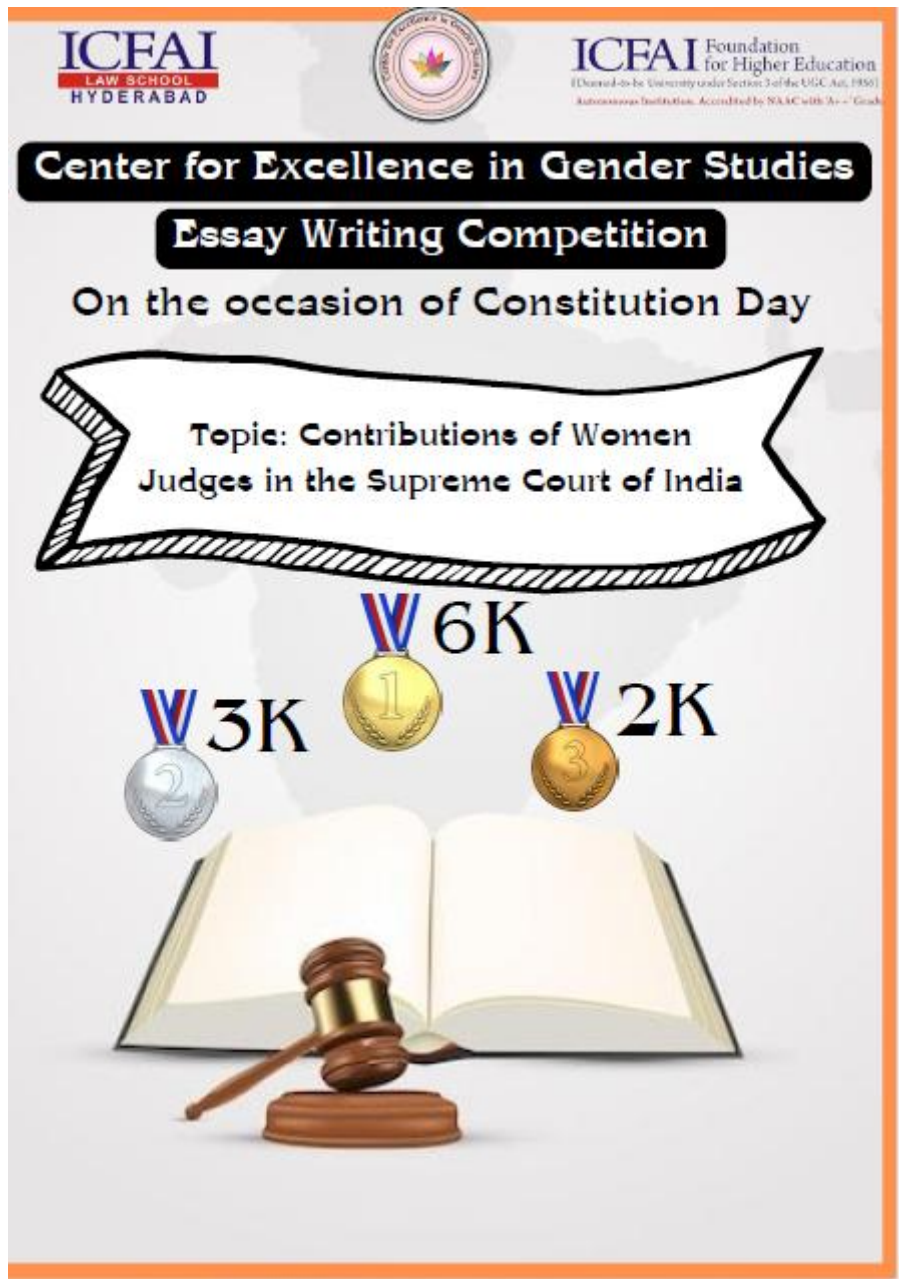


Constitution Day 26/11/ 2024

Essay Competition on – Contributions of Women Judges in The Supreme Court of India



The Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies, in association with the institution, commemorated Constitution Day on 26 November 2024 by organising an Essay Competition on the theme “Contributions of Women Judges in the Supreme Court of

India.” The programme was conceived to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and to encourage students to engage critically with constitutional values, gender equality, and the evolving role of women in the Indian judiciary.

