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SUPREME COURT

Cooling Off Before Cuffs

Supreme Court Puts Brake on 498A Arrests, Endorses Family Welfare Route

Sheikh Rayees • July 23, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a major nod to due process and a check on knee-jerk arrests, the Supreme Court has thrown its weight behind a two-month “cooling-off” period before any arrests are made under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code — the infamous “cruelty to wife” provision long criticized for misuse in matrimonial feuds. Backing guidelines crafted by the Allahabad High Court in 2022, a bench led by Chief Justice BR Gavai...

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