# Supreme Court *Chronicle*

Issue XX | June 2025

## Highlights

- *Justice B. R. Gavai takes oath as the 52nd Chief Justice of India*
- *Justice Nilay Vipinchandra Anjaria, Justice Vijay Bishnoi and Justice Atul Sharachchandra Chandurkar take oath as Judges of the Supreme Court*
- *Justice Surya Kant appointed as Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)*





# *Message from the Secretary General*

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present the latest edition of the Supreme Court Chronicle for the month of June. The Supreme Court Chronicle has become a key source of information about the Supreme Court's functioning, and keeps readers updated on the activities of this Court, both within and beyond the courtroom.

Keeping in line with our commitment, this edition offers a glance at the recent developments within the Supreme Court and beyond. This edition covers the Oath Taking Ceremony of Hon'ble Justice B. R. Gavai as the 52nd Chief Justice of India, the farewell of Hon'ble Justice Sanjiv Khanna, former Chief Justice of India, and the last working days of Hon'ble Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Hon'ble Justice Abhay S. Oka. Additionally, this issue features the key judgments from the month of May, and captures moments from the swearing-in ceremonies of three newly appointed Supreme Court Judges. This edition also features the inauguration of the Annual Sports Event, 2025, capturing our resolve to wind down amidst the ever-busy court days.

It remains my hope that this newsletter continues to retain the collaborative spirit that lies underneath the object of its very conception. As we take on new challenges and adopt novel methods to enhance transparency and drive progress for the Court within the justice delivery system, I believe that through this newsletter, new avenues of collaboration and cooperation will increasingly present themselves.

As the Court functions on partial working days, I hope this edition keeps the reader informed and engaged until we meet again with our next edition.

**Shekhar C. Munghate**
Secretary General
Supreme Court of India

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# Oath Ceremony of 52nd Chief Justice of India
# Justice B.R. Gavai



*Left to right: 14 May 2025, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Former Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr Jagdeep Dhankar, Vice President of India, Hon'ble Ms Droupadi Murmu, President of India, Hon'ble Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, and Hon'ble Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of Law and Justice of India*



*14 May 2025, on the day of his oath taking, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B R Ambedkar at the Supreme Court lawns*

# Farewell to Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court





*13 May 2025, Justice Sanjiv Khanna on his last working day as the Chief Justice of India*



*13 May 2025, Justice B. R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India (Designate) presents the Special Edition titled '51st Chief Justice of India: Sanjiv Khanna' to Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the then Chief Justice of India, in the presence of other Judges of the Supreme Court*

# Guard of Honour





*24 May 2025, Justice Abhay S Oka, receives guard of honour on his last working day*





*16 May 2025, Justice Bela M. Trivedi, receives guard of honour on her last working day*

# Oath Ceremony

Justice Nilay Vipinchandra Anjaria, Justice Vijay Bishnoi and Justice Atul Sharachchandra Chandurkar took oath as Judge of the Supreme Court on 30 May 2025 in the Multipurpose Hall, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India.



*30 May 2025, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India administers oath of office to Justice Nilay Vipinchandra Anjaria*

*30 May 2025, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India administers oath of office to Justice Vijay Bishnoi*





*30 May 2025, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India administers oath of office to Justice Atul Sharachchandra Chandurkar*

# Fresh from the Bench

## Sanjay Prakash & Ors. v. Union of India and Others
## 2025 INSC 779

***"Gradual Reduction of CAPF Deputation Posts to SAG Level to Address Officer Stagnation and Enhance Career Mobility"***

**CORAM: Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan**

In a judgement dated **23 May 2025**, a division bench of the Supreme Court addressed the issue of classification of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) as Organised Group-A Services (OGAS) and their consequent entitlement to the benefits that flow from such classification. The Court held that the CAPFs must be treated as part of Organised Group-A Services (OGAS) not only for the purpose of granting Non-Functional Financial Upgradation (NFFU) but also for all cadre-related matters, including cadre review.

The issue arose from the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission regarding Central Group-A civil posts, which are categorised into two types, those included in OGAS and those classified as General Central Service (GCS) Group-A. The Commission noted that despite the cadre review and restructuring, there was stagnation at Senior Administrative Grade and Higher Administrative Grade levels in most OGAS. In order to address the said disparities, the Commission recommended uniform eligibility criteria across OGAS, which were accepted by the Ministry of Finance. Thereafter, the Department of Personnel and Training issued several office memoranda between 2009-2010 to implement these recommendations, including defining the attributes required for a service to qualify as OGAS. These attributes included requirements such as at least 50 percent of Junior Time Scale vacancies being filled by direct recruitment, promotion-based filling of positions above Junior Time Scale up to Senior Administrative Grade, and composite service rules facilitating officer movement.

Officers belonging to CAPFs, including CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF and SSB, contended that they should be treated as OGAS and receive consequential benefits, particularly NFFU and argued that government records from 1986 onwards consistently recognised CAPFs as organised services and included them in Central Group-A Services monographs published by DoPT. In the course of the proceeding, severe service stagnation was also highlighted and the reason was attributed to the practice of filling senior positions primarily through deputation from Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, who had more lenient eligibility criteria compared to cadre officers.

The government, while initially resisting, finally granted the OGAS status to CAPFs for cadre review and related matters along with NFFU and Non-Functional Selection Grade benefits in 2019.

The Court in its judgement observed that the immediate dispute had considerably narrowed following the government's acceptance of CAPFs as OGAS in 2019. The Court further noted that CAPFs play an important role in border security and internal security duties and recognised the government's policy rationale for maintaining IPS officer presence in CAPFs to preserve their character as unique central armed forces.

However, the Court also recognised the legitimate grievances of CAPF cadre officers regarding service

stagnation caused by lateral entry of deputationists into higher grades. The Court observed that such stagnation could adversely impact force morale and needed consideration while reviewing policy decisions and that since the government had accepted CAPFs as OGAS, all consequential benefits should naturally flow to them, and they cannot be granted some benefits while being denied others.

The Court directed:

- Cadre review in all the CAPFs which was due in the year 2021 be carried out within a period of six months from today.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India shall give effect to the DoPT OM dated 12.07.2019 and undertake the exercise for review of the existing service rules/ recruitment rules of each of the CAPFs. While carrying out the aforesaid exercise, representatives of the cadre officers of each of the CAPFs shall be given an opportunity of being heard.
- The above exercise pertaining to review of existing service rules/recruitment rules of each of the CAPFs will be carried out and completed within a period of six months from today.
- DoPT shall take appropriate decisions after receipt of action taken report(s) from the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding cadre review and review of existing service rules/recruitment rules within a period of three months from the date of receipt of such report(s).
- Remove the stagnation and the operational/ functional requirement of the forces with gradual reduction in the number of posts earmarked for deputation in the cadres of the CAPFs upto the level of Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) within an outer limit of two years, keeping in mind the twin objectives of service mobility of the cadre officers of CAPF which will bring in a sense of participation of the cadre officers belonging to the CAPFs in the decision-making process within the administrative framework of the CAPFs thereby removing the long-standing grievances of the cadre officers.

The Court recalled its interim stay order on the exercise of cadre review and disposed of the civil appeals in the aforementioned direction with no order as to cost.

## All India Judges Association & Ors v. Union of India & Ors 2025 INSC 735

***"Court reinstates the requirement of minimum three years practice for entering judicial services, observing exposure to court and litigants brings in a sensitivity to human problems and more clarity in decision making"***

**CORAM: Chief Justice B. R. Gavai, Justice Augustine George Masih and Justice K Vinod Chandran**

In a judgement dated **20 May 2025**, a three judge bench of the Supreme court dealt with a batch of applications on the qualification, promotion and selection of candidates desirous of joining the Judicial Services as Civil Judge (Junior Division) or Higher Judicial Service, as well as the promotions at different levels within the existing Judicial Services.

