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DR B R AMBEDKAR (1891-1956)
UNVEILED BY
HON'BLE SMT DROUPADI MURMU
PRESIDENT OF INDIA
IN THE PRESENCE OF
DR JUSTICE DHANANJAYA Y CHANDRACHUD
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA
AND
COMPANION JUDGES OF
THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA





Justice Sanjiv Khanna

Chief Justice of India



Message from Hon'ble THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

As we commemorate the 75th year of the Supreme Court of India, I am filled with profound pride in reflecting upon our institution's remarkable journey. This milestone year has been particularly significant, marked by several judicial and infrastructural achievements under the able leadership of Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud.

Rapid strides towards comprehensive digitization have transformed how our Court operates and interfaces with the public. Our enhanced digital infrastructure has revolutionized case information accessibility, streamlined case management, and enabled real-time monitoring of pendency and disposal rates. This data-driven approach has empowered us to make informed decisions and implement targeted interventions for better judicial administration.

Live streaming of constitutional proceedings has been another significant achievement, bringing the administration of justice directly to the citizens' screens. This initiative has enhanced transparency and public understanding of judicial processes, particularly in matters of wide public importance.

As the Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority, I had the privilege to delve deep into the structural and operational challenges of making legal aid accessible to our citizens in the remotest parts of India. Meeting with the commoners, *Adhikar Mitras*¹ and *Nyaya Rakshaks*² brought to focus their problems and issues. While interactions with the judicial officers and experts were enlightening, the most profound insights came from engaging with people at the grassroots – in villages and prisons.

The judiciary as an institution shoulders the role of a dispute adjudicator to uphold and realise the constitutional mandate of fair justice. The measures taken by us have the impact of democratising access to justice for common citizens, instil public confidence and trust. Our judgments and decisions are obeyed and respected because they are fair, just and equitable.

A key aspect of enhancing accessibility of justice is also accurate and objective publication of data. This publication not only holds public institutions accountable, but it can potentially serve as an antidote for a lot of the problems plaguing our courts, such as the pendency and backlog of cases.

¹ Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs).

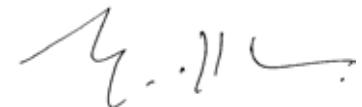
² Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs).

By analysing the data, we can identify trends and patterns in the challenges facing this court, allowing us to develop targeted solutions.

In this way, assemblage of data across all aspects of this Court's operation will undoubtedly set into motion the developments of a robust framework for addressing these issues.

Supreme Court's excellence is built upon the dedication of our registry members and staff across all departments. Their unwavering commitment and daily contributions are the backbone of our institution. Our sports and cultural events have served as excellent platforms for team building and fostering camaraderie, allowing judges and staff to interact in a more relaxed environment outside the formal judicial setting.

As we move forward, I extend my best wishes to all stakeholders associated with the Supreme Court. As we celebrate this milestone, may we continue to work tirelessly in our mission, upholding justice as the guardians of the people's fundamental rights, and shaping a legacy that inspires generations to come. Let us embrace the challenges ahead with renewed vigour and dedication, ensuring that the lamp of justice continues to shine brightly.



Sanjiv Khanna

New Delhi;
November 16, 2024.

Introduction

The Supreme Court of India, every year, endeavours to publish its Annual Report, providing a detailed compilation of its own operations as well as those of the High Courts. These reports serve as a comprehensive reference for the nation's judicial system.

The current edition, titled "*Indian Judiciary: Annual Report 2023-2024*," is structured into two volumes. Volume I focuses on the Supreme Court of India, while Volume II is dedicated to the functioning of the High Courts.

Volume-I aims to provide an in-depth insight into the functioning of the Apex Court of the country during the Judicial Year with the sacrosanct objective of strengthening delivery of justice and access to justice. Additionally, the report highlights the efforts made by the Court in its administrative side towards improving procedural efficiency and fostering transparency in its operations and scaling new heights of accessibility especially by proliferated adoption of information and communication technology, infrastructural developments, strengthening of human resource and redefining processes in tune with the expectation of stakeholders. The compilation is a testament to the Court's commitment to remain open, inclusive and just.

Volume-I of the Report comprises 17 chapters, each offering a detailed exploration of various aspects of the Supreme Court's functioning and evolution. **Chapter 1** contains a brief profiles of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court. **Chapter 2** provides a comprehensive overview of the Supreme Court's history and its development through India's judicial landscape. **Chapter 3** is dedicated to *Commemorating 75 Years of the Supreme Court*. **Chapter 4** titled *Power and Jurisdiction of the Apex Court*, offers a focused examination of the Court's authority and scope. **Chapter 5** highlights the infrastructural advancements undertaken in the previous year to enhance facilities for litigants and legal practitioners. **Chapter 6** discusses the administrative workforce of the Court, namely the Registry, while **Chapter 7** addresses court processes, including case management and statistical analyses. **Chapter 8** outlines various initiatives and events organized by the Court for its staff and the legal fraternity. Technological advancements, which the Court has embraced, are showcased in **Chapter 9**. **Chapter 10** focuses on the Supreme Court's Library and Museum, emphasizing their role in preserving and disseminating knowledge. The Supreme Court's international and national meetings and conferences over the past year are covered in **Chapter 11**. Recognizing the crucial role of the legal community, **Chapter 12** is dedicated to the Bar and highlights the activities of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record

Association (SCAORA). **Chapter 13**, titled *Legal Aid Services*, explores the Court's legal aid wings, including the National Legal Services Authority and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, etc. through which the court strives to ensure access to justice to all. **Chapter 14** delves into *Research and Skill Development* at the Apex Court, wherein training sessions were organised for various stakeholders of the judicial process. **Chapter 15** showcases the Court's emphasis on physical and mental well-being through sports and cultural events. **Chapter 16** contains case notes on 100 significant judgments from the past year. Finally, **Chapter 17** covers the *Publications* of the Supreme Court.

Volume-2 of the Annual Report contains a chapter on the role and activities of e-Committee, Supreme Court of India and besides that also comprises of 25 Chapters-each Chapter relating to each of the 25 High Courts containing a "brief introduction" of the High Court concerned with details about its' "administrative achievements" and "technological accomplishments" during the preceding judicial year.

CHAPTER 1

Profile of Judges





Justice
Sanjiv Khanna
Chief Justice of India

Born on 14 May 1960.

Enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983. Initially practiced in the District Courts at the Tis Hazari complex, Delhi, and later, in the High Court of Delhi and Tribunals in fields as diverse as Constitutional Law, Direct Taxation, Arbitration, Commercial Law, Company Law, Land Law, Environmental Law and Medical Negligence.

Had a long tenure as the Senior Standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department. Was appointed as the Standing Counsel (Civil) for the National Capital Territory of Delhi in 2004. Also appeared and argued in a number of criminal cases at the Delhi High Court as an Additional Public Prosecutor and as an *amicus curie*.

Elevated as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and was made a permanent judge in 2006. Whilst a judge of the Delhi High Court, he held the position of Chairman/Judge-in-charge, Delhi Judicial Academy, Delhi International Arbitration Centre and the District Court Mediation Centres.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18 January 2019.

Held the post of Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Service Committee, from 17 June 2023 till 25 December 2023.

Presently, the Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority and a member of the Governing Council of the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

Due to retire on 13 May 2025.



**Justice
Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai**

Born on 24 November 1960 at Amravati.

Joined Bar on 16 March 1985. Practiced at Bombay High Court from 1985 to 1990.

After 1990, practiced mainly before Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court with occasional appearances at the Principal Seat and the Supreme Court. Practised in Constitutional Law and Administrative Law.

Was Standing Counsel for Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation and Amravati University. Appeared regularly for various autonomous bodies and Corporations like SICOM, DCVL, etc. and various Municipal Councils in Vidarbha region. Was appointed as Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor for Nagpur Bench on 17 January 2000.

Elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court on 14 November 2003. Became a permanent Judge of the Bombay High Court on 12 November 2005. Presided over Benches having all types of assignments at the Principal Seat at Mumbai as well as Benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad and Panaji.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24 May 2019.

Due to retire on 23 November 2025.



**Justice
Surya Kant**

Born on 10 February 1962 in a middle-class family in District Hisar in Haryana. Did his schooling from the rural school. Was an avid debater, graduated from the Government Post Graduate College, Hisar in 1981 and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Law from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak in 1984. Earned another distinction by standing First Class First in his LL.M. from the Directorate of Distance Education, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra in 2011.

Started law practice at the District Court in Hisar in 1984 and later shifted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in Chandigarh in 1985 and represented multiple Universities, Boards, Corporations, Banks and also the High Court itself. Specialized in Constitutional, Service and Civil matters. Appointed as the youngest Advocate General of Haryana on 7 July 2000 and was designated as Senior Advocate in March 2001.

Held the office of Advocate General till elevation as a Permanent Judge to the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 9 January 2004.

Nominated as a member of the Central Authority of the National Legal Services Authority on 23 February 2007 for two consecutive terms. Has been/is also a member of different Committees of the Indian Law Institute. Has organized and attended several prestigious National and International Conferences as well.

Served as President of the Board of Governors of Chandigarh Judicial Academy for over a period of three years.

Served as Executive Chairman of State Legal Services Authority, UT, Chandigarh.

Elevated as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on 5 October 2018.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24 May 2019.

Due to retire on 9 February 2027.



**Justice
Hrishikesh Roy**

Born on 1 February 1960. Obtained LL.B. Degree in 1982 from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi.

Designated as Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court on 21 December 2004.

Appointed as Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 12 October 2006 and Permanent Judge, with effect from 15 July 2008. Spearheaded the training programmes for the Judicial officers under the Gauhati High Court and was nominated as a member of the National Judicial Academic Council, headed by the Chief Justice of India.

While heading the Legal Services Authority in Assam and in Arunachal Pradesh, Justice Roy opted for the visual media route to communicate the effectiveness of Mediation Programme through the film *Shako* (Bridge). Produced another short film, *Apne Ajnabi*, which explained how legal help can be accessed easily by the needy, under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. Both productions were used as training tools for judicial officers, lawyers and para legal volunteers.

In Assam, to ensure justice delivery at the shortest distance, the *Reach Out & Respond* programme was launched and implemented, which helped large number from the marginalized segment to benefit from government schemes.

For about 10 years, the Newsletter *ATMAN*, was published regularly for the Gauhati High Court under his editorship.

Transferred on 29 May 2018 from Gauhati High Court. Appointed on 8 August 2018 as the 35th Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 23 September 2019.

Due to retire on 31 January 2025.



Justice
Abhay S. Oka

Born on 25 May 1960.

Did B.Sc., LL.M. from University of Bombay.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 28 June 1983. Started practising in Thane District Court in the chamber of his father Shreenivas W. Oka. In 1985-86, joined the chamber of Shri V.P. Tipnis, a former Judge of the Bombay High Court and former Lok Ayukta. Appeared in several important matters and in public interest litigations.

Elevated as Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on 29 August 2003.

Appointed as a permanent Judge from 12 November 2005. Took oath as the Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka on 10 May 2019.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 24 May 2025.



**Justice
Vikram Nath**

Born on 24 September 1962.

Enrolled with the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh on 30 March 1987.

Elevated as Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 24 September 2004.

Took oath as Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 27 February 2006.

Elevated as Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on 10 September 2019.

First Chief Justice of a High Court in India to live stream Court proceedings on YouTube channel.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 23 September 2027.



Justice
J.K. Maheshwari

Born on 29 June 1961 in a small town Joura, District Morena, M.P.

Graduated in Arts in 1982 and passed LL.B. in 1985 and completed LL.M. in 1991.

Enrolled as an Advocate with the State Bar Council of Madhya Pradesh on 22 November 1985 and practiced in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Service and Tax matters.

Was the elected member of the M.P. State Bar Council.

Appointed as Additional Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on 25 November 2005 and on 25 November 2008, appointed as permanent Judge of the Hon'ble Court. Was a part of various committees, pertaining to betterment of administration of High court of Madhya Pradesh and continued his good offices till 6 October 2019.

Transferred as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court and assumed office on 7 October 2019.

Was the First Chief Justice of the newly established Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Transferred as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim on 6 January 2021.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 28 June 2026.



**Justice
B.V. Nagarathna**

Born on 30 October 1962 at Bengaluru.

Did B.A. (Hons.) in History from Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University in 1984. Obtained LL.B. Degree in July 1987 from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University.

Started practice in Law in 1987 and started independent practice in July 1994 till elevation as a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka in 2008. Practised in a wide variety of areas such as Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, Commercial Law, Family Law, etc. Represented Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and High Court Legal Services Committee.

Appointed on 18 February 2008 as Additional Judge of Karnataka High Court and Permanent Judge on 17 February 2010. Is the first woman from the Karnataka Bar to be appointed to the High Court.

Some of the positions held as a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka: (1) President, Karnataka Judicial Academy; (2) President, Bangalore Mediation Centre, Bengaluru.

Contributor to the Book "Courts of India" brought out by the Supreme Court and Chairperson of the Committee in charge of bringing out translation in Kannada language of the book "Courts of India" which was released in April 2021.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Chairperson of Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India.

Chairperson of the Committee of Hon'ble Judges for Family Court Matters, Supreme Court of India.

Chairperson of the Supreme Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee.

Member of the Bar Grievance Redressal Committee of Hon'ble Judges, Supreme Court of India

Due to retire on 29 October 2027.



Justice
C.T. Ravikumar

Born on 6 January 1960 in Peermadu, Kerala.

Graduated in Zoology from Bishop Moore College, Mavelikara and obtained an LL.B. degree from Government Law College, Calicut and enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Kerala on 12 July 1986, commenced his practice at Mavelikara Courts, and later shifted to Kerala High Court.

Served as Government Pleader w.e.f. 1996 to 2001 and appointed as Special Government Pleader in 2006 and later appointed as Special Government Pleader in the High Court of Kerala.

Appointed as Additional Judge of the High Court of Kerala on 5 January 2009 and a permanent judge on 15 December 2010.

Served as President of Kerala Judicial Academy and as Executive Chairman of Kerala State Legal Services Authority.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 5 January 2025.



**Justice
M.M. Sundresh**

Born on 21 July 1962.

B.A. Degree at Loyola College, Chennai and B.L. Degree at Madras Law College.

Enrolled as an Advocate in the year 1985 and worked as Government Advocate between 1991 to 1996.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of Madras High Court on 31 March 2009 and confirmed as permanent Judge on 29 March 2011. Was the President of the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy.

Avid sportsman having proficiency in Cricket, Tennis and Table Tennis.

Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 20 July 2027.



Justice
Bela M. Trivedi

Born on 10 June 1960 at Patan, North Gujarat.

Did her schooling at various places as her father had a transferable judicial service.

Did her B.Com. and LL.B. from the MS University, Vadodara. Practised as a lawyer on Civil and Constitutional side in the High Court of Gujarat for about ten years.

Was appointed directly as the Judge, City Civil and Sessions Court at Ahmedabad on 10 July 1995.

It was a happy coincidence that her father was already working as the Judge, City Civil and Sessions Court when she was appointed. The Limca Book of Indian records has recorded the entry in their 1996 edition that " Father-daughter judges in the same court ". Worked on different posts like Registrar-Vigilance in the High Court, Law Secretary in Govt of Gujarat, CBI Court Judge, Special Judge-Serial Bomb blast matters, etc.

Elevated as the Judge of Gujarat High Court on 17 February 2011.

Transferred to the Rajasthan High Court where she worked since June 2011 at the Jaipur Bench till she was repatriated to the Parent High Court at Gujarat in February 2016. Since then was working as the Judge of Gujarat High Court.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 9 June 2025.



**Justice
Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha**

Born on 3 May 1963. Graduated with triple majors in Economics, Political Science and Public Administration. Pursued Law from Delhi University. Enrolled as an advocate in 1988 and commenced practice before the Supreme Court of India in the year 1990.

Designated as a Senior Advocate by the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India in the year 2008. As an advocate, appeared in a large number of public law cases involving Constitutional, Administrative and Environmental issues, among others. Specialised in laws relating to Telecom, Competition, Electricity, and other regulatory jurisdictions. Appointed as *amicus curiae* by the Supreme Court in many cases such as the Forest Bench, Judicial Appointments, etc.

Appointed as Additional Solicitor General of India in the year 2014. During that time, he assisted the Court as a Law Officer in several landmark cases, including the NJAC case before the Constitution Bench. Was part of the Indian Supreme Court's Delegation to the Canadian Supreme Court, where he presented papers on Extradition and the Environment.

Had the rare opportunity of leading the Indian team and representing India before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany. Also represented India before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), Hague in Investment Treaty Arbitration, in a few cases.

As part of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA), was closely associated with the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India. As a Law Officer, was instrumental in constituting and being part of the High-powered Committee suggesting sweeping changes to the Arbitration Act and proposing a mechanism for Institutional Arbitration. Is closely associated with the making of the law on Mediation.

Was a member of Committees relating to the restructuring of all Appellate Tribunals and reviewing the legal regime concerning Corporate Social Responsibility. Has also been a member of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA). Successfully mediated in the long-standing disputes between the members of sports bodies of BCCI. Is also on the Executive Council of many National Law Universities and other educational institutions.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India directly from the Bar on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 2 May 2028.



**Justice
Sudhanshu Dhulia**

Born on 10 August 1960.

Did earlier schooling from Dehradun, Allahabad and Lucknow. Graduated in the year 1981 and completed Masters in Modern History in the year 1983 and LL.B. in the year 1986.

Initially practiced on the Civil and Constitutional side before the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad and later shifted to the newly created High Court of the State of Uttarakhand, at Nainital.

Designated as Senior Advocate in June 2004.

Elevated as a Permanent Judge of Uttarakhand High Court on 1 November 2008.

Took oath as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 10 January 2021.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 9 May 2022.

Due to retire on 9 August 2025.



**Justice
J.B. Pardiwala**

Born on 12 August 1965 at Mumbai. Graduated from J.P. Arts College, Valsad in the year 1985. Obtained Law Degree from K.M. Law College, Valsad in the year 1988 and Sanad on 18 November 1988.

Born in the family of Lawyers. Hails from native town known as Valsad in South Gujarat. Great Grandfather Shri Navroji Bhikhaji Pardiwala started practice in the year 1894 at Valsad. Grandfather Shri Cawasji Navroji Pardiwala joined the Bar at Valsad in 1929 and practiced upto 1958. Father Shri Burjor Cawasji Pardiwala joined Bar at Valsad in 1955.

Started practice at Valsad from January 1989. Shifted to Gujarat High Court, Ahmedabad in September, 1990. Practised in all branches of Law.

Remained Member of the Gujarat Bar Council from 1994 to 2000. Was appointed as Nominated Member of Disciplinary Committee of Bar Council of India. Worked as Honorary Co-Editor of Gujarat Law Herald, a publication of the Gujarat Bar Council.

Worked as Member, Gujarat High Court Legal Services Authority. Was appointed as Standing Counsel for the Gujarat High Court and its subordinate Courts since 2002 and continued as such till elevation to the Bench.

Elevated as an Additional Judge, Gujarat High Court on 17 February 2011 and confirmed as Permanent Judge on 28 January 2013.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 9 May 2022.

Due to retire on 11 August 2030.



Justice
Dipankar Datta

Born on 9 February 1965 to Mira and Justice (Retd.) Salil Kumar Datta in Calcutta.

After Graduating from Hazra Law College, University of Calcutta, in 1989, enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of West Bengal in the same year.

In wide-ranging practice, for around sixteen years, before the Calcutta High Court, other High Courts, Tribunals, and also the Supreme Court of India, represented various litigants including the State of West Bengal, Union of India and multiple statutory authorities.

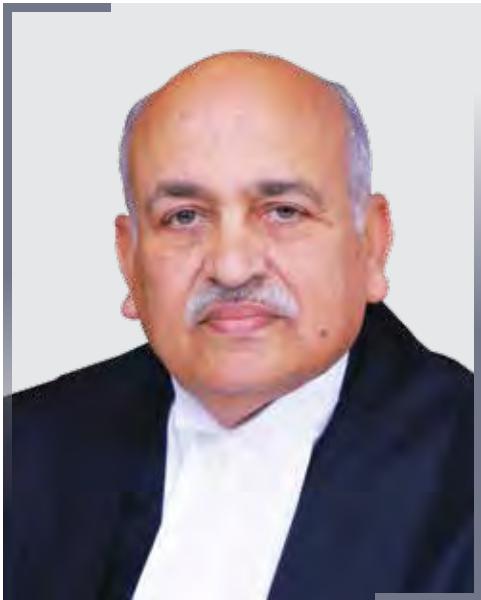
Was also a guest lecturer on Constitutional Law in the University College of Law, University of Calcutta between 1996-97 and 1999-2000.

Elevated as a Permanent Judge of the Calcutta High Court on 22 June 2006.

Appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on 28 April 2020. Remained at the helm of the Bombay High Court for more than two and half years .

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 12 December 2022.

Due to retire on 8 February 2030.



**Justice
Pankaj Mithal**

Born on 17 June 1961 in a family of lawyers of Meerut.

Received early education from St. Mary's Academy, Meerut. Graduated from Allahabad University. Later joined Meerut College and obtained a Law degree from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.

Enrolled with Bar Council of U.P. in 1985 and practiced at Allahabad under Shri Sudhir Chandra Verma later Judge of Allahabad High Court and then Lokayukt (U.P.) .

Served as a Standing Counsel for U.P. Awas Evam Vikas Parishad and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra.

His father, Justice late Narendra Nath Mithal, was also a Judge of the Allahabad High Court from 14 December 1978 to 05 April 1992 and was elevated directly from the District Court Bar.

Became a Judge of Allahabad High Court in 2006 and was Sr. Judge of Lucknow Bench.

Appointed as Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on 4 January 2021.

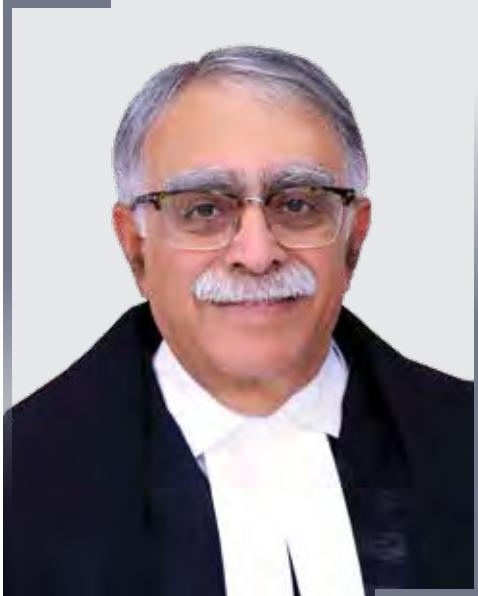
Transferred to Rajasthan High Court as Chief Justice on 14 October 2022.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 6 February 2023.

Was a nominee member of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh in the Executive Council of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi for two consecutive terms and also of Executive Council of Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut.

Is a trustee of Etawah Hindi Sewa Nidhi and Founder Trustee of Justice Narendra Nath Mithal Memorial Foundation.

Due to retire on 16 June 2026.



**Justice
Sanjay Karol**

Born on 23 August 1961.

Hails from village Garli – the first heritage village of India, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

Did schooling from St. Edwards School, Shimla and obtained a Bachelors Hons. Degree and a Degree in Law at the Himachal Pradesh University.

Practiced across fora at Delhi and other High Courts.

Appointed Advocate General of the State of Himachal Pradesh in 1998 and served in that capacity till 2003. Conferred the designation of Senior Advocate by the full court in 1999.

Elevated as a Judge of the High Court on 8 March 2007. He served the court for a period of eleven and a half years, including over a year as Acting Chief Justice.

Was the patron-in-chief of Himachal Pradesh Legal Services Authority and the Chancellor of the Himachal Pradesh National Law University.

Elevated as the Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court on 14 November 2018. At Tripura, he was also the patron-in-chief of Tripura Legal Services Authority, where he served until his transfer to the High Court of Judicature at Patna on 10 November 2019.

At the Patna High Court, served for more than three years. At Patna, he was also the patron-in-chief of Bihar Legal Services Authority and the Chancellor of the Chanakya National Law University.

Elevated as the Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 6 February 2023.

Due to retire on 22 August 2026.



**Justice
Sanjay Kumar**

Born on 14 August 1963 at Hyderabad.

Did B.Com., LL.B.

Started his law practice in August 1988.

Was appointed as an Additional Judge of Andhra Pradesh High Court on 8 August 2008 and was made a permanent Judge on 20 January 2010.

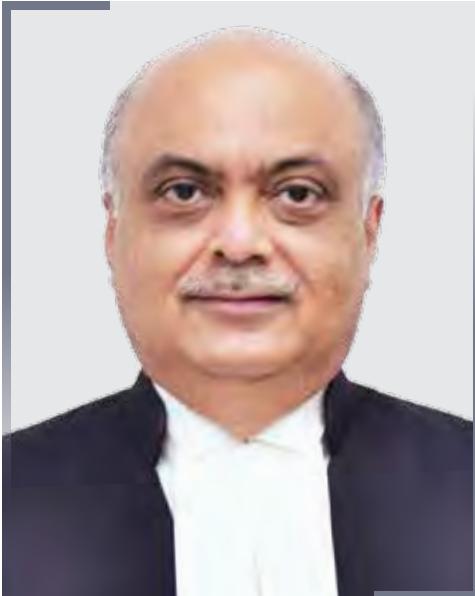
Sworn in as a Judge of Telangana High Court upon its formation on 1 January 2019.

Transferred as Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 14 October 2019.

Elevated as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court on 14 February 2021.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 6 February 2023.

Due to retire on 13 August 2028.



Justice
Ahsanuddin Amanullah

Born on 11 May 1963. Pursued B.Sc. (Hons.) (Chemistry) and LL.B. Enrolled with Bihar State Bar Council on 27 September 1991. Practiced predominantly in Constitutional Courts, primarily Patna High Court; appeared intermittently in Supreme Court, Calcutta and Jharkhand High Courts, *inter alia*, in Constitutional, Civil, Criminal, Service, Co-operative, Taxation, Labour, Corporate, Forest matters; specialised in Constitutional and Service Laws. Appeared before Central Administrative Tribunal, Commercial Taxes Tribunal, Board of Revenue, District Courts, the Consumer Disputes Redressal fora, Arbitrations.

Was Standing Counsel (Mar., 2006-Aug., 2010), Government Advocate (Aug., 2010 onwards), for State of Bihar [Patna High Court]; Special Counsel, Income-Tax Department, Government of India [Jharkhand High Court]; District Administration's Counsel before Commission of Inquiry into Dalsingsarai (Samastipur) firing incident; specially nominated by Advocate-General, Bihar at request of his Maharashtra counterpart to represent State of Maharashtra and Maharashtra Police; empanelled by Patna Legal Aid Committee for Criminal Appeals. *Amicus Curiae* in significant matters; associated with social issues pro bono. Pivotal in drafting, vetting subordinate/delegated legislation for Bihar Legislature's Acts (2006-2011).

Represented various institutional and individual clients, including, but not limited to, Indian Railways, UTI, UBI, RITES, IRCTC, Bihar State Housing Board, BSEB, Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corporation, Bihar State Cooperative Bank Limited, BISCOMAUN, Bihar Cooperative Land Development Bank Limited, BSAMB, various APMCs, Bihar State Housing Cooperative Federation, BICICO, Commercial Taxes Department, Magadh University, Veer Kuer Singh University, BIADA, BSHS, BSACS, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Samsung Corporation E&CG.

Participated in the 1989 BCI Trust Inter-University Moot Court Competition, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. Was Assistant Returning Officer, 2002 Bihar State Bar Council and 2006 Jharkhand State Bar Council elections. Member, General and Academic Councils, NLSIU. Was Chairman, BCI Committee for Qualifying Examination for Indian Nationals holding Foreign Law Degrees; Member, BCI Committee on AIBE; Chairman, Juvenile Justice Monitoring Committee, Patna High Court; Member, Board of Governors, Bihar Judicial Academy; Chairman, Patna High Court Legal Services Committee; Executive Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority; Chairman, Bihar Judicial Academy; Executive Chairman, Bihar State Legal Services Authority. First Judge to hold paperless e-Court in the Patna High Court. Elevated as Judge, Patna High Court on 20 June 2011 transferred to Andhra Pradesh High Court on 10 October 2021 and re-transferred to Patna High Court on 20 June 2022.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 6 February 2023.

Due to retire on 10 May 2028.



Justice
Manoj Misra

Born on 2 June 1965.

Graduated in Law from University of Allahabad in 1988.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 12 December 1988.

Practised at Allahabad High Court for about 23 years in Civil, Revenue, Criminal and Constitutional matters.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of Allahabad High Court on 21 November 2011 and as a Permanent Judge on 6 August 2013.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 6 February 2023.

Due to retire on 1 June 2030.



**Justice
Rajesh Bindal**

Born on 16 April 1961 at Ambala City, Haryana.

Started practice in High Court of Punjab & Haryana in September 1985.

Elevated as a Judge of High Court of Punjab & Haryana on 22 March 2006.

Transferred to High Court of Jammu and Kashmir on 19 November 2018. Taken over as the Acting Chief Justice of the Common High Court for the U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on 8 December 2020.

Transferred as a Judge of the High Court at Calcutta on 5 January 2021. Taken over as Acting Chief Justice of the High Court at Calcutta on 27 April 2021.

Took oath as Chief Justice of High Court of Judicature at Allahabad on 11 October 2021.

Was the chairman of multi-member Committee constituted pursuant to Resolution No. 7 adopted in the Chief Justices Conference, 2016 and entrusted the task to formulate Guidelines for the Reception, Retrieval, Authentication and Preservation of Electronic evidence. Report was submitted to Hon'ble the Supreme Court in November 2018.

Was also appointed Chairman of a multi-member Committee constituted by Ministry of Women and Child Development to study Civil and Legal Aspects of International Child Abduction Bill, 2016, and Inter Country Removal & Retention of Children. Report accompanied by the recommendations and draft of the Protection of Children (Inter-Country Removal and Retention) Bill, 2018 was submitted to the Ministry in April 2018. (<https://wcd.nic.in/>).

Was Member of the Committee constituted by NALSA to go into the existing framework of Lok Adalats and Mediation.

Was Chairman of a committee constituted by e-Committee of the Supreme Court to formulate Model Electronic Register. Report submitted.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13 February 2023.

Due to retire on 15 April 2026.



**Justice
Aravind Kumar**

Born on 14 July 1962.

Did schooling and college at Bengaluru and studied degree at National College and completed Law from Bengaluru University. During student days, was active as Students Union Leader and was Vice President of Bangalore University Students Action Committee.

Enrolled as Advocate in 1987 and appeared in Trial Courts till 1990 and later shifted practice to High Court. Appointed as Central Government Standing Counsel in 1999. Was Member of Regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committee.

Appointed as Assistant Solicitor General of India in 2005. Has conducted cases covering Constitution of India, Central Excise Act, Customs Act, Code of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure Code and also conducted number of Election Petitions. Was Standing Counsel of Income Tax Department for 11 years and Legal Advisor to various Statutory Corporations and Companies.

Was one of the Founder Member of Lahari Advocates Forum, an organization promoted by distinguished Senior Advocates for promoting Legal Education, training young Advocates, conducting workshops for Advocates and orientation courses to young Advocates seeking appointment as Judicial Officers and was also its Vice President.

Was Special Public Prosecutor for CBI till elevation.

Appointed as Additional Judge High Court of Karnataka on 26 June 2009 and took oath of office on the said date and was made a Permanent Judge w.e.f. 7 December 2012.

Appointed as Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat and took oath of office on 13 October 2021. Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13 February 2023.

Due to retire on 13 July 2027.



**Justice
Prashant Kumar Mishra**

Born on 29 August 1964 at Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. Done B.Sc. and LL.B. Degrees from Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 4 September 1987. Practiced law in District Court at Raigarh, High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur and High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur and dealt with Civil, Criminal and Writ branches of law.

Was designated as Senior Advocate by High Court of Chhattisgarh in January 2005.

Had been Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Bar Council. Was appointed/co-opted Member of the Rule Making Committee of High Court of Chhattisgarh.

Had been Chancellor's Nominee in the Executive Council of Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur Was associated with Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh as its Ex-Officio Member in the Executive Council.

Served as Additional Advocate General for the State of Chhattisgarh from 26 June 2004 to 31 August 2007 and thereafter as Advocate General for the State from 1 September 2007 till elevation.

Elevated as a Judge of High Court of Chhattisgarh on 10 December 2009. Was Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Chhattisgarh from 1 June 2021 to 11 October 2021. Appointed as Chief Justice of High Court of Andhra Pradesh and assumed charge on 13 October 2021.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 19 May 2023.

Due to retire on 28 August 2029.



**Justice
K.V. Viswanathan**

Born on 26 May 1966 to Father Shri K.V. Venkataraman and Mother Mrs. Lalitha Venkataraman and Married to Mrs. Jaishree Viswanathan and have two daughters.

Studied at Arokiamatha Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Pollachi; Sainik School Amaravathinagar and at St. Joseph's Hr. Sec. School, Ooty.

Graduated with first rank from the Coimbatore Law College, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore in 1988.

Enrolled as an Advocate on the roll of the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu on 28 October 1988. Attended the Chambers of late Shri K. A. Ramachandran, a leading criminal lawyer at Coimbatore during college days. Later joined the Chambers of Mr. C. S. Vaidyanathan, Sr. Adv. and former ASG, at New Delhi from 1988-90. Chambered with Mr. K. K. Venugopal, Senior Advocate and former Attorney General for India, from 1990-95.

Attended the Program of Instruction for Lawyers at the Harvard Law School, Boston, Massachusetts in June, 2002. Designated as a Senior Advocate by the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India on 28 April 2009.

Appointed as the Additional Solicitor General of India on 26 August 2013 and held the position till May 2014.

During the course of practice appeared before the Supreme Court of India and several High Courts.

Appeared as *amicus curiae* in several important matters before the Supreme Court. Has been a Member of the NALSA and the SCLSC.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, directly from the Bar on 19 May 2023.

Due to retire on 25 May 2031.



**Justice
Ujjal Bhuyan**

Born on 2 August 1964 at Guwahati. His father Suchendra Nath Bhuyan was a Senior Advocate and a former Advocate General of Assam.

Did his schooling in Don Bosco High School, Guwahati and thereafter studied in Cotton College, Guwahati. After graduating in Arts from Kirori Mal College, Delhi, obtained his LL.B. degree from Government Law College, Guwahati and LL.M. degree from Gauhati University, Guwahati.

Enrolled on 20 March 1991 with the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Had practiced before the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court at Guwahati and appeared before the Agartala, Shillong, Kohima and Itanagar Benches of the Gauhati High Court. Also practiced before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Guwahati Bench and the Assam Board of Revenue. Appeared before the Labour Court, Guwahati, various Civil Courts and the State Consumer Forum, Arunachal Pradesh.

Was the Standing Counsel of the Income Tax Department for long 16 years starting as Junior Standing Counsel since May 1995 and subsequently appointed as Senior Standing Counsel of the Income Tax Department on 3 December 2008.

Was the Additional Government Advocate, Meghalaya in the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court from April 2002 to October 2006. Was engaged as Special Counsel of the Forest Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh from December 2005 to April 2009. Appointed as Standing Counsel of Gauhati High Court on 3 March 2010. Designated as Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court on 6 September 2010. Appointed as Additional Advocate General, Assam on 21 July 2011. Was a member of Gauhati High Court Bar Association, Lawyers Association, Guwahati, Bar Association of India, All India Federation of Tax Practitioners and Indian Law Institute, Assam Chapter.

Appointed as Additional Judge of Gauhati High Court on 17 October 2011 and confirmed on 20 March 2013.

Was also the Executive Chairman of Mizoram State Legal Services Authority and was closely associated with the Judicial Academy, Assam and National Law University, Guwahati.

Transferred to Bombay High Court and took oath as Judge of Bombay High Court on 3 October 2019.

After a two year stint at Mumbai, transferred to Telangana High Court and took oath as Judge of Telangana High Court on 22 October 2021. He was the Executive Chairman of Telangana State Legal Services Authority.

Appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court for the State of Telangana, sworn-in and assumed charge as such on 28 June 2022.

By virtue of being the Chief Justice of the High Court for the State of Telangana, also served as Chancellor of the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) till elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Has continued association with legal education and is a Member of the General Council as well as Executive Council of National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore. Also a Member of the General Council of Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad.

On 5 July 2023, the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended his appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, whereafter was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 14 July 2023.

Due to retire on 1 August 2029.



Justice
Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti

Born on 6 May 1962.

Graduated in Commerce and Law.

Enrolled in the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh on 21 January 1987.

Appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on 12 April 2013.

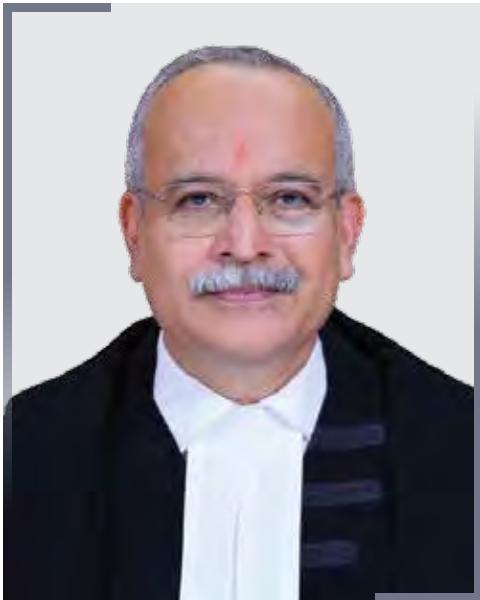
Presided as a Judge of the High Court at Hyderabad for the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana up to 31 December 2018.

He was a Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh till 18 March 2019, and transferred to the High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam and assumed Office on 19 March 2019.

He was the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala from 24 April 2023, till he became the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala on 1 June 2023.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 14 July 2023.

Due to retire on 5 May 2027.



**Justice
Satish Chandra Sharma**

Born on 30 November, 1961 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Father, Dr. B. N. Sharma, apart from being known as a well established agriculturalist, was also a renowned professor of Jabalpur University and subsequently the Vice Chancellor of Barkatullah University, Bhopal. Mother Smt. Shanti Sharma was a Principal in Maharani Lakshmibai Higher Secondary School and also worked as District Education Officer at Jabalpur before retirement. Started schooling from Christ Church Boys Higher Secondary School and passed 10th standard and 12th standard from Central School, Jabalpur. Enrolled as a student of Bachelor of Science in 1979 at Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar. Secured degree of Bachelor of Science in the year 1981 with distinction in three subjects.

Awarded National Merit Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies. Enrolled as a student of law in Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar in 1981. Graduated on top of the class and obtained LL.B. degree in 1984 with three university Gold Medals. Enrolled as an advocate on 1 September 1984. Practiced in Constitutional, Service, Civil and Criminal matters before the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur. Was appointed Additional Central Government Counsel on 28 May 1993 and was appointed Senior Panel Counsel by Government of India on 28 June 2004. In 2003, he was designated as a Senior Advocate by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at the young age of 42, being one of the youngest Senior Advocates of Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Elevated as an Additional Judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court on 18 January 2008. Appointed as a Permanent Judge on 15 January 2010. Is an avid reader and is also known for his contributions to various Universities. He is associated with National Law universities and also on the Advisory Board of National Law Institute University, Bhopal and India International University of Legal Education and Research, Goa and has published numerous research articles and papers.

Transferred to Karnataka High Court as Judge on 31 December 2020 and took oath on 4 January 2021. Was later appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court on 31 August 2021. He was elevated as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court on 11 October 2021 and transferred to Delhi High Court as Chief Justice and took oath of office on 28 June 2022.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 9 November 2023.

Due to Retire on 29 November 2026.



Justice
Augustine George Masih

Born on 12 March 1963 at Ropar, Punjab.

After initial schooling in St. Mary's Convent School, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, completed school education from Saifuddin Tahir High School, Aligarh. Graduated in Science (Hons.) and then LL.B. (Hons.) from Aligarh Muslim University at Aligarh.

Enrolled as an Advocate on the rolls of Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana on 6 June 1987.

Practiced on both Original and Appellate sides in the field of Constitution Law, Service Law, Labour Law, Civil Law, etc. Also appeared in the Supreme Court, High Courts of Punjab and Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and various other Courts and Tribunals.

Held the posts of Assistant Advocate General, Deputy Advocate General, Additional Advocate General in the office of Advocate General, Punjab.

Sworn in as Additional Judge of Punjab & Haryana High Court on 10 July 2008 and as a Permanent Judge on 14 January 2011.

Elevated as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court on 30 May 2023.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 9 November 2023.

Due to retire on 11 March 2028.



**Justice
Sandeep Mehta**

Born on 11 January 1963.

Practiced in Trial Courts, High Court as well as Supreme Court.

Remained Counsel for Commission in three (3) Judicial Enquiry Commissions headed by the Retired as well as Sitting Hon'ble Judges of High Court. Remained Member, Bar Council of Rajasthan from 2003 to 2009. Remained Vice-Chairman, Bar Council of Rajasthan in 2004-2005. Remained Chairman, Bar Council of Rajasthan in 2010.

Elevated as the Additional Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on 30 May 2011 and became permanent Judge on 6 February 2013.

Took oath as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court on 15 February 2023.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 9 November 2023.

Due to retire on 10 January 2028.



Justice
Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale

Born on 23 June 1962 at Nippani.

Pursued his schooling and degree level studies at various places in Maharashtra, such as Shahada, Shirpur, Nashik, Sangli, Buldhana, Latur and Nanded. After completion of his LL.B. from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University.

Started practicing in the High Court of Bombay, Aurangabad Bench. Joined the chambers of renowned lawyer Shri. Satyanarayan Loya and practiced on both Civil as well as Criminal side at High Court Bench at Aurangabad.

Also served as a Lecturer in Law at Dr. Ambedkar Law College, Aurangabad from 1990 to 1992. Also worked as Assistant Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor at High Court Bench at Aurangabad. Was Additional Standing Counsel for the Union of India.

Elevated to the Bombay High Court on 18 July 2008. Assumed the charge as Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka on 15 October 2022.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 25 January 2024.

Due to retire on 22 June 2027.



**Justice
N Kotiswar Singh**

Born on 01 March 1963 in Manipur.

Obtained his elementary education in Imphal and completed his schooling from Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith in West Bengal and Pre-University Course from St. Anthony College, Shillong. After graduating from Kirori Mal College, Delhi University, obtained his Degree in Law from the Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in 1986.

Enrolled as an Advocate in 1986 and attended the Commonwealth Young Lawyers Course in London in 1992.

After practising before the Supreme Court of India for a brief period, shifted practice to Gauhati High Court.

Served as the Standing Counsel for various institutions and as the Advocate General of Manipur till his elevation as a Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 17 October 2011.

Was appointed in the Manipur High Court upon its creation with effect from 23 March 2013 and was transferred to Gauhati High Court on 11 October 2018 and served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court on several occasions.

Was sworn in as the 36th Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on 15 February 2023.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18 July 2024.

Due to retire on 29 February 2028.



Justice
R Mahadevan

Born on 10 June 1963 at Chennai.

Completed law degree at Madras Law College and enrolled with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in the year 1989. Practiced in Civil, Criminal and Writ sides with specialization in Indirect Taxes, Customs and Central Excise matters for a period of 25 years.

Served as an Additional Government Pleader (Taxes) for the Government of Tamil Nadu, as Additional Central Government Standing Counsel and Senior Panel Counsel for the Government of India at Madras High Court.

Elevated as a Judge of the Madras High Court in the year 2013. Took over the charge of acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court on 24 May 2024.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18 July 2024.

Due to retire on 9 June 2028.

HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE RETIRED

From 9 November 2022 to 10 November 2024



Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud

Former Chief Justice of India

Date of appointment as Judge, Supreme Court : 13 May 2016

Date of appointment as CJI : 9 November 2022

Held office till : 10 November 2024

Hon'ble Retired Judges



Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul

Date of appointment: 17.02.2017

Held Office till: 25.12.2023



Justice Aniruddha Bose

Date of appointment: 24.05.2019

Held Office till: 10.04.2024



Justice Ajjikuttira Somaiah Bopanna

Date of appointment: 24.05.2019

Held Office till: 19.05.2024



Justice Hima Kohli

Date of appointment: 31.08.2021

Held Office till: 01.09.2024





Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna being administered the oath of office as the 51st Chief Justice of India on 11 November 2024, by Her Excellency Smt. Droupadi Murmu, President of India at a ceremony held in the Rashtrapati Bhawan

CHAPTER 2

Supreme Court: An Overview

The Indian judicial system operates as a unified structure, comprising the Supreme Court, High Courts, and District Courts. The Constitution of India outlines the provisions related to courts in three parts: Chapter IV of Part V addresses the Union Judiciary, Chapter V of Part VI covers the High Courts at the state level, and Chapter VI of Part VI pertains to the District Judiciary. The judiciary follows a hierarchical, pyramid-like structure. At the top stands the Supreme Court, which functions as the guardian of fundamental rights and the highest appellate body for civil and criminal matters. Below it are the High Courts at the state level, and further down are the District Courts, Courts of Judicial Magistrates, and Special Courts, which administer justice at the grassroots level. Together, these courts are responsible for adjudicating thousands of legal disputes daily.

Evolution of Judicial System in India

The foundations of any judicial system rest on law, and Indian law can trace its roots back to the Vedic period (around 1500 BCE), where legal principles were derived from the Vedas. These early codes, based on dharma (righteousness), provided moral and ethical guidelines for society. Texts such as the Manusmriti and Dharmashastras were pivotal in shaping social norms and legal practices during this era. One of the earliest works on jurisprudence and governance is Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, dating back to around 300 BCE.

The arrival of Islamic rule brought a significant shift in the Indian legal system. Islamic law, or Sharia, began to coexist with indigenous laws. The *Fatawa-e-Alamgiri*, compiled during the Mughal period, was a crucial document for legal administration, blending Islamic and indigenous principles.

The colonial era, starting in the late 18th century, marked a turning point in India's legal evolution. The British East India Company introduced English common law and statutory law. The Regulation Act of 1773, enacted by the King of England, led to the establishment of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta. A Letters Patent issued on 26 March 1774 officially established the court, which had full authority to hear and resolve complaints under existing laws, as well as to address any legal actions against His Majesty's subjects in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa (now Odisha). Similar courts were later established in Madras and Bombay by King George III on 26 December 1800 and 8 December 1823, respectively.

After the 1857 revolt, power shifted from the East India Company to the British Crown, leading to changes in the judicial system. The Indian High Courts Act, 1861, established High Courts in provinces, replacing the earlier Supreme Courts. High Courts were created in Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras, with subsequent establishments in other provinces like Lahore, Nagpur and Patna.



Appeals from British-Indian courts were heard by the Privy Council in Britain. However, due to the inconvenience and cost of such appeals, demands for a Federal Court in India arose. Although, the Federal Court of India (created under the Government of India Act, 1935) began functioning from 1 October 1937, there was still a right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London from the Federal Court of India.

Post-independence, the Constitution of India, adopted in 1950, established the Supreme Court of India as the apex judicial authority, replacing the Federal Court. The Supreme Court was designed to safeguard the country's social revolution and hold all judicial powers at the national level.

On 28 January 1950, the inauguration of Supreme Court of India took place in the Chamber of Princes in the old Parliament building, which earlier housed India's Parliament. The inauguration was graced by the Judges of the Federal Court - Chief Justice Harilal J. Kania and Justices Saiyid Fazl

Ali, M. Patanjali Sastri, Mehr Chand Mahajan, Bijan Kumar Mukherjea and S.R. Das. They were joined by the Prime Minister, other Ministers, Ambassadors, diplomatic representatives of foreign States, the Chief Justices of the High Courts of Allahabad, Bombay, Madras, Orissa, Assam, Nagpur, Punjab, Saurashtra, Patiala and the East Punjab States Union, Mysore, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat and Travancore-Cochin. The then Attorney General for India, Mr. M.C. Setalvad was also part of the event alongwith the Advocate General of several States, a large number of Senior and other Advocates of the Court and other distinguished visitors.

Seat of The Supreme Court of India

After its inauguration on 28 January 1950, the Supreme Court commenced its sittings in a part of the Parliament House. The Court moved into the present building in 1958. The building is shaped to project the image of scales of justice and has a 27.6 metre high dome and a spacious colonnaded verandah. The Central Wing of the



building is the Centre Beam of the Scales. The Chief Justice's Court is the largest of the Courts located in the Centre of the Central Wing.

Supreme Court At Present

Article 124 of the Indian Constitution sets out the eligibility criteria and appointment process for Supreme Court judges. To qualify, an individual must be a citizen of India and should have served as a Judge of a High Court, or of two or more such courts in succession, for at least five years, or must have been an Advocate in a High Court or in two or more such courts in succession for a minimum of ten years. Additionally, the President may appoint a person deemed a distinguished jurist. This process ensures that only highly qualified individuals can ascend to the nation's highest judicial office.

The Constitution safeguards the independence of Supreme Court judges in several ways. A Judge of the Supreme Court cannot be removed from office except by an order of the President passed

after an address in each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting, and presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Retired judges are prohibited from practicing law in any court or authority in India, further preserving their independence. The retirement age for Supreme Court judges is set at 65 years. There is also a provision for appointment of adhoc Judges under Article 127, and attendance of retired Judges at sittings, under Article 128.

The powers and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court are extensive, making it the highest judicial authority in the country. Under Article 129, as a court of record, it has the authority to punish for contempt and holds all the powers inherent to such a court. Its appellate jurisdiction covers all courts and tribunals in India, and it handles appeals on civil, criminal, and constitutional matters from the High Courts. Article 136 gives

the Court wide discretionary powers to grant special leave to appeal, allowing it to intervene in cases that may not strictly adhere to technical legal standards but require justice to be done.

The Supreme Court also exercises writ jurisdiction under Article 32, empowering it to enforce fundamental rights. Additionally, it has advisory jurisdiction under Article 143, allowing it to offer legal counsel to the President on matters of public significance or disputes related to pre-constitutional treaties. Furthermore, under Article 137, the Supreme Court has the power to review any judgment pronounced or order made by it.

One of the Supreme Court's most significant functions is judicial review, which allows it to invalidate legislation or executive actions that violate the Constitution or fundamental rights. Article 142 grants the Court the power to pass any order or decree necessary for achieving "complete justice" in any case, while Article 144 requires all civil and judicial authorities to act in aid of the Supreme Court. Furthermore, under Article 141, the law declared by the

Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the country.

The Supreme Court's proceedings are conducted in English, and its operations are governed by the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, as well as the 'Handbook on Practice and Procedure.' Both documents are available on the official Supreme Court website, www.sci.gov.in, and provide detailed guidelines on the day-to-day functioning of the Court and its Registry. These provisions ensure the effective administration of justice and the Court's pivotal role in upholding the Constitution and the rule of law in India.

Judges of The Supreme Court of India

The present sanctioned strength of Supreme Court Judges is 34 comprising the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and thirty-three Hon'ble Judges. The sanctioned strength of the Judges in the Supreme Court at the time of its inception was eight. This was increased from time to time by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

Constitutional Provision/Acts	Sanctioned Strength of Judges	Bill No.
Article 124, Constitution of India	Chief Justice + 7 Judges = 8	
Act No. 55/1956	Chief Justice + 10 Judges = 11	Lok Sabha Bill No. 44/1956
Act No. 17/1960	Chief Justice + 13 Judges = 14	Lok Sabha Bill No. V/1960
Act No. 48/1977	Chief Justice + 17 Judges = 18	Lok Sabha Bill No. 135/1977
Act No. 22/1986	Chief Justice + 25 Judges = 26	Lok Sabha Bill No. 157/1985
Act No. 11/2009	Chief Justice + 30 Judges = 31	Lok Sabha Bill No. 41/2008
Act No. 37 /2019	Chief Justice + 33 Judges = 34	Lok Sabha Bill No. 191- F/2019

Former Judges

The Supreme Court since its inception has been nurtured and served by the judicial vision of

50 Hon'ble Chief Justices and 195 Hon'ble Judges besides the present sanctioned strength of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and 33 Hon'ble Judges.

Retired Hon'ble Chief Justices (Arranged According to Seniority)

S. No.	Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Appointment as C.J.I.	Held Office Till
1.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harilal Jekisundas Kania	26/01/1950	26/01/1950	06/11/1951*
2.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Patanjali Sastri	26/01/1950	07/11/1951	03/01/1954
3.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan	26/01/1950	04/01/1954	22/12/1954
4.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bijan Kumar Mukherjea	26/01/1950	23/12/1954	31/01/1956**
5.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das	26/01/1950	01/02/1956	30/09/1959
6.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhuvneshwar Prasad Sinha	03/12/1954	01/10/1959	31/01/1964
7.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.B. Gajendragadkar	17/01/1957	01/02/1964	15/03/1966
8.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sarkar	04/03/1957	16/03/1966	29/06/1966
9.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Subba Rao	31/01/1958	30/06/1966	11/04/1967**
10.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.N. Wanchoo	11/08/1958	12/04/1967	24/02/1968
11.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Hidayatullah	01/12/1958	25/02/1968	16/12/1970
12.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.C. Shah	12/10/1959	17/12/1970	21/01/1971
13.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.M. Sikri	03/02/1964	22/01/1971	25/04/1973
14.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.N. Ray	01/08/1969	26/04/1973	28/01/1977
15.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Hameedullah Beg	10/12/1971	29/01/1977	21/02/1978
16.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud	28/08/1972	22/02/1978	11/07/1985
17.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N. Bhagwati	17/07/1973	12/07/1985	20/12/1986
18.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.S. Pathak	20/02/1978	21/12/1986	18/06/1989**
19.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice E.S. Venkataramiah	08/03/1979	19/06/1989	17/12/1989
20.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sabyasachi Mukherji	15/03/1983	18/12/1989	25/09/1990*
21.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranganath Misra	15/03/1983	25/09/1990	24/11/1991
22.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.N. Singh	10/03/1986	25/11/1991	12/12/1991
23.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.H. Kania	01/05/1987	13/12/1991	17/11/1992
24.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice L.M. Sharma	05/10/1987	18/11/1992	11/02/1993
25.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah	05/10/1987	12/02/1993	24/10/1994
26.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Ahmadi	14/12/1988	25/10/1994	24/03/1997

S. No.	Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Appointment as C.J.I.	Held Office Till
27.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.S. Verma	03/06/1989	25/03/1997	17/01/1998
28.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Punchhi	06/10/1989	18/01/1998	09/10/1998
29.	Hon'ble Dr. Justice A.S. Anand	18/11/1991	10/10/1998	31/10/2001
30.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Bharucha	01/07/1992	01/11/2001	05/05/2002
31.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.N. Kirpal	11/09/1995	06/05/2002	07/11/2002
32.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.B. Pattanaik	11/09/1995	08/11/2002	18/12/2002
33.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.N. Khare	21/03/1997	19/12/2002	01/05/2004
34.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Rajendra Babu	25/09/1997	02/05/2004	31/05/2004
35.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti	09/12/1998	01/06/2004	31/10/2005
36.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Y.K. Sabharwal	28/01/2000	01/11/2005	13/01/2007
37.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan	08/06/2000	14/01/2007	11/05/2010
38.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.H. Kapadia	18/12/2003	12/05/2010	28/09/2012
39.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Altamas Kabir	09/09/2005	29/09/2012	18/07/2013
40.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sathasivam	21/08/2007	19/07/2013	26/04/2014
41.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Mal Lodha	17/12/2008	27/04/2014	27/09/2014
42.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu	17/12/2008	28/09/2014	02/12/2015
43.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur	17/11/2009	03/12/2015	03/01/2017
44.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.S. Khehar	13/09/2011	04/01/2017	27/08/2017
45.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra	10/10/2011	28/08/2017	02/10/2018
46.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi	23/04/2012	03/10/2018	17/11/2019
47.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde	12/04/2013	18/11/2019	23/04/2021
48.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana	17/02/2014	24/04/2021	26/08/2022
49.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday U. Lalit	13/08/2014	27/08/2022	08/11/2022
50.	Hon'ble Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud	13/05/2016	09/11/2022	10/11/2024

* Date of Death

** Date of Resignation

Retired Hon'ble Judges (Arranged According to Seniority)

S. No.	Name of the Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment	Held Office Till
1.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sir Syed Fazl Ali	26/01/1950	18/09/1951
2.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Chandrasekhara Aiyar	23/09/1950	24/01/1953
3.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivian Bose	05/03/1951	08/06/1956
4.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ghulam Hasan	08/09/1952	05/11/1954*
5.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Natwarlal Harilal Bhagwati	08/09/1952	06/08/1959
6.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Jagannadhadas	09/03/1953	26/07/1958
7.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.L. Venkatarama Aiyyar	04/01/1954	24/11/1958
8.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Jaffer Imam	10/01/1955	31/01/1964**
9.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Das	30/04/1956	02/09/1963
10.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Govinda Menon	01/09/1956	16/10/1957*
11.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.L. Kapur	14/01/1957	12/12/1962
12.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.C. Das Gupta	24/08/1959	02/01/1965
13.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raghubar Dayal	27/07/1960	25/10/1965
14.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Rajagopala Ayyangar	27/07/1960	14/12/1964
15.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.R. Madholkar	03/10/1960	03/07/1966**
16.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.S. Bachawat	07/09/1964	31/07/1969
17.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramaswami	04/01/1965	29/10/1969
18.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Satyanarayana Raju	20/10/1965	20/04/1966*
19.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.M. Shelat	24/02/1966	30/04/1973**
20.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vishishtha Bhargava	08/08/1966	04/02/1971
21.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.K. Mitter	29/08/1966	23/09/1971
22.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.A. Vaidyalingam	10/10/1966	29/06/1972
23.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.S. Hegde	17/07/1967	30/04/1973**
24.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.N. Grover	11/02/1968	31/05/1973**
25.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Jaganmohan Reddy	01/08/1969	22/01/1975
26.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.D. Dua	01/08/1969	03/10/1972
27.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subimal Chandra Roy	19/07/1971	12/11/1971*
28.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.G. Palekar	19/07/1971	03/09/1974
29.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hans Raj Khanna	22/09/1971	12/03/1977**
30.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kuttyil Kurien Mathew	04/10/1971	02/01/1976

31.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.N. Dwivedi	14/08/1972	08/12/1974*
32.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Mukherjea	14/08/1972	23/10/1973*
33.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Alagiriswami	17/10/1972	16/10/1975
34.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer	17/07/1973	14/11/1980
35.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.K. Goswami	10/09/1973	31/12/1977
36.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.S. Sarkaria	17/09/1973	15/01/1981
37.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.C. Gupta	02/09/1974	31/12/1981
38.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.L. Untwalia	03/10/1974	31/07/1980
39.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Murtaza Fazal Ali	02/04/1975	20/08/1985*
40.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N. Shingal	06/11/1975	14/10/1980
41.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jaswant Singh	23/01/1976	24/01/1979
42.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S. Kailasam	03/01/1977	11/09/1980
43.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.D. Tulzapurkar	30/09/1977	08/03/1986
44.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.A. Desai	30/09/1977	08/05/1985
45.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.D. Koshal	17/07/1978	06/03/1982
46.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy	17/07/1978	24/09/1987
47.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Sen	17/07/1978	19/09/1988
48.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Baharul Islam	04/12/1980	12/01/1983**
49.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Varadarajan	10/12/1980	16/08/1985
50.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amarendra Nath Sen	28/01/1981	30/09/1985
51.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi	30/01/1981	18/06/1987
52.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.B. Misra	30/01/1981	14/06/1986
53.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.P. Madon	15/03/1983	06/04/1986
54.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.P. Thakkar	15/03/1983	03/11/1988
55.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Khalid	25/06/1984	30/06/1987
56.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.L. Oza	29/10/1985	11/12/1989
57.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.C. Ray	29/10/1985	31/10/1991
58.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Dutt	10/03/1986	29/10/1989
59.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Natarajan	10/03/1986	28/10/1989
60.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Jagannatha Shetty	01/05/1987	14/12/1991
61.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ranganathan	05/10/1987	30/10/1992
62.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.D. Ojha	18/01/1988	18/01/1991
63.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian	14/12/1988	12/03/1994
64.	Hon'ble Dr. Justice T.K. Thommen	14/12/1988	25/09/1993

65.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.N. Saikia	14/12/1988	28/02/1991
66.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kuldip Singh	14/12/1988	31/12/1996
67.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramaswami	06/10/1989	14/02/1994
68.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.B. Sawant	06/10/1989	29/06/1995
69.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.M. Kasliwal	06/10/1989	03/04/1993
70.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Ramaswamy	06/10/1989	12/07/1997
71.	Hon'ble Ms. Justice M. Fathima Beevi	06/10/1989	29/04/1992
72.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Jayachandra Reddy	11/01/1990	14/07/1994
73.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.C. Agrawal	11/01/1990	04/09/1998
74.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.M. Sahai	11/01/1990	24/06/1995
75.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yogeshwar Dayal	22/03/1991	02/08/1994*
76.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Mohan	07/10/1991	10/02/1995
77.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy	07/10/1991	13/03/1997
78.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.N. Ray	07/10/1991	30/04/1998
79.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Patnaik	03/12/1991	30/05/1992*
80.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.P. Singh	15/06/1992	24/12/1996
81.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Venkatachala	01/07/1992	02/07/1995
82.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.K. Mukherjee	14/12/1993	30/11/1998
83.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Faizan Uddin	14/12/1993	04/02/1997
84.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.L. Hansaria	14/12/1993	24/12/1996
85.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.C. Sen	11/06/1994	20/12/1997
86.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.S. Paripoornan	11/06/1994	11/06/1997
87.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.B. Majmudar	19/09/1994	19/08/2000
88.	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sujata V. Manohar	08/11/1994	27/08/1999
89.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.T. Nanavati	06/03/1995	16/02/2000
90.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Saghir Ahmad	06/03/1995	30/06/2000
91.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Venkataswami	06/03/1995	18/09/1999
92.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Kurdukar	29/03/1996	15/01/2000
93.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.T. Thomas	29/03/1996	29/01/2002
94.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Jagannadha Rao	21/03/1997	01/12/2000
95.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.P. Wadhwa	21/03/1997	04/05/2000
96.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Srinivasan	25/09/1997	25/02/2000*
97.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Prakash Misra	04/12/1997	31/08/2001
98.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.S.M. Quadri	04/12/1997	04/04/2003

99.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.B. Shah	09/12/1998	24/09/2003
100.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.P. Mohapatra	09/12/1998	02/08/2002
101.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.C. Banerjee	09/12/1998	17/11/2002
102.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Santosh Hegde	08/01/1999	15/06/2005
103.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.P. Sethi	08/01/1999	06/07/2002
104.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.N. Phukan	28/01/1999	31/03/2002
105.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Doraiswamy Raju	28/01/2000	01/07/2004
106.	Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Ruma Pal	28/01/2000	02/06/2006
107.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.N. Variava	15/03/2000	07/11/2005
108.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shivaraj V. Patil	15/03/2000	11/01/2005
109.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brijesh Kumar	19/10/2000	09/06/2004
110.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.N. Agrawal	19/10/2000	14/10/2009
111.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Venkatarama Reddi	17/08/2001	09/08/2005
112.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Bhan	17/08/2001	01/10/2008
113.	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Arijit Pasayat	19/10/2001	09/05/2009
114.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Singh	14/12/2001	08/07/2007
115.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.M. Dharmadhikari	05/03/2002	13/08/2005
116.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.K. Sema	09/04/2002	31/05/2008
117.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.B. Sinha	03/10/2002	07/08/2009
118.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar	03/10/2002	11/04/2006
119.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.N. Srikrishna	03/10/2002	20/05/2006
120.	Hon'ble Dr. Justice AR. Lakshmanan	20/12/2002	21/03/2007
121.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.P. Mathur	20/12/2002	18/01/2008
122.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Mathur	07/06/2004	06/08/2008
123.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.K. Thakker	07/06/2004	09/11/2008
124.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarun Chatterjee	27/08/2004	13/01/2010
125.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.K. Balasubramanyan	27/08/2004	27/08/2007
126.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.P. Naolekar	27/08/2004	28/06/2008
127.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.V. Raveendran	09/09/2005	14/10/2011
128.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dalveer Bhandari	28/10/2005	27/04/2012**
129.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lokeshwar Singh Panta	03/02/2006	22/04/2009
130.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.K. Jain	10/04/2006	24/01/2013
131.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Markandey Katju	10/04/2006	19/09/2011
132.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.S. Bedi	12/01/2007	04/09/2011

133.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.S. Sirpurkar	12/01/2007	21/08/2011
134.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Sudershan Reddy	12/01/2007	07/07/2011
135.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.S. Singhvi	12/11/2007	11/12/2013
136.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab Alam	12/11/2007	18/04/2013
137.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.M. Panchal	12/11/2007	05/10/2011
138.	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Mukundakam Sharma	09/04/2008	17/09/2011
139.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Cyriac Joseph	07/07/2008	27/01/2012
140.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Ganguly	17/12/2008	02/02/2012
141.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Verma	11/05/2009	27/08/2012
142.	Hon'ble Dr. Justice B.S. Chauhan	11/05/2009	01/07/2014
143.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Patnaik	17/11/2009	02/06/2014
144.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan	17/11/2009	14/05/2014
145.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.S. Nijjar	17/11/2009	06/06/2014
146.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar	18/12/2009	19/12/2012**
147.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.K. Prasad	08/02/2010	14/07/2014
148.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.L. Gokhale	30/04/2010	09/03/2014
149.	Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Gyan Sudha Misra	30/04/2010	27/04/2014
150.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave	30/04/2010	18/11/2016
151.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. J. Mukhopadhyaya	13/09/2011	14/03/2015
152.	Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai	13/09/2011	29/10/2014
153.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jasti Chelameswar	10/10/2011	22/06/2018
154.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice F.M. Ibrahim Kalifulla	02/04/2012	22/07/2016
155.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur	04/06/2012	30/12/2018
156.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.Y. Eqbal	24/12/2012	12/02/2016
157.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Gopala Gowda	24/12/2012	05/10/2016
158.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikramajit Sen	24/12/2012	30/12/2015
159.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose	08/03/2013	27/05/2017
160.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph	08/03/2013	29/11/2018
161.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri	12/04/2013	06/03/2019
162.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shiva Kirti Singh	19/09/2013	12/11/2016
163.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Nagappan	19/09/2013	03/10/2016
164.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.K. Agrawal	17/02/2014	04/05/2018
165.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Mishra	07/07/2014	02/09/2020
166.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel	07/07/2014	06/07/2018

167.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.F. Nariman	07/07/2014	12/08/2021
168.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre	13/08/2014	27/08/2019
169.	Hon'ble Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi	13/08/2014	19/07/2020
170.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prafulla C. Pant	13/08/2014	29/08/2017
171.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Roy	27/02/2015	28/02/2018
172.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar	13/05/2016	29/07/2022
173.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Bhushan	13/05/2016	04/07/2021
174.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. Nageswara Rao	13/05/2016	07/06/2022
175.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar	13/05/2016	29/07/2022
176.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul	17/02/2017	25/12/2023
177.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar	17/02/2017	24/04/2021*
178.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Abdul Nazeer	17/02/2017	04/01/2023
179.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Sinha	17/02/2017	18/08/2021
180.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta	17/02/2017	06/05/2020
181.	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indu Malhotra	27/04/2018	13/03/2021
182.	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee	07/08/2018	23/09/2022
183.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vineet Saran	07/08/2018	10/05/2022
184.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph	07/08/2018	16/06/2023
185.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant Gupta	02/11/2018	16/10/2022
186.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Subhash Reddy	02/11/2018	04/01/2022
187.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mukeshkumar Rasikbhai Shah	02/11/2018	15/05/2023
188.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi	02/11/2018	17/06/2023
189.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari	18/01/2019	14/05/2023
190.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose	24/05/2019	10/04/2024
191.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Bopanna	24/05/2019	19/05/2024
192.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishna Murari	23/09/2019	08/07/2023
193.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat	23/09/2019	20/10/2023
194.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian	23/09/2019	29/06/2023
195.	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli	31/08/2021	01/09/2024

* Date of Death

** Date of Resignation





CHAPTER 3

Commemorating 75 Years of the Supreme Court

As the Supreme Court of India approaches its 75th anniversary, a series of commemorative events were organised. Including Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Second Edition of the Supreme Court's Annual Lecture Series, Seminars at National Level including Conference of Judicial Officers from all over the country at Kachchh, Gujarat, and National Conference of the District Judiciary held in Delhi. International Conferences including Conference on Technology and Dialogue between the Supreme Courts of India and Singapore, Discussion for Indo-Singapore Symposium, Legal Aid initiatives like Special Lok Adalat, and Legal literacy programmes like screening of films *Laapataa Ladies* and *12th Fail*.

