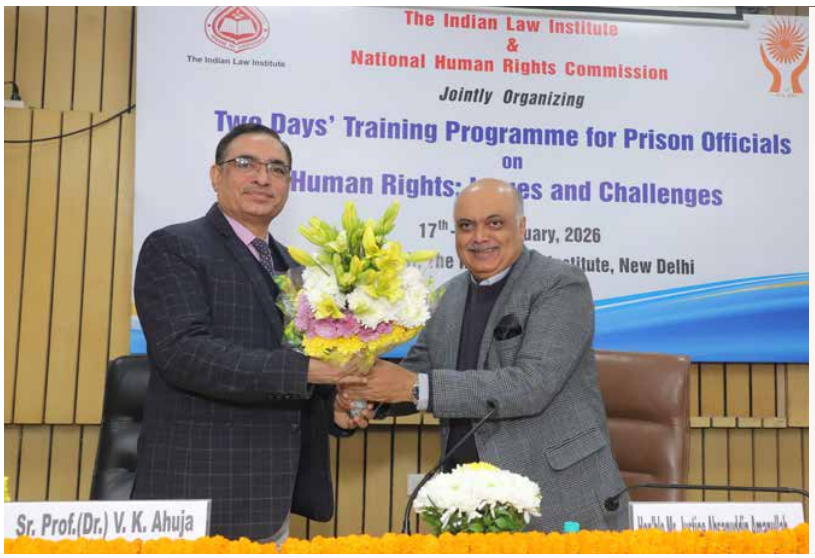
18 January 2026: Justice M M Sundresh and Justice R Mahadevan, Judges, Supreme Court of India; Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, Chief Justice, High Court of Madras; and Judges of High Court of Madras, attended the Foundation Stone laying Ceremony for the construction of Multipurpose Hall and Building in the Tamarai Campus. On the same day, they also attended the inauguration of Administrative Block for Madras High Court Guest House in Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy Campus, Chennai



02 January 2026: Justice P S Narasimha, Judge, Supreme Court of India, during his visit to the High Court of Telangana, interacted with members of the Telangana High Court Advocates' Association, alongside Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chief Justice, High Court of Andhra Pradesh

03 January 2026: Justice P S Narasimha, Judge, Supreme Court of India, addressed the gathering at the World Telugu Conference programme at Guntur, Amaravati





17 January 2026: Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Judge, Supreme Court of India, attended the inaugural session of the two-day training programme for prison officials on "Human Rights: Issues and Challenges" as the Chief Guest. The programme was jointly organised by the Indian Law Institute and the National Human Rights Commission at Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, and was also attended by Senior Professor (Dr) V K Ahuja, Director, Indian Law Institute

17–18 January 2026: Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judge, Supreme Court of India, along with Dr Subhash Chandra Garg, Former Finance Secretary of India, participated in the 'National Convention for Senior High Court Justices: Strengthening Fiscal and Administrative Protocols in High Courts' at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal





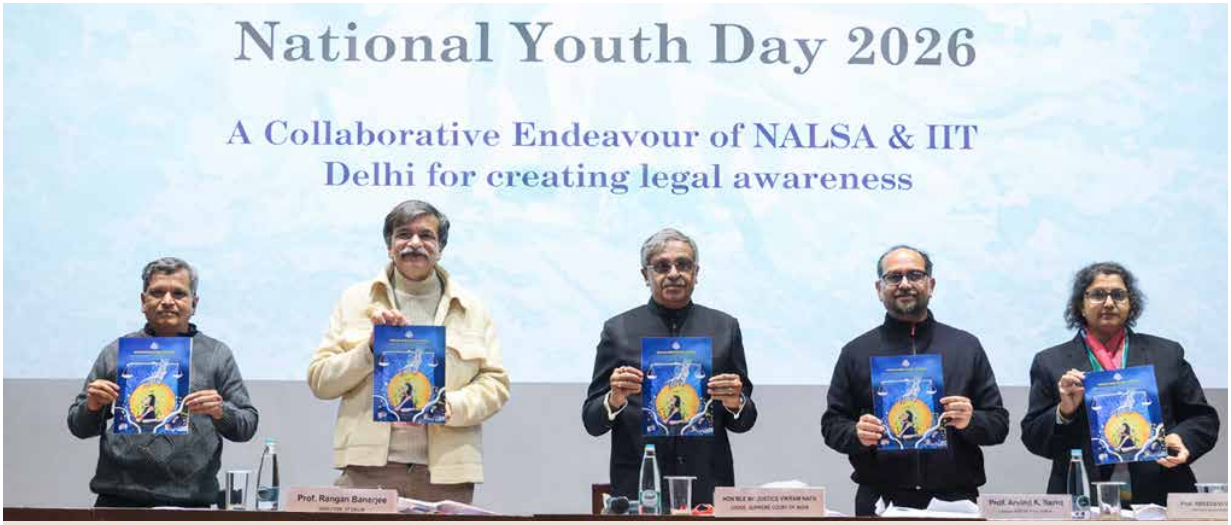
17 January 2026: Justice K V Viswanathan, Judge, Supreme Court of India, participated in the Foundational Mediation Advocacy Workshop, organised by the SCBA at Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

10 January 2026: Justice A S Chandurkar, Judge, Supreme Court of India, attended the inauguration of the 20th Edition of "Remembering S P Sathe" event titled 'National Consultation on Clinical Legal Education and Access to Justice in India: Strengthening Legal Aid Centres Through Community Engagement and Legal Reform' , at ILS Law College, Pune



Legal Aid

National Youth Day-2026



January 2026 : Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India, addressed the National Youth Day programme organised by National Legal Services Authority in collaboration with IIT Delhi to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, and launched NALSA's Anti-Ragging booklet titled "Student Awareness Resource on Ragging, 2026", along with Prof Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi, Prof Arvind K Nema, Deputy Director (Operations), IIT Delhi, Prof B K Panigrahi, Dean, Student Affairs, IIT Delhi and Prof Sreedevi Upadhyayula, Associate Dean (Student Welfare), IIT Delhi

12 January 2026: The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, observed National Youth Day at the IIT Delhi campus, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and reaffirming the role of youth in nation-building through values, discipline, and social responsibility.

The programme was graced by Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, as the Chief Guest. The event brought together students, faculty members, and senior officials from NALSA and IIT Delhi to deliberate on student well-being, mental health, and the importance of safe and inclusive educational spaces.

The programme was attended by NALSA officials, including Shri Sanjiv Pandey, Member Secretary, NALSA, and Shri Kunal Vepa, Director, NALSA, along with senior academic leadership of IIT Delhi, including Prof Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi; Prof Arvind K Nema, Deputy Director (Operations); Prof B K Panigrahi, Dean, Student Affairs; and Prof Sreedevi Upadhyayula, Associate Dean (Student Welfare).

During the programme, Justice Vikram Nath formally released NALSA's **Student Awareness Resource on Ragging, 2026**, an initiative aimed at strengthening legal awareness among students on the prevention of ragging and the protection of dignity in educational institutions. The resource seeks to equip students with clear information on what constitutes ragging, the safeguards available, and avenues for seeking timely legal assistance.

e-Prisons Review Meeting



20 January 2026 : Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA); Justice J K Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC); and Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court of India chaired a meeting to review the present status of the e-Prisons system and to deliberate on measures for its effective and coordinated implementation

20 January 2026: Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA); Justice J K Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC); and Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court of India chaired a meeting convened by NALSA on e-Prisons. The meeting was also attended by Shri Sanjiv Pandey, Member Secretary, NALSA, and Shri Kunal Vepa, Director, NALSA.

The meeting reviewed the status of the e-Prisons system and deliberated on strengthening court–prison data integration to enhance access to justice, streamline prison administration, and address concerns relating to prison overcrowding.

In his opening address, Justice Vikram Nath outlined the broad agenda of the meeting and noted that the deliberations were intended to examine the role of the e-Prisons system in strengthening access to justice and prison administration, and to consider further steps for implementation in furtherance of judicial directions and institutional objectives.

The deliberations highlighted the CIS–e-Prisons integrated digital solution, which enables real-time data exchange, automated custody certificates, digital processing of parole and bail, and early identification of prisoners eligible for legal aid. Emphasis was also placed on automated, rule-based workflows for parole, remission, and statutory review, integration of open prison data.

From the Bar

2nd SCAORA International Legal Conference



25 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India; Justice Dipankar Datta, Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Justice P B Varale, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, and Justice Manmohan, Judges, Supreme Court of India; Justice AHM Dilip Nawaz, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; Justice Kurian Joseph, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India; Justice Ashok Bhushan, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, NCLAT; and Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice, High Court of Bombay, along with other dignitaries, attended the 2nd SCAORA International Legal Conference, Goa Marriott Resort and Spa, Panjim, Goa

24-25 January 2026: The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) hosted its 2nd International Legal Conference at the Goa Marriott Resort and Spa, Panjim, Goa. The two-day conference brought together present and former Judges of the Supreme Court of India, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, and eminent members of the Bar to deliberate on pressing issues shaping the legal landscape.

The conference comprised several sessions addressed by sitting Judges of the Supreme Court of India, including Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, Justice J K Maheshwari, Justice B V Nagarathna, Justice Dipankar Datta, Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Justice Sandeep Mehta, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, Justice Manmohan, Justice Vijay Bishnoi, and Justice Atul S Chandurkar, Judges, Supreme Court of India.

In commemoration of the 75th year of the Supreme Court of India in 2024, SCAORA envisioned a series of flagship initiatives, including the International Legal Conference in Goa. The conference was organised by the Members Executive and Office Bearers of SCAORA, including, Mr Vipin Nair, President; Mr Amit Sharma, Vice-President; Mr Nikhil Jain, Honorary Secretary; and Mr Kaustubh Shukla, Joint Secretary; Mr Aljo K. Joseph, Treasurer; Mr Vishal Prasad, Joint Treasurer, SCAORA.

Day 1: 24 January 2026

The Inaugural Session of the Conference was graced by Justice J K Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Justice AHM Dilip Nawaz, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; and SCAORA office bearers.

