



India Bloc Calls For Dhankhar's Ouster As Rajya Sabha Chairman

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The INDIA bloc Opposition MPs have submitted an unprecedented notice seeking the removal of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar as Rajya Sabha Chairman, alleging extreme bias in conducting House proceedings and citing a six-point chargesheet against him, including interruptions and remarks undermining the dignity of the House. The motion, invoking Article 67 of the Constitution, comes amid ongoing political tensions and is unlikely to be taken up during the current session.



INDIA BLOC CALLS FOR VICE-PRESIDENT DHANKHAR'S REMOVAL AS RAJYA SABHA CHAIRMAN

Allegations of Bias

- Nearly 60 Opposition MPs from the INDIA bloc submitted a notice seeking the removal of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar as Rajya Sabha Chairperson.
- The MPs accused him of conducting proceedings "extremely biased" since assuming office in August 2022.

Six-Point Chargesheet

The Opposition MPs listed the following allegations in their notice:

1. Constant Interruptions:

- Repeatedly interrupted Opposition MPs when they attempted to speak.

2. Denial of Legitimate Requests:

- Denied requests by the Leader of the Opposition, Mallikarjun

Kharge, to rebut statements made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President J.P. Nadda.

3. Lowering House Dignity:

- Made unacceptable remarks against Mallikarjun Kharge, which allegedly undermined the dignity of the House.

4. Praise for RSS:

- Praised the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), recalling past associations with "so-called cultural organisations" in a manner unbecoming of his constitutional position.

5. Criticism of Opposition Leaders:

- Criticized statements made by Opposition leaders who were not Rajya Sabha members.

6. Partisanship:

- Acted as an "impassioned spokesperson" for Union government policies at public fora.

Use of Article 67 of the Constitution

- The MPs invoked Article 67 to move the motion for his removal.
- Article 67 requires a 14-day notice for initiating the process of removing the Vice-President from office.

Former Rajya Sabha Secretary-General's View

- V.K. Agnihotri, a former Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha, stated that this is an unprecedented move.
- He noted that the notice was unlikely to be taken up as a resolution during the Winter Session, which is set to end on December 20.
- Notices submitted during a session become invalid once the session is prorogued.

CONCLUSION

The Opposition's notice highlights allegations against Vice-President Dhankhar, reflecting heightened political tensions in Parliament. However, the procedural and temporal constraints make it unlikely that the matter will be addressed in the current session.

Mohammad Al-Bashir Named Syria's Interim Prime Minister

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: Syria faces a tumultuous transition after the ousting of President Bashar al-Assad, with Mohammad al-Bashir named interim Prime Minister and militant leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani leading talks on power transfer amid ongoing regional instability, including Israeli airstrikes and concerns over extremist activities.



SYRIA UNDER TRANSACTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Mohammad al-Bashir Named Interim Prime Minister

- Militants who overthrew Syrian President Bashar al-Assad appointed Mohammad al-Bashir as the transitional Prime Minister to lead the country until March 1.
- A statement from the "general command" on state television's Telegram account confirmed his role as the "new Syrian Prime Minister."

Efforts Toward Power Transfer

- Militant leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, who spearheaded the offensive against Assad, announced ongoing talks for a peaceful transfer of power.

- Al-Jolani vowed to pursue accountability for senior officials implicated in torture and war crimes.
- Outgoing Prime Minister Mohammed al-Jalali held discussions with al-Jolani on ensuring the continuation of essential services for Syrians.

International Reactions and Concerns

- **U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken:**
 - Urged nations to support an "inclusive" political process in Syria.
 - Stated the U.S. would recognize a future government that is "credible, inclusive, and non-sectarian."
 - Emphasized preventing Syria from being used as a base for terrorism.
- **United Nations Envoy for Syria:**
 - Called on rebel groups to back their positive statements with tangible actions on the ground.

Resurgence of Islamic State (IS) Activities

- Despite losing territorial control in Syria, IS militants remain active.
- The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported IS fighters killed 54 government troops as they fled across the Syrian Desert.

Israeli Military Involvement in Syria

Airstrikes and Buffer Zone Occupation

- Israel has conducted over 300 airstrikes across Syria since the fall of Assad, according to observers.
- Israeli forces advanced into a 400-sq. km. buffer zone inside Syria, established after the 1973 West Asia war, claiming this move was to prevent attacks on Israeli citizens.

