Supreme Court Chronicle

Issue XVIII | April 2025

Highlights

- *Oath-taking Ceremony of Justice Joymalya Bagchi*
- *International Women's day celebration*
- *Special Feature: Training Cell of the Supreme Court*
- *Visit to Amrit Udyan*
- *15-hours Advanced Commercial Mediation Training NALSA*

Chief Justice's Corner

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present to you the latest edition of ***Supreme Court Chronicle***. In the spirit of growth and reflection, this issue captures the dynamic developments that have shaped the past month.

The highlight of this edition is the oath-taking ceremony of Mr Justice Joymalya Bagchi, whose elevation to the Bench brings with it years of profound judicial insight and a steadfast commitment to constitutional values. A special feature on the daily workings of the Training Cell offers an inside look at the machinery that quietly but effectively powers judicial learning and knowledge exchange across the country.

On the institutional front, the month saw the successful completion of the 15-hours Advanced Commercial Mediation Training organised under the auspices of NALSA—an important step in strengthening modern dispute resolution mechanisms. March also brought opportunities for celebration and reflection. The International Women's Day event was marked by insightful addresses and a collective reaffirmation of our commitment to gender inclusivity. Meanwhile, on a special invitation from the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, the Judges of the Supreme Court, along with their families, visited the verdant Amrit Udyan at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Within these pages, we also bring you the summaries of select judgments that reflect the evolving contours of legal interpretation and the Court's responsiveness to contemporary challenges. While Supreme Court Events and Initiatives, Programmes and Conferences, and Bar News Bulletin remain rich with updates from our ever-evolving institutional engagements. And finally, for the most cherished section of the month—Beyond the Court—themes for this issue included International Women's Day and World Poetry Day, while the photography segment focused on the International Day of Happiness and World Sparrow Day.

I hope you find in these pages both insight and inspiration, and a renewed sense of belonging to the vibrant life of the Supreme Court.

Happy Reading!

Sanjiv Khanna
Chief Justice of India

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief
Nilesh Kumar Kalbhor

Associate Editors
Iram Jan
Rituja Chouksey

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/

Contents

Imran Pratapgarhi vs State of Gujarat & Anr.
2025 INSC 410

"Recitation of poetry expressing dissent or protest does not constitute an offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and is protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution"

Coram: Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

In the judgment dated **28 March 2025**, the Supreme Court quashed an FIR registered against the appellant, a Member of Parliament, for reciting and sharing a poem on social media which allegedly incited communal disharmony. The FIR invoked Sections 196, 197(1), 299, 302, 57 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS). The Court held that the poem in question, which was recited in the background of a video clip of a mass wedding event, does not refer to any religion, caste or community, and on a plain reading promotes non-violence and love in response to injustice. It thus concluded that none of the ingredients of the alleged offences were made out.

The Court meticulously examined the contents of the poem and held that its message of facing injustice with love and the symbolic reference to the "throne" could not be construed as promoting enmity or hatred under Section 196 of the BNS. The reasoning extended to Sections 197, 299 and 302, which the Court found wholly inapplicable as the poem neither published misleading information nor attempted to insult any religion or incite violence. The Court also held that Section 57, regarding abetment by public, and Section 3(5), were irrelevant. The FIR, therefore, was held to be an abuse of the process of law.

On the obligation to register FIRs under Section 173(1) of the BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita), the Court reiterated that such registration is mandatory only when information discloses a cognisable offence. The police, however, failed to exercise the discretion under Section 173(3) BNSS to conduct a preliminary inquiry in cases punishable with imprisonment between three and seven years. The Court emphasised that such discretion should be used especially when the complaint concerns spoken or written words, as a safeguard for protecting the fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a).

The Court made following observations:

i. Sub-section (3) of Section 173 of the BNSS significantly departs from Section 154 of CrPC. It empowers a police officer, upon receiving information about a cognisable offence punishable with imprisonment for 3 to 7 years, to conduct a preliminary inquiry—with prior permission of a superior officer—to ascertain whether a prima facie case exists. Under CrPC, such inquiry is limited and permissible only where the information does not disclose a cognisable offence. Thus, sub-section (3) of Section 173 is an exception to sub-section (1) and allows preliminary inquiry even if the offence appears cognisable.

ii. After conducting a preliminary inquiry under Section 173(3), if the officer finds a prima facie case, he must immediately register an FIR. If no prima facie case is made out, the officer must inform the complainant so that a remedy under Section 173(4) can be pursued.

iii. For offences under Sections 196, 197, 299, and 302 of the BNS, the officer must read or hear the spoken or written words to determine whether a cognisable offence is made out. This examination does not amount to an impermissible preliminary inquiry under Section 173(1).

iv. Police officers must abide by the Constitution and uphold its ideals. The Preamble enshrines liberty of thought and expression. Article 19(1)(a) guarantees freedom of speech and expression. Being part of the State under Article 12, and as citizens, police officers are bound to honour and protect this fundamental right.

v. Article 19(2) provides an exception to Article 19(1)(a). Laws under Article 19(2) must impose reasonable restrictions. When an offence under such laws is alleged and Section 173(3) applies, conducting a preliminary inquiry to check for a prima facie case is appropriate to safeguard Article 19(1)(a). Therefore, the higher officer should normally permit such inquiry.

vi. Allegations under Section 196 BNS must be judged from the standpoint of reasonable, strong-minded, firm, and courageous individuals, not based on the insecurities or sensitivities of those perceiving criticism as a threat to their power or position.

vii. There is no absolute rule barring the High Court from quashing an FIR at the nascent stage of investigation under Article 226 or Section 482 CrPC (now Section 528 BNSS). If no offence is made out on the face of it, the High Court can interfere to prevent abuse of process. It depends on the nature of the case and offence.

viii. Free expression of thoughts and views is essential in a civilised society and is a component of a dignified life under Article 21. Even if views are disliked by many, the right to express them must be protected. Poetry, satire, art, and comedy enrich lives. Judges, even if personally disapproving of the content, must uphold the right under Article 19(1)(a). If the executive fails to protect these rights, Courts must step in.

ix. Seventy-five years into the Republic, we must not be so insecure that a poem or any art form like stand-up comedy is perceived as a threat to communal harmony. Such views would stifle legitimate expressions essential to a free society.

The Supreme Court quashed the FIR registered against the appellant. The Court emphasised that where no offence is made out, failure to exercise discretion under Section 173(3) and registering FIR directly amounts to abuse of the process of law and violation of constitutional freedoms.

Supreme Court Bar Association & Anr vs State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. 2025 INSC 364

"Clarification and modification of directions regarding appearance marking of advocates in Supreme Court proceedings"

Coram: Justice Bela M Trivedi, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma

In the judgment dated **19 March 2025**, the Supreme Court addressed miscellaneous applications filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA), seeking clarification/modification of directions issued in para 42 of the judgment dated 20

September 2024 in Criminal Appeal No 3883-3884 of 2024. The applicants contended that the impugned directions adversely affected advocates' rights, including voting rights, chamber allotments, and eligibility for designation as Senior Advocates. The Court allowed intervention considering the wide repercussions of the judgment on advocates practicing in the Supreme Court. The Court clarified that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) must conduct an independent investigation uninfluenced by observations made in the judgment.

The Court observed:

(i) Where the Vakalatnama is executed in the presence of the Advocate-on-Record, he shall certify that it was executed in his presence.