Thereafter, three parallel sessions were conducted. Justice J K Maheshwari chaired the session on *"Arbitration in Transition: Emerging Trends and Future Prospects"*, alongside Mr Jaideep Gupta, Mr Gurukrishna Kumar and Mr Jayant Mehta, Senior Advocates, as speakers. Justice Sandeep Mehta chaired the session on *"Ethics in a Transforming Legal Profession"*, with Mr P S Patwalia and Mr Nalin Kohli, Senior Advocates. Justice Vijay Bishnoi chaired a panel discussion on *"Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code as a Tool for Better Corporate Governance"*, with Justice Ashok Bhushan, Chairman, NCLAT; Mr S Niranjan Reddy; and Mr Seshadri Sekhar Ray, Senior Advocates, as panelists. The day concluded with a dinner for all participants.



24 January 2026: Justice J K Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India, addressed the gathering at the Inaugural Session of the Conference



24 January 2026: Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Judge, Supreme Court of India, along with Justice Ashok Bhushan, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, NCLAT, at the panel discussion on "Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code as a Tool for Better Corporate Governance" at the Conference

Day 2: 25 January 2026

The second day opened with a Fireside Chat at the Poolside on the theme *"Justice in the Age of Social Media: Ethics, Expression and Institutional Dignity"*, chaired by Justice Manmohan, with Mr Gurukrishna Kumar, Senior Advocate, as speaker. Three parallel sessions followed. Justice B V Nagarathna chaired a session on *"Environmental Law and Corporate Social Responsibility: Legal Obligations and Best Practices"*, with Mr Darius Khambata and Mr Vivek Tankha, Senior Advocates, as speakers. Justice Dipankar Datta chaired a panel discussion on *"Law, Lawyers, and AI: The Next Frontier"*, with Mr Sajan Poovayya, Mr Buddy A Ranganathan and Ms Arundhati Katju, Senior Advocates, as panelists. Justice Pankaj Mithal chaired a session on *"Mediation at the Heart of Modern Dispute Resolution"*, with Justice AHM Dilip Nawaz, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Justice Kurian Joseph, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, as speakers.

25 January 2026: Justice B V Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, chaired the session on "Environmental Law and Corporate Social Responsibility: Legal Obligations and Best Practices", at the Conference





25 January 2026: Justice Dipankar Datta, Judge, Supreme Court of India, chaired the session on "Law, Lawyers, and AI: The Next Frontier" at the Conference



25 January 2026: Justice Pankaj Mithal, Judge, Supreme Court of India, along with Justice AHM Dilip Nawaz, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, and Justice Ashok Bhushan, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, NCLAT, at the session on "Mediation at the Heart of Modern Dispute Resolution" at the Conference

A second round of three parallel sessions was held thereafter. Justice N Kotiswar Singh chaired a session on *"Filling Constitutional Silences without Judicial Overreach",* with Justice Abhay S Oka, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India; Mr Kapil Sibal; and Dr Menaka Guruswamy, Senior Advocates, as speakers. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan chaired a panel discussion on *"The Changing Landscape of White-Collar Crime Investigations",* with Mr Atmaram N S Nadkarni, Mr Navin Pahwa, Senior Advocates and Mr Sanjay Basu, Founding Partner, AQUILAW, as panelists. Justice Atul S Chandurkar chaired a session on *"Supreme Court's Role in Shaping Public Policy and Regulation in India",* with Mr Shadan Farasat, Senior Advocate; Ms Shelly Bhasin, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas; and Mr Abhishek A Rastogi, Advocate, as speakers.



25 January 2026: Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Supreme Court of India, chaired the session on the theme "The Changing Landscape of White-Collar Crime Investigations" at the Conference



25 January 2026: Justice A S Chandurkar, Judge, Supreme Court of India chaired the session on the theme "The Supreme Court's Role in Shaping Public Policy and Regulation in India" at the Conference

Closing Ceremony

The conference concluded with a Closing Ceremony, presided over by Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, and attended by present and former Judges of the Supreme Court of India; Justice AHM Dilip Nawaz, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice, High Court of Bombay; and SCAORA office bearers.

Delivering the valedictory address on the theme *"Justice as a Living Institution in an Ever-Changing World"*, Justice Surya Kant described justice not as a static structure but as a dynamic institution shaped by continuity and adaptation. He reflected on the inherited nature of legal systems, emphasising that custodianship demands both restraint and responsible evolution.

The two-day conference provided a structured platform for members of the Bench and the Bar to engage in meaningful deliberations on contemporary legal issues, facilitating an exchange of perspectives on emerging challenges and developments in the legal landscape.



25 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India; Justice AHM Dilip Nawaz, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice, High Court of Bombay, and office bearers SCAORA at the Closing Ceremony of the Conference



25 January 2026: Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, along with his spouse, Smt Savita Vashisht, and other participants during the conference

SCBA Annual Cricket Tournament- 2026



31 January 2026: Justice M M Sundresh and Justice Dipankar Datta, Judges, Supreme Court of India, attended the inauguration of the Annual Cricket Tournament- 2026, organised by SCBA, at Modern School, New Delhi



31 January 2026: Justice M M Sundresh and Justice Dipankar Datta, Judges, Supreme Court of India, participated in the Annual Cricket Tournament–2026, organised by SCBA

Fresh from the Bench

M/s Aarsuday Projects & Infrastructure (P) Ltd. v. Jogen Chowdhury & Ors. (2026 INSC 93)

"Public interest litigation cannot be permitted to become a vehicle for selective or targeted challenges, nor can it be invoked to resolve contested factual issues which are not capable of determination on affidavits alone"

Coram: Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta

In a judgment dated **29 January 2026**, a two-judge bench allowed the appeals, setting aside the Calcutta High Court's demolition order for a residential building near Visva-Bharati University, after finding that the public interest litigation lacked bona fides and failed to prove the land was preserved *"khoai"* land.

Background

The appellant, M/s Aarsuday Projects, purchased 0.39 acres of land in Mouza Ballavpur in 2009, which was designated for "residential use" under the Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority's (SSDA) 2002 Land Use and Development Control Plan. The developer obtained a No Objection Certificate from the local Gram Panchayat, had building plans vetted by the Zilla Parishad, and received conversion approval from the District Land & Land Reforms Officer to change the land from *"danga"* (barren) to *"bastu"* (residential), for the purpose of setting up a commercial housing project. A three-member sub-committee, which included representatives from Visva-Bharati University, inspected the site and recorded that there was no impediment to the grant of "No Objection Certificate" and conversion of land for construction.

Respondent Nos. 1-7 filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court alleging the permission for construction was not granted by competent authority and that the construction was being raised on preserved *"khoai"* land – a peculiar geological formation – in violation of the Supreme Court's mandate in *Sushanta Tagore v. Union of India*. The High Court directed the demolition of the nearly completed structure and to pay compensation to the tune of ₹10,00,000/-, which was to be used for the purpose of restoration and preservation of the area. It also ordered the initiation of proceedings against officials from the Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority (SSDA) and local bodies. Aggrieved by these directions, the developer, the SSDA, and the subsequent flat purchasers approached the Supreme Court.

Court's Reasoning and Observations

- **Revenue Classification v. General Assumptions:** The bench noted that no category by the name of *'khoai'* land exists under the revenue laws of the State of West Bengal. It held that the High Court proceeded on broad and generalized assumptions rather than site-specific scientific evidence.
- **Bona Fide Conduct of the Developer:** The Court pointed out that the sub-committee involved in the conversion approval included

representatives from Visva-Bharati who raised no contemporaneous objections. This reinforces the bona fide manner in which Aarsuday Projects proceeded with the construction.

- **Curable Procedural Irregularities:** Even if it is assumed that the Gram Panchayat was not the competent authority to accord approval to the building plan, the same would, at best, constitute a procedural irregularity, especially where the plan had been duly vetted by the Zilla Parishad and construction was undertaken in a bona fide manner. In the absence of any evidence of fraud, misrepresentation, or deliberate circumvention of statutory requirements, such a lapse would not render the construction per se illegal nor justify demolition, which is a draconian consequence reserved for cases of blatant and substantive illegalities.
- **Constitutional Protection of Property:** The Court emphasized the protection of property rights under Article 300A, noting that "no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law". It held that any interference with private property, especially demolition, must rest on a clear statutory foundation following a thorough factual inquiry.
- **Lack of Bona Fides in the PIL:** The bench discovered that certain writ petitioners admittedly owned residential structures within the same larger tract of land as the disputed construction. It held that the selective or targeted nature of the challenge, coupled with the non-disclosure of this material fact, indicated a lack of bona fides.
- **Limits of Writ Jurisdiction:** Citing *Chairman, Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (GRIDCO) v. Sukamani Das* and *Shubhas Jain v. Rajeshwari Shivam*, the Court reiterated that writ jurisdiction should not resolve contested factual issues. It concluded the High Court should have exercised restraint instead of granting far-reaching reliefs based on inferential reasoning.

Outcome

The Supreme Court allowed the appeals, and the judgment and order of the High Court was set aside.

Directions of the Court:

- The adverse remarks and consequential directions for initiating proceedings against the SSDA and its officers are expunged.
- Respondent Nos. 1-7 (the writ petitioners) are directed to pay costs quantified at ₹ 1,00,000/- for the lack of bona fides and non-disclosure of material facts.
- The said costs must be deposited with the West Bengal Legal Services Authority within a period of two months.

Golden Food Products India v. State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. (2026 INSC 22)

"An auction process has a sanctity attached to it and only for valid reasons that the highest bid can be discarded in an auction which is otherwise held in accordance with law"

Coram : Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice R Mahadevan

In a judgment dated **06 January 2026**, a two-judge bench allowed the Civil Appeals, setting

aside the Allahabad High Court's dismissal of the appellant's writ petitions and directing the immediate allotment of the subject industrial plot.

Background

The Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) floated an auction for various plots including Industrial Plot No. 26, Madhuban Bapudham Yojana, Ghaziabad, admeasuring 3150 sq. mtrs. A two-bid system was adopted — a technical bid and a financial bid. The appellant, Golden Food Products India, submitted its bids on 02.02.2024 with an offered rate of ₹25,920/- per sq. mtr. and earnest money of ₹80,64,000/-. After the technical bid was approved on 14.03.2024, an open auction was conducted on 15.03.2024, with a reserve price of ₹25,600/- per sq. mtr. The appellant emerged as the highest bidder, quoting ₹29,500/- per sq. mtr., well above the reserve price. The GDA cancelled appellant's financial bid and announced that a fresh auction would take place for the plot. The cancellation was on account of the bid being considered low, although it was higher than the reserve price. Writ petitions filed before the Allahabad High Court were dismissed, prompting the appellant to approach the Supreme Court.

