

29.01.2024

To
The Hon'ble Chief Justice,
High Court at Calcutta

Sub: Protest regarding lack of courtesy, civility, decorum and etiquette shown by the Hon'ble Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay to the Learned Advocate General of the State of West Bengal in the course of judicial proceedings on 25th January 2024.

My Lord,

We are Advocates practising in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta, which is the oldest Chartered High Court of the country. The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta is also the highest Constitutional Court of the State of West Bengal. The Hon'ble High Court is not an edifice of mere brick and mortar but built on time-honoured traditions including the cordiality and conviviality of the relationship between the Bar and the Bench. The Learned Advocate General is the leader of the Bar comprising all advocates practising in the State of West Bengal and holds a position of great eminence, reverence and esteem.

We are constrained to invite the attention of Your Lordship to an extremely untoward incident which took place on 25th January, 2024 in Court Room No. 17 before His Lordship the Hon'ble Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay during the hearing of a Writ Petition, being W. P. A. No. 22150 of 2023 (ITISHA SOREN V UNION OF INDIA & ORS).

We refrain from delving into the developments in connection with the aforesaid proceeding, save to point out that on 25th January, 2024, when His Lordship was apprised by the Learned Advocate General of the orders dated 24th January, 2024 of the Hon'ble Division Bench passed in M. A. T. No. 192 of 2024 and M. A. T. No. 193 of 2024, the Hon'ble Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay became incensed and made extremely uncharitable, demeaning and defamatory comments about the Learned Advocate General. The said comments were unprovoked and uncalled for. The Hon'ble Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay transgressed all limits of decorum by hurling insults and insinuations on the Learned Advocate General. The Hon'ble Justice Abhijit

Gangopadhyay cast aspersions on the character, moral fibre and integrity of the Learned Advocate General.

Your Lordship, the Learned Advocate General of the State is a high Constitutional functionary under Article 165 of the Constitution of India. The manner of disrespect shown to such a Constitutional functionary is an indication of the total lack of true faith and allegiance by the Hon'ble Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay to the Constitution of India itself.

We consider the aforesaid insult to the Learned Advocate General of the State of West Bengal to be an affront to the entire body of advocates practising in the State of West Bengal.

Whatever has fallen from the Hon'ble Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay on 25th January 2024, targeting the Learned Advocate General is unacceptable to the entire body of advocates practising in the State of West Bengal.

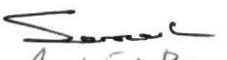

With utmost pain and with great deference, we beg to state that the oldest Chartered High Court in India itself has been humiliated, by the aforesaid incident. The majesty and dignity of this Hon'ble Court have been severely affected by the aforesaid conduct of the Hon'ble Judge towards the leader of the Bar i.e., the Learned Advocate General. Such an unsavoury incident cannot be recalled ever, in the annals of this Hon'ble Court.


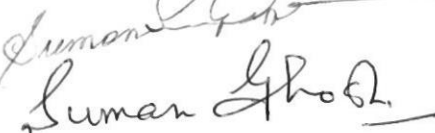
In view of the above, may we most respectfully beseech Your Lordship to please take immediate steps to redeem the honour and dignity of this Hon'ble Court by seeking an apology from His Lordship, the Hon'ble Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay and taking all other apposite remedial and ameliorative administrative measures as your Lordship deems fit and proper.


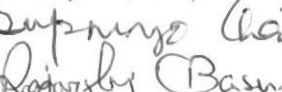
And, for this act of kindness, we shall remain ever grateful.

Yours faithfully,

ADVOCATES OF THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT


Amitesh Banerjee



Binodratna Banerjee

Suman Ghosh


Supriyo Gangopadhyay
Rajendra Basu

Shantoli