Beyond this, through legal internships, essay writing competitions, moot court competitions, and other interactive methods the Court aims to expose students and young minds to the various nuances of law to instil interest and encourage inquisitiveness.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

On 28 January 2024, the Supreme Court marked the commencement of the Diamond Jubilee Year. The celebration began in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and the Judges of the Supreme Court.



28 January 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud presents a memento to the Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi in the presence of the Judges of the Supreme Court, Minister of State for Law and Justice (I/C), President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Chairman of the Bar Council of India, at the commencement of Diamond Jubilee Year celebrations



28 January 2024, Prime Minister of India, Former Chief Justice of India, Judges of the Supreme Court, Minister of State for Law and Justice (I/C), Attorney General of India, Solicitor General of India, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, and Chairman, Bar Council of India at the commencement of Diamond Jubilee Year celebrations

During the celebrations, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud delivered a profound address expressing gratitude to the dignitaries and recognising the historical significance of the occasion. Former Chief Justice of India underscored the foundational principles embedded in the Constitution and acknowledged the Court's role in combating injustice, interpreting laws following the rule of law, and its efforts to enhance accessibility through landmark judgments. Briefly summarising the achievements of the court, Former Chief Justice of India mentioned that the e-filing platform, which was launched in May 2023, offers a host of improved features making filing cases simpler, expeditious, convenient, and accessible 24x7. Due to this, the Supreme Court experienced a substantial increase in e-filings, with nearly 1,28,000 filings to date. Currently, e-filing facilities are available in 25 States, resulting in a remarkable 29 lakh cases being e-filed.

Former Chief Justice of India highlighted the successful adoption of e-office, with thirty-six branches of the Supreme Court Registry onboard and 4,000 office files processed online. With the

introduction of the SuSwagatam portal, visitors now generate passes online in paperless mode, with 1,23,000 entry passes generated so far. Further, the Supreme Court has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras to explore areas that can be completely automated to leverage technology and Artificial Intelligence for enhancing efficiency.

Former Chief Justice of India concluded his address by highlighting four concerns: first, moving away from an adjournment culture towards a culture of professionalism in Courts; second, ensuring that the length of oral arguments does not interminably delay judicial outcomes and lead to the capture of judicial institutions by the powerful and the mighty; third, the provision of a level playing field for first generation lawyers, especially those from marginalised segments of society who have the will to work hard and the potential to succeed; and fourth, to begin the conversation on long vacations and to decide, in consultation with the Bar, whether alternatives such as flexi-time for lawyers and judges are possible.

Ceremonial Bench -Commemorating the first sitting of the Supreme Court

Over the span of seventy-five years since its inception, the Supreme Court has undergone profound transformations, both in its structure and in the legal framework within which it operates. From a modest beginning with six Judges, it has now expanded to a formidable strength of thirty-four. In its nascent stages, even preliminary hearings were conducted by a Bench of six, addressing a caseload of around 1,215 cases in 1950, with judgments pronounced in only a fraction of those.

Second Edition of the Supreme Court's Annual Lecture Series

On 10 February 2024, the Supreme Court of India hosted the second edition of its Annual Lecture Series. Ms Hilary Charlesworth, Judge, International Court of Justice, served as the Chief Guest and delivered a lecture titled 'The International Court of Justice: A Legal Forum in a Political Environment.'

The event began with an opening address by Justice Surya Kant. Dr D Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India, shared his memories of Judge Charlesworth from their time together at Harvard Law School, where they both earned their LLM and doctorate degrees in the 1980s.

Lecture by Hilary Charlesworth



Ms Hilary Charlesworth, a Judge of the International Court of Justice, delivers the second edition of the Supreme Court's Annual Lecture Series

Ms Hilary Charlesworth, a Judge of the International Court of Justice delivered the second edition of the Supreme Court's Annual Lecture Series. During her talk, she examined the history of the International Court of Justice, which replaced the former Permanent Court of International Justice. She also referred to how the Permanent Court of Arbitration was established after successful Hague Peace Conferences in 1899 and 1907, which were initiated by Czar Nicholas II of Russia, and is still operational today.



28 January 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud chaired a Ceremonial Bench with Supreme Court Judges and the Chief Justices of 25 High Courts across the country to commemorate the first sitting of the Supreme Court

Explaining the difference between 'compulsory jurisdiction' and 'voluntary jurisdiction' concerning the International Court of Justice, Judge Charlesworth indicated the limitation with which the International Court of Justice works.

".....all 193 members of the United Nations are automatically parties to the Court's statute. But that doesn't necessarily mean that they accept the Court's jurisdiction. There was some discussion whether the Court should have compulsory jurisdiction during the drafting of the United Nation Charter at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. And that position, the Court having compulsory jurisdiction, was certainly championed by smaller states such as Australia and New Zealand. But ultimately the view of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom prevailed and that was, the jurisdiction should be voluntary and that's the situation today....."

Recognising the Indian Judges' role at the International Court of Justice, Judge Charlesworth recalled a significant case involving Judge Nagendra Singh, then President of the International Court of Justice. He presided over a case between the United States and Nicaragua, where the U.S. was found guilty of breaking international law by supporting rebels against the Nicaraguan government and mining its harbours. Despite the U.S. arguing that the issue should be resolved politically, the Court made a legal ruling.

Judge Charlesworth also noted that Judge Nagendra Singh had the longest tenure among Indian judges at the International Court of Justice. She also highlighted the roles played by ad-hoc judges like Judge Mohamed Ali Currim Chagla, who served on the International Court during

the Right of Passage case between Portugal and India in 1960, and Judge B P Jeevan Reddy, who was part of the Court's bench for the Aerial Incident matter between India and Pakistan in 1999.

Focussing on the operation of International Law, Judge Charlesworth discussed various criticisms that the International Court of Justice faces. She mentions, "International law operates in an intensely political context and its principles are more the product of politics than true law." In this view, Judges of International Courts are often taken out of the purely legal realm and called on to make political decisions. This criticism isn't peculiar of course to international law, emphasised Judge Charlesworth. "In several domestic jurisdictions including Australia it's sometimes argued that the courts, especially the appellate courts, should keep at arm's-length a category of questions that are incapable of legal decisions, questions that are deemed non-justiciable."

The key highlight of the Judge Hilary Charlesworth's lecture was her concern over the limited representation of women at the International Court of Justice.

"The International Court of Justice has a poor record in attention to gender balance. In almost eight decades just six women have been elected to the Court while 109 men have been elected at the same time. Today ... Professor Sarah Hull Cleveland has joined us, so we are still four women and eleven men."

Judge Charlesworth said that judicial independence in the international context was aimed at eliminating any non-legal considerations that might affect a judge's reasoning. In this regard, she hailed national jurisdictions like India for being independent and introspective

and urged the International Court of Justice to draw inspiration from such national jurisdictions. She concluded her lecture by observing:

"Supreme Court's courageous capacity of introspection which, to quote, the Chief Justice's recent talk at the ceremonial sitting, and I quote from him, 'introspection is the art of bringing the seemingly unattainable within the line of vision' this it seems to me is a vital quality—introspection for true judicial independence."

Conference on Technology and Dialogue between the Supreme Courts of India and Singapore



13-14 April 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addresses the Conference on Technology and Dialogue between the Supreme Courts of India and Singapore

The Supreme Court of India organised a two-day conference on Technology and Dialogue between the Supreme Courts of India and Singapore on 13 and 14 April 2024. The landmark conference aimed to explore the intersection of technology and the legal system, particularly focusing on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in judiciary. Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and Chief Justice of Singapore, Justice Sundaresh Menon alongside judges, jurists, and experts engaged in extensive panel discussions covering a wide array of topics

related to AI and its implications upon the legal system, its potential to assist court proceedings, its role in judicial training improving access to justice, ethical considerations surrounding its use, and the future of AI. The two-day conference was divided into 6 panels of jurists and experts discussing a multitude of topics on AI and Judiciary.

Panel 1 – Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the practice of law: Impact of AI on the legal system



Left to right: Urs Gasser, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Technology, Technical University, Munich; Ms Jhalak K Kakkar, Executive Director, Centre for Communication Governance, National Law University, Delhi; Justice Philip Jeyaretnam, Judge, High Court, Singapore; Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore; Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud; Justice Rajiv Shakdher, Judge, High Court of Delhi; Prof (Dr) Rajesh Sreenivasan, Partner, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

Panel 1 delved into the impact of AI and the interactions with a diverse human population in shaping the legal system, stressing the need to balance innovation with policy shaping. The discussions covered the historical development of AI, its usage within and outside the legal system, and the challenges and opportunities it presents. Emphasis was placed on AI as a tool rather than a replacement for legal professionals. The discussions also highlighted the importance of recognising and addressing inherent biases that might become a part of the basic data sets of AI and the need for contextualising AI in diverse cultural and socio-economic settings, especially for South Asian nations. The potential of AI companions in augmenting legal

processes was explored along with the need for critical evaluation, transparency, and ethical considerations in the adoption of AI within the legal framework.

Panel 2 – AI Assisting the work of the courts: Possible harnessing of AI in the courts



Left to right: Dr Anshul Pandey, Co-founder & CTO, Indika AI; Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore; Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud; Justice David Goddard, Judge, Court of Appeal, New Zealand; and Mr Tan Ken Hwee, Chief Transformation and Innovation Officer, Singapore Judiciary

Discussions in Panel 2 focussed on the responsible implementation of generative AI in legal proceedings, such as the small claims tribunal, to enhance access to justice. Potential usages of AI, such as predicting outcomes and reviewing evidence, were also highlighted. Contextualisation of AI in the Indian judiciary was discussed, outlining a solution-based approach to address challenges like reducing case backlogs and improving case listings. AI models showcasing potential for e-filing automation, summarisation, and defects analysis in the Indian legal system were discussed. Stress was also laid upon the importance of cautious AI adoption aligned with core values and constitutional responsibilities, emphasising innovation over automation. JudicialTech and the need for AI-human partnership in judicial processes were also discussed, deliberating on technologies like blockchain and federated computing to enhance judicial efficiency while maintaining

human oversight. Overall, the panel provided a comprehensive exploration of the use of AI for completing legal processes, and AI's potential in the legal domain.

Panel 3 – AI in judicial training and education: Potential use of AI in training and education of judges



Left to right: Prof V Kamakoti, Director, IIT, Madras; Mr Justin Yeo, District Judge and Executive Director, Singapore Judicial College; Justice Goh Yihan, Judge High Court, Singapore; Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore; Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud; Justice M Sundar, Judge, High Court, Madras

The panel discussion on AI in judicial training and education provided a comprehensive overview of the current landscape and future prospects. The imperative of ongoing learning for judges amidst rapid technological advancements was highlighted, along with initiatives to familiarise judges with AI through practical experiences and seminars. The potential of AI to enhance access to justice and streamline judicial processes was underscored, with emphasis on ethical AI practices and diverse datasets. The discussion reinforced the need to teach about AI's legal implications and preservation of human judgment in legal decision-making. The panel underscored various AI applications in judicial processes, coupled with caveats regarding AI's limitations, and suggested a blended approach with human judges. Overall, the panel discussed the potential benefits of AI in judicial training and education, and the importance of responsible implementation and continued centrality of human judgment in the legal system.

Panel 4 - Harnessing AI technology to promote Access to Justice: The Work of Harvey, the Indian Judiciary, and the Singapore Judiciary in Promoting Access to Justice



Left to right: Justice K V Viswanathan, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Ms N S Nappinai, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Justice Aedit Abdullah, Judge, High Court of Singapore; Justice Sundareswaran Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore; Former Chief Justice of India, Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud; Mr Winston Weinberg, Chief Executive Officer, Harvey; Mr Rajesh Kripalani, Director, Drew & Napier LLC

The panel discussion brought together a diverse range of perspectives on the intersection of AI and the judiciary. Key points discussed included: leveraging AI to streamline legal processes, improve decision-making, and promote equitable outcomes. The panel emphasised a cautious but proactive approach in integrating AI into the legal framework to maximise its benefits. Future challenges and accountability issues entailing such integration were also delved into.

Panel 5 - Ethical Issue and risk in the use of AI: Mechanisms to safeguard against risk



Left to right: Mr Jerrold Soh, Assistant Professor, Singapore Management University; Justice Philip Jeyaretnam, Judge, High Court of Singapore; Justice Sundareswaran Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore; Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud; Justice David Goddard, Judge, Court of Appeal, New Zealand; Mr Dirk Hartung, Executive Director, Center for Legal Technology and Data Science, Bucerius Law School, Germany

The panel discussion on ethical issues and risks in the use of AI underscored the importance of addressing critical concerns associated with integration of AI in legal systems. Transparency and accountability were identified as critical challenges due to the opacity of AI algorithms. Key points during the discussion included the potential for AI to perpetuate systemic injustices and discrimination, as well as embedded biases within algorithms and data. The panel stressed the importance of balancing AI's potential benefits with ethical considerations and to approach AI integration into legal systems with caution and accountability.

Panel 6 - Future Trend and Possibilities



Left to right: Justice Sundareswaran Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore; Mr Tan Ken Hwee, Chief Transformation and Innovation Officer, Singapore Judiciary; Mr Winston Weinberg, Chief Executive Officer, Harvey; Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud; Justice David Goddard, Judge, Court of Appeal, New Zealand; Mr Dirk Hartung, Executive Director, Center for Legal Technology and Data Science, Bucerius Law School, Germany; Prof (Dr) Urs Gasser, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Technology, Technical University, Munich

The panel discussed AI's imminent integration into the legal system, highlighting its role in enhancing decision-making and addressing complexities. The speakers emphasised upon the empowerment of individuals through socially anchored systems, ensuring accessibility and understanding of laws while augmenting their adaptability and learning capabilities. They stressed a user-centric

approach in designing AI systems to align with ethical considerations and trustworthiness, underscoring AI's transformative potential in improving legal efficiency while upholding human judgment.

Supreme Court Law Clerks' Moot Court Competition

The Supreme Court of India organised the first ever 'Supreme Court Law Clerks' Moot Court Competition 2024' on 27 and 28 April 2024. The initiative was aimed at enhancing the advocacy skills of Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates working in the chambers of the Supreme Court Judges and the Registry of the Supreme Court.



28 April 2024, Justice P S Narasimha and Ms Rebecca John, Senior Advocate, felicitate the winners of the first Supreme Court Law Clerks' Moot Court Competition 2024



28 April 2024, Justice P S Narasimha and Ms Rebecca John, Senior Advocate, felicitate the runners-up of the first Supreme Court Law Clerks' Moot Court Competition 2024

Special Lok Adalat

For seventy-five years, the Supreme Court of India has been a sentinel of justice, upholding the rule of law. Therefore, as part of the series of activities to commemorate the 75th year of the establishment of this institution, the Court organised a mega settlement drive by way of Special Lok Adalat from 29 July to 3 August to assist the parties in resolving their cases by mutually accepted settlements.

Commencement of the Special Lok Adalat drive

The Special Lok Adalat commenced on Monday, 29 July 2024 with seven benches. Each bench consisted of Supreme Court Judges, Senior Advocates of the Court, and members of the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association. The Benches sat among the advocates and litigants and conciliated the matters listed for the day resulting in 194 settlements on the very first day. In light of the caseload, the Benches were increased, with sixteen courts functioning on the penultimate day of the drive. The whole drive had the involvement of 27 judges and 88 members of the Bar leading to settlement and disposal of approximately thousand cases.

Concluding Ceremony of the Special Lok Adalat Week

The weeklong Special Lok Adalat concluded on 3 August 2024 with a ceremony held in the Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court. On this momentous occasion, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice C T Ravikumar, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice Augustine George Masih along with the Union Minister for Law and Justice (I/C), Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal graced the occasion.

Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud in his address during the concluding ceremony



Group photo of Supreme Court Judges, Senior Advocates of the Court, and members of the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association during the Special Lok Adalat drive

of the Special Lok Adalat shared the journey, starting from the time when he first mooted the idea to conduct the Lok Adalat to sharing success stories from the weeklong event. He stressed on the importance of settlement of disputes for all the stakeholders involved, especially for litigants who suffer from the process of litigation spanning over years. Former Chief Justice of India underscored the importance of the Supreme Court as an institution which allows the common

public access to justice, as was the intention of stalwarts like Dr B R Ambedkar when they first set up the court. According to him, the medium of Lok Adalat not only helps people settle their litigations in an expeditious and party-driven manner but also brings the Apex Court closer to the issues of common people. He therefore spelled out the intention to institutionalise the process and conduct Lok Adalats frequently in the Supreme Court premises.

Special Lok Adalat Week 29 July to 3 August 2024



3 August 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice C T Ravikumar, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice Augustine George Masih along with the Union Minister for Law and Justice (I/C), Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal at the Concluding Ceremony of the Special Lok Adalat Week



DLSA, Bokaro and East Singhbhum, Jharkhand presenting the litigants with the cheques of the settlement award

Compassionate Employments



3 August 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice C T Ravikumar, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice Augustine George Masih along with the Union Minister for Law and Justice, (I/C) Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal present 424 Compassionate Appointment Letters to Coal India Limited (CIL) appointees under its CSR initiatives

Scholarship Awards



3 August 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice C T Ravikumar, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice Augustine George Masih along with the Union Minister for Law and Justice (I/C), Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal present scholarship cheques worth Rs 45,000 per year to 1,645 children who lost their parents to COVID-19 under CIL-ASHIS (Ayushman Shiksha Sahayata) Scheme



23 August 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Judges, Supreme Court of India, Chief Justice of Singapore, Mr Sundaresh Menon, and the Singapore Delegation at the Supreme Court of India for the "Indo-Singapore Symposium"

Discussion for Indo-Singapore Symposium

23 August 2024, the 2nd India-Singapore Judicial Roundtable took place at the Supreme Court of India. The *Indo-Singapore Symposium*, particularly its first session on climate change, signified the

deepening collaboration between two rapidly growing economies, India and Singapore. Both nations are guided by a shared respect for the rule of law, which promotes fairness, economic growth, and foreign investment, thus enhancing legal standards.



23 August 2024, 2nd India-Singapore Judicial Roundtable at Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, C Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

The discourse began with an acknowledgement of the judiciary's evolving role in addressing climate change. In the case of M K Ranjitsinh v Union of India, 2024 INSC 280, the Supreme Court of India has recognised the right against climate change as an integral part of fundamental rights. This acknowledgement is a pivotal step towards balancing ecological needs, such as the preservation of critically endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard, with the demands for renewable energy sources like solar power. This session highlighted that climate change transcends national borders, impacting migration, water scarcity, and overall environmental degradation, thus requiring a global, eco-centric approach.

Laapataa Ladies and 12th Fail special screenings held at Supreme Court of India

As part of its 75th anniversary celebrations, the Supreme Court of India hosted special

screenings of *Laapataa Ladies* on 9 August 2024, and 12th Fail on 25 September 2024, at the C Block Auditorium in the Administrative Buildings Complex. *Laapataa Ladies*, directed by Kiran Rao and produced by Aamir Khan, centres on the themes of gender equality and the challenges women face due to societal biases. Following the screening, a discussion between the filmmakers and Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, highlighted the film's message on gender sensitisation. 12th Fail, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, narrates the inspiring journey of Manoj Kumar Sharma, an IPS officer who overcame academic failure and financial hardships. Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud attended this screening as well, along with Mr Sharma, IRS officer Ms Shraddha Joshi, and actors Vikrant Massey and Medha Shankar. Both screenings aimed to promote dialogue on social issues like gender equality, resilience, and human perseverance, using cinema as a powerful medium for engaging conversations on important social themes.



25 September 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, attended screening of "12th Fail" a movie based on the real life success story of a young person with a weak financial background, who becomes an IPS officer despite all odds at Auditorium, C Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India



9 August 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud (mind behind this initiative), Ms Kiran Rao, Director and Mr Amir Khan, Producer attend screening of 'Laapataa Ladies'; a film based on the theme of gender equality, at Auditorium, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

National Conference of the District Judiciary

The judicial landscape in India saw a major milestone in 2024 with two landmark events that reinforced the commitment to strengthening the judiciary from the grassroots level. The first was the "District Court Judges' Conference" held in Kachchh, Gujarat, followed by the "National Conference of the District Judiciary"(NCDJ) in New Delhi. These conferences, conceptualised under the leadership of Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, underscored the importance of unity and collaboration across all tiers of the judiciary to enhance the administration of justice.

The first event, the "District Court Judges' Conference," took place on March 2–3, 2024, in the serene district of Kachchh, Gujarat. This conference marked a significant milestone, as it was the first time the Supreme Court of India, the High Courts, and the District Judiciary came together for an interactive platform to discuss challenges, share experiences, and offer suggestions for a

more cohesive judicial system. Organised by the Supreme Court in collaboration with the High Court of Gujarat, the event witnessed participation from over 300 District Judges in person, while more than 2,000 judges joined virtually.

The primary focus of the Kachchh conference was to bridge the communication gap between different tiers of the judiciary and foster a sense of collaboration. Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud envisioned this initiative to allow judges across levels to share insights on the judicial process and work towards more effective solutions to challenges faced in courtrooms across the country. The event set the stage for future initiatives aimed at enhancing judicial infrastructure, professional development, and the overall efficiency of India's justice delivery system.

Building on the deliberations of the Kachchh conference, the "National Conference of the District Judiciary"(NCDJ) was organised at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on 31 August and 1 September 2024. This prestigious event brought



Left to Right: Justice Bela M Trivedi, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Surya Kant and the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat, Justice Sunita Agarwal at the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat on 2 March 2024

together over 800 District Judges along with Supreme Court Justices and Chief Justices of High Courts, making it a rare and significant gathering. The NCDJ focused on strengthening the district judiciary, which is often the first point of contact for the majority of litigants in the country. Recognising the pivotal role of district courts in maintaining public trust and ensuring access to justice, the conference addressed pressing issues such as infrastructure, judicial security, case management, and human resource development.

Inaugural Session



31 August 2024, Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi along with Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud releases a stamp of denomination of Rs 10 to commemorate the occasion

The two-day "National Conference of the District Judiciary", organised by the Supreme Court of India, took place from 31 August to 1 September 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the conference on 31 August and unveiled a stamp and a coin commemorating the

Supreme Court's 75th anniversary. The conference, spanning two days, included five sessions covering topics such as infrastructure, human resources, inclusive courtrooms, judicial security, wellness, case management and judicial training. A documentary on the Supreme Court's 75-year history and landmark judgments was also shown. In celebration of the Supreme Court's 75 years, 75 saplings from 12 indigenous varieties were planted in Delhi's Central Ridge Reserve forest area. These saplings were dedicated to President Droupadi Murmu.



31 August 2024, Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi along with Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud release a silver coin of denomination Rs 75 to commemorate the occasion

Session I - Infrastructure and Human Resources

The panelists for this session were Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, and Justice B R Gavai, Judges, Supreme Court of India, Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Justice D Shiraj Singh Thakur and Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, Justice Arun Bhansali. The session commenced with a presentation by Justice Sanjiv Khanna. The presentation provided a

comprehensive overview of the current state of judicial recruitment and court infrastructure, highlighting alarming shortages in both areas, and how these issues contribute to a growing backlog of cases across the country. Principal District Judge of Jabalpur, Krishnamurty Mishra, shared on-the-ground insights, noting that while some districts have seen progress in infrastructure, many courts still lack essential facilities like accessible waiting areas and amenities for women. Dr Sukhda Pritam, Director-cum-Additional Registrar of the Centre for Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India, and Mr Amarendra Kumar, Research Consultant, provided a detailed analysis of the challenges within the judiciary. The presentation included quarterly data illustrating the rising pendency of cases and emphasised that functioning at the sanctioned strength of judges could significantly reduce this backlog. Overall, the session called for a comprehensive approach to modernising the judiciary's physical and human resources.



31 August 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Supreme Court Judges, Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice B R Gavai along with Chief Justice, Andhra Pradesh High Court, Justice D S Thakur and Chief Justice, High Court of Allahabad, Justice Arun Bhansali during the session on 'Judicial Infrastructure and Human Resources' during "National Conference of the District Judiciary"

Session II - Courtrooms For All

The *Courtrooms for All* session emphasised creating inclusive spaces within the judiciary for women, marginalised communities, and persons with disabilities. The panelists included Former

Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice B V Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat, and Dr Shalini Phansalkar Joshi, former Judge, High Court of Bombay. Justice Nagarathna discussed her experiences as a Judge, advocating the policies that ensure inclusivity at all levels of the judiciary, whereas Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and Justice Sunita Agarwal added their valuable insights as to how the judicial officers can make the courtrooms and the court premises more accessible. Dr Shalini Phansalkar Joshi's presentation focused on inherent biases with respect to gender and the challenges faced by women in judiciary.



31 August 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice B V Nagarathna, Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, Justice Sunita Agarwal, and former Judge, High Court of Bombay, Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi at Session II of "National Conference of the District Judiciary"

Session III – Judicial Wellness For Judges In India: A Comprehensive Perspective



31 August 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Bela M Trivedi, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Mr Madan Padaki, Founder and CEO, 1BRIDGE and Dr Tanuja Nesari, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda at the panel discussion on 'Judicial Wellness for Judges in India' during the "National Conference of the District Judiciary"

The Session III of the Conference included panelists: Former Chief Justice of India, Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice Bela M Trivedi, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Mr Madan Padaki, Founder and CEO, 1BRIDGE, and Dr Tanuja Nesari, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda. The session focussed on the judicial profession which is marked by high responsibility, relentless workloads, and emotional strain, all of which can take a significant toll on a judge's wellbeing. Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and Justice Bela M Trivedi acknowledged the workload pressure and complexities of the cases that judges of the High Courts and the District Judiciary deal with daily. Addressing these issues, the panelists discussed the Judicial Wellness and mental wellbeing of judicial officers. Mr Madan Padaki shared his encounters and experiences, suggesting that with constant and consistent practice and perseverance, one can transform into one's true ideal and successful self. Thus, the same consistent work practice can help judicial officers cope with their mental health. Dr Tanuja Nesari discussed stress management techniques with judicial officers, enlightening them about the benefits of alternative medicines and the necessity of having medical facilities within the court premises. The session concluded with a 15 minute meditation practice.

Session IV- Case Management

The Session IV of the conference delved into the important issue of reduction of pending cases in the District Judiciary. The panel for the session included Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Dipankar Datta, Judges, Supreme Court of India, Chief Justice of the High Court of Patna, Justice K Vinod Chandran, and Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. Justice Dipankar Datta presented the Supreme Court's 'Action Plan for

'Arrears Reduction,' which involves a phased approach to address pending cases along with integration of technological tools like the NJDG and the JustIS App. Mr Ashish J Shiradhonkar, Registrar (Technology, Innovation and Planning), Supreme Court of India threw light on the role of technology in case management and gave a detailed presentation on various tools that could be used to make the courts more efficient. The session concluded with an interactive session that pondered upon issues arising from new criminal laws, "Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita"(BNS), "Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita"(BNSS), and "Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam"(BSA), as they mark a significant move in India's legal framework.



1 September 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Dipankar Datta, Judges, Supreme Court of India, Chief Justice of the High Court of Patna, Justice K Vinod Chandran, and Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Justice Sheel Nagu at the panel discussion on 'Case Management' during the "National Conference of the District Judiciary"

Session V – Judicial Training – Curriculum & Methods

The penultimate session of the two-day conference involved discussion on Judicial Training which focused on the curriculum and the training methods for judicial officers. The panelists for the session included: Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge Supreme Court of India, Chief Justice of High Court of Telangana, Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice, High Court of Bombay, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, and Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka, Justice N V Anjaria. The discussion

emphasised on the role of mentorship in judicial careers in creating a network of continuous guidance from seniors and peers.



1 September 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India Chief Justice of High Court of Telangana, Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, and Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka, Justice N V Anjaria at the panel discussion on 'Judicial Training-Curriculum and Methods' during the "National Conference of the District Judiciary"

The session commenced with a presentation by Mr Alva Shantanna Muthappa, District and Sessions Judge and Additional Director of the Karnataka Judicial Academy, discussing the various facets of training curriculum and methods presently being employed by the state judicial academies. Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud outlined seven key points to aid in the evolving role of judges, highlighting the importance of mentorship, and advocating for continuous support from senior judges and peers throughout a judge's career. Justice Hrishikesh Roy added to this by highlighting the use of films and non-conservative methods for judicial training. He praised films like *The Bridge* and *Laapataa Ladies* which could be used as effective tools for teaching and creating social awareness. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya highlighted the need to address judges' biases and shift towards a more interactive training approach. Justice Alok Aradhe concurred, emphasising the importance of overcoming prejudices and maintaining an objective temperament. The collective suggestions, resonating with a clear aim to formulate a more adaptable training

framework, that address both professional competencies and personal well-being, captured the overarching theme of the session.

Session VI - Bridging The Gap



1 September 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, and Justice Surya Kant, Judges, Supreme Court of India at the panel discussion on 'Bridging The Gap' during the "National Conference of the District Judiciary"

The final session of the conference featured Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, and Justice Surya Kant, Judges, Supreme Court of India, engaging with district judges nationwide. The session centred on enhancing collegiality between District and High Courts, standardising transfer policies for district judges, and clarifying roles for Inspecting Judges, emphasising responsibilities beyond financial audits. Discussions also tackled media perceptions, stress management for judges, and training on judicial conduct, citing initiatives like counselling services in Gujarat and workload management in Karnataka. Justice Surya Kant stressed the importance of trust and faith in judicial evaluations and highlighted the need for Administrative Judges to carefully assess the credibility and sources of information before reviewing the performance of judicial officers. Justice Khanna proposed a nuanced assessment approach using a 20:70:10 formula for evaluating judicial performance. This formula would categorise outstanding judges in the top

20 percent, average judges in the middle 70 percent and those requiring improvement in the bottom 10 percent. The session also addressed judicial training, with participants offering recommendations to improve state judicial academies. The event concluded with Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud inviting Supreme Court Registrars for a group photograph, acknowledging their efforts in organising the conference.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session saw Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Surya Kant, and Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal in attendance. Justice Surya Kant delivered the welcome address, emphasising the judiciary's role in serving with integrity. Minister Meghwal discussed the transparency introduced by the National Judicial Data Grid, highlighting its impact on expediting case resolution and reducing pendency, referring to judges as "agents of change." Former

Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addressed the need to bridge communication gaps between district courts and High Courts, viewing it as a legacy of colonial subordination. The President unveiled the Supreme Court's new flag and insignia featuring the Ashoka Chakra, Supreme Court building, and the Constitution. Both were designed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi. President Murmu acknowledged the Supreme Court's invaluable role as a vigilant guardian of India's judicial system.



1 September 2024, President of India, Draupadi Murmu addresses the judicial officers across the country at the valedictory session of "National Conference of the District Judiciary"



1 September 2024, President Draupadi Murmu unveils the Supreme Court's new flag and insignia. The newly unveiled flag features symbols central to India's legal and cultural heritage: the Ashoka Chakra, the Supreme Court building, and the Constitution of India. The new Supreme Court flag is blue in colour. The insignia has 'Supreme Court of India' in English and 'Yato Dharmastato Jayah' in Devanagari

CHAPTER 4

Power and Jurisdiction of the Apex Court

Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court of India is a multi-jurisdictional court, often regarded as one of the most powerful apex courts in the world, with a broad range of jurisdictions conferred by the Constitution. Its jurisdiction is generally classified into four categories: original, appellate, advisory and review.

The Court has original jurisdiction to decide inter-governmental disputes as per Article 131 and enforces Fundamental Rights under Article 32. As the highest court of appeal, it holds appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters outlined in Articles 132 to 134, with Article 136 granting it extensive powers to hear appeals from any court or tribunal not covered by the earlier provisions. The Court exercises advisory jurisdiction under Article 143 and has the power to review its decisions as per Article 137. These provisions collectively reinforce the Supreme Court's role as the guardian of the Constitution and protector of fundamental rights in India.

1. Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

As the highest judicial authority in India, the Supreme Court plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the Constitution and ensuring the delivery of justice. The Supreme Court's original jurisdiction allows it to hear significant

disputes directly, as the court of first instance. This jurisdiction is crucial for resolving conflicts involving the Union Government and States, ensuring important legal issues are addressed at the highest level. Furthermore, the Court's mandate extends to the enforcement of Fundamental Rights, election disputes, and other critical matters, emphasizing its commitment to upholding the rule of law.

The Supreme Court of India is empowered by Article 131 of the Constitution of India to entertain original jurisdiction exclusively with regards to:

- Disputes between the Union Government and one or more states.
- Disputes involving the Union Government and one or more states as one party and one or more states as the other party.
- Disputes between two or more states.

These disputes must raise significant legal questions regarding rights and cannot be adjudicated by any other court. The framers of the Constitution aimed to ensure that such disputes are resolved conclusively at the highest level.

The proviso to Article 131 stipulates that the Supreme Court's jurisdiction can be excluded by any treaty, agreement, or other similar instrument. Additionally, Article 131 must be read in conjunction with other constitutional provisions that may limit its scope. For instance,

matters related to the operation and distribution of inter-state river waters fall under Article 262, which grants jurisdiction to a different authority. Likewise, Presidential recommendations to the Finance Commission under Article 280 also restrict the Supreme Court's jurisdiction.

In addition, Article 32 of the Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court in regard to enforcement of Fundamental Rights. The Court is empowered to issue directions, orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari to enforce them. The right to seek enforcement of Fundamental Rights through writ petitions is itself a fundamental right under Article 32. This provision allows individuals to approach the Supreme Court directly for redress in cases of violations of their fundamental rights. Additionally, if matters of public importance are pending in multiple High Courts or before the Supreme Court, the latter can withdraw and dispose of such matters itself.

Under Article 71 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court is granted jurisdiction to inquire into and decide disputes related to the election of the President or Vice President, and its decision in these matters is final. Apart from this, Section 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, empowers the Supreme Court to transfer any case, appeal, or other proceedings from a High Court or civil court in one state to a High Court or civil court in another state. Furthermore, Supreme Court can also transfer any case involving same or substantially same questions of law pending before it and one or more High Courts in certain contingencies to itself, as per the provisions under Article 139A.

Additionally, Article 138 enables Parliament to confer additional original jurisdiction on the Supreme Court through legislation. An example of this is the Appointment of Arbitrators by the Chief Justice of India Scheme, 1996, framed under

Section 11(10) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, which governs the appointment of arbitrators as outlined in Section 11(6) of the same Act.

2. Appellate Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of India has extensive appellate jurisdiction over all courts and tribunals across the country, exercised under Articles 132 to 134 of the Constitution. Article 132 allows for appeals to the Supreme Court from any judgment, decree, or final order of a High Court, provided that the High Court certifies under Article 134A that the case involves a substantial question of law concerning the interpretation of the Constitution.

Civil Matters

Under Article 133, the Supreme Court can hear appeals from any judgment, decree, or final order of the High Court, given that the High Court certifies that the matter involves a substantial question of law of general importance. Notably, the earlier requirement that civil matters must involve a dispute of Rs. 20,000 or more was removed by the Constitution (Thirty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1972.

Criminal Matters

Article 134 of the Constitution of India establishes the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction concerning criminal matters. According to Article 134(1), an appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment, final order, or sentence in a criminal proceeding of a High Court under specific conditions: if the High Court has reversed an acquittal and sentenced the accused to death, withdrawn a case for trial and convicted the accused with a death sentence, or certified the case as fit for appeal under Article 134A. Any appeal made under the certification provision is

subject to the provisions of Article 145 and to such conditions as the High Court may establish or require.

Furthermore, Article 134(2) empowers Parliament to expand the Supreme Court's criminal appellate jurisdiction by law. The Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970 permits the Supreme Court to entertain criminal appeals without a High Court certificate under specific conditions.

Constitutional Matters

Appeals from High Court decisions on constitutional matters can be made to the Supreme Court under Article 132, if the High Court certifies that the case involves a substantial legal question concerning the interpretation of the Constitution. Additionally, the Supreme Court can grant Special Leave to Appeal under Article 136 from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence, or order made by any court or tribunal in India.

Statutory Appeals

The Supreme Court also has the jurisdiction to decide statutory appeals when legislation specifically allows for an appeal to it. Various special statutes provide for appeals to the Supreme Court, including:

- Section 35L of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944);
- Section 116A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951);
- Section 38 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961);
- Section 261 of the Income Tax Act, 1961(43 of 1961) before the establishment of National Tax Tribunal from 28.12.2005;
- Section 130E of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962);
- Section 19 (1) (b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (70 of 1971);
- Section 374 and 379 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) read with Section 2 of Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970 (28 of 1970);
- Section 23 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986);
- Section 19 of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (28 of 1987);
- Section 10 of the Special Courts (Trial of Offences relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992 (27 of 1992);
- Section 15Z of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992);
- Section 18 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997);
- Section 53T of the Competition Act, 2002 (12 of 2003);
- Section 125 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003);
- Section 24 of the National Tax Tribunal Act, 2005 (49 of 2005);
- Section 30 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 (55 of 2007);
- Section 37 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 (19 of 2006);
- Section 31 of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 (27 of 2008);
- Section 22 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (19 of 2010);
- Section 423 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013);
- Section 38 of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013 (23 of 2013);
- Section 21 of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 (22 of 2015);

- Section 33E of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (18 of 2016);
- Section 62 and 182 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (31 of 2016);
- Section 118 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017);
- Section 73 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (35 of 2019);
- Section 60(2) of the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 (1 of 2021); and
- Section 415 and 420 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (46/2023)

3. Advisory Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India is vested with advisory jurisdiction under Article 143 of the Constitution. Article 143(1) allows the President to refer any questions of law or fact that are of public importance to the Court if it appears expedient to do so. Here, the Supreme Court has the discretion to provide an opinion, as indicated by the use of the word "may."

Additionally, Article 143(2) allows the President, notwithstanding the limitations imposed by the proviso to Article 131, to refer disputes of the nature mentioned in that proviso to the Supreme Court for its opinion. However, under Article 143(2), the Court is required to give its opinion on matters referred by the President. This is signified by the use of the word "shall."

The procedure for exercising advisory jurisdiction is outlined in Article 145, which mandates that the opinion of the Supreme Court in these matters must be delivered in open court [Article 145(4)], and a Bench of no less than five judges is required to hear the

reference [Article 145(3)]. The Court may also decline to answer questions that are abstract, speculative, political, or hypothetical, thereby confining its responses to the specific questions posed by the President.

Several significant references have been made to the Supreme Court under Article 143(1), including notable cases such as *In re the Delhi Laws Act* (1951), *In re the Kerala Education Bill* (1958), and *Re Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal* (1992), among others.

References to the Supreme Court can also be made under various other provisions, including:

- Article 317 of the Constitution of India, concerning the removal of the Chairman or any other Member of a Public Service Commission.
- Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2002, regarding the removal of Chairperson and other Members of the Commission.
- Sections 14 and 17 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, as regards the Removal of Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner and State Chief Information Commissioner or State Information Commissioner, respectively.
- Section 257 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, relating to references by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

4. Review Jurisdiction

Under Article 137 of the Indian Constitution, the Supreme Court has the power to review any judgment or order made by it. This power is subject to parliamentary legislation and the rules framed by the Court under its rule-making authority. Article 145(1)(e) empowers the Court to establish rules concerning the conditions under which a review may be sought, and in exercise of this power, Order

XLVII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 has been framed.

Order XLVII of the Supreme Court Rules governs the review of judgments or orders issued by the Court. A review of a judgment may be sought in civil proceedings on specific grounds mentioned in Order XLVII, Rule 1 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and in criminal proceedings, only on the ground of an error apparent on the face of the record.

To file an application for review, the petitioner must provide a certificate from the Advocate on Record certifying that it is the first application for review and that the grounds are admissible under the Rules. Such an application must be filed within thirty days from the date of the judgment or order sought to be reviewed and must clearly outline the grounds for the review.

Typically, review applications are disposed of by circulation without oral arguments unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The petitioner may supplement their petition with additional written arguments, and the Court may either dismiss the petition or issue notice to the opposite party. As a general practice, the application is circulated to the same Judge or Bench that delivered the original judgment or order.

In addition to the review petition, the Supreme Court of India introduced the concept of the **curative petition** to address instances where grave injustice persists even after the dismissal of a review petition. This concept was established through the landmark case of *Rupa Ashok Hurra v. Ashok Hurra* (2002) and is governed by Order XLVIII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. The curative petition serves as a final remedy available in extraordinary situations where a gross miscarriage of justice has occurred, and there is no other legal recourse left.

The petitioner must specifically state that the grounds raised in the curative petition were

also raised in the review petition, which was dismissed. The petition must be accompanied by a certificate from a Senior Advocate affirming that the curative petition meets the conditions laid down in the case. Additionally, a certificate from the Advocate on Record must be provided, confirming that this is the first curative petition in the matter.

A curative petition can only be filed after the dismissal of a review petition and must meet stringent conditions. The petitioner must demonstrate a violation of natural justice principles or that the court's decision was influenced by bias. The petition should also show that the judgment caused irreparable harm and substantial injustice. Each curative petition undergoes initial scrutiny by a bench of the three senior-most judges and the judges who delivered the impugned judgment.

The curative petition, represents the Supreme Court's commitment to ensuring that no individual suffers due to an irreversible mistake, and justice prevails in cases where all other legal remedies have been exhausted.

5. Other Powers of the Supreme Court

In addition to its original, appellate, advisory and review jurisdictions, the Supreme Court exercises several other important powers:

- **Public Interest Litigation (PIL):** PILs allow the Court to address issues of public concern, particularly those affecting marginalized communities. PILs may originate through various channels, including suo motu petitions by the Chief Justice or any judge of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court's decision to treat a pre-existing petition as a PIL, or the direct presentation of a petition in the Supreme Court. This mechanism

has made the Court more accessible to individuals seeking justice on broader societal issues.

- **Power to do Complete Justice:** Another vital power of the Supreme Court is its authority to ensure complete justice under Article 142 of the Constitution. This provision grants the Court the ability to issue any decree or order required to achieve fairness in cases before it. The power under Article 142 allows the Court to act in extraordinary circumstances, ensuring that justice prevails in a manner that upholds the substantive rights of litigants while adhering to natural justice principles.
- **Court of Record:** As a Court of Record, as designated under Article 129 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court's judgments and proceedings are permanently recorded and serve as binding legal precedents. This status gives the Court the inherent power to punish individuals for contempt of court. Contempt can be civil or criminal, with civil contempt involving the willful disobedience of a court order and criminal contempt covering actions that undermine the authority of the court, interfere with judicial proceedings, or obstruct the course of justice.

The Supreme Court of India stands as a crucial pillar in the nation's judicial system, exercising its jurisdiction through original, appellate, advisory and review powers. It plays an instrumental role in safeguarding the Constitution, upholding Fundamental Rights, and addressing significant legal issues that impact society. Its authority extends to various domains, ensuring justice and equity in the legal framework of India. Through its decisions and rulings, the Supreme Court not only interprets the law but also shapes the trajectory of justice in the country, making it

an indispensable institution in upholding the rule of law and democracy.

Important Acts Relating to Supreme Court

The important legislations relating to the Supreme Court of India are as follows:

- Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 (Act No. 51 of 1968);
- Judges (Protection) Act, 1985 (Act No. 59 of 1985) [amended by Act No. 34 of 2019];
- Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970 (Act No. 28 of 1970) [amended by Act No. 37 of 1972];
- Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 (Act No. 55 of 1956) [amended by Act Nos. 17 of 1960, 48 of 1977, 22 of 1986, 11 of 2009, and 37 of 2019]; and
- Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 (Act No. 41 of 1958) [amended by Act Nos. 77 of 1971, 36 of 1976, 57 of 1980, 36 of 1985, 38 of 1986, 20 of 1988, 32 of 1989, 72 of 1993, 2 of 1994, 20 of 1996, 18 of 1998, 7 of 1999, 8 of 2003, 46 of 2005, 23 of 2009, 13 of 2016, 10 of 2018, and 44 of 2021].

Subordinate Legislations

The subordinate legislations relating to the Supreme Court are as follows:

- Judges (Inquiry) Rules, 1969;
- Supreme Court Rules, 2013;
- Supreme Court (Decree and Orders) Enforcement Order, 1954;
- Supreme Court Judges Rules, 1959;
- Supreme Court Judges (Traveling Allowance) Rules, 1959; and
- Rules to Regulate Proceedings for Contempt of the Supreme Court, 1975.

CHAPTER 5

Infrastructural Developments Over the Year

The Supreme Court of India came into being on 28 January 1950, two days after India became a Sovereign, Democratic Republic. It replaced both the Federal Court of India and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The first sitting of the Supreme Court was held in the Chamber of Princes at old Parliament Building, the place where the Federal Court of India had sat for 12 years. The Court shifted to the present premises, which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, on 4 August 1958. While inaugurating the building of the Supreme Court, Dr. Rajendra Prasad had said – “I do not think it will fall to the lot of any of my successors to declare open such a ‘Temple of Justice’.”

Original Building-Past to Present

The Original block of Supreme Court building was built on a triangular plot of 17 acres and the building was designed by Chief Architect Ganesh Bhikaji Deolalikar, who was the first Indian to head the CPWD. He designed the Supreme Court building in an Indo-British architectural style. The Original building boasts of architectural splendor and rich ornamentation and manifests the significance of this institution as a coequal, independent branch of the State. Along the main corridors of the building, stand imposing columns in Grecian architecture. There is a happy blend of the Indian and the Grecian architectures in the construction of the building. The design of

the Original building itself is shaped to project the image of Scales of Justice. The Central wing of the building is the central beam of the scales.

This noble edifice has been conceived and planned by Engineers and Architects, who were trained in their profession according to western standards. The architecture and construction of the building bear testimony to their western experience and skill set of high order and that they have combined with it our conception of justice. Traditionally, one looks upon justice as a pair of scales, the two pans of which have to be held evenly without allowing the beam from which they hang to incline to either side. At the end of each wing is a semicircular structure. They represent the pans which are attached to the central beam at the top. Central beam accommodates the Court rooms wherein the Hon'ble Judges are seated while dispensing justice. The Central beam from the ends of which the scales hang, comprises the Chief Justice's Court at the Centre with two Court halls on either side. The right wing of the structure presently consists of the Bar room, the offices of the Attorney General for India and other Law officers and Bard Library. The left wing presently consists of offices of the Court. DCP office and new chamber of Hon'ble Judges at second floor.

Three extensions were made to the Original building-for the first time in 1979, then in 1994, and again in 2015. In 2019, a multi-storey Additional Building Complex built on the land abutting the

Pragati Maidan and opposite to the main Supreme Court Complex, became functional.

First Extension to the Building

In the year 1979, two new wings, the east and the west wing, were added to the complex. Both wings consist of two Court Rooms each. The exterior of the building is dressed in red sand stone, keeping in with the architecture of existing main Building.

Second Extension to the Building

In the year 1994, second extension of the building was made, connecting the east wing and the west wing of the first extension. The ground floor has office rooms. The First Floor houses the Court Rooms and Judges' Assembly Hall/ Common Room, the Second Floor has a large Conference Hall and the ground and third floor houses rooms for the offices of the court, alongwith an Advocates' Library (R.K. Garg Memorial) which is also on the third floor.

Third Extension to the Building

The New Extension Block near Supreme Court Museum was inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 4 November 2015 and some

of the Sections from the existing buildings were shifted to the new building.

Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India

His Excellency the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India on 17 July 2019. The additional complex, with a total built up area of 1,80,700 sq. mts., has five Functional Blocks and one Service Block. These Blocks are four to eight storey high and have a three-level basement with car parking capacity of about 1800 car units. The building complex is a state-of-the-art, environment friendly, centrally air-conditioned office complex with all modern facilities. The curvature of the building is in the European style pillars that rise from the ground level in the colour scheme and the sandstone external cladding depicts that an attempt has been made in design of this building to retain the original marvel of the Supreme Court.

Administrative Buildings Complex

Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India on Mathura Road adjacent to Supreme Court Metro Station that came up in the



year 2019 and hosts Administratives Sections, Branches etc. & no court room is situated there. Hence, the nomenclature of the same has been updated as 'Administrative Buildings Complex' reflecting its functionality.

Statue of 'Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar' at Central Lawn, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India



A **7.3 feet high bronze statue** of Bharat Ratna 'Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar' was installed in

the Central Lawn, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India which was unveiled by Her Excellency, President of India in the presence of Former Chief Justice of India and other companion Hon'ble Judges on the occasion of celebration of 'Constitution Day' on 26 November 2023. The statue was made in the record time by the renowned Sculptor Shri Naresh Kumar Kumawat.

'Mother and Child' Sculpture

This black bronze sculpture of 210 centimeter height was installed in the lawns of the Supreme Court on 20 February 1978. It portrays Mother India in the form of the figure of a lady. The sculpture depicts Mother India sheltering the young Republic of India represented by the symbol of a child, who is upholding the laws of land symbolically shown in the form of an open book. On the book, a balance is shown, which represents dispensation of equal justice to all. The sculpture was made by the renowned artist Shri Chintamoni Kar. This sculpture has been refurbished and re-located at the Centre of the Lawn (Low Security Zone), in the line of sight of Sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi and the Chief Justice's Court, with beautification of the surrounding areas. The refurbished sculpture has been unveiled at the re-located area on 21 March 2024.



Designing of the location falling vacant upon re-locating of 'Mother and Child' Sculpture

The 'Mother and Child' Sculpture has been re-located at the Centre in the Lawn (Low Security Zone), Main Campus, Supreme Court of India and the location falling vacant in the Central Lawn, Main Campus has been designed to have a low-rise fountain.



New Initiatives

Creation of new Chambers for Hon'ble Judges

The task of creation of new Chambers for the Hon'ble Judges at second floor of the west wing in Main Campus as per the dignity and decorum of the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India has been completed.



Construction of Stone Mesh Jali in place of Iron Mesh Jali around the Central Lawn

With a view of improving the aesthetics of the Central Lawn in Main Building, the work of construction of stone jali with the provision of dynamic illumination replacing the old/damaged iron mesh jali around the Central Lawn was undertaken and completed.



Futuristic Court Rooms

Modification and upgradation work of existing Court Rooms converting them into IT Assisted Futuristic Court Rooms enabled with the state-of-the Art Hardware which includes Motorized pop-up monitors on the dais, Digital Video Conferencing System (Multimedia Microphone Unit) for the Hon'ble Judges as well as for the advocate, Video Wall, document scanner facilitating simultaneous document viewing on all the screens including that of advocates, facility of quick access to Court record, judgment(s), citations online, etc. has been carried out for Court Room Nos. 1 to 9.



Facility of Free Wi-Fi

As part of the e-initiatives in the Supreme Court of India, the facility of free Wi-Fi is made available for Advocates, Litigants, Media persons and other stakeholders visiting the Supreme Court of India. This facility is available at the Court Rooms, corridors & waiting areas outside Court Rooms, Press Lounges, Bar Room (Ground Floor), Ladies Bar Room (First Floor), Bar Library I, Bar Library II and Waiting Areas at Plaza (Ground Floor) as also in the Chambers of Hon'ble Judges, Judges' Lounge, Dining Hall, Assembly Hall, and the adjoining common areas.

e-Sewa Kendra and Facilitation Centre

The area near 'E' Gate, Main Campus has been re-designed to host e-Sewa Kendra and Facilitation Centre to facilitate the Advocates, Litigants for various services such as e-filing,

status of e-RTI, e-copying, issuance of passes and the facility for joining the Court proceedings through virtual mode etc. The Centre has 18 counters & 2 video conferencing rooms.

Creche (Child Care Centre)

To meet the increased demands of the various stakeholders and keeping in view the existing space in New Annexe Building as inadequate, a bigger space viz. Room Nos. 201 & 202 at 2nd Floor, 'E' Block in the Administrative Buildings Complex is being modified and upgraded for setting up of Creche (Child Care Centre) with enhanced intake. Equipped with modern facilities for the children such as installation of toys, instruments and furniture items etc., the creche will be a boon for working mothers. The same has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 29 August 2024.



Mobile Connectivity in Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India

Steps have been taken to improve mobile connectivity in the Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India through In-Building Solution (IBS) being provided by the TCIL. The work has already been undertaken & the operators M/s. Airtel and M/s. Vodafone has made their services operational with effect from 31 August 2023 and 11 April 2024 respectively.



Creation of Cubicles for Lawyers in Block 'D', Administrative Buildings Complex

The fully furnished **Cubicles for Lawyers** have been created in three Big Halls i.e. Ground, First and Third Floors of Block 'D' in Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India for the wait-listed Advocates from the panel formed for allotment of Lawyers Chambers and the same has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India, on 10 July 2024. The Cubicles having facility of Centralized Air Conditioning have been furnished with the furniture items such as Table, Chairs and other basic facilities viz. Consultation Room, Stationery Shop, Chemist Shop, Waiting Area for visitors/Litigants and Lockers have also been provided in the said halls.



Canteen for the Advocates, Litigants in the Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India

An exclusive space on the Ground Floor, 'E' Block, Administrative Buildings Complex viz. Room No.001 has been re-designed to host the Canteen facility for the Advocates, Litigants, and other stakeholders. The Canteen is equipped with the State-of-the-art infrastructure including wet scrubber exhaust system preventing air pollution and the same was inaugurated on 5 October 2023.



Mitti Cafe

Facility of a cafeteria by the name 'Mitti Cafe' in Room No. 005, West Wing, Main Building to be run by Mitti Foundation, an NGO and managed by persons with disabilities has been established. The same was inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 10 November 2023.



AYUSH Holistic Wellness Centre

AYUSH, a traditional and non-conventional system of health care and healing has been set up in Room No.002 and adjacent room at Ground Floor, 'E' Block, Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India for the benefit of the Hon'ble Judges and Officers &

Officials of the Registry in consultation with the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India through All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) wherein facilities of the Specialty OPD, Panchakarma therapies, Ayurvedic Medicine Dispensary and Diet & Life-Style Counselling is being provided. The AYUSH Holistic Wellness Centre has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 22 February 2024 in the presence of companion Hon'ble Judges, Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH, Government of India and Minister of State for AYUSH, Government of India.



'Artwork' in Judges Tunnel connecting Main Campus with Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

The various artworks have been carried out through Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts in the Judges Tunnel connecting Main Campus with Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India showcasing the ancient judiciary system, law and governance written by great scholars of our ancient India. The artwork also gives a pleasant drive across the tunnel giving a vibrant and bright atmosphere at the same time displaying our centuries of Legacy.



Constitution Day celebrations

Constitution Day was celebrated with great pomp on 26 November, 2023 in the Auditorium/ Multipurpose Hall in Block 'C' of the Administrative Buildings Complex. The occasion was graced by Her Excellency, the President of India, Former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges and other high dignitaries. The event was successfully organised by unveiling the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar and plantation of Tree by Her Excellency, President of India and Former Chief Justice of India. Her Excellency the President of India and Former Chief Justice of India planted saplings of 'Silk Cotton Tree' in the Central Lawn, Main Campus.



Arbitration and Consultation Room in M.C. Setalvad Lawyers Chambers Block

The 'Arbitration and Consultation Room' at Ground Floor, M.C. Setalvad Lawyers' Chambers Block, Supreme Court premises at Bhagwan Das Road has been renovated. The said Room was inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 11 January 2024.



Creation of Consultation Room

An additional exclusive space viz. GE-92, Ground Floor, East Wing, Main Building has been developed to host consultation room for the members of the Bar. The said Consultation Room was inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 5 February 2024.



Setting up of 'Accessibility Help Desk'

With the aim of "Court for All" and to pave the way for greater Accessibility in the Supreme Court for Persons with Disabilities, Women & Senior Citizens, an accessibility Help Desk has been set up near e-Sewa Kendra, Main Campus. The said facility has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 21 March 2024 in the presence of companion Judges of the Supreme Court of India and other dignitaries.



'Media Enclosure' in Supreme Court Lawns

Earlier the Media Personnel used to cover the news in the Supreme Court Lawns, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India which was not weather friendly and has to bear the harsh sunlight, downpour etc. To enable the media persons to cover the news, all weather friendly enclosure has been created in the Supreme Court Lawns, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India and named as 'Media Enclosure' which has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 21 March 2024 in the presence of companion Judges of the Supreme Court of India and other dignitaries.



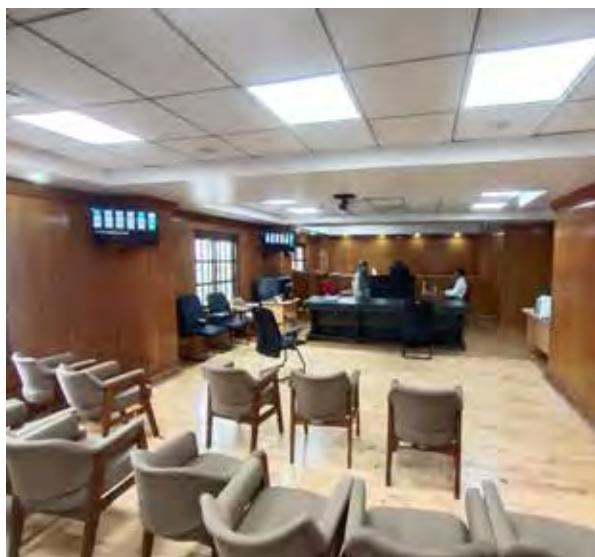
Badminton Court

Badminton Court has been set-up near Block-'D', Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India for the Ld. Advocates and other stakeholders and the same is opened for use on 21 March 2024.



Merger of Registrar Courts

In order to facilitate hearing of larger number of matters, optimum utilization of resources, for effective management of cases and to streamline the conducting of Registrar's Court in this Hon'ble Court, the existing two Registrar Courts i.e. room nos. 1 & 2 have been merged into one Registrar's Court, providing more space for Advocates & Litigants coupled with state of the art infrastructure. The same has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on Monday, the 8 July 2024.



Opening of Branch of Bank of Maharashtra, a Government of India Undertaking in the Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India

In order to facilitate the various stakeholders including Advocates, Visitors, Litigants etc. and not to travel too long for availing banking facilities, a branch of the Bank of Maharashtra, a Government of India Undertaking, with the state of the art facilities & infrastructure is being opened in Room No. 601, 6th Floor, Block-'E', Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India, in addition to the UCO Bank already existing in the Main Campus of this Hon'ble Court. The facility of e-lobby, automatic locker system and ATM will also be provided by the said Bank within the Complex. The Branch at the designated location has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 29 August 2024.



Lunch Room for Senior Advocates

To facilitate the Senior Advocates of this Hon'ble Court, an exclusive space at First Floor, East Wing, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India has

been earmarked as '**Lunch Room**' for the Senior Advocates and the same has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India in the august presence of Hon'ble Judges, Law Officers, Members of the Bar on 8 July 2024.



Creation of 'Multi-Facilitation Centre'

The area opposite UCO Bank, near C Gate, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India has been re-designed to host '**Multi-Facilitation Centre**' to facilitate the Advocates, Litigants for various services such as Filing Counters and R&I Counters. The same has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 11 July 2024.



Plantation of sapling of Tree on the Birthday of Hon'ble Judges

A Green Initiative has been started to celebrate the birthday of the Hon'ble Judges of this Hon'ble Court in which a sapling of tree presented by Former Chief Justice of India and other companion Judges of the Supreme Court of India is being planted in the Central Ridge, Reserve Forest, New Delhi by the Hon'ble Judges whose birthday is being celebrated. Till 30 June 2024 the following Hon'ble Judges have planted the sapling:-

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay S Oka planted the sapling of Amaltash Tree;

Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.V. Viswanathan planted the sapling of Moulshree Tree;

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra planted the sapling of Balam Khira Tree;

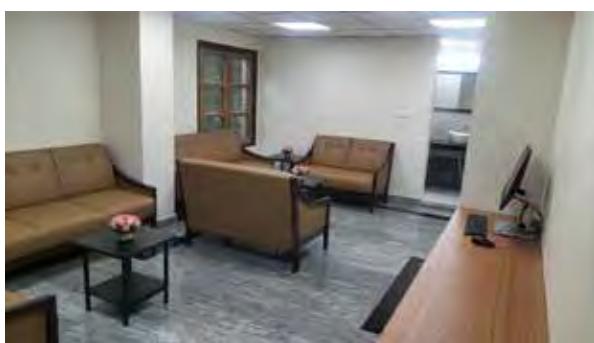
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi planted the sapling of Neem Tree;

Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari planted the sapling of Lasoda Tree.



Newly Created 'Ladies Lounge'

'**Ladies Lounge**' has been newly created at First Floor, West Wing, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India. The same has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 1 August 2024.



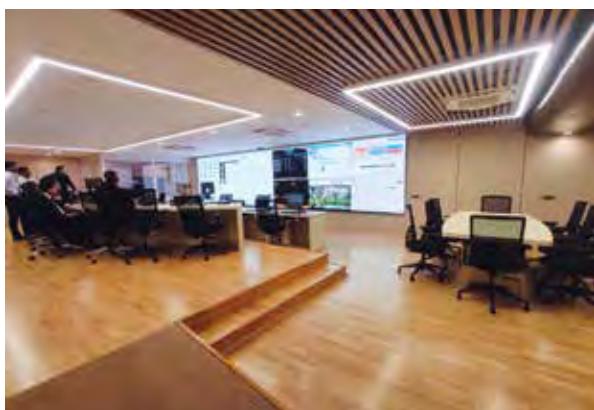
Renovation of Office of Supreme Court Bar Association

The existing Supreme Court Bar Association Office on Ground Floor, East Wing, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India has been renovated. The same has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 25 July 2024.



Creation of War Room

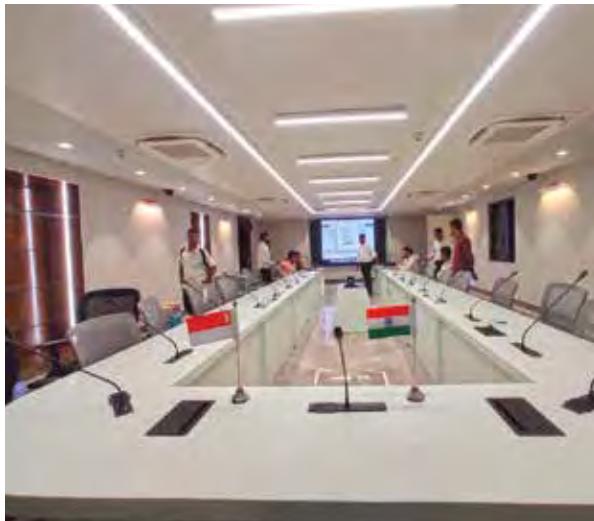
A War Room at Ground Floor, Main Campus (below the chamber of the Chief Justice of India) enabled with the state-of-the Art Hardware which includes Digital Video Conferencing System for the Hon'ble Judges to interact throughout the Globe has been created. The same has been inaugurated on 23 August 2024.





Newly Created Convention Hall

A Convention Hall at Ground Floor, Main Campus (below the chamber of the Chief Justice of India) has been created for the Hon'ble Judges for various meetings and to have discussion with the foreign delegations. The same has been inaugurated on 23 August 2024.



Beautification of surrounding area of statue of Mahatma Gandhi

The beautification of surrounding area of statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Main Campus has been done by making a structure displaying the name of Supreme Court of India in the Central Lawn, Main Campus with small fountain besides it.



e-Library for the members of the Supreme Court Bar Association

Library including facility of e-Library for the SCBA inside the Big Hall at 8th Floor, Block-'D', Administrative Buildings Complex has been developed.



Advocates' Wellness Centre

Gym and Recreational Centre at 8th Floor, Block-'D', Administrative Buildings Complex to provide facility of Gym has been developed.



Upgradation and renovation of Delhi Government Health Centre (DGHC)

The space at which DGHC was functional in the Main Campus has been upgraded and renovated with the modern infrastructure. The same has been inaugurated by Former Chief Justice of India on 17 September 2024.



