Supreme Court Chronicle

Issue XVII | March 2025

Highlights

- *National Conference—Addressing Issues Faced by the State Judiciary*
- *Gender Sensitisation training for Junior Court Assistants*
- *First Interactive Practical Session (Roleplay) of the 40 hrs Hybrid Mode Mediation Training Programme by MCPC*
- *Mega Legal Aid Camps in Maharashtra*
- *Cricket Premier League: Team CJI-XI versus Team SCAORA-XI*





Chief Justice's Corner

Dear Readers,

It gives me great joy to present to you the 17th edition of the *Supreme Court Chronicle*. This edition is packed with insights into the "National Conference on Addressing Issues Faced by the State Judiciary." The conference served as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among state judiciaries from across the country.

Flipping its pages, one will find an overview of key activities undertaken by the Supreme Court. Readers can also explore sections such as Legal Aid, Training Hub and Bar News Bulletin. The newsletter also features 'Beyond the Court,' a beloved segment among Supreme Court staff, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their talents to the world. The themes for the March edition included World Cancer Day, International Mother Language Day, and National Science Day, while the photography segment focused on International Wetlands Day/Nature. Additionally, dive into summaries of significant judgments and a comprehensive roundup of Court events for the month of February 2025.

I hope this edition informs and inspires you, encouraging greater engagement with the daily operations of the Supreme Court.

Happy Reading!

Sanjiv Khanna
Chief Justice of India

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Fresh from the Bench

Radhika Agarwal vs Union of India
2025 INSC 272

"Anticipatory bail applications are maintainable under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act and the Customs Act, affirming the right to life and liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution"

Coram: Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice MM Sundresh, and Justice Bela M Trivedi

In the judgment dated **27 February 2025**, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the arrest provisions under the **Customs Act, 1962** and the **Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (GST Act)** but imposed strict conditions for their exercise. The petitioners challenged the arrest provisions under these laws, arguing that the respondents allowed arbitrary detentions without judicial supervision. The respondents contended that sufficient safeguards existed under the respective statutes. The Court held that while officers have the power to arrest, they must have **'reasons to believe'** based on credible material, which must be **recorded in writing**, and arrests should not be made routinely.

The Supreme Court held that the ratio regarding the power to grant anticipatory bail, as established in its previous decisions in *State of Gujarat vs Choodamani Parmeshwaran Iyer* and *Bharat Bhushan vs Director General of GST Intelligence*, which ruled that a person summoned under the GST Act could not file an anticipatory bail application and that the only remedy was a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution, should not be treated as binding. The Court ruled that anticipatory bail under **Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)** is maintainable for offences under both the **GST Act and the Customs Act**, as long as there is a reasonable apprehension of arrest. The Court emphasised that **the right to seek anticipatory bail is a fundamental safeguard under Article 21 of the Constitution to prevent arbitrary arrests**.

The Court observed:

- Unlike **Section 41 of the CrPC**, which allows arrest based on "reasonable suspicion," **Section 104(1) of the Customs Act** and **Section 69 of the GST Act** require officers to have **"reasons to believe"**, meaning the justification must be based on clear evidence and not mere suspicion.
- The **Customs Act** differentiates between **bailable and non-bailable offences** based on monetary thresholds. The arresting officer must explain how these thresholds are met. Similarly, under the **GST Act**, the Commissioner must establish grounds before authorising an arrest.
- Arresting officers must provide a written explanation of the **grounds for arrest** before presenting the accused to a magistrate, ensuring compliance with **Article 22(1) of the Constitution** and preventing wrongful detention.
- The Court held that anticipatory bail can be

granted even before an **FIR is registered**, as long as the applicant demonstrates a real and reasonable apprehension of arrest.

- The Court clarified that **registration of a case or entries in a case diary are not mandatory prerequisites** for an anticipatory bail application under Sections **438 and 439 of the CrPC**, relying on *Directorate of Enforcement vs Deepak Mahajan (1994) 3 SCC 440*.
- Courts can intervene if an arrest is deemed unlawful. The Court emphasised that **judicial review** ensures transparency and prevents abuse of power by enforcement agencies. The arrests should not be used as a tool for harassment or coercion and must only be carried out when **legally necessary**.
- Article **246-A of the Constitution is a special provision** defining the source of power and the field of legislation for the Parliament and the State Legislature with respect to GST. Hence, the power to penalise, prosecute, and prevent GST evasion is a valid exercise of legislative authority, as it is ancillary to the power to levy and collect GST under Article 246-A of the Constitution. Consequently, the challenge to the validity of Sections 69 and 70 of the GST Acts is rejected.

The Supreme Court held that the challenge to the constitutional validity as also the right of the authorised officers under the Customs Act and the GST Acts to arrest are rejected and dismissed with elucidation and clarification on the pre-conditions and when and how the power of arrest is to be exercised.

Suneeti Toteja vs State of UP & Another
2025 INSC 267

"A public servant cannot be prosecuted without prior sanction under Section 197 CrPC, and deemed sanction is not applicable"

Coram: Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma

In the judgment dated **25 February 2025**, the Supreme Court allowed the appeal filed by the appellant, Suneeti Toteja, and quashed the criminal proceedings initiated against her. The appellant, a BIS officer deputed to FSSAI, was appointed as the Presiding Officer of the ICC in a sexual harassment case against Dr SS Ghonkrorkta. While the FIR was initially filed only against Dr Ghonkrorkta, the complainant later accused the appellant of misrepresenting her stance in a counter affidavit before the CAT. Based on this allegation, charges were framed against the appellant under various IPC provisions, and the Magistrate took cognisance without obtaining sanction under Section 197 CrPC. The competent authority, BIS, later refused sanction, yet the case proceeded. The Supreme Court quashed the proceedings, ruling that sanction was mandatory and the Magistrate erred in taking cognisance without it.

The Court observed:

- Sanction under Section 197 CrPC is mandatory before prosecuting a public servant for actions performed in the discharge of official duties. The appellant was acting in her capacity as Presiding Officer, ICC, and her actions were protected under this provision.
- The Magistrate's order taking cognisance was invalid since it failed to ensure prior sanction was obtained from the competent authority, i.e., the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS),

which explicitly denied sanction in November 2022.

- The doctrine of "deemed sanction" does not apply under Section 197 CrPC. The State's reliance on *Vineet Narain vs Union of India (AIR 1998 SC 889)* and *Subramanian Swamy vs Manmohan Singh (2012) 3 SCC 64* was misplaced, as these cases did not establish a rule for automatic sanction upon delay.
- Judicial precedents reaffirm the requirement of sanction. The Court relied on *Gurmeet Kaur vs Devender Gupta (2024 SCC OnLine SC 3761)* and *Amod Kumar Kanth vs Association of Victim of Uphaar Tragedy (2023 SCC OnLine SC 578)* to emphasise that the statutory purpose behind section 197 of the CrPC is protection being accorded to public servants from frivolous litigation.

The Supreme Court held that the proceedings against the appellant were legally unsustainable due to the absence of prior sanction. The appeal was allowed, and all criminal charges against the appellant were quashed.

The State of Madhya Pradesh vs Balveer Singh
2025 INSC 261

"Evidence of a competent child witness is admissible and holds the same value as any other witness, provided it is reliable and free from external influence"

Coram: Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra

In its judgment dated **24 February 2025,** the Supreme Court reversed the Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision, holding that testimony of the daughter of the deceased (child witness) was reliable. It reinstated the conviction of the respondent, stating that mere delay or presence with the complainant did not automatically make the child's statement untrustworthy. The Court emphasised judicial responsibility in evaluating child witness testimony with caution but not skepticism. In the present case, the respondent was convicted by the trial court for murder of his wife but acquitted by the High Court. The Supreme Court examined whether the child's testimony was credible or influenced and summarised the law regarding the child witness testimony as follows:

(I) The Evidence Act does not specify a minimum age for witnesses, so a child witness cannot be rejected outright.