(ii) Where the Advocate-on-Record merely accepts the Vakalatnama already executed in the presence of a Notary or an Advocate, he shall make an endorsement that he has satisfied himself about the due execution of the Vakalatnama.

(iii) The Advocate-on-Record shall furnish the details as required by the Appearance Slip prescribed in Form No. 30 through the link provided on the website as mentioned in the Notice dated 30 December 2022 issued by the Supreme Court.

(iv) The respective Court Masters shall ensure to record appearances in the Record of Proceedings only of Senior Advocate/ AOR/Advocate who are physically present and arguing in the Court at the time of hearing of the matter, and one Advocate/ AOR each for assistance in Court to such arguing Senior Advocate/AOR/Advocate, as the case may be, as required in the Note mentioned at the foot of the said Form No 30.

(v) If there is any change in the authorisation of the AOR or of the Senior Advocate or Arguing Advocate by the concerned party after submission of the Appearance Slip prescribed in Form No. 30, it shall be the duty of the concerned AOR to submit an Appearance Slip afresh to the Court Master informing him about such change, and the concerned Court Master shall record appearances of such Advocates accordingly in the Record of Proceedings.

(vi) A Senior Advocate shall not appear without an AOR in the Supreme Court.

The Court modified para 42 of the 20 September 2024 judgment accordingly and directed compliance with these instructions, disposing of the miscellaneous applications.

Disortho S A S vs Meril Life Sciences Private Limited
2025 INSC 352

"Jurisdiction of Indian courts in cross-border arbitration proceedings clarified"

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

In the judgment dated **18 March 2025**, the Supreme Court decided on a petition under Section 11(6) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, for the appointment of an arbitral tribunal. The dispute arose between Disortho S A S, a company incorporated in Colombia, and Meril Life Sciences Private Limited, an Indian company, under an International

Exclusive Distributor Agreement dated 16 May 2016. The agreement contained conflicting clauses—Clause 16.5 subjected disputes to Indian law and the jurisdiction of Gujarat courts, while Clause 18 provided for arbitration under the Arbitration and Conciliation Center of the Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá. Meril opposed the petition, arguing that the agreement did not give Indian courts jurisdiction to appoint an arbitrator. The key legal question was whether Indian courts had jurisdiction to appoint arbitrators despite the agreement providing for arbitration in Bogotá.

The Court observed:

- A contract must be interpreted as a whole, giving effect to all provisions unless they are irreconcilably inconsistent.
- Clause 16.5 stated that the agreement would be governed by Indian law, with courts in Gujarat having jurisdiction over all matters arising from the agreement.
- Clause 18 designated Bogotá as the arbitration venue but did not explicitly exclude Indian courts' jurisdiction.
- Clause 16.5 and Clause 18 could coexist, with Columbia serving as the venue for arbitration while Indian courts retained supervisory jurisdiction.
- The law governing an arbitration agreement is determined by express choice, implied choice, or closest connection, following the three-step test established in Sulamérica Cia Nacional De Seguros SA vs Enesa Engenharia SA.
- In the absence of an express choice, the lex contractus (Indian law) generally governs the arbitration agreement.
- The venue of arbitration does not necessarily determine the law governing the arbitration agreement or the jurisdiction of supervisory courts.
- The agreement's reference to Colombian law only applied to the arbitration proceedings and award, not the arbitration agreement's governance.

The Supreme Court reaffirmed the applicability of Indian law in determining arbitration jurisdiction and upheld the courts' authority to intervene in transnational disputes where Indian law is designated as the governing law. The Supreme Court appointed Justice SP Garg (Retd), High Court of Delhi, as the sole arbitrator with arbitration to be governed by the rules of the Delhi International Arbitration Centre. The Court also directed that the arbitration venue shall be mutually decided by the parties and the arbitrator.

Pradeep Nirankarnath Sharma vs State of Gujarat & Ors 2025 INSC 350

"The Supreme Court reaffirms that police must register an FIR if the information prima facie discloses a cognisable offence, without mandating a preliminary inquiry in every case"

Coram: Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Prasanna B Varale

In a judgment dated **17 March 2025**, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal of Pradeep Nirankarnath Sharma, a retired IAS officer, who sought a mandatory preliminary inquiry before the registration of FIRs against him for alleged corruption and land allotment irregularities during his tenure as Collector of

Kachchh, Gujarat. The Court reaffirmed that under Section 154 CrPC, the registration of an FIR is mandatory if the information prima facie discloses a cognisable offence. Relying on Lalita Kumari vs Government of Uttar Pradesh (2014) 2 SCC 1, the Court clarified that a preliminary inquiry is required only when further verification is needed to determine whether an offence is cognisable. In the present case, the allegations against the appellant pertain to abuse of official position and corrupt practices, which are cognisable offences. Therefore, no preliminary inquiry was necessary before registering the FIR.

The Court observed as follows:

(i) Claims of successive FIRs with ulterior motives can be addressed during investigation or trial.

(ii) The appellant can seek quashing of frivolous FIRs under Section 482 CrPC.

(iii) The appellant has the right to apply for bail and can challenge illegal investigative actions.

(iv) The Court rejected the plea for a blanket restraint on future FIRs and a mandatory preliminary inquiry before FIR registration, stating that such relief would contravene the CrPC and amount to judicial overreach.

The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal and affirmed the Gujarat High Court's decision, emphasizing that courts cannot rewrite statutory provisions or introduce procedural safeguards not contemplated by law.

State of Assam & Ors vs Arabinda Rabha & Ors.
2025 INSC 307

"Judicial review of cancellation of select lists in public employment and application of proportionality test"

Coram: Justice Dipankar Datta, Justice Manmohan

In the judgment dated **7 March 2025**, the Supreme Court examined the validity of the cancellation of a select list for recruitment to 104 Constable posts in the Assam Forest Protection Force (AFPF). The recruitment process began with an advertisement on 23rd July 2014, and interviews were conducted in May 2016. Following a change in the political regime in Assam, the newly appointed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) highlighted anomalies in the selection process, particularly the disproportionate representation of candidates from specific districts and violations of the reservation policy. The Government cancelled the selection list on 18th July 2016, leading to legal challenges. The Gauhati High Court ruled in favour of the selected candidates, stating that the anomalies could be rectified without cancelling the entire process. The State of Assam challenged this ruling, arguing that the selection process was fundamentally flawed and justified cancellation. The Supreme Court held that the cancellation of the select list was justified as the selection process was tainted with irregularities and lacked inclusivity. The High Court erred in interfering with the government's decision without applying the proportionality test.

The Court observed:

- Selection based solely on interview marks carries an inherent risk of arbitrariness and favouritism, making it susceptible to judicial scrutiny.

- The cancellation of a select list by a successor government due to detected illegalities must be assessed using the proportionality test.
- The absence of a challenge by unsuccessful candidates does not preclude the government from addressing perceived arbitrariness in the selection process.
- Courts should examine whether the decision to cancel a selection process is disproportionate to the detected irregularities and if alternative remedies, such as rectification, could have been applied.
- The selection process had major defects, including the exclusion of candidates from 16 districts, improper allocation of reserved category seats, and the appointment of non-meritorious candidates.
- The absence of recruitment rules governing the selection process raised concerns about transparency and fairness.
- Courts should not substitute their judgment for that of the government unless the decision is unreasonable or arbitrary.

Directions of the Court:

(i) The State of Assam is granted liberty to restart the recruitment process for 104 Constable posts in AFPF through a fresh advertisement.