Centralized Air Conditioning in the Court Corridors

The Corridors of the Court Room Nos. 1 to 5 is being equipped with the facility of Centralized Air Conditioning keeping in view that the said corridors remain over-crowded during heat waves in the summers.



Upgradation of Gate No.1, Administrative Buildings Complex

Gate No.1 of the Administrative Buildings Complex has been upgraded by making it as Iconic Gate covered with canopy.



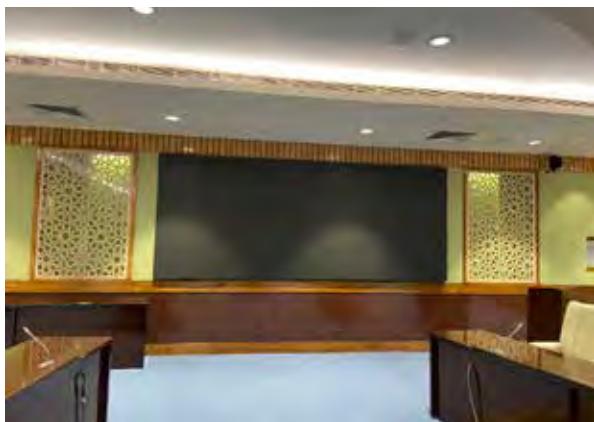
Covering the alighting point of VVIP's at Block-'B', Administrative Buildings Complex with Canopy

The Alighting point of VVIP's at Block-'B', Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India has been made weather friendly by covering it with a canopy.



Video Walls in Administrative Buildings Complex

Auditorium, Multipurpose Hall and Conference Hall is situated in Block 'C', Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India with the modern infrastructure which has been upgraded with the facility of Video Walls.



Conference Hall



Multipurpose Hall



Auditorium

Signages in Administrative Buildings Complex

Signages have been placed displayed at the Buildings Blocks, at the routes to the Blocks and at other various prominent places within the Administrative Buildings Complex of the Supreme Court of India to guide the Advocates/Visitors/Litigants for their convenience.



Justice Clock

There was no mechanism available in the Supreme Court premises to make the information available to public through LED Display Message Sign Board System related to Justice. The Justice clocks are being used as one of the mechanism to bring awareness to the public about various schemes about justice and to give status of various field and other relevant information to the public. Two Justice Clocks are being installed one at the wall between Gate 'B' and Gate 'C' near Central Agency Section and other one at the corner between Gate 'D' and Gate 'E' near the intersection of Bhagwan Das Road and Mathura Road in Main Building.

Creation of Dedicated Supreme Court Project-cum-Maintenance Circle

Earlier there was no exclusive division of CPWD to look after the construction as well as maintenance of the Buildings of the Supreme Court of India and at times, lack of availability of responsible Senior Officers of the CPWD was noticed, hence, the matter was taken up with the higher authorities of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs for better supervision and accordingly, a dedicated circle has been created as Supreme Court Project-cum-Maintenance Circle to look after all the construction as well as maintenance works of Supreme Court of India to be handled by officer of the rank of Superintending Engineer-cum-Project Director comprising of two Executive Engineers for Civil and one Executive Engineer for Electrical division.

Now, the Circle has been further expanded by appointment of one additional Executive Engineer for electrical Division to look after the new expansion of Supreme Court of India project vide order dated 19 July 2024.

Presently, Mr. Purnesh Kumar, is heading this circle as Superintending Engineer-cum-Project Director.

Other Initiatives

- Renovation of Waiting Area for Court Nos.1 to 5 near Plaza Canteen in Main Campus for the Ld. Advocates has been completed.
- Renovation and upgradation works in Law Officers' Wing, Second Floor, Main Building has been completed.
- Wall Paneling (Stone/Wooden) at Ground Floor and First Floor, 'C' Block, Administrative Buildings Complex has been completed.
- Dumb Waiter to lift the paper-books from Ground Floor to Basement, Main Building has been installed.
- Replacement of damaged flooring near Mahatma Gandhi Statue in Central Lawn, Main Campus has been completed.
- Facility of Golf Cart is being provided for the Advocates from Main Building to Block-'D' and vice-versa through a dedicated pathway.
- Establishing e-lobby of Bank of Maharashtra for Advocates near D-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India.
- The Corridors of Block-'D', Administrative Buildings Complex are being made fully air-conditioned.





CHAPTER 6

Administrative Workforce – The Registry

I. Introduction

The administrative workforce of the Supreme Court is known as the Registry. For systematic functioning and efficient disposal of work, the Registry is divided into two main Wings, viz. Administration and Judicial, which are further divided into various Divisions, Branches, Sections and Cells. The subject matters dealt with by each and every Section/Unit are well defined.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India is the Administrative Head of the Supreme Court. All the administrative powers for determining the work structure of the Court and the Registry of the Apex Court and also for setting up the ministerial side of the Court, exclusively vest in Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. Powers under Article 146 of the Constitution read with the Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961 are exercised by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India either directly or through some other Hon'ble Judge or a Committee of the Hon'ble Judges or Officer(s) of the Court authorized for the purpose.

The Secretary General who is of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India is the highest Administrative Officer of the Supreme Court. The post of the Secretary General is exclusively meant for a judicial officer of the rank of a District and Sessions Judge. For positions of Registrars, mostly the judicial officers of the rank of Additional District and Sessions Judge

are drawn on deputation. The Secretary General is assisted by 10 Registrars, 7 Officer on Special Duty and 16 Additional Registrars who are assigned work of specific branches and they, in turn, are assisted by Deputy Registrars, officers of other lower ranks and subordinate staff.

For more efficient and effective streamlining of the work process and procedures, the work on the judicial side has been distributed amongst 5 Registrars namely Registrar (Judicial Listing), Registrar-I (Judicial Administration), Registrar-II (Judicial Administration) and 2 OSD (Registrar) (Judicial). The work relating to Technology and Computerization of Supreme Court is being looked after by two Registrars, namely, Registrar (Technology) and OSD (Registrar) (Technology, Innovation and Planning). Besides, there are two Registrars for administration namely Registrar (Admn. I & III) (Human Resources) and Registrar (Admn. II) (Human Resources). Registrar (Judges' Admin & Intl. Relations) supervises the work of Admn. J Branch. Apart from the above, there is a Registrar-I (Procurement & Stores) and OSD (Registrar-II) (Procurement & Stores) who supervise work relating to Procurement, Stores and Maintenance and Centralized Inventory and Articles Wing. The work relating to Admn. General Section, Court Building, House Keeping, Caretaking and Parking and Security is under supervision of Registrar (Courts & Building). The work relating to Confidential Cell is being supervised by Registrar (Confidential Cell) while

supervision of Public Relations Office is done by OSD (Registrar)-cum-PPS to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. OSD (Registrar) (Library, Editorial & Research) looks after the work relating to Library and Editorial Divisions, Translation Cell and Supreme Court Museum and is also discharging the functions of Head of Office. Besides, there is an OSD (Registrar) (Protocol) for supervision of work related to protocol and Medical section.

There are 3077 posts on the establishment of the Supreme Court Registry, which includes 2258 permanent posts. Details of sanctioned staff strength in the Registry are as under:

Sanctioned Staff strength in the Registry		
S. No.	Type of Posts	No. of Posts
1.	Gazetted-Officers	435
2.	Non-Gazetted officials	1391
3.	Non-Clerical Staff	1251
Total		3077

The Supreme Court Registry has been divided into 75 Sections/Units. All case files pertaining to judicial matters, i.e. SLPs, Writ Petitions, Original Cases, References and other appeals, etc. are mainly handled in 23 Sections on the judicial side and the division of work between them is based either on its nature, i.e. Special

Subject Category or on geographical area, i.e. State/High Court wise. Further, there are other Sections dealing with judicial matters, which are called ancillary judicial Sections such as Filing Counter (Section I-B), Extension Counter, Paper Books Sections [Sections preparing Paper Books (I, I-A & I-A Annexe)], Faster Cell, for fast and secured transmission of electronic records, Sections relating to Computerization (Computer Cell, e-sewa Kendra, & D.E.U. Sections), Elimination Section, Mentioning Section, Litigation Cell Sections dealing with maintenance of Original Record and Translation work (Sections V&VI), Record Room & Scanning Cell, Decree Sections (XIII & XIII-B), Copying, Editorial, PIL (English), Receipt & Issue and Information & Statistics Secretariat for dealing with applications under RTI Act, 2005 and Compilation and processing of statistical information. There are two supporting wings, i.e. Library Wing and Court Masters Wing. A Centre for Research and Planning has also been established to assist the Court in general and Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India in the field of legal research. It also prepares material for the purpose of Conferences, Seminars and Legal Forum Meetings.

Two Courts of Registrars have also been functional, one since 3 April 2006 and the other from 1 September 2006 for dealing with matters referred to in the Supreme Court Rules. The following Officers have been presiding over Registrar Court -I and Registrar Court -II since March 2023:

S.No.	Period with effect from	Registrar Court-I supervised by	Registrar Court-II supervised by
1.	20.04.2023	Mr. H. Shashidhara Shetty, Registrar (Procurement & Stores) & Registrar (Court)	Mr. Vivek Saxena Registrar (Court & Building)
2.	03.01.2024	Mr. H. Shashidhara Shetty, Registrar (Procurement & Stores) & Registrar (Court)	Mr. Mahesh T. Patankar, OSD- Registrar (Court & Building)
3.	01.03.2024 to 18.05.2024	Ms. Aparna Ajitsaria Registrar (Admn. I & III) (Human Resources)	Mr. Pradip Y. Ladekar Registrar (Admn. II) (Human Resources)
4.	20.05.2024	Ms. Sujata Singh OSD (Registrar) (Judicial)	Mr. Santosh Kumar OSD (Registrar) (Judicial)

The Registrar's Courts (R-I and R-II) were merged into one Registrar's Court and OSD (Registrar) (Judicial) has been presiding over the Registrar's Court w.e.f. 8 July 2024.

There are 22 Sections dealing with the matters pertaining to the establishment, which includes Recruitment Cell, Admn. I-Human Resource Management, Admn. II, Admn. III, Implementation Cell, Training Cell, Vigilance Cell, Admn. Materials (Purchase & Stores), Admn. Materials (Maintenance), CIAW, Admn. General, Cash and Accounts-I & II, Admn. J, Nodal Cell, Protocol, Medical, Transport, Control Room, Caretaking, Admn. (Security) and Accessibility and Inclusion Section. Recruitment Cell deals with the recruitment on various posts, Departmental Examination, etc. Admn. I - Human Resource Management Cell deals with promotion and probation of officers and staff, etc. Admn. II Section deals with leave, pay and pension of officers and staff. Admn. III Section deals with all types of advances admissible to officers and staff. Implementation Cell processes cases of pay fixation covered under recommendations of the Anomalies Committee, Training Cell deals with imparting training to staff. Vigilance Cell deals with vigilance matters, verification of antecedents of employees and new recruits etc. Admn. Materials (Purchase & Stores) Section deals with purchase and issue of all items including Stationery, Furniture, Livery and Printing, etc. Admn. Materials (Maintenance) deals with the maintenance of all the items, award of annual maintenance contract and other miscellaneous work. A Centralised Inventory and Articles Wing (CIAW) has also been created for custody, coding, transportation, maintenance and disposal of items ensuring effective inventory management in the Registry. Admn. General Section deals with maintenance of Supreme Court Building and allotment of Lawyers' Chambers, etc. Cash and Accounts Sections deal with preparation of pay bills and budget estimates, etc. Admn. Judges Section looks after the provision of necessary

amenities to the Hon'ble Judges whereas overall housekeeping job, including the work connected with maintenance of the Judges' Chambers in the Supreme Court and their official residences is allocated to the Caretaking Branch. Further, in order to ensure that effective and efficient Protocol, Medical and other services as also retiral benefits as admissible under Supreme Court Judges (Amendment) Rules, 2022 are provided to the Hon'ble Former Chief Justices, Hon'ble Former Judges and their family members, a Nodal Cell has been created within Admn. Judges Section. Protocol Section renders protocol services to the Hon'ble Judges and the Transport Section provides transport facilities to the Hon'ble Judges and the Registry. There also exists a Medical Section for arranging medical facilities for the Hon'ble Judges. A Control Room has also been created to act as an interface between residential offices of Hon'ble Judges on one side and Protocol, Medical and Transport Branches on the other side. Admn. (Security) addresses security related issues of the Supreme Court. Reception Office and the Reception Counters provide necessary assistance and hassle-free services to the visitors, litigant public and the Advocates. An Accessibility and Inclusion Section has also been created to manage all matters related to accessibility and inclusion.

While the practice and procedure of working on the judicial side of the Registry are regulated by the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 and Handbook on Practice and Procedure and Office Procedure, the practice and procedure of working on the Administrative side have been mentioned in the Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961 and Manual of Office Procedure. The minimum educational qualifications and other eligibility conditions prescribed for each and every post have been specified in the Schedule to the 1961 Rules. Manuals also contain the nature of duties and responsibilities of the officers and employees.

II. Specialized Secretariat

a) Conference Secretariat

The Conference Secretariat was established in the Supreme Court of India pursuant to resolution adopted in the Chief Justices' Conference 2016. Its primary objective is to enhance coordination, monitor progress and ensure effective follow-up on the various resolutions adopted during the Chief Justices' Conference and Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts. In pursuance of the resolution passed in the said Conference, all the High Courts also established their own Conference Secretariats.

The Conference Secretariat Portal is instrumental in collecting information via detailed questionnaires, formulated on the basis of resolutions adopted during the Chief Justices' Conference 2016. This data collection on various indicators is done on a quarterly basis. The invaluable input gathered through the portal are utilized for preparation of notes for various meetings/conferences held from time to time. The data collected through this portal was instrumental in preparing notes for National Conference of the District Judiciary held on 31 August-1 September 2024.

The resolutions passed during Chief Justices' Conferences can be accessed on the Supreme Court of India's website at www.sci.gov.in, under 'Important Links' section, specifically labeled 'Chief Justices' Conference'.

b) Information, Statistics and Communication Secretariat

Information and Statistics Secretariat of Supreme Court of India was created in August 2010. It has been entrusted to deal with the Applications under Right to Information Act, 2005 and other matters relating to the Act. It has also been entrusted with giving approved necessary

information relating to Supreme Court of India to the Media and Public. The Secretariat serves as a Data-Bank for storing and processing information and statistics relating to judiciary such as number of High Courts, High Court Judges, Vacancies in High Courts and similar information relating to District Judiciary and information affecting judicial functioning.

All the concerned Sections of the Registry continue to compile and keep their information and statistics and periodically feed the Information & Statistics Secretariat, with the information as required. The Secretariat also compiles information required by the Competent Authorities from time to time. The Information & Statistics Secretariat co-ordinates with the concerned Sections/ Agencies/ Departments/High Courts to devise necessary forms and formats to collect the information that needs to be compiled by the Secretariat. The Information & Statistics Secretariat ensures periodical updating of different types of information and statistics relating to the judiciary and places the updated information through Secretary General for consideration of the Competent Authority. The information which is approved to be placed in public domain is uploaded on the website.

The Secretariat is headed by an officer of the rank of Additional Registrar to act as 'Information & Statistics Officer' and Central Public Information Officer. The Secretariat is assisted by one Assistant Registrar, one Branch Officer and Secretarial Staff. First Appeals under RTI Act, 2005 are heard by the Registrar designated as the First Appellate Authority.

Information and Statistics Secretariat, periodically, compiles and processes the statistical data received from respective High Courts pertaining to Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in both District Courts as well as in the High Courts for every quarter as well

as annually. In the judicial year i.e 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, quarterly Data for Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases during the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, 1 October 2023 to 31st December 2023, 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 and 1 July to 31 August 2024 and Annual Data for the year 2023 were compiled and finalised.

During the period 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2024, a total of 4,851 RTI/N-RTI/Misc. applications were received and have been duly processed under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

During the period 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2024, a total of 684 First Appeals under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 were received and dealt with in the office of the Ld. First Appellate Authority, as per the provision of the said Act."

During the period 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2024, a total of 51 Second Appeals pertaining to this Public Authority under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 have been defended in the Central Information Commission (CIC). Also, the Transparency Audit of proactive disclosures, for the year 2023-2024 under Section 4 of RTI Act, 2005 has been conducted and uploaded on the portal of CIC. Third Party Audit of the proactive disclosures under section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005 has also been duly conducted. During the period 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2024, 18 official Press releases were issued apart from sharing of other approved information with the media.

Vide orders of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India a 'Communications Division' has been created and the Information and Statistics Secretariat has been named as 'Information, Statistics and Communication Secretariat'.

Former Registrar Generals/Secretary Generals

[As on 19.11.2024]

S.No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
1.	Mr. Sankatha Rai	01.06.1987	03.11.1992
2.	Mr. MSA Siddiqui	09.11.1992	26.09.1994
3.	Mr. Chandresh Bhushan	27.09.1994	27.04.1998
4.	Mr. Bhanwar Singh	27.04.1998	26.03.1999
5.	Mr. Lal Chand Bhadoo	27.03.1999	19.01.2003
6.	Mr. J.C.S. Rawat	20.01.2003	28.06.2004
7.	Mr. B.M. Gupta	29.06.2004	24.11.2005
8.	Mr. V.K. Jain	01.12.2005	13.05.2009
9.	Mr. M.P. Bhadran	13.05.2009	12.05.2010
10.	Mr. A.I.S. Cheema	12.05.2010	13.05.2013
11.	Mr. Ravindra Maithani	12.05.2013	15.11.2014
12.	Mr. V. S. R. Avadhani	15.11.2014	11.12.2015
13.	Mr. Ravindra Maithani	11.12.2015	02.12.2018
14.	Mr. Sanjeev Sudhakar Kalgaonkar	20.12.2018	03.11.2021
15.	Mr. Virender Kumar Bansal	03.11.2021	08.11.2022
16.	Mr. Sanjeev Sudhakar Kalgaonkar	09.11.2022	30.04.2023

**Former Registrars/Officers on Special Duty
(in the Grade of Registrar)**

[As on 19.11.2024]

S.No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
1.	Mr. P.N. Murthy	26.01.1950	04.01.1956
2.	Mr. K.Krishnaswami Aiyar	05.01.1956	01.04.1956
3.	Mr. Arindam Dutt	02.04.1956	14.06.1962
4.	Mr. S.N. Sharma	01.07.1962	15.03.1964
5.	Mr. Y.D. Desai	13.08.1963	19.04.1969
6.	Mr. C.V. Rane	09.06.1969	19.10.1971
7.	Mr. M.P. Saxena	20.10.1971	30.04.1979
8.	Mr. S.K. Gupta	16.07.1973	01.01.1978
9.	Mr. R.Narasimhan	16.01.1978	31.03.1984
10.	Mr. R.Subba Rao	01.05.1979	31.03.1986
11.	Mr. A.N. Oberai	01.04.1986	29.02.1988
12.	Mr. H.S. Munjral	02.04.1987	31.08.1988
13.	Mr. R.R. Kumar	01.09.1988	30.04.1993
14.	Ms. S.V. Kashyap	01.09.1988	30.11.1988
15.	Mr. R.N. Joshi	01.12.1988	28.02.1989
16.	Mr. Yoginder Lal	01.03.1989	30.06.1989
17.	Mr. S. Vardarajan	01.07.1989	31.08.1989
18.	Mr. Ved Prakash Sharma	16.12.1989	14.02.1995
19.	Mr. Susanta Ghosh	01.02.1990	25.10.1996
20.	Mr. P.N. Likhiani	15.02.1991	28.02.1994
21.	Mr. L.C. Bhadoo	01.03.1993	26.02.1999
22.	Ms. Manju Goel	30.09.1994	31.03.1997
23.	Mr. H.S. Kapoor	12.02.1997	30.11.2002
24.	Mr. R.C. Gandhi	04.04.1997	31.07.2007
25.	Mr. B.M. Gupta	05.04.1999	23.06.2004
26.	Mr. Ashok I. Cheema	26.11.1999	01.04.2007
27.	Mr. Suresh Chandra	18.12.2002	31.01.2004
28.	Mr. J.K. Sharma	03.02.2004	31.07.2006
29.	Mr. V.K. Jain	08.07.2004	30.11.2005
30.	Mr. Hemant Sampat	08.12.2005	07.02.2007
31.	Mr. B. Sudheendra Kumar	20.03.2006	01.09.2007

S.No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
32.	Mr. S.G. Shah	11.05.2006	30.04.2009
33.	Mr. R.K. Gauba	11.05.2006	12.01.2007
34.	Mr. T.N. Sansi	01.08.2006	30.06.2008
35.	Mr. T. Sivadasan	07.02.2007	31.10.2010
36.	Mr. Sunil Thomas	12.03.2007	11.03.2014
37.	Mr. M.P. Bhadran	27.09.2007	13.05.2009
38.	Mr. Ashok Kumar	16.10.2008	31.12.2010
39.	Mr. Ashok Menon	01.05.2009	31.05.2010
40.	Mr. M.K. Gupta	14.05.2009	01.05.2010
41.	Mr. S.G. Shah	03.05.2010	11.11.2012
42.	Mr. Mohammad Akram Sayeed	12.05.2010	10.05.2014
43.	Mr. Maharaj Krishan Hanjura	28.06.2010	24.06.2011
44.	Mr. Ravindra Maithani	21.09.2010	12.05.2013
45.	Mr. P.R. Bora	22.11.2010	01.10.2012
46.	Mr. H.B. Prabhakara Sastry	11.07.2011	10.10.2011
47.	Mr. Nijamoddin Jahiroddin Jamadar	01.05.2012	30.04.2014
48.	Mr. Sheo Kumar Singh	29.08.2013	06.09.2013
49.	Mr. Sanjiv Jain	05.02.2014	01.11.2014
50.	Mr. V.S.R Avadhani	02.04.2014	25.10.2014
51.	Mr. Pankaj Bhandari	30.04.2014	15.11.2014
52.	Mr. Govind K. Rathod	25.08.2014	29.11.2014
53.	Mr. Praveen Kumar	03.10.2014	03.01.2015
54.	Mr. Maharaj Krishan Hanjura	21.08.2013	12.10.2015
55.	Dr. K. Arul	15.10.2014	14.10.2015
56.	Ms. Rachna Gupta	31.01.2014	12.12.2015
57.	Mr. Surajit Dey	29.11.2014	12.12.2015
58.	Dr. K. Arul	14.12.2015	18.04.2016
59.	Mr. Subhash Malik	01.08.2007	31.05.2016
60.	Mr. Raj Pal Arora	03.01.2011	31.05.2016
61.	Mr. Pawan Dev Kotwal	14.12.2015	31.03.2017
62.	Mr. M. V. Ramesh	05.01.2015	04.05.2017
63.	Ms. Nisha Bharadwaj	17.11.2015	31.05.2017
64.	Mr. Ravinder Nath Nijhawan	17.11.2015	24.08.2017

S.No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
65.	Mr. Chirag Bhanu Singh	10.11.2014	9.11.2017
66.	Mr. Sanjay Parihar	05.09.2016	30.6.2018
67.	Mr. Ramkumar Choubey	26.10.2017	1.10.2018
68.	Mr. Kapil Kumar Mehta	20.04.2017	1.10.2018
69.	Mr. Manoj Jain	06.08.2018	1.10.2018
70.	Mr. K. Babu	1.10.2018	16.11.2018
71.	Mr. Surinder S. Rathi	23.11.2018	01.12.2019
72.	Mr. Surya Pratap Singh	20.08.2018	18.2.2021
73.	Ms. Rita Chopra	05.11.2019	28.02.2021
74.	Mr. B. Hari (Officer on Special Duty)	02.08.2019	20.04.2021
75.	Mr. Sham Nagnathrao Joshi (Officer on Special Duty)	27.05.2019	22.06.2021
76.	Mr. Anil Laxman Pansare	20.09.2018	28.07.2021
77.	*Mr. Rajiv Kalra (as OSD in the grade of Registrar w.e.f. 16.11.2019)	03.12.2019	31.08.2021
78.	Mr. Virender Kumar Bansal (Officer on Special Duty)	17.05.2021	21.10.2021 (FN)
79.	Ms. Mezivolu T. Therieh (Officer on Special Duty)	01.04.2021	01.01.2022 (FN)
80.	Mr. Vinod Singh Rawat	18.02.2021	17.02.2022
81.	Mr. P.K. Gera	23.03.2018	31.03.2022
82.	Mr. H.K. Juneja	05.11.2019	31.07.2022
83.	Mr. Avani Pal Singh	24.11.2018	26.09.2022
84.	Mr. Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara	01.08.2022	30.09.2022
85.	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Goel	29.04.2016	03.10.2022
86.	Mr. B.L.N.Achary	22.04.2021	01.11.2022
87.	Ms. Anju Bajaj Chandna	09.11.2021	08.11.2022
88.	Mr. Yajuvender Singh (Officer on Special Duty)	06.01.2022	31.12.2022
89.	Mr. Chirag Bhanu Singh (as OSD in the grade of Registrar w.e.f. 22.05.2021)	28.07.2021	31.01.2023
90.	Mr. Saurabh Partap Singh Laler (as OSD in the grade of Registrar w.e.f. 09.11.2021)	17.2.2022	31.01.2023
91.	Mr. Deepak Jain	27.07.2016	31.12.2023
92.	Mr. Vivek Saxena	20.04.2023	03.01.2024
93.	Mr. Pardeep Kumar Sharma	10.08.2017	30.06.2024
94.	Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma (as OSD in the grade of Registrar w.e.f. 28.08.2024)	15.10.2024	31.10.2024
95.	Mr. Rajiv Sharma (Officer on Special Duty)	09.11.2022	10.11.2024

SECRETARY GENERAL/OSD



Shri Atul Madhular Kurhekar



Shri Bharat Parashar

REGISTRARS/OSDs*



Shri Rakesh Kumar



Shri Hargurvarinder S. Jaggi



Shri Puneet Sehgal



Shri H. Shashidhara Shetty



Shri Devender Pal Walia



Dr. (Smt) Uma Narayan



Shri A.J. Shiradhonkar



Shri Pavanesh D.



Shri Mahesh Tanajirao Patankar



Ms Aparna Ajitsaria



Shri Pradip Yeshwantrao Ladekar



Smt Sujata Singh



Shri Santosh Kumar



Shri Satish Kumar Arora

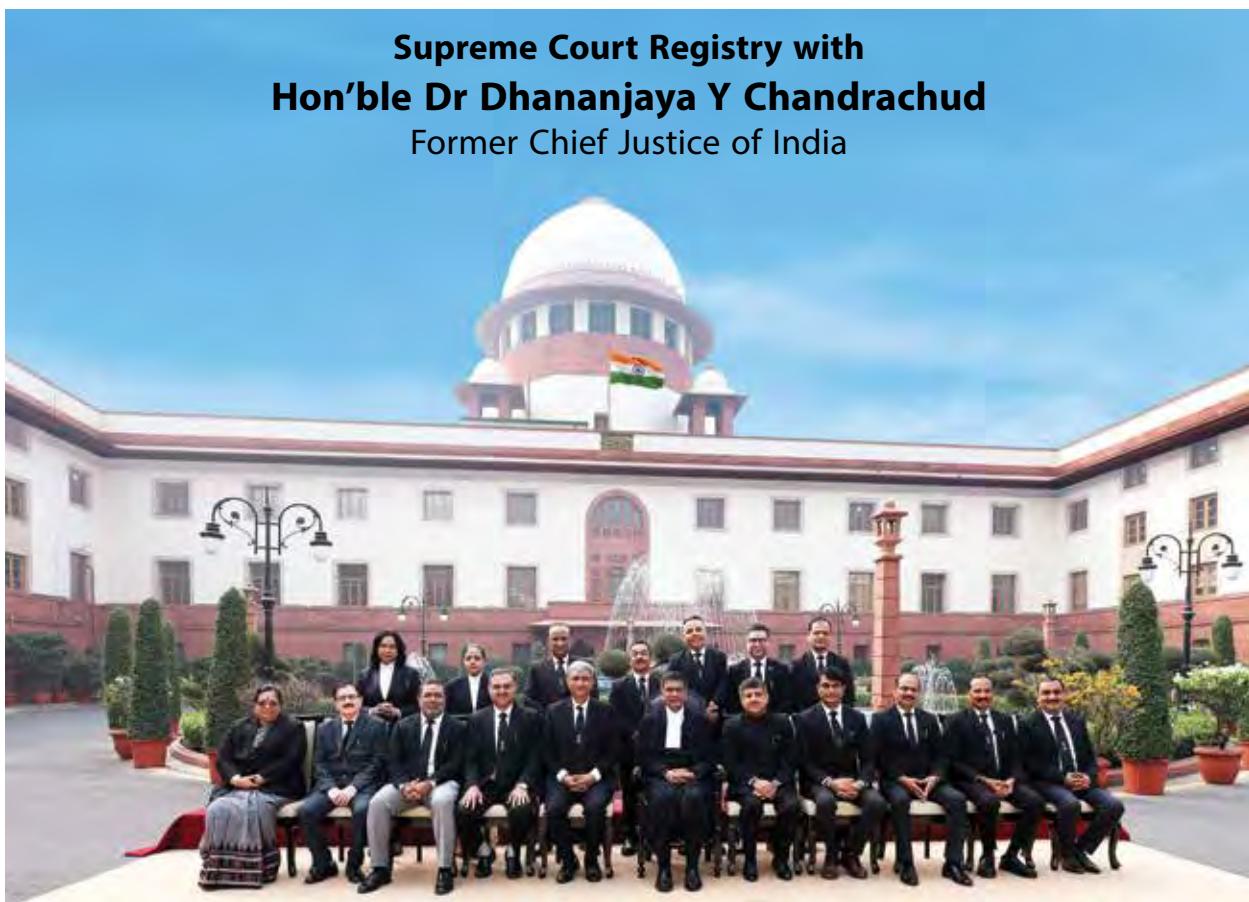


Shri Tauzeeh-Ul-Islam Rajput



Shri Arul Varma

**Supreme Court Registry with
Hon'ble Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud**
Former Chief Justice of India



Sitting (L to R): Dr. (Smt) Uma Narayan, Mr. Rajiv Sharma, Mr. Puneet Sehgal, Mr. Pavanesh D., Mr. Atul Madhular Kurhekar (Secretary General), Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Mr. Mahesh Tanajirao Patankar, Mr. H. Shashidhara Shetty, Mr. Pradip Yeshwantrao Ladekar and Mr. A.J. Shiradhonkar

Standing (L to R): Ms. Sujata Singh, Ms. Aparna Ajitsaria, Mr. Devender Pal Walia, Mr. Santosh Kumar, Mr. Hargurvarinder S. Jaggi, Mr. Satish Kumar Arora and Mr. Tauzeeh-Ul-Islam Rajput

* As per website of the Court

CHAPTER 7

Judicial Process – Case Management and Statistics

The Judicial Wing of the Supreme Court Registry is responsible for case management, i.e. from the stage of filing of petition till its disposal, and consignment of record. Judicial Wing functions through its 23 Sections and the division of work between them is based either on its nature, that is special subject category or the geographical area i.e., State/High Court wise. All case files pertaining to judicial matters i.e., Special Leave Petition, Writ Petition, Original Case, Reference and other Appeals etc. are handled by these 23 Sections on the basis of nature of cases allocated to a particular Section. In addition to these 23 Judicial Sections, there are other Sections dealing with judicial matters, the ancillary Judicial Sections - the Filing Counter (Section I-B), Extension Counter, Paper Books Section, Sections relating to Listing and Data Entry, Monitoring Cell, Elimination Section, Sections dealing with maintenance of Original Record and Translation Work.

Court Processes-Continuity and Change

A. Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS)

In order to clear the backlog of cases, the Supreme Court of India has from time to time made various efforts and also succeeded in reducing the pendency. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, an unprecedented situation arose which led to the curtailment of the normal functioning of the Court. In spite

of that, the Benches continued to sit during this entire period. The physical hearing of cases was suspended and virtual proceedings was made feasible through video conferencing mode, adhering to the Covid-19 protocols. Though the pendency has swelled enormously in the past three years due to Covid-19, the Apex Court has endeavored to hear as many matters as could be possible during the post-Covid period. As the situation prevailing due to Covid-19 improved, the Apex Court restored to physical hearing of cases on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and hybrid hearing on Monday and Friday.

A technology driven initiative was taken in May 2017 with the introduction of an Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS). It was inaugurated on 10 May 2017 by Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India in the presence of Former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges and other dignitaries. ICMIS is a transparent and dynamic system which is litigant centric. The new ICMIS has impressively transformed the website of the Hon'ble Court providing a lot more information for benefiting the counsels, litigants and all concerned.

The newly designed website has enabled issuing of notices to the Advocate-on-Records, litigants, and also to the Government Departments, electronically. Another significant achievement is the e-Cause List, it is now forwarded on the respective e-mails of all concerned.

Yet another remarkable feature of the new ICMIS programme is that it provides a framework for two-way communication for accessing the case information, in future, from the respective High Courts across the country.

In the new ICMIS programme, the Union of India, the State Governments and the High Courts can monitor the status of their cases through login IDs and also download the scanned copies online. Besides this all the Police Stations and all the jails throughout the country will be integrated online. The new system is now in use for more than 5 years and is proving to be a boon for the Advocates and litigants.

Another feather in the cap was adopting a novel procedure to create a digital platform to communicate bail orders, interim orders etc. to Jail authorities through a secured mode of communication enabling the Courts to send them forthwith. It has been congruously named as "FASTER" i.e., Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records. It has immensely helped the Court to transmit interim Orders at the earliest, at the click of a button.

B. Constitution of Special Benches, Three-Judge Benches and Constitution Benches

In order to reduce the Pendency of Regular Hearing matters, Special Benches have been constituted for hearing Death Reference Cases including other Criminal Matters, Land Acquisition Matters, Ordinary Civil Matters, Labour matters, Tax matters, Service matters on Regular Hearing Days i.e. on every Wednesday and Thursday.

In addition, six Three-Judge Benches have been constituted with a view to expedite the disposal of Three-Judge Bench matters.

For adjudication of pending Constitution Bench Cases to be listed before Five, Seven and Nine Hon'ble Judges, Constitution Benches have been

constituted continuously w.e.f. 09.11.2022. 31 Constitution Bench matters have been disposed of by the Hon'ble Court and in 7 such matters judgment has been reserved by the Hon'ble Court. 26 Constitution Bench matters are pending adjudication and the same are being listed for hearing one after another.

Presently, 8 Hon'ble Judges have been nominated by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India for hearing Single Judge Bench/Chamber matters. Such matters are being listed on every Monday and/or Friday after the normal work of the Court is concluded for the day.

C. New Handbook of Practice and Procedure (from previous Annual Report)

A handbook containing the Practice and Procedure of the Supreme Court was published online on 21 August 2017. This book contains the complete procedure adopted right from the inception till the listing of matter before Hon'ble Court together with other relevant information for convenience of all concerned.

D. Changes in Judicial Work Flow

- (i) All miscellaneous matters are being listed chronologically.
- (ii) Matters pending on regular hearing side in which bail applications are filed, are listed before each of the Benches dealing with the criminal categories for their speedy disposal.
- (iii) Considering the urgency involved in the Transfer Petitions and since the liberty of an individual is at stake in criminal matters in which the accused are in custody, the same are also being listed before the Hon'ble Courts on priority basis. Accordingly, upto 10 Transfer Petitions and 10 Bail Matters are being listed on all five working days.
- (iv) The Terminal List has been converted into a running list and has been made dynamic. This list includes all the Regular Hearing

- matters which are ready for listing before the Hon'ble Court.
- (v) The earlier practice of publication and uploading of Advance List has been restored so that the Litigants and Advocates know the listing of their matters well before the day of its actual listing and it is generally uploaded on the website two weeks prior to the date of listing.
 - (vi) In order to list the fresh matters within around a week of their verification, the fresh matters verified on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are listed on Monday in the next week and those verified on Friday, Saturday and Monday are listed on following Friday.
 - (vii) Fresh Transfer Petitions belonging to subject categories 1412 and 1802 are now being listed before Hon. Judge sitting singly in Chamber in pursuance of amendment in Order VI in Rule 1, of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 and after notice Transfer Petitions are being listed before Hon'ble Judge sitting singly in Chamber as well as before Division Benches in order to achieve their early disposal.
 - (viii) In addition to Monday and Friday, Tuesday has also been declared as Miscellaneous day for listing maximum number of after notice matters.
 - (ix) In order to give priority to listing and disposal of old after notice matters, upto 10 old after notice matters upto the year 2019 were listed before the Hon'ble Courts, over and above the normal limit of the matters to be listed before the Courts.
 - (x) Batch matters, having more than 100 matters, have been listed before Hon'ble Court on priority basis.
 - (xi) During Summer Vacation 2024, Vacation Benches were constituted through out the vacation for hearing and disposal of miscellaneous as well as regular hearing matters. As a special drive, in addition to urgent miscellaneous matters, pending and fresh Transfer Petitions, Bail Matters, Habeas Corpus matters, Labour Matters and Service matters were also listed before the Vacation Benches.
 - (xii) Apart from streamlining the process of listing of matters the new system for listed mentioning of matters has been introduced to ensure that all urgent matters could be mentioned before Hon'ble Court.
 - (xiii) In fresh matters, defects are notified in Section I-B (filing counter) within 24 hours of filing of the case and refiled matters are processed within a period of 48 hours; the verification of matters have increased from about 150 matters per day to about 250 matters which has expedited the process of listing of fresh cases before the Hon'ble Court.

**Statement of Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases
in the Supreme Court of India**

YEAR	INSTITUTION			DISPOSAL			PENDENCY		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1950	1037	178	1215	491	34	525	546	144	690
1951	1324	600	1924	1560	227	1787	310	517	827
1952	1127	330	1457	1145	527	1672	292	320	612
1953	1354	360	1714	1163	252	1415	483	428	911
1954	1743	410	2153	1522	427	1949	704	411	1115
1955	1580	512	2092	1669	200	1869	615	723	1338
1956	1732	630	2362	1720	258	1978	627	1095	1722
1957	1490	999	2489	1517	411	1928	600	1683	2283
1958	1698	784	2482	1694	623	2317	604	1844	2448
1959	1870	783	2653	1829	682	2511	645	1945	2590
1960	1971	1276	3247	1910	1271	3181	706	1950	2656
1961	2000	1214	3214	1899	1654	3553	807	1510	2317
1962	2214	1345	3559	2291	1542	3833	730	1313	2043
1963	2189	1561	3750	2152	1131	3283	767	1743	2510
1964	2544	1520	4064	2463	1605	4068	848	1658	2506
1965	2366	1535	3901	2444	1341	3785	770	1852	2622
1966	2639	3012	5651	2429	1412	3841	980	3452	4432
1967	2826	2493	5319	2515	1566	4081	1291	4379	5670
1968	3489	3317	6806	3138	3032	6170	1642	4664	6306
1969	4185	3512	7697	3731	2737	6468	2096	5439	7535
1970	4273	3203	7476	3779	2569	6348	2590	6073	8663
1971	5338	2641	7979	4588	1903	6491	3340	6811	10151
1972	4853	4223	9076	5053	1769	6822	3140	9265	12405
1973	6298	3876	10174	6112	2063	8175	3326	11078	14404
1974	5423	2780	8203	5103	3158	8261	3646	10700	14346

YEAR	INSTITUTION			DISPOSAL			PENDENCY		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1975	6192	3336	9528	5749	2978	8727	4089	11058	15147
1976	5549	2705	8254	4904	2830	7734	4734	10933	15667
1977	9251	5250	14501	8714	1681	10395	5271	14502	19773
1978	13723	7117	20840	10624	6471	17095	8370	15148	23518
1979	16088	4666	20754	11988	3845	15833	12470	15969	28439
1980	21749	4616	26365	14520	2433	16953	19699	18152	37851
1981	24474	6566	31040	16528	2162	18690	27645	22556	50201
1982	29706	13804	43510	26593	2519	29112	30758	33841	64599
1983	37602	18300	55902	35745	10079	45824	32615	42062	74677
1984	37799	11275	49074	28813	6734	35547	41601	46603	88204
1985	36243	15349	51592	36004	15074	51078	41840	46878	88718
1986	22334	5547	27881	17881	12819	30700	46293	39606	85899
1987	22234	5806	28040	15476	6331	21807	53051	39081	92132
1988	21950	5771	27721	15714	4181	19895	59287	40671	99958
1989	21213	6256	27469	17389	4011	21400	63111	42916	106027
1990	22265	6223	28488	20890	4348	25238	64486	44791	109277
1991	26283	6218	32501	28679	6662	35341	62090	44347	106437
1992	20435	6251	26686	20234	15613	35847	62291	34985	97476*
1993	18778	2870	21648	17166	3718	20884	37549	21245** (98240)	58794**
1994	29271	12775	42046	35853	12037	47890	30967	21983	52950
1995	35689	15754	51443	51547	16790	68337	15109	20947	36056
1996	26778	6628	33406	35227	10989	46216	6660	16586	23246
1997	27771	4584	32355	29130	7439	36569	5301	13731	19032
1998	32769	3790	36559	31054	4179	35233	7016	13342	20358
1999	30795	3888	34683	30847	3860	34707	6964	13370	20334
2000	32604	4507	37111	30980	4320	35300	8588	13557	22145
2001	32954	6465	39419	32686	6156	38842	8856	13866	22722

YEAR	INSTITUTION			DISPOSAL			PENDENCY		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
2002	37781	6271	44052	36903	5536	42439	9734	14601	24335
2003	42823	7571	50394	41074	6905	47979	11483	15267	26750
2004	51362	7569	58931	47850	7680	55530	14995	15156	30151
2005	45342	5198	50540	41794	4416	46210	18543	15938	34481
2006	55402	6437	61839	51584	4956	56540	22361	17419	39780
2007	62281	6822	69103	56682	5275	61957	27960	18966	46926
2008	63346	7006	70352	61219	6240	67459	30087	19732	49819
2009	69171	7980	77151	64282	6897	71179	34976	20815	55791
2010	69456	8824	78280	71867	7642	79509	32565	21997	54562
2011	68020	9070	77090	67131	6002	73133	33454	25065	58519
2012	68887	8030	76917	64682	4062	68744	37659	29033	66692
2013	68478	8264	76742	70385	6700	77085	35752	30597	66349
2014	74730	14434	89164	75980	16742	92722	34421	28370	62791
2015	69485	8959	78444	70763	11329	82092	33263	26009	59272
2016	71460	7784	79244	68618	7361	75979	36105	26432	62537
2017	50104	6000	56104	53175	9878	63053	33034	22554	55588
2018	35142	4086	39228	31729	5741	37470	36447	20899	57346
2019	37785	5828	43613	34640	6460	41100	39592	20267	59859
2020	24065	1832	25897	17791	2879	20670	45866	19220	65086
2021	28106	1633	29739	22025	2561	24586	51947	18292	70239
2022#	30730	5835	36565	34651	5149	39800	55073	23724	78797
2023#	50032	3803	53835	45399	6559	51958	59706	20968	80674
2024# (upto Aug.)	35787	4153	39940	36025	2253	38278	59468	22868	82336

* The pendency figures shown up to the year 1992 indicates the number of matters after expanded hyphenated number on files

** From 1993 onwards the figures of pendency of matters are actual file-wise, that is, without expanding hyphenated number of files

The data from November, 2022 onwards includes all diarized matters which also includes Miscellaneous Applications, Unregistered Matters, Defective matters etc. Hence, change in Institution, Disposal and Pendency figures can be found in this Annual Report.

Monthly statement of Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in the Supreme Court (January to August 2024)

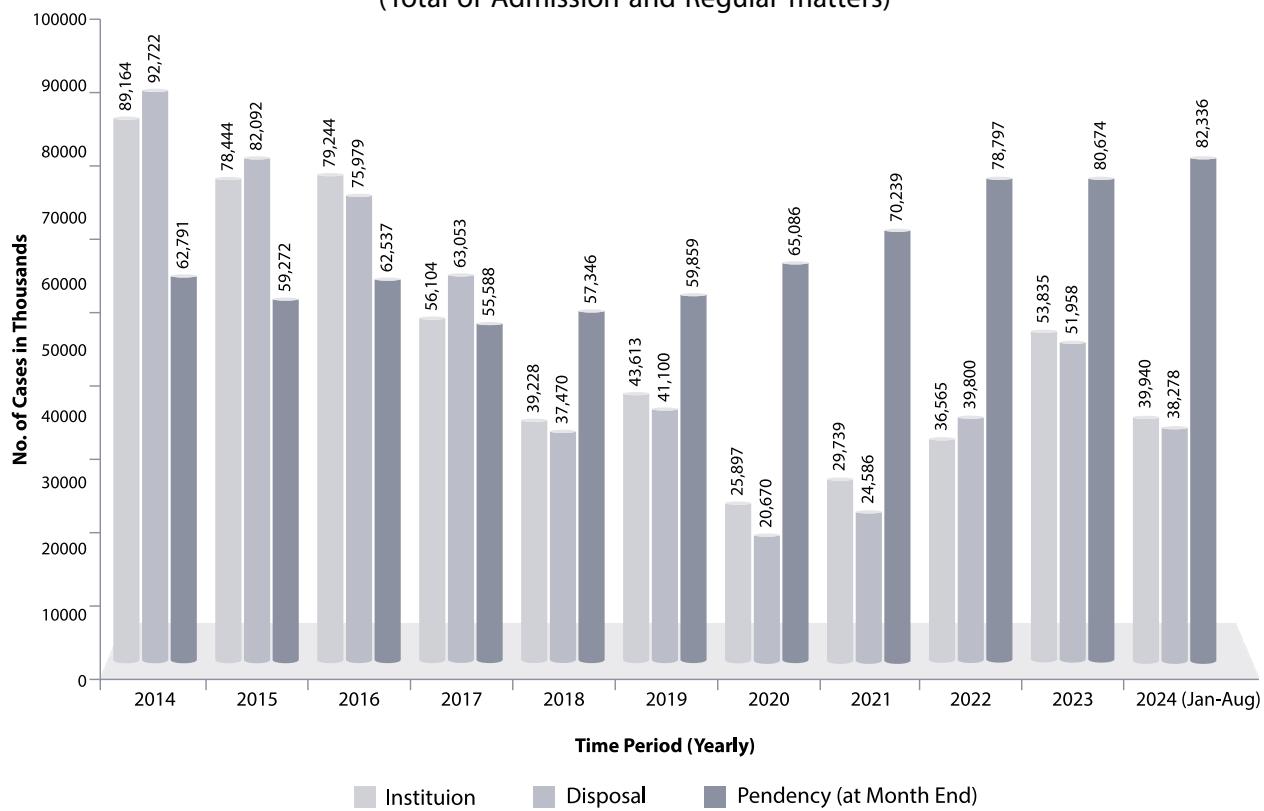
S. No.	Month	Institution			Disposal			Pendency (at Month end)		
		Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1	Jan-24	4949	24	4973	5074	765	5839	59581	20227	79808
2	Feb-24	5002	461	5463	5820	102	5922	58763	20586	79349
3	Mar-24	4138	528	4666	3716	145	3861	59185	20969	80154
4	Apr-24	4610	547	5157	4690	97	4787	59105	21419	80524
5	May-24	4505	403	4908	3386	36	3422	60224	21786	82010
6	Jun-24	2554	462	3016	1074	38	1112	61704	22210	83914
7	Jul-24	5319	295	5614	6127	924	7051	60896	21581	82477
8	Aug-24	4710	1433	6143	6138	146	6284	59468	22868	82336

Monthly statement of Civil/Criminal Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in the Supreme Court January to August 2024)

S. No.	Month	Institution			Disposal			Pendency (at Month end)		
		Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Jan-24	3342	1631	4973	3678	2161	5839	62597	17211	79808
2	Feb-24	3827	1636	5463	4077	1845	5922	62347	17002	79349
3	Mar-24	3050	1616	4666	2489	1372	3861	62908	17246	80154
4	Apr-24	3444	1713	5157	3039	1748	4787	63313	17211	80524
5	May-24	3146	1762	4908	2034	1388	3422	64425	17585	82010
6	Jun-24	2085	931	3016	704	408	1112	65806	18108	83914
7	Jul-24	3629	1985	5614	4641	2410	7051	64794	17683	82477
8	Aug-24	3995	2148	6143	4130	2154	6284	64659	17677	82336

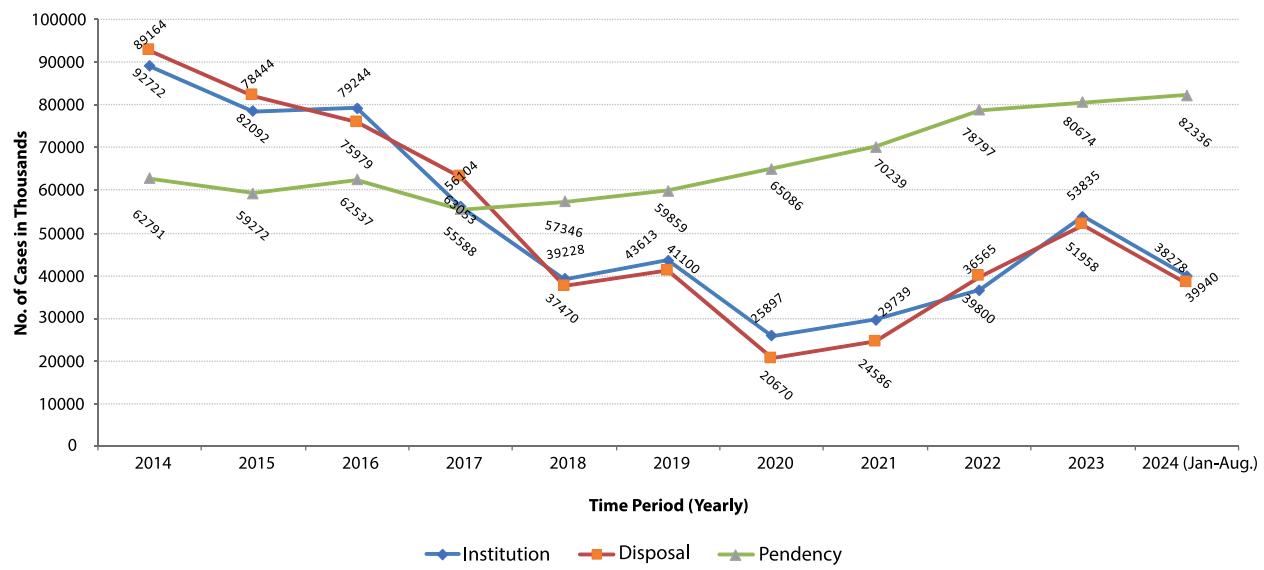
Institution, Disposal & Pendency

From January 2014 to August 2024
(Total of Admission and Regular matters)



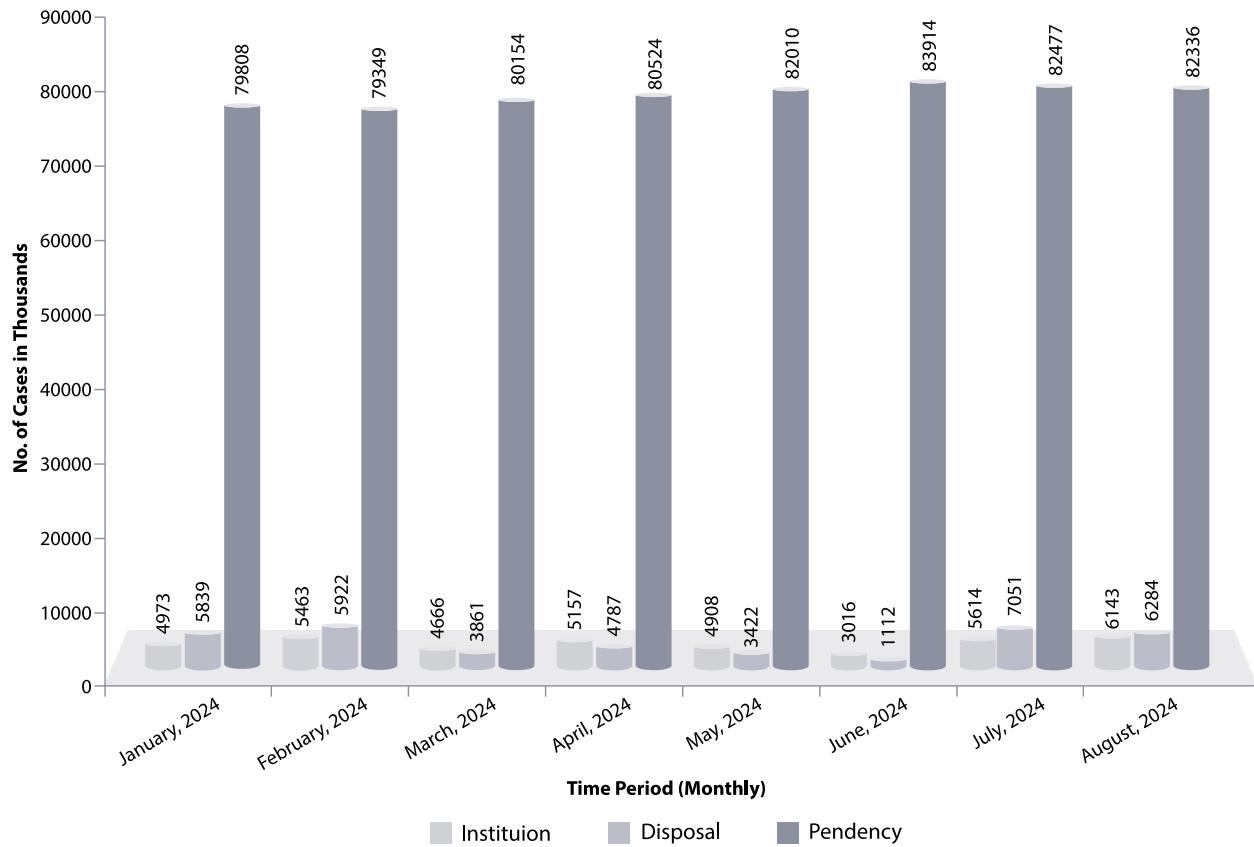
Institution, Disposal & Pendency

From Year 2014 to August 2024
(Total of Admission and Regular matters)



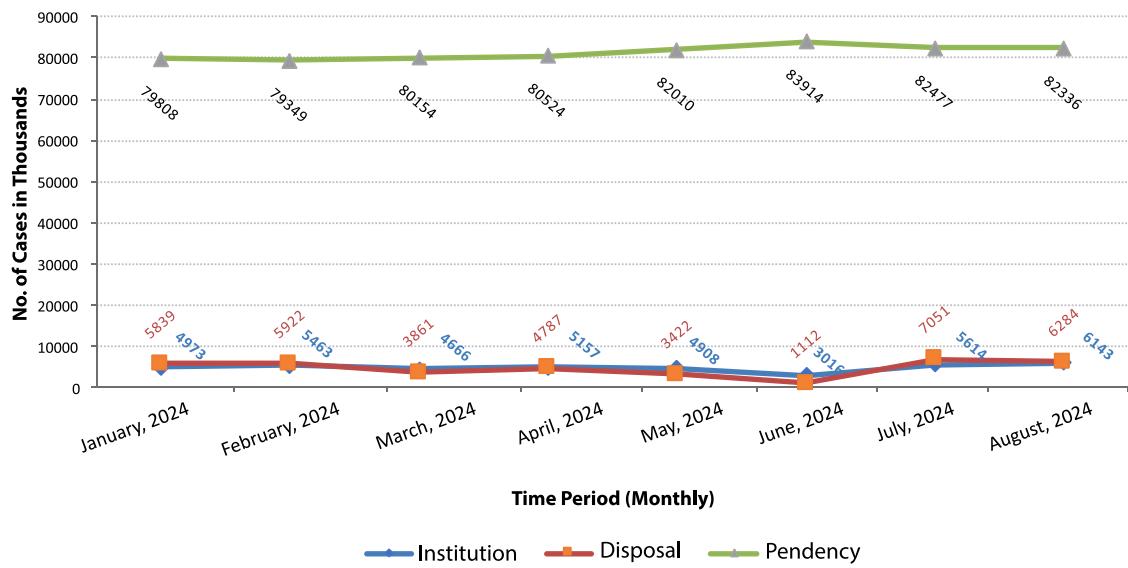
Institution, Disposal & Pendency

From January 2024 to August 2024
(Total of Admission and Regular matters)



Institution, Disposal & Pendency

From January 2024 to August 2024
(Total of Admission and Regular matters)



**Letter/Petitions and Writ Petitions (Civil and Criminal)
Received/Filed under PIL in the Supreme Court of India**

YEAR	Letter-Petitions Received in English, Hindi, and Other Regional Languages	Writ Petition (Civil)	Writ Petition (Criminal)
1985	24716	105	2
1986	25419	286	10
1987	18411	119	19
1988	16271	71	25
1989	17769	76	22
1990	17971	92	26
1991	17474	61	28
1992	16961	62	16
1993	15749	96	38
1994	16466	83	20
1995	15094	109	44
1996	19180	185	36
1997	15503	180	35
1998	13087	160	17
1999	15339	137	21
2000	17764	161	22
2001	17198	159	23
2002	15518	186	13
2003	14293	15	21
2004	15653	171	22
2005	14261	215	12
2006	19840	226	17
2007	18200	232	26(3)*
2008	24666	193(1)*	33(1)*
2009	21180	153(1)*	12
2010	24611	115	14
2011	35026	135	20(1)*
2012	41314	126	23
2013	45588	214(3)*	45(2)*
2014	30404	332	48(2)*
2015	51203	264(2)*	39(1)*
2016	53282	282	35
2017	59561	79(2)*	5(1)*
2018	61061	350(1)*	49
2019	70403	374(4)*	59(4)*
2020	69124	300(8)*	26(2)*
2021	111830	1487(4)*	587(2)*
2022	115120	1353	587(1)*
2023	73216	1632(1)*	775(0)*
2024 (till 31.08.2024)	34212	728(2)*	443(2)*

* Figure in brackets shows the number of Writ Petitions registered suo-moto.

CHAPTER 8

Initiatives and Events Round-up

Training Cell

The Training Cell was revamped, and a comprehensive Annual Training Calendar was prepared under the guidance of the Former Chief Justice of India. Since then, the Training Cell has embarked on several initiatives aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the Supreme Court Registry, elevating the professional competency of staff, and ensuring greater transparency in its operations. Following the revamp, 105 Training Sessions were successfully conducted covering around 3,621 personnel within the

period of 1 July 2023 to 30, June 2024, in which 31 Training Sessions were conducted in full swing throughout the vacation.

Key Initiatives

- **New Training-cum-Examination Centre with Computer Lab:** A state-of-the-art, Training-cum-Examination Centre has been established, featuring an Advanced Training Hall cum Computer Lab for practical training.



- **Online QR Code-based Attendance and Feedback:** A QR code-based system for attendance and feedback has been introduced, integrated with Employee Information.

**Day 3 : Questionnaire & Feedback Form :
Induction Training Programme for Newly
Recruited JCA Batch 3**

Date : 03.07.2024 Dear All Kindly Fill up the Feedback Form for the 3rd Day of Induction training programme for Newly Recruited JCA Batch 3, held by the Training Cell Supreme Court of India for your valuable inputs and suggestions.

raunakkarthik@gmail.com Switch account

CS Noida

I PROCESSED RECORDS 999999

Name *

Ram Kumar

Emp. Id. *

1234567890

Training Cell, Supreme Court of India

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

[NAME] (CERTIFICATE NUMBER)

The certificate is issued to [NAME] on [DATE]

[NAME] (Signature) [TRAINING NAME] [TRAINING CODE] [Date]

[NAME] received in the Training Cell, Supreme Court of India.

RAUNAK KARLIK
Supreme Court of India
Supreme Court of India



- **Digital Certifications mapped with Employee Code :** Participants now receive a Digital Certificate upon completion of training. Resource persons are also awarded a Digital Certificate of Appreciation, which is forwarded to Admin I Section for inclusion in personal files.
 - **Specialized Training Program for Staff of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka:** A specialized training program for Registry staff of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka was conducted from 9 to 13 May 2024 by the Training Cell. During the programme,

the delegates were introduced to the technological and digital transformation of the Supreme Court of India including e-Courts project, Library, Court processes such as filing, listing, scrutiny, scanning and record keeping. The Senior Registrars from the Registry explained to the delegates nuances of the same and demonstrated the systems with enhanced transparency, efficiency, and accessibility. Under the guidance of Former Chief Justice of India, Training Cell of the Supreme Court supported this initiative, promoting knowledge sharing and fostering collaboration with International Judicial entities.



- **Induction Training for Junior Court Assistants:** A seven-day induction training for 120 newly recruited Junior Court Assistants was held in two batches in February and March 2024 which included practical visits to various sections of the Registry.



- **POSH Act Training Program:** An awareness session on the POSH Act was conducted for 517 staffs for 33 residential offices of Honorable Judges from 15 to 24 of May 2024. Also, Previously in collaboration with the National Commission for Women (NCW), a training session on the "Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH)" was held on 4 November 2023 for staffs of the Registry.



- **TDS Awareness Program:** On 24 February 2024, an awareness program on Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) was conducted in collaboration with the Income Tax Department for Registry staff members.
- **Pension and Benefits Workshop:** A workshop on pension and retirement benefits for officials retiring up to June 2024 was conducted on 27 February 2024 in collaboration with UCO Bank.
- **Noting and Drafting Training:** A four-day program on Noting and Drafting for Dealing Assistants was conducted in two batches from 11 to 14 July 2023. Additional sessions on Noting and Drafting for Registry staff were also conducted on 4 and 18 June 2024.

- **Orientation Training for Law Clerks:** An orientation program for Law Clerks was held on 18 August 2023 by Centre for Research and Planning.
- **e-Filing Orientation for Advocates:** A special orientation on the new e-filing module was conducted for advocates on 11 September 2023 by the Computer Cell.
- **Advanced Judicial Training on Criminal Matters:** Training sessions were organized in six batches on various dates from September to November 2023 for dealing assistants. Also a focused judicial training session on criminal matters for dealing assistants was held on 12 June 2024.
- **Compression-Only Life Support (COLS) Training:** COLS training was provided to Registry staff members in seven batches across the dates: 3 February 2024, 24 February 2024, 9 March 2024, 20 April 2024, 27 April 2024, 11 May 2024, and 18 May 2024 at GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi.



- **In-house ICT Training:** A training session on "Information and Communications Technology (ICT)" for Registry staffs was held on 2 September 2023.
- **Advanced Judicial Training on Civil Matters:** A specialized training for dealing assistants of the Registry was held on 8 April 2024.

- **Coram and Listing Training:** Training on "Coram and Listing of Mentioning Matters" for specific sections' staff was held in four batches on various dates between October and December 2023.
- **Hands-on e-Filing Training:** Practical training on e-filing for Dealing Assistants was conducted in two batches on 18 and 19 December 2023.
- **Court Assistants Orientation Training:** A four-day orientation for newly promoted Court Assistants was conducted in January and February 2024.
- **Training for Court Master (SH) and Other Key Personnel:** A dedicated training session was conducted on 13 June 2024 for key personnel including Court Master (SH) and P.S. to senior officials.
- **MS PowerPoint Training:** An officer and 12 officials attended the "MS PowerPoint" training program (MS-PP-10) organized by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) from 3 to 4 July 2023.
- **e-HRMS 2.0 Implementation Training:** Training on e-HRMS 2.0 was conducted in seven batches from 23 to 25 April 2024 and in four batches from 21 to 22 May 2024 in collaboration with DoPT officials.



- **Pay Fixation Workshop:** Two officials participated in a three-day online workshop on "Pay Fixation" (WPF-28) conducted by ISTM from 24 to 26 July 2023.
- **In-house Leadership and Ethical Training:** A leadership and ethics training program for the Registry's officers was held on 5 August 2023, conducted by expert faculty from the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).
- **Gender Sensitization Workshop:** On 12 August 2023, a workshop on Gender Sensitization was organized at the Supreme Court premises for Registry officials, facilitated by IIPA experts.
- **Emergency Contingency Workshop:** Workshops on "Response to Emergency Contingency" for Registry staff were held on 2 December 2023, 9 December 2023, and 6 January 2024 for various staff levels.





A seven-day induction training for 176 newly recruited Junior Court Assistants of the Batch of 2024 was successfully conducted by the Training Cell.

The successful operation of the Training Cell has greatly enhanced the professional skills of the Supreme Court Registry's staff, contributing to increased efficiency and transparency in its functions.

I. Video of Kesavananda Bharati Judgment in Regional Languages

On 7 December 2023, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr DY Chandrachud launched a short video

on the Kesavananda Bharati judgement in ten Indian languages on the Supreme Court's website to commemorate 50 years of *Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala*. During the launch, the Chief Justice observed that language barriers can cause covert discrimination which finds no place in our justice system. The video is available in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Odia, Malayalam, Gujarati, Kannada, Bengali, Assamese and Marathi. It provides a summary of the landmark judgement and its key highlights. Its release will ensure

**Supreme Court of India
The Basic Structure Judgment**

BACKGROUND INTRODUCTION KEY LEGAL ISSUES ARGUMENTS CONCLUSION REFERENCE MATERIAL VIDEOS

Videos in English, Hindi and other regional languages



A LANDMARK IN INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
COMPLETED 50 YEARS ON 24 APRIL 2023 (ENGLISH)



KESAVANANDA BHARATI SRIPADAGALAVARI VS. STATE OF KERALA & ANR. (HINDI)



KESAVANANDA BHARATI SRIPADAGALAVARI VS. STATE OF KERALA & ANR. (TELUGU)



KESAVANANDA BHARATI SRIPADAGALAVARI VS. STATE OF KERALA & ANR. (TAMIL)



KESAVANANDA BHARATI SRIPADAGALAVARI VS. STATE OF KERALA & ANR. (ODIA)



KESAVANANDA BHARATI SRIPADAGALAVARI VS. STATE OF KERALA & ANR. (MALAYALAM)

The video can be accessed at: <https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in/KBJ/?p=home/regionalLangVideos>

that knowledge about the 'the basic structure judgement' is not confined to a select few, well-versed in English. It is an important addition to a designated webpage about Kesavananda Bharati that was launched last year.

