

Date: 14th April 2024

To,

**The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India,
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi**

Respected Sir,

Subject: Need to safeguard judiciary from unwarranted pressures

We, a collective of retired judges from the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India, take this moment to write to you, drawing upon our years of service and experience within the judiciary, to express our shared concern regarding the escalating attempts by certain factions to undermine the judiciary through calculated pressure, misinformation, and public disparagement.

It has come to our notice that these elements, motivated by narrow political interests and personal gains, are striving to erode the public's confidence in our judicial system. Their methods are manifold and insidious, with clear attempts to sway judicial processes by casting aspersions on the integrity of our courts and the judges. Such actions not only disrespect the sanctity of our judiciary but also pose a direct challenge to the principles of fairness and impartiality that Judges, as guardians of the law, have sworn to uphold.

The strategy employed by these groups is deeply troubling – ranging from the propagation of baseless theories intended to malign the judiciary's reputation to engaging in overt and covert attempts to influence judicial outcomes to their favour.

This behaviour, we observe, is particularly pronounced in the cases and causes of social, economic and political significance, including the cases involving certain individuals, wherein the lines between

advocacy and manoeuvring are blurred to the detriment of judicial independence.

We are particularly concerned about the tactics of misinformation and the orchestration of public sentiment against the judiciary, which are not only unethical but also detrimental to the foundational principles of our democracy. The practice of selectively praising judicial decisions that align with one's views while vehemently criticizing those that do not, undermines the very essence of judicial review and the rule of law.

In light of these observations, we urge the judiciary, led by the Supreme Court to fortify against such pressures and ensure that the sanctity and autonomy of our legal system are preserved. It is imperative that the judiciary remains a pillar of democracy, immune to the whims and fancies of transient political interests.

We stand in solidarity with the judiciary and are prepared to support in any manner necessary to uphold the dignity, integrity, and impartiality of our judiciary.

We anticipate your resolute guidance and leadership in these challenging times, safeguarding the judiciary as a pillar of justice and equity.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

-----**List of Signatories attached**-----

| | | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Justice | Deepak Verma | Former Supreme Court Judge |
| 2 | Justice | Krishna Murari | Former Supreme Court Judge |
| 3 | Justice | Dinesh Maheshwari | Former Supreme Court Judge |
| 4 | Justice | M R Shah | Former Supreme Court Judge |
| 5 | Justice | Permod Kohli | Former Chief Justice Sikkim High Court and Chairman CAT |
| 6 | Justice | S.M.Soni | Former Judge Gujarat High Court and Lokayukt State of Gujarat |
| 7 | Justice | Ambadas Joshi | Former Judge, Mumbai High Court |
| 8 | Justice | S.N. Dhingra | Former Judge, Delhi High Court |
| 9 | Justice | R K Gauba | Former Judge, Delhi High Court |
| 10 | Justice | Gyan prakash Mittal | Former Judge, Delhi High Court |
| 11 | Justice | Ajit Bharihoke | Former Judge, Delhi High Court |
| 12 | Justice | Raghuvendra Singh Rathore | Former Judge, Rajasthan High Court |
| 13 | Justice | Ramesh Kumar Merathia | Former Judge, Jharkhand High Court |
| 14 | Justice | Karam Chand Puri | Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court |
| 15 | Justice | Rakesh Saksena | Former Judge, M.P High Court |
| 16 | Justice | Narender Kumar | Former High Court Judges & Chairman, NCMEI |
| 17 | Justice | Rajes Kumar | Former Judge, Allahabad High Court |
| 18 | Justice | S N Srivastav | Former Judge, Allahabad High Court |
| 19 | Justice | P.N Ravinderan | Former Judge, Kerala High Court |
| 20 | Justice | Lokpal Singh | Former Judge, Utrakhand High Court |
| 21 | Justice | Rajiv Lochan | Former Judge, Allahabad High Court |