(ii) Recruitment rules should ideally be framed to ensure uniformity and prevent allegations of bias or arbitrariness. If no rules are framed, the selection process must follow transparent administrative instructions published in the public domain.

(iii) The respondents, if they choose to apply in pursuance of such advertisement, shall be eligible to apply for the fresh recruitment process and shall receive relaxations, including waiver of the age bar and minor deficiencies in physical measurements or PET requirements.

The Supreme Court concluded that the empanelment of candidates does not grant an indefeasible right to appointment, and the government has the discretion to cancel a flawed selection process. The appeal was allowed, and the High Court's judgment was set aside.

In Re: Recruitment of Visually Impaired in Judicial Services vs Registrar General, The High Court of Madhya Pradesh 2025 INSC 300

"No person can be denied consideration for recruitment in the judicial service solely on account of their physical disabilities"

Coram: Justice JB Pardiwala, Justice R Mahadevan

In the judgment dated **3 March 2025**, the Supreme Court held that visually impaired candidates are eligible for judicial service and struck down Rule 6A of the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Service Rules, 1994, to the extent it excluded them. The matter arose from a suo motu writ petition taken up by the Court following a letter petition challenging the exclusion of visually impaired candidates from recruitment in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan judicial services.

The Court observed:

- Visually impaired and low-vision candidates are eligible for judicial service recruitment, and Rule 6A of the Madhya Pradesh Judicial

Service Rules, 1994, is struck down insofar as it excludes them.

- Rule 7 is struck down to the extent that it prescribes the additional requirement for PwD candidates of either a three year practice period or securing an aggregate score of 70% in the first attempt; it shall apply only to the educational and other eligibility criteria—including a minimum aggregate score of 70% with relaxations akin to those for SC/ST candidates—without the rigid requirements of first attempt or three year practice.
- The High Court's order dated 1 April 2024 and the notification dated 17 November 2023 are set aside against PwD candidates, including appellant Ayush Yardi, who will now be considered for selection. Similarly, the High Court's order dated 11 January 2024 and notification dated 18 February 2023 are set aside for appellant Alok Singh and similarly placed candidates, who must now be considered for vacant posts with applicable relaxation.
- The writ petitioners in WP (C) Nos. 484 and 494 of 2024, who contend that a separate cut-off was not applied in the Rajasthan Judicial Service Preliminary Examinations resulting in their non-selection for the main examination, shall be entitled to be considered in the next recruitment by maintaining a separate cut-off and merit list for PwDs.
- The overall analysis demonstrates that a rights based approach necessitates that PwDs must not face any discrimination in their pursuit of judicial service opportunities, and affirmative action must provide an inclusive framework; the right against disability based discrimination under the RPwD Act, 2016, is to be treated as a fundamental right.
- Separate cut-offs are to be maintained for visually impaired candidates, in line with the judgment in Indra Sawhney, to ensure that selection truly reflects fairness and justice.

The Supreme Court directed the Madhya Pradesh High Court to revise its recruitment rules to ensure compliance with the RPwD Act and constitutional mandates. It further directed that all visually impaired candidates who had previously been denied consideration under the impugned provisions should be given the opportunity to participate in the recruitment process.

State of Goa vs Namita Tripathi
2025 INSC 306

"Washing and dry cleaning of clothes qualifies as a 'manufacturing process' under the Factories Act, 1948"

Coram: Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan

In the judgment dated **3 March 2025**, the Supreme Court held that washing and dry cleaning of clothes constitute a "manufacturing process" under Section 2(k) of the Factories Act, 1948, thereby bringing laundry businesses under the definition of a "factory" under Section 2(m). The appeal was filed by the State of Goa challenging the Bombay High Court's decision, which had quashed criminal proceedings against the respondent for running a laundry business without complying with the Factories Act. The question of law before the Supreme Court was whether laundry services involving washing and cleaning of clothes using power

and employing more than ten workers fall within the scope of a "manufacturing process" under the Act.

The Supreme Court held that the Factories Act, 1948, being a welfare legislation, must be interpreted in a manner that furthers the protection of workers' rights. The Court noted that Section 2(k) explicitly includes "washing and cleaning" within its definition of "manufacturing process" and rejected the High Court's reliance on the definition of "manufacture" under the Central Excise Act, 1944. The Court observed that the inclusion of "washing and cleaning" in the 1948 Act, which was absent in the 1934 Act, was a deliberate expansion to include previously excluded undertakings. It further held that the requirement of "transformation" into a new marketable product, as argued by the respondent, was inapplicable under the Factories Act.

The Court observed:

- Section 2(k) of the Factories Act clearly defines "manufacturing process" to include "washing and cleaning" of any article with a view to its use, sale, transport, delivery, or disposal.
- Section 2(m) defines a "factory" as a premises where ten or more workers are engaged in a manufacturing process with the aid of power, or twenty or more without power. Since the respondent's business met these criteria, it was covered under the Act.
- The High Court erred in relying on Triplex Dry Cleaners vs ESIC, as that case was decided before the 1989 amendment to the Employees' State Insurance Act, which incorporated the Factories Act definition of "manufacturing process."
- The Court rejected the High Court's reasoning that washing and cleaning do not create a new marketable commodity, stating that the plain language of Section 2(k) does not require such a transformation.
- The Court affirmed that the respondent's premises were already registered under the Employees' State Insurance Act as a factory, further supporting the State's contention.

The Supreme Court set aside the High Court's order and restored the complaint filed under Section 92 of the Factories Act, 1948. The case was remanded to the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Panaji, for further proceedings. The Court concluded that businesses engaged in washing and dry cleaning of clothes using power and employing more than ten workers must comply with the Factories Act, including registration and licensing requirements.

Union of India & Others vs Future Gaming Solutions Pvt. Ltd. & Others 2025 INSC 181

"The activity of promotion, marketing, organising or in any other manner assisting in organising game of chance including lottery is an activity included in the expression 'betting and gambling' and the State Legislature alone is competent to levy any tax on such activity"

Coram: Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice N Kotiswar Singh

In the judgment dated **11 February 2025**, the Supreme Court dismissed the batch of appeals filed by the Union of India and upheld various judgments of the High Court of Sikkim, which had struck down amendments made to the Finance Act, 1994 in the years 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, and 2016 imposing service tax on

lottery distributors. The assesses (respondents) were companies engaged in selling paper and online lottery tickets organised by the Government of Sikkim. The Union of India issued notices demanding service tax under various provisions of the Finance Act, contending that the assessees were agents rendering taxable service. The High Court ruled in favour of the assessees, declaring the provisions ultra vires and holding the relationship to be of principal-to-principal. The Union challenged this before the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court framed the issues as whether the activities of the assessees amount to 'services', whether the relationship was of agency or principal-to-principal, whether Parliament could impose such service tax under Entry 97 – List I read with Article 248, and whether the impugned amendments were constitutionally valid. The Court analysed clauses in the agreements between the State and assessees and noted that assessees paid a fixed consideration, bore marketing and distribution costs, appointed sub-agents independently, retained sale proceeds, and were not indemnified by the State—indicating a principal-to-principal relationship. The Court reaffirmed that taxation is a distinct matter and must flow from a specific constitutional entry. Entry 62 – List II governs betting and gambling and thus falls within the exclusive domain of State legislatures. Parliament's residuary power under Entry 97 – List I could not be invoked to impose tax on such subjects.