Vigilance Cell

1. To enhance efficiency in the administration of Supreme Court Registry, for strengthening of the mechanism for dealing with vigilance matters as also for bringing greater transparency in the working system, the Vigilance Cell has been set up, which *inter-alia* handles complaint, received against the officer and staff of the Supreme Court Registry, processes cases for administrative action for violation of the provisions of the Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961, and conducts departmental enquiries.
2. The Vigilance Cell also looks after the work of verification of character and antecedents of new entrants through concerned police. Complaints received against the Registry staff are dealt with expeditiously, and in case there is substance in the complaints with verifiable material, directions of the Competent Authority are solicited for initiating administrative action. Issuance of Vigilance Clearance in respect of the Registry's staff is also being dealt with by the Vigilance Cell.
3. The Vigilance Cell ensures due observance of Conduct Rules by the staff and timely processing of vigilance cases at all stages. Besides, in order to strengthen the administrative machinery by developing responsible and efficient administration at all levels and to achieve efficiency and prompt disposal of work, the exercise of periodical review of officers and staff

for adjudging their suitability/fitness for continuance in service beyond specified age after completion of specified period of service is also undertaken by the Vigilance Cell at regular intervals.

4. The intimation with regard to acquirement/disposal of immovable/movable property by the Registry's staff are also being dealt with in Vigilance Cell. The annual immovable property returns by the Group 'A' & 'B' officers/officials are being submitted through online mode.
5. Vigilance Cell also coordinates for organizing training/workshop on vigilance matters. In-house Training Programmes were conducted on 28.06.2023 for 74 newly appointed Junior Court Attendants as also for 120 newly appointed Junior Court Assistants in two different batches on 02.02.2024 and 04.03.2024 on vigilance matters including punctuality, discipline, dress code, etc.

Cash and Accounts-I

Important Work in Cash & Accounts I

1. Preparation of salary bill on monthly basis in respect of staff of the Registry.
2. Submission of Quarterly Income Tax:
 - For Quarter 1 which comprises of March, April, May, and June-By 31 July
 - For Quarter 2 which comprises for July, August, and September-By 31 October
 - For Quarter 3 which comprises of October, November, and December-By 31 January
 - For Quarter 4 which comprises of January February and March-By 31 May.
3. Savings proof are collected from the month of October every year in respect of staff of the Registry.

4. Entries are made manually in PBRs on monthly basis.
5. Form-16 are issued in the month of July to the staff of Registry.
6. Bills related to medical claim, LTC, Leave encashment, retirement benefits, etc. are processed as and when received.
7. MACP, Promotions, arrears bills are processed as and when received.
8. Bonus bills are prepared in the month of October.
9. Reconciliation of monthly expenditure with Pay and Accounts Office, Supreme Court of India, preparation of Revised Estimates of current Financial Year and Budget Estimates of the next Financial Year of the Registry under Demand No. 67 and conveying to Ministry of Finance for allocation of funds, deliberation of pre-budget meeting, filling of requisite data of expenditure ceilings, statement of Budgetary estimate etc. in Union Budget Information System, preparation of Object head wise ceilings, preparation and printing of Detailed Demand for Grants, responding to various communications received from Pay and Accounts Office, Principal Accounts Office and Ministry of Finance pertaining to budget, day to day monitoring of funds under various Object heads during the close of Financial Year, preparation of re-appropriation and surrender of savings office orders and conveying the same to Ministry of Finance, Vetting of Appropriation Accounts as received from Principal Accounts Office, Ministry of Law and Justice.

Progressive Initiatives

- Arrears of allowances have been disbursed in respect of 10 serving judicial officers as per the recommendations of Second National

Judicial Pay Commission in consonance of judgment dated 4 January 2024 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

- Non-drawal certificates in respect of 17 repatriated judicial officers prepared and sent to their Parent State Judicature/ Department as per the recommendations of Second National Judicial Pay Commission in consonance of judgment dated 4 January 2024 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- **Onboarded on PFMS** from old compact system for the purpose of salary and payment of other associated bills in respect of 90% officials/staff of the Registry.
- All medical reimbursement claims submitted by hospitals are processed through **PFMS billing mechanism**.
- Sought approval of Former Chief Justice of India for release of advertisements in public domain by respective branches of the Registry through Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) and procured Account Head Number with CBC for parking of funds towards utilisation of advertisement services.
- **Budget monitoring on PFMS** through various reports like classified abstract report, compilation sheet, DDO wise allocation.

Cash and Accounts-II

Important Work in Cash & Accounts II

- All receipts and payments of this Registry by way of Cash.
- payments pertaining to all contingent bills, preparation of TDS and GST TDS returns and issuing certificates thereof.
- All Court's directed payments, Fresh Investments & Re-investments (FDRs) and Deposits in Government Treasury Accounts (8443-K deposit non-interest).

- Deposits and Payments of all EMDs, Performance Securities, Chamber Securities and forfeitures of securities.
 - Receipt of IPOs, DDs, Cheques towards RTI fees, maintenance charges of advocates chambers and fees.
 - Reimbursement of livery related bills of all staff members of this Registry.
 - Safe Custody of FDRS, Bank Guarantees and other Important Documents as per the directions of Hon'ble Courtin judicial matters as well as in administrative matters.
- on Contingent basis in consonance under new procurement policy at the Residential Offices of Hon'ble Judges upto Rs.20,000/- per quarter.
- The Hospitality related expenditure has been implemented in respect of officers of the Registry as per ceiling limits prescribed vide SNJPC recommendations.
 - Considering increased workload due to introduction of several budgetary heads for the Registry from the new financial year, the Cash Branch has taken initiative to computerize the formats for preparation of bill and maintenance of data vide PFMS software (e-bill) which has resulted into quick and error free processing of bills and faster data handling.

Progressive Initiatives

- Introduction of Rupay Pre-paid Debit Cards for purchase of Consumables and Services

Progressive Initiatives Undertaken by Recruitment Cell

Following important initiative were undertaken by recruitment cell

S.No.	Subject	No. of cases
1.	Fresh Appointments	205 (Junior Court Assistant, Court Assistant (Junior Translator), Senior Court Assistants (Museum), Junior Court Assistant (Hardware Maintenance), Junior Court Attendants, Chamber Attendant (R), Chamber Attendant (T))
2.	Compassionate appointments	7
3.	Engagement/extension Office Assistants through NICSI and Casual Labourers through M/s BVG	140
4.	Departmental Tests conducted for promotion to the post of :-	1. Assistant Registrar 2. Branch Officer 3. Court Master(SH) 4. Senior Personal Assistant 5. Court Assistant 6. Personal Assistant 7. Junior Court Assistant 8. Senior Court Assistant
5.	Engagement/Extension of short term contractual assignment of Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates	135 Engagement & 35 Extension
6.	Placement of Law Trainee	26

CHAPTER 9

Technological Developments Over the Year

Harnessing Technology for a More Efficient and Accessible Judiciary: A Year in Review (2023-2024)

Continuing its vigorous momentum of technology assimilation, the Supreme Court of India in alliance with National Informatics Centre (NIC) successfully developed and deployed crucial I.T. enabled services aimed at further streamlining processes, improving transparency, and ensuring prompt and equitable justice delivery.

Hybrid Hearing System – A Pathbreaker in Access to Justice

The hybrid hearing system, with its hi-tech revolutionary re-imagining of Court access, continued to remain a favourite of stakeholders. Easily the highest accessed I.T. service of the Court, it offers seamless means to participate in Court hearings either physically or in virtual mode. The figures¹ tabulated below are a testimony of the success of the hybrid hearing system of the Court.

Statistical Data of Hearing by Courts Through Video Conferencing

1.	Number of matters heard through video conferencing and physical hearing	Miscellaneous	7,20,191
		Regular	1,13,913
		Total	8,34,104
2.	Number of matters disposed of after hearing through video conferencing and physical hearing	Miscellaneous	1,64,639
		Regular	22,004
		Total	1,86,643
3.	Number of footfalls of Advocates during hearing through video conferencing (approximately)	48,60,976	
4.	Number of cases filed during the period w.e.f. 23.03.2020 to 30.08.2024	E-Filed (old portal +eFM)	91,842
		Counter filing	97,042
		Total	1,88,884
5.	Total number of Benches	25,560	

1. As on 30 August 2024. These statistics are generated from ICMIS and e-filing database, and these include data of physical hearing of cases as well as the hearings which were held physically with hybrid option since 1 September, 2021.

ICMIS: Supreme Court's Evolving Case Management Backbone

The Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), Supreme Court of India's central case management software underwent significant upgrades including-

- **Upgraded Database Engine:** The underlying database engine was upgraded to PostgreSQL for improved performance and scalability.
- **Optimized Queries:** Queries were refined to enhance efficiency and reduce processing time.
- **Algorithm Auditing:** The algorithms used within ICMIS were audited to ensure accuracy and reliability.
- **Thorough Testing:** All modules underwent rigorous testing to identify and address potential issues.
- **New Gist Module:** A new Gist module was added to streamline case management processes.
- **Module Pruning:** Unnecessary and redundant modules were removed to optimize the system's functionality.

Empowering Citizens: Supreme Court's Online RTI Portal



The Court's web-based RTI portal launched on November 24, 2022 as a historic step towards transparency and eliminating the need for physical paperwork, had been used for filing/processing 8,151 applications, 1,128 appeals,

and 120 miscellaneous requests, as of 30 August 2024. The portal has been replicated by several High Courts with the help of Supreme Court of India.

e-SCR: Easing Access to Judgments

The Supreme Court of India's commitment to enhancing public access to justice was brought to fruition with the launch of the e-SCR portal on 2 January 2023. This online repository provides free access to all reported Supreme Court judgments dating back to 1950.



By eliminating the need for physical library visits, e-SCR empowers citizens to easily read and download judgments in electronic format (PDF). The portal's user-friendly interface features a powerful "free text" search engine that allows users to quickly find judgments based on keywords, High Court names, Acts, Sections, parties involved, judges, and judgment dates. The embedded filtering feature further refines search results, providing a more targeted and efficient search experience. Built on elastic search technology, a free and open-source software, e-SCR ensures a reliable and accessible platform for legal research and information.

Digi SCR

The acronym **Digi SCR** stands for Digital Supreme Court Reports. The Digi SCR initiative, driven by the visionary leadership of Former Chief Justice of India and the Hon'ble Judges of the Editorial Committee of the Supreme Court, marks a paradigm shift in legal information dissemination. The work is carried out by the Editorial Wing, Supreme Court of India with

the assistance of the Technical Wing, Judges Library.

The Digi SCR's primary focus is on dissemination of legal information on the principles of accessibility, transparency, and environmental responsibility. Serving as the official law report of the Supreme Court judgments in India, it heralds a new era by presenting judgments in a digital, open-access format. This pivotal step replaces traditional print editions, offering an invaluable resource to law students, young lawyers, and the wider public while contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions.

The "Digital Supreme Court Reports" harnesses the power of technology to transform legal knowledge sharing. Delivering judgments in both volume-based and HTML formats ensures ease of access, searchability, and unrestricted availability to all interested and passionate about the law.

Key Features: Firstly, the initiative pioneers a fortnightly release schedule, enabling the swift dissemination of the latest judgments. Secondly, it exclusively publishes reports in digital form, effectively eliminating print production and significantly reducing environmental impact. Thirdly, an intuitive, user-friendly website is being crafted, designed to optimize navigation and enhance user experience. Lastly, embracing an open access approach, the initiative grants free entry to law students, aspiring lawyers, and the wider public.

The far-reaching impacts of this monumental initiative are multifaceted. It empowers law students and young lawyers with real-time, authoritative legal resources free of cost and without any rent-lock subscription models. Furthermore, it catalyses legal research, fosters scholarship, and informs judicious legal practice. Simultaneously, it elevates transparency and accountability within the legal system to unprecedented levels. Beyond its legal sphere,

this initiative becomes a pivotal force driving substantial environmental sustainability by eradicating the carbon footprint associated with print publications. Additionally, it cultivates a culture of legal literacy, promoting awareness and understanding among the masses.

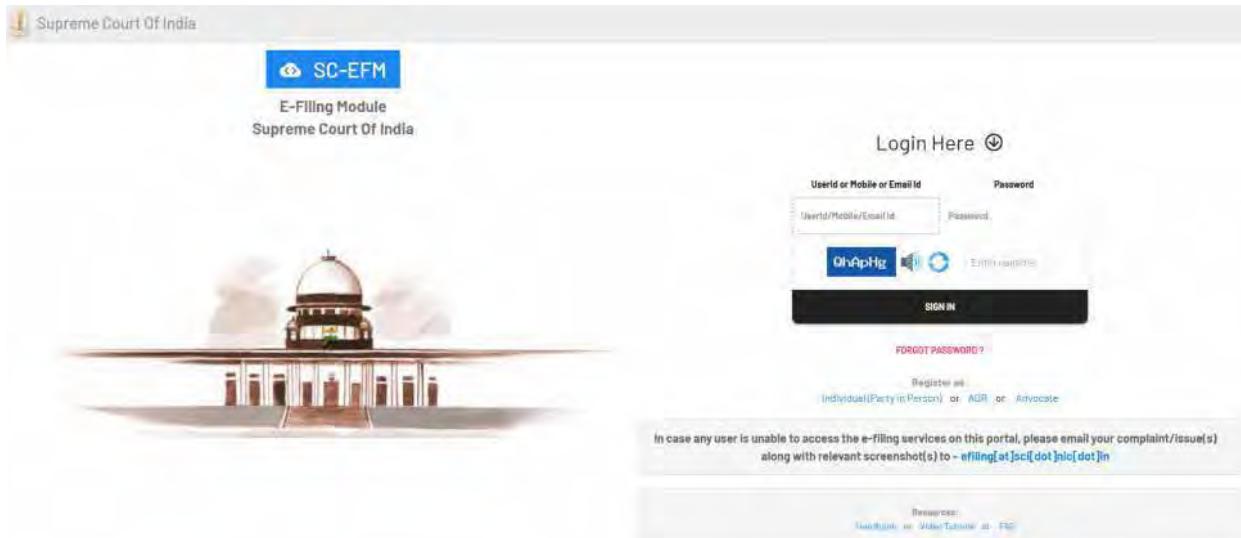
Advocates' Online Appearance Portal

Hailed for ensuring massive reduction in paper circulation, previously caused by physical / paper based filing of appearance slips by Advocates, the portal facilitates submission of appearance slips in electronic mode. The snapshot shows that more than twenty one lakh appearance slips have been filed online so far.



e-Filing Module 2.0

The Supreme Court of India's electronic filing (e-Filing) module has revolutionized the way legal professionals interact with the Court. By providing a convenient and secure online platform, lawyers can file petitions, pleadings, and other documents electronically, eliminating the need for physical submissions. This has significantly reduced the administrative burden on the Court and improved efficiency for legal practitioners. The e-Filing module also offers real-time updates on case status, making it easier for lawyers to track the progress of their matters. This digital transformation has not only modernized the Indian legal system but has also enhanced accessibility and transparency for all stakeholders.



Since its launch on 12 May 2023 till 30 August 2024, Forty one thousand two hundred and thirty seven (41,237) fresh cases have been filed through the new e-Filing module in a variety of matters.

e-Sewa Kendra – Welfare Centre Bridging the Digital Divide



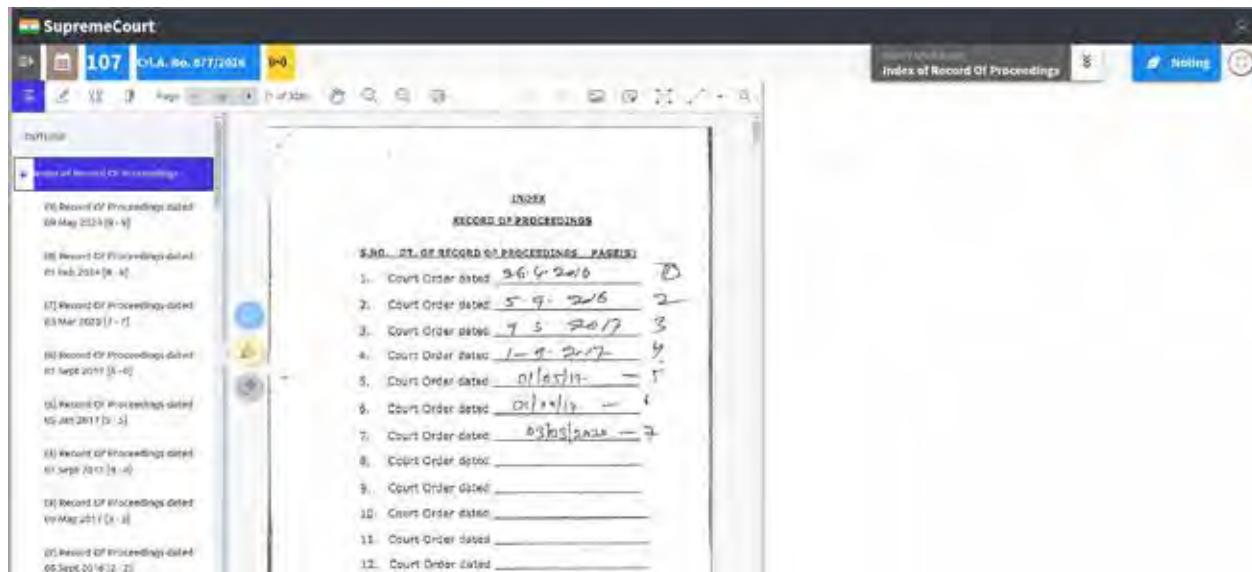
The Supreme Court of India's e-Sewa Kendra, a visionary initiative spearheaded by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, serves as a one-stop digital service center for both legal professionals and the general public. Inaugurated on May 12, 2023, this center continues to offer a wide range of online services, from case status inquiries to e-filing assistance. By providing accessible and efficient digital solutions the e-Sewa Kendra aims

to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their technological proficiency, can easily interact with the Court. With over a thousand services provided and hundreds of queries handled daily, this center has become a valuable resource for the legal community and the public at large.



AI-Powered Transcripts: Enhancing Accessibility and Transparency

In a significant step towards greater accessibility and transparency, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, launched a pilot program in February 2023 that utilizes artificial intelligence (AI) to automatically transcribe arguments presented before Constitution



Benches. This innovative technology generates real-time transcripts of courtroom exchanges, displayed on large screens within the courtroom for all parties involved.

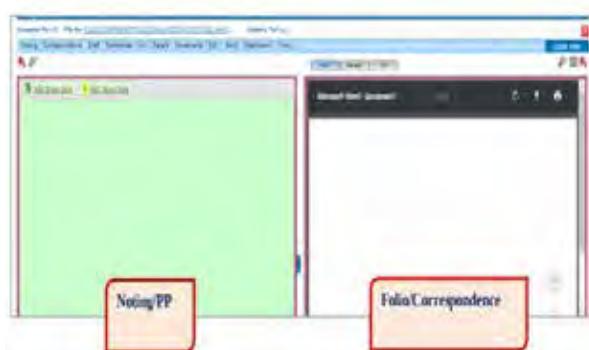
Additionally, these transcripts are uploaded to the Supreme Court website (https://main.sci.gov.in/vernacular_judgment) for wider public access. By providing immediate and readily accessible transcripts, this initiative significantly enhances the transparency and efficiency of the judicial process.

Reforms in Digitization: SCI Interact and Ingestion

Recognizing the potential benefits of digitization, the Supreme Court of India took a pioneering step by developing twin software solution (INGESTION and SCI-INTERACT). INGESTION aids the Registry in digitizing, storing, archiving and retrieving paper-books. SCI INTERACT enables Judges to read and annotate on digitized paper-books. While the applications have been in use for some years now, there were significant upgrades made to them in the past year to further streamline the process of scanning, bookmarking, reading and harmonizing the use of digitized paper-books across Benches and even for the members of the Bar.

e-Office Suite: A Paperless Revolution at the Supreme Court

With the Benches embracing paperless mode of functioning, the administrative branches of the Supreme Court swiftly followed suit by eschewing paper files and adopting NIC's Work from Anywhere module e-Office. E-office has transformed the Registry's operations, eliminating the need for paper-based workflows and freeing up valuable workspace. By using the Court's secure network, staff members can now access e-office from their laptops, enabling them to work remotely and efficiently.



As of 30 August 2024, as many as 41 branches have been onboarded onto e-office and 7345 number of files have already been processed on the module.

Su-Swagatam: A Digital Gateway to the Supreme Court

As one of India's most frequented institutions, the Supreme Court of India is committed to balancing accessibility with security. To streamline visitor management, the Registry collaborated with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to develop the innovative web portal "Su-Swagatam."



Su-Swagatam offers a user-friendly platform that allows visitors to conveniently create entry passes online, eliminating the need to visit the Reception Counter or wait in queues. Key features of the portal include:

- **Paperless Entry:** Streamline the visitor entry process by eliminating physical passes.
- **Swift Pass Generation:** Quickly and easily obtain entry passes.
- **Advance Visit Planning:** Plan your visit in advance for a more efficient experience.
- **Avoid Crowds:** Bypass queues and minimize waiting times.

As of 30 August 2024, as many as 2,81,182 visitors' passes have been issued through Su-Swagatam portal.

Free Wi-Fi for Enhanced Connectivity

Recognizing the critical role of reliable network connectivity, the Supreme Court of India has provided free Wi-Fi access throughout its premises, including within courtrooms. This initiative ensures that lawyers, litigants, and visitors can seamlessly connect to the internet

and conduct their research without interruption. The simple log-in process allows users to quickly access the network and leverage online resources to support their legal needs.



Futuristic Courtrooms

At the forefront of the Court's technological innovations remains revolutionizing the courtroom experience for stakeholders. As part of its commitment to enhancing efficiency, accessibility, and transparency, the Court has embraced a range of cutting-edge solutions within its Courtrooms - state-of-the-art digital video conferencing system, a paperless interface to access digitized paper-books, a comprehensive digital library, and high-end document visualizer included. The Courtrooms 1 to 9 have been brought under the futuristic umbrella.



Virtual Justice Clock

The Virtual Justice Clock of the Supreme Court of India is a real-time online platform that

provides the public with transparent and up-to-date information about the status of cases pending before the Court. This innovative tool allows users to track the progress of cases, view cause lists, and access key information related to court proceedings. By enhancing transparency and accessibility, the Virtual Justice Clock has empowered citizens to monitor the judicial process and hold the judiciary accountable. This initiative is a testament to the Supreme Court's commitment to fostering a more open and accessible legal system.

To make effective use of ICMIS database to check the pendency of cases with the dealing assistants stages wise. It also empowers authorities for making policy decisions in relation to listing of cases which require attention and identifying areas for improving case disposal rate.

National Judicial Data Grid, Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court of India's onboarding onto the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) represents a significant milestone in the annals of technology assimilation in the Indian judiciary. This has enabled real-time sharing of critical case information, such as cause lists, orders, judgments, and other relevant data. The NJDG has proven to be an invaluable tool in promoting transparency, efficiency, and accountability within the Indian legal system.



Neutral Citations

The Supreme Court has launched and implemented the Neutral Citation System in a phased manner with effect from 6 July 2023. This citation system is set to revolutionize the way legal judgments are cited and accessed. By assigning a unique, sequential number to each judgment, it provides a reliable and consistent method of reference, eliminating the dependence on traditional citation methods that often vary across different law journals. This not only simplifies the process of locating and citing cases but also enhances accessibility and promotes legal research. The neutral citation system has significantly improved the efficiency and transparency of the Indian legal system, making it easier for legal professionals, researchers, and the general public to access and understand court decisions using the website of Supreme Court of India.



New Website

The Supreme Court of India's website underwent a major overhaul in the year 2024. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 28 January 2024, launched its brand new bi-lingual website. This transformative redesign prioritizes accessibility, offering a bilingual interface and dynamic content management capabilities. The new website is hosted on the cloud-based S3WaaS

platform of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). Featuring an enhanced user-friendly interface, streamlined service layout, and significantly faster performance, the website has quickly become the go-to source for court-related information, attracting a substantial increase in user traffic.



The website now provides access to orders and judgments instantly with date and time stamp.

SCI Mobile App

The Supreme Court of India offers a user-friendly mobile app that provides instant access to crucial case information, including cause lists, judgments, orders, office reports, and eSCR. Available in English, Hindi, and other Indian languages the app is compatible with both Android and iOS devices, ensuring seamless accessibility for legal professionals and the public alike.



Supreme Court Onboards (Meta) WhatsApp for Faster Case Information Sharing

To enhance transparency and accessibility, the Supreme Court implemented a WhatsApp messaging service that provides Advocates-on-Record with real-time updates on crucial case information, including cause lists, filings, orders, and judgments. This innovative initiative has significantly reduced paper consumption, streamlined access to case data, and improved overall user convenience while promoting environmental sustainability. Approximately 3 lakh case-related messages have been successfully delivered to stakeholders via WhatsApp.



Technology as a Facilitator in Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)

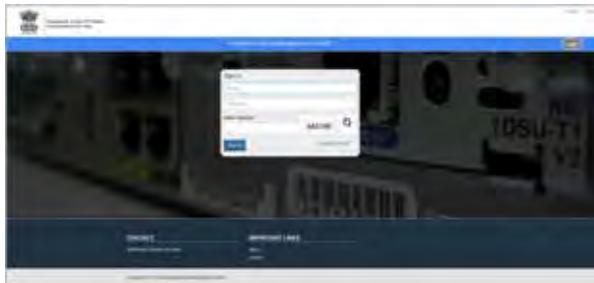
The Supreme Court of India to commemorate 75 years of its establishment, organized a weeklong Special Lok Adalat (from 29 July to 3 August 2024) for exploring amicable settlements cases pending before the Court. The initiative saw a first of its kind alliance between Supreme Court of India, High Court Legal Services Committees, State Legal Services Authorities, District and Taluka Legal Services Authorities and insurance companies to overcome geographical barriers and effectively facilitate settlements between litigants living across the length and breadth of the nation. Information Technology provided the much-needed environment for swift teamwork, real-time interaction and seamless exchange of case related correspondence amongst the Judges, the parties, advocates and the Judicial Officers, fostering an ambience of communication and trust amongst litigants which ultimately laid the foundation for amicable settlement of their disputes.

Kiosks at Supreme Court of India

Self-help e-service kiosks have been strategically installed throughout the premises, to let visitors avail key e-services of the Court. Users can easily track cause lists of various Benches, progress of their cases including hearing dates, orders passed, and judgments delivered, important circulars and notices and a variety of useful information. The introduction of these kiosks has significantly reduced waiting times and improving overall efficiency. By providing easy access to critical information, these kiosks have contributed to a more transparent and user-friendly environment within the Supreme Court of India. By providing easy access to critical information, these kiosks have contributed to a more transparent and user-friendly environment within the Supreme Court of India.



Automating Asset Management – Onboarding the eSAM Software



The eSAM software has been successfully implemented in the Supreme Court of India, revolutionizing asset management practices. Since its implementation, eSAM has become an effective tool for managing store activities,

streamlining operations and ensuring accuracy and transparency. The current version of the software is deployed on the NIC Cloud platform that offers scalability and security. Its role-based and workflow-driven system ensures comprehensive coverage of both inventory and maintenance activities, fostering a unified and integrated approach to asset management.

FASTER 2.0

FASTER 2.0 is the improved version of the FASTER module, which was launched by Former Chief Justice of India to make the justice system more efficient and reduce delays by ensuring that court orders are transmitted electronically to the District Courts and prison authorities in a timely manner. FASTER is an internet based online portal to transmit orders and judgments of Supreme Court of India on its foundational premise of FAST and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER). By leveraging technology, FASTER 2.0 aims to prevent instances where prisoners remain incarcerated despite having been granted liberty by the courts.

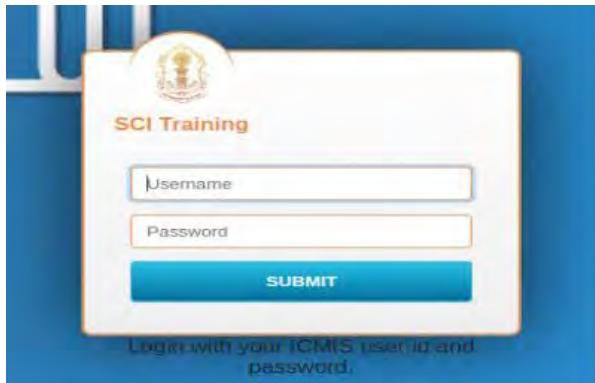
FASTER 2.0 – Key Features



Training Cell Software

The Supreme Court of India's Training Cell has revamped its training operations with a sophisticated software solution. This innovative platform serves as a centralized hub for managing all aspects of training programs, from course development to participation monitoring. By streamlining processes such as course creation, participant enrollment, scheduling, batch

formation, and attendance management, the software significantly enhances efficiency and accuracy.



Beyond these core functionalities, the Training Cell software empowers the Court to maintain comprehensive records of training programs. Through detailed reports and analytics, officials can easily search for training records, identify trends, and make informed decisions for future planning.

APR Portal



The APR Portal, a user-friendly online platform accessible through SUPNET, has been implemented to streamline the process of filing Annual Property Returns (APRs). Employees within the Registry's Group A and Group B categories can now conveniently enter or update property details of themselves or their spouses by completing a straightforward online form.

To ensure data integrity, the APR Portal incorporates key features such as:

- Draft Stage Flexibility: Employees have the option to update or delete information

while the form is in draft mode, allowing for revisions before final submission.

- Real-time Notifications: Upon completion of the form, an SMS notification is sent to the user's mobile device, confirming submission.
- Paperless Process: The APR Portal eliminates the need for physical submission of hard copies to the concerned section, contributing to a more efficient and environment friendly process.
- Transparent Access: The completed APR form becomes visible on the Portal, providing a transparent and accessible record of property declarations.

Software for Supreme Court Sports and Events 2024

The Supreme Court of India has developed an in-house software designed to streamline the registration process for the Supreme Court's annual sports and events. This user-friendly platform offers a seamless experience, allowing participants to register for various activities with just a few clicks.



By automating registration, the software significantly reduces administrative burden and provides easy access to comprehensive records of event participants.

Implementation of EHRMS and PFMS in Supreme Court of India

By implementing the **Electronic Human Resource Management System (EHRMS)** and

the **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)**, the Court has revolutionized the way human resource management and financial transactions are handled.

The E-HRMS is a comprehensive system offering a host of features such as -

- **Employee data management:** Centralized storage and management of employee information, such as personal details, qualifications, and service records.
- **Recruitment and selection:** Online application processing, interview scheduling, and offer letter generation.
- **Leave management:** Automated leave requests, approvals, and tracking.
- **Payroll processing:** Efficient calculation and disbursement of salaries, allowances, and deductions.
- **Performance management:** Online performance appraisal and goal setting.



Public Finance Management System (PFMS)

The PFMS is a centralized system that streamlines financial transactions and ensures transparency and accountability. Key features of the PFMS include:

- **Fund management:** Effective management of funds allocated to the Supreme Court.
- **Bill processing:** Online submission, verification, and approval of bills.
- **Payment processing:** Automated payments through various modes, such as bank transfers and electronic wallets.

- **Audit trails:** Comprehensive tracking of financial transactions to enhance transparency and accountability.

Benefits of EHRMS and PFMS:

- **Efficiency and timesaving:** Automation of HR and financial processes reduces manual work and improves efficiency.
- **Accuracy and transparency:** The systems help ensure accurate data entry and transparent financial transactions.
- **Improved decision-making:** Access to real-time data enables informed decision-making.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Reduced paperwork and streamlined processes lead to cost savings.



The implementation of EHRMS and PFMS has been a crucial step towards building a more efficient, transparent, and accountable functioning of the Registry.

Introduction of UPI in the Supreme Court Canteen: A Digital Revolution

This move aims to modernize the canteen's operations, enhance convenience for visitors and staff, and promote digital transactions.

Establishment of a Strategic War Room

The Supreme Court has established a strategic Command and Control Centre, popularly known, as War Room. The War Room is equipped with state of the art video wall, servers, video conferencing facility. The War Room has enabled the senior officers of the Registry to monitor not only the information

and technology infrastructure, but also examine data, statistics in manner to assist them in taking informed decision. The War Room has brought in a platform based upon transparency, accountability and optimum utilization of resources.

Biometric Attendance System (BAS)

The Biometric Attendance System (BAS) is a technology-driven attendance monitoring solution that verifies individuals' identities using unique physical characteristics, such as fingerprints or facial recognition.

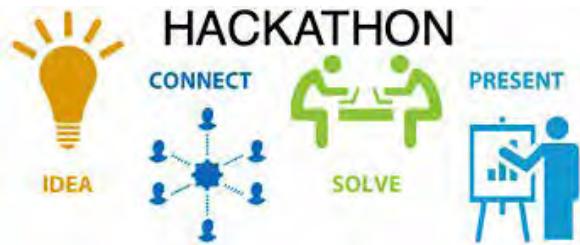


The key benefits of BAS:

- Enhanced Security:** BAS can significantly reduce the risk of unauthorized access to the Court premises. By requiring biometric verification, only authorized personnel can enter, ensuring the safety and security of the Court's staff, judges, and visitors.
- Improved Efficiency:** BAS can streamline the attendance tracking process, eliminating the need for manual sign-in sheets and reducing administrative burdens. This can free up time for staff to focus on their core duties.
- Accuracy and Reliability:** Biometric data is highly accurate and reliable, making it a more effective method of verifying identity compared to traditional methods like ID cards or passwords. This can help prevent unauthorized access and time-wasting disputes.

Hackathon

In a move to harness the best minds in technology, the Supreme Court of India hosted a nationwide hackathon in 2023. The first ever event aimed to attract innovative minds from across the country to develop technological solutions that could revolutionize the way the Court operates.



The hackathon focused on several key themes:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Developing AI-powered tools for tasks such as case categorization, document analysis, and legal research.
- Data Analytics:** Utilizing data analytics to identify trends and patterns in case data.
- Blockchain:** Exploring the potential of blockchain technology for secure and transparent record-keeping.
- Mobile Applications:** Creating user-friendly mobile apps for citizens to access Court information and services.

The hackathon attracted a diverse range of participants, including:

- Technologists:** Developers, data scientists, and engineers.
- Lawyers:** Legal professionals with a keen interest in technology.
- Students:** Students from various fields, including law, computer science, and engineering.
- Startups:** Technology startups looking to showcase their innovations.

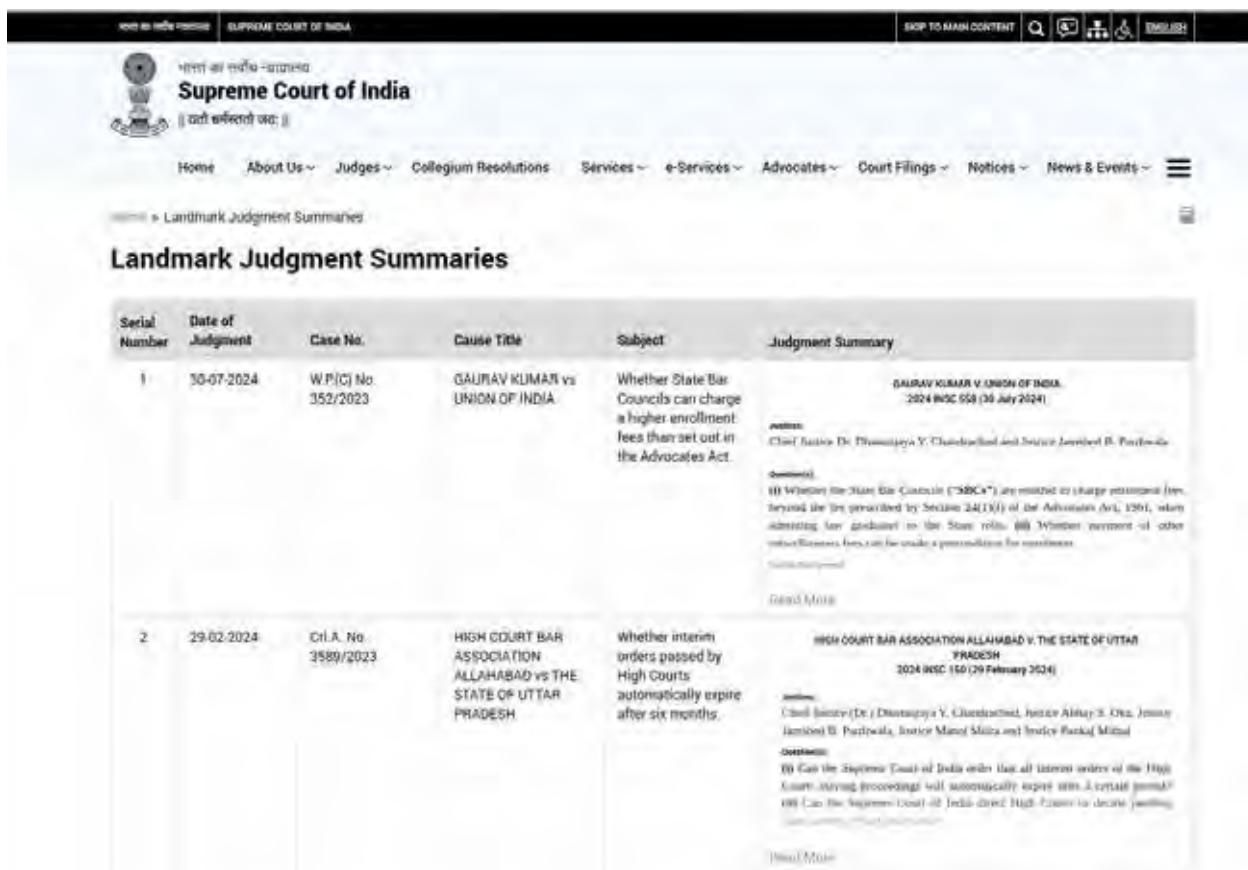
The Supreme Court of India Hackathon 2023 was a resounding success.

To continue fostering innovation in the legal field, the Supreme Court has organized the second Hackathon event in September 2024 to explore solutions in Artificial Intelligence (AI) based technology for improving and further streamlining the official functions performed by the Registry of the Supreme Court of India.

Landmark Judgment Summaries

The Supreme Court of India has taken a significant step towards enhancing legal accessibility by providing a convenient online

platform to view summaries of landmark judgments. This valuable resource empowers the public, litigants, and aspiring advocates to gain valuable insights into the Court's legal interpretations. The summaries are meticulously crafted by the Center for Research and Planning department, utilizing the in-house ICMIS software. By making these summaries readily available on the Supreme Court's official website, the Court aims to foster a more informed and engaged legal community.



The screenshot shows the official website of the Supreme Court of India. At the top, there is a header with the text "SUPREME COURT OF INDIA" and a search bar. Below the header, the "Landmark Judgment Summaries" section is displayed. It features a large image of the Indian Constitution and the text "Landmark Judgment Summaries". The main content area lists two judgments:

Serial Number	Date of Judgment	Case No.	Cause Title	Subject	Judgment Summary
1	30-07-2024	W.P.(C) No. 352/2023	GAURAV KUMARI vs UNION OF INDIA	Whether State Bar Councils can charge a higher enrollment fees than set out in the Advocates Act.	<p>GAURAV KUMAR V. UNION OF INDIA 2024 INSC 658 (30 July 2024)</p> <p>Author: Chief Justice Dr. Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud and Justice Jasti B. Partipati</p> <p>Keywords: Whether the State Bar Councils ("SBCs") are entitled to charge enrollment fees beyond the fee prescribed by Section 24(1)(i) of the Advocates Act, 1961, when admissions law is enacted by the State govt. (ii) Whether payment of other various expenses, fees, can be made a precondition for enrollment</p> <p>Read More</p>
2	29-02-2024	Cr.I.A. No. 3589/2023	HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION ALLAHABAD VS THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH	Whether interim orders passed by High Courts automatically expire after six months.	<p>HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION ALLAHABAD V. THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH 2024 INSC 150 (29 February 2024)</p> <p>Author: Chief Justice Dr. Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Justice Akbar S. Oza, Justice Jasti B. Partipati, Justice Manohar Shastri and Justice Ranjana Mittal</p> <p>Keywords: Can the Supreme Court of India order that all interim orders of the High Courts during proceedings will automatically expire after a certain period? (iii) Can the Supreme Court of India direct High Courts to decide pending</p> <p>Read More</p>



CHAPTER 10

Library and Museum – Storing and Dispensing Knowledge

The Supreme Court of India was constituted on 28 January 1950, two days after India became a republic on 26 January 1950, the Federal Court Library, which had been founded in 1937, turned into the Supreme Court Judges Library. This is one of the largest Law libraries in Asia.

The Supreme Court Judges Library has a collection of more than 3,85,000 books and legal documents in addition to many digital contents. Judges Library, which is in Block 'A' of Administrative Building Complex, is spread

across four floors. The Supreme Court Judges' Library's collection is also constantly expanding, and to support the collection's growth, this new library has been built, taking into consideration both current and future space limits. These include manuals, local laws, the India Code, Encyclopedias of law, law journals (both Indian and foreign), statutes, commission/committee reports, state laws, and parliamentary debates. The Judges Library subscribes to 91 journals which includes 72 Indian & 19 foreign publications, 19 newspapers, and 8 magazines.



The Supreme Court Judges Library is a network of libraries that includes the Main Library which is in the 'A' Block of Administrative Building Complex, 17 Bench Libraries, 34 Residential Libraries for Hon'ble Judges, and a Staff Library for the use and reference of Registry staff. In the Bench Libraries, Law Reports, being the most cited source, are stored in Courtrooms (Court 10-17 which are regular courts) for easy access to the library material. A permanent library in the form of law reports, legal books, commentaries, and Bare Acts is also made available at the residential office of the Hon'ble Judges and the Bench Libraries.

On the second floor of the new library there is Soli Sorabjee's bibliotheca, containing some books from the personal collection of Late Mr. Soli Sorabjee, former Attorney General and Constitutional Expert, which were given by his family to the Judges library.

Radio Frequency Identification System (RFID) – In February 2024, the RFID system was introduced in the Judges Library and was integrated with KOHA library management software, the collection was embedded with RFID tags.

Inhouse Databases: Three in-house databases were developed by the Judges library

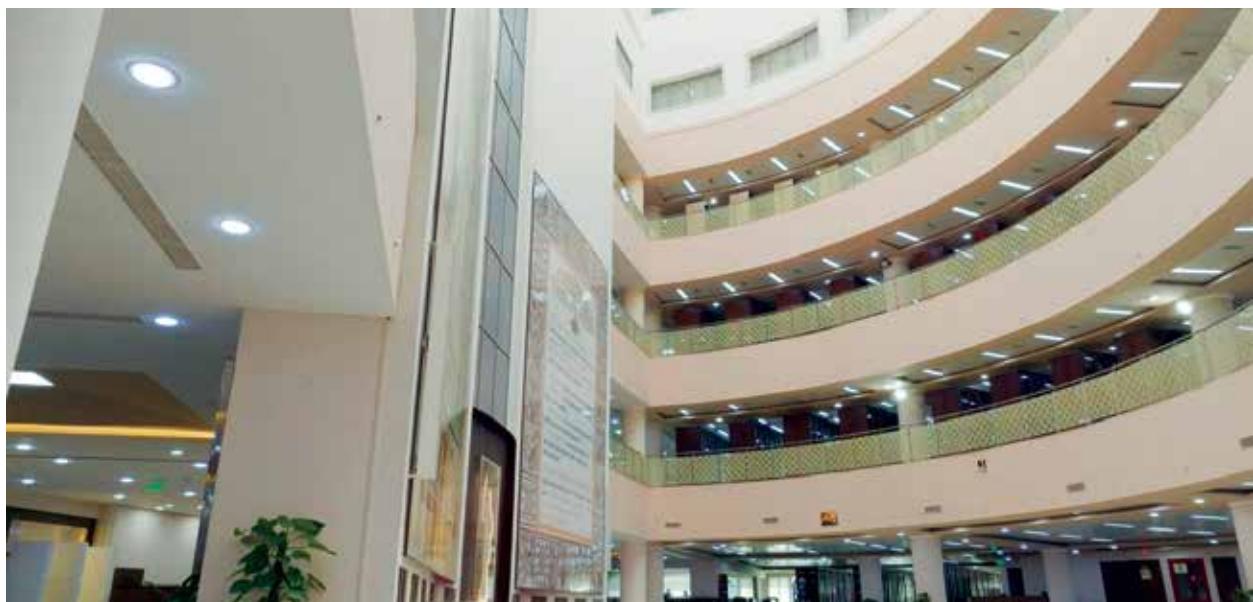
such as **SUPLIS**: Database of Case Laws, **SUPLIB**: Database of Articles Published in Journal, **LEGIS**: Database of Legislative History of Central Acts for providing good service to the Hon'ble Courts.

Digital Repository: A digital repository is being developed in the Judges Library with the help of Bookeye 5 Publication Scanner.

Services provided to Hon'ble Judges by the Library

Remote Access Platform – Supreme Court Judges e-library website and mobile app was launched by Former Chief Justice of India, D Y Chandrachud on 29 February 2024. It is hosted on the remote access platform of Refread Solutions. It is a 24/7 e-library which can be accessed from any location at any time. It is a comprehensive platform which covers the subscribed legal databases, in-house databases of Judges Library and open access legal sources. E-SCR and Digi SCR are also integrated with the e-library.

Nyay Samachar – the legal news clipping service – Apart from the regular library services being provided to the Hon'ble Judges and the Courts, the Judges library also provides



legal news clippings to the Hon'ble Judges, in electronic format with an index and hyperlinks to the news by 7.30 am on daily basis via email to Hon'ble Judges.

Digital Current Content is compiled monthly, articles from subscribed journals and open access foreign law journals/ reviews are collected and indexed subject wise which are provided with hyperlinks to articles.

Futuristic Courts – Since July 2023, the library is providing online service to the futuristic digital courts. Currently, Court no. 1 to 9 are futuristic courts, and they are being served virtually on a real time basis by virtually sending the digital copies of required legislation or case law to the courts.



Supreme Court Staff Library

Supreme Court Staff Library was inaugurated by Dr D Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India on 1 February 2024. The library collection includes books dictionaries, bare Acts, legal textbooks and commentaries, Swamy's Publications, fictions and motivational books both in Hindi and English for general reading. Newspapers both print and electronic version both in English and Hindi along with some magazines are also made available for the staff.



National Judicial Museum and Archive

The National Judicial Museum and Archive (NJMA) was inaugurated on 7 November 2024, by Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, in the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General for India, advocates, and other distinguished guests.



Housed within the Main Building of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court Museum has been reimagined as the National Judicial Museum & Archive (NJMA) under the visionary leadership of Dr D Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India. The NJMA aims to showcase India's rich legal heritage and the evolution of its judicial system through the integration of advanced technologies. Serving as both a repository of legal artifacts and an educational hub, it offers invaluable insights into the development of jurisprudence and the judiciary's role in shaping the nation.

The conceptualization of this project began in early 2023, with planning initiated in the first half of 2024. A Committee of Officers, led by Mr. Atul M. Kurhekar, Secretary General, and supported by Mr. Shashidhara Shetty (Registrar, P & S), Dr. Uma Narayan (Registrar, Museum), and Mr. Mahesh T. Patankar (Registrar, Courts & Building), was constituted by Former Chief Justice of India. The committee conducted visits to the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya, Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum, and Parliament Archives to gather insights and place the initial thoughts relating setting up of NJMA.

The transformation became necessary as part of the Supreme Court's expansion project, which required vacating the earlier Museum Building. The historic space of the old Judges' Library in the Main Building, previously visited by luminaries like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, was chosen for its significance and capacity to house the NJMA.

The Hon'ble Judges Committee, comprising of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. S. Narasimha, provided thematic and content guidance.

The museum's design and planning were entrusted to experts from the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Mr. Arijit Dutta Choudhury (Director General, NCSM) and Mr. D. Ramasarma (Former DDG, NCSM and present Consultant, NCSM). Their expertise was instrumental in developing the layout, integrating modern technology, and creating compelling content displays across three floors.

Construction and curation commenced in May 2024, culminating in the completion of the NJMA in record time. The museum stands as a tribute to India's judicial legacy, offering visitors an immersive journey through the rich history of law and justice of the nation.



CHAPTER 11

Meetings and Conferences: International and National

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Information regarding International Conferences and Meets attended by Hon'ble Chief Justices of India

1. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna**, Chief Justice of India visited Virginia, USA to attend and participate in an Indo-Pacific Judicial Colloquium on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Technology, for the Judiciaries of the 14 countries that are partners in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) organized by the USPTO, the innovation agency of the United States Government, held at Alexandria, Virginia, USA from 25-27 July 2023.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Chief Justice of India visited Dublin to attend a session with the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Courts of the European Union at Dublin on 27 May 2024 and to a ceremony to mark the 100-year anniversary of the establishment of an independent courts system in Ireland and, in particular, the centenary of the Supreme Court of the Ireland organized by the Supreme Court of Ireland in Dublin, Ireland on 28 May 2024.

2. **Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud**, Former Chief Justice of India¹ visited London to have meetings with Legal Institutions at London on 28 May 2023, to deliver Cambridge Pro Bono Lecture at University of Cambridge at London on 30 May 2023, to deliver Lecture on "Global Change and the Legal Profession, Past and Future: Perspective from India" at Edinburgh Law School on 1 June 2023 and to have meeting with Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales at London on 6 June 2023; visited Prague to participate and meet the participants of Training of the Trainer Workshop at CEELI, Prague from 7 to 8 June 2023; visited Germany to attend a meeting with Prof. Stephan Harbarth, president, Federal Constitution Court of Germany at Karlsruhe on 12 June 2023; visited Singapore to deliver the Singapore Academy of Law Annual Lecture 2023 on 8 September 2023 and to attend the inaugural Singapore-India Round table meeting organized by the Supreme Court of Singapore on 9 September 2023; visited (United Kingdom/London) to have meeting with Mr Alex Chalk KC MP, Lord

¹ Retired on 11 November 2024

Chancellor and Secretary of State of Justice on 28 September 2023, to attend the "International Judicial Symposium on Freedom of Expression" organized by the UNESCO and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights of the University of Oxford at the University of Oxford, U.K., to attend Opening of the Legal Year Service at Westminster Abbey on 2 October 2023 and to meet with Rt Hon. Sir Geoffrey Vos, Treasurer, the Hon'ble Society of Lincoln's Inn, London on 3 October 2023; visited United States of America, to deliver speech at Harvard Law School, Cambridge on 21 October 2023, to deliver keynote address at the 6th International Conference on the Unfinished Legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar organized by the Brandeis University, Massachusetts on 22 October 2023, to be the Guest in the event "In Conversation Series, 2023" at Georgetown Law, Washington DC on 23 October 2023, to deliver a lecture at a Seminar organized by Maurer School of Law, Indiana University, Bloomington on 26 October 2023 and to attend a meeting at the Indiana University-Bloomington's Maurer School of Law on 27 October 2023; visited Dhaka to deliver introductory remarks at the inaugural session of the International Conference on South Asian Constitutional Courts in 21st Century: Lessons from Bangladesh organized by the Supreme Court of Bangladesh at Dhaka and also keynote address at the valedictory session from 23 -24 February 2024; visited Nepal to deliver keynote address at the "National Symposium on Juvenile Justice Services in Nepal" on the topic "Taking Juvenile Justice further : Reinforcing the Rights of Children in South Asia" organized on 4 May 2024 by the Central Child Justice Committee, Nepal – a high level

government Committee by Supreme Court of Nepal; visited Brazil to participate in the J20 – Summit of Heads of Supreme Courts and Constitutional Courts of G20 members held from 12 to 14 May 2024 and the Summit meeting of the Presidents of IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) Constitutional Courts held on 14 May 2024; visited Tashkent to participate in the 19th Meeting of Chief Justices of Supreme Courts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Members States (SCO Member States) organized by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent from 22-24 May 2024; visited London to deliver an address on "Evolving nature of the legal profession; past and future: perspectives from India" organised by LSE India Society with support of the Law Society of England and Wales at London on 3 June 2024, to deliver an address at the event being organised by the University of Oxford (Oxford Union) on the theme of 'Constitutional Law' at London on 4 June 2024, to deliver a lecture at the UK Supreme Court on 6 June 2024, to deliver a lecture at the SOAS School of Law, University of London on 7 June 2024 and, to have meetings with Legal Institutions and members of legal fraternity at London on 10 June 2024.

Information regarding International Conferences and Meets attended by Hon'ble Judges, Supreme Court of India

- 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai** visited Cardiff, United Kingdom to attend CMJA Chief Justices' Meeting held on 10 September 2023 and CMJA Conference held between 10-14 September 2023 at Cardiff City Hall, Cathays Park, Gorsedd Gardens Road, Cardiff, U.K.

2. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai** visited New York to deliver a Lecture at the Columbia Law School, New York on 26 March 2024 on the topic "75 Years of Transformative Constitutionalism". Participated in the discussion on the subject "Role of courts in protecting the Rule of Law: A Cross Cultural Conversation between the Senior Judge, Supreme Court of India and the Chief Administrative Judge for the State of New York". Attended the program on 28 March 2024 at Harvard Kennedy School on "Between Law, Politics & Policy: Examining the Judiciary's Delicate Balance in Democratic Policy Making". attended Lunch conversation with Harvard Scholars and fellows on various constitutional issues on 29 March 2024 at Harvard Kennedy School, Boston.
3. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant** visited Malaysia as Keynote Speaker in launch of Malaysian International Mediation Centre (MIMC) on 15 January 2024;
4. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant** visited Singapore to participate in a Seminar at the Asian International Arbitration Centre, Malaysia on 16 January 2024 and to have a meeting with Chief Justice, Singapore Supreme Court at Singapore.
5. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant** visited Russia to participate in the BRICS Chief Justices Forum held in the city of Sochi, Russia from 17-21 June 2024.
6. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant** visited Turkey as Speaker at an event organized by Energy Disputes Arbitration Centre (EDAC) in partnership with the Ankara Bar Association in Ankara, Turkey on 30 May 2024 and delivered Keynote address and participated in panel discussion at one day conference by Ministry of Justice Department of Mediation in collaboration with Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkiye Mediation and Dispute Resolution Centre (TOBBUYUM) at Ankara, Turkey on 1 June 2024.
7. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant** visited South Korea to participate in the programme of Korea Legislation Research Institute (KLRI) and also visited Supreme Court of South Korea from 25-29 August 2024.
8. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy** visited Russia to participate in the 12th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum organised by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation from 25-28 June 2024.
9. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari** visited Brazil to attend the 35th Anniversary of the National High Court of Brazil at Brasilia, Brazil from 10-11 April 2024.
10. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice B.V. Nagarathna** through virtual mode delivered a lecture on the topic "Indian Supreme Court and Social Justice: a History of 75 Years" in the symposium organized by the Columbia Law School chapter of the American Constitution Society on 25 March 2024;
11. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice B.V. Nagarathna** visited Philippines to attend the 1st session "*Initiatives of Women Judges towards Gender Parity at All Levels of the Judiciary*" in the 2024 Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Women Judges and the National Convention of the Philippine Women Judges Association, with the support of the Supreme Court of

the Philippines, organized on the theme "Women Lead : Transforming Asia-Pacific and Changing the World", at Cebu City, Philippines on 8-10 May 2024 accompanied by Ms. Sujata Singh, OSD/Registrar.

12. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh** visited Nepal to participate in "Regional Symposium of Forest and Protected Areas Legislation and Jurisprudence: Bridging Law and Science" held from 27-29 April 2023 at Kathmandu, Nepal co-organized by the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, the World Commission on Environmental Law, the National Judicial Academy of Nepal, the Asian Development Bank, and the Judicial Academies of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
13. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh** visited Singapore to attend the Insolvency Conference, 2023 organized by the Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore (IPAS) at Marina One Auditorium, Singapore on 23 November 2023.
14. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha** visited Washington, USA to attend a session as a Panelist – 'Rule of Law, Access to Justice, Fairness and Transparency in Proceedings and Decisions-making' in the Indo-Pacific Judicial Colloquium on Intellectual Property Innovation and Technology at Washington, USA from 25-27 July 2023.
15. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.B. Pardiwala** visited Singapore to attend lecture delivered by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India at Supreme Court of Singapore on 8 September 2023; participated in Singapore-India Round table meeting organized by the Supreme Court of Singapore on 9 September 2023; meeting with Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court of Singapore (TBC) on 10 September 2023, and visited Singapore Academy of Law in the forenoon of 11 September 2023.
16. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta** visited Dhaka to attend the Conference on 'South Asian Constitutional Courts in the Twenty-First Century : Lessons from Bangladesh and India, held on 23-24 February 2024 at Dhaka, Bangladesh and delivered a lecture on "Judiciary and its Role in Upholding Constitutionalism" on 23-24 February 2024.
17. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar and Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.V. Viswanathan** visited Kazakhstan to participate in the International Conference on "Constitutional Justice: Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All" organized by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan at Astana in commemoration of the Constitution Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 7-8 September 2023.
18. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra** visited Doha to lead Indian delegation to the 5th Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC) held in Doha, Qatar on 20 to 21 April 2024.
19. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal** visited Bhutan to Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Pangbisa, Paro, Bhutan and interaction with Mr. Sangay Dorjee, Dean, and other faculty members and also visited to Supreme Court of Bhutan and interaction with Justice Norbutshering, Justice Sangay Khandu & Justice Kinley Dorji on 1-3 July 2024.
20. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.V. Viswanathan** visited United Kingdom to participate in the

"4th Judicial Round table" on Commercial Law, held from 23-26 April 2024 at Durham Law School, Durham University, United Kingdom.

21. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.V.N. Bhatti** visited Singapore to attend 5th Judicial Insolvency Network ("JIN") Conference at Singapore on 12-13 June 2024.
22. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose¹** visited Dhaka to deliver introductory remarks at the inaugural session of the International Conference on South Asian Constitutional Courts in 21st Century: Lessons from Bangladesh organized by the Supreme Court of Bangladesh at Dhaka and also keynote address at the valedictory session from 23-24 February 2024.
23. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat²** visited Malaysia to deliver a keynote address at the inaugural session of the 12th LAWASIA Employment Law Conference, 2023 under the theme "The new normal-employment law in the Asia Pacific in 2023" held in Kota Kinabalu (Sabah), Malaysia between 8-10 June 2023 organized by the LAWASIA and the Sabah Law Society on 8 June 2023.
24. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli³** visited London (i)to Address on the occasion of London International Disputes Week 2024 – arbitration in India and the MENA Region Roadmap to 2030 organised by IAMC Hyderabad in collaboration with King and Spalding LLP on 6 June 2024; (ii) Key Note Address on the occasion of Lecture Series of the Centre for Commercial Law

Studies organized by Queen Mary College, University of London on 11 June 2024.

Information regarding International Conferences and Meets attended by Registrars, Supreme Court of India

1. **Mr. H.S. Jaggi, Registrar** visited Turkey to participate in the 11th Summer School Programme under the theme "Judicial Independence as a Safeguard of the Right to a Fair Trial" organized by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkiye, in charge of the CTHRD of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC) held in Ankara (Turkiye) from 18-21 September 2023.
2. **Mr. Puneet Sehgal, Registrar and Mr. P. Y. Ladekar, Registrar** visited Korea to attend 4th Research Conference of the AACC SRD on the topic "Constitutional Rights and the Environment" held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 27-30 May 2024.
3. **Mr. Mahesh T. Patankar and Ms. Aparna Ajitsaria** visited Turkey to gave presentation during the 12th Summer School on "The use of Information Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in the Higher Judiciary" organised by Center for Training and Human Resources Development, AACC at Turkey on 30 September to 3 October 2024.
4. **Dr. Sukhda Pritam, Additional Registrar** visited Indonesia to participate in "Workshop on Asia Pacific Judicial Training on Environment and Climate Law Adjudication: Judges in a Triple Planetary Crisis World", from 29 October-4 November 2023.

1 Retired on 10 April 2024

2 Retired on 20 October 2023

3 Retired on 1 September 2024

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

National Programmes/Meetings/ Conferences/Chaired or attended by Hon'ble The Chief Justices of India

1. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna**, Chief Justice of India (i) delivered Key Note Address at One Day Referral Judges Training Programme for High Court Judges (MCPC) at New Delhi on 15 July 2023; (ii) delivered valedictory Address at Bar Council of India International Lawyers' Conference at New Delhi on 24 September 2023; (iii) visited Nainital to attend The North Zone-1 Regional Conference On Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law And Technology at Nainital, Uttarakhand on 30 September 2023; (iv) inaugurated MCPC Workshop at New Delhi on 11 October 2023; (v) delivered Overview and valedictory Addresses at 1st Regional Conference of NALSA on Access to Legal Aid: Strengthening Access to Justice in the Global South at New Delhi on 27-28 November 2023; (vi) visited Bhopal to inaugurate the 10th Biennial Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Officers conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 13 January 2024; (vii) attended NALSA virtual session for Juvenile Campaign at New Delhi on 25 January 2024; (viii) chaired Technical session I – Legal Frameworks and Advocacy in Justice Delivery at Commonwealth Attorney and Solicitors Generals Conference 2024 on "Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery" at New Delhi on 3 February 2024; (ix) visited Kachchh to participate in the Conference of Judicial Officers being organized by the Supreme Court of India in co-ordination with the High Court of Gujarat between 2-3 March 2024; (x) attended as Chief Guest, the inauguration

of Master Class on Intellectual Property Adjudication - Judicial Perspectives at Delhi High Court, New Delhi on 7 March 2024; (xi) presented Paper in session 4: Judicial Review of Legislation and Constitutional Amendments at Bilateral Judicial Dialogue – Indo German Conference at Supreme Court of India on 8 March 2024; (xii) attended as Chief Guest, Closing session of Delhi Arbitration Weekend 2024 at Delhi High Court, New Delhi on 10 March 2024; (xiii) Presented Paper in session 2: Continuing Judicial Education at Twelfth Indo-British Legal Forum Meet at Supreme Court of India on 16 March 2024; (xiv) visited Bengaluru to attend the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of the Judicial Officers of Karnataka; NALSA – visited Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara and LADC Offices; visited to Village Jalige, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru for inauguration of Legal Services Clinic and interacted with the villagers from 23-25 March 2024; (xv) visited NALSA – Taluk Level Court, Court Campus Chomu, Jaipur District; Village Khejroli, Chomu, Jaipur District; Central Jail/District Jail/Mahila Jail, Jaipur; LADCs Offices of DLSA, Jaipur Metro I & II; Rajasthan State Conference of District Legal Services Authorities and One-day Colloquium on Legal Aid & Social Justice: Challenges & Opportunities in Access to Justice organized by the High Court of Rajasthan in collaboration with the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority at Jaipur from 28-30 March 2024; (xvi) visited Agra to inaugurate the Mediation Training Workshop at Jaypee Palace Hotel and Convention Centre on 5 April 2024 and to attend the Technical sessions of the Workshop on 6 April 2024; (xvii) virtually launched the UTRC campaign

at New Delhi on 8 April 2024; (xviii) visited Chennai, to attend inauguration of the Mediation Programme and Conference of DLSA, Chennai on 27 April 2024 and visited Madurai, Central Jail and LADC's Office on 28 April 2024; (xix) visited Kerala to attend NALSA related programme at Kochi from 6-7 June 2024. (xx) visited Jammu & Kashmir to attend NALSA related programme at Srinagar from 17-22 June 2024. (xxi) visited Bhubaneswar to attend LADC Office; visited Cuttack to attend 11th Convocation of National Law University and Odisha Conference of District Legal Services Authorities at Cuttack from 16-17 August 2024; (xxii) visited Jodhpur to attend the Concluding Ceremony of Platinum Jubilee of Rajasthan High Court on 25 August 2024; (xxiii) attended inauguration of the National Conference of the District Judiciary and Panelist in Working session 1 of the National Conference organized by Supreme Court of India at New Delhi on 31 August 2024.