Court's Reasoning and Key Observations

- **Sanctity of the auction process:** The Court held that an auction, once conducted in accordance with law, carries inherent sanctity. If a valid bid above the reserve price has been made, there must be a rationale or reason for not accepting it.
- **Arbitrary Cancellation on Irrelevant Considerations:** The appellant had a right to receive the allotment letter, particularly in the absence of fraud, collusion or any other valid reason for cancellation. The comparison of the appellant's bid with the selling price of smaller plots was an irrelevant consideration, rendering the cancellation arbitrary, whimsical and irrational.
- **Legitimate expectation violated:** The appellant, having bid the highest amount above the reserve price in a validly conducted auction, had a legitimate expectation of receiving an allotment letter.
- **Absence of any other complaint:** The Court noted that no other party had raised any grievance regarding the manner in which the auction was conducted. This indicates that the decision to discard the highest bid did not have a nexus to the rationale or the reason.

Outcome

The orders of the Allahabad High Court were set aside. The appellant was directed to re-deposit the earnest money of ₹80,64,000/- in favour of GDA within four weeks from the date of the judgment. Further, GDA was directed to issue an allotment order in favour of the appellant within two weeks of such re-deposit.

42605-B CDR Yogesh Mahla v. Union of India & Ors. (2026 INSC 107)

"Section 14 of the AFT Act, 2007 when read in juxtaposition with Section 18 of the POSH Act, we find that the appellant herein had rightly approached the Tribunal so as to assail the report as well as the recommendations of the ICC"

Coram : Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

In a judgment dated **20 January 2026**, a two-judge bench allowed the appeal and remanded the matter

to the Armed Forces Tribunal, ruling that a naval officer has a statutory right under Section 18 of the POSH Act to challenge an Internal Complaints Committee report and its recommendations before the Tribunal, even if a show cause notice has been issued based on that report.

Background

The appellant, a Commander in the Indian Navy, was accused of sexual harassment by a Principal Medical Officer while deployed on INS Shakti in March 2024. An Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) was constituted under POSH Act, which conducted an inquiry and submitted a report recommending that appropriate action be initiated against the appellant. Based on these findings, the authorities issued a show cause notice, calling upon the appellant to explain why his services should not be terminated under Regulation 216 of the Regulations for the Navy Part-II (Statutory) read with Section 15(2) of the Navy Act, 1957.

The appellant challenged the report, the recommendations made by the ICC, and the subsequent show cause notice before the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT). The Tribunal dismissed the application, observing that when only a show cause notice has been issued, it is neither appropriate nor legally tenable for the AFT to interfere or assume the role of the disciplinary authority. Furthermore, it is only upon the conclusion of that process and exhaustion of remedies that any cause of action may accrue for invoking the jurisdiction of the AFT. The appellant challenged the order before the High Court of Delhi. The High Court held that the right of appeal under Section 18 of the POSH Act was not available to the appellant, leading to the present appeal before the Supreme Court.

Court's Reasoning and Observations

- **Juxtaposition of Statutes:** The Court held that Section 14 of the AFT Act, 2007, when read in juxtaposition with Section 18 of the POSH Act, confirms that the appellant rightly approached the Tribunal so as to assail the report as well as the recommendations of the ICC. It observed that the Tribunal ought to have considered the correctness of the said report in accordance with law.
- **Nature of the show cause notice:** The Court reasoned that the show cause notice was not simply a preliminary notice as such because it was relatable directly to the report and the recommendations of the ICC. Consequently, it found that the High Court erred in holding that the appellant had no right under Section 18 of the POSH Act.
- **Special v. General Provisions:** The Court noted that while Regulation 216 of the Regulations is general in nature, Section 18 of the POSH Act is a specific provision under a special enactment. This specific provision enables a person who intends to assail the report and recommendations of the ICC to proceed under that provision to the AFT.

Outcome

The Supreme Court concluded that the interest of justice would be served by setting aside the impugned orders and restoring the case to the AFT for a fresh adjudication. Accordingly, the appeal was disposed of.

Dinesh Biwaji Ashtikar v. State of Maharashtra & Ors. (2026 INSC 56)

"The legislative choice to implement the right to free and compulsory education through neighbourhood schools is not merely administrative; it is a deliberate constitutional strategy to operationalise equality of status, dignity, and social integration among children in their formative years"

Coram: Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha and Justice Atul S Chandurkar

In its judgment dated **13 January 2026**, a two-judge bench addressed a petition concerning a parent who sought admission for his children in a "neighbourhood school" under Section 12 (25% inclusion mandate) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Although the time for granting an effective remedy had passed, the Court proceeded to consider the matter for precedent making and examined the effectiveness of the procedure for complying with the 25% admission mandate.

Background

In this case, the petitioner approached a "neighbourhood school" to admit his children for free elementary education under the Right to Education (RTE) Act. Despite obtaining RTI information that seats were available, the school did not respond, leading the petitioner to file a writ petition in the High Court.

The High Court dismissed the petition, stating that the petitioner "must blame himself" for failing to follow the appropriate online application procedures. Even a local education officer recommended the children's admission due to the family's extreme poverty and proximity to the school. By the time the matter reached the Supreme Court, the specific relief for the petitioner had become infructuous due to the passage of time. However, the court appointed an amicus curiae to assist in the matter. The amicus curiae highlighted barriers such as digital illiteracy, language gaps, and a lack of transparency that hinder disadvantaged families from accessing these rights.

Court's Reasoning and Key Observations

- **National Mission for Equality:** The court held that ensuring the admission of disadvantaged students is a national mission under Art 21 A and a constitutional obligation of the State to secure equality of status. It observed that the judiciary must "walk that extra mile" to provide access to parents complaining of a denial of this fundamental right.
- **Positive Rights and Duty Bearers:** The judgment identified five specific "duty bearers", the government, local authorities, neighbourhood schools, parents, and teachers, who hold co-relative duties to realize the right to education. It emphasized that these entities must be held accountable and supported to ensure the statutory mandate does not fail.
- **The Principle of Fraternity:** The court reasoned that Section 12 acts as a vehicle for fraternity by allowing children from multi-millionaire families and street vendors to share the same classroom. This institutional arrangement enables children to "lose suspect identities" based on class or caste and form solidaristic bonds during their formative years.

- **Social Cohesion and Integration:** Drawing from the Kothari Commission and Ministry of Human Resource Development statements, the court observed that inclusive schooling prevents the reinforcement of social and economic hierarchies. It noted that a 25% critical mass is necessary so that disadvantaged children do not feel alienated or treated as a mere token.
- **Implementation Guidelines:** The Court examined and restated a comprehensive set of guidelines derived from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and suggestions from the amicus curiae. The guidelines are organized into three primary stages:
    1. Preparatory Stage
    2. Processing Applications, Selection, and Admission
    3. After completion of admission
- **Necessity for Subordinate Legislation:** The court found that existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are merely guidelines and lack the character of enforceable rules. It concluded that without formal rules and regulations, the statutory policy of the RTE Act would remain a "dead letter".

Outcome

The Supreme Court kept the Special Leave Petition pending for further hearing, while issuing mandatory directions to formalise the implementation of the Act.

Directions

- Appropriate authorities are directed to issue necessary rules and regulations under Section 38 for implementing the 25% admission mandate.
- These rules must be prepared in consultation with the NCPCR, SCPCRs, and both National and State Advisory Councils.
- The NCPCR shall be impleaded as a respondent, and to collate information from all States and Union Territories regarding the issuance of these new rules.

Sujata Bora v. Coal India Limited & Ors. (2026 INSC 53)

"Thus, it is abundantly clear that rights of persons with disabilities have to be viewed from the prism of Corporate Social Responsibility in order to protect and further such rights. True equality at the workplace can be achieved only with the right impetus given to disability rights as a facet of Corporate Social Responsibility"

Coram : Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice K V Viswanathan

In the judgment dated **13 January 2026**, a two-judge bench disposed of an appeal and addressed a challenge by the appellant who was denied employment at Coal India Limited (CIL) despite qualifying for the interview.

Background

In 2019, the appellant applied for a Management Trainee (Personnel and HR) post at Coal India

Limited (CIL) under the Visually Handicapped (VH) category. Although she qualified for the interview, CIL declared her medically unfit because she suffered from residuary partial hemiparesis, a "multiple disability" not specifically listed in the recruitment notification. A single judge of the High Court quashed the medical results and directed CIL to consider her for the next recruitment cycle, but this was set aside by a Division Bench on the grounds that the recruitment panel had already expired.

Aggrieved, the appellant approached the Supreme Court, which commissioned a fresh medical board from AIIMS to assess her condition. The AIIMS medical board assessed the appellant and confirmed she suffered from a 57% disability, which exceeded the 40% benchmark required for reserved appointments

Court's Reasoning and Key Observations

- **Benchmark Disability:** The Court observed that the AIIMS medical report confirmed the appellant suffered from a 57% disability, which is well above the 40% benchmark required for reserved appointments. Consequently, she was found eligible for the appointment she was originally denied in 2019.
- **Reasonable Accommodation:** Citing *Omkar Ramchandra Gond v. Union of India* and *Anmol v. Union of India*, the Court held that "reasonable accommodation" is a fundamental right that requires modifications to ensure persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights. It emphasized that this concept must be interpreted broadly to facilitate full participation in society as mandated by Article 41.
- **Gateway to Rights:** Drawing from *Om Rathod v. Director General of Health Services*, the Court described reasonable accommodation as a "gateway right" that prevents disabled individuals from being excluded by design. Failure to provide such accommodation is a failure of substantive equality and constitutes illegal discrimination.
- **Alternate Employment:** Referencing *Ch. Joseph v. Telangana SRTC*, the Court noted that employers must exhaust all avenues for redeployment or alternate employment before resorting to medical disqualification. Denying employment without exploring these options violates the right to livelihood and equal treatment.
- **Individual Justice:** Following the principles in *Rajive Raturi v. Union of India*, the Court stated that reasonable accommodation seeks individual justice by accounting for the dignity and choices of the person. It is an enforceable duty that ensures non-discrimination even when impairments fall outside standard accessibility metrics.
- **Constitutional Harmony:** Referring to *Minerva Mills Ltd. v. Union of India*, the Court characterized Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles as "two wheels of a chariot" that must remain in balance. It noted that the right to work is a precious liberty, and Article 39(a) mandates the State to secure adequate means of livelihood for all citizens.
- **Intersectionality of Discrimination:** Citing *Jane Kaushik v. Union of India* and *M. Sameeha Barvin v. Joint Secretary*, the Court examined how gender and disability intersect to create unique barriers for women. It held that substantive equality cannot be achieved through a unidimensional lens that ignores multiple axes of discrimination.
- **Corporate Responsibility:** The Court observed that disability rights must be viewed through the prism of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the "Social" dimension of Environmental, Social and

Governance (ESG) frameworks. It urged corporations to treat disability inclusion as a strategic advantage rather than a mere compliance issue.

