

INDIAN JUDICIARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

VOLUME 1: SUPREME COURT

Publisher

The Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi-110001

Website

<https://sci.gov.in>

Book

Indian Judiciary: Annual Report 2022-23

Designed by

Judges Library
Supreme Court of India

Photo Credits

1. Supreme Court Photo Archives
2. J.S. Studio, Delhi

Printed by

Creative Offset Press, Delhi

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Emblem of the Supreme Court of India



Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud
Chief Justice of India



From the Desk of The Chief Justice of India

The Supreme Court of India releases its Annual Reports to elucidate the intricacies of justice delivery at the apex court to all stakeholders. An open and comprehensible judicial system is the defining characteristic of a nation that operates under the principles of rule of law in a just constitutional framework. Through the Annual Reports, the Supreme Court endeavours to bolster transparency, thereby reinforcing the accountability of the highest Court of justice.

The Annual Report of 2022-2023 comprehensively covers the developments in the judiciary during the past year. While the last three years have been marked by the challenges and adaptations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, this year heralded a transformative shift in our approach to justice delivery, with a pronounced focus on Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Indian judiciary's emphasis has been to ensure that courts are accessible to the people of India. In the digital age, reaching the public requires more than just physical access. Technology has been our steadfast ally in this journey.

The commitment of the judiciary has always been to make courts more approachable to the people, rather than people finding ways to access the courts. This involves simplifying litigation procedures and making them centred around the citizen's needs. While technology, especially ICT, has immensely facilitated our cause, it also necessitates accompanying institutional reforms.

Furthermore, in this rapidly evolving digital age, the continuous training and upskilling of judges and staff is of paramount importance. Embracing technological advancements is not just about integrating new systems, but also about ensuring that the human resources are equipped and adept at using these tools effectively. It is vital for our judges and court staff to remain updated with the latest legal precedents, technological tools, and administrative procedures. Regular training sessions, workshops, and seminars have been instituted to ensure that the judiciary remains at the forefront of legal and technological excellence. This commitment to continual learning ensures that the justice delivery system remains efficient,

timely, and in tune with the needs and expectations of the public. The reinforcement of knowledge and skills not only streamlines operations but also fortifies the trust that citizens place in our judiciary.

The Supreme Court stands as both the final appellate authority and a sentinel of the Constitution. It has the onerous task of harmonising its appellate role, which concerns individual rights and liberties, with its constitutional obligations. As the pinnacle of our judicial system, the Supreme Court sets the precedent. The reforms we introduce, both judicially and administratively, serve as benchmarks for High Courts and District Courts. Consequently, it becomes imperative for the Supreme Court to pioneer institutional reforms that refine the justice delivery mechanism. This means not only enhancing accessibility and disposal rates but also ensuring judgements which resonate with the core values of our Constitution.

Furthermore, we must address the need for greater diversity in the legal profession and the judiciary, ensuring that it reflects all the sections of our nation. This inclusivity will not only make our decisions more well-rounded but also enhance the legitimacy of the judiciary.

It is our hope that this Annual Report offers a genuine insight into the workings of the Supreme Court. Designed as both a reflective and forward-looking document, it is poised to serve as a foundation for public assessment and a beacon guiding our path ahead.

Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud

Introduction

Year after year, the Supreme Court of India strives to bring out Annual Reports, compiling information on its functioning and that of the High Courts, as a comprehensive compendium of the country's judicial system.

This year's report titled "Indian Judiciary: Annual Report 2022-2023" is divided into two volumes, where volume –I is based on the Supreme Court of India and Volume-II on 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 of the Court's commitment to remain open, inclusive and just.

Volume-1 of the Report comprises of 17 chapters. Brief profiles of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court are contained in Chapter 1. Chapter 2 gives an overview of the Supreme Court. Chapter 3 is on jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Chapter 4 contains details about the original Building as well as the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court. Chapter 5 entitled 'The Registry' contains information about different Branches/Sections of the Supreme Court administration. Chapter 6 is about court processes, judicial work flow and case management. Chapter 7 contains information about some of the progressive initiatives taken by the Supreme Court. Chapter 8 is about technological accomplishments in Supreme Court. Chapter 9 relates to the Supreme Court Judges Library and the Supreme Court Museum. Chapter 10 deals with various events held in Supreme Court. Chapter 11 covers information regarding Meetings and Conference both International and National. Chapter 12 is about the Bar which is an equal partner in the cause of justice. Chapter 13 exposit the achievements of the National Legal Services Authority, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, Supreme Court Mediation Centre and Mediation and Conciliation

Project Committee. Chapter 14 inter alia highlights Education Training and Research. Chapter 15 gives an insight into the Sports activities conducted during the Judicial Year. Case notes on some recent decisions of this Hon'ble Court are covered in Chapter 16. Chapter 17 contains information about the publications - Supreme Court Reports, the official journal of reportable Supreme Court decisions and Supreme Court Chronicle, the monthly newsletter of the Supreme Court.

Volume-2 of the Annual Report 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.

Profile of Judges





Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
Chief Justice of India

Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud is the Chief Justice of India.

He took oath as the Chief Justice of India on 9 November 2022. Before his appointment to the Supreme Court in May 2016, he was the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court (October 2013 - May 2016). He was a judge of the Bombay High Court for thirteen years (March 2000 - October 2013).

Justice Chandrachud joined the Bombay Bar after obtaining LLM and SJD degrees from the Harvard Law School. He was designated as a Senior Advocate in June 1998 and served as the Additional Solicitor General of India.

As an advocate he championed several causes, such as the right to privacy, rights of HIV+ workers and religious and linguistic minority rights. During his years as a lawyer, he was a Visiting Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Bombay.

As a judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Chandrachud has delivered seminal judgments, including on the decriminalization of homosexuality, decriminalization of adultery, declaration of privacy as a fundamental right, disability rights, caste and gender discrimination, and environmental law. His judgment mandated the grant of permanent commissions to women in the armed forces. He has delivered notable dissents which seek to uphold the values of liberty and freedom.

As Chairperson of the e-committee of the Supreme Court of India, he is leading a digital transformation of the judicial system in India, comprising over 18,000 courts. The aim is to ensure access, transparency and accountability. The e-committee has set up virtual courts and enabled video-conferencing of court hearings. It has facilitated digitization of court records and e-filing of cases. The National Judicial Data Grid is a repository of all decided and pending cases and judgments and will pave the path to using Artificial Intelligence in case management and deployment of resources.

Since he took charge as the Chief Justice of India, Justice Chandrachud has spearheaded numerous reforms on the administrative and judicial side. He launched the e-SCR project to provide free access to the judgments of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has introduced neutral citations for all its judgments to ensure a uniform pattern of citation. The Supreme Court has also commenced live streaming of proceedings of the Constitution Bench matters to make them more accessible to people.

Justice Chandrachud has steered initiatives to reduce the structural barriers that preclude members of the marginalized communities from accessing justice. The Supreme Court released a Sensitization Module for the Judiciary to sensitize the members of the judiciary on the concepts of gender and sexual identity. The Supreme Court has also taken steps to make its infrastructure inclusive and accessible.

Justice Chandrachud has been a guest speaker at Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, Australian National University and University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. He has addressed several international conferences including the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, United Nations Environmental Program, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts.



Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul

Born on 26 December 1958. Studied in Modern School, New Delhi from 1964 to 1976 completing his school education in Science & Economics. Graduated in Economics (Hons.) from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University in 1979. Obtained LL.B. Degree from The Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in 1982.

Enrolled as an Advocate with Bar Council of Delhi on 15 July 1982. Practiced mainly in the Commercial, Civil, Writ, Original and Company jurisdictions of the High Court of Delhi and the Supreme Court of India. Remained Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India from 1987 to 1999 and was designated as a Senior Advocate in December 1999.

Elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court of Delhi on 3 May 2001 and was appointed as a permanent Judge on 2 May 2003.

Elevated as the Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court w.e.f. 23 September 2012 to 25 September 2012.

Elevated as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 1 June 2013 and assumed charge as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court on 26 July 2014.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 17 February 2017.

Deeply interested in theatre, music and golf.

Due to retire on 25 December 2023.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna

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, 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.

Presently, Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Service Committee 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.

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 Aniruddha Bose

Born on 11 April 1959.

Studied in St. Lawrence High School, St. Xavier's College in Kolkata. Did LL.B. from Surendranath Law College under the University of Calcutta.

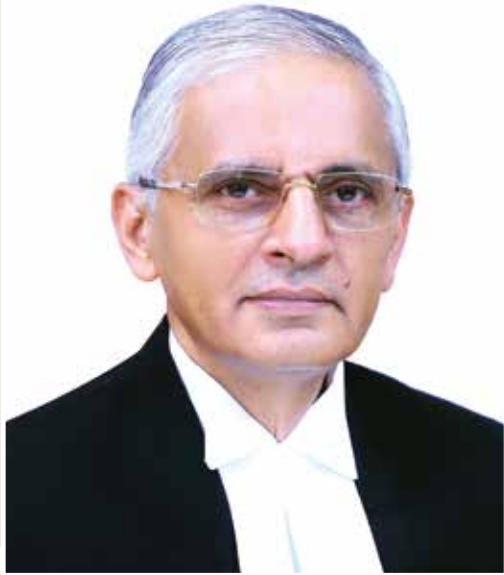
Practised on Constitutional, Civil and Intellectual Property matters in the Calcutta High Court in 1985. Worked in the Original Side as well as the Appellate Side of the High Court.

Elevated as Permanent Judge of the Calcutta High Court in January 2004.

Elevated as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court on 11 August 2018.

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

Due to retire on 10 April 2024.



Justice Ajjikuttira Somaiah Bopanna

Born on 20 May 1959.

Enrolled as an advocate on 21 November 1984 and practiced Civil, Constitutional, Company, Service and Labour matters in the High Court as well as in the Civil and Labour Courts. Worked as legal advisor to Central Public Sector Undertakings and worked as Additional Central Government Standing Counsel from 1999 onwards till 2005.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Karnataka on 6 January 2006 and became a Permanent Judge on 1 March 2007.

Elevated as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 29 October 2018.

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

Due to retire on 19 May 2024.



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 Shreeniwas 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 the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 24 May 2025.



Justice Vikram Nath

Born on 24 September 1962.

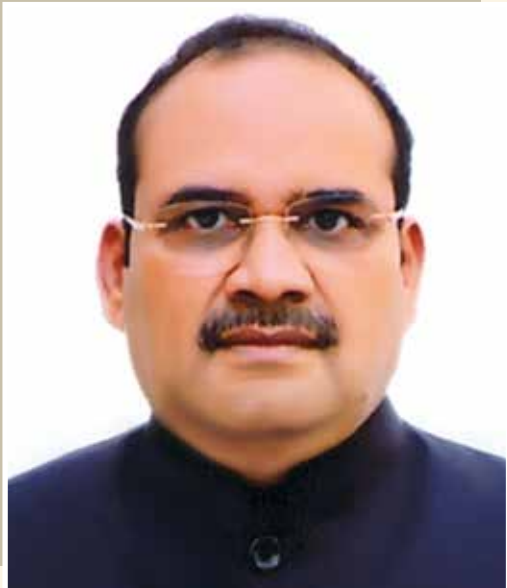
Enrolled with the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh on 30 March 1987.

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. He is the 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 Hima Kohli

Born on 2 September 1959. Was a practicing Advocate in the High Court of Delhi, till her elevation as a Judge in the same Court in the year 2006.

As a judge in the High Court of Delhi, she was appointed/nominated as a Member of the Law Schools at Delhi and Kolkata; Executive Chairperson of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority; Chairperson of the High-Powered Committee constituted by the Delhi Government for de-congestion of the Jails owing to COVID-19 pandemic and Chaired several Committees in the Delhi High Court.

Was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad on 7 January 2021 and was appointed as the Chancellor of the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), Hyderabad.

Was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021. Has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Gender Sensitization Internal Complaints Committee as well as the Family Courts Committee.

Is a member of the International Law Association, International Association of Women Judges and the Indian Law Institute. Is the Founder Patron of "WILL"-Women in Law and Litigation, a Society of Women Judges and Lawyers based in Delhi as also the Founder Term Trustee of the International Arbitration and Mediation Centre, Hyderabad.

Takes keen interest in environmental jurisprudence, arbitration, mediation, Family Courts and legislations relating to women. Recently, she was invited to deliver a special address at the Inaugural Session of the "International Conference on Arbitrating: Indo-UK Commercial Disputes" organized by the Indian Council for Arbitration in collaboration with FICCI at London, U.K. on 6 June 2023 and delivered keynote address at the inaugural session of the India Dispute Resolution Forum on the topic "India's Growth as a Hub for Arbitration" held at London on 7 and 8 June 2023, organised by the Thought Leaders4 Disputes.

Due to retire on 1 September 2024.



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. Practiced 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 Kannada translation of the book "Courts of India" released in April 2021.

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

Member of the Supreme Court Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee.

Member of Child Welfare Committee of 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.



Jusitce 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 the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 9 June 2025.



Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha

Born on 3 May 1963 to Smt. Satyavati and Late Shri P. Kodanda Ramayya in Hyderabad.

Graduated with triple majors in Economics, Political Science and Public Administration from Nizam College, Hyderabad and pursued law from the Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in 1988 and enrolled at the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh.

Practiced in Andhra Pradesh High Court, Hyderabad and shifted counsel practice to Supreme Court in 1989. Appeared in a large number of cases in the Supreme Court. Worked as the Commission Counsel for the Justice Chinnappa Reddy Commission.

Designated as a Senior Advocate by the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India in the year 2008. Appeared in a large number of public law cases involving constitutional, administrative, environmental issues. Appointed as *amicus curiae* by the Supreme Court in many cases such as the Forest Bench, Judicial Appointments where he assisted the Court.

Appointed as the Additional Solicitor General of India in 2014, during which time he represented the Union in a number of land mark cases including the NJAC case before the Constitution Bench. Part of the Indian Supreme Court Delegation to the Canadian Supreme Court where he presented a paper on extradition. Had the rare opportunity to represent the Indian Republic before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), at Hamburg, Germany. Also defended India before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in ICJ, Hague.

Part of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) and Mediation and Project Conciliation Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India. Part of the High powered Committee constituted for suggesting sweeping changes to the Arbitration Act and to suggest mechanism for Institutional Arbitration. Was a member of the Committee relating to restructuring of Appellate Tribunals and the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility. Also been a member of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA).

Had been on the Executive Council of many National Law Universities and other educational Institutions.

Elevated as 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 Navrojji Bhikhaji Pardiwala started practice in the year 1894 at Valsad. Grandfather Shri Cawasji Navrojji 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.

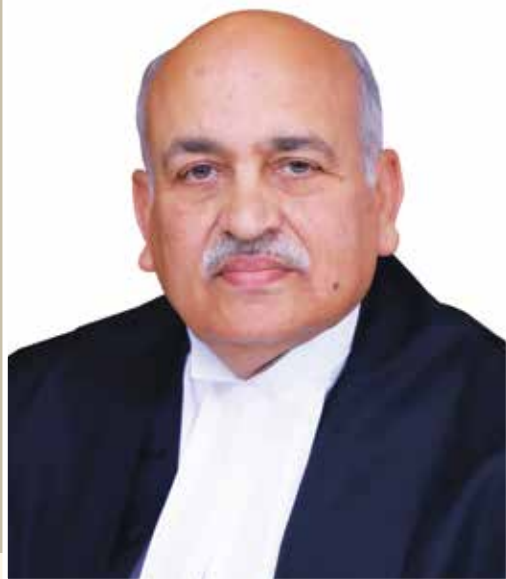
Was also a guest lecturer on Constitutional Law in the University College of Law, University of Calcutta between 1996-97 and 1999-2000.

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, and 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 High Court Judge elevated directly from the District Court Bar.

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

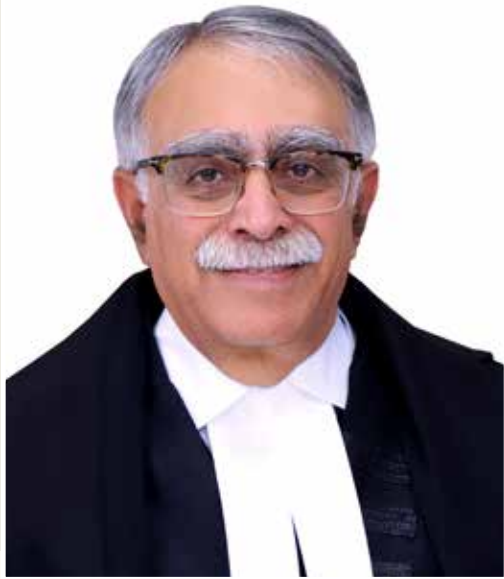
Elevated as Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on 4 January 2021.

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.

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 P.V. 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.

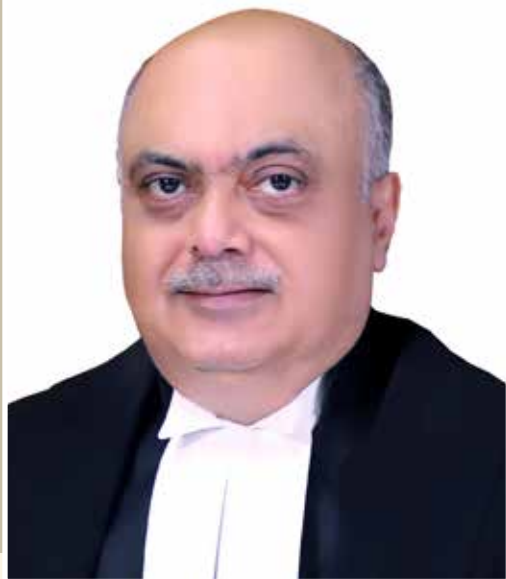
Sworn in as a Judge of Telangana High Court upon its formation on 1 January 2019.

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, BISCOAUN, 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 06 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.

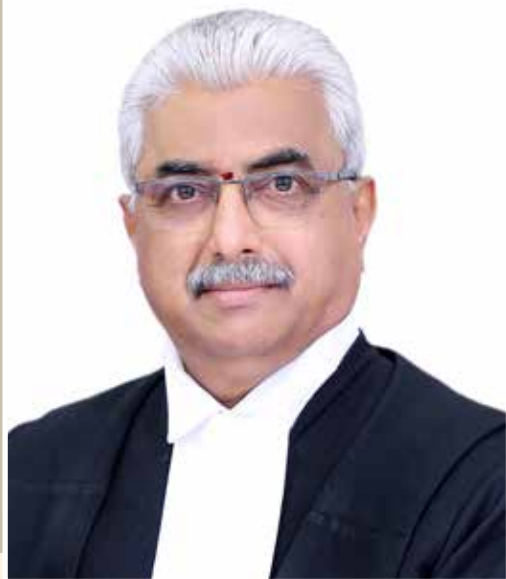
Was also appointed Chairman of a multi-member Committee constituted by Ministry of Women and Child Development to study Civil and Legal Aspects of International Child Abduction Bill, 2016, and Inter Country Removal & Retention of Children. Report accompanied by the recommendations and draft of the Protection 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 Arokiyamatha 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.

Enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Assam etc., on 20 March 1991.

Designated as Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court on 6 September 2010.

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

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, was Transferred to the Telangana High Court and took oath as Judge of the High Court for the State of Telangana on 22 October 2021.

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

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.

Started practicing in the Trial Court at Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh, and moved to the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad.

Was the Standing Counsel for a few Public Sector Undertakings/Statutory Bodies.

Served as a Special Government Pleader in the Office of Advocate General at the High Court from 2000 to 2003.

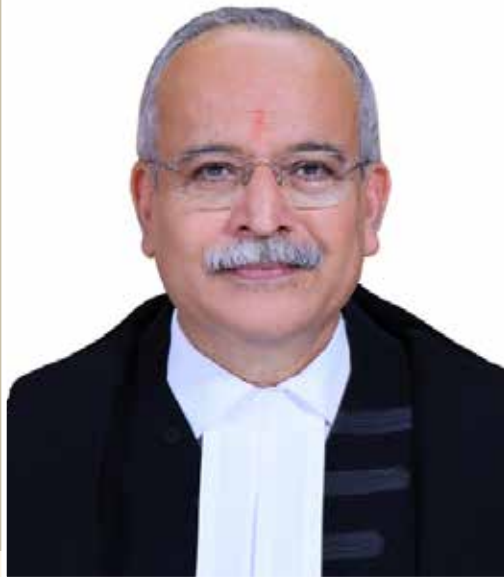
Practiced on the Original and Appellate side in the High Court of Judicature Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad before becoming a Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on 12 April 2013.

Presided as a Judge of the High Court at Hyderabad for the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. On the establishment of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati, was transferred to the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati, and worked till 18 March 2019.

