

Prosecution Replenish

Vol- X

Part – 12



December, 2022

Aano Bhadra Kratvo Yantu Viswatah (Rig Ved)
Let all Noble thoughts come to us from all directions



Re संस्कृत™

विद्या विवादाय धनं मदाय शक्तिः परेषां परिपीडनाय ।
खलस्य साधोर् विपरीतमेतद् ज्ञानाय दानाय च रक्षणाय ॥

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The mischievous use their education for conflict, money for intoxication,
and power for oppressing others. Honest ones use it for
knowledge, charity, and protecting others, respectively.

unknown

दुर्जन की विद्या विवाद के लिये, धन उन्माद के लिये, और शक्ति दूसरों
का दमन करने के लिये होती है। सज्जन इसी को ज्ञान, दान,
और दूसरों के रक्षण के लिये उपयोग करते हैं।

CITATIONS

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1107; Naveen Vs. State Of Haryana & Others; Criminal Appeal No(s). 1866 of 2022 (Arising out of Special Leave Petition (Crl.) No.3746 of 2022) Decided on : 01-11-2022

The Constitution Bench has given a caution that power under Section 319 CrPC is a discretionary and extraordinary power which should be exercised sparingly and only in those cases where the circumstances of the case so warrant and the crucial test as noticed above has to be applied is one which is more than prima facie case as exercised at the time of framing of charge, but short of satisfaction to an extent that the evidence, if goes un rebutted, would lead to conviction.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1111; State of Maharashtra and Another Vs. Dr. Maroti S/o Kashinath Pimpalkar; Criminal Appeal No. 1874 of 2022, Special Leave Petition (Crl.) No. 718 of 2022; Decided On : 02-11-2022

Prompt and proper reporting of the commission of offence under the POCSO Act is of utmost importance and we have no hesitation to state that its failure on coming to know about the commission of any offence thereunder would defeat the very purpose and object of the Act. We say so taking into account the various provisions

thereunder. Medical examination of the victim as also the accused would give many important clues in a case that falls under the POCSO Act. Section 27 (1) of the POCSO Act provides that medical examination of a child in respect of whom any offence has been committed under the said Act, shall, notwithstanding that a First Information Report or complaint has not been registered for the offence under the Act, be conducted in accordance with Section 164 A of the Cr.P.C. which provides the procedures for medical examination of the victim of rape. In this contextual situation, it is also relevant to refer to Section 53A of Cr.P.C. that mandates for examination of a person accused of rape by a medical practitioner. It is also a fact that clothes of the parties would also offer very reliable evidence in cases of rape.

non-reporting of sexual assault against a minor child despite knowledge is a serious crime and more often than not, it is an attempt to shield the offenders of the crime of sexual assault.

statements recorded under Section 161/164, Cr.P.C. are inadmissible in evidence, as held in *M.L. Bhatt vs. M.K. Pandita*, [2002 \(3\) JT 89](#) and in *Rajeev Kourav vs. Baisahab and Others*, [\(2020\) 3 SCC 317](#).

There can be no dispute with respect to the position that statements recorded under Section 161 Cr.P.C. are inadmissible in evidence and its use is limited for the purposes as provided under Sections 145 and 157 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. As a matter of fact, statement recorded under Section 164, Cr.P.C. can also be used only for such purposes.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1112; S. KALEESWARAN Vs. STATE BY THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE POLLACHI TOWN EAST POLICE STATION, COIMBATORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU; CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 160 OF 2017; WITH JOHN ANTHONISAMY @ JOHN Vs. STATE, REP. BY THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE POLLACHI TOWN EAST POLICE STATION, COIMBATORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU; CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 410 of 2017; Decided On : 03-11-2022

it would be very risky to convict the accused believing the identification of the dead body of the victim through the super-imposition test. It is true that in the case based on circumstantial evidence, if the entire chain is duly proved by cogent evidence, the conviction could be recorded even if the corpus is not found, but when as per the case of prosecution, the dead body of the victim was discovered from the place shown by the accused, it is imperative on the part of the prosecution to prove that the dead body or the skeleton found at the instance of the accused was that of the victim and of none else.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1113; Mohd. Arif @ Ashfaq Vs State (NCT of Delhi); Review Petition (Crl.) Nos. 286-287 of 2012, Criminal Appeal Nos. 98-99 of 2009; Decided On : 03-11-2022 (THREE JUDGE BENCH)