(II) As per Section 118 of the Evidence Act, the trial court must first assess whether the child understands the significance of giving evidence and the questions asked.

(III) Before recording evidence, the trial court must state its satisfaction that the child understands the duty of truthfulness, along with reasons for this conclusion.

(IV) The trial court must record the child's responses, demeanor, and coherence during the preliminary examination. The appellate court can review the trial court's opinion on the child's competence by scrutinising this examination, the child's testimony, or their demeanor during deposition and cross-examination.

(V) The testimony of a child witness who is found to be competent to depose i.e., capable of understanding the questions put to it and able to give coherent and rational answers would be admissible in evidence.

(VI) The trial court must also record the demeanour of the child witness during the course of its deposition and cross-

examination and whether the evidence of such child witness is his voluntary expression and not borne out of the influence of others.

(VII) A child witness's testimony does not require corroboration if it is credible and inspires confidence. If the child's evidence clearly explains the crime without exaggeration, it can solely support a conviction. (VIII) Courts may seek corroboration if a child's testimony appears tutored or inconsistent. The need for corroboration depends on the specific facts of each case.

(IX) Child witnesses are vulnerable to influence, so courts must ensure they are not tutored. If, after scrutiny, no tutoring or ulterior motive is found, their credible testimony can be relied upon. In the absence of objections from the accused, the court may infer tutoring from the child's deposition.

(X) The evidence of a child witness is considered tutored if their testimony is shaped or influenced at the instance of someone else or is otherwise fabricated. Where there has been any tutoring of a witness, the same may possibly produce two broad effects in their testimony; (i) improvisation or (ii) fabrication.

(i) Improvisation in testimony, where facts are altered or new details added, must be addressed by confronting the witness with prior statements. If admitted, no further proof is needed; if denied, it must be confirmed through the investigating officer's deposition. Only then can the improvisation be discarded or considered as evidence under Section 11 of the Evidence Act.

(ii) Whereas the evidence of a child witness which is alleged to be doctored or tutored in *toto*, then such evidence may be discarded as unreliable only if the presence of the following two factors have to be established being as under: -

Opportunity for Tutoring: To discard a child witness's testimony as unreliable, foundational facts must show a likelihood of tutoring, such as delays in recording the statement, doubtful presence, or an imputed false motive. Mere assertions of tutoring are insufficient.

Reasonable Likelihood of Tutoring: Established foundational facts must be further substantiated by proving a strong motive, unexplained delays suggesting unfair practices, or cross-examination revealing contradictions, doubtful demeanor, or incompatibility with other evidence

(XI) A child witness's testimony is not unreliable merely due to some repetition if they have genuinely witnessed the event. Minor discrepancies or coached elements do not affect credibility if they withstand cross-examination and provide a detailed, consistent account implicating the accused.

(XII) A child witness's testimony can be relied upon if the untutored, credible part can be separated from the tutored portion, similar to assessing a hostile witness's statement for corroboration.

The Supreme Court held that the High Court erred in rejecting the testimony of the daughter of the deceased (child witness) without valid ground and upheld the decision of the trial court noting her consistent demeanor and absence of contradictions during cross-examination. The court further discussed the **principles governing the appreciation of circumstantial evidence**, including the identification of **incriminating circumstances** emerging from the evidence on record. Additionally, it elaborated on the **applicability of Section 106 of the Evidence Act**, addressing the concept of **prima facie case (foundational facts)** in this context.

State of Rajasthan vs Surendra Singh Rathore
2025 INSC 248

"A second FIR related to the same transaction is not maintainable unless it reveals a larger conspiracy or new facts that were previously unknown"

Coram: Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra

In the judgment dated **19 February 2025**, the Supreme Court set aside the Rajasthan High Court's order quashing the second FIR against the respondent, Surendra Singh Rathore, for corruption charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 2018, and Section 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The State had challenged the High Court's ruling, arguing that the second FIR, which detailed an extensive corruption network, was distinct from the first FIR.

The Court observed that:

- A second FIR is not permissible if it pertains to the same transaction, as per *T T Antony vs State of Kerala (2001)*and *Babu Bhai vs State of Gujarat (2010)*, unless it passes the "test of sameness."
- Exceptions to the rule exist, as clarified in *Anju Chaudhary vs State of UP (2013)* and *Nirmal Singh Kahlon vs State of Punjab (2009)*, where a second FIR is maintainable if new facts surface, revealing a larger conspiracy beyond the original complaint.
- The present case involved a broader corruption network, with middlemen and officials conspiring to demand bribes for granting bio-fuel licenses. Since the second FIR uncovered additional transactions and evidence, it could not be quashed.

The Supreme Court reinstated the second FIR and directed the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jaipur, to complete the investigation expeditiously. It also instructed the Director General of Police, Rajasthan, to ensure strict compliance with anti-corruption measures.

Union of India vs Kanhaiya Prasad
2025 INSC 210

"Bail under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) must strictly comply with the twin conditions under Section 45; casual or cryptic orders granting bail without such compliance are unsustainable"

Coram: Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice Prasanna B Varale

In the judgment dated **13 February 2025**, the Supreme Court set aside the Patna High Court's order granting bail to Kanhaiya Prasad in a money laundering case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). The case involved allegations of illegal sand mining and laundering of proceeds of crime amounting to ₹17.26 crore, funneled through a hawala network for property acquisitions. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had challenged the High Court's bail order, arguing that it failed to consider the mandatory twin conditions under Section 45 of the PMLA.

The Court observed:

- **Strict compliance with Section 45 of PMLA is mandatory** before granting bail, requiring (i) the prosecutor must be given an opportunity to oppose the application for bail; and (ii) the Court must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused person is not guilty of such offence and that he is not liable to commit any offence while on bail. The High Court failed to record such findings.
- **Money laundering is a serious offence with transnational implications**, necessitating stringent measures. The Supreme Court relied on *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India (2022)*, which affirmed that money laundering offenders form a distinct class from ordinary criminals due to the economic and national security threats they pose.
- **The High Court failed to apply the rigours of Section 45,** as it granted bail in a casual and perfunctory manner without recording any satisfaction that the accused was not guilty or that he would not commit further offences. The bail in money laundering cases must strictly adhere to the statutory framework of the PMLA. Non-compliance of the mandatory requirement of Section 45 has, on the face of it, made the impugned order unsustainable and untenable in the eye of law.
- **Statements recorded under Section 50 of PMLA are admissible evidence**, and the High Court erred in dismissing them as inadmissible while granting bail. The Supreme Court clarified that statements made under Section 50(2) of PMLA are legally binding, and Article 20(3) of the Constitution, which protects against self-incrimination, does not apply to such disclosures.

The Supreme Court quashed the High Court's bail order and remanded the case for reconsideration before a different bench. It directed the respondent, Kanhaiya Prasad, to surrender within one week before the Special PMLA Court.