The Court, in addressing the applications, answered the question of reinstating the requirement of a minimum three years practice for appearing in the Civil Judge (Junior Division) examination, a

condition that had been set aside in the Third All India Judges Association (AIJA) Case. It also resolved the ancillary question regarding the precise duration of practicing experience to be prescribed for those appearing in the Civil Judge (Junior Division) examination. The Court additionally considered the issue of the quota of reservation and year of service experience for Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) for promotion from Civil Judge (Senior Division) to the Higher Judicial Service.

The Supreme Court, while considering restoring the LDCE quota for Higher Judicial Service to 25 percent, referenced the historical basis for its reduction to 10 percent due to implementation shortcomings and present judicial system developments that are more suited to accommodate the increase.

For District Judge LDCE experience, the Court found, based on High Court and state government responses, that current requirements often negated the accelerated nature of the exam compared to regular promotions, thus reducing incentive. On the issue of quota calculation, the Court ruled that the LDCE quota should be based on total cadre strength in order to promote uniformity. For suitability tests for District Judge promotions, the Court mandated uniform consideration of key factors, while allowing High Courts to design their specific systems.

Finally, in deciding on the three-year practice requirement for Civil Judge (Junior Division) candidates, the SC relied on High Court and other stakeholders' feedback which indicated that practical experience was found to be pertinent in effective courtroom management and professional conduct, in order to develop sensitivity and decision-making clarity in young lawyers.

The Court, in pursuance of the aforementioned observation, issued the following directions:

- The quota of reservation for LDCE for promotion from the cadre of Civil Judge (Senior Division) to the Higher Judicial Service is to be increased to 25 percent. The minimum qualifying service required to appear in the LDCE for promotion from Civil Judge (Senior Division) to the Higher Judicial Service is to be reduced to 3 years as a Civil Judge (Senior Division), with a total service, including Civil Judge (Junior Division), set at a minimum of 7 years.
- 10 percent of the posts in the Cadre of Civil Judge (Senior Division) to be reserved for accelerated promotion of Civil Judge (Junior Division) candidates through an LDCE mechanism, with a minimum qualifying service of 3 years as Civil Judge (Junior Division).
- If any post reserved for LDCE for either Civil Judge (Senior Division) or for the Higher Judiciary remains vacant, it is to be filled through regular promotion on the basis of 'merit-cum-seniority' in that particular year, from the simultaneous selection process for regular promotions. The vacancies for LDCE are to be calculated on the basis of cadre strength, in High Courts and State Governments where this is not already the practice.
- Where rules are not framed or are inadequate to judge the suitability of a candidate for being promoted to the Cadre of Higher Judicial Service from Civil Judge (Senior Division), fresh rules to be framed or existing rules amended, considering factors such as updated knowledge of law, quality of judgements, ACRs of the preceding five years, disposal rate, viva voce performance and general perceptions, awareness and communication skills.
- Candidates desirous of appearing in the examination for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) must have practiced for a minimum period of 3 years to be eligible.

The rules are to mandate a certificate to this effect, duly certified by the Principal Judicial Officer of that Court or by an advocate of that Court with a minimum standing of 10 years (duly endorsed). For candidates practicing before High Courts or the Supreme Court, certification is to be by an advocate with a minimum standing of 10 years (duly endorsed by a designated officer). Experience gained as Law Clerks with Judges or Judicial Officers is also to be considered for calculating total practice years. Additionally, candidates appointed as Civil Judge (Junior Division) are to compulsorily undergo at least 1 year of training before presiding in a Court.

- The number of years of practice for Civil Judge (Junior Division) candidates is to be calculated from the date of their provisional enrolment/registration with the concerned State Bar Council.
- The requirement of minimum years of practice shall not be applicable where the concerned High Court has already initiated the selection process for Civil Judge (Junior Division) prior to the date of this judgement; it will be applicable only from the next recruitment process.

The Court, in the light of its observations and directions, ruled that all necessary amendments are to be implemented by the High Courts within three months from the date of the judgement and the respective State Governments must then review and approve these amendments within an additional three months.

## In Re: Refixation of Pension Considering Service Period in District Judiciary and High Court, 2025 INSC 726

***"One Rank One Pension applies to all High Court Judges regardless of source of appointment, tenure, or status"***

**Coram: Chief Justice B. R. Gavai, Justice Augustine George Masih and Justice K Vinod Chandran**

In a judgement dated **19 May 2025**, the three judge bench of the Supreme Court dealt with petitions seeking pension parity for all retired High Court judges. The Court directed the Union of India to implement the principle of One Rank One Pension and pay standardised pension rates to all retired High Court judges without discrimination.

The batch of matters dealt with the issue of pension payable to retired Judges of the High Courts, including the payment of gratuity and other terminal benefits. The Court addressed additional issues related to the calculation and disbursement of pensions for retired High Court judges.

The petition arose from inconsistencies and ambiguities in the application of existing pension rules, leading to disparities in the entitlements of retired judges. The petitioners challenged the discriminatory practices in pension calculation based on source of appointment (District Judiciary versus Bar), length of service, break in service and status as Additional or Permanent Judge. The petitioners contended that once a person enters the constitutional office of High Court Judge, any differential treatment in post-retirement benefits violates Article 14 of the Constitution.

The Court observed:

- All retired High Court judges form a single constitutional class and artificial distinctions for pension purposes are discriminatory

and that when all serving judges receive identical salaries and perquisites regardless of their source of entry, any post-retirement discrimination would violate Article 14.

- Fixed pension rates must be uniformly applied with ₹15,00,000 per annum for retired Chief Justices and ₹13,50,000 per annum for other High Court Judges. This applies even to judges who retired as Additional Judges, as the definition of 'Judge' in Section 2(g) of the, High Court Judges Act (HCJ Act) includes Additional Judges. Break-in service between retirement as District Judge and appointment as High Court Judge cannot be grounds for pension reduction. The Court concluded that such discrimination is patently arbitrary.
- Judges who entered service after the New Pension Scheme (NPS) implementation are entitled to full pension under the HCJ Act. States were directed to refund judges' NPS contributions with accrued dividends, while state contributions remain with the government.
- Family pension extends to families of judges who died in harness as Additional Judges. For gratuity calculation, 10 years are to be added to the actual service period, regardless of whether minimum qualifying service was completed.
- The pension definition in Section 2(gg) of the HCJ Act includes gratuity and other retirement benefits. All retired judges are entitled to leave encashment (Section 4A), commutation options (Section 19), and Provident Fund (Section 20).

The Court disposed of the batch of petitions and directed the Union of India to pay all allowances due to the High Court judges as per the provisions of the HCJ Act, including the leave Encashment under Section 4A of the HCJ Act, Commutation of Pensions under Section 19, Provident Fund under Section 20 of the HCJ Act, and other applicable allowances.

## All India Judges Association v. Union of India 2025 INSC 713

***"Court Managers are essential for enhancing administrative efficiency, allowing judges to focus on core judicial functions."***

**CORAM: Chief Justice B. R. Gavai, Justice Augustine George Masih and Justice K Vinod Chandran**

In a judgement dated **16 May 2025**, the three judge bench of the Supreme Court dealt with the question of whether any further direction needs to be issued to various High Courts and State Governments for framing and implementation of rules for the Court Managers. This question arose of in light of the Thirteenth Finance Commission, Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) Report and the judgement of this Court in the 2018 judgement of All India Judges Association v. Union of India that already dealt with the issue of Court Managers. The applicants in various related intervention applications sought directions for uniform service conditions, higher pay scales with allowances, recognition as Class I Gazetted Officers, regularisation of contractual employees, career progression opportunities, and structured duty rosters defining roles and responsibilities.

