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DISSOLUTION OF HINDU ARRIAGE BY COMPROMISE?

New Delhi SLNS

Allahabad Court ruled that a marriage between two Hindus is governed by the Hindu Marriage Act and that it can not be dissolved by a compromise made during maintenance proceedings under Section 125CrPC Instead, the marriage can only be dissolved by a competent court issuing an appropriate decree in accordance with the Act's provisions.

Brief Facts:

An assistant teacher named Bhojraj Singh superannuated on June 30, 2012, and passed away on February 10, 2021. The appellant filed a claim for family pension on the grounds that she was married to the late Bhojraj Singh and had been living as such for a number of

years, one further claimed that although Bhojraj Singh had first married the private respondent Usha Devi, who was in a contest, the marriage did not work out, and the couple divorced. Usha Devi had started a proceeding under Section 125 Cr.P.C., and after reaching a compromise, the parties had split up. Therefore, it was claimed that Usha Devi had no legal claim against the deceased employee once they had parted ways. The current appellant and the dead employee got married.

Contentions of the Petitioner:

In his appearance on behalf of the appellant, learned counsel argued that the appellant's claim is clearly sustainable under the current circumstances because the prior marriage

was dissolved through a compromise reached by the parties in a proceeding under Section 125 Cr.P.C. Furthermore, it is argued that the opposing party to the dispute has already formally consummated the future marriage, making the private respondent's claim to a family pension untenable.

Contentions of the Respondent:

In this appeal, no further material has been filed, and the learned counsel for the respondent stated that the private respondent Usha Devi's plea of a second marriage was not pleaded in the writ. The learned counsel also agreed to make nebulous claims in this

Observations of the court:

The court observed that the issue that needs to be resolved

case is whether Bhojraj Singh and Usha Devi's acknowledged marriage could be dissolved by a compromise in proceedings conducted in accordance with Section

125 Cr. P.C.

In addition, the question that would come up is whether the private respondent's claim may be dismissed because she entered into a second marriage. The court declared that insofar as the proceedings under Section 125 Cr.P.C. are concerned, they are about the payment of maintenance to the deserted wife. The scope of the

125 Cr.P.C. is restricted, meaning that it only concerns determining the amount of maintelance. The court can not dissolve the parties' marriage during these proceedings because its jurisdiction is limited to determining the maintenance issue. The comtent court's risdicunder

pejut i o n Section 1 2 5 Cr.P.C. cannot be extended to grant it the authorissue a divorce order, even with the parties' coopera-

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Function of Dr. Ajay Kummar Pandey in Delhi. News on page 07

DUAL VICTORY AGAINST MARVEL GROUP'S MISCONDUCT! DDA'S CALLOUS COVER-UP P 08 ◀ DETTOL WINS BATTLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA... P 07 ◀ WIKIPEDIA VS ANI, DELHI HIGH COURT SAYS REMOVE... P 06 ◀ BRIDGING BORDERS, EXPANDING HORIZONS: WILL ASIA CONFERENCE P 06 ◀ HANUMAN: THE FIRST WARRIOR OF JUSTICE... P 05 ◀ "NO FREE RIDES IN MARRIAGE!" ... P 05 ◀ "LAW AS LEVERAGE? THE WEAPONISATION... P 04 ◀ INTER-FAITH COUPLE FROM JHARKHAND... P 04 ◀ UNPACKING THE CHAOS OF UNREGULATED... P 03 ◀ SUPREME COURT RESCUED HOME BUYERS... P 04 ◀

Victory in Punjab & Haryana High Court: Bail Secured in High-Stakes Faridabad Suicide Case

New Delhi SLNS

ustice prevailed today as the Punjab & Harvana High Court. under Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul, granted anticipatory bail to my client, falsely accused in a sensational case of provocation for suicide and kidnapping.

Case Details:

My client, working for a bullion trader, went to recover 4 crore



against an 8 kg gold deal made via a post-dated cheque. The buyer, already under a 40 crore debt crisis, attempted suicide along with his entire family in Faridabad, tragically leading to his father's death. A suicide note and police statement led to the wrong-

ful registration of a case against my client

The lower court rejected anticipatory bail, but we fought back and secured justice in the High Court!

This case highlights the dark reality of financial mismanagement, rising debt burdens, and misuse of legal provisions against genuine creditors.

SC RESCUED HOME BUYERS IN SUPERTECH CASE

By Ajay Kummar Pandey

upreme Court's Stay on NCLAT Order: A Watershed Moment for Home Buyers, Builders, and Insolvency Law In a landmark development, the Supreme Court on Monday stayed the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) order that would have transferred 16 stalled Supertech projects to NBCC. A bench led by the Supreme Court noted that the NCLAT's earlier directive, issued on December 12. 2024, raised serious questions regarding procedural propriety and fairness in insolvency matters. This decision underscores the need for strict adherence to due process and signals potential long-term shifts in resolving insolvency and real estate disputes. Implications for Home Buyers Short-Term Impact: Home buyers, who have long grappled with the uncertainty of stalled projects, initially viewed the NCLAT's order as a beacon of hope. The transfer of these projects to NBCC a reputed entity with a strong track record was expected to catalyze project completions and deliver long-pending homes. However, the Supreme Court's stay introduces a temporary period of uncertainty,

leaving aggrieved home buyers in limbo as the legal process unfolds. Long-Term Benefits: By prioritizing procedural rigor,



the Supreme Court's interv tion promises stronger safeguards for home buyers in the long run. The emphasis on transparency ensures that any future resolution will be grounded in fairness, ultimately protecting the rights of home buyers and preventing rushed decisions that compromise their interests. Impact on Builders Protection of Builder Rights: This judgment reinforces the principle that drastic measures like asset transfers must be backed by comprehensive legal scrutiny for builders, especially those involved in insolvency proceedings. The

