Supreme Court Chronicle

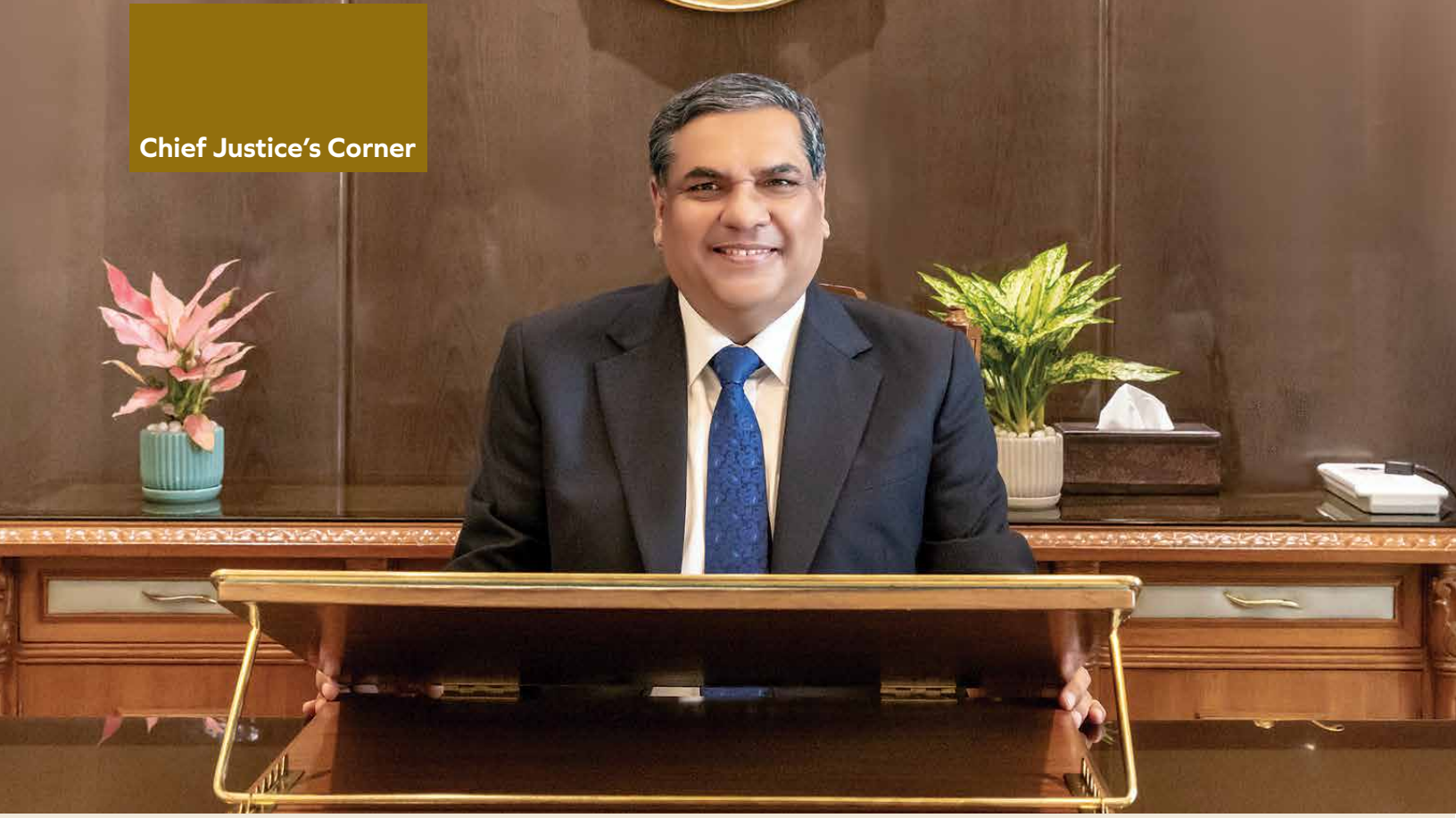
Issue XVI | February 2025

Highlights

- Ceremonial Bench: Commemorating 75 Years of the Supreme Court of India
- Republic Day Celebrations
- In Conversation with Justice Hrishikesh Roy
- Oath-taking Ceremony of Justice K Vinod Chandran
- Blood Donation Camp



Chief Justice's Corner



Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present the February 2025 edition of the Supreme Court Chronicle. As we complete the 75th year of the Supreme Court of India anniversary of its first sitting, this milestone serves as a moment of reflection on its remarkable journey and enduring commitment to justice. Over the decades, the Court has evolved amidst profound societal changes, embracing reforms and innovations that continue to strengthen the judicial system.

Within the pages of this edition, readers will find an exclusive conversation with Mr Justice Hrishikesh Roy, offering invaluable insights into his judicial journey and reflections on decades of service. The issue also features the oath-taking ceremony of Mr Justice K Vinod Chandran upon his elevation to the Supreme Court.

Key events take centre stage, including the ceremonial bench of the Supreme Court and the Lokpal Day 2025. The newsletter also highlights a sampling of reported judgments from the month of January, significant Supreme Court initiatives, legal aid efforts and the monthly trainings. Further reinforcing the judiciary's commitment to community welfare, this edition also covers the Supreme Court's blood donation camp organised to mark the closure of Diamond Jubilee Year of the Supreme Court. Around **286** members of our staff volunteered for this noble cause extending the role of the Apex Institution beyond the courtroom.

Among other engaging offerings, the 'Beyond the Court' section focuses on three broad themes—International Day of Education, National Girl Child Day, and Republic Day—brought to life through the creative artistic contributions of Supreme Court staff.

As we move forward, the Supreme Court remains steadfast in upholding the Constitution while adapting to the evolving needs of modern society. We hope you find this edition insightful and engaging.

Happy Reading!

Sanjiv Khanna
Chief Justice of India

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief
Nilesh Kumar Kalbhor

Associate Editors
Iram Jan
Rituja Chouksey

Editor
Basima P

Designed by
Design Team
Editorial
Supreme Court of India

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

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

© Supreme Court of India, 2025

All rights are reserved

Contents

1. Fresh from the Bench
2. In Conversation with Justice Hrishikesh Roy
3. Lokpal Day 2025
4. Supreme Court Events and Initiatives
5. Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee
6. Programmes and Conferences
7. Legal Aid
8. Training Hub
9. Bar News Bulletin
10. Beyond the Court
11. Bid Adieu

Fresh from the Bench

Independent Sugar Corporation Ltd. vs Girish Sriram Juneja & Ors. (2025 INSC 124)

"Prior approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) under Section 31(4) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is mandatory before approval of a Resolution Plan by the Committee of Creditors (CoC)"

Coram: Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Sudhanshu Dhullia, and Justice SVN Bhatti

In the judgment dated **29 January 2025**, the Supreme Court set aside the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) decision, holding that prior approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) is mandatory before a Resolution Plan containing a combination under Section 5 of the Competition Act, 2002, is approved by the Committee of Creditors (CoC). These were statutory appeals under Section 62 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, against the NCLAT judgment concerning the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of Hindustan National Glass and Industries Ltd. (HNGIL). AGI Greenpac, the successful resolution applicant, secured CoC approval without prior CCI approval. The Appellant, Independent Sugar Corporation Ltd. (INSCO), challenged this, arguing that it violated Section 31(4) of the IBC. The NCLAT upheld the CoC approval, ruling that while CCI approval is necessary, its prior approval before CoC approval is directory, not mandatory.

The Court observed:

Justice Hrishikesh Roy (Majority Opinion)

- The plain language of Section 31(4) of the IBC mandates that prior approval of the CCI must be obtained before CoC approval.
- The legislative intent behind the proviso was to ensure that anti-competitive effects of combinations are addressed before creditors approve a Resolution Plan.
- Allowing CoC approval before CCI clearance would create uncertainty, as modifications or rejections by CCI could disrupt the insolvency process.
- Harmonising IBC with the Competition Act is crucial, and procedural expediency should not override statutory requirements protecting market competition.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhullia (Majority Opinion)

- The IBC's framework requires strict compliance with all statutory provisions, and Section 31(4) sets a clear precondition for CCI approval before CoC approval.
- CoC's commercial wisdom should be exercised based on a fully compliant plan, not a conditional one awaiting regulatory clearance.
- The CIRP timeline argument is weak, as regulatory scrutiny under the Competition Act is necessary to prevent monopolistic control and market distortions.
- Ignoring prior approval would defeat the purpose of competition law safeguards and potentially lead to flawed resolutions that violate public interest.