The post of Court Managers originated from the Thirteenth Finance Commission (2010-2015) report, which recommended creating posts of

professionally qualified Court Managers with MBA degrees to assist judges in administrative functions. In September 2010, the Finance Ministry issued guidelines detailing the functions, responsibilities and qualifications for Court Managers. Following these recommendations, many courts began appointing Court Managers, but predominantly on contractual basis since formal rules were not drafted. This resulted in varied pay scales across states with no standardised benefits or allowances.

The Supreme Court, in its August 2018 judgement in All India Judges Association v. Union of India, traced the importance of Court Managers for proper administrative setup and directed that existing Court Managers should be regularised by state governments which still remained incomplete across most states. However, the SNJPC in its February 2022 report brought up persistent problems with Court Manager positions, noting vacancies, underutilization of services and continued ad hoc employment conditions. The Commission found that most states had not regularised Court Manager services despite the SC's direction, with employees working on consolidated pay ranging from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 70,000 monthly with minimal or no allowances where the issue of the present matter predominantly lies.

In the present matter, amicus curiae contended that Court Managers appointed on contractual or consolidated pay basis across India should be regularised with higher pay scales and appropriate allowances. It was also submitted that while Articles 229 and 309 of the Constitution allow High Courts and State Governments to determine service conditions, there should be substantial uniformity in rules to prevent significant variance in pay scales between states.

The Court in its judgement observed:

- Despite clear recommendations from the Thirteenth Finance Commission, the SNJPC report and its own 2018 directions, many High Courts had not framed rules for Court Managers and several State Governments had not approved proposed rules. Some states had even decided to discontinue Court Manager positions, citing fund shortages.
- Court Managers are essential for enhancing administrative efficiency, allowing judges to focus on core judicial functions and that the infrastructure and administrative support systems in courts needed substantial improvement to meet twenty-first century requirements for speedy and quality justice delivery.
- Examining the Assam Rules of 2018, the Court found them comprehensive in scope, properly outlining Court Manager roles in assisting Registrar Generals and District Judges. These rules provided for regularisation, benefits, recruitment methods, training requirements, and detailed duty specifications, aligned with Thirteenth Finance Commission recommendations.
- Uniform service conditions for judges nationwide necessitates similar uniformity in administrative support systems like Court Managers and that promotional avenues or Assured Career Progression schemes are necessary to prevent stagnation and maintain efficiency.

The Court, pursuant to the observations, directed:

- All the High Courts in the country to frame or amend the rules providing for recruitment and conditions of service of Court Managers, by taking the Assam Rules of 2018 as the model Rules, and submit it to the State Government for approval within a period of 3 months from the date of this judgement.
- The High Courts and the State Governments to be at liberty to make suitable modifications/ changes so as to suit their peculiar needs upon receipt of the rules framed or amendments thereof by the High Courts, the respective State Governments shall finalise and grant

approval to the same within a further period of 3 months.

- The minimum rank/class of such Court Managers to be of a Class II Gazetted Officer for the purpose of basic pay, allowances and other service benefits and that the Court Managers appointed in the High Courts shall work under the directions and supervision of the Registrar General/Registrars of the High Courts. Insofar as the Court Managers appointed in the District Courts are concerned, they are to work under the supervision and control of the Registrars/ Superintendents (Head of the Ministerial Staff) of the concerned courts.
- While determining the duties, functions and the responsibilities of the Court Managers, the Rules Committee of the High Courts is required to ensure that their duties, functions and responsibilities do not overlap with that of the Registrars of the High Court/District Courts and insofar as the Court Managers, who are already working either on contractual or consolidated pay basis or on ad hoc basis are concerned, their services be continued and regularised subject to their passing the suitability test as will be provided in the rules to be framed by the respective High Courts and approved by the respective State Governments.
- Court Managers, already working, to be entitled to regularization from the date of their initial appointment and that the benefits of such a regularization though would entitle them for continuity in service for all the purposes including terminal benefits, they would not be entitled for the arrears, if any, on account of difference between salary for the period from the date on which they are working till the date of their actual regularisation.
- The process of regularisation of the Court Managers to commence and be completed within a period of 3 months from the date of approval of the rules by the respective State Governments and that the respective Registrar Generals of the High Courts and the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments shall be personally responsible for adhering to the aforesaid timelines.

The court concluded that the I.A. No. 135045 of 2023 stands disposed of with a request to the concerned Division Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court to decide the matter captioned as LPA 1951/2019 pending before it in terms of the said judgement.

## Vanashakti v. Union of India
## 2025 INSC 718

***"Ex post facto Environment Clearances violate fundamental environmental jurisprudence and are completely alien to environmental law."***

**CORAM: Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan**

In a judgement dated **16 May 2025**, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court dealt with the question of the validity of granting ex post-facto Environmental Clearances (ECs) to projects that began construction or operation without prior approval. The two key instruments that were challenged were the Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2017 (2017 Notification) and the Office Memorandum dated 7th July 2021 (2021 OM). These notifications, which allowed for the grant of ex post facto ECs, were declared to be

arbitrary, illegal and ultra vires the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by the Court.

The petitioners, including environmental groups, had argued that allowing ex post facto ECs fundamentally violated established environmental jurisprudence and served to encourage breaches of environmental regulations. They urged the Court to permanently prohibit the Ministry from issuing any future notifications that would permit such retrospective clearances. Contrastingly, the government contended that the 2021 OM was merely a Standard Operating Procedure designed to address violations, not a direct grant of ex-post facto EC. They asserted that the procedure incorporated remedial measures, including compensation based on the Polluter Pays Principle, and aimed to safeguard investments in projects that might have been eligible for EC but proceeded without it.

The Supreme Court declared the 2017 notification and the 2021 OM, along with all related circulars/ orders/notifications, as illegal and struck them down.

The Court observed:

- The concept of an ex post facto EC is in derogation of the fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence and is an anathema to the EIA Notification.
- The EIA notification is completely alien to environmental jurisprudence and the Court affirmed that the right to live in a pollution-free environment is guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution and that measures like the 2021 OM violated this fundamental right.
- The fundamental duty of citizens, enshrined in Article 51A(g), is to protect and improve the environment, and it deprecates any attempts to protect those who harm the environment.
- The government had previously given a solemn undertaking to the Madras High Court that the 2017 notification was intended to be only a one-time measure, and it held the government bound by this commitment.
- Directed the Central Government against issuing any future circulars, orders, or notifications that would provide for ex post facto EC or regularise acts done in contravention of the EIA notification
- The ECs already granted, however, under the 2017 notification and 2021 OM would remain unaffected.

## In Re: Construction of Multi Storeyed Buildings in Forest Land Maharashtra 2025 INSC 701

***"Allotment of reserved forest land to a private entity violates the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and was therefore illegal. The Court directs Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs to set up SITs to review improper diversion of reserved forest land and either recover it or levy compensatory forest development costs"***

**Coram: Chief Justice B. R. Gavai, Justice Augustine George Masih and Justice K Vinod Chandran**

In a judgement dated **15 May 2025**, the Supreme Court declared the allotment and subsequent sale of 11.90 hectares of Reserved Forest land, in Kondhwa Budruk, Pune, illegal. The land was originally granted to a private family and was subsequently transferred to a housing society. The Court noted that the then Minister for

Revenue, Government of Maharashtra and the then Divisional Commissioner, Pune acted totally in breach of public trust to illegally cause gain to private individuals at the cost of sacrificing precious Forest Land.

The area of 32 Acres 35 Gunthas was notified as Reserved Forest in 1879. A portion was de-reserved in 1934, leaving 29 Acres 15 Gunthas as Forest Land. During the 1960s, land belonging to the Chavan Family was acquired for a hospital, but no compensation was paid. The Tehsildar released the subject forest land to the private family for cultivation for one year in 1968, but the lease was not renewed. In 1969, the Maharashtra Government decided to permanently release such leased land after de-reservation. The private family applied in 1988.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, came into effect, requiring Central Government permission for de-reservation or non-forest use. The State Government sanctioned the allotment in 1998. Thereafter, the private family was permitted to sell the land to the Chief Promoter of Richie Rich Cooperative Housing Society Limited (RRCHS) for residential purposes. The District Collector granted permission for non-agricultural use, and the Pune Municipal Corporation issued a Commencement Certificate. The Ministry of Environment and Forest also granted environmental clearance.Nagrik Chetna Manch challenged the allotment, and the Supreme Court ordered an inquiry. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) recommended cancellation of the allotment.

