



# 12.06.2026 NEWS

## DELAYED JUSTICE IS DENIED JUSTICE

- The Supreme Court's direction that High Courts must pronounce judgments within three months from the date on which a case is reserved for judgment, and upload the judgment details online within 24 hours, is a welcome step.
- In 2014, a trial court in Jharkhand sentenced three individuals to life imprisonment. Another person received a life sentence in 2018. These four individuals appealed before the Jharkhand High Court, stating that they had spent more than ten years in custody, including the period awaiting trial.
- Although the hearing was completed, the judgment was reserved in 2022. Even after more than four years, no judgment was delivered, prompting the four individuals to approach the Supreme Court.
- In its ruling on the matter, the Supreme Court directed High Courts to pronounce judgments in reserved cases within three months.
- When people are forced to wait for years for trial, bail, or judgment, it weakens public confidence in the justice system.
- From subordinate courts to the Supreme Court, the shortage of judges, lawyers, and support staff causes litigants and defendants to wait for their cases to be heard.
- The Supreme Court has also pointed out that even in matters such as bail, anticipatory bail, and the release of persons in judicial custody, unnecessary delays are unacceptable. It had previously directed that judgments in such cases should ideally be delivered on the very day the hearing concludes.
- Every stage of a judicial proceeding must be continuously monitored by the courts. Delays directly affect an individual's fundamental right to personal liberty.
- Chief Justice Surya Kant has also observed that the gap between the conclusion of hearings and the delivery of judgments can significantly affect the quality and fairness of judicial decisions.
- Examples supporting this concern include : The delayed judgment delivered to Arvind Kejriwal in the Delhi liquor policy case in 2026.
- The verdict declaring Appavu the winner of the 2016 Assembly election, delivered ten years later.
- The judgment in actress Sukanya's defamation case against Sun TV, delivered nearly thirty years after the case was filed.
- These cases gained public attention because they involved prominent personalities. However, countless other cases remain pending despite hearings being completed, and prolonged delays in both trials and judgments continue to erode public trust in the judiciary.

- Courts are the final refuge for those seeking justice. Therefore, delays caused by infrastructural deficiencies or staff shortages cannot be justified.
- Everyone involved in the administration of justice must recognize that “delayed justice is denied justice.” Governments, too, must provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure that the fundamental rights of citizens are protected.

## **A PEACEFUL DEATH IS OUR RIGHT**

- Science may have succeeded in extending human life by several years. However, it has largely failed to guarantee a healthy life and, more importantly, a peaceful end to life.
- Due to the determination of hospitals to postpone death at any cost, society has transformed the final chapter of human life from a sacred farewell into a mechanical and often cruel experience.

### » The Harsh Reality of Intensive Care Units

- We must closely examine how people from different social backgrounds spend their final days in modern Intensive Care Units (ICUs).
- For the poor, death often becomes a devastating event that destroys both the financial stability and emotional well-being of their families. Having lived without adequate medical care and suffering from chronic illnesses, many enter hospitals only in the final stages of disease.
- When their condition worsens, they are pushed into the mechanical environment of government or low-cost hospital ICUs.
- There, aggressive attempts are made to keep their bodies functioning. Tubes are inserted, and even after the heart stops, forceful resuscitation efforts continue.
- Separated from grieving family members burdened by medical debt, many die alone under bright hospital lights.
- The situation of the middle class is often even more tragic. Their final days gradually consume a lifetime of savings.
- The money they accumulated for their children and grandchildren disappears within weeks in a private hospital ICU.
- Middle-class families frequently face emotional pressure : “Don’t you love your parents? Why are you refusing further treatment?”
- Faced with such questions, they often surrender to feelings of guilt and continue treatment despite the circumstances.

### » The Burden of Wealth

- Even the wealthy cannot escape this painful reality. In fact, their wealth can become a unique form of suffering.
- Because they have resources and influence, world-class specialists are brought in to treat them. No doctor wants to be blamed for failing to save a prominent individual.
- As a result, wealthy patients may be subjected to increasingly invasive procedures. Even when their bodies can no longer recover, technology keeps them alive in a high-tech medical environment for weeks.
- Ultimately, all three paths—those of the poor, the middle class, and the wealthy—often lead to the same end.

**Today News...**» A Historic Judgment

- In 2018, the Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark judgment declaring that the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution also includes the Right to Die with Dignity.
- To break this cycle of prolonged suffering, individuals must reclaim control over their own bodies and the manner in which they wish to spend their final days.
- The most important legal instrument available for this purpose is the Living Will or Advance Medical Directive.
- The Supreme Court recognized the legal validity of Living Wills in the Common Cause v. Union of India case.
- In its 2018 judgment, a five-judge Constitution Bench clarified that forcing a person to remain alive through artificial life-support systems against their wishes, when recovery is impossible, violates human dignity.
- In 2023, the Court further simplified the procedure and issued additional guidelines.

» Key Features

- Individuals can decide in advance how medical decisions concerning their bodies should be handled if they later become incapable of communicating.
- The document can be legally executed in the presence of appropriate authorities and medical professionals.
- A Living Will is a legal document prepared while a person is mentally sound and healthy.
- It specifies what treatments should or should not be administered if the person suffers from an incurable illness or an irreversible medical condition.
- It allows individuals to state : "If my brain ceases to function or my illness reaches an irreversible stage, do not keep me attached to machines. Allow me to pass away peacefully."
- As Living Wills become more common, healthcare systems may place greater emphasis on palliative care—medical care focused on reducing pain and improving comfort—rather than merely extending life through invasive interventions.
- A commercialized healthcare system should not be allowed to dictate the final stage of our lives.
- Conversations about death should become normal within families, rather than being postponed until old age or severe illness arrives.
- Citizens should make use of the legal rights granted by the Supreme Court to safeguard the dignity of their final days.
- Science has fulfilled its role by helping us live longer. It is now our responsibility to ensure that life ends peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, rather than amid the noise of machines.
- Awareness and use of Living Wills should increase in every household.
- True medical progress is not measured by how long a person can be kept alive in a hospital bed. Rather, it is measured by how respectfully, painlessly, and peacefully a human being is allowed to bid farewell to the world.