

13 Incidents : Judiciary Statement/Verdict on Hindu processions

On March 26, 2025, The Orissa High Court dismissed a writ petition filed by seven Muslim men seeking restrictions on the Hanuman Jayanti procession in Sambalpur, scheduled between April 6, 2025 and April 14, 2025. The petitioners Advocated by Mohammed Mustaq Ansari cited communal violence during the 2023 procession and feared a recurrence of unrest. However, the Division Bench of Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice Arindam Sinha refused to impose restrictions, as the State assured adequate preventive measures to maintain peace.



Chief Justice Tandon emphasized that the **right to life and liberty** must be balanced with religious freedoms and that law-and-order matters fall under the State's jurisdiction. The Bench ultimately recorded the State's assurance to regulate the festival and ensure public order, rejecting the plea for additional restrictions.

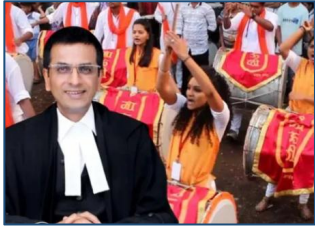

This report is divided into two parts and contains a total of **13 incidents** where the judiciary has stated or given verdicts on Hindu procession events from **2021 to 2025**.


Part 1 : Statement/Verdict in favour of Hindu processions - 9 Incidents



Part 2 : Statement/Verdict against Hindu processions - 4 Incidents



Statement/Verdict in favour of Hindu processions		
S. No.	Incident	Visual/Source
1.	<p>Orissa HC Rejected Plea to Restrict Hanuman Jayanti Procession in Sambalpur</p> <p>Date : March 26, 2025</p> <p>Place : Sambalpur, Odisha</p> <p>Occasion : Hanuman Jayanti procession</p> <p>Court : Orissa High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice Arindam Sinha</p> <p>Case Title: Sk. Enayatullah & Ors. v. State of Odisha & Ors.</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Orissa High Court dismissed a writ petition filed by seven Muslim men seeking to put restrictions on Hanuman Jayanti procession in the city of Sambalpur, which was set to be held between April 06 to April 14, 2025.</p> <p>❖ HC stated that mere apprehensions cannot justify court interference. The bench recorded the State's assurance of adequate preventive measures and emphasized the need for tolerance towards religious festivals.</p>	 <p>Live Law Judgement Copy</p>



2.	<p>Allahabad HC Dismisses PIL Seeking Loudspeaker Ban at Mahakumbh Mela</p> <p>Date : 12 February, 2025</p> <p>Place : Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh</p> <p>Occasion : Mahakumbh Mela</p> <p>Court : Allahabad High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Chief Justice Arun Bhansali and Justice Kshitij Shailendra</p> <p>Case : PIL filed by Brahmachari Dayanand & Another</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Allahabad High Court dismissed a PIL seeking the removal of loudspeakers from the Mahakumbh Mela, stating that the petition lacked substantial evidence proving noise pollution beyond permissible limits. The court ruled that mere photographs and references to Supreme Court judgments were insufficient to justify intervention.</p> <p>Controversy: The petitioners claimed that loudspeakers in nearby camps disturbed their meditation, but the court found no concrete data supporting their claims. Meanwhile, another PIL has been filed seeking legal action over the January 29 stampede at the Mahakumbh.</p>	 <p>Organiser Hindustan Times</p>
3.	<p>Chhattisgarh HC Disposes of Suo Motu PIL on Idol Immersion Pollution in Kharun River</p> <p>Date : November 14, 2024</p> <p>Place : Kharun River, Raipur, Chhattisgarh</p> <p>Occasion : Post-idol immersion</p> <p>Court : Chhattisgarh High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Amitendra Kishore Prasad</p> <p>Case Title: Suo motu PIL on pollution caused by idol immersion</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Chhattisgarh High Court disposed of a suo motu PIL concerning pollution in the Kharun River after idol immersion, expressing satisfaction with the state government's clean-up efforts. The court emphasized the need for eco-friendly immersion practices to protect water bodies and public health.</p>	 <p>India Legal Live</p>

