



BHARAT KE MUKHYA NYAYAMURTY (1995). By Pawan Chaudhary
'Manmauli' Vidhi Sewa, New Delhi Pp. 131 + xxxi. Price Rs. 250.

THE REVIEWER is privileged to read the monogram *Bharat Ke Mukhya Nyayamurty* written by Pawan Chaudhary 'Manmauji' and after reading the book he was surprised that the author can do justice to the theme which is elusive as well as full of pragmatic caricature of the top judiciary of this country on whose shoulders the ambivalence of legal matrix rests. It is no denying the fact that the office of the Chief Justice of India has remained the central pivot in veering the other justices of the Supreme Court. The author has carefully and lucidly depicted the legal dexterity of their judicial acumen. The landscape which the author has tried to unfold and has remarkably done well, recounts how he has encountered some of the Chief Justices and on other occasions has had the opportunity of direct dialogue which invariably imbibed in him a nostalgias. The graphically demarcates how small incidents could envelope the court into a big brawl. The interpersonal relationship of judges has also been the forte of the author and it is quite refreshing when he depicts the type of mild conflicts and contradictions of the Chief Justices with other judges of the court.

The author brings forth in this remarkable monograph the rigmorale of the work programme of judges of the Supreme Court and obligations imposed by the parameters of the Constitution and it is quite illustrative that the author infuses a freshness in the work and personal predilections of the Chief Justices of India. On occasions, he has alluded to some of the pressing problems being faced by the erstwhile Chief Justices and the present Chief Justice such as how far and to what extent the Chief Justice does or does not succumb to the executive in matters such as appointment of judges of the court and the High Courts, disposal of the workload by the member judges and transfer of judges of High Court *et al* are the parameters of which the author has refreshingly mentioned. The author has gone into the issues of retirement of justices as well as their qualifications and apparently this assumes a structural model for not only gaining the importance of this high office but also the way this office is structurally designed to function y the 26 Chief Justices during the last five decades.

Chaudhary deserves a commendation in trying to be a critique as well as not exceeding the limits of criticism so that he would have fallen into the trap of contempt and the comparison by the author of the functioning of the office of Chief Justices of other countries makes it pregnant with instruction.

The author has marshalled the stratum of the feelings of various Chief Justices when they were, (i) in office, and (ii) out of office and it makes a fascinating reading of historicity of the Chief Justices. It is a book which has been cast in an analytical framework and thus deserves a place in the legal literature of the Bench, Bar and the legal academics.

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BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

B.M GANDHI, *V.D. Kulshreshtha's Landmarks in Indian Legal and Constitutional History* (7th ed. 1995). Eastern Book Co., 34 Lalbagh, Lucknow-1. Pp. xxxi + 525. Price Rs. 185

M. AFZAL WANI, *The Islamic Institution of Mahr* (1996). Qazi Publishers and Distributors, Vateg Building, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-13. Pp. xiv + 285. Price Rs. 300.

M. AFZAL WANI, *The Islamic Law on Maintenance of Women, Children, Parents and other Relatives*. Qazi Publishers and Distributors, Vateg Building, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-13. Pp. v + 287. Price Rs. 325.

MEENA RAO, *Fundamental Concepts in Law of Contract* (1995). Professional Offset, Eknath Book Mfg. Co, 66/68 Mint Cross Lanes, Fort, Bombay-400 001. Pp. 6+10+252+3.

S.C. RAINA, *Probation : Philosophy, Law and Practice* (1996). Regency Publications, 20/36-G, Old Market, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110 008. Pp. xvi+187. Price Rs. 275.

VIJAY K. GUPTA, *Decision Making in the Supreme Court of India* (1995). Kaveri Books, 125 Kadambari, 19/IX Rohini, Delhi-85. Pp. xvi+213. Price Rs. 295.