Targeting Strategic Sites

- Israel stated it is targeting chemical weapons facilities and heavy weapons stockpiles to prevent their capture by extremist groups.

Advancements Toward Damascus

- Israeli troops have reportedly advanced up the Syrian border with Lebanon, coming as close as 25 km to Damascus.
- Heavy airstrikes were heard overnight in the capital and its suburbs, with no comments from the insurgent groups

controlling much of the country.

CONCLUSION: This series of developments highlights Syria's complex political and security situation following the ousting of Bashar al-Assad.

Despite Pressure, India Consciously Decided To Deepen Relations With Russia, Says Rajnath

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: India reaffirms its strategic partnership with Russia despite global pressures, as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh discusses military cooperation and defense manufacturing initiatives during his Moscow visit, which coincides with developments such as Syrian President Bashar al-Assad seeking asylum in Russia.



INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS AMID GEOPOLITICAL PRESSURES

- **Deepening Ties:** India has chosen to deepen its engagement with Russia despite geopolitical challenges and external pressures.
 - **Strategic Cooperation:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized India's commitment to expanding military and technical cooperation with Russia.
- 21st India-Russia Military Cooperation Meeting (IRIGC-M&MTC)**
- **Event Details:** Rajnath Singh co-chaired the meeting in Moscow with Russian Defence Minister Andrey

Belousov.

- **2021-31 Agreement:** The military technical cooperation agreement is expected to bolster India's "Make in India" initiative.
- **Outcome:** The two Ministers signed a protocol to highlight ongoing and prospective areas of collaboration.

Meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin

- **Discussion:** Singh met with President Putin for nearly an hour to discuss bilateral ties.
- **Future Summit:** Putin is scheduled to visit India for an annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi early next year.
- **Previous Engagements:** Modi visited Russia in July 2024 after a five-year gap, followed by discussions during the BRICS summit in October.

Syrian President's Overthrow and Russian Asylum

- **Coinciding Event:** Singh's visit coincided with the overthrow of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.
- **Asylum in Russia:** Reports suggest that Assad and his family have been granted asylum in Russia.

Defence Cooperation and "Make in India" Initiatives

- **Collaboration Focus:** Singh highlighted opportunities for Russian industries to participate in India's defense manufacturing projects.
- **Commitment:** Both nations aim to enhance the capabilities of India's domestic defense sector.

Delayed Defence Deals Due to Ukraine War

- **Affected Projects:** Deliveries of the S-400 air defense systems, Krivak-class stealth frigates, and spares have been delayed.
- **Domestic Manufacturing:** India is shifting towards manufacturing warships domestically, reducing dependency on imports.

Recent and Future Defence Deliveries

- **INS Tushil:** Commissioned in Kaliningrad, it is the first of two stealth frigates built in Russia for India.
- **INS Tamal:** Expected to be delivered early next year, it may be the last Russian-built warship for India.
- **Nuclear Submarine Chakra-III:** Currently under construction and leased by India, this could also be the last

Russian-imported submarine under India's modernization plans.

CONCLUSION: Despite global pressures, India continues to strengthen its strategic partnership with Russia, focusing on defense cooperation and indigenous manufacturing while navigating ongoing geopolitical challenges.

New Scheme To Triple Those With Access To Top Journals

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The Indian government has launched a major initiative to significantly increase access to scholarly research literature for students and faculty across the country, particularly those at state-affiliated institutions, by significantly expanding journal subscriptions and providing support for article publication costs.



One Nation, One Subscription Scheme: Expanding Access to Research Literature

• Objective:

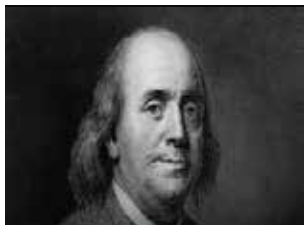
- To significantly increase access to research papers from top publishers for students and faculty across India, particularly those in state-affiliated institutions.
- To bridge the gap in research access between centrally funded institutions and others.

• Key Features:

◦ Increased Access:

- Will more than triple the number of researchers with access to top journals.