The Court observed:

- The High Court rightly held that the activity of promotion, marketing, organising or in any other manner assisting in organising lottery is an act of betting and gambling and falls exclusively under Entry 62 – List II of the Seventh Schedule.
- That the impugned amendments to the Finance Act, 1994 attempted to tax such activity by treating it as a service.
- That the transaction between the State of Sikkim and the assessees was of principal-to-principal nature, where the assessees bore financial risks, received no indemnification, sold tickets at their discretion and bore all costs of advertisement.
- That lottery tickets are actionable claims under Section 3 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 and not "goods" or "services."
- That the introduction of Section 65(105)(zzzzn), Sections 65B(31A), 65B(44) Explanation 2, 66B, 66D(i), and Rule 6(7C) of the Finance Act, 1994 were unconstitutional insofar as they imposed service tax on the assessees.
- The provisions of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 and Rules of 2010 use terms like "through" and "on behalf of" only in a regulatory sense and do not mandate an agency relationship.
- Judicial precedents such as *Sunrise Associates (2006) 5 SCC 603 and K Arumugam vs Union of India (2024 SCC Online SC 2278)* support the view that sale of lottery tickets is not a service and that actionable claims are excluded from the service tax net.

The Supreme Court held that since there is no agency relationship, the respondent-assessees do not render any service to the Government of Sikkim, and thus, service tax is not leviable on their transactions. However, the respondents will remain liable to pay gambling tax imposed by the State under Entry 62 of List II. The Court affirmed the High Court's finding that lotteries fall within "betting and gambling" under Entry 62 of the State List, granting exclusive taxing power to the State Government.

Oath-Taking Ceremony

Justice Joymalya Bagchi began his career with a law degree from Calcutta University, followed by his enrolment as an advocate in 1991. He specialised in criminal and constitutional law, with notable expertise in handling complex cases involving death penalty, clemency petitions, and public interest litigations focused on human rights and environmental protection.

Appointed as a permanent judge of the Calcutta High Court in 2011, he was transferred to Andhra Pradesh High Court on 4 January 2021, and repatriated to Calcutta High Court on 8 November 2021. After serving as a judge in the High Court for more than 13 years, he was elevated to the Supreme Court of India on 17 March 2025.

Justice Bagchi in his judicial career has delivered various impactful pronouncements, which have shaped progressive legal standards and reinforced the principles of justice and fairness. In *Bijoy vs State of West Bengal*, he issued pivotal directives to protect fundamental rights and dignity of child victims, a decision later made a part of the Supreme Court judgment in *Nipun Saxena vs Union of India*.

Beyond courtroom responsibilities, Justice Bagchi has made significant contributions to legal education and institutional leadership. He has held several responsible posts, including Executive Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, Member of the National Court Management Systems Committee (Chairperson of National Framework on Court Excellence), Chairperson of the West Bengal Judicial Academy's Governing Body, and Member of the General Council of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences. His academic involvement extends to lecturing at multiple universities and participating in judicial education programs, both in National Judicial Academy and various State Judicial Academies.

An internationally recognised legal professional, Justice Bagchi has participated in judicial exchange programs and conferences across the United States, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

17 March 2025, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna administers oath of office to Justice Joymalya Bagchi during the swearing-in ceremony

A Special Feature on the Training Cell of the Supreme Court

Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, OSD (Registrar), Training Cell & Member (HR), eCommittee

In recent years, the Supreme Court of India has undertaken transformative steps to ensure that every functionary is equipped with the skills and updated knowledge to serve justice effectively. At the heart of this mission is the Training Cell, an institution quietly scripting a revolution in capacity building within the Registry under the guidance of the Chief Justice of India. From foundational courses for new recruits to advanced leadership and life-saving skills, the Training Cell has emerged as the hub for institutional growth and innovation.

We sat down with Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, Registrar (Training), to discuss the journey, achievements, and vision of this vital wing of the Supreme Court. Her passion was evident as she shared how the Training Cell, once without structure or a dedicated officer, has now evolved into a comprehensive institution spearheading more than a dozen major initiatives.

From Vision to Action

"When the Training Cell was revamped under the guidance of then Chief Justice of India, we had a challenge to streamline the Training Cell with an annual calendar and systematic approach," Ms Arulmozhiselvi recalls. "So, we began researching, gathering inputs from stakeholders, and drafting what is now a structured annual training calendar." Since then, the Training Cell has conducted 216 training sessions, resulting in 6,294 participation between 1 July 2023 and 31 March 2025.

The Training Cell now operates through nine (main) structured categories of training—ranging from induction, ICT to legal, language, and interdisciplinary collaborations. A newly established state-of-the-art Training-cum-

Group Photo of Team: Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, OSD (Registrar), along with Mr Manish Sethi, Deputy Registrar and Mr Bhaskar Bhardwaj, Branch Officer Standing (left to right): Ms Vandana, Junior Court Attendant; Mr Ashish Aswal, Junior Court Assistant; Mr Anant Shribrahmi, Junior Court Assistant; Ms Sunitha, Junior Court Attendant; Ms Kirti Malik, Senior Court Assistant; and Mr Arun Karthick VA, Law Clerk-cum-Research Associate

Examination Centre houses a computer lab and enables QR code-based digital attendance, feedback collection, and certificate generation mapped to employee codes. Certificates are also forwarded to Admin-I for inclusion in service records—a small step that has led to significant improvements in participation and motivation.

Innovations and Inclusivity

The Training Cell has broken from tradition to reach wider audiences. For instance, POSH Act training was conducted for 517 staff across 33 residential offices, while another session in collaboration with the National Commission for Women was held at the Supreme Court premises. Staff nearing retirement were given a Pension and Benefits Workshop with UCO Bank, and in partnership with the Income Tax Department, a TDS Awareness Program was held. Training also catered to diverse groups, from Group C staff receiving basic computer literacy, to newly recruited cooks undergoing fire safety and hygiene training. Junior Court Assistants participated in extensive seven-day induction training programs, most recently involving Batch 3 and Batch 4, comprising over 120 officers.

Meanwhile, language development has been a standout success: the STEP-English program by The Hindu Group engaged more than 180 participants across 13 weeks, while British Council-led English training supported senior officers.

International Collaboration and Forward Vision

In a remarkable stride, the Supreme Court hosted a five-day specialized training program for staff from the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in May 2024. The visiting delegation gained first-hand insight into the Court's digital transformation. In a letter addressed to the Secretary General, Mr Aravinda Gunaratne, Registrar of the Sri Lankan Supreme Court, lauded the initiative, crediting it with driving a host of reforms—including digitising the record room, introducing e-reference systems, and appointing court managers to assist litigants.

International vision also reflects in staff development. Training modules now include leadership and team-building adventure camps at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, covering three batches and over 200 participants. Ms Arulmozhiselvi believes that interdisciplinary exposure—with institutions like AIIMS, IIPA, ISTM, and the NIM—builds both domain expertise and institutional empathy. "Training with interdisciplinary institutions helps us learn their best practices and it broadens our perspective," she emphasizes.

Challenges

Despite the successes, challenges remain. "Most training happens post-working hours because staff from judicial branches cannot be relieved during court time," Ms Arulmozhiselvi explains. "We need an exclusive setup—a dedicated

team and faculty structure." There is already an approved proposal to build a hierarchical Training Cell, complete with additional registrars, consultants, and in-house assistant registrars and branch-officers serving as permanent faculty.

The Training Cell's future vision includes the establishment of a Supreme Court Judicial Academy, a training college on par with State Judicial Academies, serving as a nodal hub for advanced learning, interdisciplinary research, visit to High Courts for the Registry sections dealing with the concerned High Courts and international exchange. Plans are also underway to digitise and archive training materials and completion reports. It also institutionalises the knowledge for the staff by preparing ready references and study materials.

