

main lead

*INDIRA JAISING, a senior lawyer in the Supreme Court and ROHINI SALIAN, Public Prosecutor, Sessions Court of Greater Bombay (TADA, MCOCA, POTA), in conversation with MARTIN D'SOUZA and SAVIA RAJAGOPAL*

They offer a tough exterior to those inside the courtroom but are no stranger to tears. While Indira Jaising (cream saree), who was awarded the Padmashri last year, is vociferous in her opinion about the judicial system, ("it is the question of judicial accountability that is the toughest to handle"), the Jessica Lal case ("look at the Jessica Lal case, an acquittal, when there were several eye-witnesses), and the recent Justice S N Dhingra-lawyer Navaratna Chaudhary issue, where the judge is alleged to have said that Chaudhary had no modesty to protect ("in India, no one cares. Justice Dhingra will be rewarded with a promotion"), Rohini Salian is studied in her approach. She skips the Justice Dhingra issue with a terse, "No comments." But you see the tough side to her where she refuses to be cowed down by the constant fear of the gangsters she deals with. "You only die once. I don't want to live like I'm dying every moment," she offers without any fear. She also acknowledges the fact that some gangsters made her famous.

