# Common Legal Words Used in Indian Court

Below are the top legal terms with meaning used in courts:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Meaning** |
| Affidavit | A written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation, used as evidence in court. |
| Appeal | A legal process by which a higher court is asked to review the decision of a lower court. |
| Bail | Temporary release of an accused person awaiting trial, sometimes on the condition of payment. |
| Cognizance | Formal notice or acknowledgment taken by a court of an offense or case. |
| Complaint | A formal legal document outlining the charges or claims against a defendant. |
| Cross-Examination | The questioning of a witness by the opposing party in a court case. |
| Decree | A formal and authoritative order, especially one having the force of law in a civil case. |
| Defendant | The person or party against whom a legal action is brought in court. |
| Evidence | Any information, such as testimony, documents, or physical objects, presented in court to prove or disprove a fact. |
| FIR (First Information Report) | A written report filed by the police after receiving information about a cognizable offense. |
| Habeas Corpus | A legal writ demanding that a person be brought before a judge, particularly to secure release from unlawful detention. |
| Injunction | A court order requiring an individual or entity to do or refrain from doing a specific act. |
| Jurisdiction | The legal authority of a court to hear and decide a particular case. |
| Litigation | The process of taking legal action or resolving disputes in court. |
| Petitioner | The party who presents a petition to the court in a legal case. |
| Prosecution | The party conducting legal proceedings against someone in respect of a criminal charge. |
| Plaintiff | A person who brings a legal action in a civil case. |
| Writ | A formal written order issued by a court directing someone to perform or refrain from performing a specified act. |
| Judgment | The final decision or ruling by a court in a legal case. |
| Summons | A legal document ordering a person to appear in court. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subpoena | A court order requiring a person to attend court to give testimony or present evidence. |
| Tort | A civil wrong that causes harm or loss, for which a remedy may be sought in court. |
| Conviction | A formal declaration by a court that someone is guilty of a criminal offense. |
| Acquittal | A legal judgment that a person is not guilty of the crime with which they have been charged. |
| Cross-Petition | A petition filed in response to an original petition, often seeking different relief. |
| Perjury | The offense of willfully telling an untruth in a court after having taken an oath or affirmation. |
| Probate | The legal process of proving and registering the last will of a deceased person. |
| Remand | The act of sending a prisoner or accused person back into custody, or the act of sending a case back to a lower court for further action. |
| Appeal | A legal process by which a case is brought before a higher court for review of a lower courtʼs judgment. |
| Quash | To nullify or void a legal proceeding, such as an FIR or an indictment. |
| Breach of Contract | The violation of the terms agreed upon in a legal contract. |
| Juror | A member of a jury, a group of people selected to determine the facts of a case and deliver a verdict. |
| Damages | Monetary compensation awarded to a party in a legal case to cover losses or injuries. |
| Defamation | The act of damaging someoneʼs reputation by making false statements, either spoken (slander) or written (libel). |
| Deponent | A person who gives a deposition or swears to an affidavit. |
| Bailment | The transfer of possession of goods or property by one party to another under contract. |
| Adjudication | The legal process of resolving a dispute; the act of making a judgment or decision. |
| Stay Order | A court order to temporarily suspend the execution or enforcement of a judgment or proceeding. |
| Parole | The conditional release of a prisoner before the completion of their sentence. |
| Mutatis Mutandis | A Latin phrase meaning “with the necessary changes having been made”; used in legal contexts to indicate that a previous statement applies with slight modifications. |
| Caveat | A formal notice requesting the court to suspend a proceeding until the party filing the caveat has been heard. |
| Specific Performance | A legal remedy in contract law where the court orders the party in breach to fulfill their contractual obligations. |
| Contempt of Court | An act of disobedience or disrespect toward the judicial system, which may result in penalties or punishment. |
| Restitution | The act of restoring something to its rightful owner or compensating for a loss or damage. |
| Estoppel | A legal principle that prevents a party from contradicting or asserting something contrary to what has previously been established as truth. |
| Mens Rea | The mental element of a crime, referring to the defendantʼs intention or knowledge of wrongdoing. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Actus Reus | The physical act of committing a crime, as opposed to the mental intent to commit it. |
| Surety | A person who takes responsibility for anotherʼs performance of an obligation, such as repaying a loan. |
| Willful Default | The deliberate failure to fulfill an obligation, especially in financial matters. |