Outcome

The Supreme Court set aside the Division Bench's order and disposed of the appeal, ruling that the appellant was wrongly denied employment. The court further directed that:

- A supernumerary post shall be created for the appellant to facilitate her appointment.
- The Chairman of Coal India is directed to provide a suitable desk job commensurate with the appellant's abilities.
- The appellant must be provided with a separate computer and keyboard designed according to universal design standards as per S. 2(ze) of the RPwD Act.

Elegna Co-op. Housing and Commercial Society Ltd. v. Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited & Anr. (2026 INSC 58)

"The interests of homebuyers are undoubtedly of paramount importance. However, such interests must be protected strictly within the legal framework, and the resolution mechanism under the IBC contains adequate safeguards which have been repeatedly strengthened by judicial interpretation"

Coram: Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan

In a judgment delivered on **15 January 2026**, a two-judge bench dismissed the appeals filed by the Corporate Debtor and a Cooperative Housing Society, upholding the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) decision to admit the Corporate Debtor into the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) and rejecting the Society's plea to intervene in the proceedings.

Background

The case involved a real estate project titled "Takshashila Elegna" developed by Takshashila Heights India Private Ltd. (Corporate Debtor). The Corporate Debtor had availed financial assistance of ₹70 crores from the Original Lender. Following defaults in repayment, the loan accounts were classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA) on 30.12.2021. Later, on 09.05.2022, the Original Lender executed an Assignment Agreement transferring all its rights, title, and interest in the said loan to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (Financial Creditor/EARCL).

EARCL initiated recovery proceedings under the SARFAESI Act and subsequently filed a petition under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to initiate CIRP. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) dismissed the Section 7 petition, holding that the project was viable and that the creditor was using the IBC merely as a recovery mechanism. On appeal, the NCLAT set aside the NCLT's order and admitted the Corporate Debtor into CIRP. The NCLAT also rejected an intervention application filed by Elegna Co-op. Housing and

Commercial Society Ltd., ruling that the Society lacked locus standi.

Court's Reasoning and Key Observations

- **Mandatory Nature of Section 7 Admission:** The Court reiterated the principle from *Innoventive Industries Ltd. v. ICICI Bank* that once the Adjudicating Authority is satisfied that a "financial debt" exists and a "default" has occurred, admission is mandatory. The inquiry under Section 7(5)(a) is confined strictly to the determination of debt and default. Consequently, factors such as project viability, stage of completion, or available receivables are deemed extraneous to the statutory mandate of Section 7.
- **Limited Scope of Vidarbha Industries:** The discretion to defer admission under *Vidarbha Industries Power Ltd. v. Axis Bank Ltd*. was clarified as a narrow exception applicable only when the Corporate Debtor has an adjudicated and realizable claim against the creditor that exceeds the debt amount. Since no such claim existed in the present case, the Court held that the exception did not apply.
- **Parallel Proceedings and Recovery Motives:** The Court rejected the argument that the Financial Creditor was abusing the Code for recovery, noting that the concept of revival under the IBC does not exclude recovery but only prohibits the abuse of insolvency as a pressure tactic. Furthermore, the pendency of SARFAESI or DRT proceedings does not bar a financial creditor from invoking the IBC, as a recovery certificate gives rise to a fresh cause of action.
- **Locus Standi of the Society:** Affirming the NCLAT's rejection of the Society's intervention, the Court held that Section 7 proceedings at the pre-admission stage are in personam (strictly between the creditor and the debtor) so unrelated third parties have no right of audience. The Court reasoned that the Society, being a maintenance body and not a financial creditor, cannot represent allottees without statutory authorization; instead, homebuyers are represented individually or via an Authorized Representative in the Committee of Creditors (CoC).
- **CoC Accountability:** While acknowledging that the "commercial wisdom" of the Committee of Creditors (CoC) is paramount, the Court emphasized that this power carries a corresponding duty of responsibility. To ensure transparency, the Court ruled that any extraordinary decision by the CoC, such as refusing possession or recommending liquidation, must be supported by cogent reasons recorded in writing.

Outcome and Directions

The Supreme Court dismissed the appeals, confirming the admission of the Corporate Debtor into CIRP. To safeguard homebuyer interests, the Court issued the following prospective directions:

- **Disclosure:** The Information Memorandum must contain complete details of all allottees.
- **Reasoned Decisions:** If the CoC decides not to hand over possession of units (under Regulation 4E) or recommends liquidation, it must record cogent and specific reasons in writing.

HT Media Limited v. Principal Commissioner Delhi South Goods and Service Tax (2026 INSC 66)

"The speaker does not plan, promote, organize or present the event. Thus, the speaker, is neither an "event manager" nor does he provide an "event management service". Similarly, the booking agent who merely books the speaker also acts in the capacity of an agent or representative for agreeing to the terms of the speakers' presence at the event. Participation in the event cannot be considered as management of the event"

Coram : Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice K V Viswanathan

In a judgment dated **16 January 2026**, a two-judge bench allowed the appeals of HT Media Limited, ruling that fees paid to international speakers through booking agents for a summit do not constitute "Event Management Service" and are therefore not liable for service tax under that category.

Background

The appellant organized an annual leadership summit and entered into contracts with foreign agencies, such as the Washington Speakers Bureau and the Harry Walker Agency to book high-profile international speakers. Revenue authorities issued show-cause notices proposing to levy service tax on fees paid to the speakers through the booking agents under the category of "Event Management Service" under Chapter V of the Finance Act, 1994.

The Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) upheld the tax demand for the normal period of limitation, resulting in the present appeal.

Court's Reasoning and Observations

- **Strict Interpretation and Positive List:** The Court observed that during the period of dispute, service tax was leviable only on a positive list of services as enumerated in the Finance Act. Citing *Shiv Steels v. State of Assam,* the Court emphasized that if a service is not covered within the "four corners" of the taxing statute, no tax can be imposed by inference or analogy.
- **Nature of Service v. Event Management:** The Court noted that the agreements were in the nature of booking a particular speaker and managing the modalities of his/her visit. It reasoned that the contract with the booking agents was not for management of an event but for booking of the speaker.
- **Speaker as Participant, Not Manager:** The Court observed that a speaker does not plan, promote, or organize the event and thus is neither an event manager nor a provider of event management services. It held that the Revenue committed a fundamental error because participation in the event cannot be considered as management of the event.
- **CBIC Circular and Administrative Scope:** The Court relied on the CBIC Circular which defines an event manager's role as managing venues, sets, security, and coordination. It held that the Revenue cannot be allowed to "stretch the application of such a clause beyond its contours".
- **Application of Common Parlance Test:** Citing *Indo International Industries v. Commissioner of Sales Tax,* the Court applied the "common parlance test" to determine

how the service is understood commercially. Even applying the test of interpretation of sales tax statutes, the contract in question cannot be considered as "event management", as that expression is commonly understood as managing or organizing an event, and not as individual contracts for booking persons required for participation.

Outcome

The Supreme Court held that the Revenue committed a fundamental error by classifying the booking of speakers as an event management service. Consequently, the appeals were allowed, and the previous order of the Tribunal affirming the tax demand was set aside.

Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Government of India & Ors. (2026 INSC 97)

"We wish to communicate to every girl child, who might have become a victim of absenteeism because her body was perceived as a burden, that the fault is not hers"

Coram: Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan

In a judgment delivered on **30 January, 2026,** a two-judge bench issued a continuing mandamus directing the Union and State Governments to ensure the provision of free sanitary napkins and functional, separate toilets for girls in all schools. The Court held that the lack of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) measures creates a structural barrier to education, violating the fundamental rights of adolescent girls under Articles 14, 21, and 21A of the Constitution.

Background

The Petitioner, a social worker, filed a PIL under Article 32 seeking directions to ensure the provision of free sanitary pads and separate toilets for female students in all government-aided and residential schools. The petition highlighted the issue of "period poverty", which refers to the financial and infrastructural barriers preventing girls from managing menstruation with dignity. This lack of access leads to high rates of absenteeism and school dropouts among adolescent girls. While the Union and several States presented various existing schemes, such as the Jan Aushadhi Kendras and Samagra Shiksha, the Court noted that implementation remained uneven and lacked an active monitoring mechanism.

Court's Reasoning and Key Observations

The Court grounded its decision in a "substantive approach" to equality, ruling that the State has a positive obligation to remove barriers that prevent girls from accessing education on par with boys.

- **Substantive Equality and Article 14:** The Court observed that formal equality is insufficient. "Substantive equality" requires affirmative action to address biological differences that cause disadvantage. The lack of MHM measures (toilets, pads) creates a gender-specific barrier that disproportionately affects girl students, denying them equality of opportunity and participation in public life.
- **Right to Dignity and Health (Article 21):** The Court held that dignity is not an abstract ideal but must find expression in reality. Forcing girls to use unhygienic materials or lack of privacy violates their bodily autonomy

and right to reproductive health. MHM is integral to the right to live with dignity.

- **Right to Education (Article 21A & RTE Act):**
  - **Interpretation of "Free" Education:** Under Section 3 of the RTE Act, "free" education implies the removal of any financial barrier. The cost of sanitary pads is a financial barrier for effective access to education.
  - **Institutional Standards:** Section 19 of the RTE Act mandates that schools must fulfill norms, including separate toilets, to be recognized. Non-compliance is a violation of the Act.
  - **Barrier-Free Access:** The concept of "barrier-free access" in the RTE Schedule extends to amenities like toilets and pads; without them, access to education is not truly available.
- **Role of Male Teachers:** The Bench emphasized that menstrual health is not solely a woman's issue. It called for the sensitization of male teachers to de-stigmatize menstruation, noting that "ignorance breeds insensitivity, knowledge breeds empathy".