Transferred to the High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam and assumed Office on 19 March 2019. 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, Himchal 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 Bar Council 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.

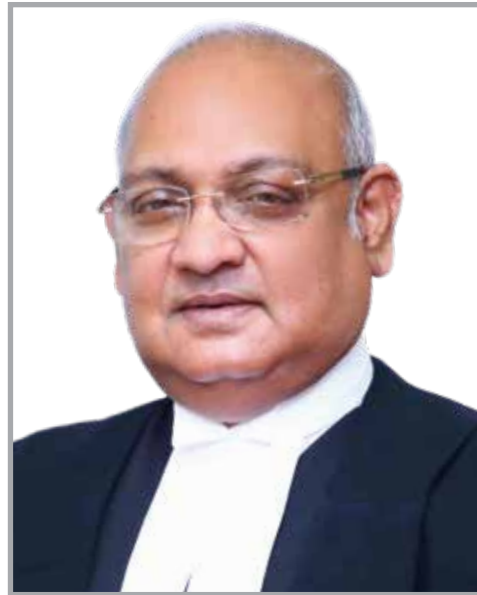
Due to retire on 10 January 2028.

Hon'ble Retired Judges



Justice S. Abdul Nazeer

Date of appointment: 17.02.2017
Held Office till: 04.01.2023



Justice Dinesh Maheshwari

Date of appointment: 18.01.2019
Held Office till: 14.05.2023



Justice M.R. Shah

Date of appointment: 02.11.2018
Held Office till: 15.05.2023



Justice K.M. Joseph

Date of appointment: 07.08.2018
Held Office till: 16.06.2023

Hon'ble Retired Judges



Justice Ajay Rastogi

Date of appointment: 02.11.2018
Held Office till: 17.06.2023



Justice V. Ramasubramanian

Date of appointment: 23.09.2019
Held Office till: 29.06.2023



Justice Krishna Murari

Date of appointment: 23.09.2019
Held Office till: 08.07.2023



Justice S. Ravindra Bhat

Date of appointment: 23.09.2019
Held Office till: 20.10.2023

Supreme Court: An Overview

The Indian judicial system exists as a unified system of Courts consisting of Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts. The provisions related to Courts are laid down in three parts in the Constitution of India - Chapter IV of Part V provides for the Union Judiciary, Chapter V of Part VI provides for the High Court at the State level, and Chapter VI of Part VI provides for District Judiciary. The Indian judicial system is hierarchical and has a pyramidal structure. The Supreme Court of India is the apex court of the country, acting as the custodian of the fundamental rights of all the citizens apart from being the highest court of appeal, both in civil as well as criminal matters. Apart from the Supreme Court, there are High Courts situated in different states of India. High Courts are the highest Courts at the State level. Under the administrative control of High Courts, there are District Courts, Courts of Judicial Magistrates and Special Courts functioning at the grassroots level of the justice administration system. Together, the Supreme Court of India, the

High Courts in the States and the Courts at District level are responsible for adjudication of thousands of legal disputes across the country every day.

Evolution of Judicial System in India

Any judicial system owes its foundation to law and the foundations of Indian law can be traced back to the Vedic period, around 1500 BCE, where early legal codes were derived from the Vedas. These codes, based on the principles of dharma or righteousness, provided a moral and ethical compass for society. Manusmriti and other Dharmashastras were instrumental in defining social norms, personal conduct, and legal practices during this era. An early document throwing light on the theory of jurisprudence, which forms part of practical governance, is the Artha Sastra of Kautilya dating back to circa 300 B.C. With the advent of Islamic rulers during the medieval period, Indian law underwent a significant transformation. Islamic law,



or Sharia, began to coexist with existing legal systems. The Fatawa Alamgiri, a comprehensive compilation of Islamic laws during the Mughal period, played a crucial role in legal administration. This period witnessed a fusion of indigenous customs and Islamic legal principles, leading to a diverse legal framework.

The colonial period, starting from the late 18th century, marked a watershed moment evolution of the India's legal system. The British East India Company introduced English common law and statutory laws. The promulgation of Regulation Act of 1773 by the King of England paved the way for establishment of Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta. Letters Patent was issued on 26 March 1774 to establish the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta, as a Court of Record, with full power and authority to hear and determine all complaints under any existing law also to entertain, hear and determine any suit or action against any of His Majesty's subjects in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa (now Odisha). Similarly, Supreme Courts were established at Madras and Bombay by King George-III on 26 December 1800 and 8 December 1823, respectively.

In the year 1857, after the first war of independence, the power from the East India Company was transferred to the British Crown leading to changes in the judicial system. The Indian High Courts Act, 1861 was enacted to create High Courts for various provinces and the Supreme Courts at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay were abolished. High Courts were established in Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and subsequently in Lahore, Nagpur and Patna. In this period, the Appeals against the judgment of British-Indian Court lay to the Privy Council in Britain.

However, because of difficulties faced in accessing the Privy Council due to distance and cost, there were demands for establishment of a 'Federal Court' in India.

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.

India attained independence in 1947 and the Constitution of India came into being on 26 January 1950. "We the people" of independent India, through Constituent Assembly, enforced our own Constitution providing, inter alia, for replacing the Federal Court by establishing Supreme Court of India as the Apex Court in the judicial hierarchy of the land, with its seat at Delhi. The Constituent Assembly conceived Supreme Court of Independent India as the guardian of social revolution being a repository of all judicial power 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 Constitution of India deals with establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court, inter alia, prescribing its composition, qualification and mode of appointment of a Judge of the Supreme Court from office. In order to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, a person must be a citizen of India and must have been, for at least five years, a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession, or an Advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession for at least 10 years or he must be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

The Constitution seeks to ensure the independence of Supreme Court Judges in various 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. A person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is debarred from practising in any court of law or before any other authority in India.

There is also a provision for appointment of adhoc Judges under Article 127, and attendance of retired Judges at sittings, under Article 128. The age of retirement of

the judges of the Supreme Court is 65 years. The Supreme Court is a court of record and it has all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.¹

With its extensive powers under Article 32 and Article 129 to Article 145 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court of India stands out as the forum for redressal of grievances, as the guardian of liberties and rights and also as the final arbiter in most disputes, not only between individuals, but also between States or between the Union and State/s or between individual/s and State/s. As an appellate court, it can hear appeals from the High Courts on civil, criminal and constitutional matters. The Supreme Court has the Appellate Jurisdiction over all Courts and Tribunals in India.

The Supreme Court can exercise its advisory jurisdiction to advise the President on any question of law or fact of public importance, or cases belonging to disputes arising out of the pre-constitutional treaties and agreements which are excluded from its original jurisdiction.² Further, the Supreme Court has the power to review any judgment pronounced or order made by it.³ Also, the Supreme Court performs the task of protecting the fundamental rights of the citizens by exercising its writ jurisdiction.⁴

The Supreme Court is the custodian of fundamental rights and "rule of law". Article 144 mandates all authorities, civil and judicial, to act in aid of the Supreme Court. Interwoven into these powers is the power of judicial review, the power to strike down such legislation or executive action which may be violative of the provisions or the basic structure of the Constitution or adverse to the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The Court has the authority to

1 Article 129, The Constitution of India, 1950.

2 Article 143, The Constitution of India, 1950.

3 Article 137, The Constitution of India, 1950.

4 Article 139, The Constitution of India, 1950.

pass any decree or order as is necessary for doing "complete justice".

Under Article 141 of the Constitution, the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the territory of India. The Supreme Court exercises a wide and powerful discretionary jurisdiction under Article 136 which is unique and is aimed at doing complete justice rather than strictly following the letter of the law. Article 32 of the Constitution confers a right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights, and also power on the Supreme Court to issue writs for the protection of such rights. Further, for doing complete justice, the Supreme Court is empowered, under Article 142, to pass necessary orders. The Supreme Court thus wields plenary powers for the purpose of meting out justice to the citizens of our country.

The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in English. The day to day working of the Court and its Registry is regulated by Supreme Court Rules, 2013 and 'Handbook on Practice and Procedure'. The links to these can be found in the website of Supreme Court of India at www.sci.gov.in

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 49 Hon'ble Chief Justices and 191

Hon'ble Judges besides the present 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 Appointment Office	Date of Appointment Office as C.J.I.	Held as C.J.I 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

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

* 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 Aiyar	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. Mudholkar	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

S. No.	Name of The Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment	Held Office Till
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

S. No.	Name of The Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment	Held Office Till
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

S. No.	Name of The Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment	Held Office Till
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

S. No.	Name of The Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment	Held Office Till
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. Mukhopadhaya	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

S. No.	Name of The Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment	Held Office Till
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 Mohan M. Shantanagoudar	17/02/2017	24/04/2021*
177.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Abdul Nazeer	17/02/2017	04/01/2023
178.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Sinha	17/02/2017	18/08/2021
179.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta	17/02/2017	06/05/2020
180.	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indu Malhotra	27/04/2018	13/03/2021
181.	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee	07/08/2018	23/09/2022
182.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vineet Saran	07/08/2018	10/05/2022
183.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph	07/08/2018	16/06/2023
184.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant Gupta	02/11/2018	16/10/2022
185.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Subhash Reddy	02/11/2018	04/01/2022
186.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mukeshkumar Rasikbhai Shah	02/11/2018	15/05/2023
187.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi	02/11/2018	17/06/2023
188.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari	18/01/2019	14/05/2023
189.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishna Murari	23/09/2019	08/07/2023
190.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat	23/09/2019	20/10/2023
191.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian	23/09/2019	29/06/2023

* Date of Death

** Date of Resignation



As on 10 October 2023



Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction and the authority to hear a wide range of cases. Its jurisdiction is generally classified into three categories namely, original, appellate and advisory.

Original Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of India is empowered by Article 131 of the Constitution of India to entertain original jurisdiction exclusively with regards to any dispute between the Government of India and one or more States; or, between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more other States on the other; or, between two or more States, if and in so far as the dispute involves any question (whether of law or fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends: Provided that the said jurisdiction shall not extend to a dispute arising out of any treaty, agreement, covenant, engagements, and or other similar instrument which, having been entered into or executed before the commencement of this Constitution, continues in operation after such commencement, or which provides that the said jurisdiction shall not extend to such a dispute. In addition, Article 32 of the Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court in regard to enforcement of Fundamental Rights. It 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.

In accordance with the power conferred under Article 71 of the Constitution, all doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice President shall be inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision shall be final. Apart from this, Section 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 enables the Supreme Court to transfer any case, appeal or other proceedings from High Court or other civil court in one State to a High Court or other civil court in any other State. Moreover, 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. The Appointment of Arbitrators by the Chief Justice of India Scheme, 1996 as framed under Section 11(10) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 regulates the appointment of arbitrators under Section 11(6) of the said Act. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has all the powers to punish for contempt of itself. For this purpose, 'Rules to Regulate proceedings for Contempt of the Supreme Court, 1975', have been framed in exercise of the power under Section 23 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, read with Article 145 of the Constitution of India.

Appellate Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court has very wide appellate jurisdiction over all Courts and Tribunals in India. The Appellate Jurisdiction is exercised under Articles 132 to 134. According to Article 132, an appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court from any judgment, decree or final order of a High Court in the territory of India, whether in a civil, criminal or other proceeding, if the High Court certifies under Article 134A that the case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of this Constitution. Apart from the above, Supreme Court also has the discretion to grant Special Leave to Appeal under Article 136 of the Constitution from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any cause or matter passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India. Further, the Supreme Court of India has the jurisdiction to decide a statutory appeal, whenever any legislation provides for appeal to the Supreme Court. A number of special statutes provide for an Appeal to Supreme Court. Such provisions for statutory appeals include the following:

- 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 Section 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);
- Sections 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); and
- Section 60(2) of the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 (1 of 2021).
- Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2002, as regards 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, as regards reference by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

Other Powers of The Supreme Court

In addition to the Original, Appellate and Advisory Jurisdiction, the Supreme Court also exercises the following powers:

Advisory Jurisdiction

Article 143(1) of the Constitution of India states that if at any time it appears to the President of India that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such nature or of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, the President may refer the question to the Supreme Court for consideration. The Supreme Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President, its opinion thereon. In accordance with Article 143(2) of the Constitution, the President may, refer a dispute of the kind mentioned in the proviso of Article 131 of Constitution to the Supreme Court for opinion and the Supreme Court shall, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon.

Reference to the Supreme Court can also be made under following provisions:

- Article 317 of the Constitution of India, as regards removal of Chairman or any other Member of a Public Service Commission.
- **Public Interest Litigation (PIL):** A Public Interest Litigation may commence in any of the manner, such as: (i) through a suo motu petition in pursuance of the order of the Chief Justice or Judge of the Supreme Court; (ii) in pursuance of an order of the Chief Justice or a Judge nominated by the Chief Justice on a letter or representation; (iii) by an order of the Supreme Court to treat a petition as a Public Interest Litigation; (iv) by presentation of a petition in the Supreme Court.
- **Power of Review:** The Supreme Court under Article 137 of the Constitution of India has the power to review any judgment pronounced, or any order made by it. Review Petitions are disposed of by circulation as per listing procedures. However, in death sentence cases, oral hearing has been made permissible, limited to 30 minutes as per the verdict

in *Sonu Sardar v. Union of India* [2014(9) SCC 737]

- **Curative Petitions:** Order XLVIII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 provides that the Supreme Court can reconsider its final judgment/order by way of a Curative Petition on limited grounds after the dismissal of Review Petition.

Important Acts Relating to Supreme Court

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

- Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 (51 of 1968);
- Judges (Protection) Act, 1985 (59 of 1985) [amended by Act No. 34 of 2019];
- Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970 (28 of 1970) [amended by Act No. 37 of 1972];
- Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 (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 (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.

Court Buildings

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 from 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 the old Judges Library of the Court. The left wing presently consists of offices of the Court.

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 Hon'ble the then 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-

New Initiatives

Creation of new Chambers for Hon'ble Judges at the main Supreme Court Complex.

The task of creation of three Chambers for the Hon'ble Judges are being constructed and developed on the 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.

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

With a view to improve the aesthetics of the Central Lawn in Main Building, the work of construction of stone mesh jali with the provision of dynamic illumination replacing

the old/damaged iron mesh jali around the Central Lawn has been undertaken.

Creation of Consultation Room

An additional exclusive space viz. GE-92, Ground Floor, East Wing, Main Building is being developed as consultation rooms for the members of the Bar.

Development of Visitor's Waiting Lounge

A Waiting Lounge has been developed for the high Govt. Officers/visitors/litigants coming to the Supreme Court of India near Public Relations Office in the Main Building of the Supreme Court of India.

Upgradation of Lounge and Dining Hall for Hon'ble Judges & Assembly Area

The existing Lounge and the Dining Hall at first floor, West Wing, Main Building has been upgraded and artistically re-designed gaining exclusive serving area, pantry area within the existing space with wider circulation.

Beautification of surrounding areas in the Lawyers Chambers Block

The areas lying abandoned in the M.C. Setalvad Lawyers Chambers Block and C.K. Daphtary Lawyers Chambers Block including the washroom areas are being beautified by carrying out various repairing/developing/illumination/ floral works.

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 3 on pilot project basis which will be extended to the remaining Courts Rooms in phased manner.

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. For the present, this facility is available at the Chief Justice's Court, Court Nos.2 to 5 including corridor and Plaza in front, both waiting areas in front of plaza canteen and Press Lounge-I & II and the said facility has been extended to all the Court Rooms and adjoining areas, which will be further extended to Bar Library-I & II, Ladies Bar Room and Bar Lounge in phased manner.

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 Additional 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.



Demarcation of Security Zone in Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India

Two types of security zones have been created in Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India to regulate the entrants visiting the Complex, one as 'Regulated Entry Zone' (REZ) that includes 'A', 'B' 'C' & 'F' Blocks which hosts Administrative Wing, Judicial Sections, Convention Centre & Services and one as 'Low Security Zone'(LSZ) that includes 'D' & 'E' Blocks which hosts Lawyers' Chambers & various utilities. To segregate the said areas, guard railings are being installed and porta cabins are made functional at each such entry points.

Training-cum-Examination Centre in Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India

An exclusive space at first floor in Block 'E' of the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India viz. Room Nos. 101 & 102 has been designated and developed. It includes the facility of computers and lounge etc., to host various Training Programmes that may be conducted for different stakeholders as per requirements and also to facilitate conducting of examinations.

Yoga and Recreation Hall in Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India

A 'Yoga and Recreation Hall' has been opened at fourth floor in 'A' Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India providing facilities for Yoga classes. Adjacent to it is a facility for Indoor Games such as Table Tennis, Carrom, Chess which the staff members of the Supreme Court of India can utilize.

Setting up FTTH Network for Broadband facility in Lawyers' Chambers Block, Additional Building Complex and other areas in the Supreme Court of India.

The Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India came up in the year 2019 and the said Complex is being made fully functional which hosts Offices of the Registry, Lawyers Chambers and other service utilities for which there was a need for broadband/network facility. Accordingly, work of setting up of FTTH network for providing this facility in the said Complex has been completed through MTNL.

Mobile Connectivity in Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India.

Steps have been taken to improve mobile connectivity in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India through In-Building Solution (IBS) being provided by the TCIL. The work has already been started and is expected to be completed within a month.

Creation of Cubicles for Lawyers in Block 'D', Additional Building Complex

Cubicles are being created in three Big Halls of Block 'D' in Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India for the wait-listed Advocates from the panel formed for allotment of Lawyers Chambers.

Beautification of Hon'ble Judges' Library at Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India

Hon'ble Judges' Library is now fully functional from the four floors in 'A' Block, Additional Building Complex, the entrance and other areas have been beautified along with required infrastructure.

Canteen for the Advocates, Litigants in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India

An exclusive space at Ground Floor, 'E' Block, Additional Building Complex viz. Room No. 001 is being re-designed to host the Canteen

facility for the Advocates, Litigants and other stakeholders.

Staff Library

A library for the staff of the Registry is proposed to be set up in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India for the purpose of reading, learning etc.

Ayush

Ayush being a traditional and non-conventional system of health care and healing is being proposed to set up in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India for the staff of the Registry.

Other Initiatives

- Lifts Nos. 5,7,8 & 10 in Main Building, Supreme Court of India has been replaced.
- Dumb Waiter to lift the paper-books from Ground Floor to Basement, Main Building are being installed.
- Replacement of damaged flooring near Mahatma Gandhi Statue in Central Lawn, at Main Campus is under progress.
- Similarly, the surrounding areas near the Mother and Child Sculpture is being upgraded by replacing the damaged flooring
- Renovation of Waiting Area for Court Nos.1 to 5 near Plaza Canteen in Main Campus for the Advocates.

- Renovation and upgradation work is in progress in Law Officers' Wing, Second Floor, Main Building
- Facility of Coffee Cafe in Room No. 005, West Wing, Main Building to be run by Mitti Foundation is under process.
- Wall Paneling (Stone/Wooden) at Ground Floor and First Floor, 'C' Block, Additional Building Complex

Initiatives of the Security Section

- **Introduction of e-pass for the visitors**
Su-Swagatam offers a convenient and simple interface for any person desirous of visiting Supreme Court to manage the creation of an entry pass all by oneself online without visiting the Reception Counter or waiting in queues. It is a proposal to introduce QR based e-pass, which can be generated and printed from home and the same is checked at the flap barriers placed at various entry gates by security personnel points.
- **Introduction of Guard of Honour to the retiring Hon'ble Judges**
With effect from 01.01.2023, Guard of Honour is introduced to the retiring Hon'ble Judges on the day of their retirement.

The Registry

The administrative wing 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, 5 Officers on Special Duty and 25 Additional Registrars who are assigned work of specific branches and they, in turn, are assisted by Deputy Registrars, and other officers/staff.

For more efficient and effective streamlining of the work process and procedures, the work on the judicial side has been distributed amongst three Registrars, namely, Registrar (Judicial Listing), Registrar (Judicial Administration) and Registrar (Judicial Processes). 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 is a Registrar (Human Resource) who is also discharging the duties of the Registrar (Judges' Admin & Intl. Relations). Apart from the above, there is a Registrar (Procurement & Stores) who besides supervision of work relating to Procurement, Stores and Maintenance is also conducting the Registrar's Court No. 1. Registrar's Court No. 2 is being conducted by a Registrar who is also supervising the Vigilance Cell, while Registrar (Recruitment) is also functioning as Registrar (Accounts). The work relating to Confidential Cell is being supervised by the Registrar (Confidential Cell) while work relating to designation of Senior Advocates and Public Relations Office is being supervised by OSD (Registrar)-cum-PPS to

Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. Besides, there is an OSD(Registrar) for Protocol Services; and an OSD(Registrar) looking after work relating to Library and Editorial Divisions, Translation Cell and Supreme Court Museum who is also discharging the functions of Head of Office. The work relating to Admn. General Section, Court Building, House-keeping, Caretaking, Parking and Security is under supervision of another OSD (Registrar).