Court's insistence on following established legal protocols provides a measure of protection against unilateral decisions, ensuring that the rights of builders are not unduly compromised. Encouraging Balanced Resolutions: The decision promotes a more balanced approach to resolving insolvency cases. Builders facing financial distress can take solace in knowing that the judicial system will consider all stakeholder interests-builders, creditors, and home buyers alike-rather than hastily favoring one group. Clarifying Institutional Authority: A key takeaway from this decision is Impact on Builders Protection of Builder Rights: This judgment reinforces the principle that drastic measures like asset transfers must be backed by comprehensive legal scrutiny for builders, especially those involved in insolvency proceedings.

that tribunals' powers, like the NCLAT, are not absolute. The Supreme Court's intervention clarifies that any drastic restructuring or asset transfer must be executed within the bounds of procedural fairness. This insistence on due process will likely set a precedent, ensuring that future insolvency proceedings are conducted with heightened judicial oversight. Enhanced Judicial Scrutiny: Insolvency laws-particularly in the real estate sector-are expected to undergo more rigorous judicial review. The decision will serve as a benchmark for future cases, potentially leading to reforms that better balance the interests of all parties involved. By mandating strict adherence to legal protocols, the ruling aims to prevent decisions based on expediency, thereby fostering a more stable and equitable

insolvency framework. Precedent for Future Litigation: The stay impacts the current batch of Supertech projects and sets a broader precedent for handling complex insolvency disputes. Future litigation involving asset transfers, restructuring, and creditor rights may increasingly rely on this judgment to argue for enhanced procedural safeguards and judicial oversight. Evolving Insolvency Jurisprudence As a Supreme Court advocate, I view this decision as a pivotal moment in the evolution of insolvency jurisprudence. While the immediate impact may create uncertainty for home buyers, the long-term benefits-marked by greater transparency, balanced stakeholder protection, and strict adherence to due processare undeniable. The Supreme Court's stay on the NCLAT order reinforces that expedient resolutions must never come at the cost of procedural fairness. This ruling will undoubtedly shape the future landscape of insolvency law, ensuring that justice is both served and seen to be served for all parties in-

DISSOLUTION OF HINDU **MARRIAGE BY COMPROMISE?**

New Delhi SLNS

Continue page 1

It is well-established in law that jurisdiction can not be granted by consent between parties if it is not otherwise granted by the law. The court declared that the parties involved are Hindu by religion and that their marriage would be governed by the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. Since the parties' marriage is governed by the Act of 1955, the only way to dissolve such a marriage is to have a competent court pass an appropriate decree in accord-



ance with the Act's provisions, but no such decree has ever been passed by a competent court. It was also declared that a purported compromise between the parties could not have been the sole reason for the dissolution of their mar-



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Property Laws In New BNS Regime

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The BUDS Act, 2019:

Unpacking the Chaos of Unregulated Deposit Laws

New Delhi SLNS

he Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019 (BUDS Act) was enacted to address the growing menace of unregulated deposit schemes that exploited unsuspecting investors, particularly in the wake of high-profile financial scams like the Saradha Chit Fund scam in West Bengal and the Pearls Group scam. These scams defrauded millions of investors, often from economically weaker sections, leading to widespread financial distress and social unrest. The Act aims to protect investors by banning unregulated deposit schemes and providing a mechanism for the repayment of deposits in case of default. However, the Act has faced criticism for its complicated and unclear provisions, which have inadvertently harmed genuine businesses and created an environment of regulatory overreach. Below is an analysis of the issues:

1. Previous Crimes Leading to the Implementation of the Act Saradha Chit Fund Scam (2013): The Saradha Group collected billions of rupees from small investors, promising high returns. When the scheme collapsed, lakhs of investors lost their savings, leading to protests and suicides. Pearls Group

Group legedly defrauded investors of over 60,000 crore through illegal collective investment Ponzi Schemes:

Scam: The Pearls



ley and PACL, exploited regulatory loopholes to defraud investors. These scams highlighted the lack of a robust legal framework to regulate deposit schemes and protect investors, prompting the government to enact the BUDS Act.

2. Shortcomings of the Act

a. Complicated and Unclear Provisions Vague Definitions: The Act does not clearly define an "unregulated deposit

> scheme." This ambiguity has led to confusion among small and medium enterprises (SMEs), often relying on informal funding mechanisms. Overlap

Other The Laws: Act overlations, such as the SEBI Act, RBI Act, and Companies Act, creating a complex regulatory environment. Businesses often struggle to determine which laws apply to their operations.

Excessive Compliance Burden: The Act imposes stringent reporting requirements and penalties, which are disproportionately burdensome for small businesses. Many legitimate companies have been forced to shut down due to compliance

b. Impact on Genuine Businesses Choking Legitimate Fundraising: The Act has made it difficult for genuine businesses to raise funds through informal channels, such as loans from friends, family, or community members. These practices, common in India, are now scrutinized as potential violations of the Act.

Fear of Prosecution: The broad and vague provisions of the Act have created a climate of fear among business owners, who risk being prosecuted for unintentional violations. This has stifled entrepreneurship and innovation

c. Silence of the Judiciary Lack of Clarity from Courts: The judiciary has not provided sufficient guidance on interpreting the Act's provisions, leaving businesses and enforcement agencies uncertain.