Justice SVN Bhatti (Dissenting Opinion)

- Section 31(4) should be interpreted purposively rather than literally, considering the IBC's objective of time-bound insolvency resolution.
- Delaying CoC approval until CCI clearance could create procedural bottlenecks, undermining the efficiency of the CIRP framework.
- The legislature did not specify consequences for non-compliance, indicating that prior CCI approval was intended as a procedural guideline, not a mandatory condition.
- The CoC, as a body of financial experts, should have the flexibility to approve Resolution Plans conditionally, with subsequent compliance monitored by regulators.

The Supreme Court allowed the appeal, holding that the CoC's approval of AGI Greenpac's Resolution Plan was void due to the absence of prior CCI approval. The matter was remanded for fresh consideration, directing strict compliance with Section 31(4) of the IBC.

Tanvi Behl vs Shrey Goel & Ors.
2025 INSC 125

"Residence-based reservation in Post Graduate (PG) Medical Courses is unconstitutional and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution"

Coram: Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, and Justice SVN Bhatti

In the judgment dated **29 January 2025**, the Supreme Court of India struck down the residence-based reservation for PG Medical Courses in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, declaring it unconstitutional. The Court held that the reservation of PG seats based on domicile criteria violated Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law. The appeal was filed against the admission policy of Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh, which reserved 32 out of 64 state quota seats for UT Chandigarh residents. The Court observed:

- Merit-based selection must prevail in PG Medical admissions, as held in *Dr Pradeep Jain vs Union of India* (1984) and *Saurabh Chaudri vs Union of India* (2003). Unlike MBBS courses, where some residence-based reservations are permissible, PG courses require the selection of the best candidates at a national level.
- Domicile in India is singular, and the Constitution does not recognise separate state-wise domiciles. A state cannot impose residence-based reservations in higher education under the guise of domicile preference.
- Institutional preference for students from the same medical college is permissible, but broader residence-based quotas undermine national integration and equality.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia reasoned that residence-based quotas at the PG level unjustifiably discriminate against non-residents, violating Article 14. Justice Hrishikesh Roy emphasised that the Constitution permits only one domicile—India—and that state-wise reservations contradict this principle. Justice SVN Bhatti held that while institutional preference could

be maintained to a limited extent, residence-based reservations dilute academic excellence and compromise healthcare standards. The Court ruled that residence-based reservations in PG Medical Courses are unconstitutional. It upheld institutional preference but struck down Chandigarh's UT Pool quota, directing that all such seats be filled based on merit in the NEET examination. However, to prevent undue hardship, students already admitted under interim orders were allowed to continue their courses.

Jyostnamayee Mishra vs The State of Odisha & Ors. (2025 INSC 87)

"Past illegal promotions do not create a legal right to claim similar benefits, as the principle of negative equality prohibits repetition of wrongful acts"

Coram: Justice J K Maheshwari and Justice Rajesh Bindal

In the judgment dated **20 January 2025**, the Supreme Court dismissed the Special Leave Petition filed by Jyostnamayee Mishra challenging the Odisha High Court's order, which had set aside the Orissa Administrative Tribunal's directive to promote her as a Tracer. The Court held that a vacancy meant for direct recruitment cannot be filled by promotion, and due process must be followed in public employment.

The petitioner, appointed as a Peon in 1978, sought promotion to the post of Tracer, citing previous promotions of similarly placed employees. Her application for appointment as Tracer was rejected in 1999 as the post was to be filled by direct recruitment. She filed multiple cases before the Orissa Administrative Tribunal, which in 2016 directed her promotion. The State challenged the Tribunal's decision in the Orissa High Court, which set aside the promotion order, citing recruitment rules.

The Court observed:

- The casualness of the State authorities, which failed to produce the correct statutory rules at various stages, leading to multiple rounds of litigation. The Court emphasised that litigation could have been avoided had the State properly defended its case before the Tribunal and the High Court.

- The recruitment to public posts must strictly follow statutory rules and that administrative actions cannot override such rules.

- The petitioner cited past instances where similarly placed Peons were promoted as Tracers. However, the Court ruled that illegal promotions in the past do not create a legal right to claim similar benefits (*R Muthukumar vs TANGEDCO*, 2022). The principle of negative equality applies—wrongful acts do not justify further wrongful acts.

- Past instances of irregular promotions cannot create a right to demand illegal appointments under Article 14 of the Constitution (negative equality doctrine). The Court clarified that promotion is not a fundamental right, and employees can only seek promotion if the rules provide for it. Since the post of Tracer is to be filled through direct recruitment, the

petitioner had no enforceable legal right to claim appointment.

The Supreme Court upheld the High Court's decision, ruling that the petitioner had no right to seek promotion to a post reserved for direct recruitment. The petition was dismissed, and a copy of the judgment was sent to the Chief Secretary, State of Odisha, for corrective action.

Vimal Babu Dhumadiya & Ors. vs The State Of Maharashtra & Ors. (2025 INSC 77)

"A writ petition under Article 32 cannot be used to challenge a High Court judgment when alternative remedies are available"

Coram: Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sanjay Karol, and Justice Sandeep Mehta

In the judgment dated **17 January 2025**, the Supreme Court dismissed the writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution by Vimal Babu Dhumadiya and others, seeking to declare a Bombay High Court judgment illegal and to restrain state authorities from interfering with their property. The Court held that the appropriate remedy was to seek recall of the High Court order or file a petition under Article 136 before the Supreme Court.

The petitioners owned apartments allegedly built on government land. The Bombay High Court, in a judgment dated 25 July 2024, dismissed their writ petition regarding ownership rights. Their Special Leave Petition against the High Court's decision was dismissed by the Supreme Court on 20 December 2024. The petitioners filed an Article 32 petition seeking to declare the High Court judgment illegal, direct a property survey, and restrain authorities from interfering with their possession.

The Court observed:

- A writ petition under Article 32 cannot be used to challenge a High Court decision, as it is not a substitute for the appellate process.
- If the petitioners were not heard before the High Court, they should have filed a recall application before the same court or challenged the decision under Article 136 (Special Leave Petition).
- Since the SLP was already dismissed, the petitioners could not invoke Article 32 to re-agitate the same issue.
- The proper course for determining ownership and regularisation was to approach the competent authorities and not seek intervention through a constitutional writ.

The Supreme Court dismissed the writ petition, affirming that Article 32 is not an alternative to the appellate process. However, it allowed the petitioners to pursue available legal remedies.

Rina Kumari vs Dinesh Kumar Mahto & Anr.
(2025 INSC 55)

"A wife's refusal to return to the matrimonial home despite a decree for restitution of conjugal rights does not automatically disentitle her to maintenance under Section 125(4) of the CrPC if there are sufficient reasons for her refusal"

Coram: Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar

In the judgment dated **10 January 2025**, the Supreme Court allowed the appeal filed by Rina Kumari and set aside the judgment of the Jharkhand High Court that had denied her maintenance. The Court restored the maintenance order granted by the Family Court, Dhanbad, under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

The appellant and respondent were married in 2014 but separated in 2015. Respondent filed a suit for restitution of conjugal rights in 2018, which was decreed in his favour in 2022. Appellant did not comply with the decree, citing mistreatment and demands for dowry. Appellant filed for maintenance under Section 125 CrPC, which was granted by the Family Court at ₹10,000 per month. However, the High Court denied her maintenance under Section 125(4) CrPC, relying on the restitution decree.

The Court observed:

- Section 125 CrPC is a measure of social justice intended to prevent destitution. It must be construed liberally to protect the wife's dignity and financial security.
- A decree for restitution of conjugal rights does not automatically negate a wife's entitlement to maintenance unless her refusal to live with her husband is without reasonable cause.
- The evidence showed that Rina had sufficient reasons to stay away from her husband, including mental cruelty, dowry demands, and lack of proper facilities in the matrimonial home.