# Legal Words That Start With ‘A’

Below is the legal words list starting with letter A, along with meaning in English, Hindi, and usage in sentence:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Abet | To encourage or assist someone to commit a crime | He was charged with abetting the criminal by providing him shelter. |
| Accused | A person charged with a criminal offense | The accused pleaded not guilty during the court hearing. |
| Acquittal | A judgment that a person is not guilty of the crime | After a lengthy trial, the court ruled for the acquittal of the defendant. |

# Legal Words That Start With ‘B’

Below is the list of legal terms starting with letter B, along with meaning and usage in sentence:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Bail | Temporary release of an accused person awaiting trial | The accused was granted bail by the court pending the trial. |
| Beneficiary | A person entitled to benefits or proceeds from a will or trust | The court recognized her as the sole beneficiary of her fatherʼs estate. |
| Bench | The seat occupied by judges in a court | A five-judge bench was constituted to hear the constitutional case. |

# Legal Words That Start With ‘C’

The table below shows the legal phrases starting with letter C:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Caveat | A formal notice requesting a court to suspend proceedings until the party filing the caveat is heard | The company filed a caveat to ensure no orders are passed without its knowledge. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cognizance | A courtʼs acknowledgement of a legal matter to be heard | The judge took cognizance of the matter and summoned the accused for trial. |
| Contempt of Court | Willful disobedience or disrespect towards court rules or authority | The activist was held in contempt of court for disrupting the proceedings. |

# Legal Words That Start With ‘D’

Find legal terminology beginning with letter D:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Damages | Compensation, usually monetary, awarded to someone for loss or injury | The court ordered the company to pay damages for breaching the contract. |
| Decree | A formal order or judgment by the court | The court passed a decree in favor of the plaintiff, granting them ownership of the disputed property. |
| Defamation | The act of damaging someoneʼs reputation by making false statements | The celebrity filed a defamation suit against the media company for publishing false accusations. |

# Legal Terms That Start With ‘E’

Find legal terminology beginning with letter E:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Evidence | Any information presented in a legal case to prove or disprove facts | The prosecutor presented new evidence to support the charges against the defendant. |
| Equity | The application of principles of fairness and justice in legal matters | The court made its decision based on equity, ensuring fairness to both parties. |
| Embezzlement | Fraudulent appropriation of funds by someone entrusted with them | The accountant was charged with embezzlement after diverting company funds into personal accounts. |

# Legal Terms That Start With ‘F’

Find the common legal words used in court, starting with letter F:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| FIR (First Information Report) | A formal written document prepared by the police when they receive information about a cognizable offense | The victim immediately filed an FIR with the local police station after the robbery. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fraud | Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain | The businessman was arrested for committing fraud by forging financial documents. |
| Frivolous Litigation | Legal action with no sound basis, often used to harass or delay the process | The court dismissed the lawsuit, labeling it as frivolous litigation intended to waste time. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘G’

Find common legal words used in Indian court, starting with letter G:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Garnishee | A person or institution that is ordered by the court to surrender money or property belonging to a debtor | The bank was named as a garnishee to withhold the debtorʼs funds for the court. |
| Guardian | A person legally appointed to manage the affairs of a minor or someone incapable of managing their own affairs | After the parents passed away, the uncle was appointed as the legal guardian of the minor children. |
| Grievance | A formal complaint raised by an individual, typically in a legal or workplace context | The employee filed a grievance against the company for unfair dismissal. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘H’

Find legal words with meaning and sentence, beginning with letter H:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Habeas Corpus | A legal action or writ requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge to secure their release unless lawful grounds are shown for their detention | The lawyer filed a writ of habeas corpus to challenge the illegal detention of the accused. |
| Hearsay | Information received from others that cannot be substantiated and is not admissible as evidence | The court dismissed the witnessʼs statement as hearsay since it lacked direct evidence. |
| Heir | A person legally entitled to the property or rank of another upon their death | After his fatherʼs death, he became the rightful heir to the family estate. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘I’