The key question for the Court to consider was whether the land was Forest Land or not. Alongside the main issue, the validity of the allotment to the private family without Central Government approval, the applicability of the doctrine of desuetude, the validity of RRCHS as a bonafide purchaser and the applicability of public trust were also answered by the Court.

The Court found that the land was indeed Reserved Forest Land. It held that the allotment to the private family violated the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and was therefore illegal. The Court also rejected the claim that RRCHS was a bona fide purchaser. The Supreme Court held that the allotment of the subject land to the private family was illegal. The Court quashed the environmental clearance granted to RRCHS and directed that possession of the land be handed over to the Forest Department.

The Court observed:

- The 11.89 ha Reserve Forest land in Kondhwa Budruk (Pune) was illegally allotted for agriculture in 1998 and illegally sold to RRCHS in 1999.

- Environmental Clearance granted to RRCHS in 2007 by MoEF was declared illegal and quashed and the State's recall of the land allotment to the 'private family' was upheld. Subject Forest Land under the Revenue Department was directed to be returned to the Forest Department within 3 months.

- Chief Secretaries of all states/UTs directed to form Special Investigation Teams to examine if any reserved forest land was improperly allocated for non-forestry purposes and recover such lands or, if not in public interest to do so, collect equivalent cost for forest development.

- All states/UTs directed to create Special Teams to ensure transfers are completed within one year, with recovered lands to be used only for afforestation.

The Supreme Court disposed of the Writ Petition along with the Interlocutory Application noting that the instant case was a classic example of as to how the nexus between the politicians, bureaucrats and the Builders can result in the conversion of precious forest land for commercial purposes under the garb of resettlement of people belonging to the backward class from whose ancestors, agricultural land was acquired for public purpose.

## Jitender @ Kalla v. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and Anr. 2025 INSC 667

***"Lengthy practice alone does not indicate merit, and the system could grant significant points to undeserving individuals simply for years of experience"***

**CORAM: Justice Abhay S Oka, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice SVN Bhatti**

In a judgement dated **13 May 2025**, the three judge bench of the Supreme Court of India addressed the issue of the process for designating Senior Advocates under the guidelines established in *Indira Jaising v. Supreme Court of India* (2017). The bench adjudicated on the current system and underlying issues including permitting advocates to apply for designation, the appropriateness of interviews for testing suitability, the mechanical nature of the point-based system and how adequately the guidelines consider trial court practitioners.

The matter arose from the conduct of a Senior Advocate in the *Jitender @ Kalla* case, who had made material misrepresentations and false statements in multiple proceedings before the Supreme Court that prompted the Solicitor General to question whether the existing designation guidelines were effective in ensuring only deserving advocates receive senior designation. These concerns were referred to the then Chief Justice of India, who constituted the present larger bench to examine whether the designation process requires fundamental reconsideration.

The Solicitor General and several High Courts argued that Section 16 of the Advocates Act envisages designation by conferment with consent, not through applications, and that the current system improperly splits the Full Court's authority by delegating assessment to a Permanent Committee. They contended that the point-based marking system fails to adequately assess an advocate's standing at the Bar and lacks provisions for deducting marks based on professional misconduct or integrity issues.

Petitioner along with the other bar stated that the present structured approach promotes objectivity, transparency and equal opportunity and that the application system democratises access to senior designation, particularly benefiting the middle class of lawyers who might not otherwise be considered under the old conferment system.

The Court observed that:

- The 100-point assessment system was deemed to not be flawless as lengthy practice alone was not considered indicating merit and significant points could be granted to undeserving individuals simply for years of experience. Mandatory interviews were considered for assessing established

advocates because these brief interactions, carrying 25 percent weightage, could not adequately evaluate suitability and were seen to undermine professional dignity.

- Evaluating reported judgements and written submissions can be difficult to verify individual contributions, and thorough, objective assessment was made unfeasible by the sheer volume of documents.
- The inclusion of Bar members in the decision-making process can prove to be contrary to statutory basis. Exclusive designation power is granted to the Supreme Court and High Courts by Section 16(2) and direct participation in point assignment was seen to exceed statutory authority.
- Designation should not be monopolised by High Court and Supreme Court practitioners. Equal qualifications are possessed by trial court advocates and specialised tribunal practitioners, and their exclusion would be considered a violation of Article 14 equality principle.

The Court, pursuant to the observations, directed:

- The directions from paragraph 73.7 of Indira Jaising 1, as amended by Indira Jaising 2, will no longer be implemented.
- All High Court to frame new Rules in line with this decision within four months, by either amending or replacing their existing Rules.

    a. The power to confer designation rests with the Full Court of the High Courts or the Supreme Court.

    b. All eligible candidates' applications and relevant documents will be presented to the Full House. While striving for consensus in designation, if it isn't reached, the decision must be made through democratic voting. The option of a secret ballot in specific cases is left to the High Courts' discretion, based on the circumstances.

    c. The minimum 10 years of practice requirement, set by Indira Jaising-1, remains unchanged.

    d. Advocates can continue to apply for designation, as this signifies their consent. Additionally, the Full Court may consider and confer designation in deserving cases even without an application.

    e. Individual Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts are not permitted to recommend candidates for designation under Section 16(2).

    f. At least one designation exercise should be conducted annually.

- Existing processes initiated under Indira Jaising-1 and Indira Jaising-2 to continue under those decisions. However, no new processes or applications to be initiated or considered until proper Rules are framed by the High Courts, with the Court to undertake the necessary amendments to its Rules/Guidelines in light of this decision on its own,
- Continuous effort to be made to improve the designation system through regular review by the Supreme Court and respective High Courts.

The Court allowed the writ and the related IAs and disposed of the matter in terms of the judgement.

## Vishal Tiwari v. Union of India & Ors.
## 2025 INSC 647

***"Hate speech inciting communal disharmony must be dealt with firmly"***

**CORAM: Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna (as he then was) and Justice Sanjay Kumar**

In an order dated 5 May 2025, the Court held that although remarks made by BJP leader, Nishikant Dubey were derogatory, it would not initiate contempt action, choosing instead to exercise judicial restraint. A petition filed seeking initiation of suo motu criminal contempt proceedings against Nishikant Dubey (Respondent), for allegedly making scandalous remarks against the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of India. The petition also sought directions to the Union of India to lodge an FIR under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and to issue an advisory to curb hate and provocative speeches related to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The remarks made by the respondent were highly derogatory—accusing the CJI and the Court of inciting "civil war" and "religious conflict", the Court exercised judicial restraint. The Court acknowledged that the remarks tended to scandalise and lower the authority of the judiciary and had the potential to obstruct the administration of justice. However, relying on the principle of judicial maturity and precedent (In Re S. Mulgaokar, 1978), the Court held that not every contemptuous act warrants action. The judiciary is not so fragile as to be shaken by "ludicrous" statements. Courts trust in public discernment to see through baseless and politically motivated criticism. Judicial review under Articles 32 and 226 is a cornerstone of constitutional democracy. The role of constitutional courts is to assess the legality of executive and legislative action—not to yield to public or political pressure.

The Court emphasised that judicial pronouncements can be subject to critical analysis and objective criticism, which is protected under the right to free speech. However, the Court also cautioned against hate speech and attempts to spread communal hatred, stating that such actions must be dealt with firmly.