The Supreme Court held that Rina's refusal to return to her matrimonial home was justified and did not attract the disqualification under Section 125(4) CrPC. It restored the Family Court's order directing Dinesh to pay ₹10,000 per month in maintenance from the date of the application.

Ram Pyarey vs The State of Uttar Pradesh
(2025 INSC 71)

"Presumption of abetment under Section 113A of the Evidence Act cannot be invoked without credible evidence of cruelty or harassment"

Coram: Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan

In order dated **9 January 2025**, the Supreme Court allowed the appeal filed by the appellant, Ram Pyarey, and set aside his conviction under Sections 306 (abetment of suicide) and 498-A (cruelty by husband or relatives) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Court found that there was no credible evidence to support the claim that the appellant, who was the deceased's brother-

in-law, had harassed or abetted the deceased in committing suicide. The Court observed:

- For a presumption of abetment under Section 113A of the Evidence Act, credible evidence of cruelty or harassment is essential. Mere familial relationship or proximity to the deceased does not justify invoking the presumption of abetment.
- Sections 113A (presumption of abetment of suicide) and 113B (presumption of dowry death) of the Evidence Act serve distinct purposes. Section 113A gives discretion to the Court to presume abetment when there is evidence of cruelty, while Section 113B mandates a presumption of guilt in cases of dowry death.
- The Supreme Court held that in this case, the trial court and High Court had placed undue reliance on Section 113A without substantive evidence of harassment or cruelty on the part of the appellant.
- The law regarding abetment of suicide, as per Section 306 IPC, requires clear proof of instigation or aiding the act, which was absent in this case.

The appellant, being the deceased's brother-in-law, could not be held liable merely on account of his relationship with the deceased, especially in the absence of evidence suggesting that he directly or indirectly instigated the suicide. The Supreme Court allowed the appeal and acquitted the appellant of all charges.

Om Prakash @ Israel @ Raju @ Raju Das vs State of Uttarakhand (2025 INSC 43)

"The plea of juvenility can be raised at any stage of the case and must be duly considered according to procedure of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015"

Coram: Justice MM Sundresh and Justice Aravind Kumar

In the judgment dated **8 January 2025**, the Supreme Court directed the release of the Appellant after determining that he was a juvenile at the time of the offense. The Court highlighted that the plea of juvenility can be raised at any stage and faulted the High Court for not addressing it adequately. New evidence, including school certificates and ossification tests, established the Appellant's age as 14 at the time, overturning prior decisions based on insufficient evidence. The trial court and subsequent appeals had relied on other documents, leading to a death sentence that was later commuted to life imprisonment by a Presidential Order in 2012. The Court set aside the sentence exceeding limits under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and directed his release and rehabilitation, upholding his rights under Article 21. The Court directed the appellant's release and rehabilitation, recognising his rights under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court observed:

- The plea of juvenility can be raised at any stage and must be addressed in compliance with the procedural mandates of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- Decisions not adhering to Section 9(2) are not final, allowing re-examination of juvenility even after previous dismissals or procedural lapses.
- Priority is given to matriculation certificates, school records, and municipal birth

certificates, in that order. In their absence, medical opinion can be sought, with the benefit of the doubt extended to juveniles.

- Section 94(2) of the 2015 Act requires age determination to be completed within 15 days, with the findings treated as conclusive.

Abdul Nassar vs State of Kerala (2025 INSC 35)

"The chain of circumstantial evidence must be complete and conclusively establish the guilt of the accused"

Coram: Justice BR Gavai, Justice KV Viswanathan, and Justice Sandeep Mehta

In the judgment dated **7 January 2025**, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeals filed by Abdul Nassar against his conviction under Sections 302 (murder) and 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The High Court of Kerala had confirmed his death sentence. Although the appellant passed away during the pendency of the appeal, the case continued under Section 394 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, on the request of his legal heirs.

The case involved the rape and murder of a 9-year-old girl by the accused. The victim's body was discovered in the bathroom of the accused's house after a search. The medical report showed evidence of sexual assault and strangulation. Forensic evidence, including DNA analysis, matched the accused with the crime.

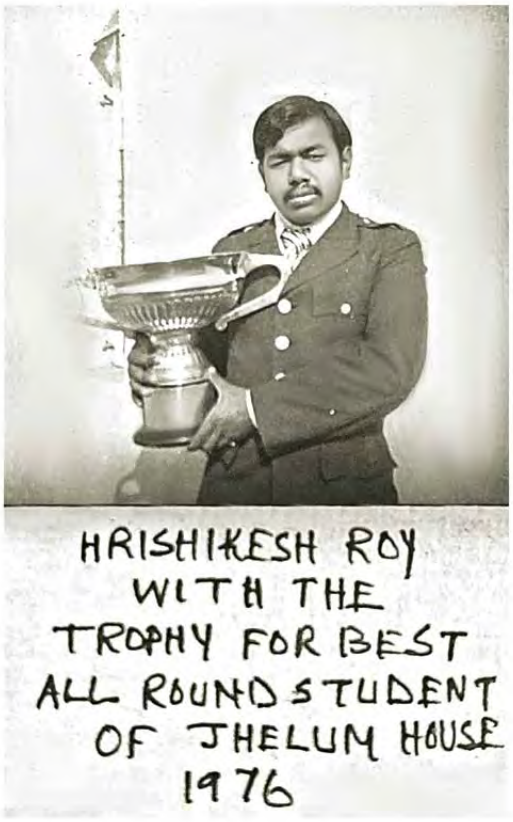
The Court reiterated that in cases based on circumstantial evidence, the chain of events must conclusively point to the guilt of the accused and exclude all other possibilities, as per the principles laid down in *Sharad Birdhichand Sarda vs State of Maharashtra* (1984). It upheld the admissibility of DNA evidence under Section 45 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and found the prosecution had proved the case beyond reasonable doubt. The Supreme Court explained the principles that the courts must adhere to certain principles while appreciating and evaluating evidence in cases based on circumstantial evidence, as follows:

- Each prosecution and defense witness's testimony must be meticulously analysed in its entirety to ensure no material aspect is overlooked.
- Circumstantial evidence must rely on reasonable inferences explicitly drawn from the testimony of witnesses.
- All links in the chain of evidence should be examined individually and collectively to ensure they form an unbroken chain that points only to the guilt of the accused.
- The judgment must clearly explain the rationale for accepting or rejecting evidence, showing how each piece contributes to the conclusion of guilt.
- The finding of guilt must be based on a careful evaluation of whether the circumstances exclude all other reasonable hypotheses.

The crime in the present case was categorised under the "rarest of rare" doctrine, justifying the death sentence and the Supreme Court found the evidence sufficient to uphold the conviction. However, the question of execution of the death sentence was rendered moot due to the appellant's death.

In Conversation with
Justice Hrishikesh Roy

Supreme Court Chronicle proudly presents a tribute to Justice Hrishikesh Roy, a distinguished Supreme Court judge known for his legal acumen, judicial reforms, and commitment to access to justice. His illustrious career has been a testament to fairness, innovation, and service to the judiciary.



Born on 1st February 1960, Justice Roy earned his LL.B. from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, in 1982. His legal journey gained momentum when he was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court in 2004. Sworn in as an Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court in 2006, he became a permanent judge in 2008. His tenure was marked by pioneering legal aid initiatives, including the 'Reach Out and Respond' programme for marginalised communities and films like ***Shako (Bridge)*** and ***Apne Ajnabi,*** which raised awareness about mediation and racial prejudice.

Elevated as the 35th Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court in 2018, he championed judicial efficiency and progressive legal policies. His appointment to the Supreme Court on 23rd September 2019 saw him shaping landmark rulings and driving judicial reforms. As the Executive Head of Assam's Legal Services Authority, he revolutionised legal outreach, ensuring justice reached the most vulnerable.

As he retires on 31st January 2025, Justice Roy leaves an enduring legacy of judicial excellence, legal innovation, and unwavering dedication to justice—an inspiration for generations to come. Justice Roy in an exclusive interview with the team of Supreme Court Chronicle answered some questions fulfilling the wishes of the readers to know more about his journey:

Q: Sir, could you tell us about your childhood and what inspired you to pursue a career in law?