Outcome and Directions

The Court issued a specific set of directions to be complied with by all States and Union Territories within three months:

- **Sanitary Facilities:** All schools (Government and private) must have functional, gender-segregated toilets with usable water, soap, and barrier-free access for children with disabilities.
- **Provision of Absorbents:** Schools must provide free oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins (compliant with ASTM D-6954 standards), preferably through vending machines or a designated authority.
- **MHM Corners:** Schools must establish "Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) corners" equipped with spare innerwear, uniforms, and disposable bags for exigencies.
- **Disposal Mechanisms:** Schools must ensure safe, hygienic, and environmentally compliant disposal mechanisms (e.g., covered bins, incinerators) for sanitary waste.
- **Awareness and Curriculum:** NCERT and SCERT must incorporate gender-responsive curricula on puberty and menstruation. All teachers (male and female) must be trained to support menstruating students.
- **Monitoring:** District Education Officers (DEO) are directed to conduct annual inspections and obtain anonymous student feedback via surveys. The National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR/SCPCR) are requested to oversee implementation.

The Court treated the matter as part heard and directed the listing of the case after three months for a compliance report.

Yash Charitable Trust & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors. (2026 INSC 96)

"The only circumstance in which an experimental treatment may be provided is when it is administered within an approved research or clinical trial setting"

Coram: Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan

In a judgment dated **30 January 2026**, a two-judge bench ruled that stem cell therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) cannot be offered as a routine clinical service and must only be administered within the confines of an approved and monitored clinical trial or research setting.

Background

The petitioners filed a Public Interest Litigation raising concerns regarding the rampant promotion, prescription and administration of stem cell therapy as a cure for ASD by various clinics across India. They alleged that while these procedures are still at an experimental stage, they are being marketed as established treatments in violation of the legal framework, leading unsuspecting parents to fall victim to cost-intensive procedures without the safety nets available in clinical trials.

The petition claimed that the enforcement of existing regulations, such as the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019 and National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research, 2017, was not being adequately undertaken by the respondents. Despite the absence of a proven cure for ASD, clinics were reportedly offering these services as routine healthcare, prompting the petitioners to seek directions for the effective implementation of the regulatory framework.

Court's Reasoning and Observations

- **Duty of Care:** The Court observed that every medical practitioner owes a duty to exercise a reasonable degree of care, skill, and knowledge expected of a prudent practitioner in the same field. Citing *Indian Medical Association v. V P Shantha,* the bench emphasized that a doctor's conduct must conform to a practice acceptable to the medical profession of that day when judged in the light of the knowledge available at the time of the incident.
- **Reasonable Standard of Care:** The Court noted that a practitioner fails to meet the standard of reasonable care if they administer an intervention lacking credible scientific evidence of safety and efficacy. Referring to *Jacob Mathew v. State of Punjab* and *M A Biviji v. Sunita,* it held that a chosen line of treatment should not be of a discarded or obsolete category in any circumstance.
- **Experimental Treatment Limits:** The Court held that if an intervention is characterized by the scientific community as unproven or experimental, it cannot be defended as an exercise of due care. It concluded that the only circumstance in which an experimental treatment may be provided is when it is administered within an approved research or clinical trial setting.
- **Informed Consent:** Valid consent requires the disclosure of "adequate information" concerning the nature of the treatment so the patient knows what they are consenting to. Drawing from *Samira Kohli v. Dr. Prabha Manchandra,* the Court reasoned that since scientific evidence for ASD stem cell therapy is currently absent, practitioners lack the

"adequate information" necessary to satisfy the pre-requisite for valid consent.

- **Patient Autonomy:** The Court clarified that while individuals have the ability to opt-in or opt-out of treatment, autonomy does not confer on a patient the right to demand that a particular form of treatment be administered. Citing the concurring opinion in *Common Cause v. Union of India,* the bench ruled that patient autonomy cannot be stretched to entitle someone to subject themselves to a scientifically unvalidated or ethically impermissible procedure.
- **Definition of "Drug":** Stem cells fall within the purview of "drugs" as "substances intended to be used for or in the treatment" of diseases under Section 3(b)(i) of the Drugs Act. Citing *Chimanlal Jagjivan Das Sheth* and *Ishwar Singh Bindra v. State of U.P.,* the Court held that the term "substances" is comprehensive enough to include corporeal matter different from medicine that is used for treatment.
- **Regulatory Pathway (NDCT Rules):** The Court observed that while autologous stem cells for ASD do not meet the "new drug" criteria, any research involving them is governed by the framework for biomedical and health research under Chapter IV of the NDCT Rules, 2019. It held that Rules 15 and 16(4) make the National Ethical Guidelines legally enforceable, mandating that any use of stem cells shall be undertaken as a clinical trial.
- **Supremacy of Statutory Rules:** The Court ruled that the order of the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health, which dissolved the National Apex Committee for Stem Cell Research & Therapy (NAC-SCRT) and removed its regulatory role over stem cell research was non-est to the extent of its conflict with statutory rules. Citing *State of M P v. G S Dall* and *Flour Mills and Jaiveer Singh v. State of Uttarakhand,* the bench reaffirmed that executive order cannot supplant or whittle down the effect of statutory rules.

Outcome

The Supreme Court concluded that therapeutic use of stem cells in ASD is not currently recognized as a sound and relevant medical practice and its administration outside of clinical trials constitutes professional misconduct.

Directions

- The Union government was suggested to consolidate and clarify the position of law by enacting legislation to clarify several issues that plague the research in stem cells.
- Legislation should clearly define stem cells, set definite procedures for clinical trials, and establish a protective net for human subjects through a rights-based approach to consent and disclosure.
- Creation of a dedicated authority that has clear and well-defined powers of regulatory oversight, like National Apex Committee for Stem Cell Research & Therapy (NAC-SCRT).
- The Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), must consult with AIIMS and the National Medical Council to provide a solution for patients currently undergoing therapy so they may continue until rerouted to institutions conducting trials.

M/s Rhythm County v. Satish Sanjay Hegde & Ors. (2026 INSC 102)

"Bigger operations signify a bigger footprint. Larger scale often means more resource use, more emissions, more waste leading to more environmental stress. If a company profits more from its scale, it is logical that it bears more responsibility for the environmental costs"

Coram: Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Vijay Bishnoi

In a judgment delivered on **30 January 2026**, the Supreme Court upheld the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposing environmental compensation on project proponents for violations of environmental norms. The Court held that the NGT, in exercise of its powers under the NGT Act, is competent to determine environmental compensation even in the absence of a legislatively prescribed formula, and may adopt project cost or turnover as a relevant yardstick, guided by the 'polluter pays' principle.

Background

The present appeals arise out of disposal of two separate original applications by the NGT, involving similar facts and circumstances. One appeal was filed by M/s Rhythm County and the connected appeal by M/s Key Stone Properties, both challenging orders of the NGT imposing environmental compensation for violations of environmental norms.

In the case of Rhythm, the project proponent was found to have carried out construction without obtaining requisite mandatory consents under the Air and Water Acts, and to have continued construction activity despite a stop-work direction. In the case of Keystone, it was alleged that the project was being executed in violation of environmental norms and without requisite statutory clearances.

Subsequently, a Joint Committee was constituted to inspect the site and verify compliance. The NGT, relying on the findings of Joint Committees, held that the violations stood established. In the case of Rhythm, the NGT enhanced the environmental compensation from the amount assessed by the Joint Committee to ₹5,00,00,000/-, taking into account the project cost. In the case of Keystone, the NGT accepted the Joint Committee's computation of compensation based on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) methodology and directed payment of ₹4,47,42,188/-.

The question before the Court was whether, in the absence of a legislatively prescribed framework for quantification of environmental compensation, the NGT could enhance compensation on the basis of project cost. The Court also considered whether, in exercise of its powers under Sections 15, 17 and 20 of the NGT Act, the NGT is competent to adopt turnover or project cost as a relevant yardstick for such computation.

Court's Reasoning and Observations

- **Scope of Powers of the NGT:** The Court held that the powers conferred upon the NGT are "wide, flexible, and principle-oriented", particularly under Sections 15 and 20 of the NGT Act, enabling it to grant relief and compensation "as the Tribunal may think fit", guided by the principles of sustainable development, precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle.
- **Absence of Prescribed Formula:** It was observed that the absence of a legislatively prescribed formula does not denude the NGT

of its authority to quantify environmental compensation. The statutory scheme vests discretion in the NGT to mould relief commensurate with the nature and gravity of environmental harm.

- **Relevance of Project Cost and Turnover:** On the issue of using project cost or turnover, the Court held that such factors cannot be excluded as irrelevant. Larger operations signify a bigger footprint, and linking the scale of operations to environmental harm ensures that compensation bears a rational nexus with the magnitude of the activity and the capacity of the violator.
- **Guidance from Precedent:** The Court relied on Goel Ganga Developers to note that damages may extend up to 5% of the project cost. It held that the compensation imposed in the present case, being a small percentage of the project cost, could not be termed arbitrary or disproportionate.
- **Nature of CPCB Guidelines:** With respect to CPCB guidelines, the Court held that they are "facilitative and indicative, not prescriptive or exhaustive". The NGT is not bound by a rigid formula and may adopt appropriate methodologies, including expert-driven frameworks, while exercising its jurisdiction.
- **Independent Application of Mind by NGT:** The Court further rejected the contention that the NGT had mechanically adopted the Joint Committee's report, observing that the NGT had applied its independent mind, considered objections, and arrived at a reasoned determination.

Outcome

The Court held that the determination of environmental compensation by the NGT was reasoned, proportionate and consistent with the polluter pays principle. Finding no infirmity in the impugned orders, the appeals were dismissed, with time to pay the compensation extended by three months.

Kanchana Rai v. Geeta Sharma & Ors. (2026 INSC 54)

"Denying maintenance to a widowed daughter-in-law from the estate of her deceased father-in-law on a narrow or technical construction of the statute would expose her to destitution and social marginalization, thereby offending her fundamental right to live with dignity"

Coram: Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice S V N Bhatti

In a judgment dated **13 January, 2026**, a two-judge bench held that a daughter-in-law who becomes a widow after the death of her father-in-law is nevertheless a "dependant" within the meaning of Section 21(vii) of the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 and is entitled to claim maintenance from his estate. The Court affirmed the High Court's order holding the maintenance petition filed by the widowed daughter-in-law to be maintainable and directed the Family Court to decide the matter on merits.