# Supreme Court Events and Initiatives

## Inauguration of the Annual Sports Events, 2025

Justice B. R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India, in the presence of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India inaugurated the Annual Sports Events- 2025 at the Supreme Court of India on 20 May 2025.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice of India highlighted the importance of sports and appreciated the employees for showing enthusiasm and participating in various sports events in large numbers. Chief Justice Gavai called upon the participants to take part in the sports events with integrity, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm. He said that organising such events will certainly build bonds across branches and designations.

The Chief Justice lauded the efforts of the Organising Committee for efficient planning of the event. The Chief Justice also appreciated the contribution of associated volunteers, coordinators, and support staff. He also administered the oath of "sportsman spirit" to the participants before officially opening the sports event.

Organising Committee for the Annual Sports Events- 2025 has received 3636 entries from 1752 employees of the Supreme Court for the following Sports Events -

1. Athletics (100-meter race)
2. Athletics (Relay Race 100x4)
3. Badminton (Doubles)
4. Badminton (Single)
5. Carrom
6. Chess
7. Cricket







8. Football
9. Kho-Kho
10. Mini Marathon (3–5 Kms)
11. Table Tennis (Doubles)
12. Table Tennis (Single)
13. Volleyball (Smash)

Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, Secretary General (OSD), Registrars, Officers of the Registry and participating staff members participated in the inaugural ceremony.



# Programmes and Conferences




*3 May 2025, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Chief Justice of India (as he then was), Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India (Designate) Hon'ble Ms Droupadi Murmu, President of India, and Hon'ble Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, during the launch of the National Mediation Conference organised by Mediation Association of India, at New Delhi.*




*3 May 2025, Justice B.V. Nagarathna attends the National Mediation Conference 2025 organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Office of the Attorney General for India, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Justice Nagarathna co-chaired a technical session during the Conference.*





*3 May 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Guest addresses the SCL India's Biennial 2nd International Conference on Construction Law and Arbitration "Construction Law 2.0: Building a better tomorrow", hosted by Society of Construction Law-India and Society of Construction Law, Mumbai*





*4 May 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal presides over as a Resource Person in Session-I on 'Digital Transformation in Indian Judicial System: A Strategic Overview' in the NJA Workshop for High Court Justices on Information and Communication Technology organised by National Judicial Academy, Bhopal*

*4 May 2025,*
*Justice K.V. Viswanathan, Chief Guest,*
*participates in the Inauguration Ceremony*
*and address-cum-interactive session*
*organised by the Maharashtra*
*National Law University, Aurangabad*





*7 May 2025, Book release event for the launch of Former Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana's book titled 'Narratives off the Bench: A Judge Speaks.' The book was officially released by Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India (Designate), alongside Justice Surya Kant and Justice Vikram Nath at the Delhi High Court.*




*10 May 2025, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah attends the Victory Ceremony of Khelo India Youth Games Bihar, 2025(Shooting) on behalf of Bihar State Rifle Association and Organizing Committee Khelo India at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Ranges, New Delhi*



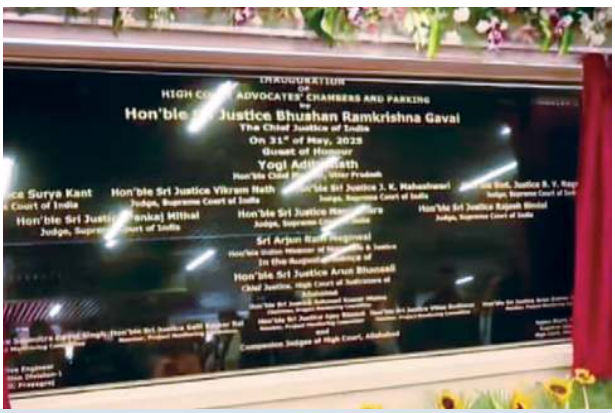

*17 May 2025, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India, felicitated by the Bar Council of India*






*19-21 May 2025, Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia attend the 13th St Petersburg International Legal Forum organised by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and the ROSCONGRESS in St Petersburg, Russian Federation*






*31 May 2025, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India, at the inauguration of the New Advocate Chambers and Parking Building at Allahabad High Court*

# Legal Aid

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) successfully organised the 2nd National Lok Adalat of 2025 across Taluks, Districts, and High Courts in 23 States and Union Territories on 10 May 2025. The remaining 14 States/ UTs will conduct the 2nd National Lok Adalat on different dates of May, June and July due to summer break and war-like situations during the second National Lok Adalat 2025 in some States/UTs. The 2nd National Lok Adalat of 2025 reaffirmed the effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution by disposing of 2,19,67,004 cases – significantly preventing 1,92,35,492 pre-litigation cases from entering the judicial system while concurrently easing the judicial burden by disposing of 27,31,512 pending cases. The total settlement amount for these cases approximates to Rs. 6,967.03 crores. The outcomes of this Lok Adalat reaffirm the public's growing trust in collaborative dispute resolution mechanisms that offer swifter and more harmonious alternatives to conventional litigation. NALSA continues to uphold its constitutional mandate by facilitating inclusive access to justice for all, particularly for vulnerable and underrepresented communities, and by promoting a culture of peaceful settlement through sustained ADR efforts.




*10 May 2025, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) successfully organises the 2nd National Lok Adalat of 2025 across Taluks, Districts, and High Courts in 23 States and Union Territories*

## Appointment of Executive Chairman

Justice Surya Kant was appointed Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on May 14, 2025, following an impactful tenure as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), which began in November 2024.

Under his leadership, on January 10, 2025, SCLSC launched a legal aid campaign in collaboration with State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) to extend legal aid to prisoners who remained unrepresented before the Supreme Court. The campaign specifically targeted categories of individuals requiring urgent legal intervention before the Supreme Court, such as those whose convictions were upheld but no appeal was filed, denied bail despite serving half or more of their sentence, and those whose remission or premature release was rejected and not challenged before the Supreme Court. Through extensive coordination between the SCLSC, SLSAs, HCLSCs (High Court Legal Services Committees), and prison authorities, an initial 4,216 such inmates were identified. SCLSC would also offer inmates to choose from a panel of leading senior advocates willing to appear pro bono before the Supreme Court.

Justice Surya Kant adopted a proactive and hands-on approach to ensure the success of the campaign. He conducted national-level virtual meetings with State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs), and prison authorities to monitor progress and coordinate action. On April 1, 2025, he convened a key virtual meeting with the chairperson of HCLSCs and SLSAs, urging them to constitute special committees to visit prisons and actively engage with identified inmates to encourage them to avail legal aid. A follow up review meeting was held on May 5, 2025, with all Chief Justices of High Courts and Chairpersons of HCLSCs and SLSAs, emphasising the urgency of the campaign. To ensure efficiency, he directed the appointment of district-level Nodal Officers to facilitate seamless



coordination with SCLSC, particularly for curing defects, seeking clarifications, and ensuring timely follow-up. Further, he mandated that all case papers be delivered exclusively through Special Messengers, including on weekends and holidays, to prevent any delays. His leadership also extended to counseling efforts, where proactive advocacy helped convince initially reluctant inmates to accept legal assistance, highlighting the quality and commitment of SCLSC representation.

The campaign gave remarkable returns in a short period by May 5, 2025, almost 3,800 prisoners had officially sought legal aid from the SCLSC. SCLSC had received almost 1,000 paper books from States/UTs. Panel advocates were appointed in almost 600 cases where documentation was done and a total of 285 petitions were presented before the Supreme Court as of May 13, 2025. It was observed that more than 834 cases had been received, and legal aid was offered in approximately 300 cases. A review meeting later on ensured that more than 3,900 prisoners desired legal aid and more than 800 paper books were received with legal aid offered in approximately 300 cases. This initiative has been widely recognized as the largest and most cohesive legal aid campaign ever undertaken by SCLSC.

Justice Surya Kant's tenure at the SCLSC was marked not only by operational efficiency but also by a reform-oriented vision.