Consequently, we must eschew, for the present purposes, the electronic evidence in the form of CDRs which was without any appropriate certificate under Section 65-B(4) of the Evidence Act.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1128; Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel Vs. State of U.P.; Criminal Appeal Nos. 946-947 of 2019 with Criminal Appeal Nos. 1030-

1031/2019 with Criminal Appeal Nos. 1046-1047/2019 with Criminal Appeal Nos. 1269-1270/2019 with Criminal Appeal Nos. 1804-1805/2019 with Criminal Appeal Nos. 1980-1981/2019 with Criminal Appeal Nos. 1279-1280/2019 with SLP (Cri) No. 10742/2019 with W.P. (Cri.) No. 57/2022; Decided On : 04-11-2022 (THREE JUDGE BENCH)

The variations indicated in the tehreer and the FIR, as well as the argument of improbability based on a minute-by-minute construct by the learned counsels for the Appellants, can under no circumstance become fatal to the acceptance of the tehreer and the FIR. This Court, while noting the defects and variations in the investigation observed in *Rammi Alia Rameshwar v. State of M.P.*, [\(1999\) 8 SCC 649](#) :

“24. When an eyewitness is examined at length it is quite possible for him to make some discrepancies. No true witness can possibly escape from making some discrepant details. Perhaps an untrue witness who is well tutored can successfully make his testimony totally non-discrepant. But courts should bear in mind that it is only when discrepancies in the evidence of a witness are so incompatible with the credibility of his version that the court is justified in jettisoning his evidence. But too serious a view to be adopted on mere variations falling in the narration of an incident (either as between the evidence of two witnesses or as between two statements of the same witness) is an unrealistic approach for judicial scrutiny.

25. It is a common practice in trial courts to make out contradictions from the previous statement of a witness for confronting him during cross-examination. Merely because there is inconsistency in evidence it is not sufficient to impair the credit of the witness. No doubt Section 155 of the Evidence Act provides scope for impeaching the credit of a witness by proof of an inconsistent former statement. But a reading of the section would indicate that all inconsistent statements are not sufficient to impeach the credit of the witness....

26. A former statement though seemingly inconsistent with the evidence need not necessarily be sufficient to amount to contradiction. Only such of the inconsistent statement which is liable to be “contradicted” would affect the credit of the witness.....”

Reiterating the same principle about the evidence of an injured witness, this Court in *Rajendra Alia Rajappa & Ors v. State of Karnataka*, [\(2021\) 6 SCC 178](#) held as under:

“18. This Court in *Narayan Chetanram Chaudhary v. State of Maharashtra* [*Narayan Chetanram Chaudhary v. State of Maharashtra*, [\(2000\) 8 SCC 457](#) : 2000 SCC (Cri) 1546] has considered the minor contradictions in the testimony, while appreciating the evidence in criminal trial. It is held in the said judgment that only contradictions in material particulars and not minor contradictions can be a ground to discredit the testimony of the witnesses....”

we are of the opinion that the High Court has unnecessarily given weightage to some minor contradictions. The contradictions, if any, are not material contradictions which can affect the case of the prosecution as a whole. PW 6 was an injured eyewitness and therefore his presence ought not to have been doubted and being an injured eyewitness, as per the settled proposition of law laid down by this Court in catena of decisions, his deposition has a greater reliability and credibility.”

In view of the fact that the ballistic report has come from the office of the Assistant Director bearing his seal and having considered the same in the context of Section 293(4) Cr.P.C., as explained by this Court in *State of Himachal Pradesh v. Mast Ram* ([2004\) 8 SCC 660](#), we are opinion that the Trial Court committed a serious error in rejecting the ballistic report and it was necessary and compelling for the High Court to reverse the finding of the Trial Court on this count also.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1136; Rahul Vs. State of Delhi Ministry of Home Affairs and Another; Criminal Appeal No. 611 of 2022 WITH Ravi Kumar Vs State of NCT of Delhi; Criminal Appeal Nos. 612-613 of 2022 WITH Vinod @ Chhotu Vs. The State Govt. of NCT of Delhi Home Affairs; Criminal Appeal Nos. 614-615 of 2022 ; Decided On : 07-11-2022 (THREE JUDGE BENCH)

the confession before the police officer by the accused when he is in police custody, cannot be called an extra-judicial confession. If a confession is made by the accused before the police, and a portion of such confession leads to the recovery of any incriminating material, such portion alone would be admissible under Section 27 of the Evidence Act, and not the entire confessional statements. ----- . Though, the information furnished to the Investigating Officer leading to the discovery of the place of the offence would be admissible to the extent indicated in Section 27 read with Section 8 of the Evidence Act, but not the entire disclosure statement in the nature of confession recorded by the police officer.