- 2. Hon'ble Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud,** Former Chief Justice of India¹ (i) visited Chennai to deliver lecture as Chief Guest of Sixtieth Convocation organised by the Director, IIT Madras on 22 July 2023; (ii) visited Bengaluru to preside over and deliver lecture at the 31st Annual Convocation of National Law School of India University at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra Campus, Bengaluru on 26 August 2023; (iii) visited Mizoram to inaugurate the new High Court Building of the Gauhati High Court, Aizawl Bench, Mizoram on 2 September 2023; (iv) Delivered inaugural address at the UNCITRAL South Asia Conference at New Delhi on 14 September 2023; (v) Delivered

lecture at the Centenary Ram Jethmalani Memorial Lecture at New Delhi on 15 September 2023; (vi) visited Aurangabad to deliver lecture on the occasion of Marathwada Mukti Sangram Din and Convocation Programme at Maharashtra National Law University at Aurangabad on 17 September 2023; (vii) attended Bar Council of India International Lawyers' Conference 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23 September 2023; (viii) visited Jaipur to attend the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Rajasthan High Court and launch Paperless Courts in the Rajasthan High Court Jodhpur, Jaipur Bench and Commercial Court at Jaipur on 14 October 2023; (ix) Delivered Keynote address on 21st Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, 2023 "BEYOND BARRIERS" at New Delhi on 4 November 2023; (x) Delivered the Capital Foundation Annual Lecture on 109th Birth Anniversary of Justice V R Krishna Iyer at New Delhi on 4 November 2023; (xi) Delivered speech at NALSA & NCW event on the topic : Legal Services Day & Launch of NCW Mobile Application "Her Legal Guide"; Legal Awareness programme "Vidhan Se Samadhan" for Women at New Delhi on 9 November 2023; (xii) Inaugurated Miti Café in the Supreme Court of India and Inaugurated eLibrary on an invitation by SCAORA on 10 November 2023; (xiii) visited Bengaluru to deliver Keynote address at the 36th LAWASIA Annual Conference at Bengaluru on 24 November 2023; (xiv) Delivered speech at the Constitution Day Celebrations in the Supreme Court of India on 26 November 2023; (xv) NALSA-Chaired the Conference and Delivered Opening Address , Keynote Addresses and Closing remarks on the 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid Strengthening Access to Justice in the Global South on 27 and 28 November 2023; (xvi) Delivered speech at the Constitution

¹ Retired on 11 November 2024

Day function organized by SCBA on 30 November 2024; (xvii) Delivered 14th Justice V M Tarkunde Memorial Lecture on Upholding Civil Liberties in the Digital Age: Privacy, Surveillance and Free Speech on 1 December 2023; (xviii) visited Dehradun to deliver Justice K. C. Dhulia Memorial Lecture at Forest Research Institute at Dehradun on 2 December 2023; (xix) visited Mumbai to inaugurate Court-cum-Office Complex of Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Bench and Delivered speech as a Chief Guest in the 45th Jamnalal Bajaj Awards Function at Mumbai on 8 December 2023; (xx) visited Pune to deliver convocation address as Chief Guest at Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune on 9 December 2023; (xxi) visited Lonavala to inaugurate Justice M.L. Pendse Centre for Cancer Survivors & Lifestyle Conditions and Symposium on Conflict Resolution – Internal and External at Lonavala on 10 December 2023; (xxii) visited Bengaluru to deliver Justice E.S. Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture at Bengaluru on 17 December 2023; (xxiii) visited Rajkot to inaugurate New Court Building of District Court at Rajkot on 6 January 2024; (xxiv) Delivered Keynote address at the Training on Gender Sensitization and Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace at the Supreme Court of India on 19 January 2024; (xxv) Addressed at Unveiling of the seventy-fifth year of the Supreme Court of India and Launch of e-initiatives of the Supreme Court of India – Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR), Digital Courts 2.0 and Supreme Court of India new website on 28 January 2024; (xxvi) Delivered Remarks at the inaugural Ceremony of Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference CAGSC'24 on Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery at Vigyan Bhawan on 3 February 2024; (xxvii)

visited Vadodara to deliver convocation address as Chief Justice at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara on 4 February 2024; (xxviii) Delivered Second Annual Lecture: Hillary Charlesworth on the topic "The International Court of Justice : A legal forum in the political environment" at Supreme Court of India on 10 February 2024; (xxix) visited Prayagraj to inaugurate Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj on 16 February 2024; (xxx) visited Prayagraj to inaugurate Arbitration Centre and New Judges' Library, High Court of Allahabad on 17 February 2024; (xxxii) visited Kachchh to inaugurate Conference of Judicial Officers being organized by the Supreme Court of India in co-ordination with the High Court of Gujarat between 2-3 March 2024; (xxxii) Delivered speech at the Delhi International Arbitration Centre on the topic : Understanding the unsaid : Biases in Arbitration and the role of tribunal and courts at Supreme Court of India on 6 March 2024; (xxxiii) visited Bikaner to launch Nyaya Sahayak Programme strengthening Sabko Nyaya – Har Ghar Nyay Abhiyan organised by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India at Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner and to deliver a keynote addressed as Chief Guest at Bikaner on 9 March 2024; (xxxiv) visited Karnataka to inaugurate twenty-first Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers at Karnataka and to lay the foundation stone at National Law School of India University, Karnataka on 23 March 2024 (xxxv) visited Tirupati to inaugurate the Decennial Celebrations at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati on 26 March 2024 (xxxvi) visited Secunderabad to lay the foundation stone of the New High Court Building of High Court for the State of Telangana and to launch e-Seva Kendra for all the Headquarters of the districts of

State of Telangana and City Civil Court Complex at Secunderabad at Hyderabad on 27 March 2024; (xxxvii) Delivered valedictory address at the valedictory session of the American Bar Association India Conference 2024 in Delhi on 29 March 2024; (xxxviii) Delivered 20th D P Kohli Memorial Lecture in Delhi on 1 April 2024; (xxxix) visited Nagpur to inaugurate Centenary Year program of the High Court Bar Association, Nagpur on 5 April 2024; (xl) Delivered opening remarks at Supreme Court of India and Singapore Conference on the Technology at Supreme Court of India on 13-14 April 2024; (xli) Delivered speech at the Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System organized by Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs at New Delhi on 20 April 2024; (xlii) Through virtual mode delivered speech at WWF and Jindal Combined LLM Programme on the topic "the Rule of Law and the Climate emergency" on 24 April 2024; (xliii) Through virtual mode attended and delivered speech at IACA Conference jointly organized with the World Bank on the topic "Judicial Administration, Innovation and AI Developments and Opportunities" on 30 April 2024; (xliv) delivered speech at AIIMS RDA Conference at AIIMS on 2 May 2024; (xlv) visited Kolkata to inaugurate Bicentennial celebrations of the Bar Library Club, High Court of Calcutta and deliver Bicentennial lecture as a Chief Guest at Kolkata on 28 June 2024 and also inaugurated Regional Conference organised by the National Judicial Academy in association with the High Court of Calcutta and West Bengal Judicial Academy at Kolkata on 29 June 2024; (xlvi) attended the foundation stone laying ceremony for construction of Court Building at Karkardooma, Shastri Park and Rohini on 2 July 2024; (xlvii) visited Mumbai to inaugurate Securities Appellate

Tribunal new office premises, Bombay on 4 July 2024; (xlviii) visited Lucknow to deliver 3rd Convocation Address at the RMLNLU, Lucknow on 13 July 2024; (xlix) visited Madurai to deliver inaugural address at the 20th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Madurai Bench on 20 July 2024; (l) addressed 64 National Defence College Course on 22 July 2024; (li) visited Bengaluru to deliver inaugural address at the India Accessibility Summit and State Disability Commissioners' Conclave 2024 on 27 July 2024; (lii) visited Bengaluru to deliver Keynote address at the Global Annual Conference on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination, an International Conference organized by NLSIU in collaboration with the Oxford Human Rights Hub at Bengaluru on 28 July 2024; (liii) Delivered Presidential Address at Delhi High Court – Inauguration of newly developed e-DHCR Portal on 5 August 2024; (liv) Delivered Convocation Address at the 13th Convocation Ceremony and celebrations of the Founder's Day of OP Jindal Global University at Main Arena, Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, IP Estate, Delhi on 7 August 2024; (lv) visited Chandigarh to deliver address at the 37th Convocation Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh on 10 August 2024 and to deliver lecture on "Landscape of Technology in Courts in India and the Way Forward" at Chandigarh Judicial Academy, on 10 August 2024; (lvi) Delivered Opening and Closing remarks at the 2nd India – Singapore Judicial Roundtable in the Supreme Court of India on 23 August 2024; (lvii) Delivered Address at the inaugural Ceremony of Recent Advances in Critical Care 2024, Department of Anesthesiology, pain medicine & critical care, at AIIMS on 25 August 2024; (lviii) Delivered Address at the National Conference of the District Judiciary on the occasion of 75 Years of the

establishment of the Supreme Court at Multi Purpose-Hall, Bharat Mandapam, Mathura Road, New Delhi on 31 August-1 September 2024.

National Programmes/Meetings/ Conferences/Chaired or attended by Hon'ble Judges

- Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai** (i) attended Book Release event 'The Theory of Basic Structure" by Vijay Kumar, Sr. Adv. at India International Centre, New Delhi on 10 July 2023; (ii) visited Goa for the celebration of 50 years of the passing of the landmark judgment in the Kesavananda Bharati case and releasing of Souvenir marking the 40 years of establishment of the High Court of Bombay on 15 July 2023; (iii) visited Gadchiroli to attend Inauguration ceremony of Additional sessions Court, Gadchiroli at Aheri District held on 22 July 2023; (iv) visited Chandigarh to attend International Conference on Environmental Law and Constitutional Rights: A Global perspective held at Chandigarh University on 29 July 2023; (v) attended release of Anthology of 68 Articles written by Friday Group Members at Main Auditorium, Krishna Menon Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Indian Society of International Law Building, New Delhi held on 17 August 2023; (vi) visited Mumbai, to Attend National Conference on Climate Change, Environment and Sustainable Development and launch of PG Diploma program in climate change, environment and sustainable development and release of book on International Environmental Law at MNLU, Mumbai held on 19 August 2023; (vii) visited Bhopal, chaired session on Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices at NJA Bhopal, on the theme "Writ Jurisdiction: Varieties and Scope" held on 26 August 2023; (viii) attended Inauguration of

International Lawyers' Conference 2023 and Chair the Technical session-2 on the subject "Access to Justice and Legal Aid in Developing Nations" held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23 September 2023;(ix) visited Nagpur to attend function of unveiling the portrait of Late Senior Advocate Shri Krishnarao H. Deshpande held at Auditorium, North Wing, High Court, Nagpur on 29 September 2023; (x) visited Nagpur, to attend 6th Meeting of the General Council of the Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur at MNLU, held on 30 September 2023; (xi) visited Ratanagiri, to attend Unveiling ceremony of Mural of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at District Court held on 7 October 2023 and also attended Inauguration ceremony of Newly established Court and Laying Foundation Stone Ceremony at Mandangad held on 8 October 2023; (xii) visited Amravati (Maharashtra), to attend One Day Continuous Legal Education Programme (CLEP) and Adv. B.E. Avhad Sir Memorial Basic Legal Education Programme (BLEP) and Distribution of Civil & Criminal Handbooks at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Sabhagruh, Dr. PDMM College, Panchavati Square, Amravati organised by Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa in Association with Amravati & Washim District Bar Association on 28 October 2023; (xiii) visited Patna to attend 2nd Annual Justice Ajay Kumar Memorial Lecture on the topic "Our Constitution and the Idea of India therein" at Hotel Maurya, Patna onwards organized by Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi Foundation held on 4 November 2023; (xiv) attended Constitution Day Celebration Working session-1, at Supreme Court of India, New Delhi on the topic "Centenary of Dr. Ambedkar's Enrollment as Advocate: Reflection on his ideas of constitutionalism" held on 26 November 2023; (xv) Co-chaired Plenary session on "Meeting the Need for

Legal Aid: Status of the Realization of the Right to Legal Aid in the Global South" in the 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid: Strengthening Access to Justice in the Global South at Supreme Court held on 27 November 2023; (xvi) visited Buldhana, to attend inauguration of 'Adhivakta Parishad – Vidarbha Pradesh' at Sant Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan Engineering College, Khamgaon Road, Shegaon, organised by Akhil Bhartiya Adhivakta Parishad held on 9 December 2023; (xvii) visited Akola to attend Unveiling of portrait of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar along with preamble on the first floor of the New District Court Building and Unveiling of Plaque of Laying Foundation Stone Ceremony of New Family Court Building at Akola, District Akola held on 9 December 2023; (xviii) visited Mumbai, for the inauguration of Indian Council of Arbitration Conference on "Arbitration as a Catalyst for Economic Development" at ITC Grand Central, Parel, Mumbai held on 16 December 2023; (xix) visited Nagpur, to attended Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Government Medical College, Nagpur held on 22 December 2023; (xx) visited Amravati, to attend the function of unveiling of photographs of Sr. Advs. Organized by Amravati District Bar Association at District & sessions Court, Amravati held on 22 December 2023; (xxi) visited Nagpur, to attend One Day Basic Legal Education Programme (BLEP) and Distribution of Civil And Criminal Handbooks at Vasantrao Naik Smruti Sabhagruha, Vanamati, VIP Road, Dharampeth, Nagpur organized by Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa in association with High Court Bar Association and District Bar Association, Nagpur on 23 December 2023; (xxii) visited Kevadipada to attend Megal Legal Literacy Camp held on 13 January 2024; (xxiii) visited Nandurbar to attend Silver Jubilee Ceremony of the

College of Law, held on 13 January 2024; (xxiv) attended Diamond Jubilee Year of the Supreme Court held at Supreme Court of India on 28 January 2024; (xxv) attended Commonwealth Attorney and Solicitors General Conference 2024 at Vigyan Bhavan held between 2 and 4 February 2024; (xxvi) visited Nagpur to attend Second Convocation of MNLU, Nagpur held on 10 February 2024 and inauguration of Regional Conference on Mediation, Nagpur region held on 11 Feburary 2024; (xxvii) visited Higanghat, to attend Foundation Laying Ceremony of Higanghat City Court held on 17 February 2024; (xxviii) visited Bhandara, to attend Felicitation Ceremony of HMJ Y.G. Khobragade organized by Bhandara Bar Association held on 17 February 2024; (xxix) visited Nagpur, to attend Diamond Jubilee Felicitation Function of Justice Vijay Daga at Late Vasantrao Naik Memorial Hall, Vanamati held on 18 February 2024 and to attend Felicitation Function of Padamshree Dr. Chandrashekhar Meshram by Medical Fraternity IMA, held on 18 February 2024; (xxx) visited Sindhudurg to attend Foundation Laying Ceremony at Civil Court at Taluka Deogad held on 24 February 2024; (xxxi) visited Sindhudurg to attend Foundation Laying Ceremony of New building at Taluka Kudal held on 24 February 2024; (xxxii) visited Nashik to attend inaugural Function of 'Sanvidhan Amrutmohatsav BCMG 2024" at Gurudakshina Auditorium, Gokhale Education Society Campus, Vidhyanagar, held on 25 February 2024; (xxxiii) visited Achalpur to attend Foundation Laying Ceremony at Achalpur Court held on 2 March 2024; (xxxiv) visited Pune to attend Foundation Laying Ceremony at Moshi, Pimpri, Chinchwad, District Pune held on 3 March 2024; (xxxv) visited Jodhpur to attend Launching of E-Law Reports

Rajasthan at New Rajasthan High Court Building on 16 March 2024; (xxxvi) visited Jodhpur to attend Inauguration of Nyay Path organized by Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur on 16 March 2024; (xxxvii) visited Jodhpur to attend One Day Law Seminar on 'Constitutional Governance in India – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Idea of Socio-Economic Justice & Social Engineering through Judicial Activism at Auditorium, Rajasthan State Judicial Academy, Jodhpur held on 16 March 2024; (xxxviii) attended Workshop for Panel Lawyers of SCLSC (AOR) organized by SCLSC at Supreme Court of India on 19 March 2024; (xxxix) visited Nagpur to attend inaugural Centenary Year Celebration Program of the High Court Bar Association at High Court held on 5 April 2024; (xl) visited Nagpur to attend Felicitation program of the Designated Senior Advocates and Advocates (HCBA Members) who have completed 50 years practice, at Vasantrao Deshpande Hall, Civil Lines held on 6 April 2024; (xli) attended Ambedkar Memorial Lecture Series on the topic "Article 32: History and the Future" at the Indian Society of International Law, organized by the Society for Constitution and Social Democracy, the Leaflet held on 15 April 2024; (xlii) visited Mumbai to attend Book Launch "Biography of Justice Dilip B. Bhosale the Benevolent Judge" at the Taj in Mumbai held on 21 April 2024; (xliii) visited Chittoor to attend inauguration of 15 Courts Building Complex organized by Principal District Judge, Chittoor and President and Members of Bar Association held on 27 April 2024; (xlv) visited Chennai to attend valedictory address for the Conference of District Legal Services Authorities of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry and Special Training on the Mediation Act, 2023 organised by Tamil Nadu & Puducherry Legal Services Authorities and Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre of the

High Court of Judicature at Madras at Madras High Court Auditorium held on 27 April 2024; (xlvi) visited Arunachal Pradesh to attend "One Day Mega Legal Awareness Programme" held by Arunachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, Namsai & Lohit & District Administration, Namsai & Tezu under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority at Multi Purpose Cultural Hall, Namsai held on 25 May 2024; (xlvi) visited Mumbai to attend 4th Convocation Ceremony of Anjuman-I-Islam's Barrister A.R. Antulay College of Law at Anjuman-I-Islam's Saif Tyabji Girls' High School Auditorium held on 24 June 2024; (xlvii) visited Kolkatta to attend inaugural Function of the Bicentenary Celebration of the Bar Library Club at the High Court at Calcutta held on 28 June 2024; (xlviii) visited Kolkatta to attend inaugural session of East Zone-II, Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Development and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology on the topic "Constitutional Morality and Contemporary Constitutional Trends" held on 29 June 2024; (xlix) visited Amravati to attend Felicitation function of Smt. Kamaltai Gavai at Sant Dyaneshwar Cultural Hall, Morshi Road, Amravati held on 13 July 2024; (l) visited Madurai to attend 20th Anniversary of the Inauguration of Madurai Bench held on 20 July 2024; (li) visited Nagpur to attend meeting at MNLU, Nagpur held on 27 July 2024. (lii) visited Bilaspur to attend inaugural function of State Level Conference of Judicial Officers of Chhattisgarh on "Overcoming Challenges: The Emerging Role of District Judiciary in Modern India" at the Auditorium, High Court of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur held on 28 July 2024; (liii) visited Guwahati to attend S.N. Bhuyan Centenary Lecture held on 3 August 2024; (liv) visited Guwahati to

- attend Lecture Series event in the Assam Agricultural University-International Guest House, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam organized by Indian Law Institute on 4 August 2024; (iv) visited Kerala to attend Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA)- International Conference on Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technical Innovation held at Kumarakom, Kerala on 16-18 August 2024; (vi) visited Buldhana to attend Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of New Court Building of the District & sessions Court at Buldhana held on 24 August 2024.
- 2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant** (i) visited Chandigarh as Chief Guest to deliver 5th Convocation address at Faculty of Law, Panjab University, Chandigarh on 12 August 2023; (ii) visited Amritsar to deliver inaugural address in TDSAT Seminar entitled as "Consumer Grievances & Dispute Resolution in Telecom, Broadcasting & Cyber Sectors" on 23 September 2023 (iii) visited Uttarakhand to attend North Zone-1 Regional Conference at Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy, Bhowali, Nainital on 30 September 2023; (iv) visited Jaipur to deliver an address at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre on the occasion of Inauguration of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Rajasthan High Court on 14 October 2023; (v) visited Gujarat as Chief Guest to grace the felicitation ceremony & portrait unveiling ceremony of Legends of the Gujarat High Court Bar as the Chief Guest at Gujarat High Court Auditorium on 27 October 2023; (vi) visited Gujarat as Chief guest to grace the "Expert Lecture session" at Faculty of Law, Gujarat Law Society University and to deliver lecture on "Art of Judgment Writing" at the Gujarat State Judicial Academy in Gujarat High Court Auditorium on 28 October 2023 (vii) visited Chandigarh to inaugurate of Medical Diagnostic Laboratory set up by Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association in the High Court Premises on 15 November 2023; (viii) visited Chandigarh to grace felicitation programme organised by Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association in New Bar Complex on 2 December 2023; (ix) visited Assam as Chief Guest to grace the "One Day Cluster Workshop/In-Service Training for Judicial Officers of Assam" at Judicial Academy, Assam on 17 December 2023; (x) visited Rohtak as Guest of Honour to grace the 18th Convocation of Maharishi Dayanand University & received the Degree of Honoris Causa [DLitt] at Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak on 26 December 2023; (xi) visited Chandigarh as Chief Guest to attend North India conference on "Work Life Balance in the Legal Profession – A Gendered Perspective" organized by P & H Federation of Women Lawyers and to launch of a book titled "Raising the Bar" on 27 January 2024; (xii) visited Mohali to attend the Moot Court Competition, 2024 organised by Sarin Memorial Legal Aid Foundation on 17 February 2024; (xiii) visited Chandigarh to grace valedictory function of Chandigarh Judicial Academy on completion of one year induction training programme of Judicial Officers from the State of Haryana as Chief Guest at Auditorium, Chandigarh Judicial Academy on 17 February 2024; (xiv) visited Mumbai to chair a Technical session and Delivered inaugural Address at International Seminar on "New Challenges in Foreign Direct Investments in India and the Role of Lawyers" by Union Internationale des Advocats (UIA) and UIA India Chapter at Hotel St. Regis, Mumbai on 24 February 2024; (xv) visited Kachchh to participate in the Conference of Judicial Officers being organized by the Supreme Court of India in co-ordination with the High

Court of Gujarat between 2-3 March 2024; (xvi) visited Chandigarh as Chief Guest to grace valedictory function of 4th Edition of Arguendo'24 at University Institute of Legal Studies, Punjab University on 16 March 2024; (xvii) visited Agartala as Chief Guest to grace the 10th Annual Judicial Conclave on the occasion of Foundation Day of the High Court organised by Tripura Judicial Academy under the aegis of High Court of Tripura at Tripura Judicial Academy in Agartala on 23 March 2024; (xviii) visited Arunachal Pradesh as Chief Guest at Mega Legal Aid Camp orginsed by Arunachal Pradesh Legal Services Authority at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on 24 March 2024; (xix) visited Sonipat as Chief Guest to inaugurate Ceremony of State of Art Moot Court Hall at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonipat as on 30 March 2024; (xx) visited Jodhpur as Chief Guest at the valedictory session of One year Induction & Training Programme of Judicial Officers at Rajasthan State Judicial Academy, Jodhpur on 6 April 2024; (xxi) visited Hyderabad to conduct NCLT interviews for Judicial/ Technical Members on 19 April 2024; (xxii) visited Haryana to address the inaugural Ceremony of National Tax Conference at Radisson Hotel on 27 April 2024; (xxiii) visited Mumbai to conduct NCLT interviews for Judicial/Technical Members in Mumbai on 4 May 2024; (xxiv) visited Aizwal as Chief Guest to grace the Mega Legal Aid Camp organised by Mizoram State Legal Services Authority at Aizawl on 18 May 2024; (xxv) visited Chandigarh to grace One Day Law Summit on "How Can Judiciary Contribute in Creating a Positive Business Environment and Nation Building" conjointly organised by Chandigarh Judicial Academy and IIM, Rohtak at Auditorium, Chandigarh Judicial Academy on 24 May 2024. (xxvi) visited Kurukshetra as Chief Guest to grace the 4th

Convocation of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University, Jind, Haryana at the University Campus, Kurukshetra on 27 May 2024; (xxvii) visited Madurai to attend commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the inception of Madurai Bench, Madras High Court, on 20 July 2024; (xxviii) visited Aurangabad as chief guest to attend Induction Programme of the Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad, on 27 July 2024; (xxix) participated in the East Zone I Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" organised by National Judicial Academy in collaboration with High Court of Orissa and the Odisha Judicial Academy" on 3 August 2024; (xxx) visited Chandigarh to participate in National Conference on the "Landscape of Technology in Courts in India and the way forward" at Auditorium, Chandigarh Judicial Academy on 10-11 August 2024; (xxxi) visited Kerala for interact with Faculty and Staff of NLSIU on Leave Regulations, 2023, at NLSIU Campus, on 15 August 2024 and to participate in International Conference by Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) on "Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism, and Technological Innovations at Kumarakom, Kerela", from 16-18 August 2024; (xxxii) visited Greater Noida as Chief Guest to deliver address on "Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot South Asia Regional Rounds" by Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida on 23 August 2024.

3. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy**
(i) visited Aurangabad to attend 5th meeting of the General Council of the Maharashtra National Law University at Boardroom, Centre of Excellence Building, MNLU Aurangabad on 22 July 2023; (ii) visited Mizoram, to attend the Inauguration of New High Court

Building of the Gauhati High Court, Aizawl Bench, Mizoram on 2 September 2023; (iii) visited Guwahati to attend a Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Judicial Officers in the Seminar Hall, National Law University, Amingaon on 9 December 2023; (iv) visited Guwahati to attend Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Gauhati High Court Bar Association on 16 December 2023; (v) visited Bhopal to attend Annual Convocation of NLU, Bhopal on 16 March 2024; (vi) visited Guwahati to attend Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System at IIT, Guwahati on 18-19 May 2024; (vii) visited Rajasthan to attend Fifth Two days legal workshop on "Overview of Arbitration & Mediation" organised by Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur and Indian Law Institute, Rajasthan Chapter at Lal Bagh, Ranakpur, Rajasthan, on 20 July 2024.

- 4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath**
 (i) visited Lucknow to attend Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University as Visitor of University on 12 August 2023; (ii) visited Bhopal to chair the Tenth Biennial Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Officers' Conference on 13 January 2024; (iii) visited Nagpur as Chief Guest at the Convocation Function at MNLU on 10 February 2024; (iv) visited Nagpur as Guest of Honour at the Regional Conference on Mediation, Nagpur Region on 11 February 2024; (v) visited Lucknow to attend Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University as Visitor of the University on 25 February 2024; (vi) chaired a working session of the Delhi Arbitration Weekend, 2024 on 8 March 2024; (vii) attended as Chief Guest for the Prize Distribution ceremony of the 20th K.K. Luthra Memorial Moot Court Competition on 17 March 2024; (viii) visited Mumbai as Chief Guest to attend a book launch of Biography of Justice Dilip B. Bhosale titled

"THE BENEVOLENT JUDGE" function on 21 April 2024; (ix) visited Ahmedabad as Chief Guest at the Conference on Mediation and Arbitration jointly organized by Gujarat High Court Legal Services Authority and Gujarat State Judicial Academy on 4-5 May 2024; (x) visited Gandhinagar to chair the High-Power Expert Group Meeting at National Forensic Sciences University on 18 May 2024; (xi) visited Chhattisgarh as Special Guest in the State Level Conference of Judicial Officers of Chhattisgarh on "Overcoming Challenges : The Emerging Role of District Judiciary in Modern India" at Auditorium, High Court of Chhattisgarh on 28 July 2024.

- 5. Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari**
 (i) visited Indore to attend the seminar on Dispute Resolution and Redressal of Consumer Grievances in Telecom, Broadcasting and Cyber Sectors on 15 July 2023; (ii) visited Gwalior to attend the function at Maharani Laxmibai Arts and Commerce College on 29 September 2023; (iii) visited Bhopal to attend the function organized by M.P. Human Rights Commission at Bhopal on 10 December 2023; (iv) visited Bhopal to attend the 10th Biennial Judicial Officers' Conference on 13 January 2024; (v) visited Gwalior to attend the inauguration ceremony of the New Building of District Court, Gwalior on 10 March 2024; (vi) visited Hyderabad to attend the meeting of the Selection Committee constituted for selection of Judicial and Technical Members, NCLT in Hyderabad on 20 April 2024; (vii) visited Gwalior to attend the function of M. P. Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Chamber Bhawan, Gwalior on 26 May 2024; (viii) visited Bhopal to attend the inaugural session of E-Mediation Writing (EMW) at Courtyard by Marriott, Arera Hills at Bhopal on 2 June 2024; (ix) visited Jabalpur to attend convocation of Dharmashtra National

Law University at PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, and to attend a function at Madhya Pradesh High Court Bar Association on 20 July 2024; (x) visited Gwalior to attend AHML National Homeopathic Conference at Hotel Radisson, Gwalior on 3 August 2024.

6. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice B.V. Nagarathna**
(i) delivered a speech at Delhi High Court in the Annual Colloquy organised by Delhi High Court Women's Legal Forum, on the theme "The Constitution of India: A Living Tree" on 14 July 2023; (ii) visited Bengaluru to attend the conclave "Access to Justice" organized by Ramaiah College of Law in association with Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Ramaiah College of Law and the Birth Centenary Year of the Founder Chairman Dr. M.S. Ramaiah at MSRIT Campus, Bengaluru on 29 July 2023; (iii) delivered Presidential Address in the Twelfth Convocation Ceremony and celebration of Founder's Day of O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, New Delhi on 7 August 2024; (iv) virtually shared videographed message on the occasion of 10th State Level Advocates Conference organized by the Karnataka State Bar Council and the Mysore Bar Association at Mysuru on 12 August 2023; (v) visited Bengaluru to deliver a Special Address at the 19th Karnataka State Level Two-day Chartered Accountants Conference organised by the Bengaluru Branch of SIRC of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on 12 August 2023; (vi) virtually shared videographed message for the Webinar organized by Alumnae-i-Network for Harvard Women on the theme "Celebrating 100 Years of Women in Law: Breaking Barriers: Shaping History" on 2 September 2023; (vii) attended the National Annual Stakeholders'

Consultation on Child Protection – Eighth Round under the aegis of Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee, Supreme Court of India supported by UNICEF; and delivered opening remarks in the inaugural session; and chaired session on "Global Knowledge around Children in Conflict with the Law" on 23 September 2023 and vote of thanks in the closing session on 24 September 2023; (viii) through virtual mode gave Introductory Remarks on the occasion of online launch event of the report titled "Factors Impacting Judicial Decision-Making on Juvenile Transfer in India – An Exploratory Study", prepared by SAMVAD and NIMHANS on 28 October 2023; (ix) visited Thiruvananthapuram as Chief Guest in the Celebration Function of Lok Ayukta Day 2023 organized by Kerala Lok Ayukta at the Kerala Legislative Assembly Complex, Thiruvananthapuram on 15 November 2023; (x) visited Bhopal to attend the National Seminar on POCSO Act on theme "Objective, Nature & Contours of the POCSO Act", organized by the National Judicial Academy on 18 November 2023; (xi) visited Bengaluru to attend the session on the theme "The Rights of the Child" of the 36th LAWASIA Annual Conference, jointly organized by the LAWASIA and the Bar Association of India on 25 November 2023; (xii) visited Bengaluru, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru organized the inaugural "Justice E.S. Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture" delivered on "Constitutional Imperatives of the State : Navigating Discrimination in Public and Private Spaces" by Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India, in the presence of Her Ladyship – Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru and also delivered an

Introductory Address in the inaugural "Justice E.S. Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture" on 17 December 2023; (xiii) visited Goa to deliver a lecture on "Transformative Constitutionalism" on the occasion of 50 years – Golden Jubilee Celebration of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law, Miramar, Panaji, Goa on 20 December 2023; (xiv) visited Bengaluru to attend inauguration of Justice E.S. Venkataramiah Global Legal Skills Academy in Ramaiah College of Law, Bengaluru – by Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, Former Chief Justice of India, in the presence of Her Ladyship – Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, organized at Apex Auditorium, Gnanagangotri Campus, M.S. Ramaiah Nagar, New BEL Road, Bengaluru on 28 December 2023; (xv) delivered Twenty-Eighth Justice Sunanda Bhandare Memorial Lecture on the topic "The Role of the Judiciary in the Empowerment of Indian Women", organized by Justice Sunanda Bhandare Foundation at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre on 5 January 2024; (xvi) attended the event for launch of the book "Roses Without Thorns: Reflections of an Immaterial Wanderer", authored by Dr. R. Venkataramani, Ld. Attorney General of India, held at Bharat Mandapam on 12 January 2024; (xvii) chaired the session titled "Transforming Legal Education for the Future: A Road Map" and delivered a lecture on the topic "Moulding the Future Legal Education Reimagined : Rethinking Legal Education" in the CLEA Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference CASGS'24, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, 4 February 2024; (xviii) Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India nominated Her Ladyship as one of the Members of the Indian Delegation in Twelfth Indo-British Legal Forum Meet held at Supreme Court of India, and to

prepare a Paper on the topic "Evolving Trends in Alternate Dispute Resolution" in response to the paper submitted by the British Delegation led by The Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Judge in England and Wales on 16 March 2024; (xix) visited Bengaluru to attend the inaugural Function of the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers, on the theme "Equity and Excellence for Futuristic Judiciary" and also chaired session-I on the theme "Women and Judiciary", organized by the Karnataka State Judicial Officers at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Center G.K.V.K., Yelahanka Road, Bengaluru on 23 March 2024; (xx) visited Hyderabad to address the Judicial Officers on "Judicial Ethics", in the special session convened by the Telangana State Judicial Academy, Secunderabad on 29 March 2024; (xxi) visited Hyderabad to deliver inaugural Address in "the Courts and the Constitution – 2023 in Review" Conference organized by the NALSAR University of Law on 30 March 2024; (xxii) visited Dehradun as a Member of the Family Courts Committee, Supreme Court of India and delivered a Special Address in the valedictory session of the Northern Zone Regional Conference of the Family Courts Committee held at Dehradun on 7 April 2024; (xxiii) attended the inaugural session of the Conference on Technology organised by the Supreme Courts of India and Singapore in the Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India on 13 April 2024; (xxiv) visited Jodhpur to deliver a lecture on the theme "Celebrating 75th Years of Indian Supreme Court" in the National Conference organized by the National Law University on 21 April 2024; (xxv) visited Bengaluru to attend and deliver Special Address in the inaugural Function of India Accessibility Summit and State Disability

Commissioners' Conclave, 2024, organized by the Government of Karnataka in association with Ramaiah College of Law, Bengaluru, at West End Court, Taj West End, Race Course Road, Bengaluru on 27 July 2024; (xxvi) visited Bengaluru to deliver a lecture on the topic "Home in the Nation : Indian Women's Constitutional Imaginaries" in the Conference on a theme "Indian Constitution-making", organized by the National Law School of India University as part of the Pluralist Agreement and Constitutional Transformation (PACT) Project, at the Prestige Falcon, Brunton Road near M.G. Road, Bengaluru on 3 August 2024; (xxvii) visited Bengaluru to attend alumni meet and Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Sophia High School and also conveyed Her Ladyship's greetings through a Videographed Message on 3 August 2024; (xxviii) nominated as a Visitor of the National Law University, Delhi, visited the University Campus to interact with the Vice-Chancellor and the Faculty Members on 10 August 2024; (xxix) visited Bengaluru to inaugurate the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Karnataka Judicial Academy, organized by the High Court of Karnataka and Karnataka Judicial Academy, Bengaluru, in the Auditorium of the Karnataka Judicial Academy, Bengaluru on 18 August 2024; (xxx) visited Bengaluru to deliver inaugural address in the Bengaluru ADR Week 2024 organized by the Arbitration and Conciliation Centre, Bengaluru (National and International), Karnataka Judicial Academy, and the Advocates' Association Bengaluru in association with the Bengaluru ADR Week Committee, on the theme "Expanding the Horizon Marching Towards World Class Arbitral Institution" at Karnataka Judicial Academy, Bengaluru on 24 August 2024; (xxxi) along with Members of the Supreme Court's Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee (GSIIC)

expressed gratitude and bid farewell to Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli, Chairperson of the GSICC on 29 August 2024; (xxxii) attended the National Conference of the District Judiciary organized by the Supreme Court of India to celebrate Seventy-five years of the establishment of the Supreme Court of India, at Bharat Mandapam and also a Panelist in session-2 of the Conference on the theme "Courtrooms For All" on 31 August 2024.

7. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.T. Ravikumar**

(i) visited Ernakulam to deliver a lecture on the theme "Constitutional Morality and Contemporary Constitutional Trends" on the occasion of "South Zone-I Regional Conference" organised by National Judicial Academy on 21 October 2023; (ii) visited Bhubaneswar as Guest of Honour to attend 11th Convocation of Centurion University of Technology and Management on 9 December 2023; (iii) visited Panipat to attend valedictory function of the 14th Geeta Institute of Law, National Moot Court Competition, 2024 on 10 March 2024; (iv) visited Chandigarh as Chief Guest to inaugural ceremony at National Law Fest at Rayat College of Law on 16 March 2024; (v) visited Noida as Chief Guest for the inaugural session of the "Delhi Metropolitan Education National Moot Court Competition, 2024" at Law School, DME, Noida on 6 April 2024; (vi) visited Bhopal to chair session – 1 and 2 on the theme "Constitutional Interpretations: Reflections on Transformation, Continuities & Constitution's Silences" and "Development of Constitutional Morality: Adhering to the Constitutional Norms & Ethos" at the National Conference for High Court Justices on Development of Constitutional Law at National Judicial Academy on 4 May 2024; (vii) visited Vijayawada as Chief Guest to attend at the 7th University Day Celebrations organised by the VIT-AP University on 24 May 2024; (viii) visited Chandigarh to

preside over the ‘Orientation Programme’ of NMIMS (Deemed to be University), Sarangpur, Chandigarh on 27 July 2024; (ix) visited Kerala to attend the ‘Inauguration of Digital Courts at Kerala High Court’ on 16 August 2024; (x) visited Kerala to attend the ‘valedictory Programme of CLEA International Conference’ on 18 August 2024.

8. Hon’ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh

(i) virtually attended 3rd Justice HR Khanna Memorial National Symposium on “Contours of Surveillance – The Lakshman Rekha Between Privacy and Criminal Investigation” organized by National Law Institute University, Bhopal along with Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur and the CAN Foundation (Confederation of Alumni of National Law University) on 8 July 2023; (ii) attended the inauguration of the newly constructed building for Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, Madras High Court at Old Government Press Building, Madras High Court Premises, Chennai as well as opening of 120 Taluk Mediation Sub Centres throughout the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry (through virtual Mode) at the Madras High Court Auditorium, organized by the Madras High Court and the Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre on 8 September 2023; (iii) visited Chennai to attend Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Loyola-Shyam Kothari Block of the Loyola Law College, Chennai on 16 September 2023; (iv) attended International Lawyers’ Conference 2023 organised by the Bar Council of India at Delhi on 23 September 2023; (v) visited Chennai to attend ‘General Body Meeting’ of the Tamil Nadu Judges’ Association and the Felicitation Function at the High Court Auditorium, Madras High Court, Chennai on 28 September 2023; (vi) attended “Train the Trainers Workshop”

by Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India in collaboration with Centre for Advanced Mediation Practice (CAMP), Bengaluru at Delhi on 11 October 2023; (vii) attended International Mediation Day celebrations by Mediators of the Supreme Court of India (NIVAARAN) at Delhi on 19 October 2023; (viii) visited Kochi to attend inaugural function of the South Zone-I: Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice Through Law & Technology” organized by the National Judicial Academy in collaboration with the High Court of Kerala and the Kerala Judicial Academy; and also attended the inaugural session on the topic: “Constitutional Morality and Contemporary Constitutional Trends” at Kochi on 21 October 2023; (ix) attended inauguration function of Advocates Literary Society, Supreme Court at Delhi on 3 November 2023; (x) visited Chennai to attend the book release function viz. “Treatise on Arbitration Law & Practice” at Chennai on 17 November 2023; (xi) visited Bengaluru to attend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Conclave, 2023 organized by ASSOCHAM on 16 December 2023; (xii) attended launch of the book “Roses without Thorns” authored by Attorney General for India released by Hon’ble CJI at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 12 January 2024; (xiii) attended inauguration of 1st Sachin Das Invitational Cricket Tournament organised by The Supreme Court Advocates Cricket Association at New Delhi on 13 January 2024; (xiv) visited Ernakulam to attend session-3 of the 3rd District Conference at the Adlux International Convention Centre, Ernakulam organized by the Rotary Club, Tirupur, Gandhinagar, Kochi on 10 February 2024; (xv) chaired the session titled ‘Joinder of Non-signatories in Arbitration Proceedings: Analyzing the ‘Group of

Companies' Doctrine – Perspectives from India, UK and Singapore" organized by the Delhi High Court and Delhi International Arbitration Centre at the High Court of Delhi on 8 March 2024; (xvi) visited Coimbatore to attend Founder's Day and Arutovelvar Dr. N. Mahalingam Award Function at Coimbatore and visited Trichy to attend Fifth Annual Convocation of the Tamil Nadu National Law University at Justice Padmini Jesudurai Auditorium, Tamil Nadu National Law University Campus, Tiruchirapalli (Trichy) on 6 April 2024; (xvii) attended final matches and Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Lawn Tennis Tournament, 2024 by SCBA held at New Delhi on 7 April 2024; (xviii) attended Literary Lecture on the topic "Gracious Grant of Avvaiyar" by His Lordship organized by Tamil Advocates' Literary Society at Indian Law Institute on 26 April 2024; (xix) attended final match of SCBA Cricket Tournament at New Delhi on 11 May 2024; (xx) visited Chennai to attend the Foundation Stone Laying Function for Construction of 10 Bungalows for the Judges at NB-22 and NB-35 Greenways Road, and Five Storey Building for the Criminal & Original Court Halls, Judges' Chambers, Sections/Offices and Record Room in the Old Law College Campus at Chennai on 22 May 2024; (xxi) visited Madurai to attend Naming Ceremony for the Library Conference Hall, at the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court and felicitation of Advocates who have completed 50 years in legal profession organised by Madras High Court Madurai Bench Advocates Association (MAHAA) at Madurai on 22 June 2024; (xxii) visited Salem to attend Ruby Jubilee Celebration and Founder's Statue unveil event of the Central Law College, Salem on 30 June 2024; (xxiii) visited Chennai to attend valedictory session of the Conference of Revenue Bar Association, Chennai on 6 July 2024; (xxiv) visited

Tamil Nadu to attend Inauguration of the Vigentennial Celebrations and Unveiling of Vigentennial Stupa at the Madurai Bench; inauguration of new name board "High Court of Madras Madurai Amarvu"; inauguration of 100 e-Seva Kendras in the Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu and inauguration of 100 e-Seva Kendras in the Northern Districts of Tamil Nadu at Madurai Convention Centre, Tamukkam Grounds on 20 July 2024; (xxv) visited Guwahati to attend S. N. Bhuyan Memorial Ceremony Lecture at Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium, Kalakshetra, Panjabari, Guwahati on 3 August 2024; (xxvi) attended 2nd India-Singapore Judicial Round table at Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, C-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India on 23 August 2024; (xxvii) visited Erode to attend the Inauguration of three new courts at Erode and attended the Diamond Jubilee function of Thiru P.C. Palaniswamy, Senior Advocate at Erode on 24 August 2024; (xxviii) visited Chennai to attend book release event of book titled "Commercial Dispute Resolution – State of Law in India" at Chennai on 31 August 2024.

9. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi

(i) visited Bangalore to attend the General Council Meeting at ITC Windsor, Golf Course Road, Bengaluru on 25 August 2023; (ii) visited Bangalore to attend 31st annual convocation at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra (GKVK) Campus, Bengaluru and also attended opening ceremony of the redeveloped Shri Narayan Rao Melgiri Memorial National Law Library on 26 August 2023; (iii) Graced the International Lawyers Conference 2023 -Bar Council of India and Co-chaired Technical session on 23 September 2023; (iv) Graced the inaugural Ceremony of

Platinum Jubilee of Rajasthan High Court on 14 October 2023; (v) attended function organized by the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association in the portrait unveiling function "Legends of the Bar" and also Felicitation Function of Seniors who have completed 50 years in Active Practice as Guest of Honour on 27 October, 2023; (vi) visited Ahmedabad to attend the function organized by the Ahmedabad Bar Association and the Ahmedabad Small Causes Court Bar Association to felicitate the members of the Bar who have completed 50 years of their legal practice at City Civil Court Compound & Gujarat Club, Bhadra, Ahmedabad on 2 December 2023; (vii) visited Kachchh to attend Conference of Judicial Officers organised by Supreme Court of India on 2-3 March 2024; (viii) visited Ahmedabad to preside over the 14th Convocation of Gujarat National Law University and General Council Meeting on 23 March, 2024; (ix) visited Gujarat as Chief Guest to grace the inaugural session of the Orientation Programme for the 2024 batch of Undergraduate (UG) and Master of Laws (LLM) Students at GNLU, Gujarat on 6 July 2024; (x) visited Gujarat to grace the Inauguration Programme of Moot Court Hall, Library and Legal Aid Clinic at Gujarat National Law University, Silvassa Campus on 24 July 2024; (xi) attended National Conference of the District Judiciary at Multi-purpose Hall, Level 3, Convention Centre, Bharat Mandapam on 31 August-1 September 2024.

- 10. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha** (i) delivered the Distinguished Public Lecture at the Singhvi Trinity Scholarship Awards at New Delhi on 4 July 2023; (ii) visited Hyderabad to attend 20th NALSAR Convocation at Hyderabad on 2 September 2023; (iii) delivered Online Lecture on CEDE's Vimukta Diwas on

6 September 2023; (iv) delivered speech at the valedictory session of the UNICTRAL South Asia Conference in New Delhi on 16 September 2023. (v) Chaired a session-'*Artificial Intelligence- Transforming the Legal Landscape*' and delivered speech at the valedictory session of the Bar Council of India International Lawyers Conference at Vigyan Bhawan on 23-24 September, 2023; (vi) visited Cochin as Chief Guest to deliver the 9th Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer Memorial Lecture on 18 November 2023; (vii) visited Bengaluru to chair a session-'*Reeling on Social Media: Content Regulation*' as Moderator of the 36th Lawasia Conference 2023 on 25 November 2023; (viii) visited Hyderabad to deliver the Late Sri M.L. Ramkrishna Rao, Advocate Memorial Lecture on 23 December 2023; (ix) co-chaired a technical session-'*Legal Frameworks and Advocacy in Justice Delivery*' in the CLEA-Commonwealth Attorney and Solicitors General Conference at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 3 February 2024; (x) attended the inauguration of SCBA Annual Cricket Tournament at Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi on 10 February 2024; (xi) visited Visakhapatnam to deliver the keynote speech at Seminar organised by Federation of Women Lawyers of Andhra Pradesh at Green Park, Visakhapatnam on 24 February 2024; (xii) visited Vizianagaram for laying of Foundation Stone for Construction of Four Court Building at Bobbili and Laying of Foundation Stone for Construction of District Court Building Complex, Vizianagaram on 24-25 February 2024; (xiii) attended the Final Match of Football organised by the Supreme Court on 26 February 2024; (xiv) Participated as a member of the Indian Delegation in the Indo-German Bilateral Judicial Dialogue in the Supreme Court Premises and

Participated in session-3 '*Relationship between Public International Law and Constitutional Law*' on 8 March 2024; (xv) visited Hyderabad to attend the laying foundation-stone of the new High Court Building of Telangana at Rajendra Nagar village at Hyderabad on 27 March 2024; (xvi) visited Agra to deliver the special address at the inaugural session and Chaired a session-'*Role of Referral Judges*' at the SAMADHAN, Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre at on 5-6 April 2024; (xvii) delivered the valedictory address at the Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System organized by Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on 20 April 2024; (xviii) attended and delivered speech on the Book Release of Climate Change: The Policy, Law and Practice on 12 July 2024 at India International Centre, New Delhi; (xix) visited Rajasthan to attend and deliver the speech on valedictory session of Fifth Two Days Legal workshop organized by Rajasthan High Court at Ranakpur, Rajasthan on 21 July 2024; (xx) attended the launch of e-DHCR at Delhi High Court on 5 August 2024; (xxi) visited Bengaluru at National Law School of India University, Bengaluru on 15 August 2024; (xxii) visited Kerala to attend and chair Technical session II –*Regulatory Challenges and Innovations in Transportation Technologies and Eco-Tourism* in the CLEA Conference at Kumarakom, Kerala from 16-18 August 2024; (xxiii) visited District Court Guntur and addressed the Guntur Bar Association on 24 August 2024; (xxiv) visited Guntur to attend and deliver the speech as Chief Guest at the 12th Convocation Ceremony, VIGNAN (deemed to be University), Guntur on 24 August 2024.

11. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia**
(i) visited Bhowali, Nainital to attend North Zone-1 Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Development and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology" at Bhowali, Nainital on 30 September 2023;(ii) visited Dehradun to attend Justice Keshav Chandra Dhulia Memorial Lecture on 2 December 2023; (iii) visited Kochi as Chief Guest to attend the 17th Annual Convocation at the National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) Campus, Kalamassery, Kochi on 6 January 2024; (iv) visited Lucknow to attend the North Zone - II Regional Conference of "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" on 16 March 2024.
12. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta**
(i) As presiding guest delivered the Keynote Address on the occasion of 3rd Justice H.R. Khanna National Memorial Symposium in New Delhi on 8 July 2023; (ii) attended the International Lawyers' Conference 2023 and was Co-Panelist in the 8th session on the topic 'Opportunity in Building a Sustainable Legal Profession : Way Forward' in New Delhi on 24 September 2023; (iii) visited Kolkata as the Chief Guest to deliver the Centennial Memorial Lecture on the topic "Challenges before the District Judiciary and the Role of a Judicial Officer", at the Centennial Celebrations of the West Bengal Judicial Service Association, organized at Bhasha Bhawan, National Library, Kolkata and Chief Guest at the Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Conclave organized by the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata at their auditorium, in collaboration with the Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Trust and supported by the Tata Group. His Lordship delivered a lecture on the topic "50 years of Basic Structure Doctrine: Reflections and Ruminations" and

also made over prizes to the students who emerged winners in the essay competition and quiz contest on 25 November 2023; (iv) visited Bhopal to chair session-1 titled 'Scope of Writ Jurisdiction under Article 226' and session-2 titled 'Supervisory Power under Article 227' and also addressed as Speaker in session-3 titled 'Court and Case Management' in the Orientation Course for newly elevated High Court Justices organized by the National Judicial Academy on 9 December 2023; (v) visited Uttan, Maharashtra to deliver the keynote address and chair the inaugural session of the West Zone-I Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" organized by the National Judicial Academy in collaboration with the Bombay High Court and the Maharashtra Judicial Academy and chair session-2 titled 'Elements of Judicial Behaviour' and addressed the gathering through a Power Point Presentation 13 January 2023; (vi) co-chaired the Technical session-II with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India as the Chair, on the topic "Judiciary and Justice in a Changing World with sub-topics (a) Judiciary in Transition : Navigating the evolving role of the judiciary in a changing world and (b) Access to justice : Bridging the Divide : Addressing disparities in access to justice" of CLEA – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference CAGSC'24 on "Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, jointly organized by the Department of Legal Affairs, Government of India, Offices of the Attorney General for India and Solicitor General of India and Commonwealth Legal Education Association on 3 February 2024; (vii) visited Lucknow to attend the inaugural session of North Zone-II Regional

Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" organized by the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal in collaboration with the Allahabad High Court and the Judicial Training & Research Institute, Lucknow, and also addressed the participants as a Resource Person in session-3 on the theme "Judgment Writing Tools" on 16 March 2024; (viii) visited Kolkata to attend the inaugural session of East Zone-II Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" organized by the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal in association with the Calcutta High Court and the West Bengal Judicial Academy, Kolkata, and also address the participants as a Resource Person in session-I on the theme "Constitutional Morality and Contemporary Constitutional Trends" on 29 June 2024; (ix) visited Kerala to attend inaugural session of Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) International Conference on "Law and Technology : Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations" and chaired session-1 on "Legal and Ethical Frameworks in Transportation and Eco-Tourism", at Kumarakom on 17 August 2024.

- 13. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal** (i) visited Mysuru to deliver 15th Graduation Day address at JSS Law College, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru on 19 August 2023; (ii) visited Uttar Pradesh as Chief Guest to attend 42nd Provincial convention members of Deewani Nayaylaya Karamchari Sang, Uttar Pradesh on 30 September 2023 and as Chief Guest at Allahabad Museum Club program on 1 October 2023; (iii) visited Jaipur to attend the inaugural Ceremony of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Rajasthan High Court

at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Center (NOVOTEL) on 14 October 2023; (iv) visited Meerut as Chief Guest at Sanatam Dharam Girls Inter College, Sardana, NAS Inter College and St. Mary's Academy, Meerut Cantt on 4 November 2023; (v) visited Prayagraj to attend Seminar on 'Justice Delivery to Gen Alpha' by Legal Assistance Forum – (Unicef) – at Main Auditorium KP Community Centre, Prayagraj on 17 November 2023; (vi) visited Etawah to attend 31st Annual Convention and Hindi Sevi Samman Ceremony organized by Etawah Hindi Sewa Nidhi in the premises of Islamia Inter College, Etawah on 17 December 2023; (vii) visited Hardoi to Unveiled the portrait of late Awadh Bihari Singh, Advocate and inaugurated the A.B. Singh Auditorium and newly constructed Advocates' Chambers at Courtyard of Bar Association, District Hardoi on 18 December 2023; (viii) visited Rajkot to attend and address the participants at the 24th Rashtra Katha Shivir, Rajkot on 21 December 2023; (ix) visited Ghaziabad to attend the 70th Annual Day Celebrations of Sushila Inter College on 3 February 2024; (x) visited Prayagraj to attend inaugural function of 'Arbitration Centre' and launch of the publication 'Courts of Uttar Pradesh' by Hon'ble the C.J.I. at the Convention Centre of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad on 17 February 2024; (xi) visited Jodhpur to attend inaugural session of the West Zone-II: Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" and address West Zone-II Regional Conference at session-2 on "Elements of Judicial Behaviour" at Jodhpur on 24 February 2024; (xii) visited Shamli as Chief Guest to attend the 150th Anniversary of Munsif Court, Kairana organized by the Bar Association, Kairana,

Distt Shamli; and visited Muzaffarnagar to inaugurate an E-Library, Rajendralaya in DAV (PG) College, Muzaffarnagar on 2 March 2024; (xiii) visited Meerut to inaugurate District Conference "Amrit Mahotsav" at the Regis Resort, Meerut on 16 March 2024; (xiv) as Chief Guest attended valedictory ceremony of "4th Justice J.S. Verma Memorial National ADR and Client Counselling Competition, 2024" organized by Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies at NDMC Convention Centre, Connaught Place on 23 March 2024; (xv) through virtual mode attended the 56th Academic Council Meeting of National Law School of India University, Bengaluru on 5 April 2024; (xvi) visited Mumbai to attend a book release function at Taj Palace Hotel in Mumbai on 21 April 2024; (xvii) attended Familiar Faces Fiesta (Alumni Meet) org. By Allahabad Alumni Association on 27-28 April 2024; (xviii) visited Greater Noida as Chief Guest to attend Convocation Ceremony for BA.LLB & LLB students at Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida on 5 May 2024; (xix) visited Meerut as Chief Guest to attend a felicitation function for lawyers who are in legal profession for 50 years or more, organized by Meerut Bar Association, Meerut on 18 May 2024; (xx) visited Jodhpur to attend the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations programme of Rajasthan High Court organized by Rajasthan High Court Advocates' Association at Jodhpur on 27 July 2024; (xxi) visited Gretaer Noida to attend the Inauguration of newly constructed Type VI residence for District Judges and for Judicial Officers at Malakpur, Greater Noida on 28 July 2024; (xxii) visited Jodhpur to attend the Concluding Ceremony of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Rajasthan High Court, organized by Rajasthan High Court on 25 August 2024.

- 14. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol** (i) Forbes India – Legal Powerlist 2023 – September 2023; (ii) International Lawyers Conference 2023, organised by the Bar Council of India, Technical session on “Justice Delivery System: the Impact of Social Media” on 24 September 2023 (iii) valedictory function of the FDI International Moot, Global Rounds at RMNLU on 5 November 2023; (iv) visited Mohali for Sarin-Leiden Air Law Moot Court Competition- India Rounds, valedictory function, February 2024; (v) Cuttack Bar Association, Annual Function on 3 March 2024; (vi) Lecture – Mediation Act 2023 and the Legal Profession Organized by Supreme Court Bar Association on 11 March 2024; (vii) attended American Bar Association Conference, organised by Jindal Global University on 29 March 2024; (viii) visited IIT Kharagpur – valedictory function of 5th Annual IPR Moot, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property, 31 March 2024; (ix) Delhi High Court Mediation Centre – Training session – Keynote Address: April 2024; (x) Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System, organised by the Ministry of Law and Justice 20 April 2024; (xi) Chaired as keynote figure at book launch of Mr. Jatinder Cheema “Climate Change: The Policy, Law, and Practice” held in India International Centre, New Delhi on 12 July 2024. (xii) Orientation programme at Indore institute of Law on 10 August 2024.
- 15. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar** (i) visited Hyderabad to attend Stone Laying Foundation programme of the new High Court Building at Rajendra Nagar Village on 27 March 2024; (ii) Participated in 4th Justice HR Khanna Memorial National Symposium as the Chief Guest organized by Confederation of Alumni for National Law University (CAN Foundation) in collaboration with NALSAR, Hyderabad and DNLNU, Jabalpur on 6 July 2024.
- 16. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah** (i) visited Patna to attend the programme on the topic “Legal Services Institutions: Ensuring Access to Justice for All” organised by Bihar State Legal Services Authority, Patna on 21 July 2023; (ii) Consequent upon 24 July 2023, name being nominated, by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, as Member of the High Powered Advisory Committee of the Jurists for International Lawyers' Conference for Bar Council of India, on 26 July 2023 attended introductory meeting of the Advisory Committee of the International Lawyers' Conference via video conferencing and on 31 July 2023 attended second meeting of the Advisory Committee for finalising the event scheduled for 23 September 2023 & 24 September 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi; (iii) visited Jharkhand to attend the Regional Conference on the topic ‘Key Issues involved in Remand and Bail Jurisprudence and latest Judicial Development’ organised by Judicial Academy, Jharkhand between 5 August 2023 & 6 August 2023; (iv) attended Book release function of Constitutionalism And Rule of Law: In a Theatre of Democracy by Justice A.K. Sikri and published by EBC at Delhi International Arbitration Centre, Delhi High Court Campus, Shershah Road, New Delhi On 9 August 2023; (v) visited Bengaluru to attend 101st Executive Council Meeting of NLSIU, Bengaluru via video conferencing on 23 August 2023; (vi) visited Bengaluru to attend 31st Annual Convocation of the National Law School of India University, attended opening ceremony of the redeveloped Shri Narayan Rao Melgiri Memorial National Law Library and also attended 37th General Council

Meeting between 25-26 August 2023; (vii) visited Patna to attend the Conference on the subject 'Role and Responsibilities of Ministerial Staff of Civil Courts in Speedy Dispensation of Justice' organised by Bihar State Civil Court Employees Association on 10 September 2023; (viii) attended inaugural of the 2023 UNCITRAL South Asia Conference organised by MoS, Ministry of External Affairs for inaugural session at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. Jose P Rizal Marg, Chankayapuri, New Delhi on 14 September 2023; (ix) attended the 2023 UNCITRAL South Asia Conference organised by Secretary (Economic Relations) for the valedictory Day at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. Jose P Rizal Marg, Chankayapuri, New Delhi on 16 September 2023; (x) attended Asia Pacific Forum Biennial Conference organised by National Human Rights Commission at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi Between 20- 21 September 2023; (xi) attended "BCI International Lawyers' Conference, 2023" organised by Bar Council of India at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23 September 2023; (xii) Chaired the 9th Technical session of the International Lawyers' Conference on the topic "Evolving Role of Legal Professionals/ Institutions" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 24 September 2023; (xiii) attended 7th Annual Day of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India at Hall No.5, Vigyan Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi on 1 October 2023; (xiv) visited Bhopal to attend the Human Trafficking Workshop 4th ToT Programme for Master Trainers at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal from 13-15 October 2023; (xv) attended Legal Services Day & Launch of NCW Mobile Application "Her Legal Guide"; Legal Awareness Programme for women at the Block Level & NALSA's Upgraded 15100 Helpline at Plenary Hall,

Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi organised by NALSA & NCW on 9 November 2023; (xvi) attended Inauguration of Constitution Day Celebrations 2023 by Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India at The Auditorium Third Floor, Block – C, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India, Mathura Road, New Delhi on 26 November 2023; (xvii) attended Inauguration by NALSA of 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid Strengthening Access to Justice in the Global South at Auditorium, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court on 27 November 2023; (xviii) attended valedictory session of 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid organised by NALSA in collaboration with UNICEF at The Auditorium, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court, New Delhi on 28 November 2023; (xix) attended Constitution Day celebrations by the President and Members of the Executive Committee of the SCBA at Main Auditorium, C-Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi on 30 November 2023; (xx) attended Human Rights Day at Bharat Mandapam, Auditorium-1, Level – 2, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi organised by National Human Rights Commission on 10 December 2023; (xxi) attended Prize distribution Function by Hon'ble CJI for Annual Sports and Cultural Events 2023 and Meritorious Awards for Class 10 and 12 at Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Block C, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India on 13 December 2023.

(xxii) attended Human Trafficking Workshop-1 (Pilot) conducted by Federal Judicial Centre (FJC), Washington and Central & Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) Institute, Prague at the National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal on

16-18 December 2023. The Pilot Workshop on Trafficking in Persons, which recently concluded at the National Judicial Academy on 17th and 18th December, 2023, marked the successful culmination of a collaborative initiative involving the National Judicial Academy, the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, and the CEELI Institute in Prague. Over the past several months, these institutions dedicated their efforts to addressing critical issues surrounding Transnational Organized Crimes, with a specific focus on Trafficking in Persons.

Significant milestones were achieved throughout this collaborative endeavor, including the completion of Training of Trainers (ToT) programs in the United States, India, and the Czech Republic. These programs laid the foundation for curriculum development and faculty enhancement, resulting in the creation of a specialized judicial education workshop tailored to address Trafficking in Persons. The fourth and final phase of Trafficking in Persons: Faculty Development 4 concluded at the NJA in October 2023, setting the stage for this pilot workshop aimed for District and sessions Court judges in the Academic Year 2023-24, with additional workshops scheduled at State Judicial Academies.

In response to the dynamic challenges presented by Trafficking in Persons, this workshop was meticulously designed to empower the judiciary with essential knowledge and tools. Delving into various aspects, including judicial initiatives, case management, victim-centric courts, evidentiary challenges, cyber-enabled trafficking, legal frameworks, and international cooperation, the workshop prepared judges to effectively handle the complexities of Human Trafficking cases. This collaborative initiative underscored the commitment to advancing judicial

education and addressed the evolving challenges posed by Human Trafficking, contributing to a more secure and equitable future. This workshop signifies the conclusion of an exploration and education process, enhancing the collective capacity to judiciously address Human Trafficking cases in India."

(xxiii) attended Judge Advocate General's Department Corps Day at Manekshaw Centre Auditorium, Khyber Lines, Delhi Cantonment, New Delhi on 20 December 2023; (xxiv) attended The valedictory ceremony of the Judge Advocates Basic Course, SER-33 (JAC-33) at Institute of Military Law, Rao Tula Ram Marg, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi on 27 December 2023; (xxv) attended Inauguration Function of 'Arbitration and Consultation Room' by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India at Ground Floor, M.C. Setalvad, Lawyers' Chamber Block, adjacent to Indian Law Institute, at Bhagwan Dass Road in the august presence of Hon'ble Judges on 11 January 2024; (xxvi) attended launch of the Book 'Roses without Thorns: Reflections of an Immortal Wanderer' – a collection of poems by R. Venkataramani, Attorney General for India released by Hon'ble Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India in the presence of Hon. Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna, and Pujya Guru Sri M., Founder Satsang Foundation, at Bharat Mandapam, on 12 January 2024; (xxvii) attended festive season i.e. for Lohri, Makar Sakranti, Pongal, Bihu and Uttrayan programme as Chief Guest organised by the Executive Committee of Supreme Court Bar Association at Cafeteria for Litigants, adjacent to A.K. Sen Chambers, Block Supreme Court premises, New Delhi on 15 January 2024; (xxviii) attended Swearing-in-Ceremony of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prasanna B Varale as Judge of the Supreme Court of

India at Hon'ble Chief Justice's Lounge, Main Building, Supreme Court of India on 25 January 2024; (xxix) attended 75th Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path, New Delhi and also attended At-Home Reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on the occasion of the Republic Day Celebrations on 26 January 2024; (xxx) attended inauguration of Diamond Jubilee Year of the Supreme Court of India by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in the Auditorium, 3rd Floor, C Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court premises and also attended Ceremonial Bench in the Hon'ble Chief Justice's Court to mark the beginning of the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Supreme Court of India on 28 January 2024; (xxxi) attended Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands of the three Services at Vijay Chowk, New Delhi On 29 January 2024; (xxxii) attended Inauguration of Staff Library by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India for officers/ officials of the Registry at Room No.404, B-Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court premises on 1 February 2024; (xxxiii) visited Kolkata as Main Speaker to attend Human Trafficking Workshop-2 conducted by Federal Judicial Centre (FJC), Washington and CEELI Institute, Prague in collaboration with the National Judicial Academy at West Bengal Judicial Academy, Kolkata on 3 February 2024; (xxxiv) co-chair the Technical session 3: Global Legal Challenges and Institutional Resilience at The Commonwealth Attorney and Solicitors Generals Conference 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and also attended valedictory Ceremony of CLEA-Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference CAGSC'24 on Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi invited by Commonwealth Legal Education Association on 4 February 2024; (xxxv) visited Andhra Pradesh to attend One

Day Workshop for Young Advocates shaping Futuristic India as Chief Guest at Anantapuramu District Headquarters organized by Bar Council of India and the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh on 10 February 2024; (xxxvi) attended the book release of Own Your Body by Dr. Shiv Sarin at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre, 40, Max Mueller Marg, Lodhi Gardens, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi on 19 February 2024; (xxxvii) attended Inauguration of "Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre" at Block "E", Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India on 22 February 2024; (xxxviii) visited Gujarat as Chief Guest to attend inaugural session of First GNLU-GAIL Arbitration Conference on Oil and Gas Disputes at Gujarat National Law University, Gujarat, on 24 February 2024; (xxxix) visited Rashtrapati Bhawan including the Amrit Udayan on 4 March 2024; (xl) attended Delhi Arbitration Weekend 2024 for the inaugural session at the Auditorium, 3rd Floor, C Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India on 6 March 2024; (xli) attended Bilateral Judicial Dialogue between Supreme Court of India and Federal Constitutional Court of Germany for Lunch at Judges' Lounge Main Building, Supreme Court of India on 7 March 2024; (xlii) attended Book Launch Function of Prathibha M. Singh on Patent Law at the Auditorium No. 2, Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi 42 on 9 March 2024; (xliii) attended Inauguration of ICA session as the Chief Guest on the topic "Interim Relief through Emergency Arbitration" as part of Delhi Arbitration Weekend (DAW) 2024 at the FICCI Auditorium 3rd Floor, Federation House, 1 Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001 and also attended Closing session of the Delhi Arbitration Weekend 2024 at the Auditorium, S-Block, High Court of Delhi on

10 March 2024; (xlv) attended International Judicial Conclave on IPR, a collaboration between the Delhi Judicial Academy with the United States Patent and Trademark Office ["USPTO"] and the US Department of Justice ["DOJ"], at 'S' Block, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi between 15-17 March 2024; (xlv) attended launch ceremony of Fali Nariman Scholarship and Annual Lecture Series at The Ballroom, The Oberoi, New Delhi organised by Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, O.P Jindal Global University on 16 March 2024; (xlvi) attended inauguration of newly created "Accessibility Help Desk" near e-Sewa Kendra, Main Campus and 'Media Enclosure' in Supreme Court Lawns by The Chief Justice of India on 21 March 2024; (xlvii) attended Holi Milan at Supreme Court Lawns organised by The President & Members of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association on 22 March 2024; (xlviii) visited Chandigarh to attend inaugural Ceremony of the Second Edition of The CCI-Dept. of Laws National Moot Court Competition as Chief Guest at Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh on 29 March 2024; (xlix) attended 20th D. P. Kohli Memorial Lecture by Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, CJI on the occasion of CBI Day at Auditorium Hall No. 1, Bharat Mandapam, ITPO, New Delhi on 1 April 2024; (l) attended Inauguration ceremony of Lawn Tennis at DLTA Stadium, Africa Avenue Road, New Delhi near Safdarjung Enclave on 5 April 2024; (li) attended function and delivered address as "Chief Guest" in the Rule of Law Convention – 2024 organized by Bar Association of India at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi and also attended valedictory function and delivered address as "Chief Guest" of Justice U. P. Singh Memorial 3rd Edition of CNLU-CCI National Moot Court Competition, 2024 in

the Conference Hall of the Chanakya National Law University Campus, Patna on 6 April 2024; (lii) attended Annual Lawn Tennis tournament-2024 for the prize distribution ceremony at DLTA Complex, RK Khanna Tennis Academy, No.1, Africa Avenue, Deer Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi organized by Supreme Court Bar Association Executive Committee on 7 April 2024; (liii) visited Bengaluru attended 102nd Executive Council Meeting by National Law School of India University, Bengaluru through zoom meeting at Jacaranda @ The Chambers, Taj West End, on 10 April 2024; (liv) attended Conference on Technology regarding the impact of Artificial Intelligence between Supreme Courts of India and Singapore at Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court followed by Lunch at Judges' Dining Hall, 3rd Floor along with 3 panel discussions and also attended Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer Memorial Lecture on the theme "In search of Being Right: Citizens, Governance & Courts" by Mr. R. Venkataramani, Attorney General for India at 10, Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi; paid floral tributes to Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his birth anniversary on 14 April 2024 near the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar in Supreme Court Premises and also attended Conference on Technology regarding the impact of Artificial Intelligence between Supreme Courts of India and Singapore at Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court at Judges' Dining Hall, 3rd Floor along with three panel discussions on 13-14 April 2024; (lv) attended Id-ul-Fitr programme organised by Supreme Court Bar Association at the Cafetaria for Litigants near A.K. Sen Chambers Block, Supreme Court premises, New Delhi and also attended function and delivered address as "Chief Guest" for the newly designated Senior Advocates of Supreme Court of India at ISIL Krishna

Menon Bhawan opposite Gate No.C of Supreme Court of India organized by Supreme Court Bar Association on 18 April 2024; (lvi) attended Guest Lecture (virtually) as Main speaker, organised by LV Prasad Eye Institute, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on the topic of "Cooperation between the medical profession and Indian legislature" and has given lecture on the topic "Importance of ethics in 'professions'" on 8 May 2024; (lvii) attended Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for Construction of Court Buildings at Karkardooma, Shastri Park and Rohini (Sector-26) by Hon. Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud (Former Chief Justice of India) at Karkardooma Court Complex on 2 July 2024; (lviii) attended inauguration of newly created "Ladies Lounge" at First Floor, West Wing, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 1 August 2024; (lix) attended session-2 titled – Elements of Judicial Behaviour as a Resource person – at the East Zone Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology", organized by National Judicial Academy in collaboration with High Court of Orissa and Odisha Judicial Academy on 3 August 2024; (lx) attended the launch of e-DHCR i.e. The Digital Law Reports of Delhi High Court at Auditorium, S-Block, High Court of Delhi and also attended the opening of cafe in the Glass Cafetaria opposite to Bar Association Office on 5 August 2024; (lxi) attended Screening of Movie "Laapataa Ladies" which is based on the theme of gender equality at Auditorium, C- Block, Administrative Building Complex, Supreme Court of India on 9 August 2024; (lxii) visited Patna to attend State-level Annual Stakeholders Consultation programme on the Protection of Children with Disabilities, 2024 organized by Juvenile Justice Monitoring Committee at Gyan Bhawan,

near Gandhi Maidan, Patna on 10 August 2024; (lxiii) attended function by President and Members of the Executive Committee of the SCBA regarding Celebration of 78th Independence Day at Supreme Court Lawns on 15 August 2024; (lxiv) attended the inauguration by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India of newly created War Room and Convention Hall, Ground Floor, Main Building (below the chamber of the Chief Justice of India) and also attended the introductory session by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India with a six-member Singaporean delegation led by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore who visited SCI for participating in the 2nd India-Singapore Judicial Roundtable in the Judges' Lounge, Main Building on 23 August 2024; (lxv) attended Inauguration by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India of newly setup branch of Bank of Maharashtra at Sixth Floor, E-Block, and newly created Creche (Child Care Centre) at Second Floor, E-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India in the presence of Hon'ble Judges on 29 August 2024; (lxvi) attended farewell function of Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli organised by the President & Members of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association at Main Auditorium, C-Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi on 30 August 2024; (lxvii) attended Inauguration of the National Conference of the District Judiciary by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon. Prime Minister of India at Multi-purpose Hall, Level 3, Convention Centre, Bharat Mandapam, Mathura Road, New Delhi on the occasion of Seventy five years of the establishment of the Supreme Court of India and also attended Cultural programme at Auditorium-2, Level-II, Bharat Mandapam on 31 August 2024.

