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Last Minute Revision for CLAT PG: Important Judgements for the Month of May- Part I

Indrasish Majumder · 19 Nov 2024

Preparing for CLAT 2025 and looking for comprehensive resources? Read this post to go through Part I of important judgements of May.

Bombay High Court Rules Filing False Police Reports Against Spouse Amounts to Marital Cruelty

- Background: Due to her husband's mental cruelty, a woman appealed a district court's divorce decision. The husband argued that his wife had filed multiple false police complaints against him and his family in 2012, accusing them of molestation and threats. He claimed that these false allegations damaged his reputation and caused emotional distress.
- The Bombay High Court emphasized that baseless allegations, especially involving serious charges like molestation, create a hostile environment and inflict mental cruelty on the accused. It highlighted that seeking protection under laws like the Domestic Violence Act is not inherently cruel; knowingly filing false reports crosses into the territory of marital cruelty.
- Decision: The Court upheld the divorce, observing that the wife's actions inflicted social and emotional harm on the husband's family. This decision reinforces that false accusations against a spouse can qualify as mental cruelty under divorce laws.

Supreme Court: Identification After Years Cannot Solely Sustain Conviction

- Case: Suresh @ Uni @ Vadi Suresh v. State of Kerala
- Background: The appellant, convicted of murder in 2006, challenged his conviction on the grounds that he was identified by witnesses only four years after the crime, without an identification parade. He contended that the police influenced this late in-court identification and it lacked evidentiary reliability.

- The Supreme Court highlighted that identification made years after a crime, especially without an official parade or consistent earlier identification, lacks reliability and does not meet the standard of proof necessary to uphold a serious conviction. The Court noted that when the police directly present the accused to witnesses, it could lead to biased recognition.
- Decision: The Supreme Court overturned the conviction, emphasizing that identification based solely on delayed recognition is not sufficient to support a life sentence. This ruling highlights the significance of prompt and impartial witness identification in criminal cases.

Karnataka High Court Quashes Abetment of Suicide Charges for Lack of Clear Causation

- Case: David D'Souza v. State of Karnataka
- Background: The accused faced charges of abetting the suicide of a Christian priest, following a heated conversation where he confronted the priest over an alleged affair with his wife. Shortly after, the priest took his life, leading to abetment charges against the accused.
- The Karnataka High Court observed that for abetment of suicide charges to hold, there must be a clear intention to incite or compel the victim to commit suicide. In this case, while the argument might have caused emotional distress, it lacked the direct intent required under Section 306 of the IPC.
- Decision: The Court quashed the case, noting that harsh words alone do not satisfy the legal threshold for abetment unless there is evidence of intent to drive the victim to suicide. This ruling reinforces the need for clear intent and causation in abetment cases.

Punjab and Haryana High Court Quashes FIR in Dowry Case After Mutual Settlement

- Case: Former Husband's Plea on FIR Quashing Based on Settlement
- Background: The petitioner, a former husband, sought the quashing of his ex-wife's FIR, which accused her of dowry harassment. The couple had reached a settlement wherein the wife accepted ₹22 lakh as alimony and agreed to withdraw the allegations.
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court observed that personal disputes often exploit Section 498A of the IPC, which aims to prevent dowry-related abuse. Given that the wife had received

the settlement sum, the Court deemed it unnecessary to continue the FIR, as it would serve no purpose other than harassment.

- Decision: The Court quashed the FIR, observing that unless the wife could provide evidence of coercion in the settlement, her complaint could not proceed. This judgement underscores that settlements in matrimonial disputes, once agreed upon, may warrant termination of legal proceedings to avoid misuse of protective laws.

Madras High Court: NEET Centers Must Provide Sanitary Products for Female Candidates

- Case: X vs. National Testing Agency
- Background: A 19-year-old NEET candidate with a medical condition requiring frequent diaper changes filed a plea requesting restroom access and the availability of sanitary products at her examination center. She argued that the lack of such provisions would be discriminatory and impact her ability to complete the exam.
- The Madras High Court emphasized that examination centers must uphold basic hygiene and dignity standards, especially for female candidates. It pointed out that restroom access and availability of sanitary products are essential for ensuring equality and non-discrimination in educational settings.
- Decision: The Court ruled in favor of the petitioner, mandating that NEET centers make restroom facilities and sanitary products available for female candidates. This judgement underscores the importance of being sensitive to health needs and hygiene requirements, particularly in competitive exam environments .

Supreme Court: Social Media Influencers are Equally Accountable for Misleading Advertisements

- Case: Indian Medical Association (IMA) v. Patanjali Ayurveda
- Background: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) filed a case against Patanjali, challenging allegedly misleading health claims in their advertisements. The Supreme Court extended its focus to include the responsibility of social media influencers and celebrities who endorse products.

- The Court emphasized that public figures and influencers hold considerable sway over consumer behavior and are equally responsible for ensuring the truthfulness of the products they endorse. It stressed that misleading health claims can have serious public health consequences and that influencers must verify claims before promoting products.
- Decision: The Supreme Court held influencers accountable for false advertising claims, establishing a precedent where those endorsing products share legal responsibility with companies. This judgement strengthens consumer protection against deceptive advertising.

Delhi High Court Imposes Fine for Harassment of Cancer Patient by Insurance Company

- Case: Garima Singh v. New India Assurance Co. Ltd. & Ors
- Background: The petitioner, Garima Singh, a cancer patient, filed a complaint against New India Assurance for denying her claim for immunotherapy treatment. Garima Singh argued that the denial caused her immense mental anguish, given that her policy's chemotherapy provision covered the treatment.
- he Delhi High Court condemned the insurance company's actions, stating that refusing to cover essential treatments under ambiguous interpretations of policy terms constitutes harassment. It held that such actions are especially cruel in cases involving vulnerable patients, causing them undue mental distress and potentially jeopardising their health.
- Decision: The Court imposed a ₹50,000 fine on New India Assurance, ordered the claim's immediate settlement, and directed compensation for the emotional distress inflicted. This ruling emphasizes that insurance providers must operate transparently and prioritize customer welfare .