material witnesses examined by the prosecution having not been either cross-examined or adequately examined, and the trial court also having acted as a passive umpire, we find that the Appellants-accused were deprived of their rights to have a fair trial, apart from the fact that the truth also could not be elicited by the trial court. We leave it to the wisdom and discretion of the trial courts to exercise their powers under Section 165 of the Indian Evidence Act for eliciting the truth in the cases before them, howsoever heinous or otherwise they may be.

It is needless to say that in view of Section 357(A) Cr.P.C. the family members of the deceased-victim would be entitled to the compensation even though the accused have been acquitted.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1150; P. Ponnusamy Vs. State of Tamil Nadu; Criminal Appeal No. 1926 of 2022, Special Leave Petition (Crl.) No. 9288 of 2022; Decided On : 07-11-2022 (THREE JUDGE BENCH)

The said suo-moto proceedings were registered as Criminal Trials Guidelines Regarding Inadequacies and Deficiencies, In Re: vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and Others, ([2021\) 10 SCC 598](#). The said case related, amongst others to deficiencies/lapses with regard to the manner in which the documents (list of witnesses, list of exhibits, list of material objects) referred to and presented and exhibited in the judgments, and lack of uniform practices in regard to preparation of injury reports, deposition of witnesses, translation of statements, numbering and nomenclature of witnesses, labeling of material objects etc. which often led to a asymmetries and hamper appreciation of evidence, which in turn had a tendency prolonging the proceedings especially at the appellate stage. The court in the said case had noticed that on these aspects, some High Courts had framed the rules,

however some had not, which had led to a lack of clarity and uniformity in regard to the presentation of trial court proceedings and records, for the purpose of appreciation at the High Court and Supreme Court level. The court in the said case, after considering the suggestions/submissions of the Amicus Curie and of the counsels appearing for the High Courts, States and the Union Territories, on “the Draft Rules of Criminal Practice 2020” prepared by the Amicus Curie, had given the directions vide the order dated 20.04.2021:

it is undeniable that there could also arise a situation wherein the investigating officer, ignores or does not rely on seized documents, material or evidence which favours the accused, and fails to forward it to the Magistrate [as required under Section 173 Cr.P.C. specifically sub-section (6)]. Merely because it is not already on the record of the court, cannot disentitle the accused from accessing material that may have exculpatory value. It is this gap, that was recognised and addressed (paragraph 11 of final order) in the suo-moto proceedings, and suitably codified in the text of the Draft Rule 4, by introducing a requirement of providing a list (at the commencement of the trial) of all documents, material, evidence, etc. seized during the course of investigation or in the possession of the prosecution regardless of whether the prosecution plans to rely on it.

May it be noted that in any case, the Draft Rule No. 4 with regard to the supply of documents under Sections 173, 207 and 208 Cr.P.C. is part of the Chapter I of the said Draft Rules, to be followed during the course of investigation and before the commencement of the trial. The said Draft Rule no. 4 as and when brought into force after following the due process of law could be pressed into service by the accused only during the course of investigation and during the course of trial, and not at the appellate stage before the High Court or the Supreme Court.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1168; The State Of Jammu & Kashmir (Now U.T. Of Jammu & Kashmir) & Ors. Vs. Shubam Sangra; Criminal Appeal No. 1928 of 2022 (Arising Out Of S.L.P. (Criminal) No. 11220 of 2019); Decided on : 16-11-2022

“Rape is one of the most terrible crimes on earth and it happens every few minutes. The problem with groups who deal with rape is that they try to educate women about how to defend themselves. What really needs to be done is teaching men not to rape. Go to the source and start there.” -Kurt Cobain

the rising rate of juvenile delinquency in India is a matter of concern and requires immediate attention. There is a school of thought, existing in our country that firmly believes that howsoever heinous the crime may be, be it single rape, gangrape, drug peddling or murder but if the accused is a juvenile, he should be dealt with keeping in mind only one thing i.e., the goal of reformation. The school of thought, we are talking about believes that the goal of reformation is ideal. The manner, in which brutal and heinous crimes have been committed over a period of time by the juveniles and still continue to be committed, makes us wonder whether the Act, 2015 has subserved its object. We have started gathering an impression that the leniency with which the juveniles are dealt with in the name of goal of reformation is making them more and more emboldened in indulging in such heinous crimes. It is for the Government to consider whether its enactment of 2015 has proved to be

effective or something still needs to be done in the matter before it is too late in the day.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1175; Amy Mehta Vs State of Karnataka & Anr.; Criminal Appeal No. 1981 of 2022; Decided on : 17-11-2022

it appears that the High Court has not at all considered the seriousness of the allegations and the gravity of the offences alleged against the accused.