- 17. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra** (i) visited Bhopal to attend second session of the National Conference organized by the National Judicial Academy on 5 August 2023; (ii) visited Uttarakhand, to attend North Zone-1 Regional Conference organized by the National Judicial Academy in association with Uttarakhand High Court and Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy, Bhowali on 30 September 2023 (iii) visited Prayagraj to attend the inaugural ceremony of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on 16 February 2024.
- 18. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal** (i) visited Amritsar as Chief Guest in the inaugural session of the National Tax Conference on "ENGAGING MINDS TO EMPOWER KNOWLEDGE" organized by All India Federation of Tax Practitioners (North Zone) on 15 July 2023; (ii) Delivered inaugural Speech on Artificial Intelligence Law at Indian National Forum, India International Centre, Max Muller Marg, New Delhi (Pawan Duggal Associates) on 27 July 2023; (iii) visited Mohali as Chief Guest to deliver Address in the valedictory session on the theme "Constitutional and Environmental Laws: A Global Perspective" of the International Conference at Chandigarh University on 29 July 2023; (iv) visited Mohali to deliver Speech on "Life in Law: Past Present and the Future" at Jindal Global Law School (O.P. Jindal University) on 30 July 2023; (v) visited Rohtak as Chief Guest to deliver valedictory Address at the Valediction Ceremony of the 5th Batch of IPM Programme and 3rd batch of IPL Programme at Indian Institute of Management on 5 August 2023; (vi) visited Kolkata to inaugurate the Annual Conference 2023 of the Direct Taxes Professionals' Association on "Navigating Economic Development-Expectation from Professional" as Chief Guest at Taj Bengal on 12 August 2023; (vii) attended as Chief Guest in the International Conference on Arbitration in India – Past, Present and Future" in India organised by Indian International & National Arbitration Centre at India Habitat Centre on 26 August 2023; (viii) Co-chaired the Technical session on "Access to Justice and Legal Aid in Developing Nations" on the occasion of the International Lawyers' Conference 2023 organized by Bar Council of India at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23 September 2023; (ix) visited Bhowali, Nainital to Chair session-4 of North Zone-I Regional Conference of National Judicial Academy on the theme "Overview of E-courts Project" as Resource Person organized by Uttarakhand Judicial & Legal Academy on 1 October 2024; (x) visited Chandigarh for Inauguration of Sports Meet of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners Premier League on 7 October 2023; (xi) attended as Chief Guest, the Orientation Programme 2023-2024 organized by Law Center-II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi on 7 October 2023; (xii) visited Bhopal to Chair & preside over session-5 : Day-2 on Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Courts in the National Seminar on Judicial Skills at National judicial Academy on 14 -15 October 2023; (xiii) attended as Chief Guest, the Inauguration of 'Legal Conclave 2023' for analytical discussion of recently introduced overhauling of the Nation's criminal justice system (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Bill, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023) organized by the Adhivakta Parishad, Delhi on 28 October 2024; (xiv) visited Haryana to deliver valedictory Address at 7th Shree Gobind Singh Tricentenary University National Moot Court Competition 2023 organized by Shree Gobind Singh Tricentenary University (SGTU) in collaboration with

Competition Commission of India at Campus of SGTU on 29 October 2024; (xv) visited Varansi as Chief Guest in 47th Foundation Day Celebration of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners "GYAN KUNJ" on "Taxation Laws with Technological Advancement" jointly organized by AIFTP(North Zone); Income Tax Bar Association, Varanasi and GST Bar Association, Varanasi at Vishwanath Dham-Triyambakeshwar Bhawan, Convention Hall, Varanasi on 5 November 2023; (xvi) visited Prayagraj to attend felicitation in the event Saarasvat Samman Samaroh organized by Advocates Association, Allahabad High Court on 17 November 2023; (xvii) visited Greater Noida as Chief Guest to deliver inaugural Address in the inaugural session of the 'Constitution Week' organised by School of Law, Bennett University, Greater Noida on 18 November 2024; (xviii) visited Goa to deliver lecture on "Constitution of India: An Organic Document" organized by India International University of Legal Education and Research (IIULER) on 28 November 2023; (xix) visited Goa to deliver address on "Writ Petitions against DGGI/CGST in Hon'ble SC and/or in HCs on GST matters by Taxpayers – Legal Challenges in GST implementation for enforcement officers" as Chief Guest in the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) Annual Conference, 2023 on 29 November 2023; (xx) attended as Chief Guest in the 10th Edition of the International Conference on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity organised by Cyberlaws.Net and Pavan Duggal Associates, Advocates at Scope Convention Centre, Scope Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on from 29 November – 1 December, 2023 (xxi) visited Greater Noida to Chair an Interactive session with Aspiring Law Students on "Unveiling the Essence of Justice and Charting Your Path to Legal Success" at Galgotia University on

1 December 2023; (xxii) Interaction with the Members of the Bar organized by the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association on 2 December 2023; (xxiii) visited Jaipur as Chief Guest to inaugurate 11th University Five Year Law College (UFYLC)-Ranka National Moot Court Competition, 2023 in the function organised by the University of Rajasthan on 9 December 2023; (xxiv) delivered valedictory Address as Chief Guest on "Mediation, DABs and Courts as alternative forums to Arbitration" Organised by the Society of Construction Law, India as SCL India's Biennial International Conference 2023 on "Construction Law & Arbitration Reshaping Construction Dispute Resolution" at India International Centre on 10 December 2023; (xxv) visited Bengaluru to attend the inaugural Justice E.S. Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Bengaluru on 17 December 2023; (xxvi) visited Kolkata as Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the 26th National Convention of the All-India Federation of Tax Practitioners (AIFTP) organised by the National Tax Convention Committee in collaboration with Direct Taxes Professionals' Association (DTPA), Calcutta Citizens Initiative, Legal Relief Society, and ACAE on 23 – 24 December, 2023; (xxvii) presided over the session – 4 on the theme "Overview of E-courts Projects" as a Resource Person on 07.01.2024 in the NJA South Zone-II Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" organised by the National Judicial Academy (NJA) in collaboration with the High Court for the State of Telangana and the Telangana State Judicial Academy on 6-7 January 2024; (xxviii) presided over the session – 4 on the theme "Overview of E-courts Projects" and session-5 on the theme "Emerging and

Future Technology for Effective Judicial Governance" as a Resource Person and guided participants on 14 January 2024 in the NJA West Zone-I Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" organised by the National Judicial Academy (NJA) in collaboration with the High Court of Bombay and Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Uttan on 13-14 January 2024; (xxix) visited Dehradun as Chief Guest at the valedictory Ceremony and Judge for final Presentation Round at "The Ink of Impartiality: The National Judgment Writing Competition, 2024" organized by the ICFAI University, Dehradun on 4 February 2024; (xxx) visited Sonipat as Judge for the final round of the inaugural Jindal Global Law School (JGLS)-Khaitan & Co. Negotiation Competition in the Jindal Global University campus and Addressed the students & presented awards in a Closing Ceremony at O.P. Jindal Global University on 11 February 2024; (xxxi) visited Prayagraj as Guest of Honour in the inauguration of "Arbitration Centre" and launch of the publication "Courts of Uttar Pradesh" at the Convention Centre and inauguration of the New Judges Library in the precincts of the Allahabad High Court on 17 February 2024; (xxxii) Guest of Honour in the inaugural session of One-Day National Conference on "Artificial Intelligence: Legal Implications and Challenges" to be organized by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonipat in collaboration with Law Commission of India (Ministry of Law and Justice (GOI) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (GOI) at Bhim Auditorium, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on 24 February 2024; (xxxiii) Distinguished Guest at the "LexTalk World Global Hybrid Conference" and speaker on the topic: Use of Technology in Courts organized by LexTalk World in association with Indian

Society of International Law held at Le Meridien, New Delhi on 7 March 2024; (xxxiv) visited Bhopal to Preside over session – 2 on the theme "Security Concerns: Institutional & Individual" as a Resource Person in the International Conference of the NJA on the implications and ramifications of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Re-engineering Judicial Process through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), United Kingdom, at Bhopal on 10 March 2024; (xxxv) visited Lucknow to preside over the session – 4 on the theme "Overview of E-courts Projects" as a Resource Person and to guide participants in the NJA North Zone-II Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" organised at Lucknow by the National Judicial Academy (NJA) in collaboration with the Allahabad High Court and Judicial Training & Research Institute, Lucknow on 16-17 March 2024; (xxxvi) Esteemed Guest in the valedictory Ceremony of 4th Justice J.S. Verma Memorial National ADR and Client Counselling Competition, 2024 organized by Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies, Department of Law in collaboration with FSRI (Foundation for Sustainable Rule of Law Initiatives) based in California, USA at Rohini, Delhi on 23 March 2024; (xxxvii) Distinguished Speaker in the International Conference at the American Bar Association (ABA) India Conference 2024 during the session entitled "Role of the Judicial and the Rule of Law in Advancing economic Development" by O.P. Jindal Global University at the Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi on 28-29 March 2024; (xxxviii) visited Rohtak to deliver Convocation Address as Chief Guest in the 13th Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Rohtak on 30 March

2024; (xxxix) visited Gandhinagar as Judge for Final round and delivered valedictory Address of 2nd National Forensic Sciences University National Technological Moot Court Competition 2024 at Gandhinagar on 31 March 2024; (xl) visited Kharagpur as Chief Guest in the Inauguration of 2nd National Conference on Legal Education, Profession And Integrating Pro Bono Culture For Better Access To Justice at Pro Bono Club at Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT, Kharagpur on 6 April 2024; (xli) visited Dehradun as Chief Guest in the valedictory Ceremony at National Law Fest (Vidhiutsav) to be organised by School of Law, UPES (University of Petroleum and Energy Studies) at Dehradun on 7 April 2024; (xlii) visited Chandigarh to Deliver Address as Chief Guest in the programme of 'Induction Ceremony of Training Programme of Judicial Officers from the State of Punjab' organised by the Chandigarh Judicial Academy at Chandigarh on 11 April 2024; (xliii) visited Greater Noida to Inaugurate the Moot Court Competition Final Round as Chief Guest at I.I.L.M. University, School of Law, Greater Noida on 17 April 2024; (xlv) visited Ranchi as Chief Guest in the State Level Conference on "Case Management: Inculcating Public Trust and Confidence" by the Judicial Academy, Ranchi, Jharkhand on 20 April 2024; (xlv) visited Baddi to attend Convocation Address as Chief Guest at the Fifth Convocation of Maharaja Agrasen University Baddi, Himachal Pradesh on 27 April 2024; (xlvi) visited Gandhinagar to Chair: Panel II on Regulatory Aspects of Forensic Sciences Sector of the High-Power Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening Criminal Justice System Through Enhanced Forensic Efficiency organised by National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar on 18 May 2024; (xlvii) visited Chandigarh as Chief Guest in the Inauguration of the Five

Days training Programme of Lawyers on three Criminal Laws 2023 organised by the Chandigarh Judicial Academy on 2 June 2024; (xlviii) visited Jammu and Kashmir as Chief Guest to address the Pre-appointment/ induction Training 2024 to the newly selected Civil Judges (Jr. Division) organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy on 5 June 2024; (xlix) presided over session 4 – Overview of E-Courts Project & session 5 – Emerging and Future Technology for Effective Judicial Governance as Resource Person in the East Zone II: Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" on 30 June 2024; (l) visited Greater Noida for inauguration of "Judicial Enclave comprising of sessions House & Sixteen Residences for Judicial Officers" at Malakpur, Greater Noida; visited Sonipat as Chief Guest in "Deeksharambh", Orientation programme of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonipat at Sonipat on 4 August 2024; (li) visited Chandigarh Guest of Honour in the Inauguration of the National Conference on 'The Landscape of Technology in Courts in India and the way Forward' at Chandigarh Judicial Academy, organised by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana under the guidance of e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India on 09 August 2024; (lii) Chaired Working session-I: On Evolution of Technology in Judicial Systems with emphasis on the shape of things envisaged in the next decade-Development of software on National level along with integration with existing system on 10 August 2024; (liii) Technical strategies required for seamless paper-free courts/ virtual courtrooms/ remote hearings-Shift to digital courtrooms, challenges and possible solutions while maintaining sanctity of proceedings and Guest of Honour in the valedictory session on 11 August 2024; (liv) Chaired the Plenary

session on "Dynamic Synergies: Stakeholders Meet and Judicial Colloquium" in the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) International Conference on "Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations" which is scheduled to take place from 16 – 18 August 2024; (iv) visited Indore as Chief Guest to deliver address on "Sab Artificial Intelligence Awsar and Chunoti" in Indore in the 63rd Annual Lecture Series 2024 organised by the Abhyas Mandal, Indore on 31 August 2024.

- 19. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar**
- (i) visited Bangaolre to attend Silver Jubilee of Ramaiah College of Law in association with Karnataka State Legal Services Authority at MSRIT Quadrangle, MSRIT Campus on 28 July 2023; (ii) visited Bengaluru to attend Annual Convocation by National Law School of India University to be held on 26 August 2023; (iii) visited Bhopal to attend National Workshop for High Court Justices on Direct Taxes to be held by National Judicial Academy on 2 September 2023; (iv) visited Hyderabad as Chief Guest in 24th Foundation Day Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence at Vivekananda Auditorium, Ramakrishna Math Campus on 10 September 2023; (v) visited Bengaluru to address Students at KLE Law College, Bengaluru on 16 September 2023; (vi) visited Kalaburagi to attend Oration on Fundamental Duties & Values at S.M. Pandit Rang Mandir on 30 September 2023; (vii) visited Bengaluru to attend 36th LAWASIA Annual conference at Four Seasons Hotel, Mekhri Circle, 8, Bellary Rd, Ganganagar on 25 November 2023; (viii) visited Indore as Chief Guest to the inaugural Ceremony of International Law Fest Lex Bonanza Chapter-XII, 2023 organised by Indore Institute of Law on 9 December 2023; (ix) visited Bengaluru for

the Inauguration of SURBHARATHI (Sanskrit & Cultural Foundation) on 16 December 2023; (x) visited Bangalore to attend Annual Meet – Babburkamme Seva Samiti on 17 December 2023; (xi) visited Mysuru as Chief Guest at Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashala, Residential Composite, Pre-University College, Yadavagiri on 23 December 2023; (xii) visited Bhopal to attend the Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Judges as resource person in session-5 on the theme "Interim Orders and Judicial Decisions" on 21 January 2023; (xiii) visited Bengaluru to attend the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers held at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, Bengaluru from 23-24 March 2024; (xiv) visited Bengaluru to attend Graduation Ceremony as Distinguished Guest at KLE Law College, Bengaluru on 26 January 2024 (xv) visited Bhopal to attend two days Training of Trainers as a Resource Person for the High Court Justices to be organized by National Judicial Academy on 27 April 2024; (xvi) visited Bengaluru to inaugurate the XXVIII All India Moot Court Competition at Prof. V.BN. Coutinho Seminar Hall, University Law College, Bengaluru on 31 May 2024; (xvii) visited Bengaluru as Chief Guest in the 2nd Graduation Ceremony 2019-24 of MKPM RV Institute of Legal Studies 10 August 2024; (xviii) visited Bengaluru as chief guest for the book release of Mr. K. N. Puttegowda, former President of Advocates Association, Bengaluru on 14 August 2024; (xix) visited Kerala to attend inaugural session of Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – International Conference on Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovation at Waterscapes Kumarakom, KTDC on 17 August 2024; (xx) visited Bangalore as Chief Guest in

the function of Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Karnataka Judicial Academy – “NYAYAJNANA” – A SILVER MILESTONE at Auditorium, Karnataka Judicial Academy, Bengaluru on 18 August 2024; (xxi) visited Bangalore to attend the inaugural function of ADR week at Karnataka Judicial Academy at Bengaluru on 24 August 2024.

- 20. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra** (i) visited Bilaspur to attend the felicitation function organized by Chhattisgarh High Court Bar Association, Bilaspur at Auditorium, Chhattisgarh High Court on 8 July 2023; (ii) visited Jabalpur to attend function organized by Jabalpur High Court Bar Association at Madhya Pradesh High Court on 2 September 2023; (iii) visited Raipur to attend HNLU Convocation at MAYFAIR Lake Resort, Raipur on 17 December 2023; (iv) visited Hyderabad to attend annual function of Global International School at Hyderabad on 23 December 2023; (v) Co-chaired CLEA-Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference 2024 organized by Government of India (Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice), Office of the Attorney and Solicitor General of India at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 4 February 2024; (vi) visited Anantapuramu to attend Workshop for Young Advocates at Anantapuramu District Headquarters organized by Bar Council of India at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Anantapuramu on 10 February 2024; (vii) visited Sonipat to attend National Conference on Artificial Intelligence: Legal Implications and Challenges organized by Law Commission of India Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University on 24 February 2024; (viii) visited Raipur to attend conference of HNLU at Raipur on 30 March 2024; (ix) visited Bhubaneshwar to attend the Golden Jubilee International Conference

organized by University Law College, Utkal University on 6 April 2024; (x) visited Jaipur to attend the Jaipur Bar Association function on 27 April 2024; (xi) visited Vijayawada to attend the function organized by Andhra Pradesh Bar Council on 16 June 2024; (xii) visited Bilaspur to attend State Level Conference of Judicial Officers of Chhattisgarh at Auditorium, High Court of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur on 28 July 2024; (xiii) visited Cuttack attended East Zone I Regional Conference organized by National Judicial Academy in collaboration with High Court of Orissa and the Odisha Judicial Academy at Cuttack on 3 August 2024; (xiv) visited Kerala to attend International Conference on “Law and Technology Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovation” organized by Commonwealth Education Association (CLEA) on 17-18 August 2024; (xv) visited Chhattisgarh to attend 5th Convocation of Atal Bihar Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh on 31 August 2024.

- 21. Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.V. Viswanathan** (i) visited Coimbatore as Chief Guest in the “Second Graduation Day Ceremony” organised by His Lordship's Alumni-Government Law College, Coimbatore at College New Auditorium, Govt. Law College, Coimbatore and delivered Graduation Day Address on 15 July 2023; (ii) visited Chennai to attend book-release function of “Treatise on Arbitration Law & Practice” and delivered address on 17 November 2023; (iii) visited Pollachi (State of Tamil Nadu) to attend 46th Annual Day Celebration organized by His Lordship's alma mater-“Arokiamatha Matric Higher Secondary School”, Pollachi and delivered Address on 3 February 2024; (iv) visited Kochi to attend and delivered “Justice T. S. Krishnamoorthy Iyer Memorial Oration” at Kerala High Court Auditorium on 12 June 2024; (v) visited

- Madurai to participate in the Vigentennial Celebrations of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai Convention Centre, Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai and deliver address on 20 July 2024.
- 22. Hon'ble Mr.Justice Satish Chandra Sharma**
 (i) visited Jodhpur to attend "West Zone-II Regional Conference on *Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology*" organized by National Judicial Academy in collaboration with the Rajasthan High Court, at Jodhpur, as a Resource Person and guided participants on the theme, "Judgment Writing Tools" on 24 -25 February 2024; (ii) visited Guwahati to attend S.N. Bhuyan Memorial Ceremony Lecture at Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium, Kalakshetra, Panjabari on 03 August 2024; (iii) attended National Conference of the District Judiciary to mark the 75th year of Supreme Court of India,at Bharat Mandapam on 31 August 2024.
- 23. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.G. Masih** (i) visited Jodhpur to attend the valedictory session of the Training programme organized in Rajasthan State Judicial Academy at Jodhpur as Guest of Honour and Speaker on 6 April 2024; (ii) visited Chandigarh to attend the "Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur" on 10 August 2024 and to attend National Conference on the 'Landscape of Technology in Courts in India and the way forward at Chandigarh on 11 August 2024; (iii) visited Jodhpur to attend the Concluding Ceremony of Platinum Jubilee of the Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur on 25 August 2024.
- 24. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta**
 (i) visited Jodhpur to attend 16th Convocation of National Law University, Jodhpur as Guest of Honour on 10 February 2024; (ii) visited Jodhpur as Resource person and Guiding participant on the theme "Judgment Writing Tools" in West Zone-II: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice Through Law & Technology and attended inaugural ceremony as guest of honour also organised by National Judicial Academy on 24 February 2024; (iii) visited Assam to attend Knowledge Enhancement Training Programme regarding Judgment writing organised by Judicial Academy, Assam and also attended Foundation Stone laying ceremony for Judges' Guest House at Kaziranga, Golaghat, Assam on 2 March 2024; (iv) visited Jodhpur to attend Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 'One Day Law Seminar' on Constitutional Governance in India organised by Rajasthan High Court and Rajasthan State Judicial Academy and Launching of E-Law Reports Rajasthan at New Rajasthan High Court Building and inauguration of Nyaya Path on 16 March, 2024; (v) visited Jodhpur to attend Rajasthan High Court Platinum Jubilee Celebrations one day colloquium on 'Legal Aid & Social Justice' Challenges & Opportunities in Access to Justice as Guest of Honour organised by Rajasthan High Court in collaboration with Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority 30 March 2024; (vi) visited Jodhpur to attend inauguration of the newly constructed Sports complex followed by the valedictory Ceremony of RJS Batch 2023-2024 as Guest of Honour organised by Rajasthan State Judicial Academy at Rajasthan State Judicial Academy Campus on 6 April 2024; (vii) visited Jammu & Kashmir to address the newly selected Civil Judges (trainees) at Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy on 1 July 2024; (viii) visited Jodhpur to attend programme as Chief guest at Golden Jubilee series Lecture on "Facets

of Constitutional Morality" at organised by Rajasthan High Court Lawyers' Association on 6 July 2024; (ix) visited Rajasthan to attend Fifth Two Days Legal Workshop on "Arbitration & Mediation : From Present to Future" organised by Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur & Indian Law Institute, Rajasthan Chapter as Guest of Honour at Ranakpur, Rajasthan on 20 July 2024 (x) visited Jodhpur to attend Rajasthan High Court Platinum Jubilee Celebration | State-Level Judicial Officers' Conference on 9 August 2024; (xi) visited Jodhpur to attend the Bar Council of Rajasthan | Platinum Jubilee Celebration| "Role of Judiciary in Emerging India" at Jodhpur on 10 August 2024 (xii) visited Jodhpur to attend Concluding Ceremony of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur chaired by Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India on 25 August 2024.

- 25. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prasanna B. Varale**
(i) visited Bengaluru to attend the Felicitation Ceremony by the Advocate's Association on 24 February 2024; (ii) visited Nasik to attend inaugural function of "Sanvidhan Amrutmohatsav BCMG 2024" at Gurudakshina Auditorium, Nashik organised by BCMG in association with Nashik Bar Association on 25 February 2024; (iii) visited Maharashtra to attend the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Moshi Court, Pimpri Chinchwad, District Pune, Maharashtra between 1 March 2024 & 4 March 2024; (iv) visited Maharashtra to attend the State Level Conference on Mediation at Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Uttan, Maharashtra on 9 March 2024; (v) visited Bengaluru to attend the International Women's Day, 2024 organized by High Court of Karnataka on 16 March 2024; (vi) visited Navi Mumbai to attend the valedictory Ceremony of National

Moot Court Competition and valedictory session of the National Law Festival – SPARKLE 5.0 on 17 March 2024; (vii) visited Nagpur to attend the inaugural ceremony of Centenary Year Celebration by High Court Bar Association on 7 April 2024; (viii) visited Aizawl to attend workshop on "Deterring Wildlife Crimes : Challenges and Opportunities" in Aizawl, Mizoram on 11 April 2024; (ix) visited Mumbai to attend a Book Launch Function on 21 April 2024; (x) visited Omerga, District Osmanabad, Maharashtra to inaugurate the New Building of District and Additional sessions Court on 27 April 2024; (xi) visited Bengaluru to attend as a Chief Guest in the Constitutional Law Lecture Series 4th Edition – 2024 at Manipal Law School, on 4 May 2024; (xii) visited Guwahati to attend S. N. Bhuyan Memorial Centenary Lecture at Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium, Kalakshetra, Panjabari, Guwahati, on 3 August 2024; (xiii) attend "Celebration of 75th Constitution Day – SANVIDHAN AMRUTMOHATSAV BCMG 2024" organised by Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, on 17 August 2024; (xiv) attend "The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of New Court Building of the District and sessions Court at Buldhana" organized by High Court at Bombay, on 24 August 2024.

- 26. Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh**
(i) visited Guwahati to attend S. N. Bhuyan Memorial Centenary Lecture at Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium, Kalakshetra, Panjabari, Guwahati, on 3 August 2024; (ii) visited Kerala to attend Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) International Conference at Kumarakom, Kerala, from 16-18 August 2024.

- 27. Hon'ble Mr. Justice R Mahadevan** visited Madurai to attend Vigentennial Celebrations

of 20 years of establishment of Madurai Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai Convention Centre on 20 July 2024.

- 28. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul¹** (i) visited Lucknow to participate in valedictory function at Judicial Training & Research Institute on 6 August 2023; (ii) visited Aurangabad, to Inaugurate Regional Conference on Mediation organized by the Main Mediation Centre of the Bombay High Court on 26 August 2023; (iii) visited Hyderabad, to deliver the Convocation Address at the Twentieth Annual Convocation of NALSAR Hyderabad on 2 September 2023; (iv) visited Chennai for the Inauguration of newly constructed building for TN Medication & Conciliation Centre and 120 Taluk Mediation Sub Centres at Old Government Press Bldg., Madras High Court Premises on 8 September 2023 and to attend a Inauguration Programme for Volunteer Senior Advocates Panel of TNSLA & UTPLSA organized by the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority & UT of Puducherry Legal Services Authority & Release NALSA Legal Services for differently Abled Children Scheme, 2021 on 9 September 2023; (v) visited Jharkhand to Inaugurate "Colloquium on Protecting Child Rights: Legal Perspective and Training" and to Deliver "Justice S B Sinha 2nd Memorial Lecture" on 17 September 2023; (vi) visited Ladakh to attend inauguration of the Mega Legal Awareness Camp at Leh being organized by the Ladakh Legal Services Authority & NALSA on 28 September 2023; (vii) visited Jaipur to attend inaugural ceremony of Platinum Jubilee of Rajasthan High Court at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre/ JECC (Novotel), Tonk Road, Jaipur on

14 October 2023; (viii) visited Indore to attend the valedictory Event of Skill Enhancement Programme for Community Mediators' organized by the M.P. State Legal Services Authority at Indore on 28 October 2023; (ix) delivered Key Note Address at the event "Punjab Against Drug Addiction – Role of Youth" being organised by the Punjab State Legal Services Authority on 4 November 2023; (x) visited Bengaluru to attend 36th LAWASIA Conference, 2023 organized by LAWASIA & Bar Association of India at Hotel Four Seasons, Bengaluru on 25 November 2023.

- 29. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat²** (i) visited Cuttack, to deliver the Presidential Address at the inaugural function of the National Conference on Preservation, Archival and Judicial History held on 14 July 2023 at the Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack; (ii) visited Jaipur to attend the inaugural Ceremony of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Rajasthan High Court at Jaipur.
- 30. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose³** (i) visited Kolkata, To attend the Executive Council meeting, the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences on 9 July 2023; (ii) visited Kolkata to attend the 90th meeting of the Executive Council, NUJS on 23 July 2023; (iii) visited Tripura to attend the seminar on "Cross Border Organized Crimes (NDPS, Human Trafficking & Terror Funding etc.) - Impact Assessment and Legal Solution" organized by Tripura Judicial Academy under the aegis of High Court of Tripura; (iv) visited Kolkata to attend the 91st Executive Council Meeting of The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Salt Lake, Calcutta on

1 Retired on 25 December 2023

2 Retired on 20 October 2023

3 Retired on 10 April 2024

17 July 2023; (v) visited Kolkata to attend WBJUJS 92th Meeting of the Executive Council in the premises of the University, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 11 November 2023; (vi) visited Sonipat to attend the programme as Distinguished Guest along with Hon'ble Judge's sister at OP Jindal Global University on 4 November 2023; (vii) visited Kolkata to attend WBJUJS 92nd Meeting of the Executive Council in the premises of the University on 27 November 2023; (viii) visited Raipur as Chief Guest to attend Seventh Convocation of Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur at Raipur on 17 December 2023; (ix) visited Kolkata to attend 93rd Meeting of the Executive Council held at West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences on 21 December 2023; (x) visited Bhopal to attend the 10th Biennial Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Officers Conference at Bhopal on 13 January 2024; (xi) visited Bhopal for National Workshop for High Court Justices on Constitutional Remedies and Administrative Law Topic:- "Writ Jurisdiction-Nature, Scope and Limits" and Conference on Matrimonial Laws Topic:-"Confluence of Anti-Conversion Legislation and Matrimonial Laws on at National Judicial Academy, 2-3 March 2024; (xii) attended inaugural session of 3rd International Bengali Conference held on 8 march 2024 and attended Closing ceremony of the centenary celebration of Dakshin Kalikata Sevasram on 09.03.2024; (xiii) attended inaugural session of Two-day International Colloquium Contemporary Legal Reform in BIMSTEC Member-States: Looking Ahead by Drawing Lessons from the Past and the Present' on 9-10 March 2024; (xiv) visited Kolkata to attend 94th Meeting of the Executive Council to be held at West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan on 6 April 2024.

- 31. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Bopanna¹**
 (i) visited Bengaluru to attend the Silver Jubilee of Ramaiah College of Law at Msrit Quadrangle, Msrit Campus, Bengaluru on 29 July 2023; (ii) visited Mysuru to attend the 10th State Level Advocates Conference Silver Jubilee Celebration of Ramaiah College of Law to be held at Dasara Exhibition Ground on 12 August 2023; (iii) visited Bengaluru to attend the programme at Manipal Law School, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Bengaluru Campus organised on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of Kesavananda Bharati's Case held on 18 November 2023; (iv) visited Bengaluru to attend 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre on 23-24 March 2024.
- 32. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli²**
 (i) inaugural Address at the National Seminar on Women Empowerment through Sports: Issues and Challenges at Conference Hall Campus Law Centre University of Delhi on 7 July 2023. (ii) Address delivered on the occasion of Convocation of Diploma Courses organized by the Indian Society of International Law on 5 September 2023; (iii) Panel Discussion on Alternative Dispute Resolution in International Transaction on the occasion of Bar Council of India's International Lawyers' Conference 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi at 23 September 2023; (iv) Delivered Keynote Address at the Forbes India Legal Power List 2022 finale to felicitate Indian Lawyers organized by the Forbes India and the CNN News 18 at Durbar Hall Taj Palace Daula Kuan New Delhi on 23 September 2023; (v) visited Hyderabad to address on

¹ Retired on 19 May 2024

² Retired on 1 September 2024

the occasion of International Arbitration Day organized by IAMC Hyderabad in collaboration with Shardul Mangaldas & Co. on 7 October 2023; (vi) Keynote address at ANVAY 2023 A Global Dialogue on Harassment and Discrimination towards a positive future on Equality to Equity the Future organized by the Leal Swan on 9 December 2023; (vii) visited Hyderabad to address on the occasion of the India MENA Arbitration Summit organized by IAMC on Hyderabad on 10 February 2024; (viii) visited Hyderabad to address on The Sociological Dimension of International Arbitration: Impartiality and Diversity organized by IAMC, Hyderabad in collaboration with Trilegal on 5 March 2023; (ix) inaugural address at the 20th K.K. Luthra Memorial Moot Court 2024 on 15 March 2024; (x) attended International Judicial Conclave on Intellectual Property Working session I-Q & A held at Delhi High Court on 16 March 2024; (xi) visited Goa to deliver Key Note address on the occasion of the Conference on Ease to Justice Through Arbitration and Mediation in Commercial Disputes at JW Mariott Vagator Goa on 23 March 2024; (xii) Introductory Remarks on the occasion of American Bar Association-India Conference 2024 Plenary session for Theme Role of the Judiciary and the Rule of Law in Advancing Economic Development organized by ABA and OP Jindal Global Law School at Hotel Taj Mahal on 29 March 2024; (xiii) Working

session 4 Theme Role of the Judiciary and the Rule of Law in Advancing Economic Development organized by ABA and OP Jindal Global Law School Q & A session on the occasion of American Bar Association on 29 March 2024; (xiv) visited Dehradun for inaugural Address on the occasion of Northern Zone Regional Conference of the Family Courts Committee organized by Uttarakhand High Court under the aegis of the Family Courts Committee Supreme Court of India on 6 April 2024; (xv) Virtually from Hatt Dehradun attended Panel Discussion on the session – Role of Referral Judges During and Post Mediation at the Advanced Training on the Concepts and Process of Mediation organized by the Samadhan Delhi High Court Arbitration & Mediation Centre at Agra on 6 April 2024; (xvi) Address on the occasion of 13th Annual Legal Era Indian Legal Awards 2024 organized by Legal Era on 4 May 2024.

**National Programmes/Meetings/
Conferences/Chaired or attended
by Registrar, Supreme Court of India**

1. **Shri H.S. Jaggi, Registrar, Shri A.J. Shiradhonkar, Registrar and Dr. Sukhda Pritam, Additional Registrar** visited Kachchh to participate in the Judicial Officers' Conference being organized by the Supreme Court of India in coordination with the High Court of Gujarat at Kachchh on 2-3 March 2024.

CHAPTER 12

The Bar – Pillar of the Judiciary

Advocates play a vital role in the administration of justice. They are not only professionals but also officers of the courts. On the recommendation of the Law Commission of India and the All India Bar Committee, the Advocates Act, 1961 was enacted with the aim to amend and consolidate the law relating to the legal practitioners and to provide for the constitution of the Bar Councils and an All India Bar. The most significant contribution of the Advocates Act, 1961 was to integrate the Bar into a single class of legal practitioners known as 'Advocates' and categorization of Advocates into Senior Advocates and other Advocates based on merits.

Advocates Act, 1961

The Advocates Act, 1961 provides for two categories of Advocates - Senior Advocates and other advocates, who are entitled to practice law before the Courts. The exercise of powers vested in the Supreme Court and the High Courts to designate an Advocate as a Senior Advocate is circumscribed by the requirement of due satisfaction that the advocate concerned fulfills the qualifications prescribed under the Advocates Act, 1961. In terms of Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961, an advocate may, with his/her consent, be designated as senior advocate if the Supreme Court or a High Court is of opinion that by virtue of his/her ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law, he/she is deserving of such distinction.

Bar Council of India

The Bar Council of India is a statutory body which regulates and represents the Indian Bar. It was established by Parliament under the Advocates Act, 1961, and performs regulatory functions by prescribing standards of professional conduct and etiquette and by exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar. The Bar Council also sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to Universities whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrolment as an advocate. In addition, it performs certain representative functions by protecting the rights, privileges and interests of advocates and through the creation of funds for providing financial assistance to organize welfare schemes for them.

The Bar Council of India consists of members elected from each State Bar Council, and the Attorney General for India and the Solicitor General of India who are ex-officio members. The members from the State Bar Councils are elected for a period of five years. The Council elects its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman for a period of two years from amongst its members. Eligible persons are admitted as advocates on the rolls of the State Bar Councils. The Advocates Act, 1961 empowers State Bar Councils to frame their own rules regarding enrolment of advocates.

Bar Council of India Rules, 1975

The Bar Council of India Rules, 1975 were made by the Bar Council of India in exercise of its rule-

making powers under the Advocates Act, 1961. Rules on the professional standards that an advocate needs to maintain are mentioned in Chapter II, Part VI of the Bar Council of India Rules. These rules have been placed there under section 49(1)(c) of the Advocates Act, 1961.

Advocates in Supreme Court of India

I. Attorney General for India

Attorney General for India is the highest law officer of the country appointed by the President under the provisions of Article 76 of the constitution to give advice to Government of India on legal matters. Presently, Mr. R. Venkataramani is the Attorney General for India.

II. Solicitor General of India

Solicitor General of India is the second highest law officer of the country who assists the Attorney General for India in his duties. Currently, Mr. Tushar Mehta is the Solicitor General of India

III. Senior Advocate

'Senior Advocate' means any advocate so designated under sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961, and all such advocates whose names were borne on the roll of the senior advocates of the Court immediately before the commencement of Chapter III of the Advocates Act, 1961. Order IV Rule 2 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, deals with designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates. Rule 2(a) provides that the Chief Justice and the Judges may, with the consent of the Advocate, designate an Advocate as Senior Advocate, if in their opinion, by virtue of his/her ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law, the said Advocate is deserving of such distinction. Apart from the designation of Advocates as Senior

Advocates, retired Chief Justices/Judges of the High Courts are also considered for designation as Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court. A Senior Advocate is not entitled to appear in the Supreme Court without an Advocate-on-Record. In *Indira Jaising vs. Supreme Court of India through Secretary General & Ors.* [Writ Petition (C) No.454/2015, etc.], [2017] 9 SCC 766, the Supreme Court emphasized the need of formulating norms/guidelines governing the exercise of designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The Court had directed that a Permanent Committee to be known as "Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates" must be constituted and also issued detailed guidelines for designation of Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court and the High Courts. In compliance with the judgment of the Court, a Permanent Committee has been constituted by the Chief Justice of India to deal with all matters relating to designation of Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India. The composition of the Committee is as follows: (a) The Chief Justice of India – Chairperson (b) Two senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court of India – Members (c) The Attorney General for India – Member; and (d) A member of the Bar as nominated by the Chairperson and Members of the Committee, as referred to in clauses (a) to (c) above. The Committee framed detailed Guidelines to regulate conferment of designation of Senior Advocates in the year 2018.

Thereafter, pursuant to the judgment delivered by a 3-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court on 12 May 2023 in M.A. No. 709/2022, etc. in Writ Petition (C) No. 454/2015 [2023 INSC 524] the Registry of the Court notified the "Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court, 2023". The process initiated under the Guidelines has culminated in conferment of designation of Senior Advocates as per details given below:

Date of Full Court Meeting	Category	Designated
6 September 2018	Former Chief Justices Judges of High Courts	25
27 March 2019	Advocates-on-Record/Advocates	37
8 December 2021	Former Chief Justices/Judges of High Courts Advocates-on-Record/Advocates	7 18
20 May 2022	Former Chief Justices/Judges of High Courts	52
16 October 2023	Former Chief Justices/Judges of High Courts	49
19 January 2024	Advocates-on-Record/Advocates	56
6 March 2024	Advocates-on-Record/Advocates	5
14 August 2024	Former Acting Chief Justice/Judges of High Courts Advocates-on-Record/Advocates	8 39

IV. Advocate-on-Record

'Advocate-on-Record' means an advocate, who is entitled under the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 to act as well as to plead for a party in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of India at the time of its inception in 1950 inherited the jurisdiction of the Federal Court and the Privy Council. The Rules prevalent in the Federal Court were continued in the beginning. The practice and Procedure of the Supreme Court has undergone enormous changes ever since. Originally, the Rules of the Supreme Court (as then adopted) recognized the system of "Agents". The practice and Procedure was substantially modified in the year 1954 and "Advocates-on-Record" (AOR) replaced the system of "Agents". When introduced in 1954, apart from the then registered "Agents", an Advocate of seven years' standing was entitled to get himself/herself registered as an 'Advocate-on-Record', provided he/she fulfilled the prescribed conditions. In 1959, the Rules were amended, introducing the 'Advocates-on-Record' examination conducted by the Supreme Court. Order IV Rule 5 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, deals with registration as an Advocate-on-Record. No Advocate other than an Advocate-on-Record is entitled to file an appearance or act for a party in the Court. The Registry of the Supreme Court conducts Advocates-on-

Record Examination periodically with approval of the Examination Committee and under the supervision of Secretary, Board of Examiners, appointed by Former Chief Justice of India. The examination maintains high standards to ensure that best of the talent come in as Advocate-on-Record. List of Advocates-on-Record is available on Supreme Court of India website www.sci.gov.in. Regulation 6(i) pertaining to Advocates-on-Record Examination states that no Advocate shall be eligible to appear in the examination unless he/she has received training from an Advocate-on-Record of not less than ten years' standing for a continuous period of one year commencing from the end of the fourth year of date of his/her enrolment, ending with the 30 April or 30 November of the year of the examination, as the case may be.

V. Other Advocates

These are Advocates whose names are entered on the roll of any State Bar Council maintained under the Advocates Act, 1961 and they cannot appear, plead and address the court in any matter on behalf of a party in the Supreme Court unless instructed by an Advocate-on-Record or permitted by the Court (Order IV Rule1(b) of Supreme Court Rules, 2013).

SCBA and its Activities

The Supreme Court Bar Association ("SCBA") is the primary association looking after the welfare of advocates practicing in the apex Court of the Country. SCBA looks after the welfare of all members which includes advocates, advocate-on-records and Senior Advocates residing in NCR as well as outstation advocates visiting Supreme Court. The SCBA is committed to promoting the welfare of its members and ensuring suitable and timely support and resources are provided to its members amongst other things.

Facilities provided / managed by the SCBA for the benefit of its Members:

- i. The SCBA provides financial assistance to the members who are facing financial hardship due to illness, disability or other unforeseen circumstance. The SCBA also provides ex-gratia financial aid to the family of bereaved member advocate.
- ii. The SCBA maintains various libraries in the premises of the Supreme Court which has a vast collection of books, journals, and other legal resources. It also maintains e-libraries for research and other computer centres which aids and enables its members in their drafting, research and filing.
- iii. The SCBA manages various canteens within the Supreme Court compound and Chamber Blocks. The canteens cater to the needs of its members, providing them with a convenient and comfortable dining space. A new canteen was inaugurated by the Former Chief Justice of India in Administrative Buildings Complex, which accommodate the large number of lawyers and litigants who visit the court every day.
- iv. The SCBA arranged lockers for its members in the newly allotted area inside the Supreme Court Compound which provides a secure and convenient space to the lawyers to leave their belongings at court.

Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) and its Activities

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) is an association of approximately 3000 Advocates-on-Record qualified as per Order IV of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. An Advocate-on-Record is solely authorized to file cases before the Supreme Court of India, and it is only upon their instructions that any other advocate can appear for any litigant before the Supreme Court of India. The AORs also engage Senior Advocates to lead them for





any matter if the client so instructs, but without the AOR, neither can the Senior Advocate appear nor can any other lawyer from anywhere in the country appear and argue before the Supreme Court of India. This unique categorization makes the Advocates-on-Record a class in themselves and acts as an integral part of the justice dispensation system in the Supreme Court.

Established in 1985, SCAORA is a registered body that functions towards the welfare of the AORs, protecting their interests vis-à-vis the Registry of the Supreme Court, and promoting harmony between the bar and the bench. In the last 39 years, SCAORA has worked towards promoting the interests of the AORs, aimed solely at advancing the institution as a whole.

Through its extensive aims and objectives, the SCAORA is bounden to take adequate steps towards promoting professional competence while maintaining standards of professional ethics and integrity. It also ensures that unethical practices are prevented and the majesty of the organization and institution is upheld at all times.

SCAORA, through its extensive efforts towards ensuring the independence of the judiciary, has significantly influenced the legal system. It has filed petitions on critical issues, including the appointment of Judges and the NJAC, extension of the period of limitation during the COVID-19

pandemic, and sought clarification of Judicial Orders to bring about amendments in the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, amongst others. The landmark decision of a Ld. Nine Judge Bench of the Supreme Court in SCAORA v. Union of India & Ors, better known as the 2nd Judge's Case in 1993, laid the foundation of the collegium system for the appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary, a testament to the association's impact on the legal system.

It is for the active participation and involvement of SCAORA in the overall welfare of all the members of the bar, which led to the Supreme Court in August 2024, appointing Mr. Vipin Nair, President, SCAORA as the nodal counsel in ***Re: Strengthening and Enhancing the Institutional Strength of Bar Associations; SLP (C) No. 3950 of 2024***. In this role, the President is responsible for assisting the Court in collating and compiling suggestions from various High Court Bar Associations for the betterment of the Bar Associations across the Country.

SCAORA has also tirelessly worked towards the professional growth of its members by conducting lectures, seminars, and discussions to promote a dialogue between the bar and the bench, as well as the Senior Members of the Bar with the younger generation. SCAORA Lecture Series, 2024 is a step towards the same, wherein lectures on various pertinent issues/facets have been organized, over and above the Lecture Series, to help the AOR Aspirants before their examination in June 2024. The varied range of speakers in this regard has been welcomed by the entire bar, who now keenly look forward to the series.

SCAORA's full-fledged office within the Supreme Court Main premises is equipped with Computers, Printers, and research software to help its members have easy access to all the facilities. The space is also expanding to the adjacent room, which has already been allotted to house

the SCAORA E-Library and the Lounge for the members' convenience.

In its efforts to collaborate with International Bars and strengthen the relations of the AORs with their Counter-parts across the globe, the SCAORA has recently also met the delegates from Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom, Bristol Law School College of Business and Law, United Kingdom, as well as the team from TransLegal, discussing the World Law Dictionary Project, aimed at expanding the Project to India, and to build the database to meaningfully improve automated translation and interpretation in law, a promising initiative that will make justice more accessible to everyone.

SCAORA further also continues to successfully advocate for an institutionalized mechanism to facilitate the elevation of AORs practicing in the Supreme Court to elevation to the Bench of the different High Courts. This advocacy is a testament to the association's commitment to the professional growth of its members. Several of its past members have also now donned the silk and have been designated as Senior Advocates in this year alone.

Additionally, SCAORA continues to work with the Judges and the Registry of the Supreme Court to streamline various issues regarding the filing and listing of matters and shape sharper solutions beneficial to the bar and litigants alike. SCAORA

was also instrumental in assisting with the Lok Adalat organized to commemorate the 75th Year of the establishment of the Supreme Court, and some of its members also had the distinguished privilege to become part of the Benches as Members for the Lok Adalat alongside the Hon'ble Judges and Senior Advocates, a first in the history of Supreme Court.

SCAORA has further been building upon the legacy of the earlier Executive Committees by building and allotting chambers and cubicles to its members, especially when their presence in the Court at all times is crucial for the smooth functioning of the system.

With the active participation of the members, an editorial board has also been constituted, aiming at releasing the 1st SCAORA E-Journal shortly. Work on the new SCAORA Website, which would enable the members to access information easily, is also in the pipeline.

SCAORA, comprising of Advocates-on-Record from across the country, truly embodies the spirit of unity and integrity. They represent a diverse range of legal practices and backgrounds, which geographic diversity brings to the association, a wide perspective on legal issues. An association like SCAORA is not only essential for upholding the dignity of the Supreme Court but also for ensuring that justice is accessible to all. It will continue to ensure that all stakeholders benefit from the association's work.

CHAPTER 13

Legal Aid Services

1. Introduction

The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides for establishment of Legal Services Authorities at various levels. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted on 9 November 1995 under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The principal objective of NALSA is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. NALSA's mission is also to legally empower the marginalised and excluded groups of society by spreading legal awareness, thereby bridging the gap between legally available benefits and the entitled beneficiaries. NALSA has also been assigned the additional task of organizing *Lok Adalats* for amicable settlement of disputes. NALSA is the Central Authority which coordinates and monitors the functioning of other Legal Services Institutions (LSIs) constituted across India for proper implementation of legal aid programmes. Currently, Hon'ble Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairperson of NALSA.

Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA) have been constituted in different States and Union Territories and they have been mandated to give

effect to the policies and directions of NALSA while also providing free legal services to the people in need of legal aid and assistance. They have also been entrusted the duty of organizing *Lok Adalats* and Awareness Campaigns within their jurisdiction.

Similarly, in every District, a District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and *Taluk* Legal Services Committees (TLSC) have been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes at the District and *Taluk* level.

As per Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, the following categories of persons are eligible for receiving free legal aid:

- Women and Children;
- Members of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes;
- Industrial Workmen;
- Persons with Disability;
- Persons in Custody;
- Victims of Human Trafficking;
- Victims of Natural Disasters, Ethnic/Caste violence, Industrial Disaster;
- Persons with an annual income of less than the amount as notified by the appropriate Government.

Certain other categories of persons (such as transgenders, acid attack victims, senior citizens having annual income less than a stipulated

amount, persons infected with HIV-AIDS, etc.) , though not specifically enlisted under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 are also entitled to get free legal aid and assistance as per the specific State Regulations in this regard.

The following is the overview of the LSIs functioning pan- India:

Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	01
State Legal Services Authorities	37
High Court Legal Services Committees	38
District Legal Services Authorities	703
Taluk Legal Services Committees	2,390

To strengthen the functioning of LSIs and to ensure that legal services reach every nook and corner of our country, a vast network of human resources (legal aid functionaries) has been deployed. A brief overview is provided below:

HUMAN RESOURCE OF LSIs	
Panel Lawyers	46,412
Legal Aid Defence Counsels	2,406
Pro Bono Lawyers	8,138
Paralegal Volunteers	42,782

2. National Meets and Conferences

During FY 2023-24, NALSA in collaboration with various LSIs and other Government Organizations, etc. organized various programs. These events strengthen coordination between LSIs to achieve the expected outcome of providing quality legal services. These events also serve as a platform to set out short-term and long-term goals and to share best practices to ensure enhanced quality in delivery of justice. The following are some of the notable events:

19th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet



Every year, NALSA organizes an All-India Meet of SLSAs to deliberate upon and finalize the future course of action and to evaluate the implementation of various Legal Aid Schemes/Programmes.

The 19th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet was organized by NALSA at Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, from 30 June 2023 to 1 July 2023. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay K. Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee; other Supreme Court Judges; Shri Arjun R. Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Law & Justice, Union of India; Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt.Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir; Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.) , Lt. Governor, UT of

Ladakh; Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, Ladakh Legal Services Authority. Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts; legal experts, senior government officials were also present.

Hon'ble Justice Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India, delivered the Inaugural Address. He congratulated NALSA and J&K Legal Services Authority for organizing the meet and bringing together the wealth of learning and experience of Indian Judiciary. The CJI expressed gratitude to NALSA, all its office bearers, members of State Legal Services Authorities, Legal Aid Counsels, Para-Legal Volunteers, etc. for striving to make the constitutional goal of social justice a veritable reality. He also appreciated the "NALSA Manual for DLSAs", which was released during the Annual Meet, as a document which shall promote consistency in decision-making and ensure uniformity in the functioning of all DLSAs.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, appreciated the work done by the Legal Services Authorities in reaching out to the masses. He also praised the "NALSA Manual for DLSAs" as a comprehensive compendium for DLSAs to harmonize procedures across the country to inculcate a sense of uniformity and consistency.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, also praised the work done by NALSA and the Legal Services Authorities working under it. He also stressed

on the importance of having definitive goals and timelines for achieving the same, to increase the legitimacy and visibility of work done by the Legal Services Authorities.

■ **NALSA at Harvard Law School**



From 21 June 2023 till 23 June 2023, Ms. Santosh Snehi Mann, Lt. Member Secretary, NALSA attended the Conference on the Challenges of Access to Justice, organized by International Legal Aid Group at Harvard Law School, USA and shared the best practices of the Legal Services Institutions working in India, while presenting the Country Report. The Conference saw participation of representatives from scores of countries including Australia, Canada, USA, Brazil, Belgium, Botswana, Chile, England and Wales, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Japan, etc. The Conference provided the representatives from different countries an opportunity to intermingle and opened a vista of opportunities for cross-fertilization of ideas to extend the impact and outreach of Legal Aid Institutions.

■ **Legal Services Day Celebrations**

On 09.11.2023, NALSA and the National Commission for Women (NCW), joined forces

to commemorate the Legal Services Day, by unveiling initiatives that marked a significant leap forward in ensuring access to justice, promoting legal awareness, and empowering the people, specifically women across India. The program at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi was graced by Hon'ble Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, who lauded NALSA and NCW for bringing about a paradigm shift in the accessibility of law and justice within communities, while launching the upgraded National Helpline Number of NALSA-15100.



The Helpline shall provide immediate legal assistance to citizens in multiple languages on a real-time basis. The event also witnessed the inauguration of "Vidhaan se Samadhaan", a legal awareness program targeting women at the Block-level, which plans to cover all States and Union Territories, aligning with NALSA's and NCW's commitment to justice and empowerment of every woman. On this significant day, the "*Her Legal Guide*" mobile application was also unveiled, showcasing a commitment to digital empowerment aligned with the principles of Digital India and women-led development initiatives. The event was graced by dignitaries from across the country. This joint initiative underscored the unwavering commitment of NALSA and NCW to ensure justice, legal awareness, and empowerment of all citizens of India.

- **First Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid**



NALSA together with the International Legal Foundation (ILF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), hosted the First Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid at New Delhi, India on 27 and 28 November 2023, with the goal to address the challenges in ensuring access to quality legal aid services in the countries of the Global South. This was the first regional conference of its kind which brought together Chief Justices, Ministers of Justice, Legal-Aid Officers, Policymakers and Civil Society Experts from 70 African-Asian-Pacific countries to discuss the challenges and opportunities in ensuring access to quality legal aid services for the poor and vulnerable. It also provided a platform for sharing the best practices and identifying innovative solutions to improve access to justice in the participating countries. This Conference highlighted the regional efforts to implement the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems and to further the Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals- 2030. Hon'ble Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankar; Former

Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, SCLSC; Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State and Ministry of Law & Justice; Shri R. Venkataramani, Attorney General for India; and Shri Amitabh Kant, the G-20 Sherpa and former CEO, NITI Aayog, graced the Inaugural Ceremony of the Conference. Judicial officers, bureaucrats and senior government officials also attended the Inaugural Program. The Inaugural session was followed by Technical Sessions on topics such as: 'Meeting the Need for Legal Aid: Status of the Realization of the Right to Legal Aid in the Global South'; 'Effective Models for, and the Benefit of Providing more Holistic, People-Centred Legal Aid Services'; and 'Strategies for Reducing Pretrial Detention, including through the Provision of Early and Effective Access to Legal Aid Services', etc. The Conference culminated in the release of three Outcome Documents including the 'New Delhi Principles on the Role of Judiciary in Ensuring Equal Access to Justice for All in the Global South', which was signed by the Chief Justices and Judges of 16 Countries. The Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, graced the Valedictory Ceremony of the Regional Conference.

■ Karnataka State Conference of DLSAs

On 24 March 2024, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) organized a State Conference of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) under the aegis of NALSA. This Conference was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA. Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Somashekhar, Judge, High Court of Karnataka & Executive Chairman, KSLSA and Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.B. Prabhakara Sastry, Chairman, High Court Legal Services Authority, High Court of Karnataka also graced the occasion. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna interacted with the Ld. Chairpersons and Secretaries of DLSAs in Karnataka, who attended the Conference. The Conference provided a platform for the integration of the knowledge triangle i.e. integration of inputs and perspectives of District Legal Services Authorities, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and NALSA.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna stated that the Conference was meant to begin a conversation around: the challenges faced in outreach activities and provisioning of court-based legal services; challenges in adopting ADR mechanisms; the innovative practices being followed by the Legal Services Institutions (LSI); exploring the potential of collaboration with different organizations to ensure equitable access to justice, etc. He stated



that the cornerstone of the success of LSIs were locally- driven solutions intended to bring about perception changes at the community-level about the legal services being provided by the LSIs. He stressed on the need to have a diverse and well- trained workforce of Para Legal Volunteers & Legal Aid Counsels; the need to capitalize on technology to make justice easily accessible, and the need to use content that is simple and easily comprehensible by the public.

■ Rajasthan State Conference of DLSAs



Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan in collaboration with the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority organized a One Day Colloquium on "Legal Aid & Social Justice, Challenges & Opportunities in Access to Justice" on 30 March 2024 at Jaipur, as a part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of High Court of Rajasthan. This Colloquium was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA and was also graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge,

Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Shrivastava, Chief Justice of High Court of Rajasthan & Patron-in-Chief, RSLSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Bhandari, Judge, High Court of Rajasthan & Executive Chairman, RSLSA and other Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Rajasthan. Ld. Chairpersons and Secretaries of DLSAs in Rajasthan, other Judicial Officers, Senior Advocates, Office- bearers of various Bar Associations, Panel Lawyers, Paralegal Volunteers, Law Students, etc. also attended the programme. The programme witnessed the launch of 2 books of RSLSA and a ChatBot of RSLSA. Vignettes from the Colloquium on "Legal Aid & Social Justice, Challenges & Opportunities in Access to Justice" and Rajasthan State Conference of DLSAs. This Colloquium was followed by the Rajasthan State Conference of DLSAs, organised by RSLSA under the aegis of NALSA. During this programme, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna interacted with the Ld. Chairpersons and Secretaries of DLSAs in Rajasthan. Noting the importance of PLVs in the work of LSIs, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna harped on the need to strengthen this entrenched community asset by organizing frequent training programmes and bringing diversity in the PLV workforce. Discerning a lack of trust in LSIs and its functionaries, among many undertrial prisoners and convicts, he highlighted the need to bring about a perceptual change by taking remedial action. He emphasized on the need to strengthen the Prison Legal Aid Clinics and the office of Legal Aid Defence Counsels, while simultaneously stressing on the need to bolster the monitoring and mentoring mechanisms in place. To expand the outreach of the LSIs, he encouraged LSIs to harness technology.

3. National Lok Adalats

LSIs under the aegis of NALSA organize four National *Lok Adalats* every year. These *Lok Adalats* are organized to further the objective of 'Speedy

and Effective Justice'. In *Lok Adalats* various cases such as Criminal Compoundable Cases, Revenue Cases and Bank Recovery Cases, Motor Accident Claims, Matrimonial Disputes, Cheque Bounce Cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, Labour Disputes, and other Civil Cases are taken up for disposal.

A brief overview of the National *Lok Adalats* organized in the year 2023-24 is provided below:

- **2nd National *Lok Adalat* for the Year 2023**

26 States/Union Territories organized the 2nd National *Lok Adalat* on 13 May 2023 and the remaining States/Union Territories organized the same on other dates due to some exigencies.

Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Goa and Maharashtra SLSAs organized the 2nd National *Lok Adalat* on 30 April 2023 while Uttar Pradesh SLSA organized it on 21 May 2023. Kerala, Puducherry and Telangana SLSAs organized the 2nd National *Lok Adalat* on 10 June 2023 while Andaman & Nicobar Islands SLSA organized it on 17 June 2023. Karnataka SLSA organized it on 8 July 2023. Manipur SLSA could not organize the 2nd National *Lok Adalat* due to internal disturbance and communal strife in Manipur.

Overall, the 2nd National *Lok Adalat*, saw around 1.90 crore cases being disposed off. Out of this, around 33.81 lakh cases were pending court cases while 1.56 crore cases were at pre-litigative stage. The settlement amount was approximately Rs. 14,736.49 crores.

- **3rd National *Lok Adalat* for the Year 2023**

All States/Union Territories except Delhi, organized the 3rd National *Lok Adalat* on 09 September 2023. Delhi SLSA organized it on 08 October 2023. Manipur SLSA could not organize the National *Lok Adalat* on account of the internal strife.

In the 3rd National *Lok Adalat*, about 2.04 crore cases were disposed off. Out of this, around 42.44 lakh cases were pending court cases and 1.62 crore cases were at pre-litigative stage. The settlement amount was approximately Rs. 14,347.15 crores.

- **4th National *Lok Adalat* for the Year 2023**

34 States/Union Territories organized the 4th National *Lok Adalat* for the year 2023 on 09 December 2023. Delhi SLSA organized it on 10 December 2023 and Chhattisgarh SLSA organized it on 16 December 2023. Telangana SLSA organized it on 30 December 2023.

In this National *Lok Adalat*, about 2.51 crore cases were disposed off. Out of this, around 36.26 lakh cases were pending court cases and 2.15 crore cases were at pre-litigative stage. The settlement amount was approximately Rs. 16,088.16 crores.

- **1st National *Lok Adalat* for the Year 2024**

31 States/Union Territories organized the 1st National *Lok Adalat* for the year 2024, on 09 March 2024. SLSAs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Maharashtra organized it on 3 March 2024 while SLSAs of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana organized it on 16 March 2024.

In this National *Lok Adalat*, about 3.11 crore cases were disposed off. Out of this around 38.67 lakh cases were pending court cases and 2.73 crore cases were at pre-litigative stage. The settlement amount was approximately Rs. 17,482.47 crores.

4. Awareness and Outreach Programmes

Section 4(l) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, *inter alia*, provides that it shall be a function of NALSA to spread legal awareness among the people and in particular, to educate the weaker

sections of the society about the rights, benefits and privileges guaranteed by social welfare legislations and other enactments.

To further this objective, NALSA takes up various Awareness and Outreach Initiatives. Some of such notable steps are as follows:

- **Mega Legal Awareness Camp**



Inauguration Of Mega Legal Awareness Camp

On 28 September 2023, DLSA, Leh under the aegis of NALSA & Ladakh Legal Services Authority, organized a Mega Legal Awareness Camp at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Choglamsar, Leh. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA was the Chief Guest on the programme, which was also graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of J & K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, Ladakh Legal Services Authority; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, Ladakh Legal Services Authority. In his Inaugural Address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul stated that legal awareness means the ability to understand words used in a legal context, to draw conclusions from them, and then to use those conclusions to take action. He emphasized that the various organs/agencies should strive to achieve the constitutional objective of access to justice to all, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society.

- **Awareness Program on Drug Abuse**



For spreading awareness about drug abuse and its devastating effects, Punjab SLSA, ran a Campaign namely "Punjab against Drug Addiction", throughout the State of Punjab, from 1 October 2023 till 31 October 2023. In the said Campaign, all the DLSAs were directed to: organize rallies, walkathons, awareness campaigns, workshops and seminars, in coordination with the Health Department and other stakeholders, to spread awareness and to empower individuals with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions and support those affected by drug abuse. The Closing Ceremony of the said Campaign was held at Khalsa College, Amritsar on 2 November 2023 and it was attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ritu Bahri, Chief Justice, Punjab and Haryana High Court & Patron-in-Chief, Punjab SLSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, Judge, High Court of Punjab & Haryana & Executive Chairman, Punjab SLSA; and other Hon'ble Judges of Punjab & Haryana High Court. Ld. Member Secretary, NALSA also attended the program with Ld. Member Secretary, Punjab SLSA.