# Training Hub







*28 May 2025, Training Cell conducts an Advanced Judicial Training on Filing [SC-Trg-34] for Dealing Assistants. The session was conducted by Ms Mamta Manocha, Deputy Registrar; Mr Kapil Sharma, Assistant Registrar; and Mr Chetan Rawat, Senior Court Assistant to enhance procedural efficiency and institutional integrity within the Supreme Court with 45 dealing assistants in attendance.*







*29 May 2025, Training Cell conducts an Advanced Judicial Training on Listing and Coram of Mentioning Matters for Dealing Assistants on the practice of efficient listing and accurate coram assignment of matters. The resource persons for the programme were Mr Vipin Mittal, Deputy Registrar, and Mr Gajindra Singh Rawat, Branch Officer with a total of 58 Dealing Assistants in attendance*





*29 May 2025, Training session on CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) and the use of AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machines installed across the Supreme Court campus was conducted for the Registry Staff. The resource persons for the programme were from AIIMS, New Delhi, Mr. Vikram Singh Choudhary (Senior Nursing Officer), Mr. Dragpal, and Mr. Ashok Kumar (Nursing Officers), to ensure preparedness for medical emergencies.*








*29 May 2025, Training Cell conducts a session on "Copyright and Fair Use in Libraries" for Library professionals with Resource Person, Mr Akhtar Parvez, University Librarian, Jamia Hamdard Central Library in the Judges' Library, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India aimed at training professionals to provide lawful and equitable access to knowledge.*

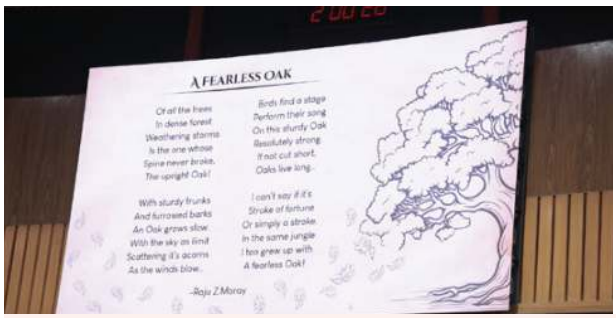



*9 May 2025, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) organises a farewell for the then Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna at the Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India*












*21 May 2025, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) organises a farewell for Justice Abhay S Oka at the Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India*









*AOR Lecture series organised by SCAORA with speakers by senior advocates Dr Menaka Guruswamy, M R Shamshad, Mr Abhinav Mukherjee, Mr Gagan Gupta and Mr Sunil Fernandes on practice and procedure, leading cases and drafting*









*21 May 2025, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India, and Justice Surya Kant at the book release commemorating 75 years of the Supreme Court, organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association to celebrate the collection of 50 Crores for Group Mediclaim Health Insurance at C Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India*



*23 May 2025, SCAORA organises 1st SCAORA Women Cricket Premier League at Jamia Hamdard Cricket Ground, New Delhi*









*24 May 2025, Justice B. R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India along with Justice Surya Kant and Justice Dipankar Datta playing in action during the inauguration of 1st SCAORA Men Cricket Premier League finals at Jamia Hamdard Cricket Ground, Delhi*

## International Labour Day : 1 May

### श्रमिक

मैं अखण्ड, अविनाश, अचल, अंगारों का अनुरागी।
अटल, अटूट, अजन्मा, अक्षुण्ण, ब्रह्म का देव पुजारी
अजर, अनंत, अनल-सम अनुभव,अनुशासन व्रतधारी
अति उतंग मन, अविरल,अंसल, ज्यों पर्वत शिव-धारी
आठ प्रहर मैं महाकाल को, उंगली पर जपता हूँ
मैं दिनकर सा तपता हूँ।

क्या चरित्र वो, जो विपत्ति की सीमा से घिर जाए।
क्या यौवन, जो चीर के पत्थर झरने नहीं बहाए
क्रांतिवीर क्या, जो सरहद पर परचम न लहराए
दुखी रहे माँ का आँचल, यदि पूत न कर्ज चुकाए
अर्जुन सा मैं सदा लक्ष्य को, एक चित्त लखता हूँ
मैं दिनकर सा तपता हूँ।

जिस दिन से धरती पर आया, कदम न रुकने पाया।
बना श्रमिक, संघर्ष किया, कर्त्तव्य योग अपनाया
बहते गंगा के जल ने, कब अपना ठौर बनाया
पहुँच पहुँच गंगा-सागर, फिर फिर हिमगिरि को आया
अंबर सा संकल्प मेरा, फिर कैसे थम सकता हूँ
मैं दिनकर सा तपता हूँ।

अग्नि-बिन्दु, रमता रूखे में, रोम रोम में ज्वाला।
जीवन पथ में कदम कदम पर, पिया हलाहल प्याला
रास न आए फूल, सदा अपनाई कंटक माला
लिपटे रहे भुजंग मगर, विष को अमृत कर डाला
घिरे अमावस दुख की, फिर भी चौदहवीं तकता हूँ
मैं दिनकर सा तपता हूँ।

—**Brij Bhooshan Khare**, Chief Librarian

It is the morning, the sun is rising
but the people inside are still lying

the routine of many is starting
but the person inside is still looking for moving

people initiates to have money
but the person inside sticks to bed like honey

all are making to enjoy life completely
but the person inside is taking life lightly

people wants to know who this person is
and the person said I m not particular but yes
present in everyone.

—**Ishu Sehgal**, Court Assistant

### मेहनत कर मजदूरी कर

मेहनत कर मजदूरी कर, पर हिम्मत नहीं डिगाना तुम ।
मुश्किल हो हालात अगर तो, साहस से बढ़ जाना तुम ॥

काम तेरा मेहनत से होगा, और रास्ता नहीं यहाँ ।
ईश्वर ही जाँचें परखेगा, क्या होगा परिणाम तेरा ॥

दो वक़्त की रोटी मिलती है, मेहनत के ही कारण ।
मजदूर के माथे से टपका पसीना, यूँ ही नहीं अकारण ॥

श्रमिक समूहों के कारण ही उनको यह अधिकार मिला ।
काम के घंटे अब हैं सुरक्षित, सम्मानित संसार मिला ॥

धरती को सींचा है कृषक ने, अपने खून पसीने से ।
मिट्टी को कुन्दन है बनाया, हाथों में जंजीरों से ॥

कामगार के कारण ही, धरती स्वर्ग सी लगती है ।
मेहनत करने वालों की, माँग सदा ही रहती है ॥

अपने श्रम पर कभी कोई आंच नहीं लगाना तुम ।
मेहनत के परिणाम की चिन्ता से नहीं घबराना तुम ॥

—**Mohd Tasvirul Islam**, Assistant Librarian

# From Unrecognised Oppression to Recognition of Rights: Celebrating Labour on May Day

As we celebrate International Labour Day on May 1 each year, it is important to understand its significance in our daily life. The use of the word "our" here denotes inclusiveness of those who constitute "labour" (a noun) doing "labour" (a verb). The day is celebrated to acknowledge labour rights and remember their struggle in making the world a better place. Indian Courts, on various occasions, have upheld labour rights-ensuring minimum wages, non-discrimination, pay parity and suitable working hours through various landmark judgements (e.g. Bandhua Mukti Morcha, Olga Tellis, Vishaka guidelines for safe workplace, etc.).

Historically, it began with exploitation: no fixed working hours, slavery, no labour rights-only relentless work. This harsh reality gave rise to revolutions fueled by the blood and sweat of workers. Today, a 'noun' was once a commodity 'thing'. However, the fruits that we are enjoying today in terms of technological advancement, research and development, quality of life, fast track evolution of scientific discoveries and innovation is the result of exploitative practices adopted by the Industrial framework. The 'Pizza' (like 'easy to eat' food) that we less eat today and more 'snap' today and happily post on Instagram was invented in Italy for a purpose- it has extra calories, so labour can consume once in the morning and work whole day and night, that was 'Pizza' the ultimate and often the only source of nourishment at the time.