Even the observation that there is no need of further custodial trial is also not relevant aspect while considering the bail application under Section 439 of Cr.P.C. The same may have some relevance while considering the application for anticipatory bail.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1185; `a V.K. & Ors. Vs. The State Of Telangana; Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 10356/2022 With Diary No. 37248 of 2022; Decided On : 21-11-2022

The revision arises out of the order passed by the learned 1st Additional Session Judge dated 27.10.2022 for SPE and A.C.B. cases at Hyderabad, vide which the learned Judge had rejected the remand application made by the Police for remand of the petitioners. This was basically done by the learned Trial Judge on the ground that the mandatory notice under Section 41A of Code of Criminal Procedure was not issued to the accused persons.

The same was challenged by the State before the High Court. The State argued that the observations made in the case of Arnesh Kumar Vs. State of Bihar and Another would not be applicable to the facts of the present case. Per contra, the petitioners accused strongly relied on the observations made in Arnesh Kumar (Supra), particularly, in paragraph 11.4 thereof.

We, therefore, dispose of the petition by observing that the observations made in the judgment in Criminal Revision Case No. 699 of 2022 which are contrary to the observations made in the case of Arnesh Kumar (Supra) would not be treated as a binding precedent in the State of Telangana.

2022 0 Supreme(SC) 1187; The State Of Himachal Pradesh Vs. Angrejo Devi & Ors.; CRIMINAL APPEAL NO(S). 959 of 2012, Crl.A. No. 957/2012, Crl.A. No. 958 of 2012, Crl.A. No. 2040 of 2022 @ SLP(Crl) No. 761of 2014; Decided On : 23-11-2022

The High Court basically allowed the appeals on the ground that the prosecution has failed to establish that the seized material is not the genesis of a plant of Papaver somniferum L or any other plant, which is notified by the Central Government under Section 2(xvii) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for short, 'NDPS Act').

On a reference, this Court in State of Himachal Pradesh v. Nirmal Kaur alias Nimmo and Others, reported in 2022 SCC Online SC 1462, has decided the issue and it has been held that once it is found that the seized material contain 'morphine' and 'meconic acid' it is sufficient to establish that the seized material comes within the definition of Section 2(xvii) of the NDPS Act.

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/135317995/>; **Mohammed Abdul Ahad vs The State Telangana on 28 November, 2022;**

Sections 120(B), 269, 270, 271, 323, 448, 427 and 506 of IPC, Sections 2, 4 and 6 of the Telangana Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2008 (for short, 'the Act') and Section 3(2) of the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897 and Section 51(B) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, allowed to be compounded by the parties basing on their compromise and on payment of Rs 10000 to the Telangana High Court Advocates' Association, Hyderabad

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/176642688/>; **B. Kripanandam, I.A.S., Retd. vs Union Of India, on 25 November, 2022;**

Supreme Court in [Station House Officer v. D.A.Srinivasan](#) reiterated the position that protection under [Section 197](#) Cr.P.C is available to the public servant when an offence is said to have been committed 'while acting or purporting to act in discharge of official duty', but where the acts are performed using the office as a mere cloak for unlawful gains, such acts are not protected.

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/35733799/>; **G. Jhansi vs The State Of Telangana on 24 November, 2022**

In [IPC](#) offences, the employees or directors of the company cannot be made vicariously liable for the offences committed by the company. There has to be specific role attributed to the persons who form part of the company and alter-ego of the company, to be arrayed as an accused. There should be either oral or documentary evidence to say that such persons were responsible for the day to day affairs of the company and also how the said persons were complicit in the offence that has been alleged against the company.

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/11092338/>; **Syed Ameer Amer vs The State Of Ap., Rep By Its P.P on 18 November, 2022**

call data records shall not be considered unless filed along with the certificate under Section 65-B of Evidence Act, confession of accused without leading to any recovery shall not be accepted and conviction shall not be based on the answers of accused during their examination under Section 313 Cr.P.C.