There are 2654 posts on the establishment of the Supreme Court Registry, which includes 2262 permanent posts. Details of staff strength in the Registry are as under:

Staff strength in the Registry		
S. No.	Type of Posts	No. of Posts
1	Gazetted-Officers	372
2	Non-Gazetted officials	1303
3	Non-Clerical Staff	979
Total		2654

The Supreme Court Registry has been divided into 66 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 24 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, the 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)], Sections relating to Technology and Computerization (Computer Cell & D.E.U. Sections), Elimination Section, 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; and also a dedicated Confidential Cell. 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.

There are 17 Sections dealing with the matters pertaining to the establishment, which includes Recruitment Cell, Admn. I-Human Resource Management, Admn. II, Admn. III, Training Cell, Vigilance Cell, Admn. Materials (renamed as Procurement & Stores section), Admn. Materials (Maintenance), Admn. General, Cash and Accounts-I & II, Admn. J, Nodal Cell, Protocol, Medical, Transport and Caretaking. 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. 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 (renamed as Procurement & 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. Admn. General Section (renamed as Court & Building 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 and also organisation of events of National and International importance 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. Reception Office and the Reception Counters provide necessary assistance and hassle-free services to the visitors, litigant public and the Advocates.

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 Secretariats

a) Conference Secretariat

In 2016, the Conference Secretariat was established within the Supreme Court of India. Its primary objective is to enhance coordination and monitor progress while also ensuring the 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 amassing information via detailed questionnaires, which were formulated following the adoption of resolutions during the Chief Justice Conference in 2016. This data collection on various indicators is done on a quarterly basis. The invaluable input gathered through the portal played a pivotal role in facilitating the Chief Justices' Conference held on November 26-27, 2022, with the theme "Envisioning the Futuristic Judiciary". The Conference Secretariat played an important role during this event.

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

b) Information and Statistics 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 Right to Information Act, 2005. It has also been entrusted with giving approved necessary information relating to the Supreme Court of India to the Media and Public periodically. 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 Subordinate 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 put 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 2022 to 30 June 2023, quarterly data for Institution, Disposal and Pendency of cases during the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022, 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022, 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 and 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 and Annual Data for the year 2022 have been compiled and finalised.

During the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, a total of 12,472 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 2022 to 30 June 2023, a total of 620 First Appeals under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 were received and dealt with in the office of the First Appellate Authority as per the provision of the said Act.

During the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, a total of 173 Second Appeals pertaining to this Public Authority, have been defended in the Central Information Commission. Also, the Transparency Audit of the proactive disclosures, for the year 2021-2022, under Section 4 of the 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.

Former Registrar Generals / Secretary Generals

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

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

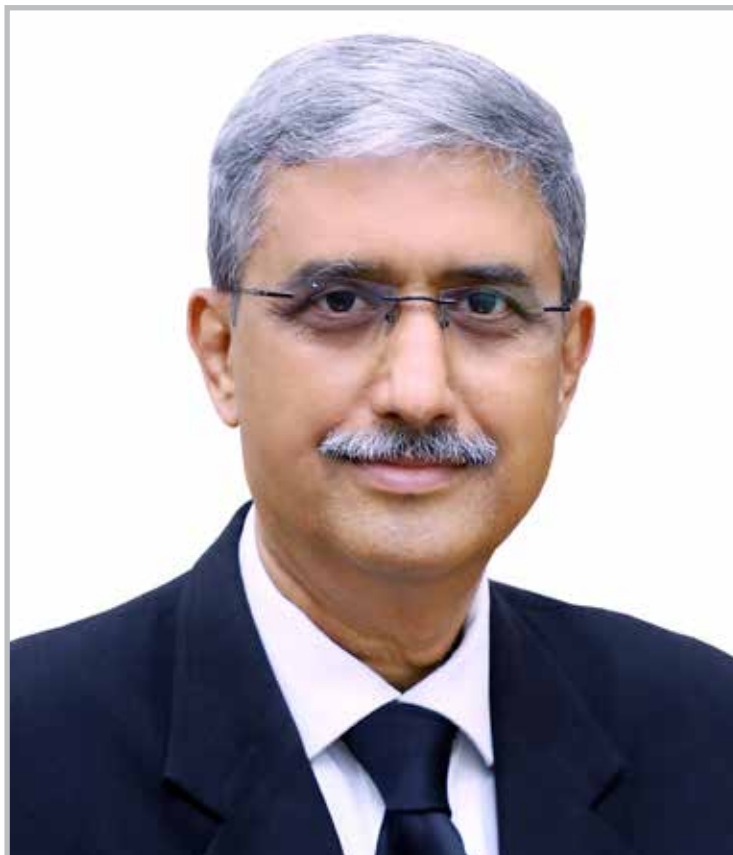
S. No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
1	Shri P.N. Murthy	26.01.1950	04.01.1956
2	Shri K. Krishnaswami Aiyar	05.01.1956	01.04.1956
3	Shri Arindam Dutt	02.04.1956	14.06.1962
4	Shri S.N. Sharma	01.07.1962	15.03.1964
5	Shri Y.D. Desai	13.08.1963	19.04.1969
6	Shri C.V. Rane	09.06.1969	19.10.1971
7	Shri M.P.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

S. No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
27	Shri Suresh Chandra	18.12.2002	31.01.2004
28	Shri J.K. Sharma	03.02.2004	31.07.2006
29	Shri V.K. Jain	08.07.2004	30.11.2005
30	Shri Hemant Sampat	08.12.2005	07.02.2007
31	Shri B. Sudheendra Kumar	20.03.2006	01.09.2007
32	Shri S.G. Shah	11.05.2006	30.04.2009
33	Shri R.K. Gauba	11.05.2006	12.01.2007
34	Shri T.N. Sansi	01.08.2006	30.06.2008
35	Shri T. Sivadasan	07.02.2007	31.10.2010
36	Shri Sunil Thomas	12.03.2007	11.03.2014
37	Shri M.P. Bhadrans	27.09.2007	13.05.2009
38	Shri Ashok Kumar	16.10.2008	31.12.2010
39	Shri Ashok Menon	01.05.2009	31.05.2010
40	Shri M.K.Gupta	14.05.2009	01.05.2010
41	Shri S.G. Shah	03.05.2010	11.11.2012
42	Shri Mohammad Akram Sayeed	12.05.2010	10.05.2014
43	Shri Maharaj Krishan Hanjura	28.06.2010	24.06.2011
44	Shri Ravindra Maithani	21.09.2010	12.05.2013
45	Shri P.R. Bora	22.11.2010	01.10.2012
46	Shri H.B. Prabhakara Sastry	11.07.2011	10.10.2011
47	Shri Nijamoddin Jahiroddin Jamadar	01.05.2012	30.04.2014
48	Shri Sheo Kumar Singh	29.08.2013	06.09.2013
49	Shri Sanjiv Jain	05.02.2014	01.11.2014
50	Shri V.S.R Avadhani	02.04.2014	25.10.2014
51	Shri Pankaj Bhandari	30.04.2014	15.11.2014
52	Shri Govind K. Rathod	25.08.2014	29.11.2014
53	Shri Praveen Kumar	03.10.2014	03.01.2015
54	Shri Maharaj Krishan Hanjura	21.08.2013	12.10.2015

S. No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
55	Dr. K. Arul	15.10.2014	14.10.2015
56	Ms. Rachna Gupta	31.01.2014	12.12.2015
57	Shri Surajit Dey	29.11.2014	12.12.2015
58	Dr. K. Arul	14.12.2015	18.04.2016
59	Shri Subhash Malik	01.08.2007	31.05.2016
60	Shri Raj Pal Arora	03.01.2011	31.05.2016
61	Shri Pawan Dev Kotwal	14.12.2015	31.03.2017
62	Shri M. V. Ramesh	05.01.2015	04.05.2017
63	Ms. Nisha Bharadwaj	17.11.2015	31.05.2017
64	Shri Ravinder Nath Nijhawan	17.11.2015	24.08.2017
65	Shri Chirag Bhanu Singh	10.11.2014	9.11.2017
66	Shri Sanjay Parihar	05.09.2016	30.6.2018
67	Shri Ramkumar Choubey	26.10.2017	1.10.2018
68	Shri Kapil Kumar Mehta	20.04.2017	1.10.2018
69	Shri Manoj Jain	06.08.2018	1.10.2018
70	Shri K. Babu	1.10.2018	16.11.2018
71	Shri Surinder S. Rathi	23.11.2018	01.12.2019
72	Shri Surya Pratap Singh	20.08.2018	18.2.2021
73	Ms. Rita Chopra	05.11.2019	28.02.2021
74	Shri B. Hari (Officer on Special Duty)	02.08.2019	20.04.2021
75	Shri Sham Nagnathrao Joshi (Officer on Special Duty)	27.05.2019	22.06.2021
76	Shri Anil Laxman Pansare	20.09.2018	28.07.2021
77	*Shri Rajiv Kalra (as OSD in the grade of Registrar w.e.f. 16.11.2019)	03.12.2019	31.08.2021
78	Shri 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)

S. No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
80	Shri Vinod Singh Rawat	18.02.2021	17.02.2022
81	Shri P.K. Gera	23.03.2018	31.03.2022
82	Shri H.K. Juneja	05.11.2019	31.07.2022
83	Shri Avani Pal Singh	24.11.2018	26.09.2022
84	Shri Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara	01.08.2022	30.09.2022
85	Shri Rajesh Kumar Goel	29.04.2016	03.10.2022
86	Shri B.L.N. Achary	22.04.2021	01.11.2022
87	Ms. Anju Bajaj Chandna	09.11.2021	08.11.2022
88	Shri Yajuvender Singh (Officer on Special Duty)	06.01.2022	31.12.2022
89	Shri Chirag Bhanu Singh (as OSD in the grade of Registrar w.e.f. 22.5.2021)	28.07.2021	31.01.2023
90	Shri Saurabh Partap Singh Laler (as OSD in the grade of Registrar w.e.f. 9.11.2021)	17.2.2022	31.01.2023

SECRETARY GENERAL



Shri Atul Madhukar Kurhekar

REGISTRARS



Shri Deepak Jain



Shri Pardeep Kumar Sharma

REGISTRARS/OSD



Shri Rakesh Kumar



Shri Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi



Shri Puneet Sehgal



Shri Shashidhara Shetty



Shri Devender Pal Walia



Shri Pavanesh D.

REGISTRARS/OSD



Shri Vivek Saxena



Shri Harvinder Singh



Dr. (Smt.) Uma Narayan



Shri Rajiv Sharma



Shri Ashish J. Shiradhonkar



Shri Mahesh Tanajirao Patankar

Judicial Wing

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 24 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 24 Sections on the basis of nature of cases allocated to a particular Section. In addition to these 24 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, Scanning 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

In order to clear the backlog of cases, the Supreme Court of India has made various efforts from time to time and also succeeded in reducing the pendency. However, due to the unprecedented situation arisen on account of Covid-19 pandemic, the normal functioning of the Court was curtailed. Despite this, the benches used to sit during the entire period and take up hearing of cases

through video conferencing, by adhering to Covid-19 protocols. Though the pendency has swelled in the past years due to Covid-19, the Hon'ble Court endeavored to hear as many matters as could be possible during the post-Covid period by adopting Hybrid Mode (Physical and Virtual mode) of hearing of cases.

An initiative was taken in May 2017 with the introduction of an Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS). The same was inaugurated on 10 May 2017 by Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India in a glittering function attended by Hon'ble the then Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges and other dignitaries. This system is not only transparent and dynamic but is also litigant centric. Under the new ICMIS, the website of this Hon'ble Court was also transformed which provided lot more information for the benefit of counsel, litigants and all concerned.

The newly designed website has enabled issuance of notices to the Advocates-on-Record, litigants and to Government Departments, electronically. Another significant achievement is the publication of e-Cause Lists, which are forwarded on the respective e-mails of all concerned.

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

In the new ICMIS programme, the Union of India, State Government and the High Courts can monitor the status of their cases through login IDs and also download the scanned copies online. Besides this even the jails throughout the country and all Police Stations 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.

A novel procedure has been adopted 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 appropriately named as "FASTER" i.e. Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records. It has tremendously 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 were constituted for hearing Death Reference Cases including other Criminal Matters, Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Matters, Land Acquisition Matters, Compensation Matters, Direct Tax Matters, Indirect Tax Matters and Arbitration matters on Regular Hearing Days i.e. on every Wednesday and Thursday.

Six Three-Judge Benches were constituted with a view to expedite the disposal of Three Judge Bench Matters and there were approximately **166 sittings** held by the said Benches.

As on 30.08.2022, there were 32 cases pending for adjudication before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the form of Constitution Bench Cases to be listed before Five, Seven and Nine Hon'ble Judges. For adjudication of the same, six Constitution Benches were constituted. For now, there are only 19 such

matters are pending for adjudication and in 4 Constitution Bench matters judgment for pronouncement has been reserved by the Hon'ble Court. The remaining Constitution Bench matters are notified to be taken up in near future.

12 Hon'ble Judges were nominated by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India for hearing Single Judge Bench/ Judge-in-Chamber Matters. Such matters were listed before Hon'ble Judges 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

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 now being listed chronologically and in relative proportion of cases pending under different subject categories;
- (ii) Matters pending on regular hearing side in which bail applications were filed are listed before each of the Benches dealing with the criminal categories for their speedy disposal. Since the liberty of individuals is at stake in criminal matters where the accused are in custody the same were also listed before the Hon'ble Courts on priority basis;
- (iii) To avoid delay in service of notice on the parties, a special tracking system of notices has been devised in tandem with the postal authorities. It ensures service of notices promptly;

- (iv) The procedure of issuing formal orders has been simplified. Now certified copies of the orders are sent to the concerned authorities. This has expedited the process;
- (v) The practice of placing Record of Proceedings in Part-II case file is discontinued and they are now included in Part-I, right from the inception of the matter. This has simplified the process and done away with cumbersome exercise of shifting the Record of Proceedings from Part-II file to Part-I file after the disposal of the matter and at the time of consigning it to the Record Room;
- (vi) 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;
- (vii) The previous practice of publication and uploading of Advance List has been restored so that the Litigants and Advocates are aware of the listing of their matters well before the day of its listing as it is generally uploaded on the website two weeks prior to the date of listing. Simultaneously, elimination notice of matters deleted from the Advance List is also uploaded on the website with the reasons for deletion;
- (viii) In order to list the fresh matters within a week of their verification, the fresh matters verified on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday were listed on Monday in the next week and those verified on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday were listed on Friday in the next week, respectively. Subsequently the cases verified on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, are now being listed on the next Monday and the matters verified on Friday, Saturday and Monday are being listed on the following Friday;
- (ix) Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the functioning of the Hon'ble Court has been adversely affected. However, despite complete lockdown, some Benches continuously assembled and heard matters of urgent nature through video conferencing mode. Apart from this, Curative and Review Petitions were also listed by circulation in Chambers during lockdown period and were all disposed off;
- (x) Fresh Transfer Petitions belonging to subject categories 1412 and 1802 are now being listed before Single Judge Bench, pursuant to amendment of Order VI Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. After notice Transfer Petitions are being listed before Single and Division Benches in order to achieve early disposal of such cases .
- (xi) Generally, upto 10 Transfer Petitions and 10 Bail Matters are being listed before each Court on all five working days.
- (xii) In addition to Monday and Friday, Tuesday has also been declared as Miscellaneous day for listing maximum after notice matters.
- (xiii) During Summer Vacation of 2023, Vacation Benches were constituted through out the vacation for hearing and disposing off miscellaneous as well as regular hearing matters.
- (xiv) 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 the Hon'ble Court.
- (xv) 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
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

YEAR	INSTITUTION			DISPOSAL			PENDENCY		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
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
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 (upto Oct.) #	43771	1724	45495	39132	5725	44857	59712	19723	79435

* 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 October, 2023)

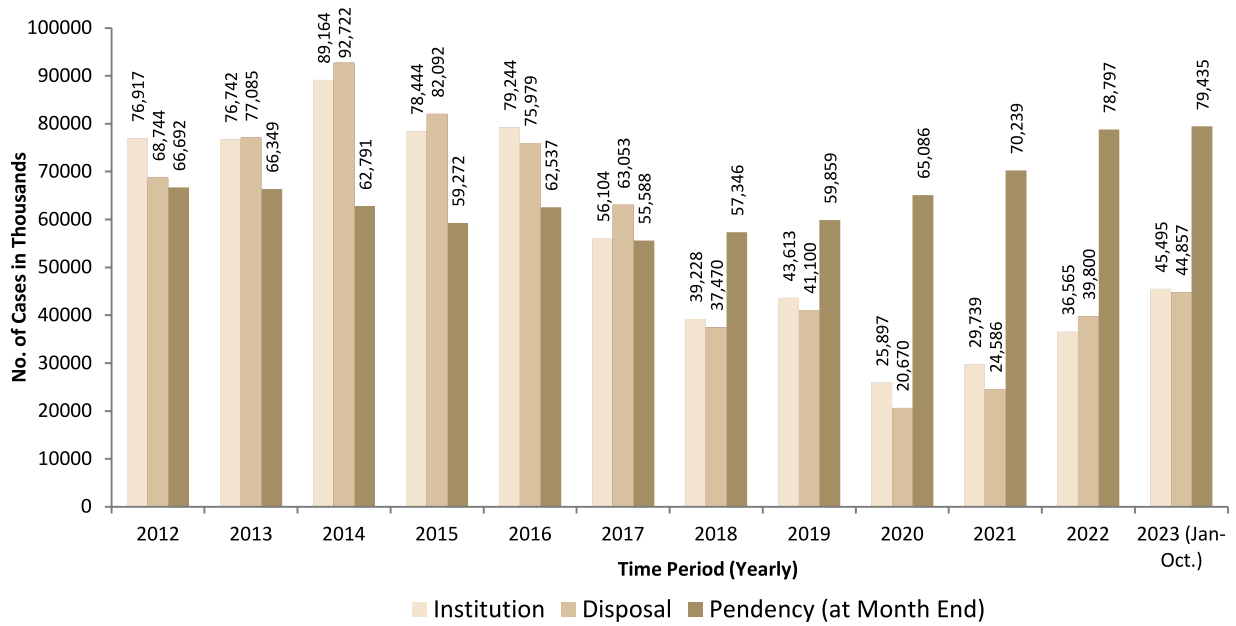
S No	Month	Institution			Disposal			Pendency (at Month end)		
		Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1	Jan-23	4350	311	4661	4631	427	5058	54792	23608	78400
2	Feb-23	4106	255	4361	3903	676	4579	54995	23187	78182
3	Mar-23	4270	256	4526	3428	658	4086	55837	22785	78622
4	Apr-23	4476	233	4709	3922	780	4702	56391	22238	78629
5	May-23	4784	200	4984	3458	519	3977	57717	21919	79636
6	Jun-23	2244	110	2354	400	81	481	59561	21948	81509
7	Jul-23	4895	147	5042	7080	690	7770	57376	21405	78781
8	Aug-23	5284	124	5408	4656	821	5477	58004	20708	78712
9	Sept -23	4481	58	4539	3772	485	4257	58713	20281	78994
10	Oct -23	4881	30	4911	3882	588	4470	59712	19723	79435

Monthly statement of Civil / Criminal Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in the Supreme Court (January to October, 2023)

S no	Month	Institution			Disposal			Pendency (at Month end)		
		Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Jan-23	3054	1607	4661	3037	2021	5058	61423	16977	78400
2	Feb-23	2799	1562	4361	2904	1675	4579	61318	16864	78182
3	Mar-23	2913	1613	4526	2633	1453	4086	61598	17024	78622
4	Apr-23	3077	1632	4709	3278	1424	4702	61397	17232	78629
5	May-23	3175	1809	4984	2540	1437	3977	62032	17604	79636
6	Jun-23	1507	847	2354	185	296	481	63354	18155	81509
7	Jul-23	3309	1733	5042	5172	2598	7770	61491	17290	78781
8	Aug-23	3422	1986	5408	3520	1957	5477	61393	17319	78712
9	Sept -23	2927	1612	4539	2628	1629	4257	61692	17302	78994
10	Oct -23	3146	1765	4911	2838	1632	4470	62000	17435	79435