Sukhdev Singh vs Sukhbir Kaur
2025 INSC 197

"Permanent Alimony and Interim Maintenance Can Be Claimed Even in Void Marriages Under the Hindu Marriage Act"

Coram: Justice Abhay S Oka, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Justice Augustine George Masih

In the judgment dated **12 February 2025**, the Supreme Court of India decided on the issue referred to a Three-Judge Bench due to conflicting judicial opinions on whether maintenance can be awarded in void marriages. The case arose from two questions which came before the Court for consideration. The questions involved the interpretation of the scope of Sections 24 and 25 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

The Court observed:

- While enacting Section 25(1), the legislature has made no distinction between a decree of divorce and a decree declaring marriage as a nullity. Therefore, on a plain reading of Section 25(1), it will not be possible to exclude a decree of nullity under Section 11 from the purview of Section 25(1) of the 1955 Act.
- Maintenance rights under Section 25 are

different from those under Section 125 CrPC or Section 144 BNSS, allowing either spouse of a marriage declared void under Section 11 to claim maintenance. Unlike Section 125 CrPC, which grants relief only to the wife or child, Section 25 applies to both husband and wife. It confers a power on the matrimonial court to grant permanent alimony "at the time of passing any decree or at any time subsequent thereto," and its principles cannot be equated with those of Section 125 CrPC.

- Sub-section 1 of Section 25 uses the word "may," making the grant of alimony discretionary. If the applicant's conduct does not warrant relief, the court can reject the claim. Equitable considerations apply, as Section 25 requires the court to assess the conduct of both parties. Thus, maintenance under Section 25 is not an absolute right but depends on judicial discretion.
- A matrimonial court has the discretion to grant interim maintenance during pending proceedings under the 1955 Act, provided that (i) a proceeding under the Act is ongoing, and (ii) the spouse seeking maintenance lacks independent income for sustenance and legal expenses. Even if the marriage is prima facie void or voidable, maintenance pendente lite may still be granted if these conditions are met, with the court considering the conduct of the party seeking relief.
- The Court criticised the terminology used by the Full Bench of the High Court of Bombay in the case of *Bhausaheb @ Sandhu S/o Raguji Magar vs Leelabai W/o Bhausaheb Magar,* that referred to women in void marriages as "illegitimate wives" or "faithful mistresses," holding that such language violates Article 21 of the Constitution.

The Court while answering the two questions ruled that a spouse in a void marriage (declared under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955) can seek permanent alimony under Section 25, but its grant depends on the facts of each case and the conduct of the parties, making it a discretionary relief. Even if a court finds the marriage void or voidable, it can still grant interim maintenance under Section 24 during the pending proceedings, provided the legal conditions are met. The court must consider the conduct of the applicant, as interim relief under Section 24 is also discretionary.

Canara Bank vs Ajithkumar GK
2025 INSC 184

"Compassionate appointment must be granted based on financial hardship, and past schemes cannot be applied retrospectively"

Coram: Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra

In the judgment dated **11 February 2025**, the Supreme Court allowed the appeal filed by Canara Bank and set aside the Kerala High Court's order, which had directed the bank to grant compassionate appointment to the respondent, Ajithkumar GK. The respondent's father, a Canara Bank employee, passed away while in service, and he applied for a job under the 1993 Compassionate Appointment Scheme. The bank rejected his application, citing his mother's family pension and his ineligibility due to age restrictions under the scheme. During the prolonged litigation, Canara Bank introduced a new scheme in 2005,

replacing job-based appointments with lump sum ex-gratia payments. The Kerala High Court ruled in favour of Ajithkumar, stating that the 1993 scheme should apply since it was in force when his father died. Canara Bank then challenged this decision before the Supreme Court.

The Court observed:

- Compassionate appointments are an exception to the rule of equality and are intended only for cases of sudden financial crisis, as reaffirmed in *General Manager, State Bank of India vs Anju Jain (2008) 8 SCC 475*.

- Compassionate appointment is a concession and not a right and the criteria laid down in the Rules must be satisfied by all aspirants. None can claim compassionate appointment by way of inheritance. Appointment based solely on descent is inimical to our constitutional scheme, and being an exception, the scheme has to be strictly construed and confined only to the purpose it seeks to achieve.

- Past schemes cannot be applied retrospectively. The High Court erred in applying the 1993 scheme, despite the 2005 scheme being in force at the time of reconsideration of the application. Courts have consistently held that compassionate appointment cannot be claimed as a vested right, as observed in *SAIL vs Madhusudan Das (2008) 15 SCC 560* and *State of Chhattisgarh vs Dhirjo Kumar Sengar (2009) 13 SCC 600*.

- Assessment of financial condition is crucial. The deceased employee's family was not in dire financial distress, as the widow received a family pension, and terminal benefits of ₹3.09 lakh were provided. These factors indicated that the financial hardship required for compassionate appointment was not present.

- Courts cannot order direct appointments without assessing eligibility. The High Court erred in ordering appointment without subjecting the respondent to a suitability test, which is a key requirement under the 1993 scheme.

- Age relaxation is not an absolute right. It applies only if the applicant satisfies all other conditions of the scheme, which was not the case here. Since the family was not indigent, further consideration of age relaxation was unnecessary.

- The High Court misinterpreted the *Canara Bank vs M Mahesh Kumar (2015) 7 SCC 412,* precedent. The High Court overlooked the requirement of financial hardship and misapplied the precedent, which itself only directed reconsideration of claims and did not mandate appointments.

The Supreme Court exercised its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution and quashed the impugned judgment and order of the Division Bench as well as that of the Single Bench and directed Canara Bank to pay ₹2.5 lakh ex-gratia compensation to the respondent as a full and final settlement, in addition to Rs.50,000/- paid to the respondent in terms of an earlier order of another coordinate bench while issuing notice.

Ayyub & Ors. vs State of Uttar Pradesh & Anr
2025 INSC 168

"For an offence under Section 306 IPC, the accused must intentionally abet suicide under Section 107 IPC, with clear incitement or unbearable harassment leaving the victim no alternative"

Coram: Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice KV Viswanathan

In its judgment dated **7 February 2025,** the Supreme Court allowed the appeal filed by Ayyub, and quashed the FIR against the appellants under Section 306 IPC. The case arose from a suspected relationship between the appellant's son, Ziaul Rahman, and the complainant's cousin, Tanu. After Ziaul was allegedly assaulted by Tanu's relatives, he succumbed to his injuries. The appellants were then accused of humiliating and blaming Tanu, allegedly leading to her suicide. Seeking relief, they moved the High Court to quash the proceedings, which was denied, leading to this appeal.

The Supreme Court found inconsistencies in the investigation and noted that the FIR appeared retaliatory, given that the first appellant had earlier filed a complaint against Tanu's family. The Court held that there was no direct incitement or coercion compelling Tanu to take her own life, a necessary element under Section 306 IPC.

The Court directed as follows:

- The charge-sheet lacked essential ingredients of the offence, and the delayed statements indicated a biased investigation. The Court deemed the proceedings a gross abuse of process.
- The Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, was directed to constitute an Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by a Deputy Inspector General, to conduct a fresh probe into Tanu's unnatural death.
- The SIT was given the authority to treat the FIR as an unnatural death case and re-register it if necessary.
- The SIT was ordered to submit its report in a sealed cover to the Supreme Court within two months.

The Supreme Court allowed the appeal, and set aside the decision of the High Court and quashed the FIR filed against the appellants. Reiterating that abetment under Section 306 IPC requires specific intent under Section 107 IPC, the Court cited precedents, including *Swamy Prahaladdas vs State of MP* (1995) and *Madan Mohan Singh vs State of Gujarat* (2010), ruling that casual remarks or mere harassment do not constitute abetment.