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/99269059/>; **Kiran Borkar, Hyderabad., vs The State Of Telangana, Rep Pp., on 4 November, 2022**

In view of the law declared by the Apex Court in various judgments referred supra as to considering an application filed under [Section 239](#) Cr.P.C, at the stage of framing charges, the duty of the court is only to look into allegations made in the final report and the documents annexed to it including statements of witnesses recorded and examined during investigation, and afford an opportunity to the accused to advance arguments. But said argument must be connected to the material on record i.e., allegations in charge sheet and documents filed along with report under [Section 173](#) Cr.P.C, not more than that. The accused is not entitled to

produce any documents and adduce any evidence at the time of framing charges or at the time of disposal of petition filed under Section 239 Cr.P.C.

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/192875272/>; **In Re vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh, on 24 November, 2022**

When such importance is accorded to criminal cases against M.L.As. and M.Ps., the court concerned at Nellore as well as the State machinery including the law enforcing agency should have taken due care and caution to secure the case property; otherwise, in the absence of case property being produced and proved in the court, trial against M.L.As. and M.Ps. may fail for lack of evidence. It is for this reason the matter assumes importance. If timely and proper steps are not taken to book the culprits, people at large may lose faith in the judicial process. It is necessary to reach to the root of the incident as to who are involved in theft of case property, wherein influential people are accused.

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/126691484/>; **Sadu Chinnarao, Srikakulam Dt., vs The State Of Ap., Rep Pp., on 21 November, 2022**

The Division Bench of this Court in Batchu Rangarao & others (2016 (3) ALT (Crl.) 505 (DB) (A.P).), held as under:

"On considering their valuable suggestions and after a thorough evaluation of the relevant factors, we are inclined to indicate broad criteria on which the applications for grant of bail pending the Criminal Appeals filed against the conviction for the offences, including the one under Section-302 [IPC](#), and sentencing of the appellants to life among other allied sentences, are to be considered. Accordingly, we evolve the following criteria:

(1) A person who is convicted for life and whose appeal is pending before this Court is entitled to apply for bail after he has undergone a minimum of five years imprisonment following his conviction;

(2) Grant of bail in favour of persons falling in (1) supra shall be subject to his good conduct in the jail, as reported by the respective Jail Superintendents;

(3) In the following categories of cases, the convicts will not be entitled to be released on bail, despite their satisfying the criteria in (1) and (2) supra:

The offences relating to rape coupled with murder of minor children, dacoity, murder for gain, kidnapping for ransom, killing of the public servants, the offences falling under the [National Security Act](#) and the offences pertaining to narcotic drugs.

(4) While granting bail, the two following conditions apart from usual conditions have to be imposed, viz., (1) the appellants on bail must be present before the Court at the time of hearing of the Criminal Appeals; and (2) they must report in the respective Police Stations once in a month during the bail period.

This broad criteria cannot be understood as invariable principles and the Bench hearing the bail applications may exercise its discretion either for granting or rejecting the bail based on the facts of each case. Needless to observe that grant of bail based on these principles shall, however, be subject to the provisions of Section-389 of the Code of Criminal Procedure."

Sec 319 CrPC

The scope and ambit of Section 319 CrPC has been well settled by the Constitution Bench of this Court in Hardeep Singh v. State of Punjab and others, (2014) 3 SCC 92 and paras 105 and 106 which are relevant for the purpose are reproduced hereunder:

“105. Power under Section 319 CrPC is a discretionary and an extraordinary power. It is to be exercised sparingly and only in those cases where the circumstances of the case so warrant. It is not to be exercised because the Magistrate or the Sessions Judge is of the opinion that some other person may also be guilty of committing that offence. Only where strong and cogent evidence occurs against a person from the evidence led before the court that such power should be exercised and not in a casual and cavalier manner.

106. Thus, we hold that though only a prima facie case is to be established from the evidence led before the court, not necessarily tested on the anvil of cross-examination, it requires much stronger evidence than mere probability of his complicity. The test that has to be applied is one which is more than prima facie case as exercised at the time of framing of charge, but short of satisfaction to an extent that the evidence, if goes unrebutted, would lead to conviction. In the absence of such satisfaction, the court should refrain from exercising power under Section 319 CrPC. In Section 319 CrPC the purpose of providing if “it appears from the evidence that any person not being the accused has committed any offence” is clear from the words “for which such person could be tried together with the accused”. The words used are not “for which such person could be convicted”. There is, therefore, no scope for the court acting under Section 319 CrPC to form any opinion as to the guilt of the accused.”