A: I come from Assam, a state that is still developing in many ways. I wouldn't say there was a particular individual who inspired me, but my desire to become a lawyer was deeply ingrained from childhood. There was no legal background in my family, yet I always knew that law was my calling. In school, I participated in debates, and classmates would often write in autograph books that they saw me becoming a lawyer one day. Perhaps, subconsciously, such comments reinforced my inclination toward this profession. But ultimately, the drive was internal, and I followed it without external influence.

Q: You have been actively involved in outreach programmes. Could you elaborate on your vision behind them?

A: Having studied in a vernacular medium school in rural Assam, I experienced firsthand the challenges of inadequate educational resources. My father, a government servant, encouraged me to apply for a merit scholarship examination by the Ministry of Education, which allowed me to study at Delhi Public School, Mathura Road. From that point on, my path to law was set.

Later, as a judge, I became acutely aware of the legal awareness gap in underdeveloped regions, particularly in the Northeast. Many people were unaware of their legal rights and entitlements. I realised that merely offering legal aid was not sufficient—there was a need for proactive outreach. The cultural fabric of the Northeast fosters a certain hesitation in seeking help. The Assamese word "ho-hari" conveys not just "response" but also "reaching out", which became the foundation of the "Reach Out and Respond" initiative. Through this, we facilitated legal aid for amputees, educational support for students in need, and relief programmes for widows and others in distress. These efforts have been some of the most fulfilling aspects of my career.

Q: Under your leadership, creative initiatives like legal awareness films "Shako" and "Apne Ajnabi" were produced. What inspired this approach?

A: My interest in theater dates back to my college days at Kirorimal College, Delhi University, where I was part of the theater group "Players." Additionally, my brother, an alumnus of the National School of Drama and the Film Institute, played a role in deepening my engagement with performing arts. As head of the Legal Services Authority in Arunachal Pradesh, I noticed that people from the Northeast often faced racial discrimination in metropolitan cities. They were frequently subjected to offensive stereotypes and derogatory remarks. I realised that while legal seminars and lectures had their place, a more impactful approach was needed to reach people effectively. That's when I decided to use films as a medium for awareness. "Apne Ajnabi" depicted the struggles of Northeast Indians facing bias and discrimination, while "Haku"—meaning 'bridge' in Assamese—illustrated the role of mediation in legal services. These films have since been adopted as training modules in judicial academies and courts. I was particularly gratified when "Haku" was screened at the Delhi High Court judges' retreat and at the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal. It reaffirmed my belief that creative approaches can make legal literacy more accessible.



Q: Sir, you were tenured as the Chief Justice of Kerala before being elevated to the Supreme Court. Coming from the Northeast and being accustomed to Delhi culture, what were your significant experiences in Kerala?

A: When I was appointed as Chief Justice of Kerala, it was a significant transition—both geographically and culturally—but when the Chief Justice asks, you always say yes.

Kerala was an unforgettable experience. The quality of the bar there is among the finest in the country. Even lawyers from mofussil courts who appeared before the High Court were exceptionally well-prepared. One defining memory from my tenure was witnessing the



resilience and unity of the judiciary during the 2018 Kerala floods. As Chief Justice, I could offer only moral support, but my judges and lawyers took immediate action. Every afternoon, after court sessions, they gathered in the High Court lounge, sorting and packaging relief materials coming from across the country, including Delhi. I saw lady judges sitting on the floor, packing supplies—something truly remarkable. The Malayalees, known for their meticulous legal approach, set aside all disputes and stood together in the face of calamity.

Kerala also introduced me to unique legal challenges. Coming from Guwahati, a landlocked region, I had little exposure to maritime litigation. In Kerala, I dealt with cases involving port regulations, customs laws, and other aspects of coastal legal disputes. Additionally, religious litigation, particularly involving Christian factions, was complex and burdensome. These cases often escalated to the Supreme Court annually. Since I had taken firm stances on certain matters, I chose not to engage with them later when they resurfaced. Despite these challenges, my tenure in Kerala was one of immense professional growth, and I hold deep affection for the judges and lawyers I worked with there.

Q: After spending significant time in Delhi, what was it like returning to Assam and resuming your practice?

A: That's a very interesting question, and it takes me back to my early years as a lawyer in Assam. The region was deeply disturbed at the time, with numerous detentions and widespread unrest. In those days, lawyers, engineers—everyone who could help—was contributing in some way. Given the indiscriminate use of detention laws, habeas corpus petitions and other related cases were overwhelming the courts. A large portion of my work was pro bono, as many of my clients couldn't afford legal fees. At times, I even had to request my clerk to waive his fee for particular cases. This period of relentless legal aid work profoundly shaped my perspective and later influenced my approach to the Reach Out and Respond programme when I became a judge.

As my work gained visibility, more and more people started referring cases to me, regardless

of financial considerations. Interestingly, this also drew the attention of journalists who would come to court seeking legal stories. Since there were no dedicated legal reporters back then, I frequently found myself answering their queries. Eventually, I was appointed as the legal rapporteur for The Assam Tribune and later for PTI (Press Trust of India). Balancing legal practice with legal journalism was a unique and enriching experience, and it remains an interesting chapter of my journey.

Q: Sir, through different phases of life, who have been the key personalities that inspired you?

A: Undoubtedly, my senior, Mr J P Bhattacharjee, played a pivotal role in shaping my career. When I had to relocate to Guwahati after my father's passing, I had no legal connections. By then, I had witnessed some of the finest lawyers in the country—Palkiwala, Parasaran, Siddharth Shankar Ray, and Ashok Sen—argue in the Supreme Court. But in Guwahati, I had to find my own mentor. I spent days observing different lawyers in court, following them from one hearing to another, and eventually decided that J P Bhattacharjee was the senior I wanted to learn from. He was an exceptional lawyer, capable of holding his own against any legal mind in Delhi. His chamber, though modest in size, produced four Supreme Court judges, including former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justice Amitava Roy, myself, and Dr Mukundakam, along with several High Court judges, Solicitor Generals, and senior advocates. That in itself speaks volumes about his mentorship.

One anecdote that illustrates his stature: ***On his birthday, we juniors decided to present him with a plaque. During a visit to Delhi, I came across a shop near Regal Cinema in Connaught Place that made custom plaques. Inspired by a famous sign on a U.S. President's desk, I had one made for him that read, The Buck Stops Here. In Guwahati's legal circles, if a lawyer had a problem, the final stop was always J P Bhattacharjee's desk. No matter how complex the case, he would resolve it. Presenting that plaque was our way of acknowledging his immense influence and the trust the legal community placed in him. He remains, without a doubt, the most inspiring figure in my legal journey.***

Q: What advice would you give to young lawyers and judges?

A: ***Young lawyers today are far smarter and more resourceful than we were. However, intelligence alone is not enough—hard work remains an essential ingredient for success. Lord Denning once said that law is fundamentally about communication, whether in drafting petitions or making oral submissions before a court. Effective communication is key, and the only way to develop it is by enriching one's vocabulary and honing the ability to emphasise key arguments while moderating others. This skill can only be acquired through extensive reading—not just of legal materials but of diverse literature.***

I would reiterate that intelligence alone doesn't make a great lawyer. Hard work and communication skills are just as critical. A strong vocabulary and structured articulation are key to effective advocacy, and the best way to develop them is through extensive reading, not just of legal texts but of diverse literature. Young lawyers should also cultivate the ability to anticipate counterarguments, a skill my mentor emphasised.

Q: What was the biggest shift from being a lawyer to a judge?

A: For a serious lawyer, the transition is not as drastic as it seems. As an advocate, I was trained to anticipate both sides of a case, which is a judge's primary responsibility. However, the real shift is in the burden of decision-making. A lawyer's task ends after presenting arguments, but a judge's job begins there—analysing,



researching, and crafting judgments. The responsibility is immense.