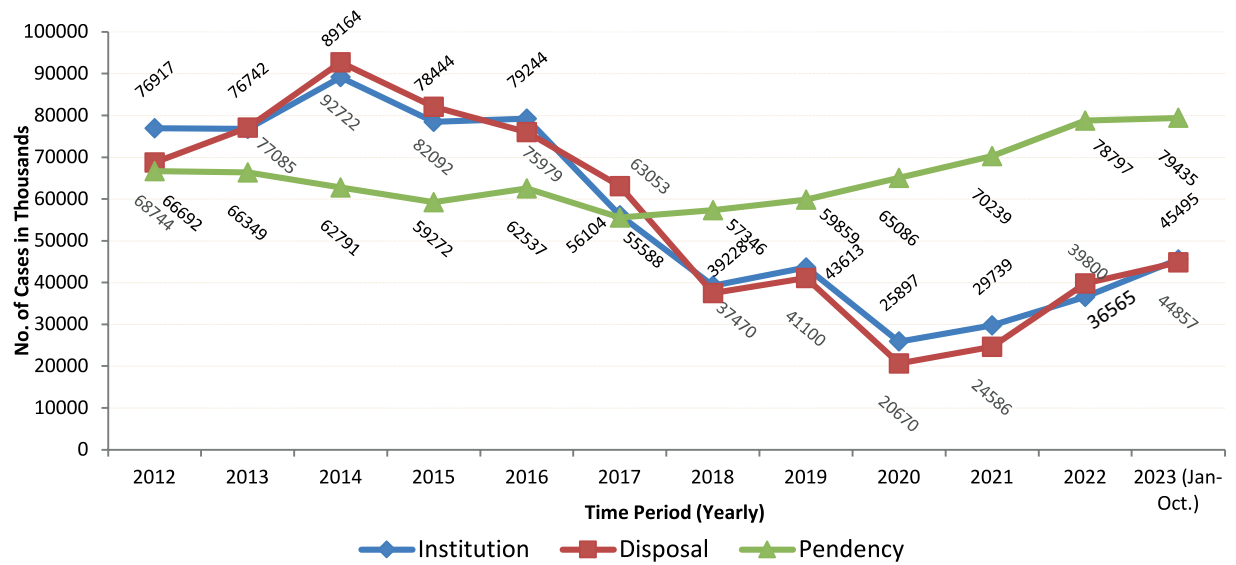
Institution, Disposal & Pendency

From Year 2012 to October, 2023
(Total of Admission and Regular matters)



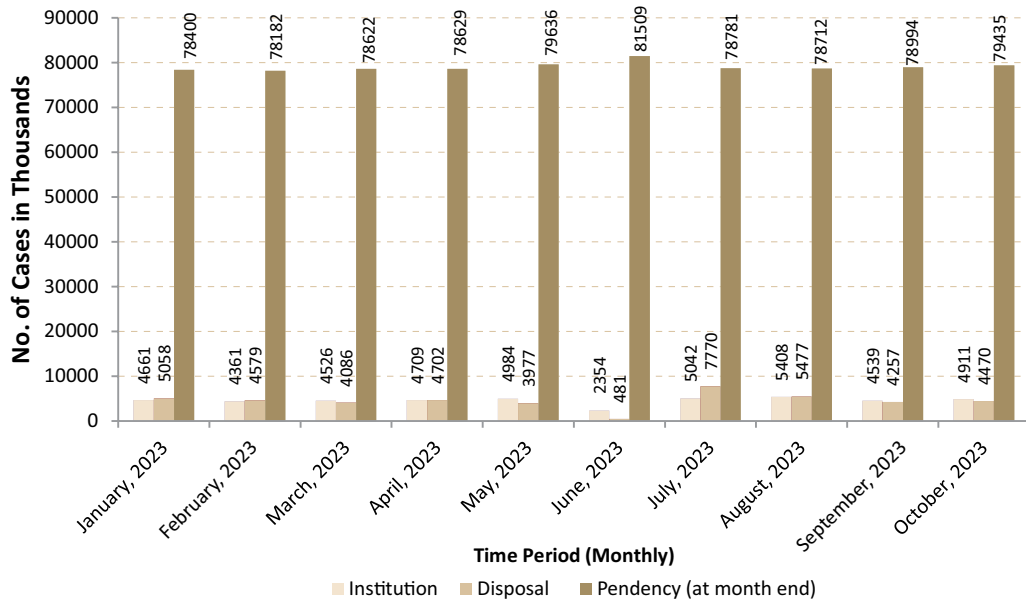
Institution, Disposal & Pendency

From Year 2012 to October, 2023
(Total of Admission and Regular matters)



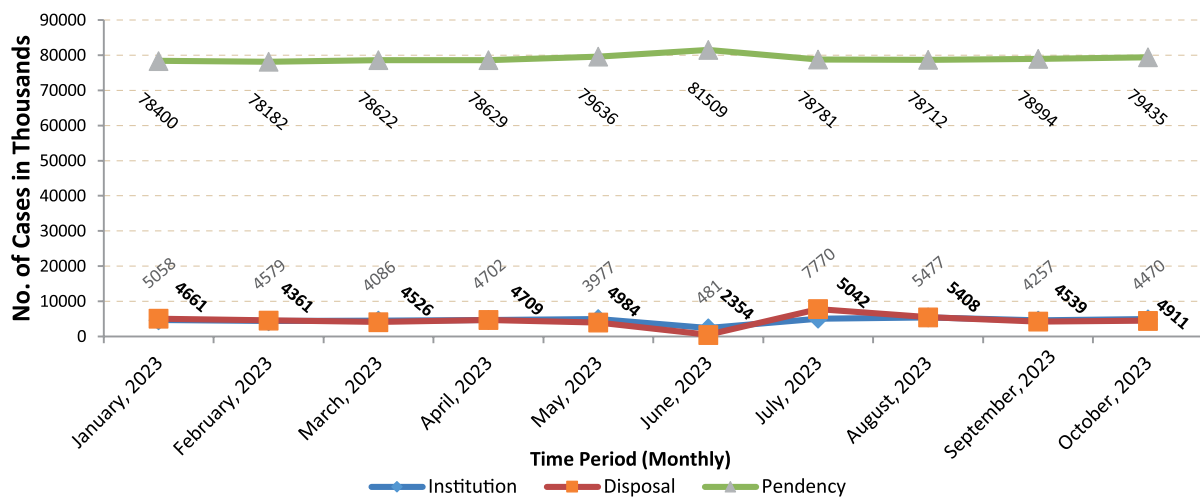
Institution, Disposal & Pendency

From January, 2023 to October, 2023
(Total of Admission and Regular matters)



Institution, Disposal & Pendency

From January, 2023 to October, 2023
(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	156	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

YEAR	Letter-Petitions Received in English, Hindi, and Other Regional Languages	Writ Petition (Civil)	Writ Petition (Criminal)
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 (till 31.10.2023)	59162	1409(2)*	637(1)*

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

Progressive Initiatives

Training Cell

The Training Cell has performed several initiatives to improve efficiency in the administration of the Supreme Court Registry, improve professional competency of staff and provide greater transparency to its working system:-

1. Through Trainers of Specialized Agencies / Institutes

- Three months specialized professional Training Programme for one visually impaired Junior Court Attendant was conducted from 1 September 2023 to 30 November 2023 at NAB India Centre for Blind women & Disability Studies, Hauz Khas, Delhi.
- A Training programme on 'improving Cooking Skills' for newly recruited Junior Court Attendants with Cooking Skills was conducted by Faculty of M/s Tata Strive during the period from 21 November 2022 to 20 December 2022 at Supreme Court Departmental Canteen, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India.
- A final Assessment on Soft Skills and Shorthand Skills was conducted from 19 December 2022 to 24 December 2022 for 93 Court Master (SH), Sr. Personal Assistants & Personal Assistants as a part of Virtual Training Programme on enhancement of Stenographic and Soft Skills in respect of Shorthand knowing Officers and officials.
- A Training Programme on Driving Skills for Junior Court Attendants with Driving Skills was conducted at Institute of Driving and Traffic Research (IDTR), Delhi in two batches from 27 October 2022 to 28 October 2022 & 19 December 2022 to 20 December 2022 respectively.
- A Five days Training Programme on management Skills was conducted for 35 Branch Officers/equivalent Officers by expert faculty members of the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM).
- An Officer from Admn. Material attended an online Workshop on "Purchase Management in Govt." organised by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) from 22 August 2022 to 24 August 2022.
- Five officials of this Registry attended the Training Programme/Workshop on "Data Analytics using MS-Excel" organised at Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) from 10 October 2022 to 12 October 2022.
- Two officers of this Registry attended a Training Programme/Workshop on

- “MS-Powerpoint’ organised by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) from 12 October 2022 to 14 October 2022.
 - Two officers of this Registry attended a Two half-day Online Workshop /Training Programme on ‘Effective Presentation’ organised by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) from 28 November 2022 to 29 November 2022 (Forenoon sessions).
 - Seven officials of this Registry attended Online Workshop/Training Programme on ‘Establishment Rules-2’ organised by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) from 19 to 20 December 2022.
 - Two officers of this Registry attended a Workshop/Training Programme on mapping Competencies with Roles and Activities organised by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) on 23 January 2023.
 - Two officials from Recruitment Cell attended an Online Training Programme/ Workshop on “Reservation in Services for SC/ST/OBC/EWS/ EXSM/PwBD organised by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) from 6 to 9 February 2023.
 - Two Officers and five officials of this Registry attended the Training Programme/Workshop on “Data Analytics using MS-Excel” organised at Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) from 27 to 29 March 2023.
 - Two officials from Cash & Accounts Section attended an Online Workshop/ Training Programme on ‘Income Tax’ organised at Institute of Secretariat Training & Mangement (ISTM) from 15 to 16 May 2023.
 - Nine Officials of this Registry attended a Workshop/Training Programme on ‘MS Excel (Advance)’ organised at Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) from 27 to 29 March 2023.
- 2. Through Senior Officers of this Registry**
- A Training session on “Examination/ Flaggering of the Original Records” was conducted on 4 July 2022 for Court Master (SH) posted in the Court Masters’ Wing by Dr. Mukesh Nasa, AR-cum-PS.
 - An interactive training session with live demo of VoIP Phones installed in the Registry for all the Ushers and other officials performing duties of Ushers was conducted on 8 July 2022.
 - An orientation Training Programme for 32 Senior Personal Assistants was conducted on every working Saturday from 23 July 2022 to 17 September 2022.
 - A three days’ Induction Training Programme for newly appointed/ recruited Junior Court Attendants was conducted in two batches during the period of 5 to 7 September 2022 and 12 to 14 September 2022 respectively.
 - A 15 days’ Orientation Training Programme for newly promoted Branch Officers / Court Masters (Non-Shorthand) was conducted from 12 September 2022 to 1 October 2022.
 - Online / Offline Stenographic classes were organized by Dr. Mukesh Nasa, AR-cum-PS for the candidates who had applied for the post of Court Master(SH) / Senior Personal Assistant / Personal Assistant through Departmental Exams of during the period of 9 January 2023 to 17 March 2023.

- An interactive session on “Preparation of gist of matters to be listed in Registrar’s Court and Hon’ble Judge in Chamber” was conducted amongst the Registrars in charge of (Courts), (Court Master’s Wing), (Computer Cell), staff of Registrar Court Nos. 1 & 2, all the Branch Officers of Judicial Branches along with their Dealing Assistants on 25 February 2023.
- 12 sessions of awareness Programme on E-filing module for Advocates-on-Record and Advocates from SCBA, Registered Clerks of Advocates-on-Record and other Advocates’ Clerks were conducted during the period from 28 March 2023 to 27 June 2023.
- A Two days’ Training Programme on Noting and Drafting for Dealing Assistants of this Registry was conducted in two batches from 25 to 26 May 2023 and 8 to 9 June 2023.
- An Induction Training programme for newly recruited Junior Court Attendants and Chamber Attendants(R) was conducted on 28 June 2023.

Vigilance Cell

In order to enhance efficiency in the administration of Supreme Court Registry, for strengthening of the mechanism for dealing with vigilance matters and for bringing greater transparency in the working system, the Vigilance Cell has been set up, which inter alia handles complaints received against the officers 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. The Vigilance Cell also looks after the work

of verification of character and antecedents of new entrants through concerned police authorities. 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. 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. In order to expedite the process of filling up Annual Property Return and to reduce consumption of papers as well as to move a step towards digitization of record, a new module “Annual Property Return”, within the ambit of ‘SUPNET’, has been developed by Vigilance Cell along with Computer Cell for online submission of annual immovable property return by the Group ‘A’ & ‘B’ officers/officials of this Registry. The Vigilance Cell has also transited to e-Office and the matter/files are being moved in digital mode.

Care Taking Branch

1. Venue Management (Meetings, Ceremony Etc.)

Care Taking Branch aligns its resources of man, material and machines apart from coordinating with various stakeholders through unwavering efforts to form an

indispensable foundation for successful completion of meetings, conferences and seminars in the realm of justice delivery. It plays a pivotal role in venue management contributing significantly to the successful execution of programs in Conference Hall, Auditorium, Multi-Purpose Hall, Congregation Hall, Training Hall, Committee Room and Meeting Room of Supreme Court apart from its upkeep and maintenance on routine basis to maximize the capability utilisation. The Care Taking team services have garnered praise from attendees for encompassing housekeeping efforts of creating professional ambiance, regulation of vehicular movements beyond routine schedule of working hours and ensuring seamless operation of every aspects engaged in detail-oriented task guarantees. Its engagement in management of 'Lost and Found' articles after the programs at all the venues have got a special attention.

2. Ensuring Environmental Sanitation in the SCI Precinct by Vector Control of Diseases

Various steps to ensure environmental sanitation in and around SCI Building Complex have been coordinated/initiated

by the Care Taking Team which has played a crucial role in preventing the spread of diseases, protecting ecosystem and ensuring health and safety to building users. It is noteworthy in this context that Main Building Complex and Additional Building Complex falls into separate geographical jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation for the purpose of provision of services hence a concerted efforts with close monitoring between the users and service provider for simultaneous execution of efforts aimed towards eradication of vectors of diseases is done smoothly. To achieve this, self-assessment, expert guidance, team building with multi stakeholders, fogging, spraying etc. has been taken. These pro-active measures prevent vector born diseases and highlights the commitment to control the preventable diseases within the precinct of SCI. Our aim is not be a place of contamination/spread of disease through executing all the evidence based preventive efforts.

3. Provision of Loaders For Assistance

An arrangement for provision of loaders for carrying of heavy files items in High security



Sharing of cheerful moments after successful completion of conference in the Multi Purpose Hall



Loader and wheel chair facility for visitor in SCI precinct

zone is made for extending assistance to various needy stakeholders who required to enter into High Security Zone (HSZ) aimed to proactive and accommodative approach to facilitate efficient operation. Care Taking is relentlessly demonstrating its keen understanding of the practical challenges that stakeholders may encounter when they are required to carry load into the HSZ and thereby easing the burden of visitors. This facility has minimized disruptions, reduced time-line/duration of engagement and enhanced productivity apart from navigating with ease in dealing with substantial loads.

4. Ensuring Seamless Entry / Exit Coordination With Lawyers of Allottee of Chambers for Renovation and Upgradation

Care Taking Branch ensures smooth entry/exit co-ordination for execution of newly allotted chambers of lawyers for its permissible renovation and upgradation through their source. It has resulted in facilitating on ground clearance based upon Admin General Branch approval for their workforce equipment and material. Thus, streamlining the process of



Co-ordination for lawyer chamber work under their arrangements

renovation without any hindrance. The proactive strategy has reflected and fostered the understanding of the needs of the legal community apart from our dedication to ensure secure environment through policy build up and on ground support to lawyers.

Admn. General Branch

- **Health and Wellness Centre for staff**
The 'Health and Wellness Centre' for the staff has been opened at ground floor in 'C' Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India, which has facilities for Zumba Dance and Cardio along with regular gym equipment that can be used by the staff of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Lounge**
Visitor Lounge in the Hon'ble Judges Gallery has been upgraded with the facility of dressing and washroom.
- **Dedicated CPWD Help Desk for the Court Rooms and Hon'ble Judges Chambers etc.**
A Help Desk of the CPWD has been established with a dedicated staff to



look after the regular maintenance and various infrastructure related exigencies, which works 24x7.

- **Celebration of Foundation Day of the Supreme Court of India**

The Supreme Court of India celebrated its Foundation Day for the first time on 4th February, 2023 in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India in which Chief Justice of Singapore, Justice Sundaresh Menon was invited as the Chief Guest for the event. “Swarna Champa” was planted by Hon’ble the Chief Guest in the Additional Building Complex.

Other Progressive Initiatives

Inauguration of the New Canteen at the Supreme Court of India

Hon’ble The Chief Justice inaugurated the new canteen along with Supreme Court Judges on Thursday, 5 October 2023 in the Additional Building complex of the Supreme Court of India. The new canteen is spread

over an area of about 300 square meters with seating capacity for 120 persons. It would remain open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on working days of the Registry. The newly inaugurated canteen boasts a modern and spacious layout, designed to provide a comfortable and inviting environment for its patrons. With a focus on offering a diverse range of nutritious and delectable cuisine options, the canteen aims to cater to the discerning tastes of the legal luminaries, support staff, and visitors who frequent the premises.

Release of Supreme Court Chronicle – Monthly Newsletter of Supreme Court

The inaugural issue of the Supreme Court Chronicle, a monthly newsletter was launched by Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India on 9 November 2023. The Newsletter showcases the ongoing operations and achievements of the Supreme Court of India and offers an insight into the workings of the Court.

Technological Accomplishment

Initiatives to Improve Efficiency and Access to Justice by Use of Information and Communication Technology

The year 2022-2023 witnessed various technological developments at the Supreme Court of India, which has played a key role to strengthen the much cherished institutional goals, right to access to justice and right to administration of justice. The use of technology within the realm of Indian judiciary has leveraged to be more aligned to provide citizen centric services. The Computer Cell in coordination and consultation with National Informatics Centre (NIC) has endeavoured to develop, launch and deploy various computer applications, software, information and technology (IT) projects, brief write-up of the same are as under:

1. Hybrid Hearing System – the Game Changer in Courtroom Access

An innovation that ensured unhindered accessibility of Court during the pandemic, the 'hybrid hearing' system combines the best of video meeting tools and conferencing technology to ensure that Advocates and Parties-in-Person have the convenience to choose to appear either appear in court physically or through virtual mode. The Supreme Court has bolstered the use of video conferencing (VC) facility by acquiring enterprise licenses of CISCO WebEx and the VC links are shared with the concerned Advocates and Parties-in-Person through computer program via email and short text message (sms) services. Even today, long after the pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been ebbed, the Apex Court has equipped

Statistical Data of Hearing by Courts Through Video Conferencing.

1.	Number of matters heard through video conferencing and physical hearing	Miscellaneous	4,68,330
		Regular	64,638
		Total	5,32,968
2.	Number of matters disposed of after hearing through video conferencing and physical hearing	Miscellaneous	1,13,809
		Regular	13,966
		Total	1,27,775
3.	Number of footfalls of Advocates during hearing through videoconferencing (approximately)	3,062,978	
4.	Number of cases filed during the period w.e.f. 23.03.2020 to 20.08.2023	E-Filed (old portal +eFM)	80216
		Counter filing	47,604
		Total	1,27,820
5.	Total number of Benches	18,402	

Note:- Above Statistics are generated from ICMS and e-filing database of website. Further, the above figures include data of Physical hearing cases as well, as the hearings were held physically with hybrid option w.e.f. 1st September, 2021.

all the courtrooms inclusive of Registrars' courtrooms with latest computer systems, state of the art audio-video digital sound systems and high-definition video cameras. The following statistical data is the testimony to the fact that video conferencing facility by the Supreme Court is here to stay.

2. Integrated Case Management & Information System (ICMIS) – SCI's Indigenous Core Tech

The Supreme Court of India's flagship and workhorse case management software, the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) continues to be upgraded with the latest technological advancements in databases. Some of the key improvements incorporated into ICMIS during the year 2022-23 include:

- Upgrading the database engine to PostgreSQL
- Optimizing all queries
- Auditing the algorithms used
- Testing of all modules
- Addition of Gist module
- Weeding out unwanted modules

In addition, the deployment of solutions consisting of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) for checking and marking of defects, notification of defects, curing defects, and listing of cases is envisioned in future versions of the software, all with the aim of further optimizing its service delivery capacity.