5. Initiatives For The Prisoners

The National Legal Services Authority, India conducted the 'Undertrial Review Committee Special Campaign 2023' from 18 September to

20 November 2023. The aim of the campaign was to accelerate the regular functioning of the Under Trial Review Committees and expedite the identification of undertrial prisoners (UTPs) eligible to be considered for release under thirteen categories specified under NALSA's Standard Operating Procedures for Under Trial Review Committees.

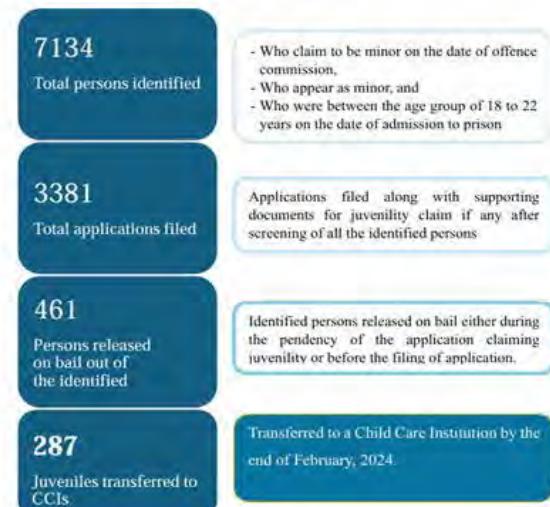
The campaign resulted in the release of 21,304 UTPs across the country, with highest number of releases in Maharashtra (3,556), followed by Uttar Pradesh (2,246). The number of UTPs released under the campaign are approximately 5% of the total UTP population (4,34,302).

- **'Restoring the Youth': Pan-India Campaign for Identifying Juveniles in Prisons and Rendering Legal Assistance – 2024**

On 25 January 2024, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, launched the 'Restoring the Youth Campaign'. This Campaign was started at a rather opportune time when India entered the 75th year of its journey, gently and wisely guided and shepherded by our Constitution. The immediate spur for launching this Campaign was the fact that in recent years several unfortunate cases had come to light where juveniles were found lodged in prisons meant for adult offenders. Taking note of this tragic reality of these juveniles languishing in jails which stood in stark contrast to the ideals of justice, rehabilitation, and the fundamental belief that no child should be forced to navigate a criminal justice system meant for adults, NALSA curated this pan-India Campaign. This Campaign intended to transport such juveniles from the dark alleys of adult jails and transplant them into an environment that fostered their growth, nurtured their potential, and offered them a pathway towards societal reintegration. Identification of such juveniles was the first

step in the Campaign trail. Once such juveniles were identified, appropriate applications for age- determination were to be moved and pursued diligently before the concerned Courts. These applications were then to be pro-actively pursued and monitored so that such juveniles who had been wrongly incarcerated in adult jails were expeditiously brought within the protective fold of the juvenile justice system. A follow-up of applications was also to be done in those cases where applications for age-determination had already been moved on behalf of the inmate.

VI. Campaign Outcome at a Glance



❖ Out of the 3,381 applications filed for claiming juvenility, 64% i.e. 2,173 applications were pending as of 27th February, 2024.

- **Implementation of the Modified Legal Aid Defence Counsel Scheme, 2022**

The Modified LADC Scheme, 2022 was introduced to streamline and provide clarity on the functioning of the Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs). The Scheme provides for the selection process of LADCs, the number of human resources to be engaged, the infrastructural requirement, essential qualifications and role of LSIs, etc. The objective of the Scheme is:

- To provide qualitative and competent legal services in criminal matters to all eligible persons;

- b) To manage and implement legal aid system in professional manner in criminal matters.
- c) Till 31 March 2024, Office of LADC was set up in 611 districts across India.

Category of LADC	Human Resource
No. of Chief Legal Aid Counsels	500 (48 are women)
No. of Deputy Chief Legal Aid Counsels	713 (124 are women)
No. of Assistant Legal Aid Counsels	1193 (467 are women)
Total No. of Legal Aid Defence Counsels	2,406 (639 are women)

6. Capacity Building by LSIs

Capacity Building ensures that various stakeholders of LSIs receive skill enhancement, refresh existing knowledge, and develop better understanding of the task-in-hand. Following are some of the notable exercises undertaken by LSIs for the same:

- **Colloquium on Protecting Child Rights**



On 17 September 2023, a State-level Colloquium on "Protecting Child Rights: Legal Perspective and Training", was organized by Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority, in association with the Department of Women, Child Development and Social Security, Govt of Jharkhand; Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation; and Bachpan Bachao Andolan, at Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Auditorium at Jharkhand Judicial Academy. The

programme was graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, who was the Chief Guest of the event; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand cum Patron-in-Chief, JHALSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Chandrashekhar, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand & Executive Chairman, JHALSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay and other Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Jharkhand.

- **Training Programme for Chairmen & Secretaries of DLSAs In Manipur**

On 18 October 2023 and 27 October 2023, NALSA in collaboration with Manipur SLSA, organized a Virtual Capacity Building Programme for Chairmen & Secretaries of DLSAs in Manipur, in compliance of directives issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP (C) No. 19206 of 2023, titled "*DinganglungGangmei v. MutumChuramaniMeetei&Ors.*" The topic for the training session was "Understanding the Manipur Compensation Scheme, 2023 and Legal Framework". The participants were trained to handle the Compensation Applications; verify documents; decide on the compensation application by considering different factors, etc. They were also trained how to communicate with persons applying for compensation.

- **40 Hours Mandatory Mediation Training Program at Leh**

Mediation, in a country like India, which is increasingly becoming litigious, holds immense promise. The promise of mediation lies in its ability to bring social changes by endeavoring to secure justice for individuals and groups.

From 15 October 2023 to 19 October 2023, District Legal Services Authority, Leh, under the aegis of Mediation & Conciliation Project

Committee, Supreme Court of India, Mediation & Conciliation Committee, High Court Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Ladakh Legal Services Authority, organized a 40 hours Mandatory Mediation Training Programme. The programme was inaugurated by Brigadier (Dr.) B.D. Mishra, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Chairman, LAHDC, Leh, at the Conference Hall of National Institute of Sowa Rigpa (NISR), Leh.

- **40 Hours Mandatory Mediation Training Program at Chandigarh**

From 18 March 2024 till 22 March 2024, Punjab SLSA organized a 40-hours Mediation Training Programme at the Chandigarh Judicial Academy for the Judicial Officers and Advocates. This training offered them unique opportunities to develop and master the analytical and practical skills of good judging and lawyering, where resolution of disputes is sought to be done in the most amicable, and non-combative manner. It saw an enthusiastic participation from the judicial officers and lawyers, who felt that the Mediation Training added to the repertoire of their skills making them better and more seasoned legal professionals.

7. NALSA Schemes, SoPs and Guidelines

NALSA is empowered to develop Schemes, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines on various subjects that fall within its mandate. These provide valuable guidance to the implementing authorities and act as a yardstick in ensuring that mandate of law is being fulfilled.

In this regard, NALSA in FY 2023-24 developed the following:

- **Prison Legal Aid Clinics Inspection and Evaluation Format**

To strengthen the monitoring of Prison Legal Aid Clinics (PLACs), NALSA has shared with all State Legal Services Authorities:

- a) The 'Inspection Form: Prison Legal Aid Clinic'to be filled up by the Secretaries of the DLSAs at the time of their monthly inspection of the PLACs in their respective districts;
- b) The 'Inspection & Evaluation Report of the Prison Legal Aid Clinic'to be filled up by the Chairpersons of the DLSAs, after their quarterly inspections of the PLACs in their respective districts;
- c) The 'Report on Functioning of the Prison Legal Aid Clinics' for SLSAs to send a combined and comprehensive report of inspection of all PLACs functioning in the respective State/ UT to NALSA.

These formats will enable NALSA to periodically evaluate the functioning of the PLACs based on the compliance points garnered as per the Inspection Report shared by SLSAs with NALSA. This exercise will also help the DLSAs to identify the gaps and lacunae in the functioning of the PLACs and thereafter, take necessary action to address the issues.

8. Role of Technology

Technology plays a vital role in increasing the reach of LSIs. NALSA has been at the forefront of adopting and leveraging technology in various processes. A brief overview of various new age initiatives is provided below-

- **LSMS Portal**

Legal Services Management System (LSMS) is an interface for citizens to apply online for legal services, track the status of the applications online and send reminders/clarifications. It also

provides an interface for the LSIs/ involved in the process to manage the legal aid applications, provide panel lawyers, collect data related to legal services schemes, and generation of periodic statistical reports.

In the year 2023, around 1,29,899 legal aid applications were received by the LSIs on this portal.

NALSA along with other LSIs has taken active steps to ensure that training is provided to various stakeholders who use the portal so that maximum number of applications are processed through the portal itself.

■ LACMS Portal

Legal Aid Case Management System (LACMS) was developed specifically for management of legal aid cases. LSIs have access to this portal. LSIs through this portal monitor the progress made in a particular case, track cases assigned to a particular advocate, and assign cases to empanelled lawyers. The empanelled lawyers also have access to the portal and upon being assigned a case, they can accept/reject a case at the portal itself. Upon accepting a case, they provide details related to the case on the portal itself. The empanelled lawyers can also keep track of a particular case at the portal and of the cases assigned to them. The Legal Aid Beneficiaries can also track their application on the portal.

9. Statistical Overview of Initiatives of/Services Provided by NALSA

■ Persons Benefitted through Legal Aid and Advice

Year	Persons benefitted through Legal Aid and Advice
2023-24	15,50,164

■ Beneficiaries through Legal Aid Clinics (From April'23 to March'24)

Categories	Legal Services Clinics	Persons visited	Persons provided legal assistance
Colleges/ Universities	1034	52560	27545
Villages	3659	355786	234515
Community Centres	971	128663	75114
Courts	1018	179521	141539
Jails	1215	456798	324867
JJBs	479	64640	48565
For the people of North-East	47	3639	615
Others	2961	295446	183280
Total	11384	1537053	1036040

■ Cases Settled through Mediation

Year	Cases received	Cases settled through mediation
2023-24	434150	99033

■ Pre-Institution Mediation in Commercial Disputes

Period	No. of applications received for mediation	No. of application where mediation remains non-starter	No. of application where parties reached a settlement
2023-24	51019	47185	1139

■ Awareness and Outreach Programmes

Years	Programmes organized	Persons attended
2023-24	430306	4,49,22,092

- **Victim Compensation u/s 357-A, CrPC**

Years	Applications received including Court Orders (A+B)	Applications Decided	Applications Pending	Compensation Awarded (in ₹)
2023-24	28131	24350	17229	4,02,90,06,736

- **Disposal of National Lok Adalats**

Total Disposal in Monthly National Lok Adalats (All Types of Cases) Organised During the Financial Year 2023-24

S. No.	Dated	Subject	Pre-Litigation			Pending Cases			Total		
			Taken Up	Disposal	Total Settlement amount (In Rs.)	Taken Up	Disposal	Total Settlement amount (In Rs.)	Taken Up	Disposal	Total Settlement amount (In Rs.)
1	13.05.2023	All Types of Cases	24447578	15632501	30733933185	5981543	3381576	116631049862	30429121	19014077	147364983047
2	09.09.2023	All Types of Cases	24190061	16251374	35836516957	6726729	4244195	107635067176	30916790	20495569	143471584133
3	09.12.2023	All Types of Cases	36765532	21544428	44645423492	5999583	3626012	116236251067	42765115	25170440	160881674559
4	09.03.2024	All Types of Cases	69043255	27331725	33865046319	6086977	3867082	140959691084	75130232	31198807	174824737403
Grand Total			154446426	80760028	145080919953	24794832	15118865	481462059189	179241258	95878893	626542979142

II. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC)

The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) is a statutory body constituted Under Section 3A of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. It came into existence w.e.f. 1 January 1996, on which date a notification in this regard was issued by the Government of India. The functions of the Committee are regulated by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Regulations, 1996 and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Rules, 2000. As per Regulation 5 of SCLSC Regulations, the scope of functions of SCLSC is confined to implement the Legal Aid Program before the Supreme Court of India. It is headed by a sitting Hon'ble Judge of the Supreme Court as its Chairman and has nine other distinguished members in its Executive Body.

- **Eligibility:** The SCLSC provides legal aid to the persons as mentioned under Section 12

of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The grant of legal aid to the litigants is subject to eligibility and merits of the case. The Committee provides legal aid free of cost to eligible litigants whose income does not exceed Rs. 5,00,000/- per annum (for general public) as per Rule 7 of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Rules, 2000 r/w Section 12(h) of Legal Services Authority. There is, however, no income bar for litigants belonging to SC/ ST, Woman, Children, handicapped and litigants engaged in matters relating to industrial Disputes, etc. as defined in the Act.

- **Procedure:** A person seeking free legal aid through the Committee has to apply by sending requisite documents as mentioned on the online web portal of SCLSC i.e., www.sclsc.gov.in, through post addressed to its Secretary at 107, Lawyers chambers,

Supreme Court Compound, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi or through Online Application on the SCLSC web portal. The legal aid aspirant intending to procure free legal aid advice can call on 011-23381257 or visit the Front Office of SCLSC at 109-110, Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court Compound, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. pm on all working days and from 10:00A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Saturdays.

- **Modes of Legal Services :** The Cost of Court fees is exempted as per order VIII Rule 8 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. The SCLSC enables filing of the matter through panel advocates and the expenses for the purpose of filing including typing, photocopy, etc. is paid by SCLSC. The SCLSC also pays honorarium to the panel advocate for each case.

2. SCLSC Web Portal

There is a large increase in the legal aid applications submitted through SCLSC Online web Portal (sclsc.gov.in) which has improved speed and accuracy in dealing with the legal aid applications, increase transparency in dealing with legal aid applications by the SCLSC, globalize and unify access to legal aid for the purpose of approaching the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and provide inter connectivity with the legal aid Beneficiaries. There is prompt disposal of the legal aid application and it is one step ahead in going paperless.

The SCLSC Online web Portal is a global approach to make the services provided by the SCLSC available to the legal aid aspirants irrespective of the country and the distance from the office of SCLSC and can be accessed 24 hours through mobile, laptop or computer. The legal aid applicant can track the application. The SCLSC online web portal provides link to the supreme court registry for the purpose

of e filing. The legal aid application can be forwarded to the respective legal services authorities for further process. The SCLSC Online Web Portal provides the unique facility of video conferencing to the legal aid aspirant to enable them to access SCLSC without any hindrance.

3. Expansion and Restructuring of the Front Office

The Front Office has been re-structured in consonance with the Vision statement of Supreme Court Legal Services to act as one stop center for legal aid seekers. The Front Office provides various legal services for the purpose of Supreme Court to those in need of legal assistance. The functions of Front Office include legal services such as legal advice , attending legal aid helpline, receiving and maintaining record with regard to legal aid applications, uploading legal aid applications on Web Portal of SCLSC and informing Legal Aid Beneficiary about particulars of a Panel Lawyer to whom the matter is assigned. The Front Office facilitate Confidential interactions between a legal aid seeker and a panel lawyer. A comfortable waiting area has also been provided. The Front Office has been fully equipped with computer and electronic hardware to leverage technology and to make use of the SCLSC's Web Portal and digital platform. The Front Office has got interconnectivity with the main office of SCLSC, Jail And Other Legal Services Authorities And Also Facilitate Video Conferencing To The Legal Aid Applicants With The Authorities of SCLSC or the Concerned Official Dealing With The Matter.

4. Internship In SCLSC

The practice of engaging the law students as interns with the SCLSC for benefit of the law students as they gain knowledge regarding legal aid and for benefit of SCLSC as well as new ideas, initiatives and visions are interchanged

and the awareness regarding the legal aid being provided by is widened by this concept is Continued and 119 interns have successfully completed their internship during July 2023 to June 2024.

5. Panel Advocates

The SCLSC maintains a Panel of Advocates for

the purpose of rendering legal aid services to the applicants and at present there are total 185 Advocates –On-Records, 51 Non-Advocates– On-Record and 69 Senior Advocates on the panel of SCLSC.

The tabular data of the total legal aid application dealt with by SCLSC from July 2023 to June 2024 is as follows:

S. No.	Year	Total application received			Legal aid given by advice counseling/ Enquiry	Legal aid given by advice VC Enquiry	Total ANR Generated in application	Total ANR in which legal aid Granted/ Panel Advocates	Total ANR in which legal aid refused/ closed
		Physical	Online	Email					
1.	01.07.2022 To 30.06.2024	8226	221	82	1270	35	3386	1652	763
	TOTAL	8226	221	82	1270	35	3386	1652	763

III. Supreme Court Mediation Centre (SCMC)

Mediation is a voluntary, structured and party – oriented process, where a neutral third party assists the disputing parties in resolving their conflict by using specialized communication and negotiation techniques. The Supreme Court Mediation Centre (SCMC) is functioning at 1st Floor, B- Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India since 30 May 2022. It has 9 Mediation Rooms and there is a spacious waiting hall to accommodate the parties/ advocates/mediators. The SCMC mediates and resolves only those matters, which are pending before Hon'ble Supreme Court and are referred by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Presently, SCMC has a Panel of 284 trained Mediators including Senior Advocates. Interested parties can approach the Coordinator, SCMC for assistance and information.

The Statistical Information pertaining to the SCMC for the period from July 2023 to June 2024 is mentioned in the tabulated form as under :-

S. No.	Particulars	Data
1.	Number of Cases received	1095
2.	Number of cases settled	259
3.	Number of cases unsettled	719
4.	Number of cases in which mediation not held /party not present /File closed	12
5.	Number of cases pending	105

* SCMC is also conducting online mediation through Cisco Webex platform.

IV. Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC)

The Supreme Court of India constituted the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) on 9 April 2005 with an aim to oversee the implementation of mediation and conciliation for encouraging amicable resolution of disputes pending in the Courts throughout the country in accordance with Section 89 of

the Code of Civil Procedure. The MCPC was also mandated to evolve a policy for court annexed/directed mediation in the Country. MCPC ensures the regulated growth and evolution of mediation as dispute resolution mechanism in the country by laying down policies, monitoring their implementation and suggesting course correction measures.

The present constitution of the MCPC is as follows:

Particulars	Data
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna	Chairman
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh	Member
Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S. Narasimha	Member
Mr. Rakesh K. Khanna, Senior Advocate	Member
Ms. Santosh Snehi Mann, (Member Secretary, NALSA)	Member
Mr. Santosh Kumar	In-Charge, MCPC

The MCPC has been conducting the following programmes/activities all over the country.

- 40 hrs Mediation Training Programme (40 hrs MTP)
- 20 hrs Refresher Programme
- Advanced Course (Capsule Course)
- Training of Trainers (TOT)
- Awareness Programme
- Referral Judges Training Programme
- Advanced Training Skills for Potential Trainers Programme
- Course on Developing Advanced Training Skills for Potential Trainers Programme

- 5 Day Intensive Training Programme for Potential Trainers

Category Wise Programmes Conducted from July 2023 to June 2024

40 hrs Mediation Training Programme	101
20 hrs Refresher Programme	23
Advanced Course (Capsule Course)	-
Training of Trainers (ToT)	-
One Day Referral Judges Training Programme	15
Advanced Training Skills for Potential Trainers Programme (ATS)	-
Course on Developing Advanced Training Skills for Potential Trainers Programme	-
5 Days Intensive Training Programme for Potential Trainers	-
TOTAL	139

Other Programmes Conducted During July 2023 to June 2024

- A 'Training of Trainers' workshop under the aegis of the MCPC in collaboration with Centre for Advanced Mediation Practice (CAMP), Bangalore was held from 11 to 12 October, 2023 in Delhi for the Trainers of the MCPC. The aim of the programme was to enhance and add to the quality of MCPC's Mediation Training Programmes.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, the then Chairman of the MCPC, in the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. M. Sundresh and Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. S Narasimha.

The prime focus of the workshop was to advance skills of the trainers to create a learning friendly atmosphere. It placed importance on the substance that the trainers provide, the method and their role in the training that they impart.

CHAPTER 14

Research and Skill Development

I. National Judicial Academy

The National Judicial Academy (NJA) was formally established in 1993 as an independent society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Academy is an independent society, fully funded by the Government of India and works under the directions of the Supreme Court of India. The Academy at its current location in Bhopal was dedicated to the Nation by the then President of India, His Excellency Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 5 September 2002.

Since its establishment, the Academy has expanded and diversified its activities manifolds. National Judicial Academy is the apex Institute of judicial education and training for Judges, Judicial and Quasi-Judicial Officers, particularly focusing on High Courts and Tribunals operating at federal level. Collaboration with foreign judicial training institutions and

academies is yet another achievement of the NJA. The Academy organized workshops for Indian High Court Justices in collaboration with the Central and East European Law Initiative Institute, (CEELI), Prague, and Federal Judicial Center (FJC), Washington DC of United States of America. The Academy has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with countries like- Bangladesh, Myanmar and Maldives for training of their judges and judicial officers at the NJA.

In the academic year 2023-2024, the NJA organized 86 programs with the participation of 3351 participants from July 2023 to August 2024. During this period, 24 programmes for High Courts Justices; 25 programmes for District Judiciary, Judges; 1 workshop for State Judicial Academy; 8 Regional Conferences; and 28 Special Events were conducted.



1. Programmes for High Court Justices

The National Judicial Academy organized 24 conferences for High Court Judges on the following themes:

- Workshop for High Court Justices on Information and Communication Technology, 30 July 2023
- National Conference for High Court Justices on Judgement Writing, 5-6 August 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Cyber Law, 12-13 August 2023
- Workshop for High Court Justices on Information and Communication Technology, 20 August 2023
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices (Theme 1), 26-27 August 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Direct Taxes, 2-3 September 2023
- National Conference for High Court Justices on Development of Constitutional Law by the Supreme Court and High Courts, 16-17 September 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Commercial Law, 23-24 September 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on GST & Other Indirect Taxes, 28-29 October 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Constitutional Remedies and Administrative Law, 4-5 October 2023
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 18-19 November 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Arbitration, 2-3 December 2023
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 9-10 December 2023
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 20-21 January 2024
- National Convention for Senior High Court Justices: Strengthening Fiscal and Administrative Protocols in High Courts, 27-28 January 2024
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Commercial Laws, 3-4 February 2024
- National Conference for High Court Justices on Prevention of Corruption Act, 10-11 February 2024
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Constitutional Remedies and Administrative Law, 2-3 March 2024
- Conference on Re-engineering Judicial Process through Information & Communication Technology (ICT), In Collaboration with Ministry of Justice, United Kingdom (UK), 9-10 March 2024
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 30-31 March 2024
- Workshop for High Court Justices on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) 7 April 2024
- National Convention for Senior High Court Justices: Strengthening Fiscal and Administrative Protocols in High Courts, 13-14 April 2024
- Training of Trainers for High Court Justices, (Judge-in-Charge/Chairpersons & Members of Governing Council of SJAs), 27-28 April 2024
- National Conference for High Court Justices on Development of Constitutional Law by the Supreme Court & High Courts, 4-5 May 2024

2. Programmes for District Judiciary, Judges

The Academy organized 25 conferences for District Judiciary, Judges on the following themes:

- National Seminar on Cyber Crime & Electronic Evidence, 22-23 July 2023



- National Seminar on Stress Management, 5-6 August 2023
 - Workshop on Medical Forensics, 12-13 August 2023
 - National Seminar on Court and Case Management, 19-20 August 2023
 - National Seminar on Constitutional and Administrative Law, 26-27 August 2023
 - National Seminar on Criminal Justice Administration, 7-8 October 2023
 - National Seminar on Judicial Skills, 14-15 October 2023
 - Refresher Course on Land Acquisition, 28-29 October 2023
 - National Seminar on ICT Skills for District Computer Committee In-charge and Members, 4-5 October 2023
 - National Seminar on POCSO Act, 18-19 November 2023
 - National Seminar on Bail & Interlocutory Applications, 9-10 December 2023
 - Workshop on Judicial Ethics & Behaviour, 16-17 December 2023
 - National Seminar on ICT Skills for District Computer Committee In-charge and Members, 6-7 January 2024
 - National Conference on Sentencing, Probation and Victim Compensation, 20-21 January 2024
 - National Seminar for Presiding Officers of NIA Courts, 27-28 January 2024
 - Workshop on Witness Protection, 3-4 February 2024
 - National Seminar on Commercial Laws, 10-11 February 2024
 - National Seminar on Bail and Interlocutory Applications, 17-18 February 2024
 - Conference on Matrimonial Laws, 2-3 March 2024
 - National Seminar on Criminal Justice Administration, 9-10 March 2024
 - National Seminar for Presiding Officers of PMLA Courts, 30-31 March 2024
 - National Conference on Interpretation of Statutes for District Judiciary, 13-14 April 2024
 - National Seminar on Cyber Crime and Electronic Evidence, 20-21 April 2024
 - Workshop on Judgment Writing, 27-28 April 2024
 - National Seminar on Commercial Laws, 4-5 May 2024
- 3. Programmes for State Judicial Academies**
- Training of Trainers for State Judicial Academies, (Director and Faculty of SJAs), 18-19 May 2024

4. Regional Conferences

The Academy organized 8 Regional Conferences, on the following themes:

- North Zone-I "Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" (Nainital, Uttarakhand) 30-1 October 2023
- South Zone-I: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology, (Kochi, Kerala) 21-22 October 2023
- South Zone-II "Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" (DR. MCR HRD Institute, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad) 6-7 January 2024
- West Zone-I "Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology" (Uttan, Maharashtra) 13-14 January 2024
- West Zone-II: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology, (Rajasthan, Jodhpur) 24-25 February 2024
- North Zone-II: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology, (Utter Pradesh, Lucknow) 16-17 March 2024
- East Zone-II: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology, (Kolkata, West Bengal) 29-30 June 2024
- East Zone-I: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology, (Odisha, Cuttack) 3-4 August 2024

5. Programmes for overseas / foreign Judges (Special Events)

The Academy organized 28 Special Events, as under:

- Workshop on Adjudicating Terrorism Cases, 8-9 July 2023
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges and Judicial Officers [Bangladesh], 6-10 November 2023
- Cybercrime Workshop (Pilot), 7-8 October 2023
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges and Judicial Officers [Bangladesh], 9-13 October 2023
- Human Trafficking Workshop ToT 4, 13-15 October 2023
- Training Programme for Maldives Judges and Judicial Officers, [Maldives] 30 October - 2 November 2023
- Training Programme on Gender Violence for Magistrates & Judicial Staff of Peru [PERU] 6-9 November 2023
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges and Judicial Officers [Bangladesh], 6-10 November 2023
- National Workshop for Gender Sensitization of Judicial Officers, (In Collaboration with National Commission for Women), 2-3 December 2023
- Training Programme for Judges and Judicial Officers from Myanmar, [Myanmar] 4-7 December 2023
- Cybercrime Workshop-2, 9-10 December 2023
- Training Programme on Good Governance and Implementation of Civil Judgment Decisions for Ministry Officials from Cambodia, 11-15 December 2023 [Cambodia]
- Trafficking in Persons, 16-17 December 2023

- Adjudicating Terrorism Cases, 16-17 December 2023
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges and Judicial Officers, 22-26 January 2024
- Transnational Crimes Training-of-Trainers (ToT) 1 Curriculum Design and Faculty Development, 24-26 January 2024
- Training Programme for Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Officers, 29-31 January 2024
- Training Programme on Good Governance and Criminal Justice Administration for Ministry Officials from Cambodia, 29 January-2 February 2024 [Cambodia]
- Training of Trainers (ToT) 1, Group 2, Rajasthan State Judicial Academy, Jodhpur, 30 January-1 February 2024
- Human Trafficking Workshop-2, 3-4 February 2024
- Cybercrime Workshop-3, 10-11 February 2024 (Telangana State Judicial Academy)
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges and Judicial Officers, 12-16 February 2024, Bangladesh
- Training Programme for Maldives Judges and Judicial Officers, [Maldives] 4-7 March 2024
- Transnational Crimes Training-of-Trainers (ToT) II – Group-I Faculty Development, Kerala State Judicial Academy, 18-20 March 2024
- Transnational Crimes Training-of-Trainers (ToT) II – Group-II Faculty Development, Chandigarh State Judicial Academy, 26-28 March 2024
- Transnational Crimes Training-of-Trainers (ToT) III – Faculty Development, Himachal Pradesh State Judicial Academy, Shimla 26-28 April 2024
- Transnational Crimes Training-of-Trainers (ToT) 3 Group-2, Curriculum, Design and Faculty Development, Chandigarh State Judicial Academy, 1-3 May 2024
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges and Judicial Officers, 6-10 May 2024, [Bangladesh]

II. Indian Law Institute

Established on 27 December 1956, the Indian Law Institute (ILI) stands as a distinguished pillar of legal research and education in India. The Institute's grand inauguration was held on 12 December 1957, in the hallowed Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi. This momentous event was graced by the presence of the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, along with the first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das, Former Chief Justice of India. Guided by the visionary leadership of Former Chief Justice of India, who serves as the Ex-officio President, and the Union Law Minister, the Ex-officio Vice President, ILI has been at the forefront of legal education and reform. With Supreme Court judges as its guiding forces, the Institute is committed to advancing the study and research of law, contributing significantly to reforming the justice system to align with the socio-economic aspirations of the nation.

In recognition of its academic excellence, ILI was conferred with the status of a Deemed University by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2004. The Institute earned prestigious NAAC accreditation in 2017 and was granted Graded Autonomy (Grade – II) by the University Grants Commission. Further cementing its stature, the UGC included ILI under Section 12B of the UGC Act in June 2018. ILI offers a robust academic program, including LL.M. and PhD degrees in law and specialised Post Graduate Diploma courses in areas such as Alternative Dispute Resolution, Corporate Law and Management, Cyber Law, and Intellectual Property Rights Laws.

The Institute's library is a treasure trove for legal scholars, one of Asia's most prominent law libraries. The library is a hub for global legal research, housing over 63,500 volumes and hosting approximately 120 current legal periodicals. The digitalisation of rare documents and publications and its contribution to the National Digital Library platform reflect ILI's commitment to making legal knowledge accessible to all. As a beacon of legal scholarship, the Indian Law Institute continues to shape the future of legal education and research in India, fostering a legal system that meets the evolving needs of society.

Research Publications Released

ILI has released the following research publications during the period of annual report:

- 6. Journal of the Indian Law Institute (JILI) – Published quarterly containing research articles on contemporary legal issues of National/International Importance.
- 7. ILI Newsletter – Published quarterly referring to various activities undertaken by the Institute during the year and forthcoming activities.
- 8. Index to Legal Periodicals – Published yearly and contains indexes, periodicals (including yearbooks and other annual publications) about law and related fields being received (either by subscription or exchange or complementary) by the ILI Library.
- Annual Survey of Indian Law – Published yearly, it is a very prestigious publication of the Institute. It contains the Annual Survey of Indian Law, including the latest trends in every branch of law of importance.
- ILI Law Review (Summer) & (Winter).

Books:

- **The Indian Constitution and Contemporary Challenges: A Road Map**

The book discusses the challenges the contemporary social and political

milieu presents before the Indian Constitution. It tries to critically engage with myriad aspects like agriculture, healthcare, gender justice, climate change, globalisation, and technological transformation through the lens of the constitutional scheme. The book aims to offer researchers, policymakers, and academics a comprehensive guide that outlines the steps involved in cultivating a dynamic and transformative constitution. It allows the readers to contemplate the idea of justice as encompassed in the Constitution beyond the common annals of the Preamble and the Fundamental Rights. From the grassroots of Panchayati Raj to the Corporations, from social welfare policies to taxation, this book attempts to thread the essential spirit of justice, liberty, and equality of the Constitution into the rich tapestry of our society.

■ Perspectives on Indian Constitution and Development

The voyage of the magnificent document, constituting the bedrock of the Indian State, has spanned over seven decades, with myriad hopes and formidable challenges abound. The Constitution of India is not just a charter of our rights but also an emblem of our true freedom and the sovereign will of Indians. India has celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of independence this year. A compilation of lectures delivered by eminent academicians and scholars as a part of a lecture series organised to mark the momentous occasion was published by the Indian Law Institute as *India at 75: Reminiscences and Reflections*. On the occasion of constitution day this year, an endeavour to revise and update this collection of lectures was initiated by the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Indian Law Institute, which gave birth

to this work. The insightful reflections of illustrious academicians and jurists about the constitutional democratic set-up of India, its work over the years, and the challenges and possibilities of reform are included in this collection to re-invigorate within all the spirit of the constitution and belief in the constitutional philosophy as we gear up for Vision 2047.

Activities of the Indian Law Institute from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

- **Two days training program for First Class Judicial Magistrate on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 1-2 July 2023**

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), organised a two-day Training Programme for the First-Class Judicial Magistrate on "Human Rights: Issues and Challenges". This was followed by the address given by the guest of honour, Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, NLU Delhi. Prof. Singh discussed some important aspects of Human rights and remedial measures provided by the courts. He discussed the judicial system's role in improving and promoting human rights.

- **The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom, organised a workshop on "Constitutional Governance in India: Assessing Implementation, Measuring Impact" from 20-21 July 2023**

The Indian Law Institute, New Delhi and the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom, collaboratively orchestrated a groundbreaking workshop titled "Constitutional Governance in India: Assessing Implementation, Measuring Impact". The visionary minds behind

this intellectual congregation were Prof. Shubhankar Dam, University of Portsmouth, and Prof. Anurag Deep, the Indian Law Institute. The workshop was themed around the functioning of constitutional institutions, acknowledging the Constitution's limited guidance on their operation. It recognised the intricate interplay of law and politics shaping these institutions and emphasised the norm-guiding role of court decisions.

- **The Indian Law Institute in collaboration with Kamkus College of Law, Ghaziabad, organised a Workshop on "Use of Artificial Intelligence in Legal Teaching and Research" on 26 July 2023**

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with Kamkus College of Law, Ghaziabad, organised a Workshop on "Use of Artificial Intelligence in Legal Teaching and Research" on 26 July 2023. The Workshop acquainted Law Teachers and Researchers from diverse institutions with AI and its application in legal academia. The primary objective was to explore and deliberate on the potential utilisation of AI tools in legal teaching and research.

- **Two days training program for Police Personnel on Police and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 29-30 July 2023**

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), organised a two-day Training Programme for police Personnel on "Police and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges" on 29-30 July 2023, at the ILI. This was followed by the address given by the guest of honour, Sh. Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary, Establishment and General Administration, IP & TAFS, NHRC.

- **Four Days Interactive Programme for Presiding Officers of Debt Recovery Tribunal from 10-13 August 2023**

The Indian Law Institute organised an interactive programme on law for presiding officers (POs) of the Debt Recovery Tribunal for a day from 10-13 August 2023. The Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, the Department of Financial Services, and the Ministry of Finance jointly organised this programme.

- **Five Days Training Programme on Law for 'Group A, Officers' of "National Institute of Defence Estate Management (NIDEM)" on 28 August – 1 September 2023**

A Five-Day Training Programme on Law for Officers and Officials of Defence Estates and Cantt. The board was organised from 28 August-1 September 2023. This programme was jointly organised by the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi and the National Institute of Defense Estate Management (NIDEM). This programme aimed to enhance the officers' understanding of the practical and theoretical aspects of the law, which would help them in their services to officers serving in the Indian Defense Estate Services. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar, Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India & Former Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal New Delhi, inaugurated the programme.

- **Two days training program for Prison Officials on Police and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 7-8 October 2023**

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), organised a two-day Training Programme for Prison Officials on "Police and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges" on 7-8 October 2023, at the ILI. This was followed by the address given by the guest

of honour, Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi. Ms Jyotika Kalra, a former NHRC member, was the inaugural session's chief guest. It was highlighted that the issues regarding overcrowding, mental health, correctional measures for drug addicts, and problems of female prisoners must be worked upon, especially in a society where prison laws are archaic and prisons are not the priority of the state.

- **'Financial Literacy Awareness' Workshop**

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the Association of Mutual Funds in India, is organising a workshop on 'Financial Literacy Awareness' on 18 October 2023, at 4.00 p.m. in ILI to protect the interest of investors and the common man so that they can take their financial decisions in a more prudent and meaningful manner and also to make them aware about the intricacies of the market and the risks involved in different financial products.

- **Two Days programme for Judicial Officials on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 4-5 November 2023**

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), organised a two-day Training Programme for Judicial Officials on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 4-5 November 2023. This was followed by the address given by the chief guest, Ms Jyotika Kalra, a former member of NHRC. She discussed the role of NHRC in promoting human rights across the country.

- **Constitution Day Celebrations – 26 November 2023**

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, organised a debate competition on "The Limits of Liberty: Rights

and Duties in the Indian Constitution" on 25 November, 2023. Fifteen teams from various law Universities participated in the debate. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi, President of the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC). Dr.Niten Chandra, the law secretary of the Ministry of Law and Justice, also graced the event. The debate also had five technical sessions on different aspects of the Constitution. Twenty teams from across the country participated in the competition.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, in collaboration with the Indian Law Institute, celebrated Constitution Day on 26 November 2023, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, in an impressive ceremony befitting the occasion. Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Vice President of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address.

- **One Day Programme for Media Personnel and Government Public Relations Officers on Media and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 10 December 2023**

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), organised a one-day Training Programme for Media Personnel and Government Public relations officers on "Police and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges" on 10 December 2023, at the ILI. A special address by Mr. P.K. Malhotra, former law secretary, followed. In his speech, he focused on the relevance of media as the fourth pillar of democracy and the contemporary challenges. Mr. Sanjay Parikh, Senior Advocate, gave the keynote address. This was followed by the inaugural address given by the guest of honour, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhir Agarwal, judicial member of NGT.

- **Five Days Training Programme on Law for IDES Officers and SDOs from 11-15 December 2023**

A five day training Programme on Law for IDES Officers and SDOs was organised 11-15 from December 2023. This programme was jointly organised by the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi and the National Institute of Defense Estate Management (NIDEM). This programme aimed to enhance the officers' understanding of the practical and theoretical aspects of the law, which would help them in their services to officers serving in the Indian Defense Estate Services. Hon'ble Ms Justice Indira Banerjee, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, addressed the participants as Chief Guest. Dr. Reeta Vasishta, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, was the Guest of Honour



- **ILI Law Review (ILILR) Legal Research Workshop on "How to Review an Article for Law Journal" held on 20 January 2024**

The ILI Law Review (ILILR) Legal Research Workshop themed "How to Review an Article for Law Journal" took place on 20 January 2024, as part of the ILILR-LRW initiative, initiated by the Indian Law Institute (ILI) and ILILR.

- **Inauguration of the ILI E-library – 29 January 2024**

The E-Library of the Indian Law Institute was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice

Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Library Committee, ILI, in the presence of Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice, New Delhi, Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, NLU Delhi and Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ILI.



Participants in the programme.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh and Prof. Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director ILI.

- **CLEA – Commonwealth Attorney and Solicitors Generals Conference (CASGC'24) – 2-4 February 2024**

CLEA – Commonwealth Attorney and Solicitors Generals Conference (CASGC'24) was organised by the Government of India (Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice) Office of the Attorney and Solicitor General of India, Commonwealth Legal Education Association with technical support from the Indian Law Institute, New

Delhi. The conference began with a grand Inaugural Ceremony on 3 February 2024, with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, as the Chief Guest and Former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble (Dr) Justice D Y Chandrachud was the Guest of Honour. The Inaugural Ceremony had the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Shri Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India and Dr. R Venkataramani, Ld. Attorney General for India and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of Law and Justice, Government of India.

The conference culminated with a notable valedictory ceremony with the august presence of Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India and Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs, Government of India.

Website Launch – 26 April 2024

The launch ceremony of the Indian Law Institute's new website was held on April 26, 2024. It was a grand and memorable event, marking a significant milestone in ILI's digital journey. The website was launched by Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge Supreme Court of India, along with Guest of Honour Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice and Sr. Prof. (Dr) V.K Ahuja, Director, ILI.

Lecture Organised by the Indian Law Institute on Balancing Innovation and Access under IP Laws in India

On World Intellectual Property (IP) Day, 26 April 2024, the Indian Law Institute organised an enlightening lecture on "Balancing Innovation and Access under IP Laws in India." The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered the lecture. It was marked by the felicitation of Justice Surya Kant by Sr. Prof. Dr. V. K. Ahuja, Director of the Indian Law Institute.



Snippets from the Valedictory Session



CONFERENCE ON ADVANCED STUDIES IN
COMMON LAW AND COMMONWEALTH
LAW
Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Organized by
Commonwealth Law Department, Ministry of Law & Justice
Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth
Commonwealth Legal Education Commission



Dignitaries at the inaugural Session of the CLEA-CASGC'24 Conference.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Dr. Rajiv Mani, Sr. Prof.(Dr.) V.K. Ahuja, Director, ILI and other dignitaries at the dais.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivering the address.



Participants of the Programme

Panel Discussion on “Exploring the Role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Shaping the Democratic Institutions and Principles of Bharat” held on 14 April 2024

As part of “Commemorating 75th Year of Indian Republic- India @ 75: Past, Present and Future”, the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, in association with the Indian Law Institute, organised a Panel Discussion on the theme of “Improving Justice Delivery System through Constitutional Ideals” on 14 April 2024, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



Conference on Criminal Law Reforms, 2023

The legislation, i.e., the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, replaced the earlier criminal laws, namely, the Indian Penal Code 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively. To generate awareness

about these legislative enactments, particularly amongst the stakeholders and legal fraternity, the Ministry of Law and Justice, in association with the Indian Law Institute, has organised the following Conferences titled '**India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System.**'

1. Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System at New Delhi – 20 April 2024

The conference began with an introduction to the conference's theme by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice. The inaugural address was given by Hon'ble Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India and President of ILI. This was preceded by addresses from Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Law & Justice, Shri R. Venkataramani, Lt. Attorney General for India, Tushar Mehta, Lt. Solicitor General of India, Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri S.K.G. Rahate, Secretary and Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India.

The valedictory session began with a welcome address by Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India. The valedictory address was delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. S. Narsimha, Judge Supreme Court of India, preceded by addresses from Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mrs. Rekha Palli, Judge, Delhi High Court, Shri Sanjay Arora, Commissioner Delhi Police, Shri Chetan Sharma, Lt. Add. Solicitor General Delhi High Court. The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.

2. Conference on Criminal Law Reforms, 2023 – "India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System" at Guwahati – 18-19 May 2024

The conference commenced with an introduction to its theme by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Govt. of India. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India addressed the gathering, followed by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Law & Justice and esteemed justices, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswanath Somadder, Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim. Dr. Reeta Vasishta, Member Secretary of the Law Commission of India, and Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India also delivered their addresses.

The valedictory session began with a welcome address by Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India. Chief Guest Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Hon'ble Governor of Assam, delivered the Valedictory Address. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge of the Guwahati High Court, shared his insights, followed by speeches from Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, Vice Chancellor (I/C) of NLUJA, Assam and Sr. Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Ahuja, Director of ILI.

In his speech, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) V. K. Ahuja highlighted India's shift from colonial-era criminal laws to a modern, restorative justice system and the importance of embracing cultural roots while implementing new laws prioritising justice, rehabilitation, and community service. The speaker emphasises that community service offers

numerous benefits. How it reduces social stigma for such persons and their families, prevents jails from overcrowding, and saves government resources. Additionally, it keeps such persons away from hardened criminals, allowing them to maintain their professional lives post-community service. This approach fosters empathy, suggesting that petty offences should be addressed through more culturally appropriate methods. The focus of the criminal justice system, according to the speaker, should not be solely on punishment but also on compassion, equity, and human dignity. The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.



3. Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System at Kolkata, West Bengal, 15-16 June 2024

The conference began with an inaugural session featuring an introduction to the theme by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs,

Ministry of Law and Justice. The conference featured addresses from Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Law & Justice, followed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court; Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Vinod Chandran, Chief Justice of Patna High Court; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa. This was preceded by addresses from Dr. Reeta Vasishta, Member Secretary of the Law Commission of India, and Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India.

The valedictory session commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India. The valedictory address was delivered by Hon'ble Governor Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose of West Bengal, preceded by speeches from Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice (Actg.) of the High Court of Jharkhand; and Prof. (Dr.) N.K. Chakrabarti, Vice Chancellor (I/C) of NUJS, Kolkata. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.

4. Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System at Chennai – 23 June 2024

The inaugural session began with an introduction to the theme by Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India. The conference featured addresses from Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Law & Justice;

Dr. L. Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs; Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Mahadevan, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Madras; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Adarsh, Chief Justice of the High Court of Telangana; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai, Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala.

The valedictory session began with a welcome address and summary of proceedings by Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary and a valedictory address by Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu. Prior to this, speeches were delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice and Governor; Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Anjaria, Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka; and Prof. (Dr.) N.S. Santhosh Kumar, Vice Chancellor of The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.

5. Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System at Mumbai – 30 June 2024

The conference commenced with an inaugural session where Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India introduced the theme. The conference featured addresses from Shri Eknath Shinde, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Law & Justice; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court; Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, Minister of Law and Judiciary, Government of Maharashtra; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manindra Mohan Srivastava, Chief Justice of the High Court

of Rajasthan; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandrakant Vasant Bhadang, Former Judge of the Bombay High Court.

The valedictory session began with a welcome address by Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India and a valedictory address by Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra. Before this, speeches were delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice of the High Court of Chhattisgarh; Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.

One-day Programme on "Human Rights: Issues and Challenges" for officials working in Juvenile Homes, Old-Age Homes and the Health Sector – 14 June 2024

The Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), organised a one-day training programme for officials working in juvenile homes, old-age homes, and the health sector. The address by Mr. Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary of the NHRC, followed this. Shedding light on the programme, Sr. Prof. (Dr) V. K. Ahuja, Director, ILI, cited Martin Luther, who once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Injustice undermines the principles that uphold fairness and equality, impacting society on a broader scale. He stated that the international community continues to work towards addressing these challenges, but much remains to be done.



Sr. Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Ahuja, Director of The Indian Law Institute, warmly welcomed Mr. Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary and all attendees.

III. Legal Education

The Supreme Court is instrumental in maintenance and enhancing of standard of legal education in the country. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India/Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court are Chancellors/ Visitors in a number of Universities.

IV. Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates and Law Trainees

1. In order to attract young law students into judicial process and to provide assistance in legal research to Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India, Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates are engaged for a short term contractual assignment by the Supreme Court. They are given assignment on a consolidated remuneration of ₹80,000/- per month and if a Law Clerk is given an extension after twelve months of the initial assignment, then a consolidated remuneration of ₹90,000/- per month will be paid for the extended assignment term. Each Hon'ble Judge is entitled to have five Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates.
2. Law students are considered for being placed as Law Trainees with the Hon'ble Judges, as per requirement, for a period not

exceeding one month from time to time, without any monetary incentive.

3. As per the Scheme for Engaging Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates on Short-Term Contractual Assignment in the Supreme Court of India – January 2024, a candidate must be a Law Graduate having a Bachelor's Degree in Law (including an Integrated Degree Course in Law) from any School/College/University/Institute established by law in India and recognized by the Bar Council of India for enrolment as an Advocate. Candidates studying in the fifth year of the Five-Year Integrated Law Course or the third year of the Three-Year Law Course after graduation in any stream will also be eligible to apply, subject to furnishing proof of acquiring Law qualification before taking up the assignment as Law Clerk. The selection process shall be conducted in three phases: Part I – Multiple Choice Based Questions, testing the candidates' ability to understand and apply the law, and comprehension skills; Part II-Subjective Written Examination, covering writing and analytical skills; Part III- Interview by Hon'ble Judge(s). The candidates qualifying for the interview would be asked to submit a preference list of the Judges' offices in a sequence of their choice under whom they intend to work.

Based on the rank, a candidate shall be shortlisted for the final interview at a Judge's office in terms of the preference indicated. A candidate higher in rank shall be duly considered for a Judge from the top of his preference list. Every Judge's office, for the purpose of the interview, shall be allocated a proportionate number of candidates as per the total vacancies notified initially to select the candidates for engagement by the Registry. The candidates who are not engaged in a Judge's residential office may be, subject to their willingness, put in the Reserve Pool of qualified candidates shall be assigned to a waitlist in the sequence of their combined score.

V. Centre for Research and Planning

The Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) is the dedicated research and policy wing of the Supreme Court of India. It focuses on transformational initiatives for judicial reforms to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the justice delivery system along with the development of jurisprudence. The CRP has been mandated to work in various spheres viz. policy and planning on critical justice delivery issues. The CRP draws up and consolidates available data regarding the operation of courts, as well as conducting new research on access to justice, court development, planning, and infrastructure, case management, human resources including diversity, the use of artificial intelligence, and information technology tools. The insights gained from these exercises inform the various reform initiatives undertaken by the Supreme Court of India. The CRP also assists in critical research as directed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges, and various committees of the Supreme Court. In the preceding year, the CRP has taken various initiatives to further the aforesaid roles, aims, and objectives.

Some of the key initiatives taken up by the CRP are as follows:

Legal Research & Publication

- Assisted in the preparation and publication of the "Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes".
- Published the monthly newsletter of the Supreme Court of India called 'Supreme Court Chronicle' with its 1st Edition in November 2023 to the 8th Edition in June 2024.
- Chapter Contribution to the AACC SRD's 2024 Book Project on "Constitutional Rights and the Environment".
- Prepared and published a report on "State of the Judiciary-a Report on Infrastructure, Budgeting, Human Resource, and ICT". CRP also made a presentation on the main findings of the Report on Constitution Day Celebrations, 26 November 2023.
- Prepared summaries of important judgments in simple and clear English to promote the public understanding of the Supreme Court's decisions.
- Prepared a Draft Report on "Legal Aid Through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India".
- Prepared a Draft White Paper on Judicial Academy Curriculum.
- Prepared a Draft "Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities" to sensitise the legal community towards the need for appropriate language concerning persons with disabilities and the legal protections they are entitled to.
- Prepared a Draft Report on "Prisons in India – Mapping Prison Manuals, Measures for Reformation, and Decongestion".
- Edited the volume of collected essays prepared by judges, lawyers and scholars,

celebrating 75 years of the Supreme Court of India.

Continuous Learning

- Organised a Moot Court Competition for Law Clerks of the Supreme Court. The final round was judged by Hon'ble Justice P.S. Narasimha (Judge, Supreme Court of India) and Ms. Rebecca John (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India).
- Initiated an internship scheme to increase exposure of law students from all social and economic backgrounds to the work of the Supreme Court.

Assistance to the Registry and Committee of Judges, Supreme Court of India

- Assisted the Committee of Judges in selection/appointment of Law Clerks-cum-Research Associates, by:
 - Assisted the Examination Board in conducting the Law Clerk-cum-Research Associate Examination 2024.
 - Preparing a sample guide with instructions for the Law clerk-cum Research Associate examination.
 - Conducting an Orientation-cum Training program for the recently joined Law Clerks-cum-Research Associates.
- Assisted the Committee headed by Hon'ble Justice P.S. Narasimha in refining the

proposed New Case Categories for the Supreme Court of India.

- Assisted the Committee-in-charge for migration of Old Categories to New Categories in preparing the scheme for auto-mapping pending cases.
- Examined the draft guidelines pertaining to HIV-positive and protected individuals under Section 34 of the HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act 2017.
- Assisted in the planning and preparatory work for organisation of Special Lok Adalat in the Supreme Court of India.
- Coordinated and conducted a Quiz Competition for the staff of the Supreme Court of India.

Training

- Conducted a Training Programme on 'Leadership and Ethical Training' for concerned officers of the Registry in coordination with the Training Cell at the Supreme Court of India, where the Former Chief Justice of India announced the year-long training program for the officials of the Supreme Court.
- Conducted training sessions for the staff employed at Judges' Residence on Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment Act, 2013 in collaboration with the Training Cell, Supreme Court of India.

CHAPTER 15

Annual Sports, Cultural and Other Events

The Supreme Court of India, since the inaugural Sports Events in 2014, has recognized the profound importance of holistic well-being for its staff members. The Court acknowledges the unwavering dedication and tireless efforts of the staff members of its registry, who form the bedrock of this August Institution.

It is duly recognized that these diligent individuals of the Registry work assiduously to uphold the principles of Justice and maintain the efficient functioning of the highest Court of the land. The staff of the Supreme Court of India consistently demonstrates exceptional commitment to the quick and prompt disposal of work, often extending their efforts beyond office hours to ensure the smooth operation of the Justice System.

In light of the demanding nature of their responsibilities, the Court recognizes that Sports and Recreational activities are of paramount importance for maintaining the physical and mental well-being of its hardworking staff. The Court is steadfastly committed to nurturing a work environment that not only demands professional excellence but also actively promotes the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of its staff. It is firmly understood that participation in Sports and Cultural activities enhances productivity, fosters job satisfaction, and significantly improves overall quality of life, particularly for those who consistently work beyond regular hours. The Court seeks to further

cultivate a spirit of camaraderie, teamwork, and mutual respect among all its members through these events.

The importance of Sports for the staff members of the Supreme Court Registry cannot be overstated, as it provides:

1. A vital outlet for physical exercise and stress relief, crucial for those working for extended hours.
2. Opportunities for building team spirit and improving interpersonal relationships.
3. A platform for developing leadership skills and strategic thinking.
4. A means to enhance focus and concentration, which are essential in their demanding roles.
5. A way to promote work-life balance and overall health, especially important for staff regularly working beyond office hours.
6. A counterbalance to the sedentary nature of legal and administrative work.

These events stand as a beacon of the Supreme Court's unwavering commitment to the welfare and growth of its staff, acknowledging that their well-being is integral to the pursuit of Justice and the fulfillment of the Court's sacred duty to the nation.

This initiative, building upon the foundation laid in 2014, continues to inspire renewed vigor, unity, and excellence in our collective endeavor



to serve the cause of Justice, while ensuring the health and well-being of those who work tirelessly to uphold it.

Former Chief Justice of India was kind enough to inaugurate Sports and Cultural Events-2024 on 20 February 2024 in the Yoga Centre, A-B Block, Additional Building Complex in the presence of Sports and Cultural Participants, Officers and Officials of the Registry.

The Committee expresses deep gratitude to Former Chief Justice of India for giving equal opportunity for both Male and Female participants in Sports, Cultural and Other Events-2024. The Committee has received His Lordship's invaluable inputs to improve staff member's ability and skills through the Sports and Cultural Events.

A Cooking contest was introduced for the first time in Sports, Cultural and Other Events-2024 for the Male and Female staff members of the Registry. The Participants were required to prepare one dish each in three categories i.e. Appetizer, Main Course and Dessert during the Cooking contest and expenditure incurred (subject to maximum of Rs. 2500/- per team) by the participants on procurement of raw

material and equipments etc. was proposed to be reimbursed to them.

The list of Sports, Cultural & Other Events-2024 are as under:-

1. Sports Events (Male)

S. No.	Event
1.	Volley Ball (Smash)
2.	Badminton (Singles, Doubles)
3.	Table Tennis (Singles, Doubles)
4.	Cricket
5.	Football
6.	Athletics (100 meter race) Age Categories:- (Upto 30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years & 51-60 years)
7.	Mini-Marathon (3-5 KM)
8.	Carrom
9.	Chess
10.	Musical Chair
11.	Musical Antakshri (Group event)

12.	Rangoli
13.	Quiz (Written-50 Marks), Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961 Provisions of Constitution of India relating to Supreme Court
14.	Cooking

Sports Events (Female)

S. No.	Event
1.	Volley Ball (Smash)
2.	Badminton (Singles, Doubles)
3.	Table Tennis (Singles, Doubles)
4.	Cricket
5.	Football

6.	Athletics (100 meter race) Age Categories:- (Upto 30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 & 51- 60 years)
7.	Mini-Marathon (3-5 KM)
8.	Carrom
9.	Chess
10.	Musical Chair
11.	Musical Antakshri (Group event)
12.	Rangoli
13.	Quiz (Written-50 Marks), 1. Supreme Court Practice and Procedure 2. Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961 3. Provisions of Constitution of India relating to Supreme Court
14.	Cooking



Annual Sports, Cultural and Other Events



2. **Cultural Events:** Singing (Classical & Gazals, Patriotic and Folk Songs)
3. **Academic/Other Events:** For Children of Officers/Officials studying in 7th to 10th Class
 - Essay Writing
 - Painting/Drawing Competition

The entire process of calling for nominations was conducted through online mode.

A total number of **1474 registration of entries** were made, out of which 1362 entries for the Sports, 56 entries for Cultural Events and 56 entries for the Other Events (Children) were received from the Officers and Officials of the Registry for the year 2024.

Total 288 Trophies were awarded to the winners, runner-ups of games, Coordinators and Organization Committee Members.

All the Sports Events were played/organized between 20 February 2024 to 15 April 2024. The participants in the games and events were from Chamber Attendant, Junior Court Attendants to the level of Registrars of the Registry who played with great zeal, excitement and in frolicsome atmosphere.

Outdoor Sports/Activities i.e. Athletics, Badminton (Singles and Doubles), Cricket, Football, Mini-Marathon and Volley Ball (Smash) were held at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Vinay Marg Sports Complex, Siri Fort Sport Complex. The Indoor Sports and Cultural activities were held in the premises of the Registry. All the Sports and Cultural events have been successfully conducted with the help and services rendered by Admn.-General Branch, Caretaking Branch, Admn.-Material Branch, Supreme Court Departmental Canteen and Transport Branch, etc..





The Registry has also successfully conducted competitions like Essay Writing and Painting/ Drawing Competition for Children of Officers/ Officials studying in 7th to 10th Class as a part of the Annual Sports and Cultural Event.

The Sports and Cultural Event 2024 is commendable and unique as it has promoted diversity and inclusivity by organizing Sports Events also for employees who are differently abled. These activities were open to employees of all backgrounds, fostering a sense of belonging regardless of age, gender, or fitness level. This inclusive approach enhanced the organization's reputation as an equitable and employee-centric workplace.

The Sports and Cultural Events-2024 were concluded after presentation of Trophy/Medal/ Certificate of Merit/Excellence by Former Chief Justice of India, in recognition of the performance of participants/teams, to those who came first and second in their respective categories.

The members of the Organizing Committee and Coordination Committee have worked tirelessly even in odd hours and beyond their office duties to complete these events successfully with great cooperation and coordination of Ld. Registrar (Training Cell) and Ld. Secretary General. Former Chief Justice of India has generously made provision for distribution of Sports Uniform to all the participants of Sports and Cultural Event-2024.

The Organization Committee consisting of Mr. H. Sashidhara Shetty (Ld. Registrar), Mr. Mahesh T. Patankar (Ld. Registrar), Ms. Nalini Rangam (Deputy Registrar) and Mr. B. A. Rao (Librarian) successfully conducted the Sports, Cultural and Other Events-2024 with the ardent support and help of Shri Atul M. Kurhekar, Ld. Secretary General under the exalted guidance of Former Chief Justice of India.

CHAPTER 16

100 Important Judgments, 2023-24

1. **Union of India v. Dilip Paul [2023 INSC 975; 6 November 2023]:** The Court emphasised the gravity of addressing sexual harassment at the workplace and preventing leniency towards the accused. Notably, it clarifies the role of the Complaints Committee in restricting the direct cross-examination of complainants while affirming their right to pose questions through the Committee Chairperson. The Court also upheld the admissibility of relevant evidence, including second complaints in disciplinary proceedings, emphasising fair play and the evaluation of probative material. The Court emphasised that in cases of non-compliance with procedural law, the courts must apply the well-settled ‘test of prejudice’ to ascertain whether such procedural violation resulted in prejudice to the accused.
2. **Manjunath v. State of Karnataka [2023 INSC 978; 6 November 2023]:** The Court held that the circumstances mentioned in a dying declaration must have some proximate relation to the actual occurrence of death. It held that if a dying declaration is found reliable and satisfactory by a court, it can be the sole basis for conviction, even without corroboration. The absence of a doctor's certificate does not inherently discredit the declaration. The Court emphasised that the reliability, not the plurality of such statements determines their evidentiary value and stressed the importance of examining the individual who commits the declaration to writing.
3. **Madan v. State of UP [2023 INSC 990; 9 November 2023]:** The Supreme Court held that the death sentence of the appellant involved in the firing and killing of multiple people over suspected political enmity in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar, is to be commuted to life imprisonment even when the crime fell within the rarest of rare cases as the accused was not beyond reformation as per the reports of jail authorities and the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS). The Court held that *“There might be certain cases wherein the court may feel that the case just falls short of the rarest of the rare category and may feel somewhat reluctant in endorsing the death sentence... It has been held that the court would be entitled to substitute a death sentence with life imprisonment or by a term in excess of fourteen years and further to direct that the convict must not be released from prison for the rest of his life or for the actual term as specified in the order.”*
4. **Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay v. Union of India [2023 INSC 991; 9 November 2023]:** The petition was regarding the expeditious disposal of criminal cases against elected

members of the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies

The Court held that, "*Learned Chief Justices of the High Courts shall register a suo-motu case with the title, "In Re: designated courts for MPs/MLAs" to monitor early disposal of criminal cases pending against the members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies.*"

Further the Court stated that. "The designated courts shall give priority: (i) first to criminal cases against MP's & MLA's punishable with death or life imprisonment then to (ii) cases punishable with imprisonment for 5 years or more, and then hear (iii) other cases. The Trial Courts shall not adjourn the cases except for rare and compelling reasons."

5. **Dilip B. Jiwrajka v. Union of India [2023 INSC 1018; 9 November 2023]:**

The constitutional validity of Sections 95 to 100 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 was questioned wherein the Court held that the resolution professional appointed under Section 97 serves a facilitative role of collating all the facts relevant to the examination of the application for the commencement of the insolvency resolution process which has been preferred under Section 94 or Section 95. The report to be submitted to the adjudicatory authority is recommendatory in nature on whether to accept or reject the application;

Further the Court held that, "*there is no violation of natural justice under Section 95 to Section 100 of the IBC as the debtor is not deprived of an opportunity to participate in the process of the examination of the application by the resolution professional.*"

Thus the provisions of Section 95 to Section 100 of the IBC are not unconstitutional as

they do not violate Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution.

6. **Priya Indoria v. State of Karnataka [2023 INSC 1008; 20 November 2023]:**

The Court addressed the scope of granting transit anticipatory bail when an FIR is filed outside a State's territorial jurisdiction and allowed Session Courts and High Courts to grant limited interim anticipatory bail in exceptional cases until full-fledged anticipatory bail could be sought from the appropriate court. Transit anticipatory bail was held permissible when the accused is in a different State for legitimate reasons at the time of the FIR and has a reasonable belief of arrest. However, the Court clarified that regular anticipatory bail could not be sought from a court in a different State.

7. **Pavana Dibbur v. The Directorate of Enforcement [2023 INSC 1029; 29 November 2023]:**

The Court held that the offence punishable u/s.120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 will become a scheduled offence only if the conspiracy alleged is of committing an offence which is specifically included in the Schedule to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

The Court further held that in a given case, if the prosecution for the scheduled offence ends in the acquittal of all the accused or discharge of all the accused or the proceedings of the scheduled offence are quashed in its entirety, the scheduled offence will not exist, and therefore, no one can be prosecuted for the offence punishable u/s.3 of the PMLA as there will not be any proceeds of crime. Thus, in such a case, the accused against whom the complaint u/s.3 of the PMLA is filed will benefit from the scheduled offence ending by acquittal or discharge of all the accused.

8. **Cox and Kings Ltd v. SAP India Pvt Ltd & Anr [2023 INSC 1051; 6 December 2023]:** The Court unanimously upheld the Group of Companies Doctrine (GOCD). Emphasising the corporate separateness of the group companies, the Court held that the principle of alter ego or piercing the corporate veil cannot be the basis for the application of the GOCD.

The Court pointed out that the consent of non-signatories to be bound by an arbitration agreement could be inferred from their conduct. To determine the applicability of the GOCD, the Court held that the cumulative factors laid down in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd v Discovery Enterprises Pvt Ltd, 2022 INSC 483 must be considered.

9. **In re Article 370 of the Constitution [2023 INSC 1058; 11 December 2023]:** The Court upheld the constitutionality of the Union's abrogation of Article 370 which removed the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir observing that "*The State of Jammu and Kashmir does not retain any element of sovereignty after the execution of the loA and the issuance of the Proclamation dated 25 November 1949 by which the Constitution of India was adopted. The State of Jammu and Kashmir does not have 'internal sovereignty' which is distinguishable from the powers and privileges enjoyed by other States in the country. Article 370 was a feature of asymmetric federalism and not sovereignty"*

Further the Court observed that, "It can be garnered from the historical context for the inclusion of Article 370 and the placement of Article 370 in Part XXI of the Constitution that it is a temporary provision"

"The exercise of power by the President under Article 370(1)(d) to issue CO 272 is

not mala fide. The President in exercise of power under Article 370(3) can unilaterally issue a notification that Article 370 ceases to exist. The President did not have to secure the concurrence of the Government of the State or Union Government acting on behalf of the State Government under the second proviso to Article 370(1)(d) while applying all the provisions of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir because such an exercise of power has the same effect as an exercise of power under Article 370(3) for which the concurrence or collaboration with the State Government was not required"

"The declaration issued by the President under Article 370(3) is a culmination of the process of integration and as such is a valid exercise of power. Thus, CO 273 is valid"

10. **M/s North Eastern Chemicals Industries (P) Ltd & Anr v. M/s Ashok Paper Mill (Assam) Ltd & Anr [2023 INSC 1059; 11 December 2023]:** The Court ruled that in the absence of a prescribed limitation period in a statute, an appeal must be filed within 'reasonable time,' which is to be determined by undertaking a holistic assessment of the facts and circumstances of each case.

The Court observed that the party raising the plea of delay bears the burden of demonstrating how the delay itself would cause the party additional prejudice or loss as opposed to if the claim, that was the subject matter of dispute, was raised at an earlier point in time.

11. **In Re: Interplay Between Arbitration Agreements Under The Arbitration And Conciliation Act 1996 And The Indian Stamp Act 1899 [2023 INSC 1066; 13 December 2023]:** The Court held that arbitration clauses in unstamped or

inadequately stamped agreements are enforceable. The Court held that non-stamping or inadequate stamping is a curable defect. The bench reaffirmed the competence-competence doctrine, stating that objections related to stamping of the agreement fall under the arbitral tribunal's jurisdiction and cannot be raised under Sections 8 or 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 before a court.

