

12.12.2025

**STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY &
CALL TO PROTECT INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY**

We, the former Judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and former Chief Justices and Judges of the Hon'ble High Courts, take serious exception to the attempt being made by certain Members of Parliament and other senior advocates to impeach Hon'ble Justice G.R. Swaminathan of the Madras High Court.

This is a brazen attempt to browbeat judges who do not fall in line with the ideological and political expectations of a particular section of society. If such an attempt is permitted to proceed, it would cut at the very roots of our democracy and the independence of the judiciary. Even if the reasons mentioned by the signatory Member(s) of Parliament are taken at face value, they are wholly inadequate to justify resorting to such a rare, exceptional and serious constitutional measure as impeachment.

It may be recalled that even during the dark period of the Emergency, the then Government adopted various mechanisms including supersessions to penalise judges who refused to "toe the line". The supersession of three seniormost judges of the Supreme Court after the decision in *Kesavananda Bharati*, the sidelining of Justice H.R. Khanna after his famous dissent in *ADM Jabalpur*, are sobering reminders of how political overreach can damage judicial independence. Despite these onslaughts, our Judiciary has stood the test of the time and withstood all external pressures.

The present move is not an isolated aberration. It fits into a clear and deeply troubling pattern in our recent constitutional history, where sections of the political class have sought to discredit and intimidate the higher judiciary whenever outcomes do not align with their interests. The unprecedented bid in 2018 to initiate impeachment proceedings against then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, the sustained campaigns of vilification directed at Chief Justices Ranjan Gogoi, S.A. Bobde and Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud while they were in office, and the targeted attacks now being mounted against the incumbent CJI, Justice Surya Kant, whenever a judgment/remark displeases a political constituency, are all manifestations of the same trend. This is not principled, reasoned criticism of judicial

decisions; it is an attempt to weaponise impeachment and public calumny as instruments of pressure — a practice that strikes at the heart of judicial independence and the basic norms of constitutional democracy.

The very purpose of the impeachment mechanism is to uphold the integrity of the judiciary, not to convert it into a tool of arm-twisting, signalling and retaliation. To wield the threat of removal as a means of compelling judges to conform to political expectations is to turn a constitutional safeguard into an instrument of intimidation. Such an approach is anti-democratic, anti-constitutional, and an anathema to the rule of law. The present attempt to impeach a sitting High Court judge for discharging his judicial duty is, therefore, not an isolated episode but part of a continuing assault on the dignity and independence of the judicial institution itself. Today, the target may be one judge; tomorrow, it will be the institution as a whole.

We therefore call upon all stakeholders — Members of Parliament across party lines, members of the Bar, civil society, and citizens at large — to unequivocally denounce this move and ensure that it is nipped in the bud at the very inception. Judges must remain answerable to their oath and to the Constitution of India, not to partisan political pressures or ideological intimidation. The message from all constitutional stakeholders must be clear and firm: in a Republic governed by the rule of law, judgments are tested by appeals and legal critique, and not by threats of impeachment for political non-conformity.

**With Highest Regards
Yours Faithfully**

**Justice Narsimha Reddy
Mobile No. 9810815406**

-----List of Signatories Attached-----

1	Justice	Adarsh Goel	Former Supreme Court Judge
2	Justice	Hemant Gupta	Former Supreme Court Judge
3	Justice	Anil Deo Singh	Former Chief Justice Rajasthan High Court
4	Justice	Narsimha Reddy	Former Chief Justice Patna High Court
5	Justice	P B Bajanthri	Former Chief Justice Patna High Court
6	Justice	Subhro Kamal Mukherjee	Former Chief Justice Karnataka High Court
7	Justice	Pemod Kohli	Former Chief Justice Sikkim High Court and Chairman CAT
8	Justice	S.M.Soni	Gujarat
9	Justice	Vishnu S Kokje	Former Judge, M.P and Rajasthan High Court
10	Justice	Ambadas Joshi	Former Judge, Mumbai High Court and Lokayukt State of Goa
11	Justice	R Subramanian	Former Judge, Madras High Court
12	Justice	Sivagnanam	Former Judge, Madras High Court
13	Justice	T Sudanathiram	Former Judge, Madras High Court
14	Justice	S.N. Dhingra	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
15	Justice	R K Gauba	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
16	Justice	Vinod Goel	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
17	Justice	J R C Chopra	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
18	Justice	Vidya Bhushan Gupta	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
19	Justice	Ramesh Kumar Merathia	Former Judge, Jharkhand High Court
20	Justice	Nawal Kishore Agarwal	Former Judge, Jharkhand High Court
21	Justice	Karam Chand Puri	Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court
22	Justice	Jasbir Singh	Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court
23	Justice	H S Bhalla	Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court
24	Justice	S N Agarwal	Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court
25	Justice	Darshan Singh	Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court
26	Justice	R S Rathore	Former Judge Rajasthan High Court & Member, NGT
27	Justice	Prashant Kr Agarwal	Former Judge Rajasthan High Court
28	Justice	Rakesh Saxena	Former Judge, M.P High Court
29	Justice	K K Trivedi	Former Judge, M.P High Court
30	Justice	H P Singh	Former Judge, M.P High Court
31	Justice	D K Paliwal	Former Judge, M.P High Court
32	Justice	Sushil Kr Gupta	Former Judge, M.P High Court
33	Justice	Dr Siva Sankara Rao	Former Judge, Telangana High Court
34	Justice	Kamleshwar Nath	Former Allahabad High Court Judge
35	Justice	D K Seth	Former Allahabad & Kolkata High Court Judge
36	Justice	Rajes Kumar	Former Allahabad High Court Judge
37	Justice	Surendra Vikram Singh Rathore	Former Allahabad High Court Judge
38	Justice	Vijay Laxmi	Former Allahabad High Court Judge
39	Justice	S K Tripathi	Former Allahabad High Court Judge
40	Justice	D K Arora	Former Allahabad High Court Judge
41	Justice	Rajendra Badamiker	Former Judge, Karnataka High Court
42	Justice	Sreenivas Harish Kumar	Former Judge, Karnataka High Court
43	Justice	A V Chandra Shekhar	Former Judge, Karnataka High Court
44	Justice	P Krishna Bhat	Former Judge, Karnataka High Court
45	Justice	Vineet Kothari	Former Gujarat High Court Judge
46	Justice	Ravikumar Rameshwardayal Tripathi	Former Gujarat High Court Judge
47	Justice	K A Puj	Former Gujarat High Court Judge
48	Justice	P.N Ravinderan	Former Judge, Kerala High Court
49	Justice	M R Hariharan Nair	Former Judge, Kerala High Court
50	Justice	V. Chitambaresh	Former Judge, Kerala High Court
51	Justice	A V Ramakrishna	Former Judge, Kerala High Court
52	Justice	N K Balakrishnan	Former Judge, Kerala High Court
53	Justice	Subhash Chand	Former Allahabad & Utrakhand High Court Judge
54	Justice	Lokpal Singh	Former Judge, Utrakhand High Court
55	Justice	Vivek Sharma	Former Judge, Utrakhand High Court
56	Justice	Rajiv Lochan	Former Judge, Allahabad High Court