Justice B Sudarshan Reddy, then Chief Justice of Guwahati, once invited me for tea and told me he wanted to make me a judge. My immediate response was that I was not interested. At the time, I was thriving as a senior lawyer, having received my senior designation in 2004. I handled high-profile cases, often arguing against eminent lawyers like Soli Sorabjee and Ashok Sen. I was deeply engaged in my practice and was also involved in pro bono work. At that point, I saw no reason to shift from advocacy to the bench. Additionally, I was deeply involved in the Guwahati Music Society, where we were working to promote Western classical music, which didn't have much presence compared to Indian classical traditions. One of our initiatives was bringing the Shillong Chamber Choir to Guwahati for their first performance outside Shillong at Don Bosco Auditorium. As the society's president, I was responsible for organising, managing logistics, and even compering the show. That performance was a turning point for them—they later embraced fusion music, won India's Got Talent, and performed for global leaders like President Obama and the Indian Prime Minister. Despite my initial hesitation, Justice Reddy was persistent. After several months, I eventually agreed. Looking back, I realise he understood me better than I did myself. I initially saw myself as a lawyer meant to fight cases, but once I joined the bench, I quickly realised that I fit into the role of a judge quite well. Within weeks, after the initial transition phase, ***I knew that this was where I belonged***.

Q: With your retirement tomorrow, what are your future plans?

A: I have declined post-retirement government assignments because I wish to return to an ordinary life. I plan to stay in Delhi with my daughters while continuing some professional work, such as arbitration and legal opinions. I have recently taken up golfing, and I intend to pursue it alongside academic engagements and occasional lectures.





16 January 2025, Chief Justice of India, Mr Sanjiv Khanna, Justice AM Khanwilkar (Retd.), Chairperson, Lokpal, Justice Sanjay Yadav, Justice L N Swamy, Members, Lokpal, Mr R Venkataramani, Attorney General for India at the Foundation Day of the Lokpal of India at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

Lokpal Day 2025

The Lokpal of India celebrated its first-ever Foundation Day on 16 January 2025 at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. This date marks the establishment of the Lokpal, following the enforcement of Section 3 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, which came into effect on January 16, 2014. The event was graced by Chief Justice of India, Mr Sanjiv Khanna, along with Justice AM Khanwilkar, Chairperson, Lokpal, Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

The Lokpal of India is an independent statutory body established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, acting as an anti-corruption ombudsman at the national level, responsible for investigating allegations of corruption against public functionaries in the Indian government; essentially, it is a "people's protector" against corruption, with the power to inquire into and prosecute corrupt officials.

Chief Justice of India, Mr Sanjiv Khanna, on the occasion highlighted the transformative role of institutions like the Lokpal in combating corruption and fostering public trust. He emphasised that the fight against corruption is not merely about punishing the guilty but about restoring faith in democracy and ensuring equitable access to justice and public services for all citizens. Highlighting the dynamic nature of democracy, he stressed the need for strong "referee institutions," including the judiciary, legislature, executive, media, and independent bodies like the Election Commission and Central Vigilance

16 January 2025
Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, gives an inaugural address on the occasion of the foundation day of Lokpal at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi



Commission. He described the Lokpal, as an anti-corruption watchdog, as a beacon of hope for ethical governance, accountability, and transparency and urged citizens to actively engage with anti-corruption mechanisms to strengthen the nation's democratic foundations.



16 January 2025, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Judges of the Supreme Court including Justice B R Gavai, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Sanjay Karol, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice Aravind Kumar, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, and Justice P B Varale along with Justice A M Khanwilkar (Retd.), Chairperson, Lokpal and Mr R Venkataramani, Attorney General for India at the Foundation Day of the Lokpal of India at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

Supreme Court Events and Initiatives

Oath-Taking Ceremony



On 16 January 2025, **Justice K Vinod Chandran** took oath as the Supreme Court judge after his elevation to the Apex Court. Born in 1963 at North Paravur, Kerala, Justice Chandran obtained his law degree from Kerala Law Academy Law College, Thiruvananthapuram, and began practicing in 1991. He served as Special Government Pleader (Taxes) for the Government of Kerala from 2007 to 2011. On 8 November 2011, Justice Chandran was appointed as the Additional Judge of the Kerala High Court and was later appointed as the Permanent Judge on 24 June 2013. Justice Chandran was elevated as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court in 2023, while taking his oath on 29 March. Justice Chandran became the **32nd Judge** of the Supreme Court and his tenure in the Apex Court would last till 24 April 2028.

Blood Donation Camp

28 January 2025, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah,and Justice K V Viswanathan during Blood Donation Camp at Supreme Court of India



The Medical Branch of the Supreme Court Registry, in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, organised a blood donation camp on 28 January 2025, at the Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India in the presence of the judges of the Supreme Court.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice of India, lauded the initiative, held as part of the celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the Supreme Court. He highlighted that blood donation is among the noblest acts of service that an individual can contribute to society. The Chief Justice also extended heartfelt appreciation to all the donors participating in this commendable drive.

A total of **286** individuals, including Registrars and staff members of the Supreme Court, registered for the camp, demonstrating an overwhelming spirit of social service.



28 January 2025, the officers, officials and staff of the Supreme Court Registry volunteer for blood donation at Supreme Court of India

Ceremonial Bench

Commemorating 75 Years of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India was established on January 28, 1950, following the enactment of the Indian Constitution. However, it was officially inaugurated two days later, on January 30, marking a historic moment in India's judicial history. The inauguration took place in the Chamber of Princes in the old Parliament building, where the Federal Court of India had functioned from 1937 to 1950. For its initial years, the Supreme Court operated from the old Parliament House before moving to its iconic building on Tilak Marg, New Delhi, in 1958. This grand structure, inaugurated by India's first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad, on August 4, 1958, has since stood as a symbol of justice and the rule of law. A similar ceremonial bench was constituted in the year 2000, when the Supreme Court celebrated its golden jubilee, commemorating 50 years of upholding constitutional values and delivering justice to the nation.

Last year on 28 January 2024, Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi had inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebrations at the Supreme Court auditorium. Now, as the Supreme Court marked 75 years on 28 January 2025, a ceremonial bench, comprising all 33 judges was held. In the closing ceremony of the 75th anniversary, the Chief Justice of India, Mr Sanjiv Khanna remarked that,

> ***'While the Court has made significant strides in rights and reach, three key challenges persist: backlog of cases delaying justice, rising litigation costs affecting accessibility, and the threat of falsehood undermining justice. Addressing these issues is essential for the continued advancement of justice.'***



28 January 2025, the Ceremonial Bench gathers to mark the closure of Diamond Jubilee Year of the Supreme Court of India

Glimpses of Republic Day



26 January 2025, Chief Justice of India, Mr Sanjiv Khanna unfurls the Flag in presence of his wife, and officials of the Registry, at official residence of the Chief Justice



26 January 2025, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna along with officials of the Registry during the 76th Republic Day celebration, at official residence of the Chief Justice

Observing Martyrs' Day



30 January 2025, the Chief Justice of India and the Supreme Court Judges in their respective courts observe two minutes silence in the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for India's freedom



30 January 2025, the Supreme Court Staff at the Administrative Buildings Complex also observe two minutes silence to mark the day

Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee

Keeping in view the legislative mandate and the spirit of Section 89 of Code of Civil Procedure, the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) was constituted by the Supreme Court of India to oversee the effective implementation of Mediation and Conciliation in the country. Justice RC Lahoti, the then Chief Justice of India, by an Administrative Order, set up the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee on 9 April 2005, under the Chairmanship of Justice N Santosh Hegde.

MCPC plays a fundamental role in the field of mediation by shaping advocates, judicial officers to be mediators by providing regular Mediation training.

Training Programmes conducted under the aegis of the MCPC are given here as under:

- 40hrs Mediation Training Programme (40 hrs MTP)
- 20hrs Refresher Programme
- Advanced Course (Capsule Course)
- Training of Trainers (TOT)
- Awareness Programme
- Referral Judges Training Programme
- Advanced Training Skills for Potential Trainers Programme
- Course on Developing Advanced Training Skills for Potential Trainers Programme
- 5 Day Intensive Training Programme for Potential Trainers

In the month of January, 2025, 18 Forty Hours Mediation Training Programmes and 01 One Day Referral Judges Training Programme have been conducted under the aegis of the MCPC, Supreme Court of India, the breakup of which is given here as under:

40HRS MTP:

ANDHRA PRADESH (15)
TELANGANA (03)

ONE DAY REFERRAL JUDGES TRAINING PROGRAMME:
ODISHA (01)

In addition to the above training, Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) in collaboration with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been conducting a 40 hrs Mediation Training Programme in Hybrid Mode for the advocates, the training of which started with effect from 23 December 2024.

