

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **corrective** (adjective) – remedial, restorative, curative, reparative; correctional, punitive, reformatory.
2. **voice** (noun) – expression; opinion, view.
3. **patriarchy** (noun) – a family/group/society/community/government controlled by a man/a group of men, descent described through male line of the family.
4. **lay down** (phrasal verb) – formulate, stipulate, frame, draw up.
5. **judiciary** (noun) – judges.
6. **the judiciary** (noun) – a branch of government in which judicial power is vested.
7. **deep-rooted** (adjective) – established, entrenched; fundamental, basic.
8. **course correction** (noun) – modifying, improving, rectifying (the plan of action).
9. **go back (to)** (phrasal verb) – revert to, return.
10. **feisty** (adjective) – energetic, aggressive, strong/active.
11. **break free** (phrase) – escape from.
12. **familial** (adjective) – established, orthodox, customary, conventional.
13. **confines** (noun) – boundaries, borders, limits.
14. **notion** (noun) – idea, belief, opinion, view, conception, conviction.
15. **propriety** (noun) – morality, correctness, rightness, good manners.
16. **set aside** (phrasal verb) – overrule, overturn, reverse, revoke, rule against, nullify.
17. **absurd** (adjective) – ridiculous, unreasonable, irrational, illogical, nonsensical, outrageous, shocking.
18. **bail** (noun) – conditional, temporary release of an arrested/imprisoned person when a specified amount of security is deposited or pledged (as cash or property) to ensure his/her appearance in court when required.
19. **offender** (noun) – criminal, wrongdoer/evil-doer, culprit.
20. **bench** (noun) – a court of law with a number of judges.
21. **exclusively** (adverb) – particularly, only.
22. **masculine** (adjective) – muscular, strong, potent, well built, powerfully built.
23. **proclamation** (noun) – declaration, attestation, assertion, assurance.
24. **in the aftermath of** (phrase) – as a consequence of, as a result of.
25. **reported** (adjective) – supposed, seeming, apparent, alleged.
26. **virtual** (adjective) – performing a task with the use of a computer, especially over a network.
27. **find out** (phrasal verb) – observe, notice, note, get to know.
28. **misquote** (verb) – misreport, misrepresent, misstate.
29. **refrain** from (verb) – stop oneself, abstain, desist from, hold back.
30. **impose** (verb) – force, thrust, inflict (an unwelcome decision).
31. **mandate** (verb) – require, necessitate, make mandatory.
32. **compromise** (noun) – agreement, understanding, settlement.
33. **reiterate** (verb) – repeat, say again, restate.
34. **misogyny** (noun) – prejudice, dislike, hatred (of women).
35. **besides** (preposition/linking adverb) – in addition to, as well, apart from.
36. **of one's choice** (phrase) – as decided/desired by oneself.
37. **lean on** (phrasal verb) – depend on, rely on, count on, bank on.
38. **Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective in Southeast Asia** (noun) – “The Bangkok General Guidance for Judges in Applying a Gender Perspective” was discussed and adopted by judges from Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Indonesia, at a gathering in Bangkok from 24 to 25 June 2016, hosted by the ICJ (International Commission of Jurists) and UN Women. The General Guidance is aimed at assisting judges and others in the justice sector to effectively incorporate a gender perspective in their work. The General Guidance is especially significant as it reaffirms that customs and traditions should not be invoked to justify discrimination against women.
39. **a host of** (noun) – a lot, large number, great quantity.
40. **stereotype** (noun) – an oversimplified and/or unfair belief or idea that groups of people have particular characteristics or that all people in a group are the same.
41. **household** (noun) – family, house.
42. **submissive** (adjective) – non-resisting, compliant, yielding, obedient, accommodating.
43. **obedient** (adjective) – compliant, amenable, yielding, unresisting.
44. **ingrained** (adjective) – entrenched, established, deep-rooted, firmly fixed.
45. **prejudice** (noun) – discrimination, partiality, intolerance, bigotry.
46. **acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, realize.
47. **bitter reality** (noun) – painful reality, sad truth.
48. **shroud** (verb) – cover, cloak, veil, conceal/hide.
49. **a culture of silence** (noun) – a conspiracy of silence; it describes the behavior of a group of people of some size (large/small) that by unspoken consensus (by silent agreement) does not mention, discuss, or acknowledge a given subject.
50. **point to** (verb) – indicate, suggest, denote.
51. **entrenched** (adjective) – ingrained, established, embedded.
52. **equation** (noun) – equivalence, equalization, balance.
53. **norms** (noun) – standard, convention, guidelines, criterion.
54. **reflect** (verb) – indicate, show, demonstrate, exhibit.
55. **incidence** (noun) – occurrence.
56. **clamp down** (phrasal verb) – suppress, prevent, stop, put an end to.
57. **gender/sex stereotype** (noun) – unfair beliefs about how males and females should look/act/behave. For example, women are supposed to be sensitive, emotional and childish, and men are supposed to be tough and powerful. Another example is that girls should wear pink and play with dolls only and boys should wear blue and play with cars only.
58. **counterpart** (noun) – equivalent, equal (person); fellow, peer.
59. **mission** (noun) – assignment, a specific task/job, operation.
60. **call out** (phrasal verb) – criticize someone for something (bad/incorrect) publicly and ask them to justify/explain it.
61. **paternalism** (noun) – the behaviour of people in authority in a fatherly manner restricting rights or responsibilities of subordinate and make decisions on their own.
62. **break the silence** (phrase) – talk about something that has not been discussed for a long period of time; give voice.
63. **bias** (noun) – prejudice, partiality; unfairness, one-sidedness.
64. **reiteration** (noun) – the process of repeating something (some action) for clarity/emphasis.