- 62% increase in the number of journals available, covering 95% of published research.
- **Financial Investment:**
 - Expected outlay of ₹6,000 crore from 2025 to 2027.
 - Doubling of the Centre's annual spend on journal subscriptions.
- **Phase-wise Implementation:**
 - Phase 1 (from January 1, 2025): Focus on state universities and government institutions.
 - Phase 2 (from 2027): Potential inclusion of private universities and colleges after review.
- **Article Processing Charge (APC) Fund:**
 - ₹150 crore fund to support researchers in publishing their work in open-access journals.
 - Aims to reduce the financial burden of APCs, which can be significant (average ₹80,000-₹1,60,000).
- **Implementation and Coordination:**
 - Nodal agency: Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) – covers over 6,300 institutions.
 - Online access: Students and faculty can access journals remotely.
- **Background:**
 - The scheme has been under development since 2019.
 - India is in negotiations with the European Union to leverage collective bargaining power with publishers for better subscription deals.



“If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it.”

–Benjamin Franklin

PM POSHAN: Centre To Bear Additional Cost Of ₹425.62 Cr. Due To Food Inflation

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The Indian government has launched a major initiative to significantly increase access to scholarly research literature for students and faculty across the country, particularly those at state-affiliated institutions, by significantly expanding journal subscriptions and providing support for article publication costs.



PM POSHAN Scheme: Increased Funding to Address Inflation Key Points:

- **Increased Funding:** The Centre has allocated an additional ₹425.62 crore to the PM POSHAN scheme in 2024-25 to address rising food prices.
- **Scheme Coverage:**
 - Provides one hot cooked meal daily to 11.7 crore students in Balvatika and classes 1-8.
 - Implemented in 10.24 lakh government and government-aided schools across India.
- **Inflation Adjustment:**
 - Material costs for pulses, vegetables, and oil have been

increased by 13.7% based on the Labour Bureau's inflation index.

- This accounts for inflation in 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- **Revised Material Costs:**
 - Primary/Balvatika: ₹5.45 to ₹6.19 per student.
 - Upper Primary: ₹8.17 to ₹9.29 per student.
- **Foodgrain Contribution:**
 - The Centre provides 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains through the Food Corporation of India.
 - Bears 100% of the cost, including subsidy and transportation.
- **State Flexibility:**
 - States and UTs can contribute more than the minimum mandatory share to enhance meal quality.
- **Per Meal Cost:**
 - Estimated at ₹11.54 for primary/Balvatika.
 - Estimated at ₹16.74 for upper primary.

CONCLUSION:

The increased funding for the PM POSHAN scheme demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring the nutritional needs of school-going children are met despite rising food prices. This adjustment will help maintain the quality and nutritional value of meals provided under the program.



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TWO TO TANGO

India and Bangladesh must grapple with the new realities in ties

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: The challenges and opportunities in India-Bangladesh relations following political upheaval in Dhaka, highlight Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's outreach to the interim government and emphasize the importance of mutual engagement to address regional tensions and foster cooperation.

India-Bangladesh Relations: Navigating New Realities and Challenges

1. Deteriorating Ties

- Relations between India and Bangladesh have been fast deteriorating due to several issues.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's flight to India, followed by political unrest in Bangladesh, has worsened bilateral ties.

2. Key Issues Affecting Bilateral Relations

- India's Concerns: Attacks on religious minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh's Grievances: Perception of unwanted Indian interference and Hasina's stay in India, which has become a point of contention.
- Protests and Tensions: Indian protests against Bangladesh's arrest of a Hindu monk, leading to attacks on Indian diplomatic properties.

3. Vikram Misri's Visit to Dhaka

- Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri made a one-day visit to Dhaka to engage with the interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus.
- Misri's visit emphasized India's desire to maintain and deepen ties with Bangladesh, despite current tensions.

4. Diplomatic Outreach and Engagement

- Misri met with Yunus, Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain, and Foreign Secretary Muhammad Jashim Uddin.
- His comments were measured, acknowledging the concerns of both sides over recent incidents of violence and diplomatic attacks.
- Yunus described India-Bangladesh relations as "solid" and asked India to help clear the air regarding tensions caused by Hasina's statements.

5. Focus on Key Areas of Cooperation

- Both sides focused on past talks related to border management, trade, connectivity, water and energy cooperation, and people-to-people ties.
- The visit was seen as an attempt to reset and chart a new course in the bilateral relationship.

6. Importance of India's Approach

- India needs to balance concerns over issues like the treatment of minorities in Bangladesh with the need to address the changing political dynamics in Dhaka.
- The Modi government must engage with Bangladesh's new interim government while remaining mindful of broader regional implications.