Looking Ahead

"We are not just training staff—we are shaping the institution's future," says Ms Arulmozhiselvi. With over 215 sessions held already and new programs rolling out every month—from AED training for Advocates including SCORA, SCBA, and SCWLA members, to orientation sessions for law clerks, to RTI Act workshops, to ethics and leadership development—the Training Cell is proving itself to be the Supreme Court's silent engine of growth.

If the past two years are any indication, the Training Cell is not just about skills—it's about building a culture of continuous learning, adaptability, and excellence.

Officers of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka visit Court No 1 during their Training at the Supreme Court of India

Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee

On 19 March 2025, the Supreme Court's Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) conducted a sensitisation session for members of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association. The session was held in the presence of Justice N Kotiswar Singh, alongside Ms Sujata Singh, Member Secretary of the GSICC, and committee members Ms Nina Gupta, Ms Liz Mathews, Ms Sakshi Banga, Ms Prabha Swamy, and Mr Saumyajit Pani. POSH consultant Ms Sneh Sharma facilitated the session.

Focusing on the key provisions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, 2013, the session covered essential topics such as legal definitions, procedural mandates, and practical implementation within professional settings. The interactive format encouraged active participation from attendees, allowing legal professionals to seek clarifications and discuss challenges related to ensuring a safe and inclusive workplace.

19 March 2025, Justice N Kotiswar Singh along with other speakers conduct a gender sensitisation training for the advocates

On 29 March 2025, the Training Cell, in collaboration with GSICC, conducted a gender sensitisation programme for Senior Court Assistants of the Supreme Court. The Resource person for the training was Mr Soumyajit Pani, member GSICC. The session covered aspects like gender biases, workplace safety laws, and best practices for inclusivity. A total of 128 participants gained insights to foster a more equitable work environment.

Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee

In March 2025, twenty 40 hours mediation training programmes were conducted in different states—Andhra Pradesh (10), Maharashtra (2), Tripura (2) and Mediation & Conciliation Centre, Punjab & Haryana High Court (6)—along with one-day orientation programme by Odisha Judicial Academy on 22 March 2025. These programmes were organised under the aegis of the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India.

In addition to the above training sessions, two batches of 40 hours hybrid mode mediation training programmes under the aegis of the MCPC in collaboration with NALSA were started with effect from 7 March 2025 and 21 March 2025 respectively.

Further, the second interactive/practical session (Roleplay) of the 40 hours hybrid mode mediation training programme, the training of which started with effect from 23 December 2025, was conducted on 22 March 2025, in the Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India.

Visit to Amrit Udhyan

18 March 2025, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna alongwith the Judges of the Supreme Court and their families, visit the Amrit Udyan of Rashtrapati Bhavan and interact with the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu

Programmes and Conferences

30 March 2025, Justice Surya Kant, Justice MM Sundresh, and Justice R Mahadevan attend 2nd Convocation of Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla at Shimla

30 March 2025, Justice PS Narasimha chairs technical session IV of the NGT Conference on Environment-2025 and delivers speech at the Valedictory Session at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

30 March 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Guest, delivers address during the Valedictory Ceremony of the Symbiosis Moot Court Competition, 2025 at Symbiosis Law School, Noida

29 March 2025, Smt Droupadi Murmu, President of India, Justice Vikram Nath, Judge Supreme Court India and Mr Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the inaugural ceremony of the 'National Conference on Environment-2025' organised by the National Green Tribunal at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

29-30 March 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal chairs session on the theme "Do's and Don'ts For Drafting and Arbitration Agreement: Making Non-Signatories Party to Arbitration Proceedings" in the International Seminar on 'India: The Next Global Manufacturing Hub' organised by the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) and the UIA India Chapter at New Delhi

28 March 2025, Justice Surya Kant attends Pt Lakshmi Chand Sharma Memorial Lecture on Professional Ethics in Legal Profession organised by Meerut Bar Association

23 March 2025, Justice BR Gavai, Justice Vikram Nath and Justice KV Viswanathan alongwith Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of Law & Justice attend in the 12th Anniversary Celebration of the establishment of the High Court of Manipur at High Court Complex, Manipur, Imphal

22 March 2025, Justice Surya Kant attends 'International Conference on Law and Technology in the Commonwealth: Navigating Innovation, Challenges, and Ethical Frontiers' organised by CLEA in association with MKES College of Law, Amity Law School, Smt Kamalaben Gambhirchand Shah Law School at Mumbai

22 March 2025, Justice PS Narasimha, Chief Guest, delivers speech during the 11th Annual Judicial Conclave of the Tripura Judicial Academy and inaugurates Gym at the Tripura High Court Campus, Agartala

22 March 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal presides over session-III on the theme 'Bridging the Digital Divide: Role of E-services' as a Resource Person in the West Zone-I Regional Conference on 'Court Dockets: Explosion and Exclusion' organised by the National Judicial Academy in collaboration with the High Court of Gujarat and the Gujarat State Judicial Academy at Ahmedabad

21 March 2025, Justice Surya Kant delivers a lecture on 'Invisible Victims of the Legal System: Need for Sensitivity and Compassionate Adjudication' at Friday Group event, ISIL Building, New Delhi

21 March 2025, Justice Rajesh Bindal delivers a keynote address at 'Forbes India Legal Powerlists 2023 Finale' organised by Forbes India at Taj Palace, Delhi

15 March 2025, Justice Vikram Nath delivers the 6th Lecture in the 'Silver Jubilee Lecture Series' on "Judgment Writing: a Professional Art," organised by the Karnataka Judicial Academy at KJA Auditorium, Bengaluru

15 March 2025, Justice BV Nagarathna addresses a seminar on the topic 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Women Who Made It' organised by the University of Mumbai and the Indian Council of Social Science Research as part of the centenary celebrations of Cornelia Sorabji, the first female advocate in India at Mumbai

15 March 2025, Justice KV Viswanathan attends and delivers special address on the occasion of the '75th year of Adoption of Constitution of India' & 'Celebration of 160 years of Madras Bar Association' at the High Court Auditorium, Chennai

13 March 2025, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, attend the closing ceremony of the special campaign in Mizoram on 'Public Education on Environment Protection & Conservation Laws, Climate Change & Sustainable Practices' organised by Mizoram State Legal Services Authority at Gauhati High Court, Aizwal Bench

9 March 2025, Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Guest, attends a valedictory ceremony of International Conference on 'Law, Technology and Sustainable Development,' organised by Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University at MNNIT, Prayagraj

8 March 2025, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Rajesh Bindal preside over various sessions in the National Workshop for State Judicial Academies for the Judge in-Charge and Director of State Judicial Academies organised by the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal

8 March 2025, Justice PS Narasimha, Chief Guest, delivers a convocation address at the Eighth Convocation of the HNLU, Raipur

7-15 March 2025, Justice BR Gavai and Justice Surya Kant, Chief Patron of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association, along with the Members of Indian Delegation visit Nairobi (Republic of kenya) to initiate vital dialogue and facilitate the mutual exchange of judicial insights and practices with Kenyan Judiciary

7 March 2025, Justice KV Viswanathan,Guest of Honour, delivers an address at the book launch of 'Foundations of Indian Contract Law' organised by Shiv Nadar School of Law at India International Centre, New Delhi