Delayed Justice: Cases related to the Act often involve lengthy legal battles, delaying justice for investors and businesses. d. Highhandedness of Enforcement Agencies Misuse of PMLA: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been accused of using the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to target businesses under the guise of enforcing the BUDS Act. The ED's powers under PMLA, such as asset seizure and arrest without bail, have been criticized for being draconian. Lack of Accountability: Enforcement agencies often act without proper due process, harassing legitimate businesses. The lack of accountability and oversight has further exacerbated the problem.

3. Recommendations for Reform: Clarify Definitions: The government should provide clear definitions of key terms, such as "unregulated deposit scheme," to reduce ambiguity and prevent misuse. Simplify Compliance: The compliance burden on small businesses should be reduced by introducing simpler reporting mechanisms and exemptions for low-risk activities. Judicial Intervention: The judiciary should take a proactive role in interpreting the Act and clarifying its provisions. Fast-track courts could be established to expedite cases related to the Act. Rein in Enforcement Agencies: To prevent misuse, the powers of agencies like the ED should be curtailed. A robust oversight mechanism should be established to ensure accountability. Killing Genuine Businesses While the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act 2019 was enacted to protect investors, complicated provisions and overzealous enforcement have created significant challenges for genuine businesses. The Act needs to be reformed to balance investor protection and the ease of doing business. Additionally, the judiciary and enforcement agencies must act responsibly to ensure that the Act is not used as a tool for harassment or overreach.

"LAW AS LEVERAGE? THE WEAPONISATION OF ARRESTS AHEAD OF BIHAR 2025"

New Delhi SLNS

he National Herald case, involving Rahul and Sonia Gandhi, has been under the scanner for several years, with the Enforcement Directorate probing alleged money laundering in connection with the transfer of assets from the defunct newspaper to a private company owned by the Gandhis. No fresh evidence has come to light recently. Yet, arrest warrants and custodial interrogation have suddenly gained urgency. In the Land-for-Jobs scam, the CBI and ED have revived older allegations against RJD patriarch Lalu Yadav, former Chief Minister Rabri Devi, and their son, current Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav. While the allegations are serious—appointments in lieu of land transfers—the timing of arrests and interrogations comes precisely as political alliances in Bihar are shifting and the electoral atmosphere is warming up

The Talk of arrests of key opposition figures Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case, and Lalu Prasad Yadav, Rabri Devi, and Tejashwi Yadav in the Land-for-Jobs scam-have sent shockwaves through India's legal and political circles. More than just isolated legal events, these actions raise troubling questions about the selective timing and use of investigative processes, especially with the Bihar Assembly elections looming in 2025. What begins as a matter of criminal investigation has, yet again, morphed into a debate on



the politicisation of law enforcement and the role of investigative agencies in electoral outcomes.

Criminal Liability or Political **Engineering?**

The National Herald case, involving Rahul and Sonia Gandhi, has been under the scanner for several years, with the Enforcement Directorate probing alleged money laundering in connection with the transfer of assets from the defunct newspaper to a private company owned by the Gandhis. No fresh evidence has come to light recently. Yet, arrest warrants and custodial interrogation have suddenly gained urgency. In the Land-for-Jobs scam, the CBI and ED have revived older allegations against RJD patriarch Lalu Yadav, former Chief Minister Rabri Devi, and their son, current Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav. While the allegations are serious-appointments in lieu of land transfers—the timing of arrests and interrogations comes precisely as political alliances in Bihar are shifting and the electoral atmosphere is warming up.

The Enforcement Directorate: Guardian of Law or Political Tool?

The ED, which was originally created as a specialised body to enforce the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), now finds itself in the middle of a constitutional crisis of credibility. While the agency has the statutory authority to investigate financial crimes, its operational independence is increasingly under suspicion. Between 2014 and 2024, the number of high-profile opposition leaders summoned or arrested by the ED-particularly in election-bound states—is statistically disproportionate to action against ruling party figures. This trend, viewed in legal circles as "patterned precision," has prompted calls for parliamentary scrutiny and judicial oversight of ED's procedures and timelines. Even more concerning is the apparent synchronisation of ED raids with political realignments.

Is the agency prioritising cases based on legal merits, or political expediency?

A Passive Spectator or Constitutional Gatekeeper?

The Supreme Court of India, once seen as the ultimate check against arbitrary executive action, is now under pressure to reassert its institutional independence. As multiple petitions challenging the ED's conduct—ranging from arbitrary arrests to violations of PMLA safeguards—are pending before various benches, the credibility of the judiciary itself is on trial.

Judgments in recent years have shown inconsistencies in upholding procedural safeguards, especially in cases where political implications are stark. Bail jurisprudence under the PMLA, for instance, has been criticised for reversing the presumption of innocence and tilting the balance heavily in favour of the state. In such an environment, judicial silence or delay becomes complicity.

Bihar 2025: An Election Under Legal Siege?

The electoral impact of these arrests cannot be overstated. In Bihar, where caste loyalties, personality-driven politics, and coalition arithmetic dominate the landscape, the targeting of the Yadav family-especially Tejashwi, a rising political force—has deep symbolic significance.

Political question:

Can investigative action taken during an election cycle be considered fair, even if procedurally valid, when the net effect is the throttling of opposition

Legal scholars argue that India lacks a clear doctrine of electoral neutrality for investigative agencies. Unlike the Election Commission, which is mandated to act impartially during polls, agencies like ED, CBI, and IT have no such explicit constraint. This lacuna needs urgent legislative attention.