7. Conclusion: A Path Forward

- While challenges remain, India must adjust its approach to the new political realities in Bangladesh, fostering a consultative, collaborative partnership.
- A strong, mutually beneficial relationship is in the long-term interest of both countries and is crucial for stability in the region.



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Sambhal And The Perils Of Judicial Evasion

POLITY & GOVERNANCE T

CONTEXT: Certain learned critics argue the Supreme Court's reluctance to decisively address the core issue in the Sambhal mosque case, highlights the broader pattern of judicial inaction in key cases, particularly with respect to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991. They argue that the Court's failure to assertively uphold the Act, which aims to preserve the religious character of places of worship, perpetuates uncertainty and undermines its constitutional duty to resolve critical legal challenges.



JUDICIAL EVASION AND THE PERILS OF DEFERMENT IN THE SAMBHAL MOSQUE CASE

Key Points:

1. **Judicial Inaction and "Duty to Decide":**
 - Scholar Chad M. Oldfather's concept of "judicial inactivism" highlights the importance of courts fulfilling their "duty to decide" on legal matters.
 - Judicial inaction can have equally significant consequences as judicial overreach, making it more worrisome and harder to detect.
2. **The Supreme Court's Deferment in the Sambhal Case:**
 - Certain critics are of the opinion that The Court's reluctance to address the core issue of the case, opting instead for temporary relief and sending the matter to the Allahabad High Court, reflects judicial evasion.
 - The Court's inaction came after the local civil court ordered a survey of the Sambhal mosque, resulting in tensions and loss of life.
3. **The Role of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991:**
 - The Act prohibits the conversion of religious places from their status as they were on August 15, 1947, and prevents the initiation or continuation of suits related to their religious character.
 - Violating this Act is punishable with imprisonment and a fine, yet courts, including the Supreme Court, have allowed challenges to it, undermining its intent.
4. **Parliamentary Intent Behind the Act:**
 - The Act was introduced to prevent communal outfits from exploiting religious sentiments for political gain and to preserve India's secular and pluralistic social fabric.
5. **The Court's Missed Opportunity to Uphold the Law:**
 - The Supreme Court could have decisively upheld the validity of the Act, as it is intrinsically linked to the nation's constitutional values of secularism and fraternity.
 - A clear stand on the Act would have brought stability and certainty to the matter, avoiding further judicial delays and maintaining peace.
6. **Historical Precedents of Judicial Deferment:**
 - The Supreme Court has previously shown similar tendencies in other contentious cases, such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests and the farm laws, where it deferred decisions and failed to adjudicate legal challenges.
 - The Court's failure to take a firm stand in these cases reflects an ongoing reluctance to resolve core issues.
7. **Impact on National Unity:**
 - The failure to decisively address the Sambhal case and other similar instances risks eroding India's secular fabric and promoting divisiveness.
 - The Court's lack of will to uphold the 1991 Act further undermines the country's commitment to equality and fraternity among all religious communities.

CONCLUSION: The Supreme Court's deferment in the Sambhal mosque case represents a troubling trend of judicial inaction, where the judiciary fails to decisively address core legal issues. By not upholding the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, the Court has missed an opportunity to assert the legal framework meant to protect India's secular identity. The judiciary's reluctance to act on such critical matters only exacerbates the tension in society and risks undermining the constitutional principles of fraternity, equality, and secularism. It is crucial that the Court takes a firm stand on the validity of the Act in future hearings, restoring its role as the protector of the rule of law and national unity.

Deepening India's Steps As A Key Space-Faring Nation

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CONTEXT: India's need for a robust and competitive space sector, emphasizes the crucial role of developing reusable, heavy-lift rockets like the NGLV and fostering a strong private sector involvement to achieve strategic autonomy and expand India's presence in space exploration.

