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SUPREME COURT

When Law Looks Back

Supreme Court Says Overruling Judgments Apply Retroactively Unless Clearly Stated Otherwise

Sheikh Rayees • April 18, 2025

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In a sharp reminder that courts don't invent law but reveal its true shape, the Supreme Court has clarified that when a previous ruling is overruled, the newer decision doesn't mark a legal turning point—it simply corrects the course. And unless the judgment explicitly says it applies only going forward, it echoes backward too. The bench, led by Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, emphasized that such overruling judgments are...

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