

Judge's 'lost' book finds place on global shelves

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Calcutta: A book authored by a former judge of Calcutta High Court has been travelling the world for the past year, after being brought back from oblivion by his granddaughter.

The book, titled *The Due Process Of Law*, was written by late Justice Arun Kumar Das and first published in 1980.

The book — examining constitutional liberty, parliamentary authority, and the delicate relationship between the citizen and the State, topics as relevant in today's India as ever — disappeared from circulation in India for over four decades.

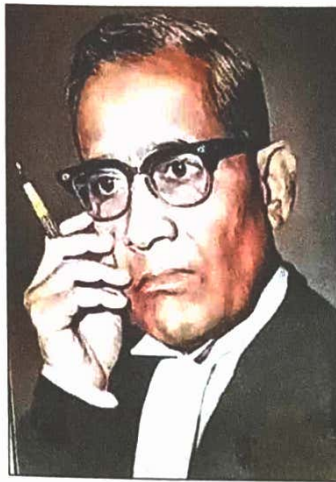
It had gone missing from the family's collection and was also difficult to find elsewhere, said Sonia Roy, Das's granddaughter and the architect of the revival project.

Sonia, who divides her time between Calcutta and Singapore, began the effort in April 2025.

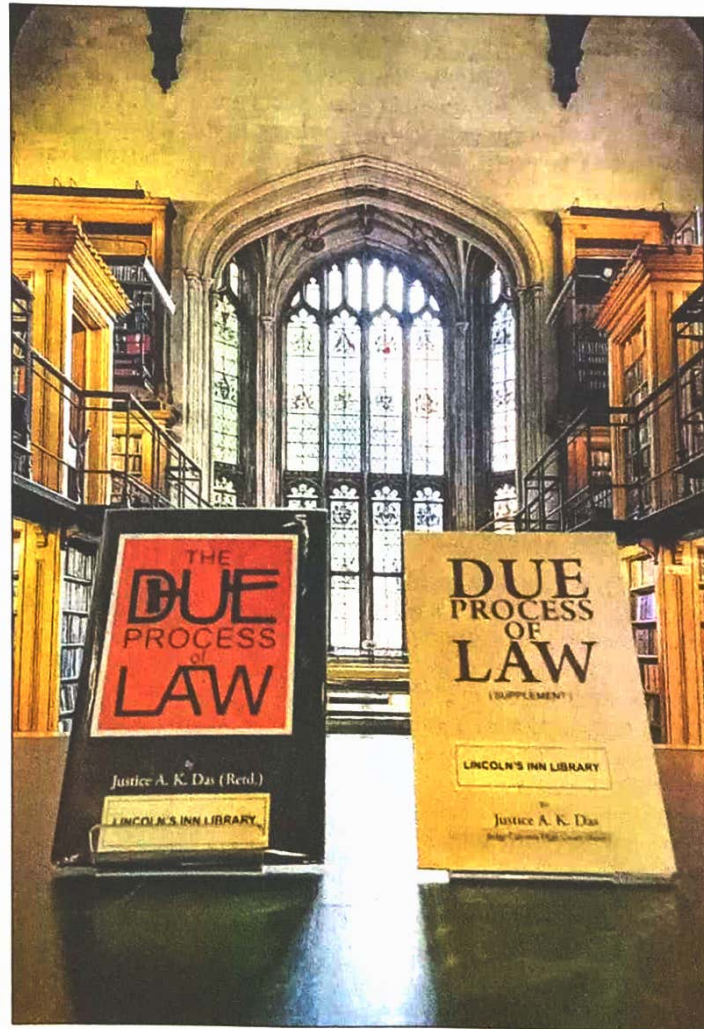
"Ironically, the first signs of its survival emerged from across the oceans. While the text had vanished from local markets and Indian law libraries, rare copies quietly endured in research repositories in the US, including the Library of Congress, Harvard Law School Library, Cornell, Columbia and the University of California, Berkeley. It was from these far-flung archival collections that a restoration effort took shape," Sonia told *Metro*.

Since its restoration, the book has found its place within the world's most formidable research archives. Some of them are:

- The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom at Parliament Square, Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Cambridge's Squire Law Library, and Oxford's Bodleian Library.
- In Westminster, both the House of Commons Library and House of Lords Library
- The British Library in London, keeper of the Magna Carta
- The International Court of Justice's Peace Palace Library in The Hague
- The UN Library in Geneva
- The Court of Justice of the



Justice Arun Kumar Das and (right) his granddaughter Sonia Roy, the architect of the book revival project



Justice Das's book at Lincoln's Inn in London

European Union in Luxembourg

Perhaps the most extraordinary inclusion is in the Biblioteca Capitolare di Verona in Italy — widely regarded as the oldest continuously functioning library in the world.

For all its international travel, one of the most touching milestones came on Au-

gust 29, 2025, when the book was relaunched at the historic Bar Library Club of Calcutta High Court.

"Standing in the very institution where Justice Das once deliberated, the legal fraternity gathered to honour a Calcutta jurist whose thoughts now bridge continents," Sonia said.