65. [stand on](#) (phrasal verb) – be careful in carrying out something.
66. [gender parity](#) (noun) – gender equality; It is the view that everyone should receive equal treatment and not be discriminated against based on their gender.
67. [far from](#) (phrase) – not, not at all.

Corrective voice: On Supreme Court and judicial patriarchy

The SC did well to lay down guidelines for the judiciary in dealing with cases of sexual crime

While recognising society's deep-rooted patriarchy and initiating a course correction in the way the judiciary itself views gender rights, the Supreme Court went back to Henrik Ibsen, a playwright known for his feisty women characters who break free of traditions of familial confines and notions of social propriety. Setting aside an absurd *rakhi*-for-bail order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court to a sexual offender, the Court issued a set of guidelines on March 18 to be followed by the judiciary while dealing with sexual crimes against women. The two-member Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and S. Ravindra Bhat used a quote from Ibsen to say that a woman 'cannot be herself' in an 'exclusively masculine society, with laws framed by men', and laid it down as a guiding force for all future judicial proclamations. The judiciary's corrective voice is a welcome step in the aftermath of CJI S.A. Bobde's reported remarks during a virtual hearing, when he asked an alleged rapist's lawyer to find out whether his client would marry the victim. He later said he had been misquoted. The Khanwilkar-Bhat Bench asked all courts to refrain from imposing marriage or mandate any compromise between a sex offender and his victim. Powerful men seem to be reiterating misogyny besides carelessly linking sexual crimes to women being alone at night or wearing clothes of their choice.

Leaning on the 'Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective in Southeast Asia', the Bench listed a host of avoidable stereotypes: women are physically weak; men are the head of the household and must make all the decisions related to family; women should be submissive and obedient. Women are battling society's ingrained prejudices, and the judgment acknowledges this bitter reality, saying gender violence is most often shrouded in a culture of silence. Pointing to the entrenched unequal power equations between men and women, including cultural and social norms, financial dependence, and poverty, it said data may not reflect the actual incidence of violence against women. It is not the first time the Supreme Court is clamping down against gender stereotyping. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud (*Secr., Ministry of Defence vs. Babita Puniya*) had argued against treating women in the Army any differently from their men counterparts for they worked as "equal citizens" in a common mission, and in *Anuj Garg*, the Court had called out the "notion of romantic paternalism" as an attempt to put women "in a cage". To break the silence on bias against women, everyone must take responsibility, especially institutions and those in important positions. The Court's reiteration on where it needs to stand on women's rights is a move in the right direction because the fight for gender equality is far from over.