4.	<p>Supreme Court Stays NGT Order Limiting Dhol-Tasha Performers During Ganesh Visarjan in Pune</p> <p>Date : September 12, 2024</p> <p>Place : Pune, Maharashtra</p> <p>Occasion : Ganesh idol immersion (Visarjan) rituals</p> <p>Court : Supreme Court of India</p> <p>Name of Judges : Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Supreme Court stayed the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) directive limiting each Dhol-Tasha-Zanj troupe to 30 members during Ganesh idol immersion. The bench, while issuing notices to the Maharashtra government and Pune authorities, emphasized the cultural significance of Dhol-Tasha in Pune's festivities and granted relief to the petitioners.</p> <p>Controversy: The NGT had imposed restrictions to curb noise pollution during Ganeshotsav, including real-time monitoring, a 100W speaker limit, and bans on high-noise metallic tolls and DJ sets. Petitioners opposed only the limitation on Dhol-Tasha performers, arguing it affects Pune's cultural traditions.</p>	 <p>Live Law</p>
5.	<p>Telangana HC Dismisses Contempt Plea Over Ganesh Idol Immersion in Hussain Sagar</p> <p>Date : September 10, 2024</p> <p>Place : Hyderabad, Telangana</p> <p>Occasion : Ganesh idol immersion (Visarjan) in Hussain Sagar</p> <p>Court : Telangana High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Justice T. Vinod Kumar and Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti</p> <p>Case : Contempt petition filed by Advocate Mamidi Venu Madhav</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Telangana High Court dismissed a fresh contempt plea against the state government for allegedly violating its 2021 order prohibiting Plaster of Paris (POP) idol immersion in Hussain Sagar. The court ruled that the issue had already been addressed, and reopening the case after three years was not justified.</p> <p>Controversy: The petitioner alleged continued pollution due to idol immersion despite past court orders. However, the court noted that compliance had been recorded earlier and cited legal limitations, including the one-year restriction under the Contempt of Courts Act.</p>	 <p>Telangana Today</p>

6.	<p>Calcutta HC Allows Ram Navami Processions in Howrah, Limits Participants to 200</p> <p>Date : 16 April, 2024</p> <p>Place : Howrah, West Bengal</p> <p>Occasion : Ram Navami Shobha Yatra (Processions) on April 17</p> <p>Court : Calcutta High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Justice Jay Sengupta</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Calcutta High Court permitted Anjani Putra Sena and Vishwa Hindu Parishad to hold their traditional Ram Navami processions along their usual routes in Howrah, despite state opposition citing last year's communal violence. The court restricted the number of participants to 200 and directed that no provocative slogans be raised.</p> <p>Controversy: The West Bengal government proposed an alternative route due to previous communal clashes and ongoing NIA investigations, but the petitioners refused to alter their path, leading to legal intervention. The court also advised the state to seek Central Forces' assistance for maintaining law and order.</p>	 <p>The Law advises Live Law</p>
7.	<p>Calcutta HC Approves VHP-Bajrang Dal's "Shaurya Jagran Yatra"</p> <p>Date : 04 October, 2023</p> <p>Place : West Bengal</p> <p>Occasion : "Shaurya Jagran Yatra" – To honor freedom fighters' sacrifices and raise awareness on Hindu culture</p> <p>Court : Orissa High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Justice Jaysen Gupta</p> <p>Case Title:</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The High Court granted conditional approval for the VHP and Bajrang Dal's yatra, directing petitioners to specify the route map and the state to maintain strict vigilance.</p> <p>❖ Three separate petitions were filed by members of VHP and Bajrang Dal, after West Bengal Police denied them permission to proceed with the rally in certain districts of the state.</p>	 <p>Live Law Bar and Bench</p>

8.	<p>Calcutta HC Allows Ram Navami Shobha Yatra in Nabadwip, Directs Police to Ensure Security</p> <p>Date : 30 March, 2023</p> <p>Place : Nabadwip, West Bengal</p> <p>Occasion : Ram Navami Shobha Yatra (Procession)</p> <p>Court : Calcutta High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Justice Rajasekhar Mantha</p> <p>Case : Saumen Kansabanik v. The State of West Bengal & Ors.</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Calcutta High Court permitted the Ram Navami Shobha Yatra from Chatir Math to Gabtala in Nabadwip and directed the police to provide necessary security. The petitioner assured compliance with all regulations, including noise pollution norms and public convenience measures.</p> <p>Controversy: The state opposed the plea, citing ongoing local religious functions in the area. However, the court allowed the procession, ensuring it would not disrupt other events.</p>	 <p>Verdictum Judgement Copy</p>
9.	<p>Karnataka HC Allows Datta Jayanti Celebrations at Disputed Datta Peetha Shrine</p> <p>Date : November, 30 , 2022</p> <p>Place : Bababudangiri Hills, Chikmagalur, Karnataka</p> <p>Occasion : Datta Jayanti celebrations (December 6 onwards)</p> <p>Court : Karnataka High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Justices Alok Aradhe and N Vishwajith Shetty</p> <p>Case : Writ appeal filed by Syed Ghouse Mohiyiddin Shah Khadri against the 2021 HC order</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Karnataka HC permitted three-day Datta Jayanti celebrations at the disputed Datta Peetha shrine under a government-appointed committee's supervision. The court emphasized that new measures for conducting rituals would be subject to its final verdict on an ongoing appeal regarding the shrine's religious practices.</p> <p>Controversy: The shrine has been at the center of a long-standing dispute between Hindu and Muslim groups over its religious identity. Petitioner Syed Ghouse Mohiyiddin Shah Khadri, a former caretaker, challenged the court's 2021 order that allowed Hindu priests to conduct rituals, arguing that it undermined the shrine's dargah status.</p>	 <p>Indian Express</p>