Constitution Day provides an important opportunity for students to reflect upon the foundational principles embodied in the Constitution, including justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, as well as the constitutional commitment to dignity and non-discrimination. The essay competition sought to connect these constitutional ideals with the participation and contributions of women in the higher judiciary.

The theme of the competition was selected with the objective of highlighting the growing presence and contribution of women judges in the Supreme Court of India and examining their role in the development of constitutional jurisprudence and the protection of fundamental rights. Students were encouraged to undertake research into the judicial contributions of women judges and to examine significant judgments from a gender-sensitive and constitutional perspective.

The competition provided students with an opportunity to explore the professional journeys and judicial contributions of women who have served as judges of the Supreme Court. Through their essays, participants examined how women judges have contributed to important areas of constitutional and social justice jurisprudence, including gender equality, personal liberty, dignity, privacy, discrimination, family law, sexual harassment, reproductive autonomy, and protection of vulnerable and marginalised groups.

The activity also encouraged participants to examine the significance of gender representation in the judiciary. The presence of women in judicial institutions has broader implications for institutional diversity, access to justice, and public confidence in the justice-delivery system. The competition enabled students to consider these issues through a constitutional and academic framework rather than viewing judicial representation merely as a question of numerical participation.

A significant academic component of the competition was the requirement for students to engage with case law and constitutional provisions. Participants were encouraged to support their arguments through primary legal sources and relevant judicial decisions. This helped strengthen their legal research, analytical reasoning, writing, and case-law interpretation skills.

The competition further served as a platform for connecting gender studies with constitutional law and legal education. The theme enabled students to understand how

constitutional principles operate in relation to gender and how judicial institutions can contribute to advancing substantive equality. It also encouraged students to reflect upon the relationship between law, social transformation, and institutional representation.

From the perspective of the Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies, the activity was particularly significant because it placed women's participation in the judiciary within the larger discourse of gender justice and institutional equality. By focusing on women judges of the Supreme Court, the programme sought to familiarise students with the contributions of women legal professionals and judicial actors and to encourage greater academic engagement with women's representation in institutions of constitutional governance.

The Constitution Day celebration also reinforced the importance of constitutional values in legal education. Students were encouraged to view the Constitution not merely as a legal document but as a framework for promoting equality, dignity, social justice, and democratic participation. The essay competition provided an effective pedagogical mechanism for translating these principles into independent student research and critical reflection.

[Key Learning Outcomes](#)

The Essay Competition contributed to the following learning outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding of Constitution Day and the constitutional framework of India.
- Greater awareness of the contributions of women judges in the Supreme Court of India.
- Development of students' understanding of gender equality and representation within judicial institutions.
- Improved legal research and academic writing skills through engagement with constitutional provisions, judicial decisions, and legal scholarship.
- Encouragement of critical thinking on the relationship between gender, law, constitutionalism, and social justice.
- Greater appreciation of constitutional values such as justice, equality, liberty, dignity, and non-discrimination.
- Promotion of awareness regarding the role of the judiciary in advancing fundamental rights and gender justice.

The Constitution Day Essay Competition **on** “Contributions of Women Judges in the Supreme Court of India” provided a meaningful academic platform for students to commemorate the Constitution while engaging with contemporary questions of gender and judicial representation. The initiative successfully connected constitutional education, legal research, gender sensitisation, and academic writing. The programme reflected the commitment of the Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies to promoting gender-sensitive legal education and encouraging students to critically examine the role of law and legal institutions in advancing equality and social justice. The activity also reinforced the importance of nurturing constitutional consciousness among law students and encouraging them to engage with the Constitution as a living framework for achieving justice, dignity, and equality.

The winners of the competition were:

First Prize: Inzam PI, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Second Prize: Maithreyi Mishra, Jamia Millia Islamia

Third Prize: Shaikh Moeen Shaikh Naeem KBCNMU