Gulshan Kumar vs Institute of Banking Personnel Selection & Ors.
2025 INSC 142

"Persons with disabilities (PwD) are entitled to examination accommodations, including a scribe and compensatory time, without requiring benchmark disability certification under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016"

Coram: Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan

In the judgment dated **3 February 2025**, the Supreme Court allowed the petition filed by the petitioner, Gulshan Kumar. The petitioner was diagnosed with Focal Hand Dystonia (a chronic neurological condition) and was certified as having 25% permanent disability under the **Rights**

of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016). He sought accommodations such as a scribe and compensatory time while appearing for various banking and government recruitment examinations. However, the examining bodies refused his request on the ground that he did not meet the **40% benchmark disability** requirement under **Section 2(r) of the RPwD Act, 2016**.

The Court observed that:

- The **principle of reasonable accommodation** is essential to uphold equality for persons with disabilities, and denial of a scribe or compensatory time constitutes discrimination under the RPwD Act, 2016.
- The Court wishes to diminish **the artificial distinction and bifurcation drawn** between candidates with disabilities and those with benchmark disabilities (40% or more) by extending rights previously reserved for the latter to all disabled candidates.
- The absence of a clear grievance redressal mechanism has led to examination bodies denying benefits to PwD candidates, causing inconvenience and injustice. Discrepancies in guidelines and inconsistent implementation of court directions have resulted in confusion and discrimination.
- The Supreme Court in *Kaushal Kishor vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (2023) ruled that fundamental rights under Articles 19 and 21 can be enforced against private entities. Therefore, Respondent No.1 cannot claim exemption from writ jurisdiction, and all authorities must comply with the Office Memorandum ensuring benefits for PwD candidates.
- The guidelines issued by Respondent No 5 following the Court's directions have to be enforced, by extending the benefits for PwBD candidates to all PwD candidates in writing their examinations, without any hindrance.

Directions Issued by the Supreme Court:

i. Direct all authorities/ examination authorities to uniformly follow the Guidelines issued by Respondent 5 which the Nodal Agency and strictly adhere to the periodic surveys, verifications etc;

ii. Carry out periodic sensitisation in educational institutions to raise awareness amongst the examination conducting bodies so that the OMs are effectively implemented;

iii. Set up a grievance redressal portal to register compliance which will permit the candidates to approach [them] before approaching the Court of law;

iv. Inspect the guidelines framed by different authorities and renotify the existing guidelines to ensure compliance;

v. Extend the validity of scribe certificate (currently being valid only for 6 months) to prevent the long wait time for applying, especially in rural areas;

vi. Set up incentives programs for scribe to ensure their availability and provide necessary training;

vii. Provide some time prior to the examination to allow the candidates to familiarise themselves with the scribe to ensure that there is a sense of comfort while communicating with the scribe during the examination;

viii. Offer PwD candidates a choice of examination modes, such as scribe braille, large print, audio recording of answers, etc;

ix. Take penal action against authorities/officials in charge of decision-making process, who fail to follow the guidelines set out by the Respondent No 5 and formulate guidelines which exclude PwD;

x. Sensitise the persons working for the respondent authorities, and train them on a regular basis, to address the reasonable accommodation needs of PwDs; and

xi. Ensure strict compliance of the letter and spirit of the judgments in Vikash Kumar and Avni Prakash as well as the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016, with a special focus on 'reasonable accommodation'.

The Supreme Court held that the requirement of benchmark disability (40% or more) cannot be a precondition for availing the benefits of a scribe and compensatory time in examinations and directed authorities to provide equal access to all disabled candidates.

National Conference
"Addressing Issues Faced by the State Judiciary"



On 1 February 2025, the Supreme Court of India, under the aegis of the Chief Justice of India, Mr Justice Sanjiv Khanna, organised a "National Conference on Addressing Issues Faced by the State Judiciary" at the Multi-purpose Hall, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India. The idea behind this Conference was to engage in a meaningful dialogue with different stakeholders and functionaries in the State Judiciary, especially the District Courts, to first understand the challenges being faced by them and thereafter, chalk out a plan to address the same. The Conference had four Technical Sessions, which covered diverse topics affecting the performance of State Judiciary.

Technical Session I

The 1st Technical Session dealt with the topic: "Narrowing the gulf between Institution and disposal of cases" which was chaired by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and co-chaired by Justice Abhay S Oka, Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Dipankar Datta. The session witnessed discussions on: Identification of case types flooding the judicial dockets; Identification of bottlenecks in case disposal; Strategies to reduce backlog of cases at different levels.





Justice Sanjiv Khanna, chair, gives a presentation during Technical Session I at the Conference



Justice Abhay S Oka, co-chair, addresses the audience during Technical Session I at the Conference



Justice BV Nagarathna, co-chair, addresses the audience during Technical Session I at the Conference



Justice Dipankar Datta, co-chair, gives a presentation during Technical Session I at the Conference

Technical Session II

The 2nd Technical Session dealt with the topic: "Ushering uniformity in Case Categorisation and Leveraging Technology for Justice Delivery," and was chaired by Justice BR Gavai and co-chaired by Justice PS Narasimha and Mr Justice KV Viswanathan. The discussions revolved around the feasibility of having a uniform case categorisation in different Courts. In this Session, ways to leverage technology better to optimise the judicial processes was also deliberated upon.





Justice BR Gavai, chair, moderates the Technical Session II and addresses the audience on important issues at the Conference



Justice PS Narasimha, chair, interacts with the audience and discusses some pressing issues during Technical Session II at the Conference



Justice KV Viswanathan, co-chair, gives a presentation during Technical Session II at the Conference

Technical Session III



The 3rd Technical Session on the theme: "Addressing issues pertaining to Human Resources in the District Judiciary," was chaired by Justice Surya Kant and co-chaired by Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia. The discussions revolved around the timely recruitment of Judicial Officers and Court Staff; continual recruitment/empanelment of Public Prosecutors/Legal Aid Counsels/Legal Aid Defence Counsels; creation of a permanent IT and Data Cadre in all High Courts and District Courts; the need for an objective and transparent transfer policy of Judicial Officers; and measures to enhance objectivity in the process of recommending suitable candidates from District Judiciary for elevation to the High Courts.



Justice Surya Kant, chair, moderates Technical Session III and leads an important discussion with the audience at the conference



Justice JK Maheshwari, co-chair, interacts with the audience during Technical Session III at the Conference



Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, co-chair, interacts with the audience during Technical Session III at the Conference

Technical Session IV



The 4th Technical Session of the Conference was chaired by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and co-chaired by Justice Vikram Nath; Justice MM Sundresh; and Justice M Bela Trivedi. The theme of the session was "Enhancing Professional Proficiency." The panellists and the audience engaged in discussions on Career Progression and Continuous Performance Evaluation of Judicial Officers; the Mentoring of Judicial Officers by Inspecting Judges and State Judicial Academies; the need for a standardised curriculum for training and capacity building of Judicial Officers; and effective measures to ensure accountability of Judicial Officers and Court Staff.