Time for Legislative and Judicial Realignment

The intersection of criminal law and electoral politics has never been more fraught. When high-profile arrests become the norm before elections, and when enforcement bodies are perceived to function as instruments of political warfare, the very idea of free and fair elections is endangered.India stands at a crucial juncture. It is not merely the fate of Rahul Gandhi or Tejashwi Yadav that is in question—but the future integrity of its democratic and legal institutions. Without robust judicial intervention and a legislative rethinking of the limits of state power during electoral cycles, law risks becoming a weapon not a shield.

INTER-FAITH COUPLE RECEIVES POLICE PROTECTION

New Delhi SLNS

fter fleeing their home state due to familial threats, the couple had moved to the High Court.

Recently, the High Court of Kerala provided police protection to an inter-faith couple that fled Jharkhand to marry in Kerala. [Asha Verma & anr v. Director General of Police & ors] The couple had escaped from their home state because of threats from their families. While granting the couple interim protection, Justice CS Dias stated, Asha Verma and Mohammad Ghalib, the petitioners from Jharkhand's Ramgarh district, are of different faiths and have maintained a romantic relationship for a decade. Confronting ongoing threats, such as the danger of an honour killing, they departed from Jharkhand and arrived in Kerala on February 9, 2025.

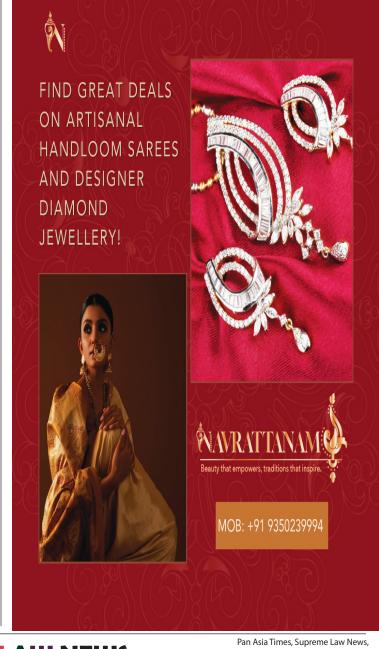
On February 11, the couple tied the knot according to Islamic customs in Kayamkulam, located in the Alappuzha district. On Febru-



ary 14, Asha's sister came to Kerala with a police officer from Jharkhand and reportedly coerced her into asserting that Ghalib had abducted her. Asha, on the other hand, insisted that her relocation and marriage were voluntary actions. Out of fear for further threats, she lodged complaints with the authorities on February 21 and 22 in pursuit of police protection. Later, the Director General of Police confirmed that her complaint had been sent to the Petition Monitoring Cell for further action. Subsequently, the couple approached the Kerala High Court, invoking their fundamental rights as guaranteed by Articles 19(1)(e) (the right to

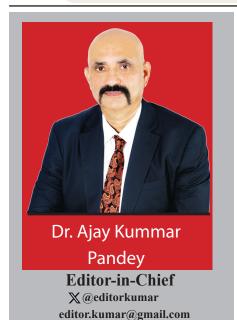
reside and settle anywhere in India) and 21 (the right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution of India. Their position was that intimidation from family members and potential police involvement infringed on their constitutional

They sought the Court's intervention to compel the authorities to safeguard them, avert their forced removal, and prosecute those jeopardizing their lives. While granting interim relief, the Court acknowledged that both petitioners were temporarily living separately and orally stated, "Be present; if anything arises, report to the third respondent (Station House Officer)."









decks meet gritty crackdowns, and every other day, a new "unicorn" ends up either in a courtroom or a CBI file. The recent Blue Smart episode, following the Vew disaster that prompted ED action, is just another blow to India's already shaky image as a startup-friendly economy. Add SEBI's sudden obsession with regulatory whack-a-mole, and we've got ourselves a trend a dangerous one.

So, what happened with Blue Smart?

"India: Where Startups Come to Die?"

Let's call it what it is: a regulatory ambush. A startup that was supposed to pioneer clean, electric, app-based taxi services is now facing serious compliance questions. The exact details are still coming out, but if you've been watching the pattern, this isn't an isolated case. We're looking at systemic rot.

VueNow's collapse wasn't just about bad business decisions — it was a warn- on cheap labor, mass unemployment, and ing sign. A shiny company hyped up on the desperation of a generation seeking media steroids, attracting big money and side hustles. We're labeling convenience even bigger expectations — and then, capitalism as "disruption" and letting it poof. Gone. With the ED knocking on their masquerade as innovation. That's not a

It raises an uncomfortable but necessary question: Is India building an ecosystem of innovation, or a trap for naïve entrepreneurs and overambitious founders?

The Myth of Innovation:

elcome to the great Indian start- startups today are glorified middlemen. ting ceremonies and disappear when the up circus where glossy pitch What innovation does Blinkit offer, other regulators arrive. than getting your overpriced avocado delivered in 10 minutes by an underpaid gig menus on your phone?

Yes, they're making money. Yes, they've badge. created a whole new class of service. But where's the real tech? Where are the deep-science breakthroughs? The hard- sity tie-ups, the public funding for deep ware plays? The patents? The IP?

We've built a startup scene that thrives expect fruits.

Yes, they're making money. Yes, they've created a whole new class of service. But where's the real tech?

startup culture — it's a hustle culture with

What's Going Wrong?

Too Much Hype, Too Little Substance: Founders chase valuation, not value. VCs chase exits, not excellence. And the

Predatory Regulation:

worker? What's Zomato's great techno- stantly looking over your shoulder for the startup graveyard — littered with logical breakthrough - putting restaurant ED, SEBI, or the taxman. Enforcement failed apps, burnt-out founders, without clarity is just harassment with a and broken dreams.