Yardstick of gravity of offence

In Vijay Madanlal Choudhary and Others vs. Union of India and Others, 2022 SCC Online SC 929, this Court observed that the length of punishment is not only the indicator of the gravity of offence and it is to be judged by a totality of factors, especially keeping in mind the background in which the offence came to be recognized by the Legislature in the specific international context.

Skull superimposing technique – evidentiary value

In Pattu Rajan v. State of Tamil Nadu, (2019) 2 SCC (Cri) 354, this Court has explained that though identification of the deceased through superimposition is an acceptable piece of opinion evidence, however the courts generally do not rely upon opinion evidence as the sole incriminating circumstances, given its fallibility, and the superimposition technique cannot be regarded as infallible.

OVERT ACTS OF UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY

in Saddik Alias Lalo Gulam Hussein Shaikh and ors v. State of Gujarat, (2016) 10 SCC 663 where the Court expressly rejected this argument and held:

“18. Further, once it is established that the unlawful assembly had a common object, it is not necessary that all the persons forming the unlawful assembly must be shown

to have committed some overt act. For the purpose of incurring vicarious liability under the provision, the liability of other members of the unlawful assembly for the offence committed during the continuance of the occurrence, rests upon the fact whether the other members knew beforehand that the offence actually committed was likely to be committed in prosecution of the common object.”

DEFECTIVE INVESTIGATION

in the case of *C. Muniappan and Others v. State of Tamil Nadu*, (2010) 9 SCC 567 this Court held:

“55. There may be highly defective investigation in a case. However, it is to be examined as to whether there is any lapse by the IO and whether due to such lapse any benefit should be given to the accused. The law on this issue is well settled that the defect in the investigation by itself cannot be a ground for acquittal. If primacy is given to such designed or negligent investigations or to the omissions or lapses by perfunctory investigation, the faith and confidence of the people in the criminal justice administration would be eroded. Where there has been negligence on the part of the investigating agency or omissions, etc. which resulted in defective investigation, there is a legal obligation on the part of the court to examine the prosecution evidence dehors such lapses, carefully, to find out whether the said evidence is reliable or not and to what extent it is reliable and as to whether such lapses affected the object of finding out the truth. Therefore, the investigation is not the solitary area for judicial scrutiny in a criminal trial.....”

Witness not going to rescue of Victim

This Court in *Rana Pratap and ors v. State of Haryana*, (1983) 3 SCC 327 held:

“6. Yet another reason given by the learned Sessions Judge to doubt the presence of the witnesses was that their conduct in not going to the rescue of the deceased when he was in the clutches of the assailants was unnatural. We must say that the comment is most unreal. Every person who witnesses a murder reacts in his own way. Some are stunned, become speechless and stand rooted to the spot. Some become hysteric and start wailing. Some start shouting for help. Others run away to keep themselves as far removed from the spot as possible. Yet others rush to the rescue of the victim, even going to the extent of counter-attacking the assailants. Every one reacts in his own special way. There is no set rule of natural reaction. To discard the evidence of a witness on the ground that he did not react in any particular manner is to appreciate evidence in a wholly unrealistic and unimaginative way³⁵[This principle has been reiterated in a number of decisions of this court in *Leela Ram (Dead) through Duli Chand v. State of Haryana and anr* (1999) 9 SCC 525 ; *State of U.P. v. Devendra Singh* (2004) 10 SCC 616 ; *Kathi Bharat Vajsur and anr v. State of Gujarat* (2012) 5 SCC 724.]”

NEWS

- The Central Government hereby specifies,- (i) Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor, / (ii) Deputy Director, / (iii) Senior Scientific Officer, and / (iv) Junior Scientific Officer of the National Forensic Sciences University as Government scientific experts for the purpose of section 293 CrPC.

ON A LIGHTER VEIN

Defence cross examination

Q: How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?

While due care is taken while preparing this information. The patrons are requested to verify and bring it to the notice of the concerned regarding any misprint or errors immediately, so as to bring it to the notice of all patrons. Needless to add that no responsibility for any result arising out of the said error shall be attributable to the publisher as the same is inadvertent.

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