Find legal words list, starting with letter I:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Injunction | A court order requiring a party to do or refrain from doing a specific act | The court granted an injunction preventing the company from selling the disputed property. |
| Immunity | Legal protection from prosecution or penalties | The witness was granted immunity in exchange for testifying against the accused. |
| Indictment | A formal accusation initiating a criminal case | The grand jury issued an indictment against the businessman for fraud and embezzlement. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘J’

Find legal words with sentences and meaning, beginning with letter J:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Judgment | The final decision or ruling by a court in a legal matter | The court delivered its judgment, ruling in favor of the plaintiff. |
| Jurisdiction | The legal authority of a court to hear and decide a case | The High Court has jurisdiction over cases involving constitutional issues. |
| Jurisprudence | The theory or philosophy of law | The lawyerʼs argument was grounded in legal jurisprudence and historical case laws. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘K’

Find legal words and meaning, starting with letter K:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Kidnapping | The unlawful taking away or transportation of a person, usually to hold them against their will | The accused was charged with kidnapping the child for ransom. |
| Knowingly | With full awareness or intention | The defendant was found guilty of knowingly engaging in fraudulent activities. |
| Knowledge | Awareness or understanding of facts, law, or a situation | The defendant claimed to have no knowledge of the illegal activities being conducted by his associates. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘L’

Find basic legal terminology, starting with letter L:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Landlord | A person who owns property and rents it to a tenant | The landlord filed a case against the tenant for failing to pay rent on time. |
| Lawsuit | A legal action brought by one party against another | The company faced a lawsuit over allegations of environmental damage. |
| Legal Heir | A person legally entitled to inherit the property of a deceased person | The court recognized him as the legal heir to his fatherʼs estate. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘M’

Find legal words and phrases with meaning, starting with letter M:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Magistrate | A judicial officer who handles minor legal cases and preliminary hearings | The magistrate granted bail to the accused after the preliminary hearing. |
| Maintenance | Financial support given by one person to another, typically after a divorce or separation | The court ordered the husband to pay monthly maintenance to his ex-wife after their divorce. |
| Malfeasance | Wrongdoing or misconduct, especially by a public official | The politician was accused of malfeasance for misusing public funds for personal gain. |

# Legal Terminology Starting With ‘N’

Find list of legal words starting with letter N:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Natural Justice | Legal philosophy ensuring fairness, equality, and impartiality in decision-making | The court upheld the principles of natural justice by allowing both parties to present their case. |
| Notary | A public official authorized to authenticate legal documents and administer oaths | The agreement was signed in the presence of a notary to ensure its legal validity. |
| Negligence | Failure to exercise the care that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in similar circumstances | The doctor was sued for negligence after failing to diagnose the patientʼs illness in time. |

# Legal Terminology Starting With ‘O’

Find list of legal terms with meaning, that start with letter O:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Oath | A solemn promise, often invoking a divine witness, regarding oneʼs future actions or behavior | The witness took an oath to tell the truth before testifying in court. |
| Objection | A formal protest raised during a trial or hearing regarding the admissibility of evidence or testimony | The defense attorney raised an objection to the prosecutorʼs line of questioning. |
| Offender | A person who has committed a crime or illegal act | The offender was sentenced to five years in prison for theft. |

# Legal Terminology Starting With ‘P’

Find list of legal terms, starting with letter ‘Pʼ:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Plaintiff | A person who brings a legal action or lawsuit against another party | The plaintiff filed a suit for damages after the contract was breached. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Prosecution | The legal party responsible for presenting a case against an individual accused of a crime | The prosecution provided substantial evidence to prove the guilt of the accused. |
| Precedent | A legal decision that serves as an example or rule for future cases | The courtʼs decision followed the legal precedent established by previous rulings. |