3. Empowering Citizens – SCI's Online RTI Portal

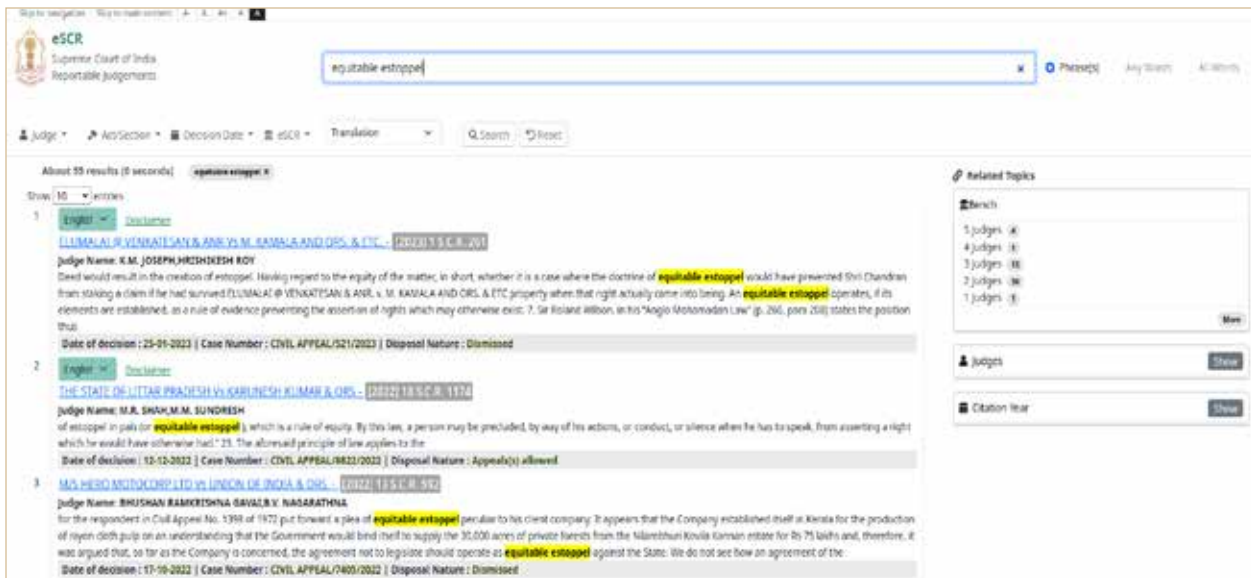
On 24 November 2022, the Supreme Court of India crossed a landmark in enhancing

transparency and ease of access to information under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act) by launching a web-based online RTI portal. With the launch of online RTI portal, a citizen may from any corner of the world, file an application, appeal under the RTI Act, provided one has access to internet. The online RTI portal has made it easier for citizens to not only file RTI applications, appeals, but also pay fees online through a variety of payment gateways such as net banking, card payments, UPI, etc., eliminating the need for paperwork. By 21 August 2023, as many as 3440 online applications, 529 appeals and 80 miscellaneous applications have been received by the Registry via the online RTI portal. Various High Courts have also replicated the online RTI portal developed by the Supreme Court of India.

4. Optimizing Accessibility to Judgments – e-SCR

Empowerment of citizens to access the judgments pronounced by the Apex Court free of cost has been one of the cherished goals. On 2 January 2023, the Supreme Court of India launched the coveted e-SCR (Supreme Court Reporter) portal, which is an online repository of all reported judgments of the Supreme Court since 1950. e-SCR portal enables the users to access, read and download judgments without physically visiting the library. e-SCR comprises of judgments in electronic format, portable document format (PDF), which ensures that the integrity and security of judgments is duly retained.

The e-SCR portal allows fast and easy searching of judgments by using the "free text" search engine. e-SCR even displays judgments which are based on



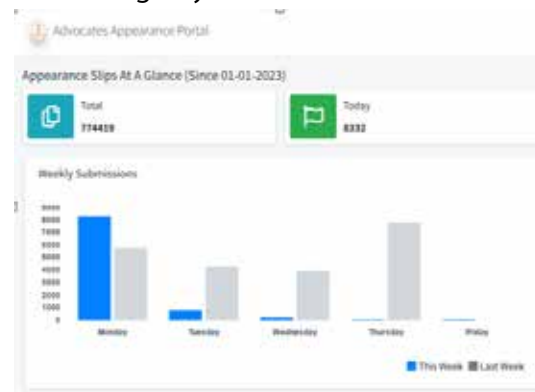
e-SCR PORTAL

the keywords entered in the search box. Standard filter criteria include High Court name, Act, Sections, names of the parties, name of Judge(s), Judgment date etc. A user may search and look up judgments by using any of the search criteria and also filter the results. The embedded filtering feature allows deeper filtering of available results, thus adding value to the search. The portal is developed on an elastic search technology based on free and open-source software (FOSS).

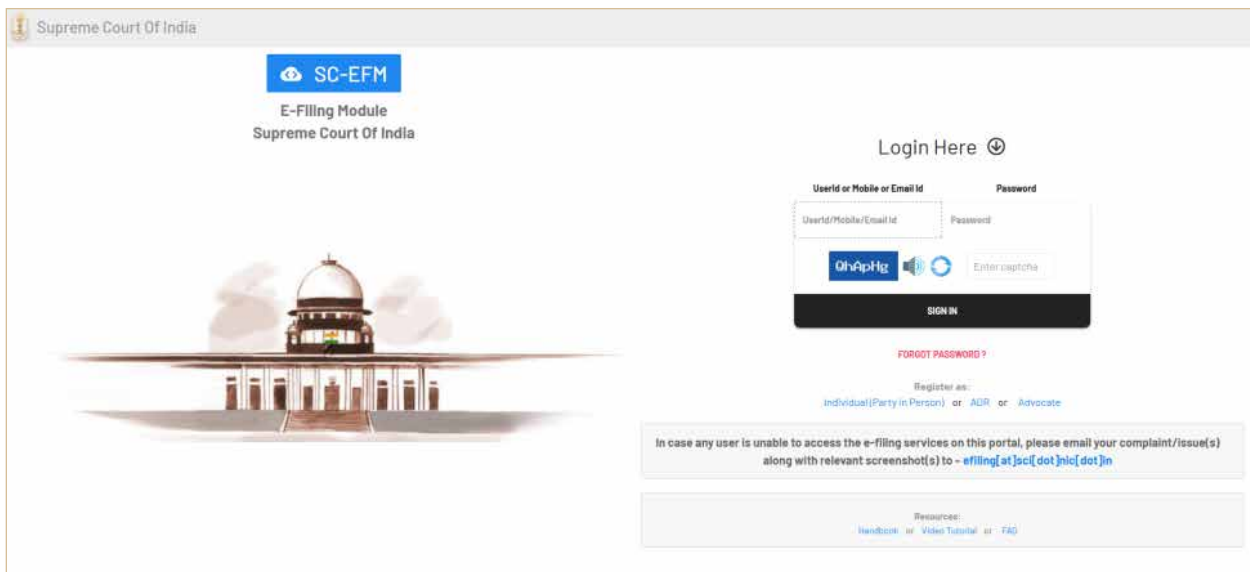
5. Advocates’ Online Appearance Portal

Filing of appearance slip is a pivotal part of the judicial process in the Supreme Court of India with large number of such slips being filed everyday by Advocates-on-record in various cases. Needless to say, this used to be the cause of large scale circulation of paper. In line with its commitment to safeguard the environment and reduce carbon footprints by minimizing usage of paper, the Court launched the Advocates’ Online Appearance

Portal on 2 January 2023. Besides achieving the valuable goals mentioned above, the portal has empowered Advocates-on-Record to file paperless appearance slips electronically without having to physically visit the Registry.



Online appearance markings by advocates marks a significant stride in reducing our ecological footprint while streamlining the litigation process. This eco-friendly approach resonates with the Court’s larger commitment to sustainability. The figure below shows the usage statistics of the Advocates Appearance Portal:



6. New E-Filing 2.0 - the Next Step in Paperless Filing

The mode of electronic filing of cases at Supreme Court got a major boost with launch of E-filing Module (EFM) 2.0. The new e-filing module is an upgraded version of its predecessor (e-Filing 1.0) aimed at providing ease in the business of electronic filing, defects notification, curing of defects, processing the documents for scrutiny to all the stakeholders, namely, Advocates-on-Record, Party-in-Person and the registry.

The new e-filing software has been developed by the in-house team of software developers in coordination with NIC, to strengthen the paperless work processes and digitized paper books. The notable features and facilities of the new e-Filing software are as under:

- a. The new e-filing software can be accessed anywhere, anytime through the internet with a web browser.
- b. Simplified user registration process with mobile phone number, one time password (OTP).
- c. Enabling users, Advocates-on-Record to engage/disengage Senior Advocates, Advocates to access digitised paper books, record of proceedings, case status related information.
- d. A registered user, Advocate-on-Record or Party-in-Person can file a fresh case, interim application, miscellaneous documents, caveat petitions.
- e. Real time information about cases, filing, defects notification, curing of defects has brought transparency and accountability amongst all the stakeholders
- f. The new e-Filing module provides the AOR/Party with a personalized 'dashboard' which is basically a repository of case related information at a glance. This allows AORs and Parties to remain updated about their cases at any place, at any time with the click of a button.
- g. Zero printing charges
- h. Payment of court fees through online mode.
- i. Auto-diary generation on filing of a fresh case.
- j. Updates on any document filed either physically or through e-filing by oneself or any other party in a case are available to the user.

- k. The newer version of e-Filing software is closely knit and integrated with ICMIS, which benefits the user in terms of instant diary number generation, faster post filing process execution, real time defects notification and facility of expeditious refiling, automatic verification & locking of court fees etc.
- l. Resources such a frequently asked questions (FAQs), video tutorials and user manual can be accessed through www.efiling.sci.gov.in.
- m. Since its launch on 12 May 2023 till 20 August 2023, 4018 fresh cases have been filed through the new e-Filing module in a variety of matters.

7. Establishment of e-Sewa Kendra – Bridging the Digital Divide

A brainchild of Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India, an E-Sewa Kendra, is a one-stop citizen service centre where any Advocate and member of public can walk in to avail a variety of e-services relating to the Court.

On 12 May 2023, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India inaugurated the Supreme Court of India's e-Sewa Kendra and dedicated it to the legal community and members of public at large.

The Supreme Court's e-Sewa Kendra extends services to visitors through ten multi-service counters, three dedicated counters for e-filing assistance in main building and two counters in New Building and two video conferencing cabins to provide assistance to lawyers and litigants in participating in video conferencing. Some of the services include providing information about one's case status, obtaining copy of judgment or

order, finding out about certified copy status, obtaining assistance in e-filing or making online payment of Court fees etc.

E-Sewa Kendra aims to bridge the digital divide existing among lawyers and among members of the public by providing various e-services of Court to those who are otherwise unable to avail those services because of lack of access to technology. Since its inauguration on 12 May 2023, the e-Sewa Kendra has provided services of more than a thousand varieties to visitors. E-Sewa Kendra acts as a dedicated service and troubleshooting hub, handling up to 200 queries on a daily basis.



8. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Transcribe Oral Arguments

Fulfilling the Court's commitment to enhancing accessibility and transparency, Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India initiated automatic transcribing of arguments and exchanges in matters before the Constitutional Benches by use of artificial intelligence starting in the month of February, 2023. The transcripts get typed automatically in real time as and when the arguments and exchanges take place in the Courtroom and the same get displayed on large screens installed in the Court for viewing of all. These transcripts are eventually shared on the Court's website (https://main.sci.gov.in/vernacular_judgment) for wider access.

9. E-Office - Ushering in the Era of Paperless Workspace

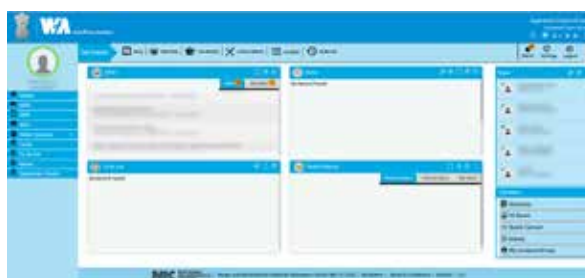
While the Benches of Supreme Court of India have begun to operate largely in paperless mode using digitized paper-books, the Registry and the Administrative wing remained cluttered with enormous paper flow in day-to-day work. Crossing another milestone in reducing paper usage, enhancing efficiency, accountability and transparency in its work, not to mention making a breakthrough in space and resource management (hitherto engaged in physical movement of files and documents) the Court has now adopted for its Registry NIC's flagship 'Work from Anywhere' module called the e-office.

E-office has shifted the day to day work mode of Registry away from paper-dependency and confines of work-station space besides increasing ease and speed of performance. With adoption of e-office the staffs and

officers of the Registry can carry their workstation in a laptop and work from anywhere by tapping into the Court's secured network system where the module is accessible.



Employing a phased onboarding strategy, it was ensured that branches of the administrative wing of the Court started working on e-office in a gradual manner with staffs training their colleagues on the module's functionalities.



As of 21 August 2023, as many as 19 branches have been onboarded onto e-office and 1556 number of files have already been processed on the module.

10. Su-Swagatam Portal – Entry/Exit Pass System

The Supreme Court of India remains one of the most visited institutions in the country. Management of visitors, keeping the Court as open as possible vis-à-vis security arrangement have always been at the forefront of the Court's concerns. The pursuit to optimize administration in this regard led

the Registry to a fruitful collaboration with NIC and swift development of a customized web-portal styled 'Su-Swagatam'.

Su-Swagatam offers a convenient and simple interface for any person desirous of visiting Supreme Court to manage the creation of an entry pass all by oneself online without visiting the Reception Counter or waiting in queues. Some of its notable features include–

1. Paper less visitor entry
2. Swift process in generation of entry passes
3. Advance planning of Visits
4. Circumvent Queues



As of 21 August 2023 (date), as many as **12,452** visitors' passes have been issued through Su-Swagatam portal



11. Free Wi-Fi on Premises

With the Court processes operational in the digital realm, network connectivity remains a key facilitator. To facilitate optimum network connectivity for lawyers and visitors visiting the Supreme Court of India, free Wi-Fi facility has been provisioned inside the premises of

the Supreme Court of India including inside every Courtroom. Users can access this network by a simple log-in process within seconds and browse the internet to meet their research needs uninterrupted.



12. Initiation of Futuristic Courts – the Next Step in Innovation

Embarking on a journey towards a future-forward judicial system, the Supreme Court of India has embraced a spectrum of innovative technologies transforming the Courtroom experience for all the stakeholders. As we stand at the threshold of a new era, Registry's commitment to technological excellence is steadfast, aiming to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and transparency. Today, the Benches have transitioned to paperless mode of functioning. The integration of a comprehensive digital library accessible through web browsers symbolizes the Court's dedication to knowledge dissemination. With a wealth of legal resources at their fingertips, practitioners can delve into extensive research, enriching their arguments and insights.

In the realm of virtual connectivity, the Supreme Court of India has embraced a state-of-the-art digital video conferencing system that transcends geographical barriers. This facilitates seamless communication between

diverse stakeholders, underscoring our resolve to ensure justice knows no bounds. Witnessing the convergence of technology and visual engagement, the installation of an LED video wall within courtrooms elevates the presentation of camera feeds and multimedia content. This high-resolution display brings visual narratives to life, enhancing the overall courtroom experience. Lastly, strategically enhancing the exchange of evidentiary materials, our courtrooms are now equipped with document cameras. This innovative addition facilitates real-time sharing and clear capture of document content, ensuring that vital information is conveyed accurately and efficiently.

13. Virtual Justice Clock

To make effective use of ICNIS database and to make real time information to public, LED Display Message Sign Board System will be installed. The purpose of Justice Clock is to bring awareness and transparency to the public about justice delivery system. It provides information about Institution, disposal and Case clearance rate (CCR) by courts. It also empowers authorities for making policy decisions in relation to listing of cases which require expedition and identifying areas for improving case disposal rate.

Virtual Justice Clock Supreme Court of India

Agewise Pendency & Listed Today

Age (Years)	Pendency	Listed Today	CCR
0-1	25120	977	3%
2-3	14049	224	1%
4-5	13674	145	1%
6-10	17967	104	0%
11-20	9225	74	0%
21-30	220	1	0%
Above 30	31	2	6%
Total	80286	1527	1%

14. On-boarding of SCI on National Judicial Data Grid

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), a flagship project implemented under the aegis of the e-Committee Supreme Court of India, is a system for monitoring pendency and disposal of the cases in courts all over India. NJDG provides a comprehensive database of orders, judgements, and case details of Indian Judiciary. It also serves as a decision support system to the management to monitor pendency on varied attributes for effective decision-making. Onboarding of SCI on NJDG is in its final testing phase and will be released at the earliest.

15. Neutral Citations

The Supreme Court has launched and implemented the Neutral Citation System- a uniform, reliable, and secure methodology for identifying and citing judgments and orders of Supreme Court in a phased manner with effect from 6 July 2023.



Library and Museum

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

The Supreme Court Judges Library has a collection of more than 3,80,000 books and legal documents in addition to a large number of digital content. 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 131 journals, including 107 Indian and 24 foreign publications, 19 newspapers, and 8 magazines.

The Supreme Court Judges Library is a network of libraries that includes the Main Library, which is part of the Main Supreme Court Complex, the New Wing of Judges Library, which was recently opened in the



Additional Building Complex's 'A' Block, 17 Bench Libraries, 34 Residential Libraries for Hon'ble Judges, and a Staff Library for the use and reference of Registry staff. Law Reports are stored in courtrooms so that the Hon'ble Lordships in the courtrooms have rapid access to them, they being are the most often cited sources. A permanent library in the form of law reports, legal books, commentaries, and bare acts is also made available to the residential office of the Hon'ble Judges and the Bench Libraries.

Judges Library's new wing is located in Block 'A' of Additional Building Complex is spread in four floors. The Supreme Court Judges' Library's collection is also constantly expanding, and in order to support the collection's growth, a new library wing has been built in the Additional Building Complex's 'A' Block, taking into consideration both current and future space limits. On April 24, 2023, the new wing of the library was made functional by the Honorable Chief Justice of India, Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud.

Approximately 3,25,000 books have already been shifted to the new Library Wing. The transfer of the remaining collections to the new library is currently underway.

The second floor of the new library also houses, Soli Sorabjee's bibliotheca, some books from the personal collection of Late Mr. Soli Sorabjee, former Attorney General and Constitutional Expert, which was given by his family to the Judges library. This bibliotheca was made functional by unveiling the portrait of late Mr. Soli Sorabjee by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 24 April 2023.

Radio Frequency Identification System (RFID) –The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the Hon'ble Judges of the Library Committee were pleased to approve the installation of RFID system in the Judges Library. The RFID system will be soon installed in the library.

Apart for the regular library service 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. The **digital current content** is compiled on monthly basis from foreign law journals/ reviews both open access source and subscribed sources. Two separate lists are being prepared one with hyperlinks to articles from the open source law journals/ reviews and the other is the list with the details of the articles which as per the requirement are scanned and sent to the individual Hon'ble Judge.

Vidhi Gyan Sampada is an ambitious and transformative project envisioned by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud and the Hon'ble Judges of the Library Committee, Supreme Court of India. The work of the project is carried on by the Judges Library, Supreme Court of India and is likely to be launched by early next year.

This innovative platform seeks to transform legal research and education by providing

open access to an extensive repository of legal knowledge. This initiative aims to establish a cutting-edge Legal Knowledge Portal, offering comprehensive access to legislative history, constitutional insights, committee reports, scholarly articles, and current legal resources. It aspires to serve as an invaluable resource for young lawyers, students, legal scholars, and the public, fostering legal literacy, research, and awareness.

Apart from the existing in-house databases given below, comprehensive databases are also being developed.

SUPLIS: Database of Case Laws

SUPLIS is an indexing database of case laws decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This database consists of case law since 1950 and is very useful in finding out the desired case law. The database also has a unique feature of search by famous case name, for example: "Rajiv Gandhi assassination case," "Mandal Commission Case," etc. As soon as judgments are uploaded to the Supreme Court website,

the library personnel enter the data in this database and assigns subject headings with famous case name (if any). SUPPLIS also provides “equivalent citations” of case laws.

SUPLIB: Database of Legal Articles

SUPLIB is a database of legal articles published in foreign and Indian Law Journals/Reports subscribed by the library. After the receipt of a journal in the library, important articles are identified, indexed, and entered in this database. Subject headings are given to the articles. This database is useful for the library staff for identifying the articles required by the Hon’ble Judges on a particular subject or topic. This database is very useful for academicians, Jurists and Researchers in the field of Law.

LEGIS: Database of Legislative History of Central Acts

LEGIS, a database of Central Government Acts including amendments, Rules, Bills, and all subordinate legislations relating to Central Acts is being further developed and a comprehensive database with links to PDFs of the bills, Acts, Rules will be provided in Vidhi Gyan Sampada.