In modern world, we talk about 'server' and we know the importance of their role. For example, recently server of Microsoft crashed for a few hours, and it halted the worldwide movement of flights and all work was stopped due to which huge losses happened to businesses affecting the progress of all. The only difference between the above-mentioned "server" and "labour" (as a noun) is that, former happened due to a technical glitch, latter was an aftermath of intentional subjugation i.e., oppressing the oppressed. All this led to labour movements worldwide demanding a Union representing their problems and effectively negotiating terms and conditions for working diligently.

Now, there are various international conventions, treaties and laws for protection of their basic human rights. In the Indian Constitution, there are various provisions such as Article 14, 16, 19, 21, 23 and 24 ensuring there is no discrimination, adequate working conditions, right to seek employment, abolition of slavery and protection of life and liberty which also includes protection from hazardous substances, safe environment, etc. Furthermore, Article 38, 39 41, 42 and 43 provides for a set of guidelines for the government ensuring social and economic justice by promoting welfare of people, minimising inequality in terms of income, status and opportunity, ensuring health of workers are not compromised based on economic necessity. While ensuring just and humane conditions is paramount, it is important to continue focusing on upholding their rights as the fight against any form of violence, discrimination, and unjust treatment must go on. This International Labour Day, let's take a pledge to honour them by not encroaching on their rights and offering a helping hand in the time of distress and any misfortune. Hopefully, new labour codes will be implemented soon strengthening their rights further.

—**Harsh Gupta**,
Law Clerk cum Research Associate




—**Dr. Jyotsna Eveline Reuben**,
Director, Library

## Mother's Day : 11 May

Have faith on one,
but listen to everyone

give responsibility to one,
as not bother by everyone

share your feelings with only one,
which may not be important to everyone

bear the memories with one,
as it may not have meaning for everyone

expect perfectness in one,
as it is not in everyone

learn to true to god and to one
who is only once in life of everyone

yes, the above discussed one is the mother
who always play an important role to everyone

—**Ishu Sehgal**, Court Assistant

## माँ के लिए कविता

उदास होता हूं तो हंसा देती है मां
नींद नहीं आती है तो सुला देती है मां
मकान को घर बना देती है मां
खुद भूखी रह कर भी मेरा पेट भरती है मां
जमीं से शिखर तक साथ देती है मां
जन्म से आंखरी सांस तक साथ देती है मां
जिंदगी में मुश्किले चाहें कितनी भी हो
हंस के गुजार लेती है मां
परिवार छोटा हो या बड़ा सम्भाल लेती है मां
मेरी आंखों में छुपी हर एक ख्वाहिश को पहचान लेती है मां
मेरे हर दर्द की दवा करती है मां
मेरी हर खता को माफ कर देती है मां
रिश्तों को जोड़ती है मां
बिना किसी स्वार्थ के प्यार देती है मां
परिवार खुश होता है तब खुश होती है मां
तू चाहे सन्तान ना हो उसकी फिर भी दुलार देती है मां

—**Akhilesh Kumar Jain**, Court Assistant

## My First Home – "My Mother"

Before I spoke, she knew my cry,
She held me close when fears ran high.
Her arms, my Haven-safe and warm,
My shelter through life's fiercest storm.

She gave me strength when mine was gone,
she stayed beside me, all night long.
With weary eyes and endless grace,
She kissed the pain from every place.

She taught me dreams, she taught me truth,
She stitched my soul with threads of youth.
In every scar, in every smile,
She walked with me through every mile

I never saw her tears fall loud,
She stood for me, so strong and proud.
Yet in her silence, love would speak-
A steady light when I was weak.

Today, I whisper, soft and true,
There's no one else who loves like you
My heart, my guide, my soul's own song
With you Mom, I still belong.

To all the mothers, near and far,
This verse wrapped in love for you.
With every word, love softly flows,
A tribute your gently spirit knows.

—**Naina Bakshi**, Junior Court Assistant

Mom you seem so far away from me, On that beautiful horizon across the sea…

When I am weary from the burden's I've borne; When the path is unclear and I feel so forlorn,

When there is no one who seems to care; When the heartache seems too hard to bear,

When in the moments of great joy and pride…..

I wish mom you were standing at my side !

I remember love's soft glow upon your face; And the feel of your touch and tender embrace,

I remember your loving support as always near; And your advice made the path ahead seem clear.

I remember how you always stood by my side; And tenderly wiped away the tears I cried,

I remember how you saw more than I thought I could be; And now I know I owe all my triumphs to your belief in me !!

Every time I smile, Every time I sigh,

I think of your face, and a tear escapes my eye,

You were my world, my inspiration and my heart,

When You left Me, I thought I would fall apart,

I didn't want to live without you, but you would have wanted me to,

And if there's anyone I want to make happy, then that anyone is "YOU"!!

I wish for nothing more; than just one more day,

For I would give it all; Just to hear you say,

If you could just come back, if only for one day

I'd make sure that I'd listen; to all you had to SAY !

No one will ever know; Quite how I feel inside,Reasons for Interim Stay

And on that day you left; You weren't the only one who died,

You have always been there, MOM

And you loved me till the end,

So with all my heart and soul, I love you, my MOM, My Best Friend……

—**Dr. Jyotsna Eveline Reuben**, Director, Library

## माँ है जन्नत

माँ है जन्नत, माँ है खुशियाँ, माँ ही है सारा संसार ।
नन्हें मुन्ने कदमों को, देती बढ़ने का आधार ॥

सच्चे मन से सेवा करके, जीवन को देती है संवार ।
बिन स्वार्थ के प्रेम है करती, मुझ पर जताती अपना अधिकार ॥

मुझे रोग या चोट लगे तो, पल भर में छूमंतर करती ।
जादू की एक छड़ी घुमाकर , करती रोग पर प्रेम प्रहार ॥

हाथों में उनके जादू है, खाने में वह डाले प्यार ।
पल में चट मैं कर जाता हूँ, थाली के सारे आहार ॥

माँ का कोई मोल नहीं है, उन जैसा कोई और नहीं है ।
खुशियों का इकलौता द्वार, बुनती है घर मे वह प्यार ॥

उँगली पकड़ चलना है सिखाया, लोरी गाकर सपने दिखाया ।
चन्दा मामा से मिल माँ ने, हवा में उड़ना हमे सिखाया ॥

जब भी मन होता उदास तो, उम्मीदों का पाठ पढ़ाया ।
कदम कदम पर देके हौसला, जीवन मे उठना है सिखाया ॥

माँ तेरे पैरों में है जन्नत, प्रेम का है अतुलित भंडार ।
माँ के जैसा कोई नहीं है, दुनिया मे कोई अवतार ॥

माँ तुम धरती पर जन्नत हो, या हो ईश्वर का अवतार ।
तेरा कोई मोल नहीं है, तुम ही हो मेरा संसार ॥

—**Mohd Tasvirul Islam**, Assistant Librarian

## Mother : A Blessing From God

Every child's first teacher,
Patience and unconditional love is her feature.

Epitome of empathy,
Capable of understanding everything as telepathy.

Personification of resilience,
Possesses in every sphere immense experience.

A blessing from God,
Equivalent to God.