Justice Vikram Nath, co-chair, holds a discussion and interacts with the audience during Technical Session IV at the conference



Justice Bela M Trivedi, co-chair, discusses important aspects of the Technical Session IV with the audience at the Conference



Justice MM Sundresh, co-chair, gives a presentation during Technical Session IV at the Conference

Judges of the Supreme Court, along with Chief Justices and Judges from various High Courts, participated in the conference. It also saw the participation of District Judges from all States and Union Territories, alongside senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Following the Conference on 1 February 2025, a meeting was held the next day, 2 February 2025, between the Chief Justices and senior-most Judges of the High Courts and the Chief Justice of India, Mr Sanjiv Khanna, along with Justice BR Gavai and Justice Surya Kant, Judges of the Supreme Court of India. The discussion focused on key issues, including the filling of vacancies in High Courts, the appointment of ad-hoc Judges, and the establishment of Evening Courts. Overall, the Conference served as an invaluable platform for all stakeholders within the judiciary to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboratively address challenges faced by the State judiciary.



Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee



15 February 2025, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, esteemed Member, GSICC alongwith Ms Sujata Singh, Member Secretary, GSICC; Ms Nina Gupta, GSICC Member; and Senior Advocate Ms Anindita Pujari during the Training programme on Gender Sensitisation for Junior Court Assistants, at Multipurpose Hall, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

The Training Cell, in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC), organised a comprehensive training programme on 'Gender Sensitization for Junior Court Assistants' on 15 February 2025. The programme was inaugurated by Justice N Kotiswar Singh. The initiative aimed to enhance awareness of gender-related issues, promote workplace inclusivity, and reinforce the principles of equality and respect within the judicial system.

The training covered key topics such as gender biases, legal provisions for workplace safety, and best practices for a gender-sensitive environment. A total of 113 Junior Court Assistants participated, gaining valuable insights to help them contribute to a more equitable and respectful professional space.

Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee



In February 2025, eight Forty-Hour Mediation Training Programmes were conducted in different states—Andhra Pradesh (1), Assam (2), Gujarat (3), Maharashtra (1), and Tripura (1)—along with one One-Day Orientation Programme on Mediation in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority. These programmes were organised under the aegis of the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India.

In addition to these training sessions, MCPC, in collaboration with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), has been conducting a Forty-Hour Mediation Training Programme in Hybrid Mode for advocates, which commenced on 8 February 2025.

The first Interactive Practical Session (Roleplay) of this Hybrid Mode Mediation Training Programme, organised by MCPC in collaboration with NALSA, was held on 8 February 2025 at the Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India. The session was attended by 25 advocate participants, two Resource Persons from MCPC, as well as officers and officials from both MCPC and NALSA.





Supreme Court Initiative

Centre for Research and Planning

The ongoing Pendency Project of the Centre for Research and Planning was successful in identifying 128 old, short or infructuous regular matters (criminal and civil) that were either disposed of or reserved for judgment over the four regular days in February, 2025. In the same month, 288 Misc matters of similar nature were identified by CRP and disposed of by the Court.

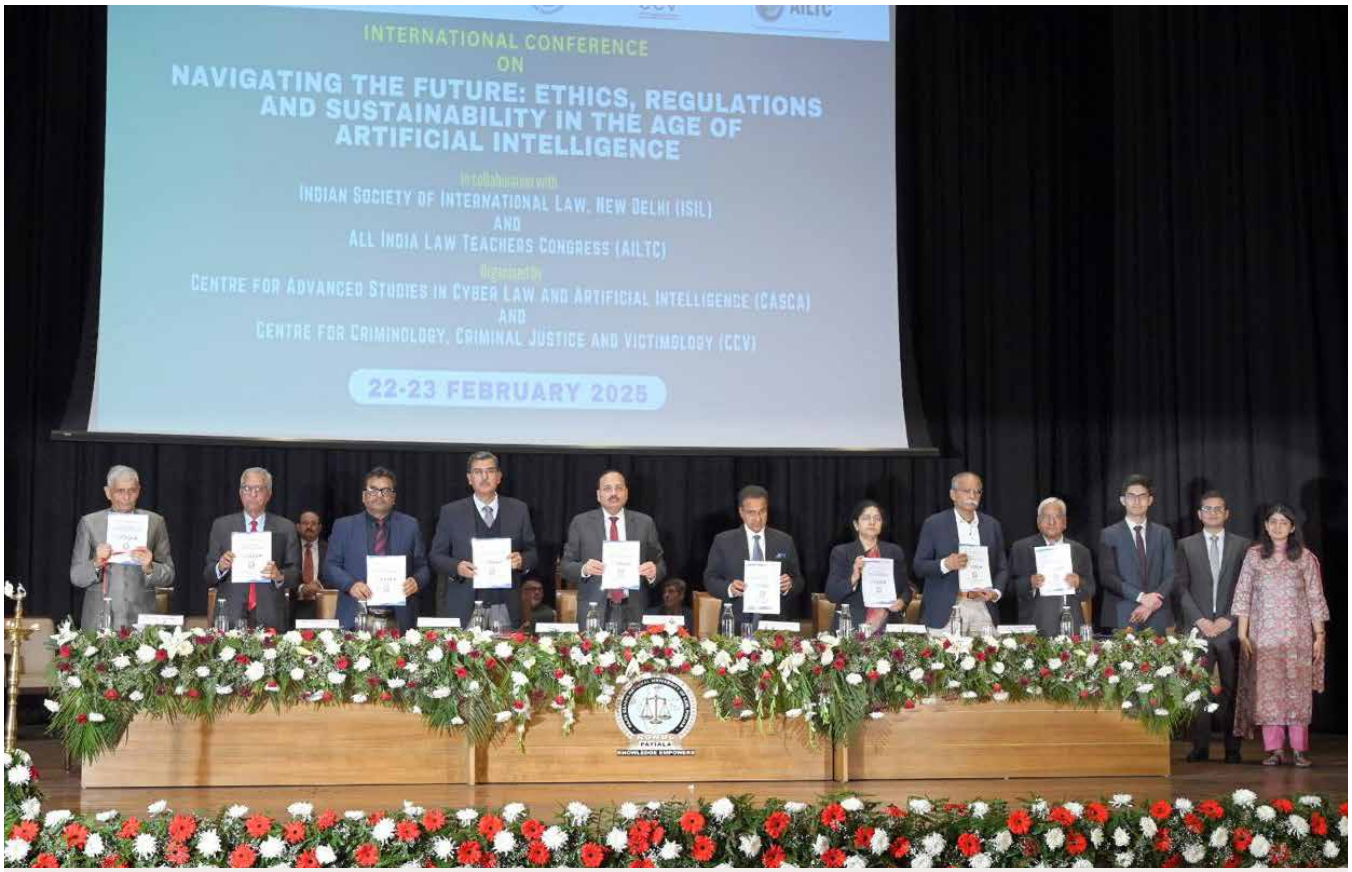
To train and encourage the judicial clerks involved in the project, on 8 February 2025, a lecture was organised for judicial law clerks on 'The Role of the Registrar's Court and PIL Committee in Reducing Pendency at the Supreme Court,' delivered by Ms Sujata Singh, Registrar (Judicial II). Ms Singh guided the law clerks through the intricacies of managing the Registrar's Court, the PIL Committee, and the Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC). She also shared insights from her 22 years of service in the Uttarakhand Judiciary.

She elaborated on the Supreme Court's record rooms, emphasising their crucial role in handling critical records. The session highlighted ongoing efforts to reduce pendency in the Registrar's Court, which currently stands at 3,859 cases. Ms Singh also detailed the PIL Committee's role in meticulously scrutinising the large volume of petitions received. Citing examples from her judicial career, she analysed delays in district courts—particularly in criminal trials—attributing them to procedural hurdles such as translation issues, witness management, and strikes. She concluded by encouraging judicial law clerks to pursue a legal career and serve with integrity, dedication, and honesty.