Context and Background

Late Dr. Mahendra Prasad died on 27.12.2021. He had three sons, namely, Ranjit Sharma, Devinder Rai (husband of the appellant Kanchana Rai) and

Rajeev Sharma. By a registered will executed in 2011, he bequeathed his properties exclusively to the two sons of Kanchana Rai (widow of his pre-deceased son Devinder Rai), ignoring his surviving sons entirely.

Ranjit Sharma passed away on 02 March 2023, after his father's death, making his wife Geeta Sharma (Respondent No. 1) a widow. Geeta Sharma then applied before the Family Court for maintenance from the estate of her father-in-law under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956.

The Family Court dismissed the petition as not maintainable on the ground that Geeta Sharma was not a widow on the date of Dr. Mahendra Prasad's death, and therefore could not be treated as a dependant of the deceased. The High Court reversed this finding, holding that a widow of the son is a dependant regardless of when she became a widow, and remanded the matter to the Family Court for a decision on the quantum of maintenance. The present appeals were filed by Kanchana Rai (as executor of the will) and Uma Devi (the alleged live-in partner of Late Dr. Mahendra Prasad for over forty years), both challenging the maintainability of Geeta Sharma's claim.

Court's Reasoning and Key Observations

- **Plain language of Section 21(vii):** Section 21(vii) of the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 defines a "dependant" to include "any widow of his son or of a son of his predeceased son". The Court held that the statutory language is unambiguous. The legislature used the words "any widow of his son" and deliberately refrained from inserting the word "predeceased" before "son". The time at which she becomes a widow, whether before or after the death of the father-in-law, is immaterial.
- **Literal rule of interpretation:** Applying the cardinal rule that a clear and unambiguous provision must be interpreted literally, the Court held that it is impermissible to restrict the definition only to widows of predeceased sons. Courts cannot add to, subtract from, or rewrite a statute and any attempt to infer "predeceased" into Section 21(vii) would amount to supplying an assumed omission, which is not permissible.
- **Article 14:** A restrictive interpretation that limits the right to maintenance only to widows of predeceased sons would create an impermissible classification between two categories of widowed daughters-in-law, distinguished solely by the timing of their husband's death, a fortuitous circumstance entirely beyond their control. Both categories are similarly situated, having suffered widowhood, lost spousal support and faced comparable financial vulnerability. Such a classification has no rational nexus with the object of the Act and would be manifestly arbitrary, violating the right to equality under Article 14.
- **Article 21:** Denying maintenance on a narrow or technical construction would deprive the widowed daughter-in-law of the means of basic sustenance and expose her to destitution and social marginalization, violating her fundamental right to life with dignity under Article 21. The provisions of the Act must be read purposively and in conformity with constitutional values so as to advance social justice and protect vulnerable dependants.
- **Pious obligation under Hindu law:** On the death of a son, it is the pious obligation of the father-in-law to maintain his widowed daughter-in-law if she is unable to maintain herself from her husband's estate or otherwise. The Act does not extinguish this

obligation based on the sequence in which deaths occur.

- **Sections 19 and 22 distinguished:** Section 19, which provides for maintenance of a daughter-in-law during the lifetime of the father-in-law, is distinct from Section 22, which provides for maintenance of dependants from the estate after death. A claim under Section 22 can only be raised after the death of the father-in-law, and Geeta Sharma's claim, being filed after his death, is squarely covered by Section 22 read with Section 21(vii).

Outcome

Both appeals were dismissed with no order as to costs. The High Court's order holding the maintenance petition maintainable was affirmed and the Family Court was directed to consider the matter on merits and determine the quantum of maintenance in accordance with law.

Sumit Bansal v. M/s MGI Developers and Promoters and Another (2026 INSC 40)

"It is well settled that under Section 138 of the NI Act, a separate cause of action arises upon each dishonour of a cheque provided the statutory sequence of presentation, dishonour, notice, and failure to pay is complete. The fact that multiple cheques arise from one transaction will not merge them into a single cause of action"

Coram: Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra

In a judgment dated **08 January 2026**, a two-judge bench allowed the complainant's appeal and dismissed the respondents' appeals, ruling that multiple cheques issued for a same underlying liability create separate causes of action under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

Background

In November 2016, the parties entered into an Agreement to Sell for three commercial units, for which the complainant paid a total consideration of ₹1,72,21,200. Under the agreement, if the vendor failed to execute the sale deeds by 30.09.2018, they were obligated to refund the principal amount along with an appreciation sum as compensation. In July 2018, Respondent No. 2 executed a personal guarantee to ensure refund of the amount together with the appreciation amount in case the sale deeds were not executed within the stipulated period. To secure this liability, he also undertook to issue personal cheques corresponding to the firm's cheques as an alternative mechanism for repayment.

Upon failure to execute the Sale Deeds by 30.09.2018, Respondent No. 1 issued two cheques towards the principal consideration and appreciation amount, and Respondent No. 2, in terms of his personal guarantee, issued corresponding personal cheques. The complainant first presented the personal cheques, which were dishonoured with the remark "Exceeds Arrangement", and subsequently presented the firm's cheques, which were also returned unpaid with the remark "Funds Insufficient".

Following the dishonour and failure to pay despite statutory notices, the complainant instituted a total of five complaint cases between 2019 and 2020 related to the various cheques issued by the

firm and the proprietor. The High Court of Delhi quashed one of these complaints on the grounds that it was a parallel prosecution for the same debt for which a personal cheque complaint had already been filed. However, the High Court refused to quash the other later complaints, noting that it was issued subsequently, on distinct dates, representing independent and fresh causes of action upon successive dishonours.

Court's Reasoning and Observations

- **Exercise of Inherent Jurisdiction:** The Court observed that under Section 482 of the CrPC, the High Court must avoid usurping the function of a Trial Court or conducting a "mini trial" when disputed factual questions exist. Citing *State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal* and *Neeharika Infrastructure v. State of Maharashtra*, the bench held that quashing is an exception and the court cannot embark upon an enquiry into the genuineness of allegations.
- **Distinct Causes of Action:** The Court ruled that "a separate cause of action arises upon each dishonour of a cheque" provided the statutory sequence is complete. The court further held that the fact "multiple cheques arise from one transaction will not merge them into a single cause of action".
- **Mixed Questions of Fact:** The Court reasoned that whether the firm's cheques were issued in substitution or as alternative securities are "mixed questions of fact". It concluded that inherent jurisdiction under Section 482 cannot be used to decide such disputed issues, which require evidence at the time of trial.
- **Presumption of Liability:** Citing *M.M.T.C. Ltd. v. Medchl Chemicals* and *Pharma (P) Ltd.*, the Court observed that the burden of proving the absence of an existing debt or liability lies on the respondents. Under Section 139 of the NI Act, a "presumption of liability in favour of the complainant arises" once a cheque is issued and dishonoured.

Outcome

The Supreme Court concluded that the High Court exceeded its jurisdiction in quashing one of the complaints. Consequently, the Court allowed the complainant's appeal and set aside the High Court's order that had quashed the complaint. Concurrently, the bench dismissed the respondents' appeals.

State of Uttar Pradesh v. Anurudh & Anr.
(2026 INSC 47)

"The importance of medical examination in the harrowing crimes of sexual assault cannot be overstated…But at the same time, its purpose, which is to gather essential evidence in a scientifically sound manner, with due regard to the principles of human dignity on one hand and evidence on the other, cannot be reduced to a common, matter of course step - especially when a procedure with a legislative imprimatur has been laid down. The Court could not have passed directions that go against clearly stated legislative intent under Section 94 of the JJ Act"

Coram: Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N Kotiswar Singh

In a judgment delivered on **09 January 2026**, a two-judge bench allowed the appeal filed by the State of Uttar Pradesh, setting aside the directions issued by the Allahabad High Court, which, while exercising its jurisdiction under Section 439 of the CrPC, had mandated the preparation of a medical report to determine the victim's age at the commencement of investigations in offences under the POCSO Act. The Supreme Court held that conducting "mini trials" to conclusively determine the age of a prosecutrix during bail proceedings usurps the jurisdiction of the trial court and violates the statutory scheme of the JJ Act and CrPC.

Background

The appeal challenged an order of the Allahabad High Court which, while hearing a bail application, issued general mandatory directions for the police to conduct medical age tests (ossification tests) in all cases involving the POCSO Act. In the instant case, the victim's mother claimed the victim was 12 years old based on school records. However, the High Court directed the constitution of a medical board to determine the victim's age. The medical opinion, however, showed a significant inconsistency with the age recorded in the school records and as stated by the victim in her statements under Sections 161 and 164 of the CrPC. Based on this discrepancy, the High Court granted bail and further directed that medical reports can prevail over documentary evidence, in appropriate cases. The question before the Court was whether the High Court could, under Section 439 of the CrPC, mandate age determination tests in all cases under the POCSO Act, and whether such directions were consistent with the statutory scheme governing age determination.

Court's Reasoning and Key Observations

- **Jurisdiction of Bail Court v. Trial Court:** The Supreme Court held that the High Court exceeded its jurisdiction. Determining the age of a victim is a matter of evidence to be proved at the inception of the trial. Holding a mini trial at bail stage is impermissible.
- **Evidentiary Value of Ossification Tests:** The Court reiterated that ossification tests are not conclusive proof of age, but only a very useful guiding factor to be considered in the absence of documents mentioned in Section 94(2) of the JJ Act.
- **Adherence to the Statutory Scheme:** The Court held that directions contrary to the legislative intent under Section 94 of the JJ Act could not be issued. Further, the Court cannot fuse statutory jurisdiction with constitutional jurisdiction to expand its otherwise circumscribed powers.

Outcome

The Supreme Court allowed the appeal, and the directions issued by the Allahabad High Court in the impugned judgment regarding mandatory age determination at the bail stage are set aside. Furthermore, to avoid prejudice to accused persons who may have already been granted bail based on the impugned procedure, the Court directed that this judgment shall operate prospectively and will not negatively impact bails already secured under the set aside directions.

Direction

The Court noted that repeated judicial notice has been taken of the misuse/misapplication of the POCSO Act and emphasised that the intent and object of such legislations must be at the forefront. In this backdrop, it directed that a copy of the judgment be circulated to the Secretary, Law, Government of India, to consider initiation of steps to curb this menace, inter alia, the introduction of a "Romeo–Juliet" clause exempting genuine adolescent relationships from the stronghold of this law.