Lack of Innovation Infrastructure:

Where are the R&D parks, the univertech? If you don't water the roots, don't

Gig Economy Exploitation:

We're using human beings as disposable logistics bots. It's unsustainable, unethical, and frankly, dystopian.

What Should the Government Do?

Get Real About Innovation:

Stop obsessing over unicorn counts and focus on IP generation, global patents, and real tech startups. Fund AI, space, biotech, clean tech — not just food delivery apps.

Regulate With Intent, Not Intimidation:

Make laws clear. Make compliance simple. And punish fraud, not ambition.

Invest in Startup Education & Ethics:

Founders need mentoring. India has money, but lacks a mature ecosystem to manage it. We need accelerators, not just incubators.

Overhaul Labor Policy for the Gig Economy:

These aren't "partners" or "freelanc-Let's not kid ourselves. Most Indian government? They appear at ribbon-cut- ers." They're workers. Give them dignity, rights, insurance, and a minimum wage.

Final Word:

We wanted to be the next Silicon You can't build a startup if you're con- Valley. Instead, we're turning into a

India doesn't need more startups. India needs better ones. And a government that knows the differ-

Let's stop clapping at IPOs and start asking: what are we building?

Hanuman: The First Warrior of Justice

A Divine Reminder on Hanuman Jayanti"

New Delhi SLNS

anuman Javanti Greet-A Legal ings: Tribute to the Greatest Sentinel of Justice On the pious occasion of Hanuman Javanti. I bow before Bajrangba-



devotee but as a legal practitioner, a seeker of justice, and a student of Dharma.

While most of us remember Hanuman for his physical strength, unwavering devotion, and divine miracles, we often forget that he was also the earliest symbol of legal activism and moral justice.

At a time when there was no court, no lawyer, and no judge, Hanuman acted as the entire judicial system in himself protecting the weak, challenging tyrants, rescuing the oppressed, and ensuring that Dharma pre-

Let us recall the rescue of Sita from Lanka an episode that is not merely spiritual but deeply constitutional in its essence. Hanuman crossed borders not for war, but to seek justice for a woman

who was kidnapped, unlawfully detained, and dishonored. His role was not of a mere messenger; he the first legal envoy, original human rights defender, confronting power with courage and morality. When Ravana mocked him, Hanuman didn't retaliate blindly. He gave him a chance to correct his wrong. But when Ravana refused, Hanuman's act of burning Lanka stood as a symbolic punishment a legal statement against abuse of power, unlawful confinement, and state-sponsored injus-

In modern legal parlance, Hanuman was the voice of the voiceless, a living PIL who fought not for personal gain, but to protect constitutional values of dignity, equality, and

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righteousness - centuries before these were written into our books. Even today, we live in a world where women are still unsafe, where the powerful often go unchecked, and where silence aids injustice. Hanuman teaches us to speak up, to act, and to protect those who cannot protect themselves a lesson for every lawyer, judge, and citizen

This Hanuman Jayanti, let us not just perform rituals, but pledge to become his soldiers in thought and action. Let us fight against the Ravanas of our time corruption, injustice, suppression, and exploitation. May Bajrangbali give us all the strength to stand for what is right, even when it is difficult. May we all become mochan liberators in our own

"No Free Rides in Marriage!" **Delhi HC to Educated Wives**

New Delhi SLNS

△ △ A Well-Qualified Wife Cannot Choose to Remain Idle and Seek Main- says the Delhi High Court in a bold judgment dated 20 March 2025. In a significant blow to misuse of Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, the Court dismissed a plea for interim maintenance filed by a professionally qualified wife, stating that if capable, she must attempt to earn and cannot depend on her husband's income without justification. The Court emphasized that the maintenance law intends to provide support to those genuinely unable to sustain themselves, not to enable financial complacency. The judgment also resonates with evolving gender equality norms. The ruling also re-



flects on child maintenance under the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, stressing that both parents share equal responsibility. Still, the custodial parent cannot exploit the child's needs to claim maintenance unjustly. This landmark decision sets a precedent for future matrimonial disputes encouraging self-sufficiency, discouraging false claims, and ensuring judicial fair-

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WIKIPEDIA VS ANI, DELHI HIGH **COURT SAYS REMOVE CONTENT**

New Delhi SLNS

ikipedia's page regarding ANI was criticized by the Court. which also stated that encyclopedias maintain their obiec-

Wikipedia's "opinionated" and "nonneutral" article that called Asian News International (ANI) a "propaganda tool" for Central government was criticized by the Delhi High Court on Tuesday.

Wikipedia is regarded as an encyclopedia and should remain impartial rather than seeming like an online diary, according to a bench of Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Rajneesh Kumar Gupta. We all use Wikipedia, let's face it. I vividly remember that you could look at Wikipedia and teach kids about it while they were in high school. 'Pedia' is derived from encyclopaedia. An encyclopedia must be quite impartial. In that sense, Wikipedia is do-



ing a fantastic job. The Court said orally that "it becomes like any other blog if you start taking sides like this."

The bench added that Wikipedia cannot contest a court's ruling on the basis of merit if it claims to be an intermediary. "You have already argued that you act as a middleman. Their only responsibility under the IT Rules is to carry out the court's orders. You can't make a merit-based defense. "You cannot even argue on merits if you are an intermediary and the court orders you to take down," the emphasized. The Court did, however, somewhat alter the single-judge's April 2 judgment ordering ANI to remove the

defamatory against ANI and prevent similar content from being published in the future.