Programmes and Conferences





31 January 2025, Justice M M Sundresh delivers a lecture on the topic 'Majesty and Fall of Ravanan' in the function organised by Tamil Advocates' Literary Society, ILI, Delhi





25 January 2025, Justice Surya Kant delivers a lecture on 'Court Craft and Trial Process for Effective Prosecution' during the induction course for the Law Officers, at the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Training Academy, Ghaziabad





25 January 2025, Justice M M Sundresh attends the felicitation function in the honour Mr AK Mylsamy, Senior Advocate, at Chennai



19 January 2025,
Justice Pankaj Mithal addresses the gathering at the 'Finals & Award Ceremony' of the First Kho Kho World Cup at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi

18 January 2025,
Justice Surya Kant and Justice Sandeep Mehta, along with Justice M M Shrivastava, Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court, release a special issue of NLUJ Law Review at Vice-Chancellors' Conclave-2025, NLU, Jodhpur





18 January 2025, Justice Surya Kant and Justice Sandeep Mehta, along with Justice M M Shrivastava, Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court attend the inaugural ceremony of Vice-Chancellors' Conclave on 'The Future of Legal Education in India' conducted by NLU, Jodhpur





18 January 2025, Justice Bela M Trivedi, Chief Guest, participates at the inaugural ceremony of 'Mr I M Nanavati Memorial Moot Court Competition 2024-25' at the Faculty of Law, GLS University, Ahmedabad





18 January 2025, Justice P S Narasimha delivers inaugural speech and addresses the panel during Session I of the National Judicial Academy - South Zone-II Regional Conference on 'Court Dockets: Explosion and Exclusion' at Visakhapatnam





12 January 2025, Justice P S Narasimha interacts with students of Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam at DSNLU



6 January 2025,
Justice N Kotiswar at the felicitation
event organised by All India Senior Advocates Association at the Constitutional Club,
New Delhi

4 January 2025,
Justice Surya Kant, Justice Pankaj Mithal, along with Justice Ranjan Gogoi (former Chief Justice of India) attend the Pandit Kahnaiya Lal Misra Memorial Lecture on 'Scope and need for judicial reforms in the context of the present problems facing the judicial system' at High Court Convention Hall, Drummond Road, Prayagraj





Justice K V Viswanathan at the book release function of 'Of Petals and Fragrance in the Flower of Justice' at Hotel Taj City Centre, Patna

Legal Aid



On 3 January 2025, Justice BR Gavai, Executive Chairman of NALSA, launched "Connecting with the Cause," a nationwide competition inviting law college students to create reels and short films that showcase NALSA schemes. The following day in Jaipur, he unveiled the RSLSA logo and badges for PLVs (Adhikar Mitra). He also introduced the "Nyay Ro Sarthi" newspaper initiative along with a monthly scholarship for specially abled children.

Later, on 18 January 2025, he inaugurated the new UPSLSA office building in Lucknow, with High Courts judges in attendance—visited exhibition stalls displaying products made by jail inmates, and launched a One-Day Sensitisation Programme and the UPSLSA Compendium of SOPs at the Judicial Training and Research Institute, praising UPSLSA's commendable efforts throughout these initiatives.



18 January 2025, Justice B R Gavai inaugurates the office building of the Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (UPSLSA) in presence of Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India, along with Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court, Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court and other Judges of the Allahabad High Court at Lucknow



18 January 2025, Justice B R Gavai inaugurates a 'One-Day Sensitisation Programme' for judicial officers and other stakeholders and launches 'Compendium of SOPs,' a publication by UPSLSA at the Judicial Training and Research Institute (JTRI), Lucknow





4 January 2025, Justice B R Gavai, Executive Chairman, NALSA, along with Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court, Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court and Justice Pankaj Bhandari, Judge, Rajasthan High Court unveil 'Adhikar Mitra'—Logo of Rajasthan High Court at the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) and Badges for PLVs, 'Nyay Ro Sarthi'—periodic newspaper, RSLSA at Jodhpur

Training Hub

Between 13 January and 25 January 2025, the Indian Navy conducted a comprehensive training programme for 40 newly recruited Junior Court Attendants (Cooking Knowing) at INS Hamla, Malad, Mumbai. This initiative aimed to equip the attendants with essential culinary skills through a combination of extensive theoretical instruction and hands-on practical training.

The programme was attended by the Registrar (Human Resources) of the Supreme Court of India, Mr Pradip Y Ladekar, along with senior Naval officers, including Captain Varun Prakash, Commander Nidhi Satish Shah, and Lieutenant Commander Deepak Punia. Under the guidance of experienced trainers, the participants received specialised instruction in various aspects of professional cooking, kitchen management, hygiene standards, and food safety protocols. Live demonstrations and interactive sessions were integral parts of the training, ensuring that the attendants gained both technical expertise and practical experience. The programme concluded on 21 January 2025, where Commodore Sankardeep Bharali presented a memento to Mr Ladekar as a token of appreciation for his support.





13-25 January 2025, Mr Pradip Y Ladekar, Registrar (Human Resources) at the comprehensive training programme for 40 newly recruited Junior Court Attendants (cooking knowing) at INS Hamla, Malad, Mumbai





10 January 2025, Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, OSD (Registrar), e-Committee, delivers a lecture on 'The Management of Courts – An Art of Fastening Justice through Technology,' during an interactive training program for the Law Clerks-cum-Research Associates of the Supreme Court's Centre for Research and Planning

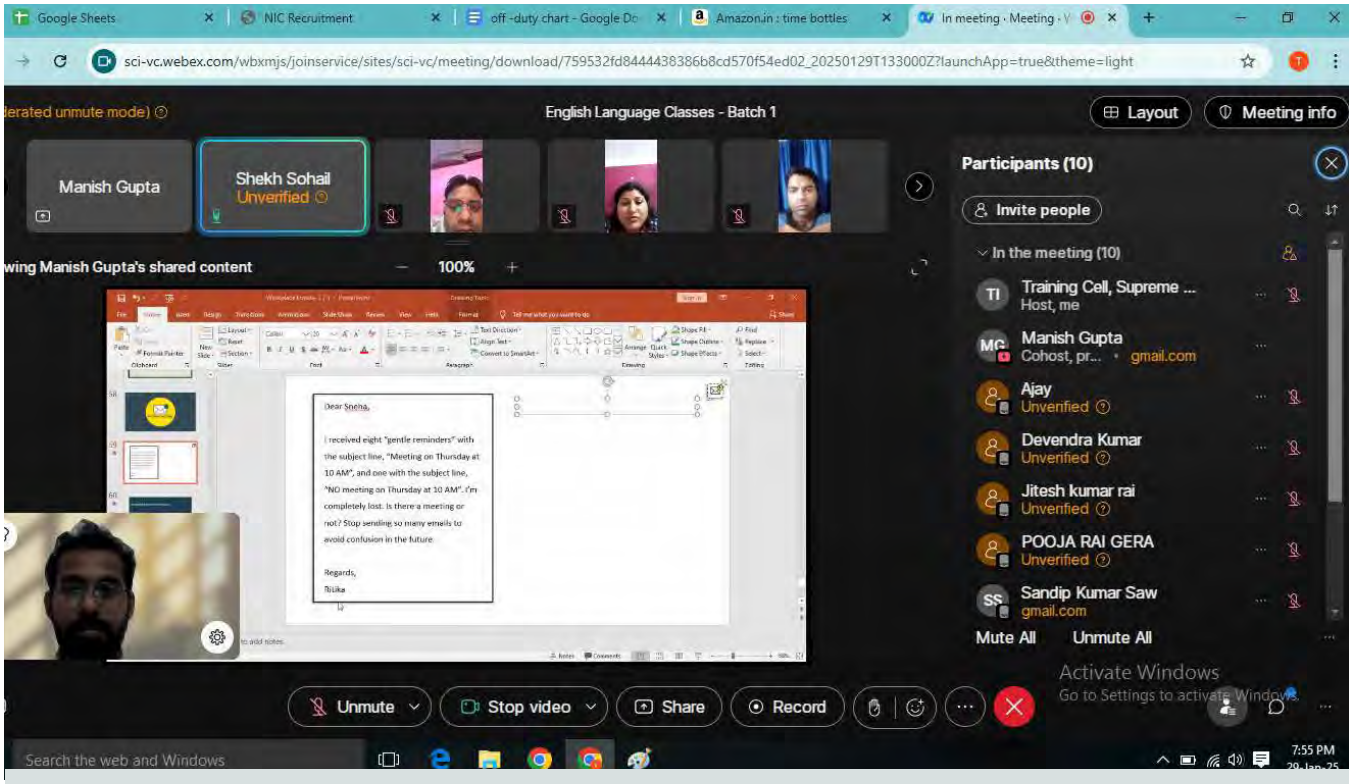
Between 7-8 January 2025 and 23-24 January 2025, the Training Cell of the Supreme Court of India organised a two-day Induction Training Programme for newly recruited Junior Court Attendants (Cooking Skills) in two separate batches. The programme aimed to familiarise the attendants with their roles and responsibilities while enhancing their culinary expertise and workplace efficiency.