Comprehensive databases being developed for Vidhi Gyan Sampada are:

Legislative History Repository

An exhaustive database of Central Acts and State Acts, including their legislative history, amendments, and related documents is being developed. Efforts are being made to give easy navigation and search options, enabling users to explore the evolution of laws over time.

Constitutional Database

A comprehensive constitutional database, Article wise with detailed reference material, including articles, amendments, and case law references is being developed so as to allow the users to access and explore the Constitution of India article-wise, fostering a deeper understanding of the nation’s legal framework.

Commission and Committee Reports

A database with collection of reports from various Commissions and Committees, such as Law Commission reports, Parliamentary committee reports, and more is almost complete.

Digital Current Content

A database of digital current content is created, providing links to open-source journal articles, and contemporary legal content to keep the users informed about the latest legal developments and scholarly research.

Legal News clippings: A database of legal news clippings is also created.

Databases which will be soon developed are:

1. Comprehensive database of Hon’ble Judges of Supreme Court – this will have their profile, their judgments during their tenure at Supreme Court, news items of important judgments delivered by them.
2. Subject-wise Data base – research will begin for collecting all the relevant material for preparing subject guides.

3. Comprehensive Database of Constitution Bench Judgments- List is already been prepared of the Constitution Bench judgments from 1950 till date which is more than 2000 judgments.

Library Digitization Project- ongoing – The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India was pleased to approve the purchase of BookEye 5 publication scanner for the library. With the arrival of the said scanner on 24 July 2023, a digital repository is being developed. Presently, the legislation (both Central & State) required for Vidhi Sampada are being scanned. Some rare books have been identified, those will be scanned and will be made available in Vidhi Gyan Sampada portal.

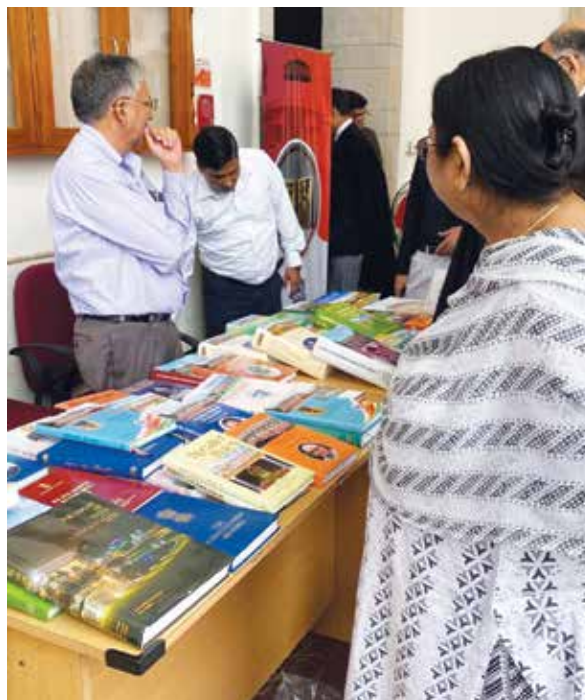
Judges Library Legal Research Wing

Judges Library Legal Research Wing (JLLRW) Section has been created in the year 2021 for specialized legal research which covers constitutional, historical, descriptive and comparative legal analysis and research of Central and State Acts. The work included legislative history of Central Acts, Articles wise in-depth research on the Constitution of India and Subject wise research on different topics, which is being carried out for Vidhi Gyan Sampada portal.

Kesavananda Bharati web page was released on 24 April 2023, on the occasion of 50 years of the said Judgment, for which the Library had collected, collated and scanned all the relevant document from introduction, key legal issues, arguments, conclusion and reference material.

Book Exhibition

A two-days book exhibition in August 2023 was organised by the Judges Library in coordination with Parliament Library for display of Parliamentary publications near the main library building wherein the calligraphic copies of the draft 'Constitution of India' in English and Hindi were sold by the Parliament Library. The exhibition was a huge success among lawyers, law clerks and staff members as more than hundred of copies of the Constitution were sold out in the exhibition.



Supreme Court Museum

Museums are no longer considered to be merely storehouses or agents for the preservation of a country's cultural and natural heritage, but powerful instruments of education in the broadest sense. With the diversity and variety of subjects which are now coming under the purview of museology, and the modern concepts of the role of museum, the understanding of museum and museology is changing.

The Supreme Court of India has its own Museum having a unique collection of artefacts, objects, documents, etc., which showcase our judicial heritage and the systematic development of the judicial system in the country and gives meaningful information to the visitors in relation thereto. The present Supreme Court Museum has two galleries of 5000 square feet on each floor viz.; "Development of Justice System in India" and "The Supreme Court of India". The first gallery is dedicated to the history of Indian Legal & Judicial System since ancient period till British era; and the second gallery portrays

the Federal Court of India and the Supreme Court of India. The Museum showcases artefacts / objects relating to the Indian Legal & Judicial System prevailing at different historical time periods, which includes – Manuscripts, Copper Plates, Maces & Oars, old books on 'Dharmashastra' & Kautilya's 'Arthashastra', Court Furniture, Judges Wigs & Costumes, Landmark Judgments, Photographs of former Chief Justices of India and Judges of the Apex Court, Photographs of oath ceremonies of Hon'ble Presidents of India etc.

A Mini-Auditorium inside the museum well equipped with modern infrastructures is a point of attraction which provide to the visitors a virtual tour of the Legal & Judicial history of India and its administration through documentary films.

Soon the existing museum will be converted into National Judicial Museum and Archives which would show the legal history of India from ancient to modern period. Latest technology will be used for interactive displays and virtual exhibits.



Events in Supreme Court

1. Constitution Day - 2022

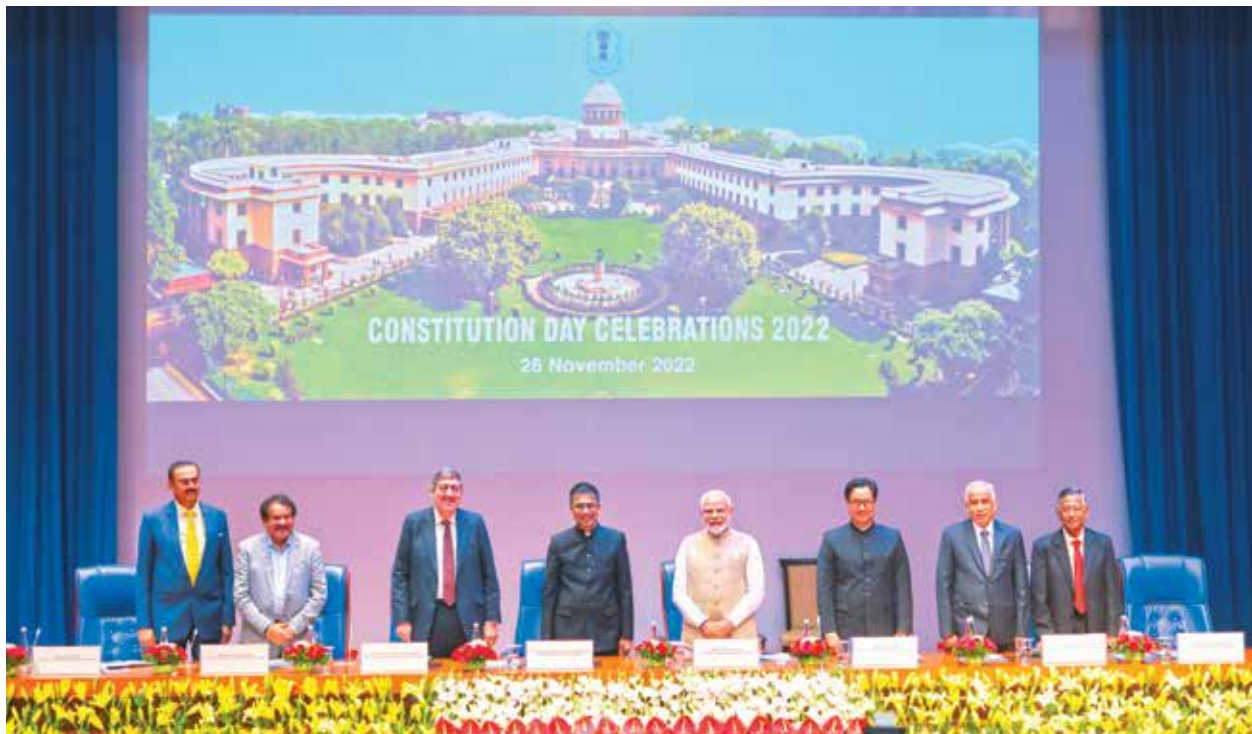
The Supreme Court of India organized Constitution Day Celebrations, 2022 and Chief Justices' Conference on "Envisioning a Futuristic Judiciary" on 26 and 27 November 2022 in the Additional Building Complex located in its premises.

On 26 November 2022, Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Constitution Day celebration in the august presence of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges, Supreme Court of India, former Chief Justices/Judges of Supreme Court of India, Chief Justices/Judges of High

Courts, the then Hon'ble Union Minister for Law and Justice, learned Attorney General for India, the then President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Chairpersons and Members of the Computer Committees, Secretary General and Registrars, Supreme Court of India, Registrar Generals and Central Project Coordinators of the High Courts.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge of Supreme Court of India, delivered the welcome address. The audience was then addressed by Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, the then Hon'ble Union Minister for Law and





Justice, Attorney General for India and President, Supreme Court Bar Association. Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, delivered the Inaugural Address. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S Abdul Nazeer, the then Judge, Supreme Court of India, presented vote of thanks.

During the inaugural function, many e-initiatives i.e. (a) virtual justice clock, (b) justIS mobile app 2.0, (c) digital court and (d) s3WaaS websites of district courts were launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

The Inaugural function was followed by following four working sessions:-

First Session: "Envisioning the futuristic judiciary".

Second Session: (i) Judicial Infrastructure and human resource management, and (ii) Reformative measures and use of technology to reduce pendency.

Third Session: "Judicial reforms – Sharing best practices"

Fourth Session: "Use of NJDG for court and case management"

Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India delivered the inaugural address and made a presentation in the first working session.

The second working session was chaired and addressed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Hon'ble Mr. Justice K M Joseph, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judges, Supreme Court of India and the presentation was made by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal, the then Chief Justice, High Court of Judicature at Allahabad.

The third working session was chaired and addressed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice M R Shah and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judges, Supreme Court of India and the presentations were made by:-

- Hon'ble Dr. Justice S Muralidhar, the then Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa on digitization initiatives
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rohit Arya, Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh on e-certified copy mechanism
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Shakdher, Judge,



High Court of Delhi on virtual courts in Delhi

- Hon'ble Mr. Justice A Muhamad Mustaque, Judge, High Court of Kerala on e-filing

The fourth working session was chaired and addressed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi, the then Judge, Supreme Court of India and the presentation was made by Shri Ashish J. Shiradhonkar, Scientist-F, Senior Technical Director, NIC.

During the Valedictory function organized in the evening, Hon'ble Mr. Justice K M Joseph, the then Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered the welcome address, whereafter the gathering was addressed by Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India and the then Hon'ble Union Minister for Law and Justice. Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble the President of India delivered Valedictory Address in the august presence of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court of India, former Chief Justices/Judges of Supreme Court of India, Chief Justices/Judges of High

Courts, the then Hon'ble Union Minister for Law and Justice, Attorney General for India, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Secretary General and Registrars of Supreme Court of India, the Chairperson and Members of the Computer Committees of the High Court, the Registrar Generals and the Central Project Coordinators of the High Courts and other dignitaries. Hon'ble Mr. Justice M R Shah, the then Judge, Supreme Court of India presented vote of thanks.

On 27 November 2022 following four Sessions were held:-

First Session: "Overview of eCourts initiative and judicial process re-engineering".

Second Session: "Empowerment of marginalized sections –Access to justice(Unveiling of social justice committee report and sensitization module for the judiciary on LGBTIQA+ community)

Third Session: "Use of futuristic technologies in judicial domain and digitization of judicial record"

Fourth Session: "Allocation and utilization of funds"

Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India addressed the gathering. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S Ravindran Bhat, Judge, Supreme Court of India chaired the first session. Hon'ble Mr. Justice RC Chavan, Vice-Chairman, eCommittee and Shri Rahul Bajaj, Attorney at Law and Co-founder of Mission Accessibility made the presentation. Interaction was held with Shri Rajesh Gera, Director General, NIC.

The second working session was chaired and addressed by Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B V Nagarathna and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M Trivedi, Judges, Supreme Court of India and the presentation was made by Hon'ble Ms. Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya, Judge, High Court of Calcutta.

The third working session was chaired and addressed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the presentation were made by -

- Dr. Dinesh Katre, Senior Director & HOD of HCDC, C-DAC on Digitization SOP
- Ms. Sharmistha Dasgupta, Deputy Director General, NIC on Artificial Intelligent
- Mr. Anshul Vikram Pandey, AI Researcher & Serial Entrepreneur on Futuristic Technology

The fourth working session was chaired and addressed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari (the then), Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judges, Supreme Court of India and the presentations were made by Mr. SKG Rahate, Secretary, Department of Justice and Dr. TV Somanathan, Secretary, Department of Expenditure.

The sessions were concluded by vote of thanks by Shri Sanjeev S. Kalgaonkar, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India.

The sessions were attended by Chief Justices/ Judges of High Courts/ Chairpersons and Members of the Computer Committees of all the High Courts, Secretary General and Registrars of Supreme Court of India, Registrar Generals and Central Project Coordinators of all High Courts, Members and Invitee Members of E-Committee of Supreme Court of India.

2. Commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Court of India – First Lecture

The Supreme Court of India held its first sitting on 28 January 1950. It was decided to organize an annual lecture series to commemorate the first sitting of the Supreme Court of India and to reaffirm its commitment in fostering access to justice. Hon'ble Mr Justice Sundresh Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore was invited as Chief Guest to deliver the first lecture on the theme of "The Role of Judiciary in a Changing World" on Saturday, 4 February 2023 in the Auditorium, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India.

Hon'ble Mr Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India delivered the welcome address. Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India also addressed the audience. Hon'ble Mr Justice K M Joseph, the then Judge, Supreme Court of India presented vote of thanks.

The lecture was attended by Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court of India, former Hon'ble Chief Justices of India, former Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Chief Justice and Judges of Delhi High Court, Attorney General for India, Law Officers, Senior Advocates, Members of Bar Associations, Secretary General and Registrars of Supreme Court of India and many other dignitaries.

Saturday, 4 February 2023

The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon*

Supreme Court of Singapore

The Honourable Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India

The Honourable Justices of the Supreme Court of India

The Honourable Former Chief Justices of India and Former Justices of the Supreme Court of India

The Honourable Attorney-General of India, R Venkataramani

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is truly a great honour for me to be invited to address you as part of the first Supreme Court of India Day Celebrations, commemorating the inauguration of this august institution on 28 January 1950. I thank the Honourable the Chief Justice for the invitation, I thank my friend Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul for the very generous introduction, and I thank the Supreme Court for the generous hospitality that has been extended to me and to my colleagues in connection with this visit - an especially delightful one, coming as it does following three years of considerable disruption for all of us. The Supreme Court of India is among the busiest courts in the world, and its Justices among the hardest working judges because of the immense case load they carry. I saw this myself when I was honoured to observe proceedings yesterday in the Chief Justice's court alongside him. It is therefore a tremendous privilege for me to have spent several hours with the Chief Justice and a number of his colleagues and I very deeply appreciate all that they have done to welcome me to India.
2. Over the course of the last 73 years, when the Supreme Court has rendered justice according to the usages, laws and Constitution of India, the world has changed immensely. But in many ways, the fundamental setup of our courts - whether here in India, in Singapore, or for that matter in most other places around the world - has largely remained the same. We are charged with the same constitutional responsibility to do justice, and we take a broadly similar oath of office to resolve controversies of all sorts according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will. The rule of law, which is a fundamental pillar of our systems of government, depends on this. Yet, it is

* I am deeply grateful to my colleagues, Assistant Registrars Huang Jiahui and Tan Ee Kuan, for all their assistance in the research for and preparation of this address.



an inescapable reality that changes are taking place in the world around us that are dramatic both in rate and in scope. This raises the question of how we should square our unchanging, unyielding judicial responsibility with the relentlessly dynamic world that we find ourselves in today. How should we envision the role of the judiciary in this changing world?

3. That is the subject that Chief Justice Chandrachud has invited me to address; and this opens an extremely timely conversation, if I may say so. Today I will propose a vision for a future-ready judiciary in four parts: First, I will briefly reiterate what is demanded of us in our judicial role. This will set the context for the subsequent discussion. I will then describe what I will refer to as a “perfect long storm” facing judiciaries around the world. In the third part of my remarks, I will explain why we, judges, must respond urgently to this series of challenges precisely because of the effects of these changes on our ability to discharge our responsibility; and finally, I will sketch out some ways in which the functioning of the judiciary could evolve to meet these challenges. Even though judiciaries may not be equipped or mandated to address some of the issues the world is facing, my suggestion will be that we nonetheless can and must refine and modernise our vision and understanding of the judicial role, if we are to remain able to administer justice effectively and to help maintain order and legitimacy in our societies.

I. The Judicial Role

4. Let me begin by re-iterating some basic notions of the judicial role.

In *Marbury v Madison*,¹ Chief Justice John Marshall famously declared that it was “emphatically the province and duty of the Judicial Department to say what the law is”.² To those of us raised in a constitutional framework based on the separation of powers, this is foundational. Parliament makes the law and the Executive branch carries it out. But the imperfections of human foresight, the limitations of language, the constraints of the Constitution, and the human tendency to try to get what one wants, all come together to give rise to disputes over what the law is and therefore, over whether one is acting lawfully. When this happens, it is the courts that must decide. This, at its core, is our role: to resolve the many disputes that are part and parcel of societal life. Indeed, as Chief Justice Chandrachud recently observed, “it is in the seemingly small and routine matters involving grievances of citizens that issues of moment, both in jurisprudential and consequential terms, emerge.”³ When the Judiciary functions well, it serves as a stabilising force in society, by easing tensions and giving final and authoritative directions to help all of us get through these numerous daily conflicts. When it functions well, the Judiciary serves as part of the glue that holds the various moving parts together. To discharge this role, there are perhaps two core requirements:

- (a) First, those appointed must have the competence and capacity to discharge the responsibility that is cast upon them.
- (b) Second, their status as the arbiters and

1. 5 US 137 (1803) (“*Marbury v Madison*”).

2. *Marbury v Madison* at 177.

3. *Iqram v The State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors* CrI.A. No. 2319/2022 (16 December 2022) at [2].

umpires of society has to be accepted by the subjects of their decisions. As Alexander

Hamilton famously noted, we hold neither the sword nor the purse, only judgment.⁴ Consequently, a judiciary needs legitimacy to function well, and this is secured when it enjoys the confidence of the public. Gaining that confidence is a function of many factors: Does the public generally believe that we are acting honestly, wisely, impartially, independently and with integrity? Does it believe that we are competent to discharge our duties? Are we regarded as being out of touch and existing to serve the needs only of the wealthy and powerful? Or does the public believe that we are here to serve justice and that we are resolute in our commitment to bring down whatever obstacles stand in the way?

5. I ask you to keep these two requirements - competence and legitimacy - in mind as we turn to examine the challenges that judiciaries around the world now face.

II. A Perfect Long Storm

6. I speak to you in what might be described, perhaps with some optimism, as the *aftermath* of the COVID-19 pandemic. But it is striking that when future historians look back at this time, the pandemic might only be *one* amongst a number of world-changing events that have taken place over the past few years. This has been a time when we have witnessed dramatic shifts in the global political

environment, with the outbreak of what might prove to be a long-drawn war in Europe. Lurking in the background are even graver threats, such as the prediction by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that we are at the precipice when it comes to climate change.⁵ Singapore's Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam recently suggested that the world faces a "perfect long storm" of global challenges, with geopolitical instability, global health security and the climate change crisis being joined by the threat of stagflation and the risk of growing economic and social inequality.⁶ He called this a "perfect long storm", because he considers these to be a confluence not of random shocks, but of *structural* issues and insecurities that will be with us in the long term.

7. These global challenges concern us as judges, because they will have an impact on one or both of those essential elements of our work - competence and legitimacy. They place greater demands on the level of competence and the kinds of competencies that judges will need in order to be able to do their work, and they also add significantly to the pressures threatening to undermine the legitimacy of public institutions, including courts. I have identified six specific types of challenges, most of them arising directly or indirectly from these global challenges, which have particular relevance to courts and legal systems. They come together to

4. Alexander Hamilton, "The Judiciary Department", *The Federalist Papers*: No 78 (1788).

5. See Matt McGrath, "Climate change: IPCC scientists say it's 'now or never' to limit warming", BBC News (4 April 2022) at <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-60984663>.

6. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, "Confronting a Perfect Long Storm", *Finance & Development* (June 2022) at p 4.

form what we might think of as a “perfect long storm” bearing down specifically on justice systems around the world.

A. Challenges Affecting Our Ability to Do Our Work Competently

8. The first three sets of challenges have a direct impact on the ability of judges to competently discharge their duty of adjudicating disputes. They revolve around the growing complexity of the disputes that will come before us. Let me elaborate upon them in turn.

i. New legal issues arising from global challenges

9. First, the global challenges I described earlier will give rise to new legal issues. Though these challenges might first and foremost be political problems, almost all of these problems also have a legal dimension, which means that the responses to these challenges, whether in the form of executive action, legislation, or private initiatives, will sooner or later give rise to disputes that will end up before the courts. The climate crisis provides an obvious illustration of this, with environmental regulation, green financing and corporate governance being just some examples of a wide gamut of potential legal issues in this area. And even inaction in the face of these global challenges is liable to give rise to litigation. In the area of climate change, there are prominent examples of private individuals and entities bringing governments to court for omitting to do enough to curb carbon emissions, with notable judgments having been issued in favour of such claimants by the highest

courts in the Netherlands and Germany.⁷ If these global challenges are here to stay for the foreseeable future, all judiciaries will have to be ready to deal with their fact patterns and legal implications. We can expect such disputes to be complex, demanding and time-consuming, and to be equipped to cope with them, courts will have to be prepared to develop new legal concepts and tools, as well as new ways of deploying existing legal principles and practices.

ii. The complexification of disputes

10. The second type of challenge is what I call the complexification of disputes.⁸ This refers to complexity that arises not from a specific subjectmatter or factual pattern, but rather to the growing complexity of disputes generally, stemming primarily from the rapid rate of advances in science and technology. There are two facets to this trend: growing technical complexity, and growing evidential complexity.

11. Technical complexity comes from the increasing amount of scientific and technological knowledge that

⁷ These are the judgments of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands in *The State of the Netherlands v Urgenda Foundation*, ECLI:NL:HR:2019:2007 (20 December 2019), and of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany in *Neubauer, et al v Germany* (1 BvR 2656/18), Order of the First Senate of 24 March 2021. An example of an unsuccessful challenge is the first-instance decision of the Federal Court of Australia in *Minister for the Environment v Sharma* (2022) 400 ALR 203. There is another climate-related action presently pending before the Federal Court of Australia in *Pabai Pabai & anor v Commonwealth of Australia* VID622/2021.

⁸ Sundaresh Menon, “The Complexification of Disputes in the Digital Age”, Goff Lecture 2021 (9 November 2021) at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/news-and-resources/news/news-details/chief-justice-sundaresh-menon-26th-goff-lecture-2021> (“The Complexification of Disputes”).

adjudicators will need to grapple with. The world around us is being transformed by technology. Contracts are entered into using algorithms and vehicles are learning to drive themselves, which means that familiar legal concepts premised on the actions of human agents can now give rise to uniquely complex legal issues. Advances in science can similarly transform ordinary questions, such as a person's state of mind, into potentially complex inquiries into fields such as psychiatry.⁹ So too has the evidential complexity of disputes exploded, because our reliance on electronic communications and systems, and the massive amounts of data they now collect, means that even a modest transaction can easily generate volumes of documentary evidence.¹⁰

12. The complexification of disputes gives rise to the very real possibility of cases that are so complex or voluminous that they strain the ability of any single human adjudicator to process.¹¹ In one construction arbitration, for instance, the tribunal reportedly received written submissions extending to 10,000 pages of text.¹² Applying an estimate of 6 minutes to read and digest each page, it would take an arbitrator 1,000 hours, or about 6 working months, to read the submissions, to say nothing of the time it would take her to evaluate them in the light of the rest of the material! But even more routine cases

may prove significantly more demanding to try using conventional methods, thus increasing the cost of litigation and compromising the expeditious disposal of cases. That is aside from the personal toll that working on such cases takes on lawyers and adjudicators. As science and technology continue their inexorable advance, these challenges will only grow. We cannot rely solely on traditional case management tools to deal with the problem of complexification; instead, judiciaries may have to consider new and potentially radical ways to contain and downsize disputes, or face a real crisis of capacity.

iii. The law's growing interconnectedness

13. A third set of challenges come from the fact that legal issues increasingly disregard jurisdictional boundaries. This is because we are becoming more economically interconnected than ever before: despite the well-publicised phenomenon of countries around the world shutting their borders and turning inwards at the start of the pandemic in early 2020, by the end of that year transnational trade had recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and has continued to grow since then.¹³
14. The volume of international commercial disputes that have connections with multiple jurisdictions will therefore keep rising. But international commercial

9. See "The Complexification of Disputes" at paras 9-10.

10. See "The Complexification of Disputes" at paras 17-20.

11. See "The Complexification of Disputes" at paras 26-34.

12. See "The Complexification of Disputes" at para 25, referring to an example cited in Jorg Risse, "An inconvenient truth: the complexity problem and limits to justice" (2019) *Arbitration International* 291 at 292.

13. See OECD, "International trade during the COVID-19 pandemic: Big shifts and uncertainty", OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19) (10 March 2022) at <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/international-trade-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-big-shifts-and-uncertainty-dl-131663>.

dispute resolution is by its nature decentralised: there is no single pre-determined “control centre” for each dispute. Instead, each court has the prerogative to rule on jurisdictional disputes in the proceedings brought before it, including questions of whether the dispute is better brought before another court or arbitral tribunal, or has already been decided in another forum. In addition, we are sure to encounter new legal issues in areas ranging from cryptocurrency to environmental, social and governance (or “ESG”) regulation and litigation, all of which rarely heed jurisdictional boundaries.

15. The case for convergence or harmonisation in many of these areas is obvious: if different jurisdictions applied their own idiosyncratic standards in deciding challenges against arbitral awards, or the legal status of new types of assets, for instance, this would greatly increase the cost of compliance and transnational dispute settlement, and therefore stymie cross-border commerce. This is why in areas like arbitration and mediation, the international community of states has come together to ratify treaties or to develop model laws.¹⁴ But even then, different courts do not always apply these instruments in a uniform way.

14. See Sundaresh Menon, “The Law of Commerce in the 21st Century: Transnational commercial justice amidst the wax and wane of globalisation”, lecture hosted by the University of Western Australian Law School and the Supreme Court of Western Australia (27 July 2022) at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/news-and-resources/news/news-details/chief-justice-sundaresh-menon-address-delivered-at-the-lecture-hosted-by-the-university-of-the-western-australia-law-school-and-the-supreme-court-of-western-australia> (“The Law of Commerce in the 21st Century”) at paras 23 and 31.

16. The short point is that judges will increasingly need to be sensitive to developments in the laws of other jurisdictions in order to properly decide disputes. Beyond this, they will also increasingly need to actively cooperate with their foreign counterparts in disputes that need effective concurrent crossborder management, such as the growing field of complex cross-border insolvencies.¹⁵ But courts have traditionally had neither the inclination nor the avenues to communicate and collaborate across jurisdictions. This is something that I suggest we all need to work on, and I will come back to this point a little later.

B. Challenges Affecting Our Legitimacy

17. I turn to the next three sets of challenges which will directly affect the legitimacy of the courts. These, too, stem ultimately from global challenges such as rising inequality, the risk of stagflation, and political instability, which we can expect to lead to a steady growth in disaffection and polarisation in societies. A recent report by Oxfam noted that the richest 1% captured nearly two-thirds of all the new wealth generated since the start of the pandemic.¹⁶ Some commentators argue that this extreme disparity in wealth is being created not through

15. Sundaresh Menon, “SIFoCC playing its part as a cornerstone of a transnational system of commercial justice”, keynote address at the 4th Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (20 October 2022) at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/news-and-resources/news/news-details/chief-justice-sundaresh-menon-keynote-address-delivered-at-the-standing-international-forum-of-commercial-courts-2022> (“SIFoCC playing its part”) at paras 30-32.

16. Oxfam, “Survival of the Richest” (January 2023) at p 8.

innovation or production but rather through the exploitation of workers and consumers.¹⁷ Whether or not the charge of capitalist excess is true, what should most immediately concern us as judges is the reality that if the unequal accumulation of wealth continues to sharpen, we can expect grave challenges in securing access to justice for those left behind, who will feel increasingly marginalised and disillusioned with the justice system. Sharp economic polarisation in societies inevitably contributes to the polarisation of public discourse, and this is also accompanied by a phenomenon which might be called “truth decay”. Together, they sow the seeds of a series of challenges that threaten to seriously undermine the legitimacy of justice systems around the world, and it is these that I will now examine.

i. Access to Justice

18. I first turn to the challenges surrounding access to justice, which is being impeded not only by growing inequality, but also by the increasing complexity and cost of dispute settlement, and pressures on the resourcing of justice systems and of legal aid.
19. One manifestation of this trend is the steady increase in the number of self-represented litigants who navigate our justice systems.¹⁸ But this belies a much

¹⁷ See, eg, Nesrine Malik, “Look at how the 1% are doing right now, and tell me the system isn’t rigged”, *The Guardian* (23 January 2023).

¹⁸ See Jaclyn L Neo and Helena Whalen-Bridge, *Litigants in Person: Principles and Practice in Civil and Family Matters in Singapore* (Academy Publishing, 2021) at para 1.12 (citing studies in the United States, England and Wales, Australia and New Zealand).

larger phenomenon of people with legal needs that never see the light of day: a study by the World Justice Project suggests that there are 1.4 billion people globally who are unable to obtain justice for civil legal problems such as property, matrimonial or employment disputes.¹⁹ I have suggested elsewhere that the difficulties faced by potential litigants seeking to access justice consist of three facets: a physical gap, which comes from distance or other physical difficulties in accessing the courts; a resource gap, which comes from the financial and other costs of navigating the justice system; and a literacy gap, which comes from a lack of appreciation that certain problems are legal problems with legal solutions.²⁰ Together, they constitute a justice gap. Its existence is a pressing concern, because nothing is more corrosive to public trust in our justice systems than the perception that those systems are the preserve of a privileged few, and priced out of the reach of ordinary people.

ii. Truth Decay

20. A large part of the literacy gap comes from not knowing how to access the courts. A significant contributor to this

¹⁹ World Justice Project, “Measuring the Justice Gap” (2019) at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/access-justice/measuring-justice-gap>, at pp 13-14.

²⁰ Sundaresh Menon, “Technology and the Changing Face of Justice”, keynote lecture at the Negotiation and Conflict Management Group ADR Conference 2019 (14 November 2019) at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/news-and-resources/news/news-details/chief-justice-sundaresh-menon-keynote-lecture-delivered-at-the-negotiation-and-conflict-management-group-ncmg-adr-conference-2019-technology-and-the-changing-face-of-justice-on-14-november-2019>, at paras 11-27.

is the “folklore” that often surrounds the law in the popular consciousness and which gives entirely incorrect impressions of how it operates. And it is becoming harder than ever to correct such misconceptions, because of the next set of challenges - truth decay. This refers to the proliferation of disinformation and the devaluation of truth in our societies,²¹ which attacks the justice system in at least two specific ways.

21. First, truth is the foundation upon which courts do their work. As Justice Stephen Gageler of the High Court of Australia has observed, the rule of law depends on our courts making factual findings that are reliable, because justice according to law requires applying the law to the true facts.²² And while there does not appear to have been empirical studies on this, a number of recent examples suggest that truth decay is spreading into court proceedings. In Singapore, our courts have seen a rise in partisan and unreasoned expert opinions, especially, for instance, in psychiatric evidence adduced in criminal cases.²³ Truth decay can also be

seen in the conduct of some advocates, who have in some cases attempted to conceal facts from the courts,²⁴ or to delay proceedings on spurious grounds.²⁵

22. Second, it is essential that the findings of the courts are accepted in the public sphere as generally reflecting the truth. If that is not the case, then our rulings become merely another voice in an endless clamour of opinions on the merits of disputes. This is exacerbated when baseless allegations are made against judges suggesting that their rulings merely reflect their personal agendas. Perhaps the most notorious example is the Daily Mail headline in the United Kingdom branding judges in the Miller case as “Enemies of the People”, implying that they had sought to thwart the public’s desire to leave the European Union.²⁶ More recently, when the draft majority opinion of the US Supreme Court in the Dobbs case²⁷ was leaked, a New York Times article purported to “fact

21. See Sundaresh Menon, “After the Fall of Babel: The Courts in a Post-Truth World”, speech at the Supreme and Federal Court Judges’ Conference 2023 (23 January 2023).
 22. Stephen Gageler, “Truth and justice, and sheep” (2018) 46 *Australian Bar Review* 205 at 207.
 23. One expert sought to absolve himself of his duty to the Court to state the truth, with a caveat that his report was contingent on the accused person’s account being true: see *Wong Tian Jun De Beers v PP* [2021] SGHC 273 (“*Wong Tian Jun De Beers*”) at [24]. In another case, the authors of a report appeared to have attempted to veil the lack of reasoning therein with the phrase “in our professional opinion”: see *Kanagaratnam Nicholas Jens v PP* [2019] 5 SLR 887 (“*Kanagaratnam*”) at [31]. No reliance was placed on these expert reports: see *Kanagaratnam* at [40] and *Wong Tian Jun De Beers* at [28]. In another case, *Ho Mei Xia Hannah v PP and another matter* [2019] 5 SLR 978, the Court found the expert to be “a partisan witness who sought to confirm his own bias” and whose

“attitude towards the truth was cavalier”: at [52], [55].

24. *Tan Ng Kuang Nicky v Metax Eco Solutions Pte Ltd* [2021] 1 SLR 1135, where counsel from two reputed law firms and their clients were involved in an effort to conceal the fact that the dispute had been settled, ostensibly because they wanted to obtain judicial guidance on a point of law.
 25. A good example is in Malaysia, where the lawyers for the former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak made multiple attempts to postpone his final appeal hearing, by applying to discharge themselves at the eleventh hour, alleging that the Chief Justice of Malaysia was biased, and refusing to make submissions - conduct which was roundly condemned by the Malaysian Bar as abusing the justice system: see Malaysian Bar, “Abuse of Process Brings Disrepute to Our Justice System”, press release (19 August 2022).
 26. This was in response to the ruling of the Divisional Court at first instance in *R (on the application of Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union* [2017] 2 WLR 583.
 27. *Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization* 142 S.Ct. 2228 (2022).

check” passages in the draft opinion that recounted the policy arguments made by the petitioners.²⁸ The subtext seemed to be that the author of the draft opinion had distorted the truth in order to find for the petitioners and advance an agenda.

23. As a result of its creep into our courtrooms, truth decay diminishes the standing of judgments and of the courts, and this ultimately undermines the stabilising work of the courts in upholding the rule of law and maintaining order in society.

iii. The Breakdown of Trust

24. This brings me to the final set of challenges, which is in many ways the culmination of all of the foregoing challenges: this is the increasingly evident breakdown of trust in public institutions as a whole. The 2022 Edelman Trust Barometer found that distrust was now “society’s default emotion”; in many democratic societies, less than half the people surveyed said they trusted institutions such as the government and the media.²⁹ This may well be due to causes such as truth decay, but it is also likely to be due to the sense that public institutions are failing to deliver on their missions. We should not think that courts can stand apart from

other institutions when it comes to this deficit of trust.

25. The potential breakdown of trust in the courts is arguably the most critical of all the challenges that we face, because the legitimacy of the judiciary rests upon a broad public acceptance that we are reliable truthfinders seeking to do justice according to law. If this trust falls away, then the courts are left to operate solely by the force of state power, and the belief in and respect for the rule of law in our societies will collapse.

III. The Role of The Judiciary

26. I therefore suggest that judiciaries are facing the onset of a number of discrete challenges which strike at either or both of the core requirements for the discharge of our judicial duties - namely, competence and legitimacy.
27. These challenges come together to form a perfect long storm for the judiciary in the same way that Senior Minister Tharman has described those facing the world at large: they are a confluence of lasting threats, not random blips. And they give rise to a matter of serious public concern, because the judiciary plays a crucial role in underwriting the legitimacy of our social, economic and political institutions, by ensuring that their activities abide by the law and that the law remains relevant under changing circumstances. It is therefore apt to characterise the challenges facing the judiciary as a “perfect storm”, because they threaten the rule of law and ultimately our institutions as a whole.

28. Linda Qiu, “Assessing the Claims in the Alito Draft Opinion Overturning Roe”, *The New York Times* (11 May 2022) at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/11/us/politics/alito-opinion-roe-fact-check.html>. The article stated that the draft opinion presented “claims frequently made by opponents of abortion ... as indisputable facts while omitting context and counterarguments”, and “made or quoted assertions about fetal development, abortion procedures and international laws that have been disputed or are open to interpretation”.

29. See Edelman Trust Barometer 2022: The Trust 10 at https://www.edelman.com/sites/g/files/aatuss191/files/2022-01/Trust%2022_Top10.pdf.

28. The question might nonetheless be asked whether judiciaries can or should respond: after all, are problems like truth decay and climate change not political problems in need of political solutions? To my mind, the answer is obvious. But the concern is worth addressing, because it stems from a number of long-standing strictures that have traditionally defined and limited the judicial role.
29. It has been said that judges “traditionally held themselves aloof from the public.”³⁰ Thus, there are principles warning judges against commenting on government policy, defending their judgments publicly, or engaging with the media.³¹ Furthermore, the courts only act within the limits of their understanding of their proper constitutional role, in line with the separation of powers.
30. Even though the principles underlying these limitations - those of judicial independence and the separation of powers - are well-justified, they do not mean the judiciary should remain completely aloof. They do not go so far, and the strictest views of these prohibitions have long fallen out of fashion. Thus, while judges today generally continue to let their judgments speak for themselves, most judiciaries no longer see anything wrong with other facets of public engagement that spread awareness of judicial work. For instance, the Chief Justice of Canada holds an annual press
- conference,³² while members of the UK Supreme Court have given television interviews discussing their approach to work and their home life.³³
31. These shifts in judicial attitudes reflect an evolution and refinement of our understanding of the judicial mission. I suggest that there are three aspects of this evolving vision of the judicial role that explain why we, as judges, must respond, as best we can, to the perfect long storm.
32. First, beyond sitting as referees over disputes, our true mission is the fair and efficient administration of justice so as to uphold the rule of law. To look at this mission from a purely adjudicative, or process-based, view, is to miss a much larger picture, which is that the administration of justice takes place within a system, and what an individual judge does when presiding over an individual case is only one part of how this system delivers justice. It is the effectiveness of the system as a whole that determines whether access to justice is available, whether judges are equipped with adequate expertise and tools, and whether public confidence in the judiciary is secured. We should therefore adopt a systemic perspective of the judicial role, in which the judiciary evolves

30. An observation made by the former Chief Justice of Canada, Beverley McLachlin, in “The Role of Judges in Modern Society”, remarks at the Fourth Worldwide Common Law Judiciary Conference (5 May 2001).

31. See, eg, Lord Dyson, keynote address at “Beyond the Bench”: Newcastle Law School seminar (15 September

32. Richard Wagner, opening statement at the Chief Justice of Canada’s annual press conference (18 June 2020) at <https://www.scc-csc.ca/judges-juges/spe-dis/rw-2020-06-18-eng.aspx>. In January 2023, the Chief Justice of Malaysia also held a press conference at the Opening of the Legal Year ceremony: see Ida Lim, “Chief justice condemns attempts to intimidate judiciary by criticising unpopular decisions”, *Malay Mail* (9 January 2023).

33. See Lord Neuberger, “Where Angels Fear to Tread”, Holdsworth Club 2012 Presidential Address (2 March 2012) at para 8.

from a body of discrete adjudicators to become an institution that excels in the administration of justice.

33. Second, by unpacking the perfect long storm into its constituent parts, we can see that the challenges looming on the horizon are not merely a morass of political entanglements for the other branches of government to solve. Even though judiciaries cannot address their root causes, these challenges each have legal and operational dimensions that directly or indirectly impact the judiciary. As a result, these matters will enter our domain, and we are duty-bound to mount a response.
34. Third, as the primary operators of the justice system, judges are best placed to act, albeit within the applicable constraints. From our own perspective as judges, we should also recognise the value in being active participants rather than mere passengers in transforming our justice systems. And because change is often resisted when it is imposed from the outside, by far the best way of achieving and maintaining the changes that need to be made to our justice systems is by having judges actively participate in the process.
35. Once we look at our judicial role from these perspectives, I suggest we will see that impartiality in the courtroom, while fundamental, is no longer synonymous with inaction in the face of the perfect long storm. On the contrary, we must act urgently and decisively to mount a sufficiently robust response to these challenges, while drawing up a refined set of boundaries for the judicial role.