8 February 2025, Ms Sujata Singh, Registrar (Judicial II), delivers a lecture on 'The Role of the Registrar's Court and PIL Committee in Reducing Pendency at the Supreme Court'

Programmes and Conferences



22-23 February 2025, Justice Surya Kant attends the International Conference on 'Navigating the Future: Ethics, Regulations and Sustainability in the age of Artificial Intelligence' organised by Centre for Advanced Studies in Cyber Law and Artificial Intelligence (CASCA) and Centre for Criminology, Criminal Justice and Victimology (CCV) at ISIL, New Delhi



23 February 2025,
Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia,
Chief Guest, delivers an address during the inaugural ceremony of Conference on 'Judicium 2025: Inclusion, Access and strengthening' organised by the Uttarakhand Judges' Association



Between 22-23 February 2025, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice Rajesh Bindal attend the NJA East Zone-I Regional Conference on 'Court dockets: Explosion and Exclusion' along with Justice Aniruddha Bose, Director, National Judicial Academy (NJA) organised by NJA in collaboration with the High Court of Judicature at Patna and the Bihar Judicial Academy. During the conference, Justice Rajesh Bindal also presided over Session 1 and Session 4 as a Resource Person



21 February 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Guest, at the valedictory ceremony of the '4th All India Universities National Moot Court Competition' organised by the Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur



21 February 2025, Justice Viswanathan, Chief Guest, addresses the audience at the Inaugural Function in the 21st K.K.Luthra Memorial Moot Court, 2025 at the Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi



16 February 2025, Justice KV Viswanathan attends the 'The North Zone round of AmiQuiz Curiae' – a national legal quiz for lawyers at the Indian Society of International Law, Auditorium, New Delhi



15 February 2025, Chief Justice of India, Mr Sanjiv Khanna and Justice BR Gavai alongwith Chief Justice Alok Aradhe, High Court of Bombay at the 3rd Convocation Ceremony of Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur



15 February 2025, Justice Surya Kant along with the Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court, Mr Sheel Nagu at the 6th RGNUL Convocation, Patiala



15 February 2025, Justice BV Nagarathna at the Inaugural Programme of the 1st Post Graduate Certificate Diploma Course on International Commercial & Investment Treaty Arbitration organised by the National Law University (NLU), Delhi along with Mrs Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs; Justice Indu Malhotra, Former Judge, Supreme Court and Member of the Court, Permanent Court of Arbitration; Mr Toby Landan, King's Counsel; Mr VK Rajah, Senior Counsel; and Chairperson of the Course and Prof (Dr) GS Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, NLU, Delhi



15 February 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Guest, attends the National Conference on 'Implementation of New Criminal Laws and its Difficulties' at Conference Hall, Community Centre, Sector-15, Faridabad

15 February 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal attends the 11th Convocation of SGT University, Gurugram





14 February 2025, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Chief Guest, attends the Inaugural Function of the Brown Mosten International Client Consultation Competition, 2025, Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida



14 February 2025, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, Chief Guest, delivers an inaugural speech at VII GD Goenka-CIArb (India) International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, 2025 at GD Goenka University, Haryana



1 February 2025, Justice N Kotiswar Singh attends the Founder's Day celebration of Kirori Mal College, Delhi

Legal Aid





9 February 2025, Justice BR Gavai, Executive Chairman of NALSA and Justice Abhay S Oka, inaugurate the 'Mega Legal Services Camp' alongwith Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice, High Court of Bombay & Patron-in-Chief of Maharashtra SLSA; Justice Atul S Chandurkar, Judge, High Court of Bombay & Executive Chairman of Maharashtra SLSA; and other Judges of High Court of Bombay, at Dharni, District Amravati, Maharashtra



A 'Mega Legal Services Camp' was organised on 9 February 2025 at Amravati, to inform people about various government schemes of Maharashtra and NALSA. During the camp, Justice BR Gavai and Justice Abhay S Oka distributed battery-operated wheelchairs to persons with disabilities, cheques to beneficiaries, Aadhaar cards, and certificates under various government schemes. Nearly 1.25 lakh people from Dharni and Chikhaldara Tahsil were reached, and 32,520 beneficiaries were identified and provided benefits through different government departments and stalls at the camp.







22 February 2025, Justice BR Gavai, Executive Chairman of NALSA along with Justice Ravindra V Ghuge, Judge, Bombay High Court; Justice Nitin W Sambre, Judge, Bombay High Court; and other Judges of the Bombay High Court attend the 'Mega Legal Aid Camp' at Watane Lawns, Washim

On 22 February 2025, a 'Mega Legal Aid Camp' was held to enhance access to justice and ensure that financial constraints do not hinder legal rights or government benefits. Attendees received legal guidance on Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, health cards, and various welfare schemes. The camp featured 24 stalls, where several beneficiaries were assisted by dignitaries. Additionally, Para-Legal Volunteers performed a role-play to raise awareness about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, highlighting key provisions for victim protection and rehabilitation.

Training Hub





14 February 2025, Colonel Anshuman Bhadaria, Principal, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM), conducts an orientation session for the Team Building and Leadership Camp (Batch-3) for the Supreme Court Staff organised by the Training Cell at Supreme Court and virtually at NIM, Uttarkashi. The session was led by R Arulmozhiselvi, Registrar (OSD), Training Cell





7 February 2025 and 14 February 2025, Resource Persons, Mr Vikram Singh Choudhary, Senior Nursing Officer, AIIMS along with Mr Dragpal and Mr Ashok Kumar, Nursing Officers, AIIMS, conduct training sessions on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and operation of Automated External Defibrillator machines, installed across the Supreme Court premises. The training was organised by the Training Cell for members of SCAORA, SCBA, and SCWLA, with a welcome address delivered by Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, Registrar (OSD), Training Cell













23 February 2025, Team CJI-XI, comprising of the Supreme Court Judges and High Court Judges, plays against team SCAORA-XI in the inaugural match of the 1st Cricket Premier League, a 20-over white-ball tournament organised by SCAORA at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi



8 February 2025, as part of the 'Lecture Series 2025,' Mr Atmaram N S Nadkarni Senior Advocate & Former Additional Solicitor General of India, delivers an online lecture on the topic 'Overview of the PMLA: History, Objectives, and Key Provisions', organised by SCAORA



1 February 2025, Justice Surya Kant, Justice MM Sundresh and Justice Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah at the Annual Cricket Tournament-2025 organised by Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at Modern School Cricket Ground, Barakhamba Road

1 February 2025, Justice MM Sundresh participates at the Annual Cricket Tournament-2025 organised by SCBA at Modern School Cricket Ground, Barakhamba Road



Beyond the Court: Creativity Abound

World Cancer Day (February 4)

Hope Fights On: World Cancer Day

A silent shadow, creeping near,
filling hearts with doubt and fear

Yet in the dark, a light still glows,
a strength within, that only grows

Warriors rise, both strong and brave,
fighting hard their lives to save

Through endless trials, pain and scars,
they shine like bright and fearless stars

Let's spread awareness, lend a hand
together firm, together stand,

For those, who have lost, for those who fight,
Let's vow to make their future bright,