6 March 2025, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice KV Viswanathan, Justice PB Varale, and Justice N Kotiswar Singh, attend the launch of 'Ratanlal & Dhirajlal's Law of Crimes: A Comprehensive Commentary' on Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 at High Court of Delhi

4 March 2025, Justice BV Nagarathna releases the book titled 'Law, Justice, Society-Selected Works of Mr Upendra Baxi' edited by Prof Amita Dhanda, Prof Arun Thiruvengadam, and Prof Kalpana Kannabiran and addresses the gathering at Indian Law Institute, Delhi

4 March 2025, Justice KV Viswanathan delivers an address at the event organised by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority to celebrate International Women's Day at Delhi High Court

1 March 2025, Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah attend one-day seminar on the NDPS Act, 1985 organised by Patna High Court in collaboration with Government of Bihar at the Gyan Bhawan, Patna

21 March 2025, Law students from the University of Seattle visit the Supreme Court Judges Library, where they were given a tour by Dr Jyotsna Eveline Reuben, Director Library, and Mr Brij Bhooshan Khare, Chief Librarian of the Supreme Court of India

Legal Aid

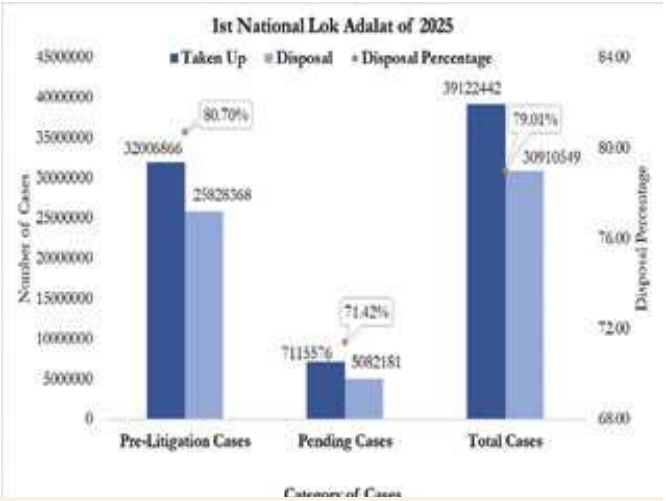
29-30 March 2025, Justice BR Gavai along with Justice Ujjal Bhuyan attend the Mega Legal Awareness Programme Camp-cum-Sewa Apke Dwar organised by Arunachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (APSLSA) under the aegis of NALSA, in collaboration with District Legal Services Authorities, the District Administration, Gaon Burahs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and the District Child Protection Unit, West Kameng District in Arunachal Pradesh. This initiative aimed to strengthen legal outreach and awareness among tribal communities in Dirang, Bomdila, West Kameng District and Tawang.

Under the Sewa Apke Dwar initiative, around 30 government departments participated in camps that saw a large turnout of 1,250 attendees, including officials, locals, students, and SSB personnel. The DLSA, West Kameng, conducted legal awareness sessions on key issues such as domestic violence, workplace harassment, and various NALSA schemes. Justice Gavai highlighted the crucial role of legal awareness in ensuring access to justice and reiterated NALSA's commitment to legal aid. Along with Justice Bhuyan, he also visited a jail and a children's home in Tawang to engage with vulnerable groups and assess their legal needs.

On 22 March 2025, Justice BR Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, along with Justice Surya Kant, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice MM Sundresh, Justice KV Viswanathan, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judges, Supreme Court of India, visited relief camps in Manipur.

The Manipur State Legal Services Authority, under NALSA, organised eight legal services camps and 84 medical camps across various districts, benefiting thousands of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Over 4,800 individuals received legal aid, while nearly 15,000 received medical assistance from teams of doctors and support staff. Justice Gavai virtually inaugurated the camps and new Legal Aid Clinics and also distributed essential relief materials.

22 March 2025, Justice BR Gavai,Justice Vikram Nath,Justice MM Sundresh, Justice KV Viswanathan and Justice N Kotiswar Singh at the inauguration of the Legal Services Camp, Health Camp, Legal Aid Clinics & Distribution of Relief Materials for the Internally Displaced Persons organised by the Manipur Legal Services Authority



8 March 2025, NALSA organises the 1st National Lok Adalat of 2025 across the country and disposed of over 3.09 crore cases, including 2.58 crore pre-litigation matters. With settlement worth Rs. 18,212.23 crores, it achieved a record 79.01% disposal rate

NALSA in partnership with the International Academy of Mediators (IAM) and The ADR Group (TAG), successfully conducted the 2nd batch of the 15-Hour Advanced Commercial Mediation Training Program from 3-5 March 2025 at the Supreme Court of India.

This intensive program aimed to equip trainers and potential trainers with advanced mediation skills for resolving complex domestic and cross-border commercial disputes.

Justice BR Gavai inaugurated the program. He emphasised that mediation is now a necessity for India's growing economy and cross-border trade.

Justice PS Narasimha also graced the event, joined by senior officials from NALSA and SCLSC, including Mr SC Munghate, Mr Santosh Kumar, Mr Samarendra P Naik-Nimbalkar, Ms Amandeep Sibia, Ms Shreya Arora Mehta, Ms Avritee Naithani, and Mr Anurag Bhaskar.

With 33 trained mediators participating, the program focused on strengthening India's commercial mediation landscape in line with global standards. International mediation experts led the sessions: Mr Jonathan Lloyd-Jones (UK), Mr Claude Amar (France), Mr Tat Lim (Singapore), Ms Prachi Mehta, and Ms Anveeksha T Jain (India).

Topics covered included psychology in mediation, managing difficult parties, overcoming impasses, co-mediation techniques, and effective communication. The program featured interactive sessions, role plays, and case studies to ensure practical skill development.

At the valedictory session, Justice PS Narasimha emphasized the transformative role of mediation in the Indian legal system and highlighted the importance of the Mediation Act, 2023. He envisioned India as a future global hub for commercial mediation and lauded the efforts of NALSA and IAM in advancing ADR training. The initiative reflects NALSA's commitment to promoting alternative dispute resolution and easing the judiciary's caseload.

3-5 March 2025, NALSA under the aegis of Justice BR Gavai conducts a 15-hours Advanced Commercial Mediation Training Program in collaboration with the International Academy of Mediators at the Supreme Court of India

1 March 2025, Justice BR Gavai, Chief Guest, delivers an address during the Convocation of MNLU Mumbai wherein NALSA entered into an MOU with MNLU Mumbai and MNLU Nagpur, under which its students will be doing a one-month 'Internship Program on Legal Research, Drafting, and Practical Exposure to Governance Mechanisms' at MNLU

Training Hub

8-12 March 2025, the Training Cell organises a leadership and team building adventure camp for Supreme Court Staff Members in coordination with Nehru Institute of Mountaineering at Uttarkashi

21 March 2025, Training Cell conducts a virtual orientation session for Junior Court Assistants and Court Assistants preparing for their Departmental Examination. Ms R Arulmozhiselvi inaugurated the session, with resource persons Mr Rajan Singh, Additional Registrar, Ms Padma Sundar, Deputy Registrar, Mr Vinod Kumar Barthwal, Assistant Registrar, Mr Bal Krishan Dubey, Assistant Registrar, Mr Kapil Sharma, Assistant Registrar, Mr Jaidev Joshi, Branch Officer

Centre for Research and Planning

Visit from Stanford Law School Delegates

On March 24 2025, Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) organised a visit to the Supreme Court for Stanford Law School students, accompanied by Professors Erik Jensen and Dinsha Mistree. The students attended a briefing on CRP initiatives by Ms Harshita Mishra, Director; Padma Ladol, Assistant Registrar; Shubham Kumar and Vrishti Shami, Research Consultants at CRP and toured the National Judicial Museum, Courtroom No1, and the War Room, where Registrar (Technology) HS Jaggi provided insights.