According to the Division Bench, ANI can alert the platform to similar content if it appears on the site again, and Wikipedia would take appropriate acafter removing the defamatory text. Division Bench stated that the single judge's order to lift the protected status placed on ANI's page, which allegedly restricted page updates, will be stayed.

After Wikipedia appealed the singlejudge's ruling, the order was issued. In an appearance for Wikipedia today, Senior Advocate Akhil Sibal contended that

single-judge ruling is predicated on the inassumption that the ANI content was published in 2024. He maintained that the ANI page hasn't changed since 2019 Wikipedia and that doesn't hire or compensate the page's authors. The injunction is very broad, Sibal continued. Advocate Sidhant Kumar, who was speaking on behalf of ANI, stated that he would not object to the ANI page being restored to its pre-February 26, 2019 version (the date of the altera-

According to Kumar, Wikipedia has not cooperated with the court's decision or the IT Rules' requirements that they remove content within 36 hours. He went on to say that Wikipedia has maintained that it has the authority to change information and that it cannot act as a middleman in circumstances. Justice Subramonium

declared the ANI page to be against Wikipedia policy and noted that the content was not neutral, has been appealed by Wikipedia. "It seems that all of the assertions on Plaintiff's page are taken from publications, which are essentially opinionated and editorial pages. In order to ensure that the impartial policy of Defendant No. 1 is not broken, it stated that the defendant, who is adhering to the policy that prohibits declaring opinions as facts and claims to be an encyclopedia, must also determine whether or not the opinions are based on the original articles. The Court further stated that Wikipedia cannot simply claim to be an intermediary and absolve itself of responsibility for anything submitted on its platform. According to the Court, Wikipedia has an obligation to guard against

defamation on its site.

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Bridging Borders, Expanding Horizons: WILL Asia Conference



New Delhi SLNS

oday, as a proud member of WILL (World Independent Lawyers League), I had the privilege of attending the Asia Region Conference, connecting with top legal minds from across Bangkok, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, UAE, Oman, Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

This live, high-impact collaboration was more than just a meeting it was a powerful glimpse into the worldwide network of WILL members. The energy, knowledge exchange, and potential for cross-border legal partnerships were truly electrifying! For 4C Supreme Law International, this is not just an opportunity but a gateway to expanding operations beyond borders, reinforcing our presence in international litigation, arbitration, commercial law, and cross-border legal strategies. The world is no longer divided by bordersit's connected through law and

I also got an opportunity at this conference to present the case of 4 C Supreme Law International on its expertise in the the field of law and its wide reach in India and the Middle East. A heartfelt thank you to Dr. Pallavi Divekar (President, WILL India), Marco Buscema (President, WILL International), Franky and Stephan (President & Vice President, Asia) for their visionary leadership and for making this conference a grand success. This is just the beginning of an exciting journey ahead. Who's ready to redefine the future of international legal practice together? Let's take this collaboration to new heights!



Dettol wins battle of Social Media: Delhi High Court

New Delhi SLNS

ince the parties instructed were to submit a formal application to document a compromise between them, the court has kept the lawsuit pending.

The Delhi High Court was informed today by dermatologist Dr. Manjot Marwah and influencer Raj Shamani that they are in favor of taking down the social media posts criticizing Dettol antiseptic liquid. When Justice Saurabh Banerjee took up the case today, their attorneys notified him of this.

Marwah and Shamani were sued by Dettol's parent company, Reckitt Benckiser India, on the grounds that they had made "false, misleading, disparaging and defamatory" remarks on the antiseptic liquid in a podcast. Because the parties were instructed to submit a formal application under Order 23 Rule 3 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), 1908, in order to document compromise between them, the court has kept the case pending.



"A draft settlement that reads as follows has been turned over by the parties. The same are noted. In order to record a compromise, counsel submits that they will be filing an application under Order 23 Rule 3 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908. The aforementioned terms are recorded until then. Rai Shamani and Marwah, de-

fendants 1-2, are instructed to behave in accordance with the conditions that have been given out. Within a day, defendants 1-2 will edit the video. The Court's order stated that social media companies must follow the conditions of the settlement that the defendants had reached. According to the order.

tik Chaturvedi as well because he reposted an Instagram reel that contained podcast audio. He said that the Instagram reel he had reposted had been deleted. He is not allowed to post these films from the podcast, according to the Court. A podcast episode called "Skin Misis only a floor cleaner and should not be applied to human flesh since it "burns wounds and delays healing." Marwah, a selfproclaimed doctor with an MD in Dermatology and more than 783,000 Instagram followers, allegedly used a Philippine FDA report as support for her claims in an April 5 Instagram story. Reckitt retorted that since the company's affiliate in the Philippines does not sell Dettol there, this report is pointless. Reckitt vehemently denied the podcast's assertions, claiming that Dettol is a prescription medication that is authorized for use as an antiseptic on human skin. According to Section 3(b)(i) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act. 1940. Dettol is considered a "drug" because it has been sold as an antiseptic liquid since 1936. Reckitt's attorney, said Tuesday that it is defamatory and obviously untrue to refer to Dettol as a disinfectant that should only be used for floor sweeping. Respondent Advocate declared that he was prepared to remove the contentious parts of the podcast. "I've arrived with a white flag and an olive branch. "We are prepared to revise the parts that Dettol claims are derogatory," Varma informed the Court. Marwah's attorney, Ramandeep Singh, told the court that she had removed the Instagram reel in which she discussed