The training was led by a panel of trainers, including Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, OSD (Registrar), and Mr Pitamber Dutt Balodi, Additional Registrar. They were supported by experienced Branch Officers Mr Bal Krishan Dubey, Mr C S P Rao, Ms Seema Soni, Mr Rajeev Khurana, and Mr Sachin Sharma, along with dedicated staff members of the Training Cell. Through this initiative, the Training Cell reinforced its commitment to professional development, ensuring that the newly inducted attendants are well-equipped to perform their duties efficiently and contribute to the smooth functioning of the institution.





Training Cell conducts a special fire safety session by Delhi Fire Services during Induction Training



22 December 2024 to 30 January 2025, Training Cell conducts a live Online English Learning Course for Registry officials in collaboration with STEP from The Hindu Group

Bar News Bulletin



31 January 2025, Justice Hrishikesh Roy addresses the gathering during his farewell function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association at Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India







15 January 2025,
the Supreme Court Bar Association organises Blood Donation Camp in association with Indian Red Cross Society, Delhi, on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti at Supreme Court Lawns





2 January 2025, Justice C T Ravikumar during his farewell function organised by the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association at Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

Beyond the Court: Creativity Abound

International Day of Education - January 24

शिक्षा बोले मन की भाषा

शिक्षा बोले मन की भाषा, ज्ञान की है उत्तम परिभाषा,
अविष्कार की जननी है यह, उम्मीदों की है यह आशा।

शिक्षा से जो रखता नाता, जीवन उत्तम वही बनाता,
जो समझे शिक्षा का मोल, प्रगति पथ पर आगे जाता।

शिक्षा ही यह बोध कराती, कौन है मानव कौन जानवर,
शिक्षा ही है ज्ञान बढ़ाती, उन्नत श्रेष्ठ विद्वान बनाती।

शिक्षा से ही बने चिकित्सक, कोई बना कमिश्नर है,
कोई न्यायाधीश बना है, कोई बड़ा सा अफसर है।

संविधान की दीक्षा लेकर, कानून ज्ञान विस्तार करो,
बन वकील तुम सेवा करके, ज्ञान विधा चरितार्थ करो।

शिक्षा में है यह सत्कार, जिद का करती है उपचार,
ज्ञान ध्यान नवचेतन करती, बुद्धि का करती विस्तार।

शिक्षा है विद्यालय देता, और आत्म ज्ञान है मेरी शिक्षा,
हिन्दी इंग्लिश उर्दू भाषा, ज्ञान प्राप्ति की माध्यम भाषा।

जड़चेतन नवचेतन करती, शिक्षा मन का मंथन करती,
बुद्धि को विश्वास दिलाये, मानव को सद्गुणी बनाये।

— **Mohd Tasvirul Islam**, Assistant Librarian



— **Kamesh**, PS to CJI

पढ़ेगी बेटी, तभी तो बढ़ेगी बेटी

एक सुन्दर वाटिका का आफताब है बेटी,
हर गुलज़ार शाम का चिराग है बेटी।

ज़िन्दगी के गीत का अलंकार है बेटी,
कविता के पन्नों का श्रृंगार है बेटी।

वत्सल के सौंदर्य का मीठा रस है बेटी,
आने वाले कल के भारत का यश है बेटी।

परिवार की पहचान है बेटी,
देश की सुदृढ़ नीव है बेटी।
हर समाज का सम्मान है बेटी।

अगर बेटियां हैं समाज का नया सवेरा,
तो क्यों अंधविश्वासों और कुरीतियों ने उसके जीवन को घेरा?
इसलिए ज़रुरत है, एक अभियान की, एक नए संग्राम की।

तो चलो मिलकर कहें हम सब,
"पढ़ेगी बेटी, तभी तो बढ़ेगी बेटी"

भारत के विकास के नवनूतन पथ पर,
कदम मिलाकर चलेगी बेटी।

— **Harshita Mishra**, Additional Registrar



— **Garima Raghav**, Junior Court Assistant

National Girl Child Day - January 24

Let Her Be Born

Let her be born, give her a chance, to see the world, laugh, love, sing and dance

Let her be born, to wish and dream, to rise higher, reach her goals and out gleam.

Let her be born, to be a gentle soul, inculcate in her values to console.

Let her be born, to be strong and bold, despite obstacles, dreams waiting to unfold

Let her be born, let her conquer the world, give her wings, to fly and travel round the world

Let her be born, give her a chance, to see the world, live, laugh, love, sing and dance.

— **Poulami Paul**, PS to Registrar



— **Mohammad Nazim**, Chamber Attendant(R)

मेरी बेटी

मेरी बेटी, धन्यवाद तुम्हारा, तुमने मुझे यह सौभाग्य दिया,
तुम्हारा पिता बनने का, पिता कहलाने का।
तुम्ही से तो मेरा भाग्य उदय हुआ है
जैसे उदय होता है रोज नया सेवरा॥
मेरी बेटी,

मैं नीम सा खड़ा रहूंगा सदा,
कड़वा पर अर्थद।
दूंगा ठंडी छाँव भीषण ताप में भी,
परंतु मेरी डाली में बने घोसले से,
तुम हो जाना आज़ाद उड़ते परिंदे की तरह,
और नाप के सारा आसमान जब थक जाओ,
तो बैठ जाना मेरी ही डाली की छाँव में निश्चिंत होकर।
मेरी बेटी,

मैं हमेशा खड़ा रहूँगा साथ तुम्हारे पर्वत की तरह,
और तुम बह चलना निश्छल, निर्मल, चंचल
कलकल करती पर्वत से निकलती एक नदी की तरह
और करना इस सृष्टि का कल्याण।
मैं बन जाऊंगा सारथी तुम्हारा कृष्ण की तरह
और तुम बन जाना पार्थ,
जो बीभत्सु हो, अजेय हो,
और जीत जाना जीवन करने को नया सृजन।
मेरी बेटी,

मैं हूँ गणित सा कठिन, पर हूँ एक संख्या,
जो करता है निर्धारित जीवन के ढर्रो को,
तुम मेरी हर एक संख्या को पढ़ना, समझना,
और बन जाना मेरी गणितज्ञ,
जो शून्य को समझे और पहुँच जाए,
अनंत तक।

— **Deepak Kumar**, Junior Court Assistant

बेटी...