Justice KV Viswanathan engaged with Stanford Law School students and the Law Clerks, CRP in a discussion on Comparative Constitutional Law (USA & India), highlighting differences in court structures, appointment processes, and constitutional frameworks

The day concluded with an all-women panel on the state of the district judiciary in India.. The panelists, Ms Kaveri explained the court hierarchy, Ms Harshita Mishra discussed juvenile justice courts and mediation centres, whileMs Gracy L Bawitlung highlighted the unique legal history of Mizoram and North-East India's diverse legal systems.

25 March 2025, the Stanford students visit Justice BV Nagarathna's residence for an engaging discussion on constitutional law, her judgments, legal journey, and women's experiences in the profession

Reducing Pendency at the Supreme Court: A Dialogue

On 3 March 2025, the Centre for Research and Planning organised a talk on 'Reducing Pendency at the Supreme Court: A Dialogue' with Justice BV Nagarathna, Mr N Venkataraman, Additional Solicitor General of India (Tax Law expert), Mr V Giri, former judge and senior advocate (expert in civil law) and Ms Mukta Gupta, former judge and senior advocate (criminal law expert) as speakers.

The program began with a note from Chief Justice of India Justice Sanjiv Khanna (read by Ms Harshita Mishra, Director, CRP) signifying the importance of building a cohesive case listing system and strategies taken since November 2024 for expeditious disposal of cases. He praised the CRP team for processing over 12,000 cases, noting a positive case clearance rate exceeding 100%. However, he cautioned against over-reliance on data, highlighting systemic complexities. He advocated a multifaceted approach to pendency, involving stakeholders and improved judicial infrastructure.

Justice BV Nagarathna, highlighted the pressing issue of pendency, urged for solutions where the registry and the bar worked in tandem towards the united goal of reducing pendency at the Supreme Court which presently hovers around 80,000 cases. With the solution centric approach, she shared her wisdom and observations from being on the bench and having being a member of the bar, to enlist in detail more than two dozen case categories where infructuous and short matters lie. She urged the members of the bar to bring such cases to the notice of the Court.

Ms Kriti Sharma, Deputy Registrar,CRP, outlined the training process for case classification and identification. She reported that by February 2025, 68% of 494 regular matters and 72% of 965 miscellaneous cases were disposed of within one or two hearings

Mr N Venkataraman, ASG highlighted three key areas for ensuring disposals: significant legal questions, cases with large connected lists, and revenue-related matters. Mr V Giri stressed better preparation and judicious use of court time, while Ms Mukta Gupta advocated mediation and Lok Adalats for quicker dispute resolution and urged the state to exercise its right to appeal judiciously.

1 March 2025, Mr Hargurvarinder S Jaggi, Registrar, explains the functioning of the War room to the CRP team during its one day Supreme Court tour

Bar News Bulletin

To mark 75 years of the Constitution of India, the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association organised a special event on 26 March 2025 at Bharat Mandapam. The event was graced by the presence of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant and Mr R Venkataramani, Attorney General for India. Justice Abhay S Oka delivered an address on "*Access to Justice and the 75 Years of the Constitution: Bridging the Gap Between the Judiciary and the Citizens*," while Mr Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India, spoke on "75 Years of the Supreme Court as the Guardian of the Constitution: Evolution, Challenges and the Way Forward." The event highlighted the journey of the Constitution and the judiciary's role in upholding justice and constitutional values.

7 March 2025, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Surya Kant, Justice PS Narasimha, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, Mr Kapil Sibbal, President, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at the celebration of International Women's Day at SCBA Bar Lounge and Ladies Bar Room organised by SCBA

4 March 2025, Justice Surya Kant, Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice KV Vishwanathan preside the the felicitation function of newly qualified Advocates-On-Record organised by SCAORA at the Administrative Building Complex, Supreme Court of India

Bid Adieu

Mr Vinod Joshi, a native of Podarwal, Uttarakhand, joined the Supreme Court in December 1988. During his tenure, he served in Admin I and Decree Sections of the Registry, where his work included recording outgoing files, managing decrees and seals, and making certification entries. He recalls his time in Admin I as the most demanding due to its confidential nature. Reflecting on his journey, he describes his experience at the Supreme Court as wonderful, highlighting the cordial relationships he shared with his seniors, colleagues, and juniors. He also appreciates the institution for its perks, salary, and health benefits. Mr Joshi retired as Restorer Grade-I (MACP-II) in March 2025.

Beyond the Court

International Women's Day: 8 March

We Don't Need Women's Day!

Oh, my dear friends, let's have a candid chat,

Do we really need a Women's Day, what's the need for that?

A single day in a year, where women are told that they are revered and adored,

While on other days, they are simply ignored and very often, abhorred.

Why restrict the celebration of womanhood to just a single day,

When indeed we should be honouring all women every step of the way?

We need every day to be Women's Day,

When we recognise their uniqueness and worth, in every possible way.

We need to shun all patriarchal norms, gender stereotypes and prejudices that fetter women,

We need to celebrate femininity and not consider a daughter's birth as a bad omen!

We need to shun the classic tokenism, or may I say hypocrisy,

And take up cudgels against the long entrenched patriarchal autocracy.

We need to change and resolutely dismantle the patriarchal attitudes, social biases or even our own sexist little ways,

We urgently need to 'walk the talk' on women empowerment, come what may.

We need to give a voice to all women, wherever they are,

We need to restore their honour and heal their deep scar.

Oh! my dear friends, women don't expect any special treatment,

All they want is a recognition of their worth, resilience and inner strength.

So let us all tread on a path of solidarity,

Where our hearts and minds accept the beauty and worth of feminity.

Let us all sing in a chorus of defiance which challenges the misogynistic attitudes and patriarchal norm,

And together forge a new world, where equality in its substantive sense is born.

—**Harshita Mishra**, Director-cum-Additional Registrar

The Nurturing Earth: A Woman's Journey

A mighty mountain once gave birth to a stream,
The land had waited, as if in a dream.
Eternity stretched in her silent plea,
Craving water's touch to set her free.
The stream grew bold, became a river,
Whispering promises that made her shiver.
"I'll stay forever," it softly said,
And the innocent earth believed and bled.
She molded herself to make it feel home,
Shaping her heart for the river to roam.
But seasons passed, and the river strayed,
Its course now changed; it slipped away.
The horizon swallowed its fleeting form,
Leaving the land to weather the storm.
In grief, she stood, cracked and dry,
Her belongingness turned into a sigh.
"Wasn't I enough?" she wondered aloud,
Her voice lost beneath the heavy cloud.
But little she knew, the rain was near,
Filling her cracks with water clear.
She felt shy as a seed took root,
A sprout emerging, tender and mute.
Amazed she watched as life unfurled,
Her barren heart now held a world.
Her cracks became her deepest grace,
Each one a mark of life's embrace.
She realised then what she hadn't before:
She wasn't barren—she was meant for more.
The river had wandered without a reason,
A fleeting guest for just a season.
It gave no promise it meant to keep—
It was destined to wander, not to steep.
But she? She was the mother of life's array,
Meant to nurture what chose to stay.
And in her stillness, she found her worth—
A bearer of life, the soul of the earth.