12. **Saumya Chaurasia v. Directorate of Enforcement [2023 INSC 1073; 14 December 2023]:** The Court made the observation that it is not mandatory to grant bail by invoking the first proviso to Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) merely because the accused is a woman.

The Court further clarified that the use of the expression "may be" in the first proviso to Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 indicates discretionary rather than mandatory power, which is to be exercised judiciously based on the facts and circumstances of each case. Additionally, while granting or refusing bail, the court is expected to express its *prima facie* opinion which demonstrates an application of mind, particularly in dealing with serious economic offences.

13. **Manik Hiru Jhangiani v. State of M.P. [2023 INSC 1078; 14 December 2023]:** The Court held that in case of inconsistency between the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA) and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSSA), the provisions of the FSSA will have an overriding effect over the provisions of the PFA.

The Court observed that, "*When it comes to the consequences of misbranding, the*

same has been provided under both the enactments, and there is inconsistency in the enactments as regards the penal consequences of misbranding..... In view of the inconsistency, Section 89 of the FSSA will operate, and provisions of the FSSA will prevail over the provisions of the PFA to the extent to which the same are inconsistent..... Therefore, in such a situation, in view of the overriding effect given to the provisions of the FSSA, the violator who indulges in misbranding cannot be punished under the PFA and he will be liable to pay penalty under the FSSA in accordance with Section 52 thereof."

14. **Sayunkta Sangarsh Samiti v. State of Maharashtra [2023 INSC 1080; 15 December 2023]:** The present case challenged the Slum Rehabilitation Authority's (SRA) decision on flat allocation in a Mumbai slum project.

The Court dismissed the appeal and held that private agreements cannot be enforced in Slum Rehabilitation Schemes as it is against the mandate of the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) and the Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Act, 1971.

"Thus, SRA has to act in terms of its own policies and circulars without allowing private or contractual interests to prevail over public policy especially a policy which is welfare based", the court added.

15. **Vishal Tiwari v. Union of India [2024 INSC 3; 3 January 2024]:** Petitions were filed raising concerns over the precipitate decline in investor wealth and volatility in the share market due to a fall in the share prices of the Adani Group of Companies caused by a report which was published on 24 January 2023 by an "activist short seller",

Hindenburg Research about the financial transactions of the Adani group.

The Court held that the power of the Court to enter the regulatory domain of SEBI in framing delegated legislation is limited and that the Court must refrain from substituting its own wisdom over the regulatory policies of SEBI. No apparent regulatory failure was attributable to SEBI and the procedure followed in arriving at the current shape of the Regulations does not suffer from irregularity or illegality. Further the Court observed that the facts of this case do not warrant a transfer of investigation from SEBI and that the Court does have the power to transfer an investigation being carried out by the authorised agency to an SIT or CBI in extraordinary circumstances when the competent authority portrays a glaring, willful and deliberate inaction in carrying out the investigation.

The reliance placed by the petitioner on the OCCPR report to suggest that SEBI was lackadaisical in conducting the investigation is rejected. A report by a third-party organisation without any attempt to verify the authenticity of its allegations cannot be regarded as conclusive proof. Further, the petitioner's reliance on the letter by the DRI is misconceived as the issue has already been settled by concurrent findings of DRI's Additional Director General, the CESTAT and this Court.

- 16. The State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors v. Association of Retired Supreme Court and High Court Judges at Allahabad & Ors [2024 INSC 4; 3 January 2024]:** The Court in this case issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed by courts while summoning government officials and cautioned courts against humiliating such

officials or making unnecessary comments on their physical appearance, educational background or social standing. The Court said that the SOP must be followed by all High Courts and emphasised that courts must steer clear from arbitrarily summoning officials.

The Court observed that in cases where in-person appearance of the official is required, the court should, as a first option, allow the officer to appear before it through video conferencing. The Court further held that when the personal presence of an official is directed, the reason should be recorded as to why such presence is required.

17. Perumal Raja v. State Rep by Inspector of Police [2024 INSC 13; 3 January 2024]:

The Court held that the prerequisite of police custody, within the meaning of s.27, ought to be read pragmatically and not formalistically or euphemistically. That "custody" u/s.27 does not mean formal custody. It includes any kind of restriction, restraint or even surveillance by the police. Even if the accused was not formally arrested at the time of giving information, the accused ought to be deemed, for all practical purposes, in the custody of the police.

A person giving word of mouth information to police, which may be used as evidence against him, may be deemed to have submitted himself to the "custody" of the police officer.

18. All India Judges Association v. Union of India & Ors [2024 INSC 26; 4 January 2024]:

The Court directed all States to implement the recommendations of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission with respect to salaries and service

conditions of members of district judiciary. The Court noted that personal presence of officers may be required in evidence-based adjudication, summary proceedings and non-adversarial proceedings (where the Court requires assistance on complex policy issues).

The Court directed High Courts to constitute a committee named 'Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary' to oversee the implementation of salaries and service conditions and to deal with grievances of judicial officers.

19. **Bilkis Yakub Rasool v. Union of India & Ors [2024 INSC 24; 8 January 2024]:** The Court set aside the order of the Gujarat government granting remission to 11 convicts. These convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment for multiple murders and gang rapes, including that of Bilkis Bano (the petitioner herein), during the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat. The Court noted that Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides for power to suspend or remit sentence by the appropriate government. The Court explained that the government of the State within which the offender is tried and sentenced is the appropriate government to consider the application for remission and not the government where the offence is committed or the convicts are imprisoned. The Court held that the government of Maharashtra is the appropriate government to grant remission as the trial and sentence of the convicts took place in the State of Maharashtra.
20. **Algammal & Ors v. Ganesan & Anr [2024 INSC 28; 10 January 2024]:** The Court held that a buyer who fails to comply with the timeline for payment cannot seek specific

performance of the agreement to sell. The Court ruled that when a contract stipulates a specific time frame within which the consideration needs to be paid by the buyer to the seller, then the buyer must strictly make the payment within the timeframe, otherwise, the buyer cannot avail the remedy of specific performance of the sale deed.

21. **Asma Lateef & Anr v. Shabbir Ahmad & Ors [2024 INSC 36; 12 January 2024]:** The Court held that a Court cannot pronounce judgment in a suit merely on the default of the defendant to file a written statement if the plaintiff does not prove his case. The Court noted that in order to be entitled to a judgment in its favour, a plaintiff is required to prove his pleaded case by adducing evidence.
22. **Raja Gounder & Ors v. M Sengodan & Ors [2024 INSC 47; 19 January 2024]:** The Court held that children born out of void and voidable marriages are considered legitimate as per Section 16 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and are entitled to inherit their parents' properties, whether self-acquired or ancestral. The Court clarified that such children are not coparceners in the ancestral property and cannot claim the ancestral property in their own right but are entitled only to their parents' share of the ancestral property.
23. **In Re: T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad [2024 INSC 59; 24 January 2024]:** The Court held that the existing criteria for identification of private forests in the State of Goa are adequate and valid, thus, requiring no alteration. Criteria of the canopy density of 0.4 and minimum area of 5 ha if reduced to 0.1 and 1 ha as contended by the appellant, would result

in the plantations of coconut, orchards, bamboo, palm, supari, cashew, etc., grown by farmers on their private lands into the category of 'private forest'. Even for a minor development on the concerned land, the permission of the Government under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the landholders, would become indispensable.

Thus, the task of identifying forest areas expressly delegated to Expert Committees to be constituted by State Governments, thereby recognising that there can be no uniform criteria for such identification across the country.

24. **Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India [2024 INSC 113; 15 February 2024]:** The Court held that the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 which allows for anonymous contributions by donors to political parties is violative of the voters' right to receive information under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution and therefore, unconstitutional. The Court held that the Electoral Bond Scheme completely tilts the balance in favour of the purpose of informational privacy and abrogates the informational interests of the voters. The Court also held that deletion of the proviso to Section 182(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 permitting unlimited corporate contributions to political parties is arbitrary and violative of Article 14. The Court recorded that unlimited contributions by companies to political parties is against free and fair elections because it allows certain persons/companies to use their monetary resources to influence policy making.
25. **Mohd Abaad Ali v. Directorate of Revenue Prosecution Intelligence [2024 INSC 125; 20 February 2024]:** The Court held that delay in filing an appeal under Section 378

of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 against the acquittal of the accused can be condoned under Section 5 (Extension of prescribed period in certain cases) of the Limitation Act, 1963. The Supreme Court observed that although the limitation period in preferring an appeal is mentioned under Section 378 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the said provision doesn't contain any exclusionary provision to exclude the application of the Limitation Act. The Court noted that the Limitation Act, 1963 makes Section 5 applicable even in the special laws when a period of limitation is prescribed, unless it is expressly excluded by such special law.

26. **Kuldeep Kumar v. UT Chandigarh [2024 INSC 129; 20 February 2024]:** The Court set aside the result of the Chandigarh Mayoral Election as declared by the Presiding Officer as it found that the eight votes declared invalid by the Presiding Officer were in fact valid. The appellant Mr. Kuldeep Kumar had filed an appeal against an interim order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court passed in a writ petition alleging electoral malpractices by the presiding officer who conducted the election to the post of Mayor.

The Court declared the appellant Mr. Kuldeep Kumar, belonging to Aam Aadmi Party-Congress alliance, was the rightful winner by invoking its extraordinary power to do justice under Article 142 of the Constitution.

It was further observed by the bench that "*free and fair elections are a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Elections at the local participatory level act as a microcosm of the larger democratic structure in the country. Local governments, such as*

- municipal corporations, engage with issues that affect citizens' daily lives and act as a primary point of contact with representative democracy."*
27. **Ramnath v. State of Uttar Pradesh [2024 INSC 138; 21 February 2024]:** The Court ruled that the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA) takes precedence over the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in cases involving food safety. The Court held that the FSSA's broader definition of "unsafe food" under Section 3(1)(zz) encompasses a wider range of offences than the IPC's definition of "adulterated food" under Section 272. This decision strengthens the FSSA as the primary legal framework for ensuring food safety in India, thereby providing more comprehensive protection against food-related offences.
28. **Lucknow Nagar Nigam Ltd. v. Kohli Brother Colour Lab [2024 INSC 135; 22 February 2024]:** The Court held that property designated as 'enemy property' under the Enemy Property Act, 1968, and under the care of a 'custodian' appointed by the Union Government, does not qualify as Union Government property eligible for exemption from municipal taxes under Article 285(1) of the Constitution of India. The Court observed that the "*mere vesting of enemy property in the Custodian does not transfer ownership of the same from the enemy to the Union or to the Central Government; the ownership remains with the enemy but the Custodian only protects and manages the enemy property and in discharging his duties as the Custodian or the protector of enemy property he acts in accordance with the provision of the Act and on the instructions or guidance of the Central Government."*"
29. **Brahmaputra Concrete Pipe Industries v. Assam SEB [2024 INSC 145; 26 February 2024]:** The Court set aside an order by one of its Registrars that refused to register a curative petition. The Court held that the Registrar's decision was contrary to the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, and that such a judicial exercise should be carried out by a Bench of the Court. The Court clarified the procedures for handling curative petitions arising from review petitions dismissed in open court hearings, reinforcing the principle that judicial exercises should be conducted by judges and not by administrative staff.
30. **Cdr Seema Chaudhary v. Union of India [2024 INSC 147; 26 February 2024]:** The Court directed a fresh consideration of Commander Seema Chaudhary's case for the grant of Permanent Commission (PC) in the Indian Navy. The Court instructed that a new Selection Board be reconvened to assess her eligibility for PC on a stand-alone basis, unaffected by prior decisions or observations from the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT). The petitioner, a Short Service Commission Officer (SSCO) in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Branch since 2007, had earlier been denied PC due to a lack of vacancies, despite a 2020 Supreme Court judgment (*Union of India v. Annie Nagaraja*) quashing a 2008 policy letter that limited her eligibility. The Court also clarified that if required, a proportional increase in vacancies would be permitted to accommodate her without setting a precedent. The judgment aimed to rectify a long-standing injustice under Article 142 of the Constitution.
31. **Bharti Cellular Limited v. Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax [2024 INSC 148; 28 February 2024]:** The Court held

that under Section 194-H of the Income Tax Act, 1961, cellular mobile service providers are not liable to deduct tax at source on income/profit component in payments received by their franchisees/distributors from third parties/customers. Section 194-H provides for TDS (tax deductible at source) deduction on the payment of commission or brokerage. The Court noted that the obligation to deduct tax at source in terms of Section 194-H of the Act arises when the legal relationship of principal agent is established.

The Court noted that the income of the franchisee/distributor is credited to the account of the franchisee/distributor when they sell the prepaid products to the end-user/customer. The Court also noted that the assesses (cellular companies) do not pay or credit the account of the franchisee/distributor with the income by way of commission or brokerage on which tax at source under Section 194-H of the Act is to be deducted.

32. **High Court Bar Association, Allahabad v. State of UP [2024 INSC 150; 29 February 2024]:** The Court overturned its 2018 judgment in '*Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency v Central Bureau of Investigation, 2018 INSC 282*' which mandated that the interim orders passed by High Courts staying trials in civil and criminal cases will automatically expire after six months from the date of the order, unless expressly extended by the High Courts. The Court noted that only the legislature can provide that cases of a particular category should be decided within a specific time. The Court also noted that by a blanket direction in the exercise of power under Article 142 of the Constitution of India, the Court cannot

interfere with the jurisdiction conferred on the High Courts for granting interim relief by limiting their jurisdiction to pass interim orders that are only valid for six months at a time.

33. **Basavaraj v. Indira [2024 INSC 151; 29 February 2024]:** The Court held that an application seeking amendment of the plaint is impermissible under Order 6 Rule 17 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 if the amendment alters the nature of the suit. In the instant case, an amendment of the plaint in a partition suit was sought to include a prayer to declare an earlier compromise decree as void. The Court enumerated the factors to be taken into consideration by the court while dealing with an application for amendment: (i) whether the amendment would cause prejudice to the other side or (ii) it fundamentally changes the nature and character of the case or (iii) a fresh suit on the amended claim would be barred on the date of filing the application.
34. **Devu G Nair v. State of Kerala [2024 INSC 228; 1 March 2024]:** In this case, the Court established guidelines for courts handling habeas corpus petitions or police protection pleas, particularly for LGBTQ+ individuals. The guidelines emphasise queer-sensitive conduct, prioritising prompt listing of petitions, avoiding intrusive questions about relationships, ensuring safe and private dialogue, and respecting the detained person's wishes. Courts should grant interim police protection for same-sex, transgender, inter-faith, or inter-caste couples and avoid imposing counselling or parental care. The Court's role is to ascertain the will of the person without influencing their sexual orientation or gender identity, and to avoid derogatory

- remarks. The guidelines stress that sexual orientation and gender identity are core privacy matters and must be respected without stigma or moral judgment.
35. **Sita Soren v. Union of India [2024 INSC 161; 4 March 2024]:** The Court unanimously held that members of parliament and legislative assemblies are not protected under Articles 105(2) and 194(2) of the Indian Constitution for acts of bribery. The Court ruled that parliamentary privileges exist to promote free debate within the legislature and do not extend to criminal acts like bribery. The decision overturned the 1998 judgment in *P V Narasimha Rao v. State* (CBI/SPE), which had granted immunity to lawmakers accepting bribes if they voted in favour of the briber. The Court emphasised that bribery is not part of a legislator's essential functions and established a two-pronged test for granting immunity: the action must pertain to a collective legislative function and be linked to a legislator's duty.
36. **Shazia Aman Khan v. State of Orissa [2024 INSC 163; 4 March 2024]:** The Court granted custody of a minor child to her aunt noting that it is in the best interest of the child. The father of the child contended that as per Mohammedan law, custody of the child cannot be given to a stranger, who is beyond prohibitory degree for marriage. The Court held that the statutory provisions dealing with the custody of the child under any personal law cannot and must not supersede the paramount consideration as to what is conducive to the welfare of the minor. The Court found that the child has been living with her aunt ever since she was 3-4 months old and is now about 14 years of age and the child has expressed the wish to continue living with her aunt. The Court held that she cannot be treated as a chattel at the age of 14 years to hand over her custody to her biological father, with whom she has not lived since her birth. The Court noted that the stability of the child is of paramount consideration in such matters
37. **Avitel Post studioz Ltd. v. HSBC PI Holdings [2024 INSC 242; 4 March 2024]:** The Court's decision in this case reinforces India's commitment to enforcing foreign arbitral awards. The Court clarifies that challenges based on bias must be raised before the relevant foreign court within the prescribed time limit and that post-award challenges will generally not be entertained unless there is a clear violation of morality and justice. This decision promotes finality in arbitral proceedings and strengthens India's position as a favourable jurisdiction for international arbitration.
38. **Javed Ahmad Hajam v. Maharashtra [2024 INSC 187; 7 March 2024]:** The Court quashed the FIR against Javed Ahmad Hajam, a professor charged under Section 153-A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 for his WhatsApp status updates protesting the abrogation of Article 370. The Court ruled that his messages, which included "August 5 – Black Day Jammu & Kashmir" and "14th August – Happy Independence Day Pakistan," did not intend to promote disharmony or enmity between groups and were protected under the right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.
39. **Shahid Ali v. State of U.P. [2024 INSC 191; 11 March 2024]:** The Court modified the conviction of an accused involved in celebratory firing that led to the death of a person from Section 302 (murder) to

Section 304 Part II (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Court acknowledged that celebratory firing, although unfortunate, is a prevalent practice and noted that there was no evidence of prior enmity between the deceased and the accused, nor any intent to kill. While the accused had fired in a crowded place without considering safety measures, the Court concluded that the act was not so imminently dangerous as to warrant a conviction under Section 302. The conviction was thus modified to Section 304 Part II, and the Supreme Court partly allowed the appeal, setting aside the life imprisonment.

40. **Nirmal Premkumar v. State [2024 INSC 193; 11 March 2024]:** The Court's decision provides valuable guidance on the evaluation of evidence in sexual offence cases. The Court emphasised that while a conviction can be based on the sole evidence of a victim, it must undergo strict scrutiny. Consistency in the victim's testimony and the absence of material contradictions are important factors in assessing credibility. In certain cases, corroboration may be required, especially if the sexual harassment occurred in a public place and there are doubts about the victim's version. The Court's decision balances the protection of victims with the right of the accused to a fair trial.
41. **Navas @ Mulanavas v. State of Kerala [2024 INSC 215; 18 March 2024]:** The Court ruled that the factors considered when commuting a death penalty to life imprisonment are also relevant in determining the period of compulsory imprisonment without remission. The judgment, delivered by a three-judge bench

led by Justice B R Gavai, emphasised that each case must be evaluated individually, based on its unique facts and circumstances, adhering to the principle of proportionality. The Court outlined several aggravating factors, such as the number of victims, nature of injuries, and premeditation, as well as mitigating factors, including the convict's age, potential for reformation, and socio-economic conditions. The convict's conduct in jail and the period already served were also deemed relevant.

42. **NBCC (India) Ltd. v. Zillion Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd. [2024 INSC 218; 19 March 2024]:** The Court's decision clarifies the rules for incorporating arbitration clauses in two-contract cases. The Court emphasised that a general reference to another contract does not automatically incorporate its arbitration clause. Instead, a specific reference is required for the clause to be applicable. This decision highlights the importance of clear and explicit contractual language regarding arbitration and limits the scope of arbitral jurisdiction in cases where civil court jurisdiction is specified.
43. **Kozyflex mattresses Pvt. Ltd. v. SBI General Insurance Co. Ltd [2024 INSC 234; 20 March 2024]:** In this case, the Court expanded the scope of consumer protection to include companies as consumers. The Court emphasised the inclusive nature of the definition of "person" under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and the importance of interpreting consumer protection laws liberally. This decision clarifies that complaints filed by companies are maintainable before consumer forums, reinforcing the principle of a consumer-friendly interpretation of consumer protection legislation.

44. **Nenavathi Buji v. State of Telangana [2024 INSC 239; 21 March 2024]:** The Court clarified the scope and application of preventive detention laws in India. The Court distinguished between law and order and public order, emphasising that preventive detention is primarily intended to address threats to public order. It outlined the conditions for issuing a preventive detention order, including the requirement that the detainee be a "goonda" and that their activities pose a threat to public order. The Court also emphasised the importance of the detaining authority's subjective satisfaction being based on relevant and vital material. This decision reinforces the principle that preventive detention should be used as a last resort and only in cases where there is a clear and present danger to public order.
45. **Noble M Paikada v. Union of India [2024 INSC 241; 21 March 2024]:** The Court struck down a notification issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests that granted blanket exemptions from the requirement of obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC) for certain projects, including those related to infrastructure and industrial development. The Court found that these exemptions were unconstitutional as they violated Article 14 of the Constitution by being arbitrary and lacking regulatory oversight. The judgment emphasised the importance of environmental safeguards, highlighting that such exemptions could lead to unchecked environmental degradation. The Court also underscored the role of citizens as major stakeholders in environmental matters, stressing the need for transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making processes. This ruling reinforced the necessity of adhering to environmental laws and regulations to ensure sustainable development.
46. **M K Ranjitsinh v. Union of India [2024 INSC 280; 21 March 2024]:** The Court recognized the right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change as part of the right to equality under Article 14 and the right to life under Article 21. The case involved the deaths of the Great Indian Bustards due to collisions with overhead transmission wires at solar panel projects. The Court directed the formation of an expert committee to explore the feasibility of installing overhead and underground power lines in priority conservation areas for the Great Indian Bustard. Emphasising the importance of solar power for India's energy needs and climate change mitigation, the Court held that States must uphold their international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and protect the right to a healthy environment. The Court highlighted that every individual is entitled to live in a clean, safe, and conducive environment, and stressed the need for environmental protection and sustainable development to safeguard the well-being of present and future generations.
47. **Karim Uddin Barbhuiya v. Aminul Haque Laskar & Ors. [2024 INSC 282; 8 April 2024]:** The Court held that an election petition lacking proper grounds under Section 100 and material facts under Section 83 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 is liable to be rejected under Order VII Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908. The allegation of corrupt practices in an election petition should be substantiated with pleadings of material facts to show the

cause of action as required under Section 83 of the Act. It should clearly set out the interference with the electoral right of the petitioner.

48. **Najmunisha v. Abdul Hamid Chandmiya [2024 INSC 290; 9 April 2024]:** The Court overturned the conviction of individuals accused under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, rejecting the National Bureau of Narcotics' interpretation of Section 41. The Court ruled that personal knowledge alone is insufficient to meet the Act's requirement of written information before conducting a search. This decision reinforces procedural safeguards, limits potential overreach by law enforcement, and clarifies the interpretation of Section 41. It is expected to impact future cases by increasing scrutiny of search procedures and providing stronger grounds for challenging unlawful searches.
49. **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd v. Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt.Ltd [2024 INSC 292; 10 April 2024]:** In this case, the Court provided a clear framework for judicial review of arbitral awards. The Court emphasised the limited grounds for setting aside an award under Section 34 of the Arbitration Act, particularly focusing on cases of patent illegality. It clarified that the scope of judicial interference is narrow, underscoring the importance of upholding the finality of arbitral decisions. This decision reinforces the principles of arbitration, promoting its efficiency and effectiveness as a dispute resolution mechanism in India.
50. **State of Telangana v. Mohd Abdul Qasim (Died) Per LRs [2024 INSC 310; 18 April 2024]:** The Court underscored the significance of the forest for the survival

of diverse forms of life. The Court relied on a report published by the Reserve Bank of India titled "Report on Currency and Finance: Towards a Greener Cleaner India" (2022-23) and stated that there would be enormous potential impact of climate change on the society, leading to serious job losses in every sector. The Court observed that the adverse effect of climate change will be on the future of the nation as a whole, as against an identifiable group. The Court observed that the forests serve the Earth in a myriad of ways ranging from regulating carbon emissions, aiding in soil conservation and regulating the water cycle, which in turn reduces pollution. The Court also noted that environmental pollution significantly affects the underprivileged, violating their right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution of India, 1950

51. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India v. Satyanarayan Bankatlal Malu & Ors. [2024 INSC 319; 19 April 2024]:** The Court held that a Special Court presided by a Sessions Judge or an Additional Sessions Judge would have jurisdiction to try the complaint under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016. Under s. 236(1) the reference is only to the fact that the offences under the Code shall be tried by the Special Court established under Chapter XXVIII of the Companies Act, 2013.

Thus, Provision with regard to the Special Court has been bodily lifted from s. 435 of the Companies Act, 2013 and incorporated in s. 236(1). Provision of s. 435 of the Companies Act, 2013 with regard to Special Court would become a part of s. 236(1) as on the date of its enactment. Any amendment to s. 435 of the Companies Act, 2013, after the date on which the Code

- came into effect would not have any effect on the provisions of s. 236(1).
52. **Yash Raj Films Pvt Ltd v. Afreen Fatima Zaidi [2024 INSC 328; 22 April 2024]:** The Court held that not including content from the promotional trailer in the final movie release does not amount to a 'deficiency of service' on the part of the movie creators under the consumer protection law. The Court noted that a promotional trailer is unilateral. It is only meant to encourage a viewer to purchase the ticket to the movie, which is a transaction and contract independent from the promotional trailer. The Court also noted that a promotional trailer by itself is not an offer and neither intends to nor can create a contractual relationship. Therefore, the Court held that there is no offer, much less a contract between the appellant and the complainant to the effect that the song contained in the trailer would be played in the movie and if not played, it will amount to deficiency in the service. The Court also held that no case of 'unfair trade practice' under the Consumer Protection Act is made out as the content of the trailer does not make any false statement or intend to mislead the viewers.
53. **Jyoti Dev v. Suket Hospital [2024 INSC 330; 23 April 2024]:** The Court increased the compensation awarded to a patient from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs due to persistent suffering post-surgery caused by medical negligence. The patient experienced continuous pain near the surgical site, and it was discovered that a 2.5 cm needle had been left near the site by the doctor, necessitating immediate removal. Initially, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission awarded Rs. 5 lakhs, but this was reduced to Rs. 2 lakhs by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission under the Eggshell Skull Rule. The Court noted that compensation must be just and deemed the reduced amount as insufficient. The Eggshell Skull Rule holds defendants liable for plaintiffs' unforeseeable and uncommon reactions to negligent acts, particularly if the plaintiff has a pre-existing condition. The Court restored the original compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs, emphasising the need for fair restitution in cases of medical negligence.
54. **Global Credit Capital Limited v. Sach Marketing Pvt Ltd [2024 INSC 340; 25 April 2024]:** The Court laid down that the test to determine whether a debt is a 'financial debt' or an 'operational debt' is by ascertaining the real nature of the transaction reflected in the written agreement. Financial debt within the meaning of Section 5(8) of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is one in which there is an existence of a debt along with interest, if any, which is disbursed against the consideration for the time value of money. The Court also declared that where one party owes a debt to another and when the creditor is claiming under a written agreement/ arrangement provided for rendering 'service', the debt is an operational debt only if the 'claim' subject matter of the debt has some connection or correlation with the 'service' subject matter of the transaction.
55. **Association for Democratic Reforms v. Election Commission of India, 2024 INSC 341; 26 April 2024]:** The Supreme Court rejected pleas for 100% cross-verification of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) data with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)

records. The petitioners had requested that all VVPATs be verified instead of the current practice of cross-verifying EVM votes with VVPATs in only five randomly selected polling stations per assembly constituency. The Court denied this request, citing that manual counting of all VVPAT slips would be labor-intensive, prone to human error, and could lead to manipulation charges, delaying result declarations. The Court emphasized that while voters have the right to ensure their vote is accurately recorded and counted, this does not equate to a right to 100% VVPAT slip counting or physical access to the slips. The Court noted that suspicions of EVM tampering are unfounded and reverting to the ballot paper system would undo electoral reforms. EVMs have eliminated booth capturing, bogus votes, and invalid votes, reduced paper usage, and alleviated logistical challenges, providing administrative convenience by expediting the counting process and minimizing errors. The Court issued two directions: firstly, that the Symbol Loading Unit (SLU) shall be sealed and secured in containers and examined as in the case of EVMs, and secondly, post-poll checking of 5% EVMs per assembly segment of a constituency may be done upon a written request by the runner-up.

56. **A (Mother of X) v. State of Maharashtra [2024 INSC 371; 29 April 2024]:** The Court allowed the termination of a minor's pregnancy, which resulted from sexual assault, despite it exceeding the statutory limit of 24 weeks. Initially, the High Court of Bombay had denied the request for termination due to the statutory period. However, the Supreme Court intervened, prioritising the minor's physical and mental well-being. This ruling underscored the

Court's commitment to protecting the rights and health of sexual assault survivors, even in complex legal scenarios.

57. **Sharif Ahmed v. State of Uttar Pradesh [2024 INSC 363; 1 May 2024]:** The Court clarified that a charge sheet under Section 173(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is complete when it contains sufficient material and evidence for the court to take cognizance and proceed with the trial. The Court emphasised that supplementary charge sheet under Section 173(8) are meant to add new evidence, not rectify an incomplete charge sheet. It also underscored the need for investigating officers to clearly specify the roles of each accused and for Magistrates to distinguish between civil and criminal matters. Non-bailable warrants should only be issued in serious cases where there is a risk of the accused evading the process or tampering with evidence.
58. **Chander Bhan (D) Through LR Sher Singh v. Mukhtiar Singh [2024 INSC 377; 3 May 2024]:** The Court held that the non-applicability of the provisions of Section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1881 (TPA) would not bar the applicability of principles of lis-pendens, which are based on justice, equity, and good conscience. The Court noted that there can be no doubt that even if Section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1881 is not applicable in a particular State, the principles of lis-pendens would be applicable. The Court recorded that the doctrine of lis pendens contained under Section 52 of TPA is for maintaining a status quo that cannot be affected by an act of any party in a pending litigation. The Court said that the objective of the doctrine is to prevent multiple proceedings by parties in different forums.

59. **Shento Varghese v. Julfikar Husen & Ors. [2024 INSC 407; 13 May 2024]:** The Supreme Court held that delay in reporting the seizure to the Magistrate by the police officer under Section 102(3) of Cr.P.C would not automatically vitiate the seizure order. The word "forthwith" in the provision would signify that the reporting must be made within a reasonable time. If the report was not sent within a reasonable time, the Magistrate must ensure that the delay in the reporting is explainable. In case of unexplainable delay, the Magistrate may direct departmental proceedings on the police officer.
60. **Bar of Indian Lawyers through its President Jasbir Singh Malik v. DK Gandhi PS National Institute of Communicable Diseases [2024 INSC 410; 14 May 2024] :** The Court ruled that advocates are not covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, as re-enacted by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. Further held that the Act was intended to protect consumers from unfair trade and unethical business practices, not to include professions or services rendered by professionals. The Court emphasised that the legal profession is unique and cannot be compared to other professions. Services hired from an advocate are considered "a contract of personal service" and fall within the exclusionary part of the definition of "service" under Section 2(42) of the CP Act 2019. Therefore, complaints alleging "deficiency in service" against practising advocates are not maintainable under the Act.
61. **Bhikchand s/o Dhondiram Mutha (Deceased) Through LRs. v. Shamabai Dhanraj Gugale (Deceased) Through LRs. [2024 INSC 411; 14 May 2024] :** The Supreme Court ruled that a stranger purchaser who acquires a property in execution of a decree with knowledge of an ongoing appeal cannot resist restitution under Section 144 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, by claiming to be a bona fide purchaser. The Court reversed the High Court's decision, citing the principle established in *Chinnamal v. Arumugham* (1990), where it was held that if the purchaser knew of the pending appeal against the decree, he could not be considered a bona fide purchaser. The Supreme Court restored the parties to their original positions before the property attachment, allowing the appellant's restitution claim following the decree's reversal.
62. **Prabir Purkayastha v. State of NCT Delhi [2024 INSC 414; 15 May 2024]:** The Court declared the arrest of Prabir Purkayastha, founder and Editor-in-Chief of NewsClick, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) as illegal. The Court emphasised that the arrested individual must be informed of the specific grounds of arrest in writing at the earliest, as required by Article 22(1) of the Constitution. This ruling highlighted the distinction between general "reasons for arrest" and specific "grounds of arrest," reinforcing the importance of procedural safeguards to protect the rights of the accused.
63. **Rajendra s/o Ramdas Kolhe v. State of Maharashtra [2024 INSC 422; 15 May 2024]:** The Court ruled that a dying declaration can be the sole basis for convicting an accused if it inspires the court's confidence, without needing corroboration. The judgment emphasised that each case must be evaluated on its own facts and circumstances. The Court reiterated that a dying declaration is not

inherently weaker than other evidence and should be judged like any other piece of evidence, considering the context and reliability. A declaration recorded by a competent Magistrate holds more weight than one based on oral testimony, and the court must consider the condition of the person making the declaration, the timing, and potential influence from interested parties. These principles ensure that dying declarations are given appropriate weight in judicial proceedings, based on their reliability and the context in which they were made.

64. **Mukatlal v. Kailash Chand [2024 INSC 428; 16 May 2024]:** The Supreme Court determined the right of a legal heir of a Hindu widow to enforce her right of succession in the unpartitioned joint Hindu family property under Section 14(1) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. To enforce her right under Section 14(1), a Hindu female must possess the property and should have acquired the property through inheritance or devise. In this case, the widow and her legal heir neither had the possession of the property nor had challenged the trial court which decreed against her possession. A mere right of maintenance from the property without actual possession cannot attract Section 14.
65. **Kolkata Municipal Corporation v. Bimal Kumar Shah [2024 INSC 435; 16 May 2024]:** The Court identified seven sub-rights under Article 300A of the Constitution. These sub-rights include the right to notice, the right to be heard, the right to a reasoned decision, the duty to acquire property only for public purpose, the right to restitution or fair compensation, the right to an efficient and expeditious

process, and the right of conclusion. The Court emphasised that these sub-rights form the core of the right to property under Article 300A. Non-compliance with these sub-rights constitutes a violation of the right, rendering the acquisition without the authority of law.

66. **Ravikumar Dhansukhlal Maheta & Anr. v. High Court of Gujarat & Ors. [2024 INSC 436; 17 May 2024]:** The Supreme Court upheld the Gujarat High Court's selection list for promoting civil judges to district judges based on the 'Merit-cum-Seniority' principle. 65% of the District Judge promotions were to be made considering both merit and seniority after passing a suitability test. The Court stated that the promotion process did not violate the 'Merit-cum-Seniority' principle merely because it was not based on comparative merit and seniority was used at the end. As long as both merit and seniority are considered, with merit as the primary factor, the promotion process cannot be deemed violative of the principle.
67. **National Investigation Agency v. Owais Amin [2024 INSC 447; 17 May 2024]:** The Supreme Court held that the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC, 1973) cannot be applied retrospectively in Jammu & Kashmir for cases initiated before 31 October 2019, when the region was governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1989 (CrPC, 1989)
- The Court held that, *"The retrospective application of a procedural law is fairly well settled, and the procedure cannot be made retrospectively applicable. Even the Act, 2019 does not specifically state that the CrPC, 1973 will apply retrospectively. On a conjoint reading of Section 103 of the Act, 2019, along*

with the Order, 2019, with particular reference to Para 2(13)(d), it is abundantly clear that the CrPC, 1989 ought to have been applied, as there was no dispute with respect to the non-compliance, which was duly recorded by the Court."

68. **Shaji Poulose v. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India [2024 INSC 451; 17 May 2024]:** The Court upheld a rule (para 6.0 of Chapter VI of the Council Guidelines No. 1-CA(7)/02/2008 dt. 08/08/2008 issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) which barred the Chartered Accountants (CA) from accepting more than the specified number of tax audit assignments (at present, the upper limit is set at 60) in a financial year. The Court held that the rule is not violative of the fundamental right to practise profession guaranteed under Article 19(1)(g) and justifiable under Article 19(6) of the Constitution. The Court further held that the clause will be deemed to be effective from 1 April 2024. The Court quashed the disciplinary proceedings initiated against the members (petitioners) for violation of the clause based on the doctrine of legal uncertainty. The Court while upholding the rule held that the ICAI would be at liberty to enhance the number of audits a CA can undertake under Section 44AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
69. **Government of NCT of Delhi v. BSK Realtors LLP [2024 INSC 455; 17 May 2024]:** The case was based on the principle that once the government pays compensation to the landowner, the landowner's title to the land merges with the government, extinguishing their right to challenge the acquisition.

In the present case, land acquisition was initiated by BSK Realtors wherein the Delhi High Court had allowed their petitions while relying on *Pune Municipal Corporation and Anr. v. Harakchand Misrimal Solanki and Ors.* (2014) 3 SCC 183 which was later overturned by the Supreme Court in *Indore Development Authority v. Manoharlal and others* (2020) 8 SCC 129.

The Court held that "*the extraordinary constitutional powers vested in this Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India, which is to be exercised with a view to do complete justice between the parties, remains unaffected and being an unfettered power, shall always be deemed to be preserved as an exception to the doctrine of merger and the rule of stare decisis."*

70. **Surender Singh v. State (NCT of Delhi) [2024 INSC 462; 3 July 2024]:** The Court upheld the conviction and sentence of Surender Singh for the murder of his cousin's husband inside the Mayur Vihar Police Station, Delhi allegedly due to an illicit relationship between the deceased and Surender Singh's wife. The Court emphasised the severity of committing such a crime within a police station, highlighting the need for accountability among law enforcement personnel. Multiple witness testimonies and the use of an official weapon were key factors in the Court's decision to uphold the conviction under Sections 302 (murder) and 307 (attempted murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The Supreme Court's judgment underscored that the right to self-defence claimed by Surender Singh was not credible given the circumstances and the weight of the evidence. The Court reiterated that mere provocation is insufficient to reduce the

crime from murder to culpable homicide not amounting to murder. This case is significant for its implications on the conduct and accountability of police officers, reinforcing the principle that law enforcement personnel are not above the law and must be held accountable for their actions. The decision serves as a precedent for ensuring strict accountability among police officers and upholding the integrity of legal proceedings.

71. **R. Radhakrishna Prasad v. Swaminathan & Anr. [2024 INSC 463; 8 July 2024]:** The Court upheld the decision of the High Court of Kerala, which had modified the decree passed by the Trial Court. The Trial Court had directed the defendant (Swaminathan) to refund a sum of Rs. 18,00,000 to the plaintiff (R. Radhakrishna Prasad) in a suit for specific performance of an agreement. The High Court, however, allowed the plaintiff to recover only Rs. 3,00,000 with 12% interest per annum from the date of the suit until realisation.

The Court dismissed the appeal, agreeing with the High Court's assessment that the plaintiff's statement regarding the additional payment was not believable without further corroboration. The Court emphasised that the advocate who prepared the notice was likely not informed of this fact, and without further corroboration, the plaintiff's statement could not be accepted as credible. This scrutiny by the higher courts underscores the importance of providing concrete evidence in claims for specific performance.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court highlighted that the High Court had rightly found the plaintiff's case regarding the subsequent payment to be unsubstantiated

by positive evidence. The judgment is significant as it reinforces the principle that claims for specific performance must be backed by solid proof, and higher courts will meticulously scrutinise such claims to ensure fairness and justice. This case serves as a reminder of the judiciary's commitment to upholding the integrity of legal proceedings and the necessity of credible evidence in civil suits.

This judgment is significant as it highlights the importance of providing concrete evidence in claims for specific performance and the scrutiny applied by higher courts in such matters.

72. **Naresh Kumar v. State of Delhi [2024 INSC 464; 8 July 2024]:** The Court addressed the issue of non-compliance with Section 313(1)(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which mandates that the accused must be questioned on the evidence presented against them. The appellant, Naresh Kumar, was convicted under Section 302 (murder) read with Section 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. The conviction was based on an incident where a dispute over water spilling led to a fatal stabbing.

The Court emphasised the importance of following procedural safeguards, particularly the mandatory questioning under Section 313(1)(b) CrPC. The failure to comply with this requirement can vitiate the trial if it results in material prejudice to the accused.

The Court found that the procedural lapse in not properly questioning the accused under Section 313(1)(b) CrPC led to material prejudice. As a result, the trial was deemed vitiated, and the conviction was set aside.

- This judgment is significant as it reinforces the necessity of adhering to procedural requirements to ensure a fair trial.
- 73. *Nipun Malhotra v. Sony Pictures Films India Private Ltd [2024 INSC 465; 8 July 2024]*:** The Court held that the creative freedom of the filmmaker cannot include the freedom to lampoon, stereotype, misrepresent or disparage those already marginalised.
- The present case was filed against Sony Pictures Films India Private Limited for laying down comprehensive guidelines for portraying persons with disabilities (PwDs) in visual media.
- The Court observed that "This Court endorses slow interference with the determination of an expert body under the Cinematograph Act, particularly to allow the exhibition of a film. It is for the Board to draw the line between permissible and impermissible portrayal of social ills through visual media, and ensure that the Guidelines are meant to be read as broad standards for the same. The certification in the present case implies that the Board found that the overall message of the film was in accordance with the guidelines and the RPwD Act. The Court is not inclined to interfere with this finding by recommending beeping out parts of the film, especially considering the inclusion of a disclaimer in the film.
- 74. *Frank Vitus v. Narcotics Control Bureau [2024 INSC 479; 8 July 2024]*:** The Court held that imposing bail condition which enables the Police or Investigation Agency to track every movement of the accused violates Right to Privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution observing that "in this case, the condition of dropping a PIN on Google Maps has been incorporated without even considering the technical effect of dropping a PIN and the relevance of the said condition as a condition of bail. This cannot be a condition of bail. The condition deserves to be deleted and ordered accordingly."
- 75. *Army Welfare Education Society v. Sunil Kumar Sharma [2024 INSC 501; 9 July 2024]*:** The Court held that a writ petition under Article 226 of the Indian Constitution cannot be entertained against a private education society for the adjudication of private service disputes.
- Further, the Court observed that, "*Undoubtedly, the school run by the Appellant Society imparts education. Imparting education involves public duty and therefore public law element could also be said to be involved. However, the relationship between the respondents herein and the appellant society is that of an employee and a private employer arising out of a private contract. If there is a breach of a covenant of a private contract, the same does not touch any public law element. The school cannot be said to be discharging any public duty in connection with the employment of the respondents.*"
- 76. *Mohd Abdul Samad v. State of Telangana [2024 INSC 506; 10 July 2024]*:** The Court held that the Muslim woman has the right to seek maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC), despite the enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (1986 Act).
- If Muslim women are married and divorced under Muslim law then Section 125 of the CrPC as well as the provisions of the 1986

Act are applicable. Option lies with the Muslim divorced women to seek remedy under either of the two laws or both laws. This is because the 1986 Act is not in derogation of Section 125 of the CrPC but in addition to the said provision

The Court made the observation, *"Thus, both 'financial security' as well as 'security of residence' of Indian women have to be protected and enhanced. That would truly empower such Indian women who are referred to as 'homemakers' and who are the strength and backbone of an Indian family which is the fundamental unit of the Indian society which has to be maintained and strengthened. It goes without saying that a stable family which is emotionally connected and secure gives stability to the society for, it is within the family that precious values of life are learnt and built. It is these moral and ethical values which are inherited by a succeeding generation which would go a long way in building a strong Indian society which is the need of the hour. It is needless to observe that a strong Indian family and society would ultimately lead to a stronger nation. But, for that to happen, women in the family have to be respected and empowered!"*

77. **Md. Rahim Ali v. State of Assam [2024 INSC 511; 11 July 2024]:** The Court in the present case quashed a Foreign Tribunal's award which declared an Assam resident as foreigner and held that *"the discrepancy(ies) in the material produced by the appellant can be termed minor. The same were not sufficient to lead the Tribunal to doubt and disbelieve the appellant and the version put forth by him. Thus, we are not inclined to remand the matter to the Tribunal for another round of consideration. Putting an authoritative quietus to the issue, the appellant is declared an Indian citizen and not a foreigner."*

The Court noted that, "Variation in name spelling is not a foreign phenomenon in preparation of the Electoral Roll. Further, the Electoral Roll has no acceptance in the eyes of law insofar as proof of date of birth is concerned. A casual entry by the enumerators when noting and entering the name(s) and dates of birth(s) as also the address(es) of the person(s) while making preparatory surveys for the purposes of preparing the Electoral Rolls cannot visit the appellant with dire consequences."

78. **Arvind Kejriwal v. Directorate of Enforcement [2024 INSC 512; 12 July 2024]:** The Court granted interim bail to Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi Chief Minister who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for alleged corruption and money laundering in the Delhi Liquor Policy scam of 2022 while referring the legal questions concerning the validity of his arrest to a larger bench to address the issues related to the need and necessity for arrest under Section 19 of the PMLA.

The Court observed that the judicial review of an arrest under Section 19 PMLA is not a review on the merits of the case. Judicial scrutiny becomes necessary when the reasons recorded for authorising arrest are not clear and lucid. The Courts should only ascertain whether the reasons provided by the ED justify the arrest made and whether the material in possession of the ED supports the ED's reasons to believe that the arrestee is guilty of the offence. The Courts should also ensure that the actions of the ED are in accordance with the law. Therefore, the power of review by the courts extends to examining the validity of the ED's reasons to believe the arrestee is guilty to ensure that the arrest is not arbitrary.

79. **Shailendra Kumar Srivastava v. The State of Uttar Pradesh & Anr. [2024 INSC 529; 15 July 2024]:** The Court addressed the issue of political influence in legal proceedings involving serious crimes. The case originated from a double murder incident where Rajendra Kumar Srivastava filed an FIR against several accused, including Chhote Singh, a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). The Trial Court had allowed the withdrawal of prosecution against Chhote Singh under Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), citing his status as an elected representative and his public image, while rejecting the withdrawal for the other accused.
- The Court criticised the Trial Court's casual approach and emphasised that an accused's election to the Legislative Assembly and their public image cannot justify the withdrawal of prosecution, especially in cases involving serious crimes like double murder. The Court highlighted the undue delays in the High Court proceedings, which were often adjourned at the request of the counsel for the accused, reflecting the influence wielded by powerful individuals in obstructing justice. The Court underscored that justice must be administered impartially and that political influence should not interfere with legal proceedings.
- Ultimately, the Court set aside the Trial Court's order allowing the withdrawal of prosecution against Chhote Singh, thereby reinstating the charges against him. This judgment reinforces the principle that legal proceedings should be free from political bias and that the severity of the crime should be the primary consideration in judicial decisions. The ruling serves as a reminder that the judiciary is committed to ensuring that justice is served fairly and without prejudice, regardless of the accused's political status.
80. **Amit Rana @ Koka & Anr v. The State of Haryana [2024 INSC 543; 22 July 2024]:** This was a criminal appeal challenging the sentence of 14 years rigorous imprisonment for the offence of attempt to murder under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The Supreme Court ruled that a Court cannot impose a sentence exceeding the ten year maximum period prescribed under the first part of Section 307 of the IPC when it opts not to punish under the second part. The accused can be sentenced to imprisonment for life under second part if he has inflicted harm on the victim. However, when the Courts chooses not to sentence under the second part, it should only impose punishment as mentioned under part one of the provision and cannot exceed it.
81. **S. Tirupathi Rao v. M. Lingamaiah & Ors. [2024 INSC 588; 22 July 2024]:** The Supreme Court held that any actions for contempt should be initiated within one year from the date the contempt is alleged to have been made. It interpreted Section 20 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 and held that continuing contempt cannot be used as a ground to approach the court at any convenient time. It would be farcical to initiate proceedings for contempt when the case is brought belatedly before the Court for non compliance. It also held that hardship and equitable consideration cannot be grounds for exception under Section 20.
82. **Gene Campaign and Anr v. Union of India [2024 INSC 545; 23 July 2024]:** The Court delivered a split verdict and the case was

directed to be placed before a larger bench for further consideration. The Court directed the Union Government frame a National Policy on GM crops in consultation with all stakeholders including representatives from State Governments. Two separate judgments were authored by Justice Nagarathna and Justice Karol.

Justice Nagarathna held that the approval granted by the Union Government for environmental release of transgenic mustard DMH-11 should be invalidated, as there was no consideration of the adverse effects of the transgenic crops on human, animal, and plant health.

Justice Karol held that the question of ban on herbicide resistant crops is a matter of public policy and cannot be invalidated in view of precautionary principle.

83. **Parvinder Singh Khurana v. Directorate of Enforcement [2024 INSC 546; 23 July 2024]:** The Court held that an order granting a stay to the operation of a bail order during the pendency of the application for cancellation of bail should be passed in exceptional cases, observing,
- "While issuing notice on an application for cancellation of bail, without passing a drastic order of stay, if the facts so warrant, the High Court can, by way of an interim order, impose additional bail conditions on the accused, which will ensure that the accused does not flee. However, an order granting a stay to the operation of the order granting bail during the pendency of the application for cancellation of bail should be passed in very rare cases."*

Furthermore, the Court observed that "An ex-parte stay of the order granting bail, as a standard rule, should not be granted... While considering the prayer for granting an

ex-parte stay, the concerned Court must apply its mind and decide whether the case is very exceptional, warranting the exercise of drastic power to grant an ex parte stay of the order granting bail."

84. **Bihar State Electricity Board and Others v. Dharamdeo Das [2024 INSC 549; 23 July 2024]:** The Court ruled that a promotion is effective from the date it is granted and not from the date when a vacancy occurs or when the post itself is created. The case involved an appeal filed by the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) challenging the Patna High Court's order that directed the BSEB to retrospectively promote Dharamdeo Das to the position of Joint Secretary. The respondent, Dharamdeo Das, argued that his promotion should be effective from July 1997, when the post became vacant, rather than from March 2003, when he was actually promoted.

The Court observed that while the right to be considered for promotion is a fundamental right under Articles 14 and 16(1) of the Constitution of India, there is no fundamental right to promotion itself. The Court emphasised that a right to be considered for promotion does not translate into a vested right to be promoted unless explicitly provided by the rules. The bench noted that the Trial Court's decision to promote Dharamdeo Das retrospectively was not justified, as the resolution of the Board dated December 26, 1991, for fixing the Kal Awadhi (time period) was only directory in nature and not statutory.

Ultimately, the Court set aside the Patna High Court's order, stating that the respondent's claim for retrospective promotion from July 1997 could not be upheld. The Court's decision reinforced the

principle that promotions are effective from the date they are granted and highlighted the importance of adhering to established legal positions and rules regarding promotions. This judgment underscores the judiciary's commitment to ensuring that promotions are granted fairly and in accordance with the law, without undue influence or retrospective adjustments.

85. **Gaurav Kumar v. Union of India [2024 INSC 558; 30 July 2024]:** The Court held that the enrolment fee cannot exceed Rs.750 for advocates belonging to the general category and Rs.125 for advocates belonging to SC/ST categories.

The Court reasoned on the ground of the standard link between the right to profession under Article 19(1)(g) and how it impacts the other fundamental rights, the right to dignity under Article 21 and the right to equality under Article 14. The Court further observed that, *"Dignity is crucial for substantive equality. The dignity of an individual encompasses the right to develop their potential to the fullest. The right to pursue a profession is one's choice and earning, the right to livelihood is integral to the dignity of an individual. Charging exorbitant enrolment fees and miscellaneous fees as a precondition for enrolment creates a barrier into the entry of the legal profession"*

The Court held that the Bar Council of India (BCI) and the State Bar Councils, which are authorised under the Advocates Act to enrol law graduates as lawyers, cannot override the legal provisions which have been enacted by Parliament.

86. **Yash Developers v. Harihar Krupa Co-operative Housing Society Limited & Ors [2024 INSC 559; 30 July 2024]:** The

Court held that not including content from the promotional trailer in the final movie release does not amount to a 'deficiency of service' on the part of the movie creators under the consumer protection law. The Court noted that a promotional trailer is unilateral. It is only meant to encourage a viewer to purchase the ticket to the movie, which is a transaction and contract independent from the promotional trailer. The Court also noted that a promotional trailer by itself is not an offer and neither intends to nor can create a contractual relationship. Therefore, the Court held that there is no offer, much less a contract between the appellant and the complainant to the effect that the song contained in the trailer would be played in the movie and if not played, it will amount to deficiency in the service. The Court also held that no case of 'unfair trade practice' under the Consumer Protection Act is made out as the content of the trailer does not make any false statement or intend to mislead the viewers.

87. **State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh [2024 INSC 562; 1 August 2024]:** The Supreme Court upheld the validity of sub-classification within the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories in a 6:1 majority decision. The Court ruled that sub-classification is permissible to ensure that reservation benefits reach the most disadvantaged sub-castes. The judgment overruled the earlier decision in *E.V. Chinnaiyah v. State of Andhra Pradesh* and allowed States to introduce sub-classification for equitable distribution of benefits among SCs and STs, similar to what is permitted for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs).

88. **Vanshika Yadav v. Union of India [2024 INSC 568; 2 August 2024]:** In this case, the Supreme Court addressed the NEET-UG 2024 examination controversy which faced allegations of question paper leaks and malpractice. The Court observed that cancellation of an examination is justified only when the integrity of the exam is compromised at a systemic level. It found that the overall results were consistent with the previous years and found no evidence of widespread abuse of the process. The Court determined that it is possible to distinguish the students involved in malpractice from those who acted honestly and hence ruled against the conduct of a re-examination. It recommended the establishment of a committee to address the structural issues and enhance exam integrity. This committee will review security protocols, candidate verification processes, and recommend reforms to prevent future irregularities.
89. **Govt of NCT of Delhi v. Office of Lieutenant Governor of Delhi [2024 INSC 578; 5 August 2024]:** The Court held that the Lieutenant Governor can nominate aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi without the aid and advice of the elected government. Further it also restated the relations between the Union and National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD). The Court enumerated that S.3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act is a Parliamentary enactment vesting the power of nomination of persons with special knowledge in municipal administration with the Lt. Governor. The said power is to be exercised as a statutory duty of the Lt. Governor and not as the executive power of the Government of NCTD. The context in which the power is located confirms that the Lt. Governor is intended to act as per the mandate of the statute and not to be guided by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Thus, notifications issued by the Lt. Governor u/s.3(3)(b)(i) nominating ten members to the Corporation are not in violation of Article 239AA r/w s.41 of the GNCTD Act.
90. **DLF Ltd. (formerly known as DLF Universal Ltd.) v. Koncar Generators and Motors Ltd. [2024 INSC 593; 8 August 2024]:** The issue arising in the present appeal relates to enforcement of an arbitral award expressed in foreign currency. In this context, two questions arise for consideration. First, what is the correct and appropriate date to determine the foreign exchange rate for converting the award amount expressed in foreign currency to Indian rupees. Second, what would be the date of such conversion, when the award debtor deposits some amount before the court during the pendency of proceedings challenging the award. The Court formulated two principles for the issues: First, the date when the arbitral award becomes enforceable shall be the date for conversion. Under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 19962 this date is when the objections against the award are dismissed, and the award attains finality. Second, in the event that the award amount or part of it is deposited in court pending objections, enabling withdrawal by the decree holder, that date of such deposit shall be the relevant date for conversion as per the principle in Renusagar Power Co Ltd v. General Electric Co.
91. **K. Arumugam v. Union of India [2024 INSC 630; 8 August 2024]:** The Court observed that the sale of lottery tickets

by the State is a privileged activity by itself and not rendering of a service. The Court enunciated, "As already noted, the definition of 'goods' in clause (7) of Section 2 of Sale of Goods Act, 1930, that is expressly incorporated in clause (50) of Section 65 of the Act, which expressly excludes actionable claims. This Court has by the Constitution Bench in Sunrise Associates opined that lottery tickets are actionable claims."

Further the Court observed that, "... once the lottery tickets are sold by the Directorate of Lotteries—a Department of the State, there is transfer of the title of the lottery tickets to the appellants, who, as owners of the said lottery tickets, in turn sell them to stockists and others. Thus, there is no promotion of the business of the State as its agent. Thus, there is no 'principal—agent' relationship which would normally be the case in a relationship where a business auxiliary service is rendered."

92. **Manish Sisodia v. Directorate of Enforcement [2024 INSC 595; 9 August 2024]:** The Court reiterated that the right to bail in cases of delay coupled with incarceration for a long period should be read into Section 439 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. Moreover, the Court said that on account of a long period of incarceration running for around 17 months and the trial even not having been commenced, the appellant has been deprived of his right to speedy trial. "... the right to speedy trial and the right to liberty are sacrosanct rights. On denial of these rights, the trial court as well as the High Court ought to have given due weightage to this factor", it emphasised. The Court also took note of the fact that in the ED matter as well as the CBI matter, 493 witnesses have been named

and the case involves thousands of pages of documents and over a lakh pages of digitised documents. It observed that there is not even the remotest possibility of the trial being concluded in the near future. Accordingly, the Apex Court allowed the appeals, quashed the impugned judgment, and granted bail to Manish Sisodia on furnishing bail bonds for a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs with two sureties of the like amount.

93. **Jalaluddin Khan v. Union of India [2024 INSC 604; 13 August 2024]:** The Supreme Court upheld the 'bail is the rule and jail is the exception' principle even in statutes like the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 that imposes strict conditions for bail. When the conditions imposed in the statute are met, the bail must be granted. Courts cannot decline the grant of bail once a *prima facie* case has been made out. The denial of bail when the conditions are met would be a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

94. **Mineral Area Development v. M/S Steel Authority Of India & Ors [2024 INSC 554; 14 August 2024]:** The Court observed that the doctrine of prospective overruling is applied when a constitutional court overrules a well-established precedent by declaring a new rule but limits its application to future situations.

Further, the scope of the retroactive operation of the law is left to the discretion of the Supreme Court to be moulded in accordance with the justice of the cause or matter before it. The power of the Supreme Court to mould the relief claimed to meet the justice of the case is derived from Article 142. It is applied by the Supreme Court while overruling its earlier decision, which was otherwise final. It has also been

applied when deciding on an issue for the first time.

95. **Shabna Abdulla v. Union of India [2024 INSC 612; 20 August 2024]:** The Supreme Court quashed the detention order under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange & Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 by observing that the coordinate bench's findings of the same High Court cannot be disregarded without proper justification. It held that the Division Bench of the High Court should have adhered to the precedent set by another Division Bench in a similar case where same materials and grounds are relied on. The Court also noted that if it believed the earlier decision was incorrect, it should have referred the matter to a larger bench instead of dismissing the detenu's case.
96. **In Re: Right to Privacy of Adolescents [2024 INSC 614; 20 August 2024]:** The Court set aside the High Court's judgment and restored the Special Court's conviction of the accused under Sections 376(2)(n) and 376(3) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO). The Court directed the Government of West Bengal to form a committee of three experts, including a clinical psychologist and a social scientist, within three weeks. A child welfare officer will assist the committee. The State Government must provide all material details of the benefits it is willing to extend to the victim within one week of the committee's formation. The committee is tasked with meeting the victim to inform her about the benefits offered by the State Government and the Government of India. The committee will help the victim make an informed choice about whether to remain

with the accused and his family or to avail of the benefits offered. The judgment also directs the Secretaries of Law and Justice Departments of all States and Union Territories to ensure the implementation of relevant provisions of the POCSO Act and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. They must assist victims in accessing benefits under government schemes. The case is scheduled for further consideration on October 21, 2024, to review the committee's report and decide on sentencing.

97. **Girish Gandhi v. State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. [2024 INSC 617; 22 August 2024] :** The Court held that "*the excessive bail is no bail. To grant bail and thereafter to impose excessive and onerous conditions, is to take away with the left hand, what is given with the right.*" It observed that it is important to balance the requirement of furnishing surety with the fundamental right of an individual under Article 21 of the Constitution when the accused person is unable to produce the required sureties across multiple cases filed against him. A reasonable order should aim to safeguard the fundamental rights while also ensuring the presence of the accused in the court.
98. **Pam Developments (P) Ltd v. State of W.B [2024 INSC 628; 23 August 2024] :** The Court upheld the Calcutta High Court's decision to set aside certain claims awarded by an arbitrator related to a road construction contract. It observed that the courts and arbitral tribunals must examine the contractual clauses during arbitration proceedings. It highlighted the role of contracts as the foundation of the legal relationship and held that the integrity of the arbitral proceedings lies in the adherence to these contractual provisions.

99. **Mulakala Malleshwara Rao v. State of Telangana [2024 INSC 639; 29 August 2024]:** The Court held that a father has no right to pursue the cause of recovery of 'stridhan' given to his daughter when she is alive, well, and entirely capable of making such decisions.

The Court observed that, "*The jurisprudence as has been developed by this Court is unequivocal with respect to the singular right of the female (wife or former wife) as the case may be, being the sole owner of stridhan*".

Further, "*It has been held that a husband has no right, and it has to then be necessarily concluded that a father too, has no right when the daughter is alive, well, and entirely capable of making decisions such*

as pursuing the cause of the recovery of her stridhan."

100. **Dhanraj Aswani v. Amar S. Mulchandani & Anr [2024 INSC 669; 9 September 2024]:** The Court held that, "*a police officer can formally arrest a person in relation to an offence while he is already in custody in a different offence. However, such formal arrest doesn't bring the accused in the custody of the police officer as the accused continues to remain in the custody of the Magistrate who remanded him to judicial custody in the first offence. Once such formal arrest has been made, the police officer has to make an application under Section 267 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 before the Jurisdictional Magistrate for the issuance of a P.T. Warrant without delay.*"

CHAPTER 17

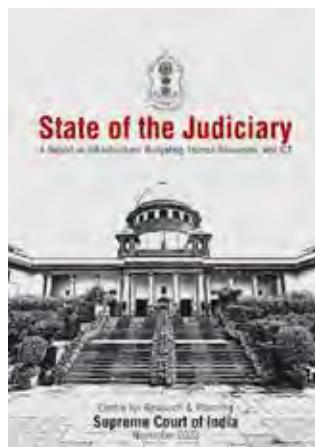
Publications

I. Supreme Court Chronicle - Monthly Newsletter of Supreme Court

The Supreme Court Chronicle is a monthly newsletter which showcases the ongoing operations and achievements of the Supreme Court of India and offers an insight into the workings of the Court. Within its pages, one can find glimpses of the Court's storied history, overviews of the key judgments that define our legal landscape and the stories of the remarkable individuals who work day in and day out to realise the promise of our institution. The Supreme Court Chronicle is envisaged to be a key source of information about the Supreme Court's functioning and to keep readers updated on the activities of this Court, both within and beyond the courtroom.

II. State of the Judiciary: A Report on Infrastructure, Budgeting, Human Resources, and ICT

The State of the Judiciary Report highlights the challenges facing the judiciary and the steps needed to strengthen it. The report focuses on the district judiciary and the High Courts. Prepared



by the Centre for Research and Planning at the direction of Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, the report focuses on assessing the current state of the judiciary in India, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, human resources and technological integration. It is aligned with the perspective that justice delivery is no longer viewed as a sovereign function but as an essential service. The factors of infrastructure, staffing, and technology have been highlighted as crucial to improving judicial performance. The objective of the report is to identify gaps in these areas to ensure secure, inclusive and accessible justice for all citizens, including persons with disabilities.

The report is divided into four parts. Part I addresses the condition of judicial infrastructure, with gaps in courtrooms, housing, sanitation, and other citizen services being identified. In Part II, the budgeting processes are examined, focusing on the allocation and utilisation of funds by central and state governments for judicial infrastructure projects. Part III delves into human resource management, reviewing judicial and staff vacancies, recruitment delays, and the representation of marginalised groups. In Part IV, the focus is placed on ICT enablement, detailing initiatives such as e-Courts and other digital services, while emphasising the need for continued technological advancements. The report has been compiled using data from various judicial and governmental sources.

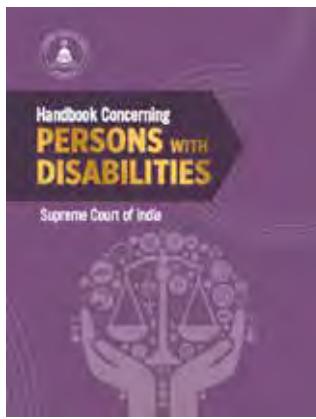
III. Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities

The *Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities* was released by Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud during the "National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Protecting the Rights of Children Living

with Disability and Intersectionality of Disabilities."

Prepared by the Centre for Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India, the handbook is aimed at guiding the legal community in understanding and addressing disability through a social model. It emphasises breaking stereotypes and encourages the use of respectful language when dealing with disability-related issues in legal contexts.

The handbook covers a range of topics related to the rights of persons with disabilities. It addresses key areas such as voting rights, property ownership, reproductive rights,



the rights of prisoners with disabilities, and educational accommodations under *The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016*. Additionally, it outlines infrastructure and environmental obligations that ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. A glossary of respectful and inclusive terms is also provided to promote appropriate language use in legal settings. This comprehensive guide serves as a practical resource for legal professionals, aiding them in ensuring that persons with disabilities receive fair and equitable treatment within the justice system.

IV. Digital publication of Courts of India in eight Indian languages

On 1 September 2024, Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud released the digital publication of *Courts of India* in eight Indian languages. Earlier, between 2016 and 2021, it was published and printed in 6 Indian languages. The digital publication in 8 languages along with PDFs of previous 6 languages (a total of 14 languages), will be available under the 'Publication Tab' on the Supreme Court of India website.



V. Release of Publications of Supreme Court of India by President of India

Three publications of the Supreme Court of India titled, '*Justice for Nation: Reflections on 75 years of the Supreme Court of India*', '*Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion*', and '*Legal Aid Through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India*' were released by the President of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu on 5 November 2024. Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Chief Justice-designate Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Law and Justice, Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal, were also present during the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the President of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu, said that the

justice delivery system must strengthen the nation's march towards a just and fair society. President Murmu said that equality and equal justice should be the guiding principles of the judiciary. President Murmu expressed happiness that the Apex Court is organising purposeful activities for the 75th year of its founding.

Former Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, said the three books published by the Centre for Research and Planning were moments of self-reflection, both for the Supreme Court as well as the larger legal system. Of the three publications released, one is a collection of essays that analyse the jurisprudence of the Court since its foundation, while the remaining two are studies that assess the functioning of legal aid cells in universities and the state of the prisons in India.









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