# Legal Terms Starting With ‘Q’

Check list of legal words starting with letter ‘Qʼ:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Quash | To reject or void a legal decision, order, or indictment | The court decided to quash the charges against the defendant due to lack of evidence. |
| Quantum Meruit | A Latin term meaning “as much as he deserves,” referring to the reasonable value of services rendered | The contractor was entitled to payment based on quantum meruit for the work completed before the contract was terminated. |
| Quasi-Judicial | A body or authority having powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law | The regulatory commission acted as a quasi-judicial body in resolving the dispute. |

# Legal Terms Starting With ‘R’

Find law terms with meaning that start with letter R:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Remand | To send a case or an accused person back to a lower court or into custody for further investigation | The judge remanded the accused to police custody for further questioning. |
| Rebuttal | A counterargument or evidence presented to contradict or disprove something | The defense presented a strong rebuttal to challenge the prosecutionʼs claims. |
| Restitution | Compensation or return of something to its rightful owner, or restoring a party to its original position | The court ordered restitution to the victims of the fraud, ensuring they received their money back. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘S’

The list of law words that begin with letter S:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Summons | A legal document issued by a court requiring someone to appear in court | The defendant received a summons to appear in court for the hearing. |
| Subpoena | A legal order requiring a person to testify or produce evidence in court | The witness was served with a subpoena to testify at the trial. |
| Settlement | An agreement reached between parties to resolve a legal dispute without going to trial | The parties reached a settlement before the case went to trial, avoiding lengthy litigation. |

# Legal Terminology Starting With ‘T’

The list of legal words that start with letter T:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Tort | A civil wrong causing harm or loss for which a remedy may be sought in court | The plaintiff filed a tort claim for damages caused by the defendantʼs negligence. |
| Testamentary | Relating to a will or the distribution of assets after death | The court upheld the testamentary trust created by the deceasedʼs will. |
| Testimony | A formal statement given by a witness under oath in court | The witnessʼs testimony played a crucial role in the conviction of the accused. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘U’

Find the list of legal terminology with meaning, that start with letter U:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Ultra Vires | Acts beyond the legal authority or power of a person or institution | The court ruled that the companyʼs actions were ultra vires, as they exceeded the powers granted by the articles of incorporation. |
| Undue Influence | Excessive pressure or manipulation exerted on someone to act against their free will | The plaintiff argued that the contract was signed under undue influence and was therefore invalid. |
| Unlawful Detention | The act of holding someone without legal authority or justification | The accused filed a petition for release, claiming unlawful detention by the police. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘V’

Find the legal terms that start with letter V:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Verdict | The formal decision or finding made by a jury or judge in a legal case | The jury delivered a guilty verdict after deliberating for several hours. |
| Vicarious Liability | Legal responsibility imposed on one person for the actions of another, typically an employer for the acts of an employee | The company was held vicariously liable for the actions of its employee during the course of his duties. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Void | Having no legal effect or validity; null | The contract was declared void due to the lack of mutual consent between the parties. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘W’

The list of legal terms that start with letter W includes:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Warrant | A legal document authorizing law enforcement to carry out an action such as an arrest or search | The police executed an arrest warrant for the suspect involved in the robbery. |
| Waiver | The voluntary relinquishment or abandonment of a legal right or claim | The tenant signed a waiver, giving up their right to demand repairs from the landlord. |
| Will | A legal document in which a person declares how their assets will be distributed after death | The deceased left a will, distributing his property among his children. |

# Legal Words Starting With ‘X’

Since there are very few legal phrases and terms starting with “X,” most of the words are uncommon but important in legal discussions. These terms, although rare, still play a role in specialized legal settings:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Xerox | A trademarked term that has become synonymous with photocopying, often used in legal cases to refer to copies of documents | The lawyer asked for xerox copies of all the evidence to be submitted to the court. |
| Xenophobia | A fear or hatred of foreigners, often referenced in human rights and discrimination cases | The court addressed the issue of xenophobia in the workplace, ordering the company to implement anti-discrimination policies. |
| X Clause | A placeholder term sometimes used in contracts to represent a term or condition that will be defined later | The agreement included an X clause, which the parties agreed to finalize before the projectʼs commencement. |

Legal Words Starting With ‘Y’