—**Dhiraj Singh Rawat**,
Junior Court Assistant

Woman, The Verse

A silken thread, a whispered rhyme,
That's woman's grace, defying time.
Like verses spun, a heart's soft plea,
She weaves her strength, for all to see.
A gentle curve, a playful glance,
Her cuteness blooms, a rhythmic dance.
Like stanzas bright, with joyful sound,
Her cheerfulness, on hallowed ground.
With knowing eyes, and wisdom deep,
Her understanding, secrets keep.
Like measured lines, in thoughtful verse,
Her counsel guides the world's reverse.
A vital pulse, a living art,
She plays a crucial, silent part,
Where supreme justice sought, and balance weighed,
Her presence felt, though subtly made.
From mothers' hands, to sisters' grace,
To friends' warm hearts, that interlace,
They shaped my soul, with tender might,
And filled my path with guiding light.
Each gentle word, a lesson learned,
Each shared embrace, a bond unearned.
They've woven threads within my core,
Becoming parts I'll always adore.
Though some may fade, or journeys cease,
Their guiding spirit brings me peace,
A timeless echo, strong and true,
Forever part of all I do.
For life's grand script, a vibrant hue,
She, like a poem, rings ever true.
From fragile bloom, to sturdy oak,
Her spirit sings, her essence spoke.

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

शक्ति का स्वरूप : नारी

नारी है सृजन, नारी है जान,
नारी से ही रोशन ये जहान।
ममता की मूरत, प्रेम की पहचान,
हर रूप में बसी है उसकी आन।
कभी दुर्गा बनकर शक्ति दिखाए,
कभी सरस्वती बन ज्ञान फैलाए।
कभी लक्ष्मी बन घर को संवारे,
कभी मीरा बन प्रेम में निहारे।
संघर्ष में अडिग, सपनों से जुड़ी,
हर बंधन से ऊपर, हर मुश्किल से लड़ी।
आसमान को छूने का हौसला रखती,
हर बाधा से आगे बढ़ने की शक्ति।
आधुनिक युग में भी वो मिसाल है,
हर चुनौती को हराने का कमाल है।
अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर ये प्रण लें,
नारी को सम्मान, समानता का उपहार दें।
क्योंकि नारी है तो जीवन है,
नारी बिना ये संसार अधूरा है।

—**Naina Bakshi**, Junior Court Assistant

1. अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर संपूर्ण नारीशक्ति को समर्पित कुछ पंक्तियाँ –

किसी रूप में वो हमको रंग-बिरंगी कहानियां सुनाती है,
किसी रूप में वो हमारे घर को अपनी ममता से सजाती है,
किसी रूप में वो भाई की कलाई की मुस्कान बन जाती है,
किसी रूप में वो राधा बन अपने कन्हैया संग खूब रास रचाती है,
किसी रूप में वो सीता बन अपने राम की सारी जिम्मेदारियां निभाती है,
वो महिला है साथियों, वो हमारे आंगन के हर त्यौहार की रोशनी का कारण बन जाती है।

2. एक पिता का अपनी पुत्री को सुंदर संदेश.....

जिन्दगी के हर इक पल को, इस कदर सजाया तूने।
दूसरों के नाराज होने पर भी, भरी महफिल में मुझे अपनाया तूने ।।
तेरी इक प्यारी-सी मुस्कान की खातिर, हर मौसम में मेरी इन कोमल आँखों को भिगाया तूने।
अब कैसे मैं तुझे पल-भर में बयाँ कर दूँ प्यार की इस अधूरी कहानी में.....
क्या खोया मैंने? और क्या पाया तूने ।।

—**Manoj Kumar**, Junior Court Assistant

—**Nikhil Parashar**, Junior Court Attendant

World Sparrow Day: 20 March

—**Nitin Sati**, Senior Court Assistant

—**Nilesh Kalbhor,** Deputy Registrar

International Day of Happiness: 20 March

—**Deepak Dhyani**,
Junior Court Assistant

—**Nilesh Kalbhor**, Deputy Registrar

—**Ujjwal Garg**

—**Rituja Chouksey**,
Research Assistant

World Poetry Day: 21 March

दिल करता है मेरा अपना

दिल करता है मेरा अपना
दिल करता है मेरा अपना
मैं जुगनू बन जाऊँ
अंधियारे में भरूँ चाँदनी
दुनिया रोशन करता जाऊँ

धरती को मैं उड़ कर देखूँ
अपने नन्हें पंखों से
आसमान में घूम घूम कर,
सबके मन का दर्द मिटाऊँ

लोगों की उम्मीद बनूँ मैं
उन्हें पूरी करता जाऊँ
मुखड़े पर मुस्कान मुकम्मल
ऐसी कुछ मैं लगन लगाऊँ

जब चाहूँ तब करूँ सवेरा,
मन की अंखिया खोलूँ
दिल मे क्या रखता इंसान
दिल में जाके टटोलूँ

हरियाली की बात बताऊँ
दिल को सबके स्वस्थ बनाऊँ
खुशहाली रहे जहां चारों ओर
ऐसा सुन्दर स्वर्ग बनाऊँ

दिल करता है मेरा अपना
मैं फिर से बच्चा बन जाऊँ
चाँद से मैं ले के रोशनी
दुनिया में उसको फैलाऊँ

दिल करता है मेरा अपना
मैं जुगनू बन जाऊँ

—**Mohd Tasvirul Islam**,
Assistant Librarian

होली और भाईचारा

रंगों की फुहार है, प्रेम की बौछार है,
मिल-जुल कर खेलें होली, यही त्यौहार है।
न कोई ऊँच, न कोई नीच,
सब संग मिलें, न रहे कोई खींच।

गुलाल लगे हर एक गाल,
खुशियों से महके हर एक हाल।
हाथ में हाथ, दिल में प्यार,
भाईचारे का हो उपहार।

भूले शिकवे, मिटे हर बैर,
रंग जाएं सब एक ही ढंग में फिर।
रंग न जाने धर्म या जात,
सिखाए बस प्रेम की बात।

चलो मनाएं होली ऐसे,
हर मन खिल उठे हँसी जैसे।
मिल-जुल कर बांटे ये प्यार,
बने रहे भाईचारा हर बार।

होली मुबारक! प्रेम और एकता का पर्व!

—**Rafiq Uddin**, Court Assistant

कविता दिवस

भानु की पहली किरण, जब काट डालेगी तिमिर।
उस दिवस से कविता का उत्सव मनाया जाएगा॥

साँझ श्यामल, उषा रक्तक, निशा नीरस-चंद्र मय
काल की वीणा विरहणी, बेसुरी, बेताल लय
मूक दर्शक है प्रकृति, चहुँ ओर कोलाहल घना
दनुज-दारुण, दग्ध-दिग, दिन आगमन हर अनमना

जब धरा पर शांति रथ, नभ से उतारा जाएगा।
उस दिवस से कविता का उत्सव मनाया जाएगा॥

घर घात से बेहाल है, कैसे लिखूँ श्रंगार पर
पंकिल पतित पछुआ पवन, बहती है जी को जार कर
क्रंदन करूण करती धरा, धीरज धरे कैसे हृदय
कालिमा कब जाएगी, कैसे बने मानव अभय

प्रेयसी को जब हिमालय तक सजाया जाएगा।
उस दिवस से कविता का उत्सव मनाया जाएगा॥

—**Brij Bhooshan Khare**,
Chief Librarian

Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001

Designed by
Design Team, Editorial, Supreme Court of India