—**Poulami Paul**, PS to Registrar



—**Dr Jyotsna Eveline Reuben**, Director, Library

## International Nurses Day : 12 May




—**Dr Jyotsna Eveline Reuben**, Director, Library



—**Rituja Chouksey**, Research Assistant

# International Day for Biological Diversity : 22 May





—**Nilesh Kumar Kalbhor**, Deputy Registrar



—**Bhoomika Babbar**, Law Clerk cum Research Associate



—**Rituja Chouksey**
Research Assistant

# Bid Adieu



**Ms Sukhwinder Kaur** joined the Supreme Court in 1988. During her 38 years of service, she worked in several branches including Admn-I, Listing, and 1B and also served as Court Master in many courts, a role she claimed demanded precision, discretion and a deep understanding of court procedures. For nearly 15 years, she was deputed to the residential offices of Hon'ble Judges, assisting them directly which helped her develop great respect for the institution. Throughout her service, Ms. Kaur remained committed to the core values of transparency, integrity and accountability. She always took immense pride in being part of the Supreme Court and continues to be a devoted admirer of its role in upholding justice and the rule of law. Post-retirement, she is inclined to give back to society and aspires to contribute meaningfully to associations working for the visually impaired and to engage in causes that serve the larger good, particularly those focused on inclusion, care, and dignity for all. She retired in May 2025, as PS to Registrar.



**Mr Santosh Kumar**, a resident of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, joined the Supreme Court in August 1988 as a Junior Court Assistant. During his service, he worked in various judicial sections, including IB, IIA, IIB, IV, IVB, XV, and XVI. Reflecting on his career, Mr Kumar shares that he thoroughly enjoyed his work and had a very positive experience at the Supreme Court. He mentions that he has dealt with over one lakh files, including both criminal and civil matters. Describing the journey of digitisation in the institution in a single line, he says it has been a shift from "typewriter to computer," which has made the work more convenient and efficient. He retired in May 2025 as an Assistant Registrar and plans to visit his native place after retirement.



**Mr Ashwani Kumar,** a native of Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, joined the Supreme Court in January 1990 as a Junior Court Assistant in the Decree Section. Over the course of his career, he served as Personal Secretary to Justice M M Punchhi, Justice B Sudarshan Reddy, Justice Ranjana P Desai, Justice A K Sikri, and Justice Ajay Rastogi. He also served as Court Master at the National Human Rights Commission. Mr Kumar shares that he has learned valuable skills and drawn courage from his juniors, seniors, and colleagues, and it is through their support that he was able to perform his duties to the best of his ability. He retired in May 2025 as Assistant Registrar-cum-Personal Secretary to Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra. Following his retirement, he plans to settle in Himachal Pradesh.



**Mr. Mathew Abraham**, a native of Kollam district in Kerala, joined the Supreme Court in December 1990 as a Junior Court Assistant. During his service, he worked in the Computer Cell, Copying Branch, Sections IV-A, XII-A, and XIV, Admn II, as well as in the Court Master Wing, assisting Justice Indira Banerjee, Justice S Ravindra Bhat, and Justice C T Ravikumar. Reflecting on his journey, he describes his experience at the Supreme Court as wonderful and appreciates the institution for its medical facilities and digitisation efforts. He retired as an Assistant Registrar in May 2025 and plans to settle in his village post-retirement.



**Mr Rushinarada Subramanian Narayanan**, joined the Supreme Court on August 21, 1989 as a Junior Court Assistant, four years after he moved to Delhi in 1985. Hailing from a Tamil family originally from Palakkad, Kerala, his family had moved to Behrampura in Odisha during the Second World War. In his three decades at the Supreme Court, Mr Narayanan had had multiple postings. He was first posted in the Record Room and later moved to the Computer Cell. Despite claiming no prior knowledge of computer systems, he built expertise, documenting his queries in a notebook, which he still carries to this date. While being posted in the Computer Cell, he also got the opportunity to give a presentation on the Supreme Court's computer systems at the National Gallery, Delhi on a programme by NIC. After that, he was attached with Section XV, the judicial section, where he assisted in the dealing of labour matters, and in 2018 got promoted to Branch Officer (BO) and a posting in the IB section. Thereafter, he was transferred to the Court Masters wing, where he recalls his privilege to have been attached to Justice NV Ramana, the 48th Chief Justice of India and his final assignment as he called it, Justice Sanjeev Khanna, the 51st CJI. He recounted his time at the Supreme Court to be marked by immense learning and curiosity. Upon his retirement Mr Narayanan plans to do social work alongside venture into the hotel business. He intends to remain in Delhi with his wife and two sons and looks forward to assisting his wife with her gardening. In his suggestion to the Supreme Court, he said he would like the Court to be open to adopting all the tech advancements possible to be called paperless in the truest sense.He retired as an Assistant Registrar in the Court Masters Wing in May 2025.



**Mr T P Ramalingan**, a native of Palakkad district in Kerala, joined the Supreme Court in 1987 as a Junior Court Attendant and was promoted to Junior Court Assistant in 1991. During his service, he worked in various sections including Sections IB, XVI, XVII, Elimination Cell, and Admn General. He recalls his time in Admn General as the most memorable, as he had the opportunity to be part of major infrastructure developments such as the construction of the Museum, Administrative Building Complexes, Subway, Courtrooms No 7 to 15, and the Advocates' Chambers. He also appreciates the significant improvements in the Court's transport facilities and security over the years. Mr Ramalingan expresses gratitude to the institution for contributing to his personal and professional growth. He retired as Branch Officer in May 2025 and looks forward to arranging his daughter's wedding and travelling post-retirement.



**Mr Manoj B**, a resident of Palakkad District, Kerala, joined the Supreme Court in December 1991 as a Junior Court Assistant, after serving with the Ministry of Law & Justice. Over the course of his 33-year tenure, he worked in several sections including Admn J, Copying Branch, Section IB, III, IIIA, XIV, the Scanning Cell, and the Record Room. Reflecting on his journey, Mr. Manoj shared that he thoroughly enjoyed working at the Supreme Court and appreciates the institution for the remarkable improvement in infrastructure over the years. He retired in May 2025 as a Branch Officer.



**Mr Rajbir**, a resident of Delhi, joined the Supreme Court in November 1986 as a Junior Court Attendant. During his service, he was attached to the office of former Secretary General L C Bhadoo and also worked as a 'Special Service Processor', delivering official letters to the Ministry. For the last 23 years, he served in the Receipt & Issue Section. He shares that his journey in the Supreme Court was smooth and fulfilling. He suggests that staff strength should be increased in certain sections to match the growing workload. He retired as a Court Assistant in May 2025.



**Mr Raj Kumar** joined the Supreme Court of India in September 1989 as a Junior Court Attendant. Hailing from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, Mr Kumar served in several departments including IA Editorial, Copying, Caretaking, Admin III, Record Room, and IA Annex over his career. Recounting his journey, Mr Kumar describes his experience as a great learning addition to his character. He acknowledges the demanding nature of his work, often involving long and undefined hours, but also stated that the compensation is superior to other government jobs of the same grade, making it proportionate to the effort required. He greatly appreciates the helpfulness of his colleagues. When asked about missing his hometown, he remarked that he and his family have built a life here too and he plans to divide his time equally between Delhi and Hamirpur after his retirement. He retired as a Restorer Grade -I in the IA (Annex) Section in May 2025.



**Mr Surender Kumar Yadav**, a resident of Delhi, joined the Supreme Court in March 1989 in the DR Court. During his tenure, he served in various sections including Admn J, Admn I, Section XII, the Godown, and also at the residences of several Hon'ble Judges, namely former Chief Justice of India, Justice K. N. Singh, Justice J. S. Ranganathan, Justice S. P. Bharucha, Justice P. V. Reddy, Justice Y. K. Sabharwal, Justice D. K. Jain, Justice Kurian Joseph, and former Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna. He shares that working with the institution felt like being under the care of a guardian. He greatly appreciates the medical benefits and travel facilities provided by the Court. Mr. Yadav retired in May 2025 as Restorer Grade I and expressed his intention to continue working post-retirement, looking for opportunities with retired Judges.



**Mr C Pandiyan**, a native of Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu, joined the Supreme Court in June 1989. He describes his experience at the Court as very positive and feels grateful for the respect and support he received from everyone. After retirement, he plans to visit his village in Tamil Nadu. He retired in May 2025 as a Supervisor in the Caretaking Section.



**Supreme Court of India**
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