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Year and a Day Rule | A common law rule that states a person cannot be charged with homicide if the victim dies more than a year and a day after the act that caused the injury | Under the year and a day rule, the suspect could not be charged with murder because the victim passed away 15 months later. |
| Yellow Dog Contract | A contract in which an employee agrees not to join a labor union as a condition of employment | Yellow dog contracts were once used by employers to prevent workers from organizing unions. |
| Youth Court | A specialized court that deals with crimes committed by minors | The case involving the minor was transferred to the youth court for trial. |

Legal Words Starting With ‘Z’

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Term** | **Meaning (English)** | **Usage in Sentence** |
| Zero Hour | The time immediately following the start of a legislative session, often used for raising urgent issues without prior notice | The members of parliament raised the issue of environmental pollution during Zero Hour. |
| Zoning | The regulation of land use by local authorities to allocate areas for different types of development and land use | The city council enforced new zoning laws to separate residential and commercial areas. |
| Zoning Ordinance | A law that defines how property in specific geographic zones can be used | The new zoning ordinance prohibits the construction of high- rise buildings in the heritage area. |

How to Use Legal Terminology in Court?

Below are some key tips on how to use legal phrases effectively in court proceedings:

**Know the context:** Ensure you understand the legal termʼs meaning and context before using it in court. Misusing a term can weaken your argument or confuse the court.

**Use precise language:** Legal terms carry specific meanings, so use them with precision to convey your argument clearly and effectively.

**Follow court etiquette:** When addressing the court, use formal legal terms respectfully and appropriately, such as “Your Honor” for the judge or “learned counsel” when referring to opposing attorneys.

**Avoid jargon overload:** While legal terms are essential, donʼt overuse jargon. Make sure your arguments are clear to everyone in the court,

especially the judge and jury.

**Explain when necessary:** If a legal term is complex or unfamiliar, provide a brief explanation to ensure all parties understand its relevance to the case.

**Cite precedents:** When using terms like “precedent” or “res judicata,” back them up with references to previous court rulings or legal authorities to strengthen your argument.

**Object clearly and correctly**: During objections, use legal terms such as “hearsay,” “leading question,” or “irrelevant” to specify the legal grounds for your objection.

**Refer to written evidence:** Use terms like “exhibit,” “affidavit,” or “documentary evidence” when presenting or referring to evidence in court.

**Use Latin terms with caution:** Latin terms like “habeas corpus,” “mens rea,” or “actus reus” are common in court but ensure the court understands their meaning by explaining their significance if necessary.

**Emphasize relevant laws:** When citing legal provisions, use precise terms such as “section,” “clause,” or “subsection” to refer to specific parts of statutes or acts.

**Ensure consistency:** Use legal terms consistently throughout your argument to maintain clarity and avoid confusion in court.

**Adapt to the situation:** Tailor your use of legal terms depending on the complexity of the case, the audience, and the type of court (e.g., civil, criminal, or appellate).

# Why Understanding Law Terms is Important?

Below is why understanding law words and terms is important:

**Clear Communication:** Legal terms provide clarity and precision in communication between lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals. **Avoid Misinterpretation:** Proper understanding prevents the risk of misinterpreting laws, contracts, or court orders, which could lead to unintended legal consequences.

**Strengthens Legal Arguments:** Using the correct legal terminology helps in presenting stronger and more convincing arguments in court. **Improves Legal Drafting:** Accurate use of legal terms ensures that legal documents such as contracts, wills, and agreements are precise and enforceable.

**Ensures Compliance:** Understanding legal terms ensures adherence to legal procedures, helping individuals and businesses comply with

regulations and avoid penalties.

**Facilitates Legal Research:** Legal professionals need to understand terms to efficiently research case law, statutes, and legal principles.

**Supports Proper Application of Law:** Legal terms define rights, duties, and liabilities, guiding the correct application of laws to specific situations. **Enhances Courtroom Effectiveness:** Knowledge of legal terms enables attorneys to communicate effectively with judges, juries, and witnesses during proceedings.

**Prevents Exploitation:** Individuals who understand legal terms are less likely to be taken advantage of in legal matters, such as signing contracts without knowing the implications.