PROPERTY LAW UNVEILED

LAW MEETS GLAMOUR AT BOOK LAUNCH

New Delhi SLNS

n a glittering, high-voltage literary evening that brought together the elegance of Bollywood and the gravitas of legal and academic thought, noted Supreme Court Advocate Dr. Ajay Kummar Pandey unveiled his latest book to a packed hall filled with dignitaries, intellectuals, and media fig-

The highlight of the evening was Bollywood sensation Tanushree Dutta, best remembered for her powerful performances in films like Aashiq Banaya Aapne and her pioneering voice in India's #MeToo movement. As the chief guest, Dutta launched the book with grace and charisma, emphasizing the increasing need for legal literacy in today's complex, digital-

Bringing academic and ideological depth to the occasion, Prof. Sangeet Ragi, a wellknown RSS thinker and political commentator, delivered the keynote address. "India may have the numbers, but we fall short when it comes to academic excellence," he said. "Our focus must shift from quantity to quality. The future belongs to those who innovate not merely replicate." Dr. Ajay Kummar



Pandey, the man of the moment, addressed the audience with clarity and urgency on the theme of the book. "In today's digital age, where new forms of property like cryptocurrency and digital assets are emerging, the awareness and protection of property rights has become more critical than ever," he said. "This book is my humble attempt to empower people with the knowledge they need.

The event was impeccably organized by Vishwamohan, CEO of the Entrepreneurs Forum of India (EFI) and the visionary behind the renowned EFI Awards. Sharing EFI's broader vision, Vishwamohan said: "We promote and celebrate entrepreneurship across India. Publishing books like this is one way to share inspiring stories and vital knowledge with a larger audience."

The launch took place at the prestigious Radisson Blu Hotel, Dwarka, and drew a diverse crowd of policymakers, academics, legal professionals, entrepreneurs, and media representatives. The atmosphere buzzed with conversation, appreciation, and anticipation for the change such thought leadership can inspire. As signed copies flew off the shelves and flashbulbs lit up the evening, it was evident that this wasn't just a book launch — it was a powerful intersection of law, leadership, and public discourse. In a country navigating rapid digital evolution, events like these remind us that knowledge isn't just $power-it's\ protection.$

VueNow Case

Trapped Funds, Bank EMIs, and Legal Recourse - What You Need to Know!

New Delhi SLNS

he Vuenow case has left thousands of depositors in a financial nightmare. With their hard-earned money frozen by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and banks chasing them for EMIs on loans taken to invest in Vuenow, depositors are caught between a rock and a hard place. If you're one of them, this article guides vou in navigating this crisis and exploring legal remedies to protect your

1. The Double Burden: Frozen Funds and Bank EMIs

Imagine taking a loan to invest in a company, only to find out that the company is under investigation and your funds are frozen. This is the reality for Vuenow depositors. Here's what's hap-

- ED's Action: The ED has seized Vuenow's accounts under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and frozen depositors' funds.

- Bank Pressure: Banks are demanding EMIs on loans taken by depositors, adding to their financial stress. Question: How can depositors man-

age bank pressure and recover their frozen funds?

2. Immediate Steps to Handle Bank If your bank is chasing you for

EMIs, take these steps: a. Communicate with Your Bank - Could you write to your bank ex-

plaining your situation? b. Seek Relief from Banking Om-

If the bank refuses to cooperate, file

a complaint with the Banking Ombudsman. Could you highlight your inability to pay EMIs due to the frozen funds? c. Approach Consumer Court

If the bank harasses you or threat-

ens to seize assets, file a case in the Consumer Court under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

3. Legal Recourse to Recover Fro-

Dettol.

To recover your funds frozen by the ED, consider these legal options:

a. Join Collective Legal Action

Many depositors have filed petitions in the Supreme Court or High Courts. You can join these petitions to strengthen your case.

- Demand the release of a portion of the frozen funds to repay small de-

b. File a Complaint with Authorities - Register a complaint with the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), SEBI, or

- Provide all evidence of your investment and the financial fraud.

c. Seek Relief Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

If Vuenow is declared insolvent, file a claim as a financial creditor to recover your funds during asset liquidation.

4. Long-Term Solutions and Advo-While fighting for your rights, ad-

vocate for systemic changes to prevent such crises in the future: Stricter Regulation of Fintech

Companies: Push for stronger oversight to protect depositors. - Depositor Protection Laws: De-

mand laws prioritizing small depositors in financial fraud cases - ED Guidelines for Frozen Funds:

Advocate for clear guidelines on releasing funds to depositors during investi-

5. Practical Tips to Manage Finances

While the legal process unfolds, take these steps to manage your fi-

Prioritize Essential Expenses: Focus on basic needs and cut non-essential spending.

Explore Alternate Income Sources: Look for part-time work or freelance

Seek Financial Counseling: Consult a financial advisor to restructure your



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Dual Victory Against Marvel Group's Misconduct!

New Delhi SLNS

n a groundbreaking turn of justice has been delivered to homebuyers across two cases marquee the ininvolving famous Marvel Group. In the Marvel Fera project, wretched homebuyers-left high and dry by a habitual defaultersignifisecured cant relief when the court directed the builder to deliver the promised homes.

Adding to this decisive blow, the group promoter's delaying tactics have caught up with him. The Marvel Landmark case spotlighted attempts to hoodwink the judicial process. In this instance, promoters tried to conceal critical facts to win the case, misleading the court about the project's details.

However, the homebuyers stood and challenged this dishonesty. The National Company Law (NCLT), Tribunal Mumbai, has noted this and will continue hearing the petition filed by the agers.

Both cases underscore a resotransparency and accountability in real estate. As ing judicial integ- processes and the vel Fera case gives rity, I commend the need for transpar- much-needed re-



courts for sending a strong message: any attempt to subvert justice through misleading submissions will be met with decisive legal action.