Statement/Verdict against Hindu processions		
1.	<p>Bombay HC Declines Urgent Relief on VHP's Plea for Ganpati Immersion in Aarey Lake</p> <p>Date : September 16, 2023</p> <p>Place : Aarey, Mumbai, Maharashtra</p> <p>Occasion : Ganpati idol immersion (Visarjan)</p> <p>Court : Bombay High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya, Justice Arif Doctor (original bench); Justice Nitin Jamdar, Justice Manjusha Deshpande (interim hearing)</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Bombay High Court refused immediate relief on VHP leader Rajiv Chaubey's plea seeking permission for Ganpati idol immersion in Aarey Lake, citing an ongoing petition highlighting environmental concerns. The court deferred the hearing to September 25, after the festival, as the original bench was unavailable.</p> <p>Controversy: The plea was filed after municipal authorities prohibited idol immersion in Aarey's natural lakes, following criticism from the court over environmental damage. VHP sought either an exemption for this year or the creation of artificial ponds, arguing for religious accommodation.</p>	 <p>India Today</p>
2.	<p>Supreme Court Upholds Odisha Govt's Ban on Rath Yatra Outside Puri Amid Covid Concerns</p> <p>Date : July 06, 2021</p> <p>Place : Odisha</p> <p>Occasion : Rath Yatra festival</p> <p>Court : Supreme Court of India</p> <p>Name of Judges : Chief Justice NV Ramana</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Supreme Court dismissed all petitions challenging the Odisha government's decision to restrict Rath Yatra celebrations to Puri Jagannath Temple due to Covid-19. The court ruled that it was a policy decision beyond judicial interference, emphasizing that maintaining Covid protocols across multiple temples was impractical.</p> <p>Controversy: Petitioners argued that the restriction violated Articles 14 and 25 of the Constitution by discriminating against other Jagannath temples. However, the court upheld the state's stance, stating that public health concerns outweighed religious gatherings.</p>	 <p>Bar and Bench Opindia</p>

3.	<p>Supreme Court Cites Right to Life, UP Cancels Kanwar Yatra Amid Covid Concerns</p> <p>Date : July 18, 2021</p> <p>Place : Uttar Pradesh, India</p> <p>Occasion : Annual Kanwar Yatra (Scheduled to start on July 25)</p> <p>Court : Supreme Court of India</p> <p>Name of Judges : Justices R F Nariman and B R Gavai</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Supreme Court stressed that the Right to Life under Article 21 is paramount and asked the Uttar Pradesh government to reconsider its decision to allow a "symbolic" Kanwar Yatra amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Following this, the Uttar Pradesh government announced the cancellation of the yatra after discussions with Kanwar Sanghs.</p> <p>Reason: The Uttarakhand government had already canceled the yatra over fears of a third Covid wave, while the Union government advised against allowing the pilgrimage. The Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance and ruled that religious sentiments must yield to public health and safety.</p>	 <p>Bar and Bench The News Minute</p>
4.	<p>Bombay HC Bans Production, Sale & Immersion of PoP Idols Before Maghi Ganpati</p> <p>Date : July 18, 2021</p> <p>Place : Maharashtra</p> <p>Occasion : Maghi Ganpati festival (February 1-2)</p> <p>Court : Bombay High Court</p> <p>Name of Judges : Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Bharti Dangre</p> <p>Statement/Verdict : The Bombay High Court issued an interim order prohibiting the making, sale, and immersion of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols, directing strict enforcement of CPCB guidelines. The court emphasized the need to stop environmental damage while acknowledging the livelihood concerns of artisans.</p> <p>Controversy: The ban just before Maghi Ganpati sparked a debate between environmental protection and artisans' livelihoods. While petitioners highlighted pollution concerns, idol makers argued the guidelines were not binding and affected their businesses.</p>	 <p>India Today</p>