State of Uttar Pradesh and Ors. v. Bhawana Mishra (2026 INSC 38)

"While advertisements for private colleges explicitly state that admission does not grant a right to appointment, the absence of this specific disclaimer in government college advertisements does not mean a right to appointment is automatically implied"

Coram: Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Manmohan

In a judgment delivered on **08 January 2026**, the Supreme Court held that mere admission in the Ayurvedic Nursing Training Course does not confer any right for appointment and that the doctrine of legitimate expectation was not applicable in the facts of the case. The Court set aside the High Court's direction mandating consideration of the respondents for appointment as Ayurvedic Staff Nurse under the State government.

Background

From 1986 onwards, the Ayurvedic Nursing Training Course was conducted only in a government institution with limited seats, and candidates who passed out were being given appointment.

Subsequently, by notification dated 21.10.2011, private institutions were also permitted to impart training, resulting in a manifold increase in the number of pass outs. Further, by notification dated 15.12.2014, recruitment to such posts was brought within the purview of the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC).

The respondents, who were admitted to the course in a government institution, after completion of training sought appointment as Ayurvedic Staff Nurses. Their claim was rejected on the ground that there were no notified service rules at the relevant time and that recruitment could only be undertaken through the prescribed process.

The High Court allowed the writ petitions, holding that the respondents had a legitimate expectation of appointment based on past practice.

Court's Reasoning and Observations

- **No right to appointment:** The Court held that mere admission in a course does not confer a right for appointment. A perusal of the advertisement showed that no such promise had been made. Clause 9 only stipulated that "in case the candidate is appointed after training", he/she shall compulsorily serve the government, and did not entitle all candidates to appointment.
- **Change in Policy and Increase in Candidates:** The Court noted that with the permission granted to private institutions, the "number of pass outs had far outnumbered the available vacancies", making it "impossible to recruit all the pass outs". In such circumstances, "the normal rule provides for a selection process to be followed so that the best available candidate is selected".
- **Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation:** The Court observed that "it may be far-fetched to apply the principle of legitimate expectation" in the present case, as there was a "change in policy and scheme of government" and the factual situation had "undergone a substantial shift". The earlier practice was based on a situation where there were limited seats and more vacancies, which no longer existed. Relying on precedent, the Court reiterated

that legitimate expectation "is not a legal right" and its denial can only be examined on the touchstone of Article 14.

- **No Discrimination or Arbitrariness:** The Court held that there was no violation of Article 14. No candidate admitted after the 2010–11 session was appointed under the old system, and the respondents "failed to point out a single candidate" from their batch or subsequent batches who was directly appointed. Therefore, the plea of discrimination was "factually and legally unsustainable".

Outcome

The Court held that the direction issued by the High Court cannot be legally sustained and accordingly set aside the impugned judgment. The appeals were allowed.

Hemalatha (D) by LRs. v. Tukaram (D) by LRs. & Ors. (2026 INSC 82)

"Before parting, this Court deems it necessary to suggest to the Union and State Governments the urgent need for the digitization of registered documents and land records using secure, tamper-proof technologies such as Blockchain...Such reforms are essential to minimize the scourge of forgery and "clever drafting" that clogs our judicial system"

Coram : Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Manmohan

In a judgment dated **22 January 2026**, a two-judge bench allowed the appeal and set aside the High Court's order, ruling that a registered sale deed carries a formidable presumption of validity and cannot be declared a sham through clever drafting or extrinsic oral evidence when its terms are clear and unambiguous.

Background

The respondent mortgaged his residential property but was eventually unable to comply with the demand for repayment. To discharge this mortgage, he executed a registered Sale Deed in favor of the appellant while simultaneously signing a Rental Agreement that allowed him to remain in the house as a tenant. After paying rent for several months, the respondent defaulted, prompting the appellants to initiate eviction proceedings.

As a counter to the pending eviction proceedings, the respondent instituted a civil suit seeking a declaration that the Sale Deed and Rental Agreement were sham documents. The High Court set aside the order of dismissal of the suit passed by the lower appellate court, holding that oral evidence was admissible to establish that the documents were sham.

Court's Reasoning and Observations

- **Presumption and Pleading Standards:** The Court held that registered documents carry a formidable presumption of validity, placing a heavy burden of proof on the challenger to provide cogent evidence that the deed was not a bona fide transfer. Citing *Prem Singh v. Birbal, Jamila Begum v. Shami Mohd.,* and *Rattan Singh v. Nirmal Gill,* the bench emphasized that registration is a solemn act that cannot be lightly set aside.
- **Procedural Rigor:** The Court applied a rigorous standard of pleading akin to Order

VI Rule 4 of the CPC, asserting that "clever drafting" creating an illusion of a cause of action must be unraveled at the nascent stage of litigation. Referring to *I.T.C. Limited v. Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal,* the bench noted that mere suspicion or nebulous averments of fraud are insufficient to dislodge the statutory presumptions.

- **Admissibility of Evidence:** Under Sections 91 and 92 of the Indian Evidence Act, the Court ruled that extrinsic oral evidence is inadmissible to contradict the clear and unambiguous written terms of a registered document. It observed that mere suspicion or nebulous averments without material particulars are insufficient to dislodge the statutory presumptions regarding registered instruments.
- **Property Law and Statutory Tests:** Relying on Section 58(c) of the Transfer of Property Act and the proviso thereto, the Court clarified that a mortgage by conditional sale requires the condition for reconveyance to be embodied in the same document. It cited *Shri Bhaskar Waman Joshi v. Shri Narayan Rambilas Agarwal, Sopan v. Syed Nabi, Tulsi v. Chandrika Prasad,* and *Leela Agrawal v. Sarkar* to establish that the absence of such a clause in the deed confirmed it was an outright sale.
- **Mutation and Precedents:** Citing *Suraj Bhan v. Financial Commissioner,* the Court held that the lack of mutation in municipal records is irrelevant to proving ownership when a valid registered sale deed exists. The Court noted the respondent paid rent for fourteen months and only challenged the deed as a counterblast to eviction proceedings, rendering his "sham" plea unbelievable.
- **Distinguishing Precedent:** The Court observed that the *High Court misinterpreted Gangabai v. Chhabubai,* which does not provide an automatic right to lead oral evidence against a registered deed without meeting rigorous pleading thresholds.

Outcome

The Supreme Court concluded that the respondent's suit was a counterblast to legitimate eviction proceedings and that the Sale Deed was a genuine transaction intended to be acted upon. Consequently, the appeal was allowed, the High Court's judgment was set aside.

Directions of the Court:

The court additionally gave recommendations for systematic reforms, as follows:

- The Court suggested that the Union and State Governments undertake the digitization of registered documents and land records to minimize forgery.
- It recommended the adoption of secure, tamper-proof technologies like Blockchain to ensure that property transactions become immutable and cryptographically secured.
- The bench emphasized that such reforms are essential to uphold the sanctity of property titles and to minimize "clever drafting" that clogs our judicial system.

Training Hub

Orientation Programme/Training Session for Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates



06 January 2026:
The Training Cell, in collaboration with the Centre for Research and Planning, organised an Orientation Programme for the Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates to familiarise them with the working of Supreme Court. The programme was attended by Ms Shivani Handique, Additional Registrar (J) (Research) and Director, Centre for Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India; Ms Sonal Saroha, Deputy Registrar (J) and Research-Cum-Senior Fellow, Supreme Court of India. The programme was conducted by Ms Saavni Kamath, Assistant Registrar (Research)-cum-Assistant Fellow, and Mr Amarendra Kumar, Advocate, and former Consultant (Research), Centre for Research and Planning



Training Programme on Gender Sensitization for Law Clerks-cum-Research Associates



13 January 2026: The Training Cell organised a Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates working in the Residential Offices of Supreme Court Judges, encompassing awareness sessions on gender sensitivity and a comprehensive overview of the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The programme further aimed to strengthen understanding of gender consciousness, inclusivity, and the imperative of fostering a respectful and dignified workplace environment

Workshop on Response to Emergency Contingency: Fire Safety



16 January 2026: The Training Cell organised a Workshop on 'Response to Emergency Contingency: Fire Safety' for the dealing assistants of the Registry. The programme was facilitated by a team from the Delhi Fire Service led by Sh Nitin Lochab, Station Officer, who provided in-depth insights on fire safety practices, evacuation procedures, prohibited actions during fire incidents, and the effective use of fire extinguishing equipment

Training Programme on Gender Sensitization for Junior Court Assistants



17 January 2026: The Training Cell organised a Training Programme on Gender Sensitization for Junior Court Assistants, comprising awareness sessions on gender sensitivity and an overview of the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The session further focused on enhancing understanding of gender awareness, inclusivity, and the need for a respectful and dignified workplace culture

Training Programme on GeM Portal for staff of Admn Material Branch



19 January 2026: The Training Cell conducted a Training Programme on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal for the staff of the Admin Material Branch. The Resource Persons from Government e-Marketplace (GeM) SPV enlightened the trainees on Bid Creation (including Custom Bid, Bunch Bid Creation, PAC Buying in BOE Bids), the complete procurement cycle (Technical Evaluation, Financial Evaluation, Bid Opening, BOQ, Direct Purchase, L-1 Purchase), hiring of manpower (contracts for different categories), auctions (Forward Auction and Reverse Auction – complete process), and practical usage of the portal

Three-Day Induction Training Programme for Newly Recruited Junior Court Assistants- 2025 (Batch-3)





28-30 January 2026:
The Training Cell conducted a three-day Induction Training Programme for the third batch of newly recruited Junior Court Assistants. The programme provided participants with topics essential to their roles. Mr Manish Sethi, Deputy Registrar of the Training Cell, in the Valedictory Session, emphasised the Supreme Court's impact on public life and the Registry's significance in the pursuit of institutional excellence for the new recruits

Beyond the Court: Creativity Abound

World Braille Day - January 04

THE ROAD OF WORDS

As the fingers slide over,
The road to dignity says it's not over.
Let the past of hesitation and shyness fade,
When the mind feels the windy shade.

Over the humpy road,
Nurturing the seeds of hope.
Feeling the sacrifice of Helmet's knight!
Turning the dark forest into a shiny sight.