India's Ambitious Space Program: The Need for NGLV and Private Sector Involvement

Key Points:

- **India's Space Ambitions:**
 - Aims to become a major space power with human spaceflight missions (Gaganyaan), a space station, and lunar exploration.
 - Requires powerful and reusable rockets for these ambitious goals.
- **The NGLV (Next Generation Launch Vehicle):**
 - Under development by ISRO.
 - Will significantly increase payload capacity compared to the current LVM3.
 - Key features: Heavy lift capability and reusability for cost-effectiveness.
- **Challenges and Opportunities:**
 - Current limitations of existing rockets (LVM3) for ambitious missions.
 - Need for faster development and alternatives to the NGLV.
 - Example: Reliance on SpaceX for launching certain satellites due to payload limitations.
- **Role of the Private Sector:**
 - Encourage private Indian companies to develop their own reusable, heavy-lift rockets.
 - Leverage private sector expertise and innovation.
 - Explore collaborations with foreign companies for technology and expertise.
- **Funding and Implementation:**
 - Implement a milestone-based funding mechanism to incentivize private sector participation.
 - Address potential challenges like lack of existing rocket technology expertise in Indian companies.

CONCLUSION: India's space program requires a robust and competitive space transportation sector. Developing the NGLV and actively engaging the private sector are crucial steps. By fostering a dynamic ecosystem for space technology development, India can achieve its ambitious space goals, enhance its strategic autonomy, and contribute significantly to global space exploration.

ENDS WITHOUT MEANS

While Goals Of Ugc Reforms Are Clear, They Need To Be Backed By Resources

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The draft UGC regulations propose significant reforms to higher education in India, aiming for greater flexibility and student-centric learning, but their successful implementation faces challenges due to insufficient resources, systemic issues, and potential resistance from academic institutions.

UGC Reforms: Ambitious Vision, Uncertain Implementation

Key Points:

- **Proposed Reforms:**
 - Bi-annual admissions for UG and PG programs.
 - Flexibility in course choices: Students can pursue any discipline after passing a relevant national qualifying exam.
 - Course flexibility: Extension or acceleration of courses, pursuing multiple degrees simultaneously.
 - Institutional autonomy: Flexibility in determining student attendance.
- **Alignment with NEP 2020:**
 - Emphasis on hybrid learning and skill-based education.
 - Supports the National Credit Framework for greater academic flexibility.

- **Concerns and Challenges:**

- **Resource Constraints:**

- Insufficient faculty strength.
- Underfunded institutions.
- Lack of adequately trained and motivated teachers.

- **Inadequate Regulatory Framework:**

- Existing regulations, especially for affiliated colleges, may not support the proposed changes.
- Potential for resistance from state governments.

- **Inherent Challenges:**

- Inertia within academic bodies and administrative procedures.
- Resistance to innovative concepts like the 'academic bank of credits'.

- **Funding Concerns:**

- Reduced allocation to higher education in the recent budget.

CONCLUSION:

The draft UGC regulations present a promising vision for higher education in India, aiming to enhance flexibility and student-centric learning. However, the successful implementation of these reforms hinges on addressing critical challenges such as resource constraints, systemic issues, and resistance to change. Adequate funding and a concerted effort to overcome these hurdles are essential for realizing the full potential of these ambitious reforms.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANI VERSUS OPENAI

ANI vs. OpenAI: A Test Case for AI Copyright in India

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Key Points:

- **The Conflict:**

- News publishers like ANI rely on tech platforms for distribution but face revenue loss due to AI models trained on their content.
- OpenAI faces lawsuits from news organizations worldwide for copyright infringement.

- **ANI's Lawsuit:**

- Claims OpenAI used copyrighted content without permission for LLM training.
- Accuses OpenAI of generating responses that are verbatim

or substantially similar to ANI's content.

- Highlights the issue of fabricated responses attributed to ANI.

- **OpenAI's Defense:**

- Relies on fair use principles and exceptions for text and data mining.
- Argues copyright protects expression, not ideas or facts.
- Emphasizes that AI models modify language and do not reproduce content verbatim.
- Claims no Indian operations, hence no legal basis for action within the country.

- **Key Legal and Policy Issues:**

- Fair Use and Text and Data Mining:
 - Indian law lacks specific provisions for AI training data.
 - Balancing innovation with copyright protection.
- Territoriality of Data:
 - Challenges in applying territorial laws to cloud-based AI services.
 - Data sovereignty concerns in the age of distributed AI.

- **Implications:**

- This lawsuit will set crucial precedents for AI copyright law in India.

- Will influence how India regulates AI development and protects the rights of content creators.

CONCLUSION:

The ANI vs. OpenAI case highlights the complex legal and ethical challenges surrounding AI development and the use of copyrighted material. Resolving this dispute will require a nuanced approach that balances the need for innovation with the protection of intellectual property rights. Indian policymakers must carefully consider the implications of AI on the media landscape and establish a clear legal framework that supports responsible AI development while safeguarding the interests of content creators.