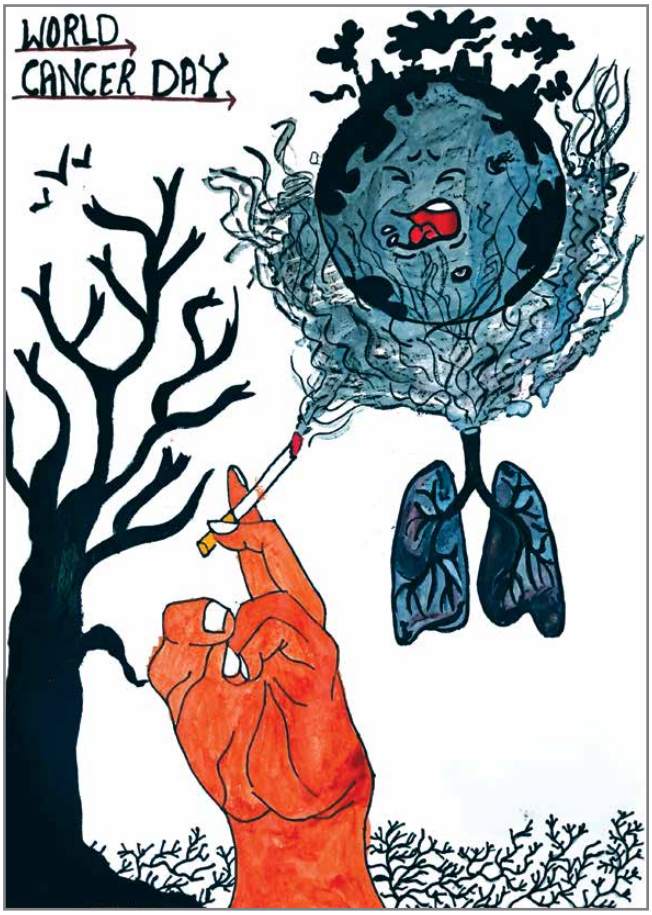
On this day, let's raise our voice,
to give them hope and to give them choice

Till the day, the fight is won,

We will fight as one, and we won't be done

We will fight as one, and we won't be done

—**Naina Bakshi**, Junior Court Assistant



— **Nikhil Parashar**, Junior Court Attendant

Cancer: The Emperor of Maladies

A teenager laments losing his spirited father to the 'Emperor of Maladies',
This 'happy go lucky' lad is enraged at this wily disease.
A monstrous affliction which often dodges the most effective of all known remedies,
Stealing lives of dear ones and leaving families with only treasured memories.
This child remembers how suddenly the 'once handsome' face of his father became all skin and bones,
This child now hates seeing a shadow creep where an incandescent light once shone.
This child detests this silent thief which whispers low,
And slowly snatches away who was most precious by giving him a fatal blow.
This child now takes a vow to slay this deadly malady one day,
For this he dedicates his life to study medicine and conjure up a magical remedy,
This remedy shall vanquish this hitherto invincible Emperor,
Showing the might of a young boy's indomitable will power.

—**Harshita Mishra**, Additional Registrar

International Mother Language Day (February 21)

मातृभाषा हिंदी

जिसके अंक रहा शैशव से
जिसकी उंगली थाम चला मैं,
जिसने राह दिखाई जग की
उस हिंदी के रंग ढला मैं,
नाम तेरे तन मन करता हूँ
मां मैं तुझे नमन करता हूँ।

चली लेखनी पहली जिस दिन
थीं समक्ष तब तुम ही मेरे,
कानों में हिंदी के स्वर ही तब
घुलते थे हर शाम सबेरे,
तेरा नित वंदन करता हूँ
मां मैं तुझे नमन करता हूँ।

रोया हंसा तेरे वर्णों में
जीना मरना साथ तेरे अब,
तू ही है थाती मेरी बस
तेरे आगे फीका है सब,
मन अक्षत चंदन करता हूँ
मां मैं तुझे नमन करता हूँ।

अंतस अमिय बसा हिंदी का
हिंदी मेरी सांस का गहना,
मेरे जीवन की हर बेला
चाहे हिंदी रस में बहना,
शब्द सुमन अर्पण करता हूँ
मां मैं तुझे नमन करता हूँ।

अक्षय रहे तेरा ये वैभव
अक्षुण्ण रहे तेरी तरुणाई,
ज्यों जग को जीवन देती है
उषा काल फैली अरुणाई,
आभा का वर्णन करता हूँ
मां मैं तुझे नमन करता हूँ।

—**Brij Bhooshan Khare**
Chief Librarian, Judges Library

Mother's Lullaby

A whisper soft, a lullaby's tune,
The mother tongue, beneath the moon.
A language born of heart and soul,
A story whispered, making us whole.

From ancient lips, the words took flight,
Carrying tales of day and night.
Of ancestors brave, and spirits free,
Their wisdom echoes, wild and glee.

Each syllable, a precious gem,
Reflecting roots, a diadem.
The cadence flows, a river's grace,
Connecting us to time and space.

It binds us close, a sacred thread,
To customs cherished, stories read.
The folklore sung, the poems spun,
In mother tongue, our heritage begun.

Though other tongues may grace our ear,
This first-learned speech, we hold so dear.
It's more than words, it's feeling deep,
The wellspring where our memories sleep.

For in its sounds, our childhood lies,
The warmth of home, beneath clear skies.
A link to past, a vibrant art,
The mother tongue, held close to heart.

—**Dev Vrat Mishra**, Junior Court Assistant

A Person's First Language

One of the first traits imbibed by the child,
To express ideas, emotions and feelings
and remain mild.

The way it is used reflects who you are,
And connects people, near and far.

It is a characteristic of one's cultural
identity,
Thereby promoting unity in diversity.

Efforts need to be made to support education in one's mother tongue,
Thereby safeguarding the rights of the old and young.

This day is celebrated every year to promote linguistic and cultural diversity,
To nurture multilingualism, this is the golden opportunity.

—**Poulami Paul**, PS to Registrar

Mother Language

A first language or native we say
This is something that forever stay

Could be known as local language too
But mother prefix does not let it stoop

Celebrated every year on Feb 21
Them this time being "silver jubilee

Celebration of international mother language day"
To observe and promote its usage

It must be perpetual and not die
Esteem for this should be high

Either it's ours or thy
We must let it fly

To preserve efforts should be put
And save the languages in the ways we could

This is what this day is for
To promote something that is worthy of

Honcho we must become
In our journeys we overcome

Many barriers only through speaking
The different mother tongues have helped us from flinching

—**Khandelwal Ashish Ghanshyam,**
Junior Court Assistant

National Science Day (February 28)

पीकर तुम विज्ञान का प्याला

पीकर तुम विज्ञान का प्याला, मन अमृत कर लेना,
सर्वज्ञान का मोती संग ले, मन माला में गूंथ लेना।

कर प्रयोग तुम बुद्धि का, कुछ नूतन कार्य दिखाना,
विश्व के कल्याण हेतु तुम, मन दिव्य प्रकाश जगाना।

सी वी रमन ने अद्भुत प्रयोग कर, रमन इफेक्ट था खोजा,
जीत कर विज्ञान का नोबल, मनवाया था लोहा।

थॉमस एडीसन ने देखो, विद्युत बल्ब बनाया,
राइट् ब्रदर्स ने मिलकर सरपट, एरोप्लेन उड़ाया।

हेनरी फोर्ड ने कार बना कर, खत्म ही कर दी टेंशन,
बेयर्ड ने टेलीविजन से, आंखों में भर दिया पैशन।

वाटरमैन ने कलम बनाई, मेहनत से सब करो पढ़ाई,
तापमान जाँचता थर्मामीटर, फेरेनहाइट ने धाक जमाई।

ट्रेन बनाई जेम्स वॉट ने, डायनामाइट अल्फ्रेड नोबल,
मोबाइल बना के कूपर ने, दुनिया में है क्रांति लायी।