In the dawn of knowledge, let the journey go on.
Through the pages where fingers hover on.
From the curiosity of philosophy to the innocence of creativity,
Running across the hills of rationality.

As ignorance feared the brain of brights,
Minting life with the beacon of insights.
With every crossed road, words changed their opinion,
Letting the eyes to see distant orion.

There a tigress hides next to the tree
Where the para ends hastily,
Knowingly or unknowingly,
The words find their destiny.

Let the long road takes the weakness away,
Adding the beauty of joy to the hope of array.
As Helen says, nothing can flood your way.
With self-determination, no one can break the rhythm away.

May brallie-ry road keeps nurturing the highway,
Dispersing knowledge and ideas
To the pure minds as a shining ray,
When the fingers slide on their 'way'.

Poem by:
Darsh Maurya,
Junior Court Assistant

गणतंत्र की गाथा

रावी अवार से उठी उर्मि उत्तुंग हिमालय जा ठहरी।
जल निधि के अंतस उठी लहर लेकर उजास गहरी गहरी

निज गृह, पीयूष, वैभव ठुकरा काला पानी विषपान किए
कितने कपाल बलिवेदी पर अहिवात अनेकों दान किए

जड़ चेतन में उपजा अंकुर नव जीवन का यह मंत्र बना
जब रुधिर बहा हर तबके का तब जाकर यह गणतंत्र बना॥

केतन तिरंग का अंग अंग है रंग देश के वीरों का।
नेता सुभाष, आजाद, तिलक, अशफाक, लाहिड़ी हीरों का।

सुखदेव, भगत सिंह, राजगुरु, उधम का दम था लंदन तक
था "जैक यूनियन" धराशायी गोरों का सूरज गया था थक

पाई स्वतंत्रता भारत ने, था अब तक जो परतंत्र बना
जब रुधिर बहा हर तबके का तब जाकर यह गणतंत्र बना॥

रजवाड़ों का जब विलय हुआ पूरा भारत फिर संघ बना।
जन मानस ने ली अंगड़ाई तब आजादी का रंग बना

फिर आई कुछ ऐसी आंधी माटी का कण कण जाग गया
तम भाग गया सूरज आया हर घर में अमन का राग गया

टूटा तिलिस्म अंग्रेजों का, था अब तक जो षड्यंत्र बना
जब रुधिर बहा हर तबके का तब जाकर यह गणतंत्र बना॥

अधिकारों की तो चर्चा है कर्तव्यों को हम भूल गए।
लगता है खुली हवा पाकर अपने-अपने में फूल गए।

खुद मिटकर हमें बनाकर गए वीरों ने आखिर क्या पाया
हम मिलकर करें आत्म-मंथन कुर्बानी को क्यों बिसराया

समरसता कायम रखने को ही संविधान सा यंत्र बना
जब रुधिर बहा हर तबके का तब जाकर यह गणतंत्र बना॥

Poem by:
Brij Bhooshan Khare,
Chief Librarian

माथे का सरताज तिरंगा

अद्भूत सा एहसास तिरंगा
मन का मेरे विश्वास तिरंगा
युगों युगों से भारत माँ के
माथे का सरताज तिरंगा।

जन गण मन को जाग्रत करता
जन जन का है शान तिरंगा
विश्व पटल पर देश का मेरे
मान और अभिमान तिरंगा।

अब है सबके हाथ तिरंगा
दिल का मेरे जज्बात तिरंगा
हर घर पर लहराता देखो
सबको दिलों की जान तिरंगा।

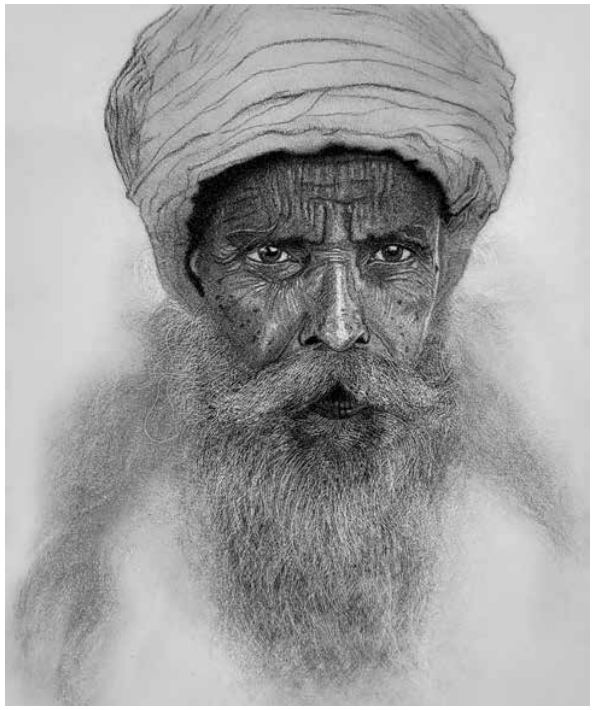
पराधीन से आजादी तक
लोगों में उम्मीद जगाया
मातृभूमि का अलख ज़गा के
भारत को गणतंत्र बनाया।

जन जन का विश्वास तिरंगा
देश का सरताज तिरंगा
वीर देश भारतवासी के
दिल मे रखे स्थान तिरंगा।

आजादी का अमृत है रंग
केसरिया उज्जवल और हरा
मन उमंग और जोश से भर दे
वह अपने देश का शान तिरंगा।

Poem by:
Mohd Tasvirul Islam,
Assistant Librarian

Martyrs Day - January 30



This pencil portrait portrays an elderly figure as a symbolic witness to the sacrifices that shaped the nation's freedom. The weathered features and contemplative expression reflect endurance, memory, and quiet resilience. The artwork is intended as a tribute to the countless individuals whose courage and sacrifice laid the foundation of a democratic society governed by the rule of law. On Martyrs' Day, it stands in remembrance of their enduring contribution to the nation's conscience.

Pencil Portrait by:
Kartik Bawa,
Junior Court Attendant

शहीद दिवस: सिर्फ कैलेंडर की एक तारीख या कुछ और ?

हर साल 30 जनवरी की तारीख आती है और हम अखबारों में महापुरुषों की तस्वीरें देखते हैं। सुबह 11 बजे देश भर में दो मिनट का मौन रखा जाता है। दफ्तरों में काम रुक जाता है, हम अपनी डेस्क पर खड़े होकर बस घड़ी की सुइयों के आगे बढ़ने का इंतजार करते हैं। लेकिन क्या हमने कभी गहराई से सोचा है कि वे 120 सेकंड हमें क्या याद दिलाते हैं? क्या वह सिर्फ एक रस्म है जिसे निभाना हमारी मजबूरी है, या वह हमारे भीतर सोई हुई नागरिक चेतना को जगाने का एक छोटा सा प्रयास है?

शहीद दिवस को अक्सर हम इतिहास की किताबों और पाठ्यपुस्तकों तक सीमित कर देते हैं। हमारे मन में यह धारणा बैठ गई है कि 'शहीद' होने का हक सिर्फ उन्हीं को है जो सीमा पर खड़े हैं या जिन्होंने आजादी की लड़ाई में फांसी के फंदे को अपनाया था। निश्चित रूप से, उनका बलिदान सर्वोच्च है और उसकी तुलना किसी भी चीज से नहीं की जा सकती। लेकिन एक आम नागरिक और एक कामकाजी पेशेवर के तौर पर, क्या हमारी कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं बनती? क्या राष्ट्र के प्रति प्रेम दिखाने के लिए बंदूक उठाना या नारेबाजी करना ही एकमात्र तरीका है?

महात्मा गांधी, जिनकी पुण्यतिथि पर हम यह दिन मनाते हैं, उन्होंने कहा था कि "स्वराज" का अर्थ केवल विदेशी शासन से मुक्ति नहीं, बल्कि अपने आप पर शासन करना भी है। एक आम दफ्तर जाने वाले इंसान के लिए आज के दौर में अपने सिद्धांतों के लिए जीना है। आज के समय में असली देशभक्ति हमारे काम की गुणवत्ता और हमारी ईमानदारी में छुपी है। जब हम अपने दफ्तर में पूरी ईमानदारी से अपना काम पूरा करते हैं, जब हम भ्रष्टाचार का हिस्सा बनने से इनकार करते हैं, या जब हम अपने सहकर्मियों के साथ सम्मानजनक व्यवहार करते हैं, तो हम अनजाने में उसी भारत का निर्माण कर रहे होते हैं जिसका सपना उन शहीदों ने देखा था।

एक शहीद ने अपना वर्तमान इसलिए कुर्बान किया ताकि हमारा भविष्य सुरक्षित रहे। क्या हम अपने भविष्य को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अपना थोड़ा सा 'स्वार्थ' नहीं त्याग सकते? शहीद दिवस पर हमें खुद से यह वादा करना चाहिए कि हम अपने काम को सिर्फ एक 'नौकरी' की तरह नहीं, बल्कि राष्ट्र निर्माण के एक छोटे से हिस्से के रूप में देखेंगे।

अंततः, यह समझना जरूरी है कि शहादत एक अंत नहीं, बल्कि एक प्रेरणा है। आइए, हम संकल्प लें कि हम अपने कार्यस्थल पर अनुशासन, पारदर्शिता और सम्मिलित कार्य के जरिए उन बलिदानों का सम्मान करेंगे। जिस दिन हम अपने छोटे-छोटे कर्तव्यों को पूरी निष्ठा से निभाना शुरू कर देंगे, वही उन शहीदों के लिए हमारी सबसे सच्ची और सबसे बड़ी श्रद्धांजलि होगी।

Article by:
Sujay Samrendra
Junior Court Assistant

Bid Adieu



29 January 2026: Justice S V Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India, attended the retirement function held to facilitate the retiring employees
(L-R) - Shri Ramesh Kumar, Photocopying/Digital Duplicating Machine Operator Grade-I; Shri Daya Krishan Joshi, Restorer Gr. I; Ms Alka Rani Jain, PS to Additional Registrar; Ms Rama Chopra, PS to Additional Registrar; Shri Manish Mittal, Deputy Registrar (Non-Shorthand); Shri Ajay Kumar Samal, Usher and Shri Nathu Singh, Restorer Gr. I



29 January 2026: Justice S V Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India, presented a memento to felicitate the retiring employees



Supreme Court of India
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