Reclaiming Jus-Landmark tice: Judgment Reinforces the Limits of Recall in Insolvency Cases

The decision from the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal in Marvel Landmark Pvt Ltd vs Jay Nihalani & Ors (21 January 2025) is a game-changer for corporate insolvency jurisprudence.

Tribunal

The

clarified that recall powers under Rule 11 are strictly for rectifying errors-not for rehashing merits already decided. Misrepresentations that mislead CourtAdvocate the court, as seen commitment be condoned. This judgment restores dismissed Company Petition an advocate dedi- and reinforces the Group. The recent cated to uphold- sanctity of judicial

As an advocate for the Supreme Court, I view this ruling as a robust reminder that justice must prevail and every litigant deserves a fair, fact-based hearing. Our courts will not reward misleading submissions to gain an unfair advantage.

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#LegalUpdate #InsolvencyLaw #CorporateLaw #JudicialIntegrity #NCLT #Rule11 #Supreme-

In a signifiin this case, cannot cant victory for homebuyers, the courts have again against Marvel ruling in the Mar-

lief to homebuyers left stranded by Marvel's notorious delays. The group's promoter has faced criminal charges and arrest, in addition to being taken to task by RERA and Consumer Courts. Meanwhile, Marvel Landmark case continues at NCLT Mumbai. This victory highlights the strength of judicial systems in holding defaulters accountable.

#JusticesumerProtection

delivered justice Triumph Again: bility in real estate. Justice Delivered Our legal system Marvel Against Group!

> In another sigvictory vert justice. nificant

homebuyers, courts again stepped in against the Marvel Group. the Marvel Fera project case, wretched homebuyers-left high and dry by a habitual defaulterreceived significant relief as the court ordered the builders to deliver their homes. The group promoter. infamous for his delaving tactics. also has faced criminal charges for cheating and fraud and was arrested by Pune Police. RERA and Consumer Courts have also taken action against the defaulter builder. In a parallel

battle, the promoters in the Marvel Landmark case attempted to hoodwink the court by concealing crucial However, the aggrieved homebuyers challenged this head-on. honesty The NCLT, Mumbai, will continue hearing solvency petition filed by these homebuyers, suring that justice prevails. As #JusticeServed ForHomebuyers advocate commit-#MarvelGroup ted to upholding #LegalVictories judicial integrity, #Homeowner- I applaud these deshipRights #Con- cisive moves that reinforce transpar-Homebuyers ency and accountaprotects homebuyer rights against any attempt to sub-

DDA'S CALLOUS COVER-UP

n a shocking and heart-wrenching development, vet another tragedy has struck the heart of Delhi's underbelly. On February 21, 2025, two labourers lost their lives at a DDA-managed site in Narela while performing manual sewer cleaning. This duty should have been rendered obsolete by mechanization and stringent safety norms. This incident highlights the persistent hazards of manual scavenging and exposes a systemic culture of evasion and defiance within the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

A Pattern of Negligence and Deflection

This isn't the first time Narela has witnessed such a calamity. Last year, a similar incident in the same area resulted in the untimely death of a labourer—a stark reminder that the DDA has repeatedly failed to learn from its past mistakes. Instead of addressing the root causes, the DDA has consistently attempted to shift the blame onto private contractors. Such attempts at cover-up are a deliberate evasion of responsibility, masking their gross negligence behind administrative technicalities and contractual loopholes.

Defiance of Supreme Court Directives and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Despite the Supreme Court's clear directives-mandating the mechanization of sewer cleaning and holding officials accountable for any lapses—the DDA continues its dangerous practice of manual cleaning. This blatant disregard violates the court's orders and undermines PM Modi's flagship #SwachhBharat mission. The initiative, which aspires to create a clean and dignified nation, is being compromised by the institutions entrusted with upholding its values. The invisible pillars of this national dream—our labourers—are being callously sacrificed.

Judicial Rebuke and Unheeded Orders

Adding to the gravity of the situation, the DDA's inhuman and highhanded approach was underscored by an earlier judicial order. On October 6, 2024, the Delhi High Court directed the DDA to pay immediate compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs to the victims of a similar incident, along with a provision for employment for a family member on compensation grounds. Shockingly, the DDA chose to ignore this order. In a rare public rebuke, the then Delhi High Court Chief Justice lamented, "I hang my head in shame." Such a strong condemnation from the judiciary reflects the deep-seated systemic failures and the indifference of the DDA towards human life and justice.

The Inhuman Cost of Neglect

For the DDA, nothing seems to matter—not the lives of innocent labourers, not the inviolable law of the land, and not the judgments of our highest courts. This ongoing negligence is an administrative failure and a criminal act against humanity. As each day passes, more lives are put at risk, and the foundational promises of safety and dignity for our workers are eroded further.

A Call to Action

It is high time that authorities and the government step in decisively. The DDA must be held accountable for its repeated failures. The blame cannot be narrowly confined to private contractors when the administrative machinery is complicit. There is an urgent need for: Immediate criminal investigation into the latest incident. Strict adherence to the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court orders. Reallocation of budgets to ensure robust safety protocols and proper mechanization. Transparent accountability holds every layer of negligence responsible, from private contractors to DDA officials. The lives of our invisible pillars—the unsung heroes of our sanitation efforts must be safeguarded at all costs. The nation deserves nothing less than justice and decisive action to prevent such tragedies from recurring.

The time for complacency is over. Our collective responsibility is to ensure that no more lives are sacrificed in the name of negligence and