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SUPREME COURT

When Recognition in Court Becomes the Linchpin

Supreme Court Throws Out 2001 Murder Conviction Over Eyewitness ID Gaps

Sheikh Rayees • May 15, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a sharp ruling that could reverberate through criminal trials, the Supreme Court has overturned a two-decade-old murder conviction, emphasizing a critical but often overlooked legal checkpoint: witnesses who know the accused before a crime must identify them in open court. Failure to do so, the Court ruled, erodes the very foundation of the prosecution's case. The bench — Justices Abhay S. Oka, Pankaj Mithal, and Ahsanuddin Amanullah — scrapped...

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