The Code Of Conduct Judges Need To Follow

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CONTEXT: The recent controversial remarks made by Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event have raised concerns about judicial conduct and impartiality. This incident highlights the importance of adhering to judicial ethics, as outlined in the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, and the potential consequences for judges who breach these standards, including impeachment procedures.



THE GIST

- Ø The comments made by Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, against the Muslim community at an event organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad on December 8, has drawn public flak. Justice Yadav has said that the country would function as per the wishes of the majority living in Hindustan.
- Ø The 'Restatement of Values of Judicial Life' is the primary code of ethics governing judicial behaviour adopted by the Supreme Court on May 7, 1997. The very first rule of the code is that the behaviour of a judge must "reaffirm the people's faith in the impartiality of the judiciary".
- Ø The Constitution mandates that judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts can be removed by an order of the President after a successful process of impeachment on the grounds of "proved misbehaviour or incapacity".

The Code of Conduct Judges Need to Follow: A Critical Analysis of Judicial Ethics and Accountability

The judiciary plays a pivotal role in ensuring justice and upholding the rule of law in a democratic society. To maintain public trust, judges are required to adhere to a strict ethical code, balancing personal freedom with the duty to preserve the integrity of the judicial office. The recent controversial remarks by Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court have raised serious concerns about judicial conduct, highlighting the importance of judicial ethics and the accountability mechanisms in place to address misconduct.

Key Issues Surrounding Judicial Ethics and Conduct

1. Judicial Code of Conduct: The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life

- In 1997, the Supreme Court of India adopted the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life, a foundational code of ethics for judges, which outlines the expectations for judicial behavior both inside and outside the courtroom.
- The first rule emphasizes that the behavior of a judge must "reaffirm the people's faith in the impartiality of the judiciary." Any act that undermines this perception of impartiality must be avoided. Justice Yadav's recent comments, made at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event, may have violated this rule by publicly making remarks that could compromise the public's perception of judicial impartiality.

2. The Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct (2002)

- The Bangalore Principles provide a broader framework that judges must follow to preserve the dignity and impartiality of their office. These principles also acknowledge a judge's right to free speech but assert that such speech should not compromise the judicial office's dignity or its independence.

- Justice Yadav's comments, which included inflammatory statements about the Muslim community and the promotion of a majority-led ideology, seemingly contradict the core principles laid out in this framework, particularly the requirement to treat all members of society equally and understand the diversity in the nation.
- 3. Judicial Impartiality and Public Perception**
- Judges are expected to maintain and enhance the confidence of the public, the legal profession, and litigants in the impartiality of the judiciary. The Bangalore Principles and the Restatement of Values stress that judges must be conscious that their actions are under public scrutiny at all times. Justice Yadav's participation in a right-wing event and the subsequent controversial remarks have drawn public criticism for deviating from these established ethical standards.
- 4. Consequences for Judicial Misconduct**
- The Constitution of India provides a formal process for the removal of judges on grounds of "proved misbehaviour or incapacity." The process begins with an impeachment motion, which requires a special majority in both Houses of Parliament for the removal of a Supreme Court or High Court judge.
 - Beyond impeachment, the judiciary also follows an in-house procedure for addressing serious allegations against judges. This procedure allows for complaints to be reviewed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) or the President, with the possibility of a fact-finding inquiry. If the findings are sufficient, the judge can be asked to retire or face impeachment.
- 5. The Role of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of India**
- The Supreme Court plays a crucial role in ensuring that judicial ethics are upheld and that any breaches are properly investigated. In the case of Justice Yadav, the Supreme Court has taken note of the remarks and is considering the matter. This illustrates the active role the judiciary must play in holding its own members accountable.
 - While judges are entitled to express their opinions, their conduct must not be at odds with the principles of equality, impartiality, and secularism that form the backbone of India's Constitution.

CONCLUSION: Justice Yadav's remarks raise concerns regarding judicial ethics, particularly with respect to impartiality. These comments may have undermined public confidence in the judiciary. Maintaining judicial independence and public trust is crucial for the effective functioning of the legal system. It is essential that judges uphold the highest ethical standards and that any concerns regarding judicial conduct are addressed appropriately."



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