

# OFFICE OF RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BIG VICTORY FOR THE ARMED FORCES – SUPREME COURT ACCEPTS MP RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR’S PRAYER TO PERMIT REGISTRATION OF SERVICE VOTERS AT THE PLACE OF POSTING WITHOUT FURTHER RESTRICTIONS.**

~ CIVIL APPEAL NO. 4025 OF 2014 FILED BY MP RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR V. UNION OF INDIA & ORS. FOR ARMED FORCES VOTING RIGHTS WAS HEARD BY THE HON’BLE SUPREME COURT BENCH COMPRISING OF CHIEF JUSTICE RANJAN GOGOI, JUSTICE L N RAO & JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA TODAY ~

New Delhi, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### STATEMENT OF MP RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

“I started my legal fight to ensure our soldiers could vote in elections like every other citizen in early 2014. It was a shame that after decades as a democracy, most of our Armed Forces and their families could never effectively vote.

I had repeatedly requested in vain the then Congress government to enable this - and to remove the restrictions that prevent the Armed Forces and their families from casting their votes and exercising their fundamental right to vote as any other citizen of India.

Faced with an apathetic Congress government, I approached the Supreme Court in 2014 and got an interim order permitting soldiers to vote in their place of posting in peace stations.

The case has continued since, and today the Supreme Court has determined that men and women of the Armed forces can register as General voters and be active participants in our democratic process. For this I am grateful to the Supreme Court that has again and again supported every fight of mine for citizens’ rights. I thank my fellow petitioner Mrs. Neela Gokhale and the legal team headed by Senior Counsel Sajan Poovayya.

I urge all in Armed Forces and their families to enroll as general voters wherever you live and join millions of citizens in shaping the future of our great country”

**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

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