सभ्यताओं का हो तुम शृंगार,
पिता से करती प्रेम अपार।

नकारात्मकता का करती प्रतिकार,
जिससे घर की बगिया होती गुलजार॥

तुम हो बेटी आँगन की खुशबू,
त्याग, समर्पण होता तुझसे ही साकार।

सौम्यता भरी मुस्कान का हो तुम आधार,
इस जीवन मर्म से परिचित होता संसार॥

पढ़ लिखकर और आगे बढ़ना है तुझे,
अभी बहुत कुछ करना है तुझे।

धन्य है वे सभी परिवार,
जहाँ होता, तुम्हारा अवतार॥

— **Brijesh Singh Yadav**, Building Supervisor



— **Nitin Sati**, Senior Court Assistant

बिटिया: गीता की सीख से रोशन

बिटिया आई घर आंगन में, खुशियों का संग लाती है,
नन्हीं मुस्कान से उसकी, हर दुख को वो हर जाती है।

जग में उसके होने से, जीवन का अर्थ समझ आता,
गीता की वाणी में भी, कर्म का पाठ सिखलाता।

कृष्ण कहते गीता में, "कर्म ही धर्म बनाओ,"
लड़की हो या लड़का कोई, सबको समान बताओ।

कर्मभूमि में नारी की, भी महिमा को पहचानो,
उसके बिना ये दुनिया, अधूरी मानो।

नन्हीं बिटिया जब पढ़े-लिखे, ज्ञान का दीप जलाएगी,
कभी अर्जुन जैसी वीर बने, तो कभी राधा कहलाएगी।

उसकी हंसी में छिपा हुआ, मधुबन का संगीत है,
गीता की धारा सी सरल, उसकी पवित्र प्रीत है।

तो हम सब मिलकर संकल्प लें, बिटिया को हर कदम पे साथ दें,
गीता की सीख को अपनाते हुए, उसे हर मोड़ पर विश्वास दें।

हर बेटी हो सशक्त, उसकी राह में कोई रुकावट न हो,
उसके सपनों की उड़ान हो ऊँची, कोई सीमा न हो।



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

Republic Day - January 26

"A Symphony of Unity: Celebrating Republic Day"
On this very day, the twenty- sixth of January,

we stand together, with our hearts full of glory
The tricolour flutters, proud in the sky,

A symbol of freedom, soaring so high
Every colour tells a tale, of sacrifice and pride,

of those who for justice and freedom, bravely died,

Our constitution, being a guiding star,

Always leading us on paths, near and far
Equality, Justice and Freedom for all,

In its embrace, we stand so tall

With this day, a nation reborn, with a promise to keep,

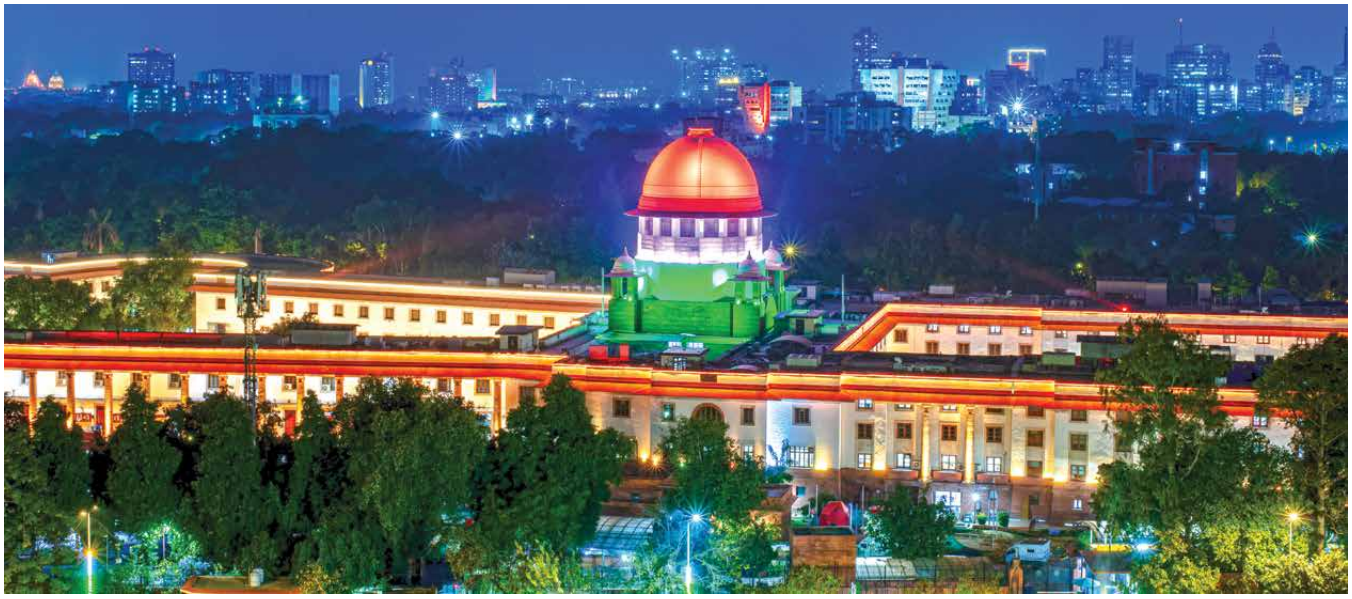
In the folds of history, our dreams take a leap

On this day, we all should pledge anew

To our nation, we will always be true,

To our nation, we will always be true....

— **Naina Bakshi**, Junior Court Assistant



— **Harsh Kumar**, Senior Court Assistant

गणराज्य

जाने कितने कुर्बान हुए, तब हमको स्वराज्य मिला।
दुनिया मानें डंका जिसका, वो भारत गणराज्य मिला।

वर्ष पचहत्तर बीत गए, जब संविधान का साथ मिला।
जन जन हर जंग जीत गए, हाथों में जब जब हाथ मिला।

क्या अकाल, क्या महामारी, क्या क्या न हमें देखा है।
पर इच्छा शक्ति कभी न हारी, ये देश विकास की चाल चला।

गाय, गांव, खलिहान, खेत, जिस देश का सदा आधार रहे।
उस धरा का चांद क्या मंगल पर भी, सफ़लताओं का फूल खिला।

गणित, वेद और योग साधना, हमनें ही ये उपहार दिया।
खेल कूद, उद्योग जगत क्या, हर दिशा में भारत बढ़ा चला।

विश्वशांति के परम प्रतीक, हम प्रेम पुजारी कहलाते।
विश्वगुरु और महाशक्ति का, हमको है खिताब मिला।

जाने कितने कुर्बान हुए, तब हमको स्वराज्य मिला।
दुनिया मानें डंका जिसका, वो भारत गणराज्य मिला।



— **Himanshu Jain**, Court Assistant

— **Harshita Mishra**, Additional Registrar

Bid Adieu



MS SUKHBIR PAUL KAUR joined the Supreme Court of India as a Personal Assistant in 1987 and retired as a Deputy Registrar after 37 years of service in January 2025. Over the years, she held key roles, including Court Master and Assistant Registrar, and was also deputed to the residential office of Justice Krishna Murari (Retd.). Known for her belief in treating colleagues, both junior and senior, with love and respect, she earned their admiration and cooperation throughout her career. She attributed her success to the unwavering support of her parents, parents-in-law, family, and especially her husband. She fondly cherished the journey she shared with her husband, traveling together from home to office—a daily routine that became a meaningful part of her professional and personal life.

MR GUSAIN SINGH KARAKOTI, hailing from Almora, Uttarakhand, joined the Supreme Court of India in 1984 as a Junior Court Attendant. He retired in January 2025 as a Restorer Grade I (Admin I & Admin J). He contributed to various sections of the Supreme Court, including Section II B, Admin II, and Admin J. He also served on deputation to the Central Pay Commission and the Ministry of Finance. Reflecting on his career, Mr Karakoti shared that he thoroughly enjoyed his work and had a very positive experience at the Supreme Court. He holds fond memories of his time working in Admin J, which he cherishes as a highlight of his service.





MR BIRENDRA SINGH, a resident of Dehradun, Uttarakhand, began his career as a Junior Court Attendant in the Supreme Court in 2000. Over the years, he has had the privilege of serving several judges, including Justice SN Variava (Retd.), Justice BS Reddy (Retd.), and Justice Indira Banerjee (Retd.). Reflecting on his journey, he shares that he thoroughly enjoyed working with all the judges, describing them as humble individuals who treated the staff with respect and appreciation. He retired in January 2025.



MR SHISHIR KUMAR ANDIA, a native of Odisha, joined the Supreme Court in 1989 as a Junior Court Attendant and retired in January 2024. Over his years of service, he was appointed to the residences of several judges and retired as an usher to Justice BR Gavai. His family is settled in Odisha, and after retirement, he plans to return to his village.



Photo credit: Deepak Dhyani

Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001

© Supreme Court of India, 2025

Designed by
Design Team, Editorial