फोन की घंटी ट्रीगं ट्रीगं बजती, ग्राहम बेल के कारण,
चार्ल्स बैबेज के वजह से सबको, कंप्यूटर हुआ है धारण।

विटामिन को खोजा है फंक ने, हैनिमैन होमियोपैथी,
मधुमेह पर हावी बेटिंग, मदद करे एलोपैथी।

आर्टिफ़िशियल इंटेलिजेंस के क्या कहने, मानव मन पढ़ लेती है,
नवप्रयोग और अविष्कार कर, सब मुश्किल हर लेती है।

सब कुछ है विज्ञान के कारण, कर लो सब इसको धारण,
धीरे-धीरे प्रतिभा का तुम, खुद ही कर डालो विस्तारण।

—**Mohd Tasvirul Islam**, Assistant Librarian



—**Deepak Dhyani**, Junior Court Assistant



—**Deepak Dhyani**,
Junior Court Assistant



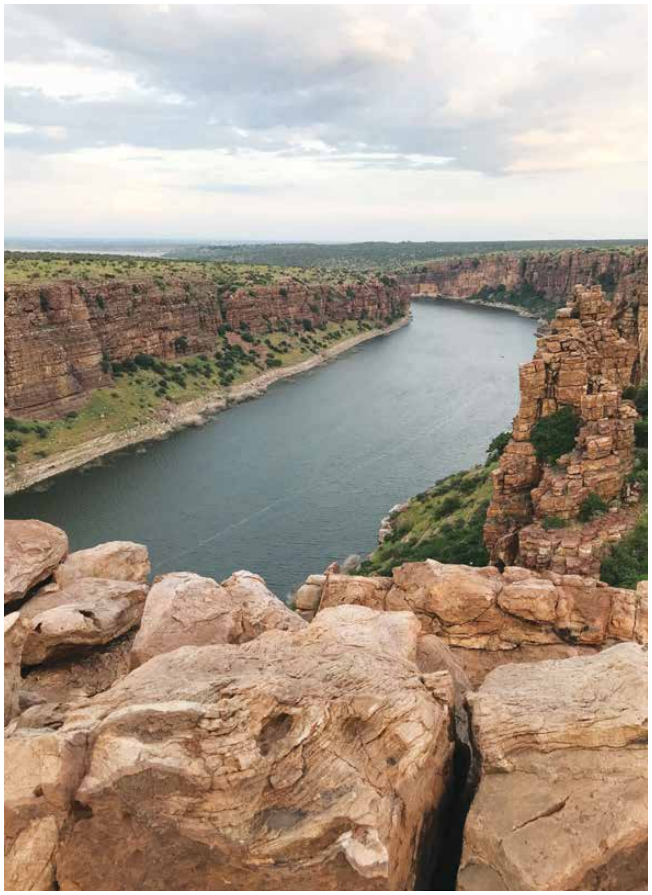
—**Disha Prakash Maraskolhe**,
Junior Court Attendant



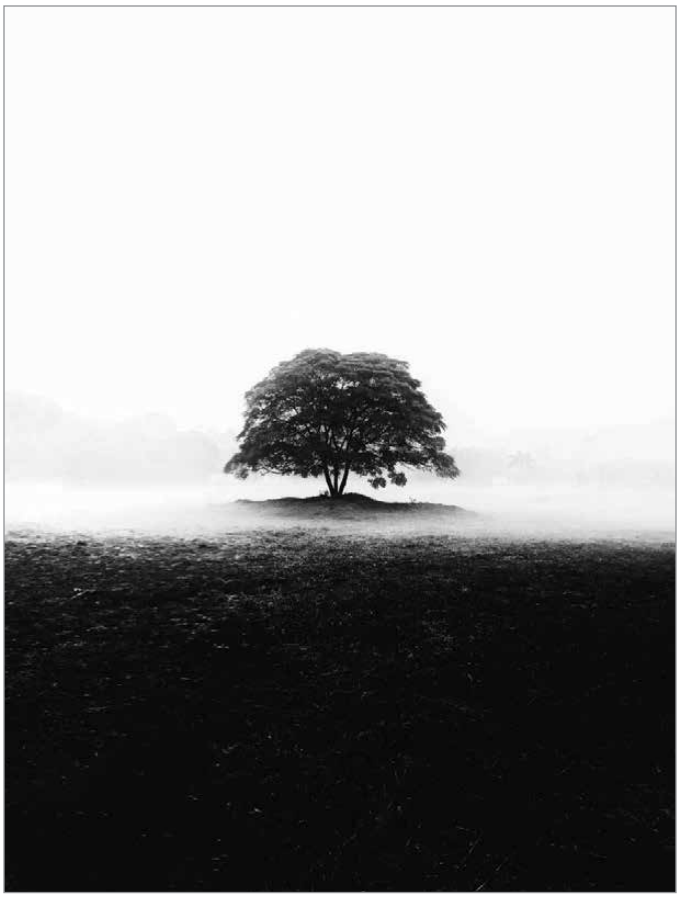
—**GL Umesh Kumar Reddy**,
Junior Court Assistant



—**Mahendra Shrestha**,
Junior Court Attendant



—**GL Umesh Kumar Reddy**,
Junior Court Assistant



—**Kamesh**, PS to CJI



—**Rituja Chouksey**, Research Assistant



—**Nilesh Kalbhor**, Deputy Registrar



—**Nimesh Nair**, Junior Court Assistant



—**Kamesh**, PS to CJI



—**Nilesh Kalbhor**, Deputy Registrar



—**R Arulmozhiselvi**,
OSD (Registrar)



—**Nimesh Nair**,
Junior Court Assistant

Bid Adieu



Mr Ashok Kumar II, former Additional Registrar, joined the Supreme Court as a Junior Court Assistant in March 1986. Originally from Sonipat, Haryana, he commuted 140 km daily between his home and office. Throughout his career, he worked in the Administrative Material Section, Judicial Section, Administration-I, and Administration-III. His primary responsibilities included processing files, ensuring compliance with court orders, and ensuring that case files were available before the Bench on time.

Reflecting on his journey, Mr Kumar described his time at the Supreme Court as excellent and fulfilling. He deeply valued the timely promotions introduced in the last few years and cherished the love and respect he received from his seniors and colleagues. After retiring, he looked forward to spending more time with his grandson.

Ms Dipti Khurana, former Assistant Registrar, hailed from Delhi and joined the Supreme Court in December 1989 as a Junior Clerk (Junior Court Assistant). During her 36 years of service, she worked in various judicial sections, including Sections IIIA, IX, X, XV, and the Registrar Court.



Her major responsibilities included handling office reports and ensuring that matters listed before the Court were sent to the judges. She shared that, over the years, work in the Court became easier due to digitisation. She also appreciated the institution for introducing recreational activities such as yoga, gym classes, a wellness center, and improved accessibility for all. After retiring in February 2025, Ms Khurana planned to take up drawing classes, travel, and explore new places.



Mr Anil Kumar, former Branch Officer, began his journey at the Supreme Court in November 1984 as a Junior Court Attendant. After qualifying the required examination, he rejoined as a Junior Court Assistant in 1987. Originally from Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, he moved to Delhi in the sixth standard and lived there ever since. During his tenure, he served in Section IVB and Section 11.

Reflecting on his career, Mr Kumar described his experience at the Supreme Court as highly positive, emphasising teamwork and a supportive work environment. He also appreciated the introduction of official tours and the continuous improvements in the court's functioning. After an accomplished career, he retired in February 2025.



Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001

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