**Ensures Accurate Interpretation of Laws:** Legal terms carry specific meanings in legislation, and understanding them helps ensure laws are

interpreted and applied as intended.

**Facilitates Dispute Resolution:** In negotiations or mediations, understanding legal terms helps parties reach fair and legally sound settlements. **Saves Time and Resources:** Avoiding confusion over legal terms can reduce delays in court proceedings and legal processes, saving time and resources for all involved.

# Legal Abbreviations and Acronyms Used in Courts

**FIR** – First Information Report **SC** – Supreme Court

**HC** – High Court

**LLB** – Bachelor of Laws (Legum Baccalaureus) **LLM** – Master of Laws (Legum Magister)

**IPC** – Indian Penal Code

**CrPC** – Code of Criminal Procedure **CPC** – Code of Civil Procedure

**ADR** – Alternative Dispute Resolution **PIL** – Public Interest Litigation

**WPA** – Writ Petition (Civil)

**NCLT** – National Company Law Tribunal

**NCLAT** – National Company Law Appellate Tribunal **SEBI** – Securities and Exchange Board of India

**IT Act** – Income Tax Act or Information Technology Act (depending on context)

**CJI** – Chief Justice of India **RTI** – Right to Information

**NIA** – National Investigation Agency **NSA** – National Security Act

**AFSPA** – Armed Forces Special Powers Act **DV Act** – Domestic Violence Act

**NCR** – Non-Cognizable Report **BBA** – Bail Before Arrest

**BA** – Bail Application

**COI** – Constitution of India

**NCRB** – National Crime Records Bureau

**RERA** – Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act **EOW** – Economic Offences Wing

**ITAT** – Income Tax Appellate Tribunal **GST** – Goods and Services Tax

**SARFAESI** – Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act **NDPS** – Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

**CSR** – Corporate Social Responsibility

**MOU** – Memorandum of Understanding **IBC** – Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code **CIC** – Central Information Commission

**DSPE** – Delhi Special Police Establishment (associated with CBI) **BOD** – Board of Directors

**CLAT – Common Law Admission Test ADR** – Alternate Dispute Resolution **DV** – Domestic Violence

**MM** – Metropolitan Magistrate **ACB** – Anti-Corruption Bureau

**NI Act** – Negotiable Instruments Act **JM** – Judicial Magistrate

**ADR** – Alternative Dispute Resolution

**NCDRC** – National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission **FEMA** – Foreign Exchange Management Act

**PMLA** – Prevention of Money Laundering Act

**Important Resources After CLAT Exam:**

# FAQs About Legal Terminology

What is the difference between a **‘**Plaintiff**ʼ** and a **‘**Defendant**ʼ?**

The plaintiff is the person or party who initiates a lawsuit by filing a complaint, while the defendant is the person or party against whom the lawsuit is filed.

What is the difference between **‘**Judgment**ʼ** and **‘**Decree**ʼ?**

A judgment is the final decision made by a judge after considering the facts and law in a case. A decree is the formal expression of the judgment in civil cases, especially in suits for partition, divorce, and other similar matters.

What is a **‘**Writ**ʼ** in Indian law**?**

A writ is a formal order issued by a court directing a government authority or individual to do or refrain from doing something. Common writs include habeas corpus, mandamus, and prohibition.

What does **‘**Suo Motu**ʼ** mean in legal terms**?**

‘Suo Motuʼ is a Latin term meaning “on its own motion.” It refers to a situation where a court takes cognizance of a matter or initiates proceedings without a formal complaint or request from any party.

What is **‘**Res Judicata**ʼ?**

‘Res Judicataʼ is a legal doctrine that prevents the same parties from litigating the same issue in court once it has already been conclusively resolved by a competent court.

What does **‘**Mens Rea**ʼ** mean in criminal law**?**

‘Mens Reaʼ is a Latin term meaning “guilty mind.” It refers to the mental state or intention to commit a crime, which is a crucial element in determining criminal liability.

What is the meaning of **‘**Public Interest Litigation **(**PIL**)ʼ?**

PIL refers to legal actions initiated in a court of law for the protection of public interest, typically used to address issues that affect large sections of society, such as environmental protection, human rights, and government accountability.