IV. Navigating the Tempest

36. I therefore turn to the question of how we should go about this herculean task. First, I think it is crucial that we take a systematic approach. Many of these challenges appear so vast and foreboding, with root causes beyond our competence, that we risk losing steam or going off track if we respond in a piecemeal or reactionary way. We must develop a clear vision of the evolving role of the judiciary, so that we refocus our efforts around what we can do to become institutions that excel in the administration of justice. When we look at it in this way, I suggest, for a start, that there are three key themes that should shape our vision of the judicial role: first, building a usercentric court system; second, enhancing judicial competencies; and third, promoting international judicial engagement. Let me elaborate on these in turn.

A. Building a User-centric Court System

37. The first theme recognises the importance of putting ourselves in the shoes of the public, who are our users and our constituents. Ultimately, the justice system does not exist to serve the convenience of judges and lawyers. Instead, we should adopt a user-centric approach to its design. Building a user-centric court system is an important way for the judiciary to secure public trust and legitimacy. There are two facets of the judicial role that I suggest should evolve in order to achieve this: first, courts should take seriously their assistive responsibility towards their users; and second, we should regard public communications and outreach as one of our core functions.

i. The Assistive Responsibility

38. Taking these in turn, first, we should recognise that even as the courts must remain impartial, they also have an *assistive* responsibility towards court users - and in particular, litigants in person. Such self-represented litigants are a fact of life for judiciaries around the world, and they face significant barriers that impede their ability to access justice because legal systems and court processes have traditionally been designed with lawyers and judges rather than lay users in mind. That is simply not fit for purpose when the system is now accessed by so many litigants in person. To help bring down these barriers, the courts should draw a distinction between impermissible legal *advice* on the one hand, and the provision of legal *information and practical assistance* on the other, and not shy away from the latter.
39. One way the courts can achieve this at scale is by publishing guides and information packs for lay court users. This is an approach that the Singapore courts have embraced. For instance, our State Courts have published the *Guidebook for Accused in Person*,³⁴ which sets out in considerable detail what accused persons can expect at each stage of criminal proceedings, and how they might prepare themselves. Our Family Justice Courts, meanwhile, have published the Family Orders Guide,³⁵ which helps self-

represented litigants cope with the alien task of drawing up draft orders of court. The Singapore courts also maintain a single website which provides self-help procedural guides for civil, family and criminal proceedings.³⁶ We can also discharge our assistive responsibility to lay court users by making court processes easier to understand and navigate, by doing away with legal jargon and simplifying our procedures.³⁷

40. We should especially pay attention to the vast potential of technology to help discharge our assistive responsibility. Assistance which in the past had to be provided face-to-face by court staff and volunteers can be scaled up without limit and at relatively little cost if we find the right digital tools. Such tools can provide practical assistance to court users: for example, the Divorce eService created by our Family Justice Courts guides self-represented litigants through the entire process of preparing and filing divorce papers.³⁸ Digital tools can even provide legal information previously available only by consulting a professional: for instance, Motor Accident Claims Online (“MACO”), an online tool launched by the State Courts and the Singapore Academy

34. Available at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/docs/default-source/criminal-docs/guidebook-for-accused-in-person-english.pdf>.

35. Available at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/docs/default-source/news-and-resources-docs/family-orders-guide-2022-edition.pdf>.

36. <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg>

37. For instance, when the Singapore courts drafted the Rules of Court 2021, we took care to replace legal jargon with language that is more familiar to ordinary people, and to organise the provisions in a more concise and logical way: see Sundaresh Menon, “Procedure, Practice and the Pursuit of Justice”, keynote address at the Litigation Conference 2022 (5 May 2022) at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/news-and-resources/news/news-details/chief-justice-sundaresh-menon-keynote-address-delivered-at-the-litigation-conference> (“Procedure, Practice and the Pursuit of Justice”) at para 16.

38. See <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/family/file-divorce-application-simplified-track>.

of Law, enables potential litigants to get a free preliminary assessment of the likely allocation of fault and award of damages. There is immense further potential for such digital tools to radically change the way justice is accessed in the most commonly encountered kinds of disputes.

ii. Public Communications and Outreach

41. Second, it is important for judiciaries to see public communications and outreach as an essential part of their role. Studies have shown that public knowledge about the courts is closely linked to public trust in judicial institutions.³⁹ The courts should therefore take up the task of spreading awareness of their work. I have already mentioned the annual press conferences held by the Chief Justice of Canada as a prime example of such proactive outreach. And there are other examples. The Singapore Supreme Court publishes case summaries of significant decisions on our website⁴⁰ and on social media, and we compile annual reports setting out the judiciary's key work.⁴¹ We also collaborate with other stakeholders, such as law schools, to further our outreach efforts.⁴² But outreach does not

only involve delivering our messages to the public. User centricity requires us to continuously invite feedback from court users. We therefore conduct regular user surveys to understand how court systems and processes can be improved.

42. These are some just of the ways in which we can narrow the justice gap, combat disinformation, and maintain public trust.

8. Enhancing Judicial Competencies

43. I turn to my second theme, which is enhancing judicial competencies. I suggest we will have to raise the capabilities of our judiciaries if we are to keep up with the underlying drivers of complexification, to reduce barriers to accessing the courts, and to be prepared to face the new legal issues that are upon us. This is key to allowing us to sustain our legitimacy because it will give the public confidence that we can discharge our responsibilities. I suggest that this should translate into a renewed emphasis on two facets of the judicial role: first, we should invest significantly in continuing *judicial education and training*; and second, we should continuously pursue *innovation* in the justice system.

i. Judicial Education and Training

44. Turning to the first point, judiciaries must take responsibility for the education, training and development of those in their ranks. The historical view that judges required no training and somehow emerged fully formed at the moment of their appointment

39 See Richard L Fruin, "Judicial Outreach in the Twenty-First Century: The Reasons Why" (2009) 48(2) *Judges' Journal* 27 at 27; Stephan Grimmelikhuisen and Albert Klijn, "The Effects of Judicial Transparency on Public Trust: Evidence from a Field Experiment" (2015) 93(4) *Public Administration* 995.

40. Available at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/judgments/judgments-case-summaries>.

41. Available at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/news-and-resources/publications/PublicationContentTypes/annual-reports>.

42. For instance, the Supreme Court of Singapore collaborates with the Singapore Management University's law school to have law students write case briefs on important judgments: see <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/judgments/case-briefs-by-smu>.

has long been discarded.⁴³ Instead, we now accept that continual training and upskilling are a necessary part of a judicial career. This is not least because of the new challenges that are emerging in the perfect long storm, which place new demands on judges in terms of legal knowledge, scientific and technical understanding, case management, and even awareness of other legal systems. These programs will increasingly need to incorporate a significant element of interdisciplinarity. In Singapore, we established the Singapore Judicial College (“SJC”) to deliver judge-led judicial education and training, and have been continually upgrading its capabilities in order to equip our judges to meet these demands. And for these initiatives to work, judges themselves must fully embrace the need for lifelong learning. Besides our judges, we also need to develop our court administrators to excel, innovate, and lead, because they do much of the work of running our courts and interfacing with court users.

ii. Innovation in the Justice System

45. But enhancing judicial competencies on an individual level will not be enough: we need to raise the floor for legal practice as a whole and improve the functioning of the litigation process at a systemic level. This requires the judiciary to become innovators within the justice system, so that we can employ best practices and explore new and promising solutions.

46. In the Singapore courts, we have pursued a number of priorities in procedural reform, of which I will touch on just two. The first is to improve access to justice by streamlining procedures and deterring inefficient litigation practices. Following a multi-year study led by one of my colleagues, Justice Tay Yong Kwang, we rewrote our civil procedure rules. The new Rules of Court 2021 are governed by five overarching Ideals stated clearly at their beginning: fair access to justice, expeditious proceedings, cost-effective and proportionate processes, the efficient use of court resources, and fair and practical results suited to the needs of the parties.⁴⁴ These Ideals animate the management of cases by judges. To achieve this, a high degree of flexibility is built into the Rules, with active judge-led case management at its core.

47. Our second priority is to develop and promote practices and tools that will help contain and downsize complex disputes. For instance, to help contain disputes, the new Rules of Court empower our courts to order parties to attempt mediation.⁴⁵ And to downsize exceptionally complex disputes, we introduced an optional protocol in the Technology, Infrastructure and Construction List of the Singapore International Commercial Court, which can streamline the adjudication of disputes comprising dozens or even hundreds of related claims.⁴⁶

43. As Lord Dyson describes in “Beyond the Bench”, judges in England received no formal training until 1979, when the Judicial Studies Board (now the Judicial College) was established.

44. Order 3 rule 1(2) of the Rules of Court 2021.

45. O 5 r 3(1) of the Rules of Court 2021; see also “Procedure, Practice and the Pursuit of Justice” at para 19.

46. O 28 r 10(6) and Appendix E of the Singapore International Commercial Court Rules 2021; see also “Procedure, Practice and the Pursuit of Justice” at para 23 and fn 37.

48. To sustain these improvements, we will need to keep them constantly under review, and to keep our minds open to other new and promising practices. And we will have to continually consider what further knowledge or skills we need to enable us to meet emerging challenges. This is just part and parcel of taking charge of our own development and improvement so as to retain our competence to discharge our responsibilities.

C. Promoting International Judicial Engagement

49. The third and final theme is promoting international judicial engagement. Gone are the days, I suggest, when judiciaries could operate in jurisdictional siloes, unconcerned with legal systems and courts beyond their shores. Instead, it is both necessary and highly beneficial today for judiciaries to engage with their counterparts from other jurisdictions: and let me tell you that in just one day spent at the Supreme Court and at the Delhi High Court I have learnt so much. I suggest that this new aspect of the judicial role again has two facets that cut across the goals of improving competence and securing legitimacy: first, engaging in *judicial diplomacy*; and second, supporting the development of a *transnational system of justice*.

i. Judicial Diplomacy

50. By judicial diplomacy, I refer to formal and informal communication and collaboration between courts in different jurisdictions. Informal cooperation between judiciaries has become relatively widespread in recent years, with the

Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific, the Judicial Seminar on Commercial Litigation and the Judicial Roundtable on Commercial Law being just a few examples of such meetings that my colleagues and I actively participate in. These gatherings allow us to pool our collective experience towards addressing legal issues that are prevalent across jurisdictions. That is one of the reasons why I regard the invitation to address you today as so very special.

51. Formal cooperation between judiciaries, once practically unheard of, has also gained traction. The Supreme Court of Singapore, for instance, has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with a number of foreign courts in order to allow each court to refer questions of foreign law to its counterpart in the foreign jurisdiction,⁴⁷ greatly simplifying the task of ascertaining a complicated point of foreign law. We also helped develop and have adopted the Judicial Insolvency Network (or “JIN”) guidelines to enable court-to-court communications,⁴⁸ which is an extremely important case management tool in complex cross-border insolvencies.

47. See <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/who-we-are/references-questions-of-law-singapore-foreign-courts>. These Memoranda of Understanding allow each court to refer questions concerning the law of the other jurisdiction to its counterpart.

48. The JIN Guidelines for Communication and Cooperation between Courts in Cross-Border Insolvency Matters: see Supreme Court of Singapore, “Paving the way for improved coordination of cross-border insolvency proceedings: Adoption of the guidelines for communication and cooperation between courts in cross-border insolvency matters”, press release (1 February 2017) at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/news-and-resources/news/news-details/paving-the-way-for-improved-coordination-of-cross-border-insolvency-proceedings-adoption-of-the-guidelines-for-communication-and-cooperation-between-courts-in-cross-border-insolvency-matters>.

52. Perhaps the highwater mark of international judicial exchange is the modern-day phenomenon of “travelling judges”. These are jurists who travel from their home jurisdictions to serve on a court in a different jurisdiction.⁴⁹ Courts that have travelling judges in their ranks, such as the Singapore International Commercial Court, are able in this way to assemble a particularly deep bench of eminent jurists from around the world, and benefit from the exchanges of experiences and expertise that this brings. One of your erstwhile colleagues, Justice Arjan Sikri, now graces our Bench as an International Judge, and he makes an extremely valuable contribution to the Court that goes well beyond the work of hearing cases.

ii. Developing a Transnational System of Justice

53. But reaching further than an international network of judges and courts, I suggest that we should work towards an even more ambitious goal: the proactive development of the transnational system of justice. On a number of recent occasions,⁵⁰ I have argued in favour of recognising and developing such a transnational system in the area of commercial law, by viewing the many discrete players and processes

that regulate transnational commerce as though they were part of a system rather than a mere compilation of rules. In practice, we achieve this by promoting the convergence of substantive and procedural laws wherever possible. This will have the undoubted benefit of reducing the uncertainty and costs involved in transnational commercial activity.

54. Within a transnational system of justice, courts around the world can work in dialogue with each other as we develop and promote the legal norms that we will need in order to address the perfect long storm, including norms in areas such as climate change, jurisdictional conflicts, and natural justice. This would also allow us to strengthen the international rule of law, thus helping to facilitate and sustain the open flow of goods and services across borders, and enhancing the ability of institutions around the world to respond to the global challenges that we face.

55. The irreversible effects of globalisation have made us all participants on the transnational plane. Judiciaries therefore should not underestimate the importance of the transnational element of their work. Instead, we should refine our vision of the judicial role to encompass international engagement, and this would make our judiciaries more effective, and at the same time promote public trust.

V. Conclusion

56. I offer these three themes as a base for developing a blueprint for how judiciaries can shore up their competence and legitimacy in the face of the perfect storm that is looming:

49. See generally Alyssa S King and Pamela K Bookman, “Traveling Judges” (2022) 116(3) *The American Journal of International Law* 477; see also Sundaresh Menon, “Dispute Resolution at the Intersection of Domestic and Transnational Justice Systems: The Case for International Commercial Courts” keynote address at the 7th International Bar Association Asia Pacific Regional Forum Biennial Conference (upcoming, 23 February 2023).

50. See “SIFoCC playing its part” at paras 7-9; see also “The Law of Commerce in the 21st Century”.

- (a) First, redoubling our efforts to **build a user-centric court system**, by recognising that courts have an *assistive responsibility* towards court users, and by engaging in *public communications and outreach*.
- (b) Second, working tirelessly to **enhance judicial competencies**, by investing in *judicial education and training*, and pursuing continuous innovation in the justice system.
- (c) Third, actively **promoting international judicial engagement**, by engaging in *judicial diplomacy* with our counterparts across the world, and contributing towards the *development of a transnational system of justice*.

57. Finally, we should see that cutting across this revitalised vision of the judicial role is a need for strong *judicial leadership*. To develop the kind of systematic approach that is called for, we need judicial leaders to develop an overarching vision and set the tone. This should not be seen as the exclusive preserve of the heads of judiciaries: judges and indeed court administrators at all levels need to be leaders within their own domains in order to drive and sustain change at this scale.

58. At the start of my address, I painted a rather bleak picture of the perfect long storm approaching judiciaries around the world: we face global challenges, the complexification of disputes, the challenges arising from greater interconnectedness between jurisdictions, rising barriers against access to justice, truth decay inside and outside the courtroom, and an impending breakdown of trust in public institutions. Meeting these challenges will require a multipolar effort, and while the courts cannot lead the charge against their root causes, by refining our understanding of our role as judges, we

can tap upon the strength and expertise of judicial institutions and redirect them towards responses to these challenges that accord with the constitutional role of the judiciary. We should aim to become institutions that excel in the administration of justice, by building user-centric court systems, enhancing judicial competencies and promoting international judicial engagement. This is a critical mission: if we fail, the perfect long storm portends a breakdown of the rule of law. But if judiciaries are successful in this endeavour, they will help guide their societies through the tempest.

59. Thank you very much.

3. XVIII Meeting of Chief Justices / Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States (10 -12 March 2023)

SCO is a permanent Intergovernmental International Organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became full members of the Organization in the year 2017. Thus, SCO comprises eight Member States and Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia are the four Observer States.

For the first time India took over the Chairmanship of SCO Council of Heads of State in September 2022 from the Republic of Uzbekistan for a period of one year. Subsequently, XVIIIth Meeting of Chief Justices / Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the SCO Member States (hereinafter referred

to as 'the XVIIIth Meeting') was organized by the Supreme Court of India from 10 -12 March 2023 at New Delhi.

All the Member States of SCO participated in person except Pakistan which participated virtually. Among the Observer States delegates from Belarus and Iran participated in person and representatives of Mongolia participated virtually. The representatives of SCO Secretariat and SCO RATS also participated in the XVIIIth Meeting.

On 10 March 2023, Joint interaction sessions with the Chief Justices / Chairpersons/ Heads of Delegations/ Judges from the Member / Observer States and representatives of SCO Secretariat and SCO RATS was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India. The topics for discussion of Joint Interaction were:

1. Brief description of Judicial System followed in SCO Member/Observer States.

2. Challenges faced and measures taken during the pandemic of COVID-19 by the SCO Member/Observer States.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India welcomed the delegates and opened the Joint Interaction. The Joint Interaction was held in two sessions and there were presentations/ speeches by Head of Delegation of each Member/Observer State and representatives of SCO Secretariat SCO RATS.

On 11 March 2023, Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India commenced the XVIIIth Meeting by presenting Opening remarks. There were Opening remarks by the Heads of Delegations from SCO Member/Observer States and representative of the SCO Secretariat.

During the XVIIIth Meeting, the delegates from SCO Member/Observer States delivered speeches/presentations on the following three topics:



1. Smart Courts” and the future of the Judiciary
2. Facilitating “Access to Justice” (Justice should not be limited to privileged): Issues, Initiative, and Prospects”
3. Institutional Challenges facing Judiciary: Delays, Infrastructure, Representation and Transparency”

The discussion on aforesaid three topics was followed by signing of the Joint Statement of the XVIIIth Meeting of Chief Justices / Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the SCO Member States.

There were Closing remarks by the Heads of Delegations from SCO Member States and Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India. Thereafter, following the tradition, the Chairmanship was handed over to the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

4. YOGA DAY

International Day of Yoga, commonly referred to as Yoga Day, is celebrated on June 21st every year. It is a day dedicated to promoting the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits of

practicing yoga. The Supreme Court of India, the highest judicial body in the country, celebrated International Day of Yoga with great fervor and enthusiasm. This significant event brought together judges, lawyers, and staff members to partake in a day dedicated to the holistic practice of yoga. The celebration was a testament to the court’s commitment to promoting physical and mental well-being among its members. The Yoga Day celebration at the Supreme Court of India was a resounding success, serving as a shining example of the court’s commitment to the well-being of its members. Through the practice of yoga, judges, lawyers, and staff members reaffirmed their dedication to a balanced and harmonious approach to life. This event not only fostered physical vitality but also nurtured mental resilience, ultimately contributing to a more robust and effective legal community. The celebration underscored the profound impact that yoga can have on individuals in high-pressure professions, reaffirming its relevance in the modern world.

Hon’ble Chief Justice with Hon’ble Judges and the officials from the Registry at the celebration of International Yoga Day on 21 June 2023.



Meetings and Conferences: International and National

Information regarding International Conferences and Meets attended by Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (As Judge)

Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India (then Judge), Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian (since retired) participated through virtual mode in the 4th Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC) hosted by the Federal Court of Australia and the Courts of the State of New South Wales from 20 to 21 October 2022 at Sydney Australia.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India headed the Indian Delegation also comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian, since retired and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Judge, Supreme Court of India participated in the 4th Full Meeting of the Secretariat to the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC) hosted by the judiciaries of the Federal Court of Australia and the Courts of New South Wales at Sydney, Australia on 20 - 21 October 2022. Hon'ble

Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna delivered speeches under the themes "Towards an integrated system of Dispute Resolution: Commercial Courts, Arbitration and Mediation" and "Jurisdictional conflicts internationally", respectively. Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, participated as Judge, Supreme Court of India, in the said Meeting through virtual mode and spoke on the topic "Leveraging technology towards dispute resolution in Commercial Courts" under the theme "Managing complexity, and the 'complexification' of disputes" on 20 October 2022. Mr. Chirag Bhanu Singh, the then Registrar, Supreme Court of India, accompanied the Indian Delegation during the visit.

Information regarding International Conferences and Meets attended by Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India.

1. Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, delivered speech (Online) at the 18th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific on "Facing Criticism from the outside and engaging with the public Criticisms - separating the justified from the unfair" on 16 November 2022.

2. Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India visited:
 - London, U.K. to (i) have meetings with Legal Institutions at London on 28 May 2023; (ii) deliver Cambridge Pro Bono Lecture at University of Cambridge on 30 May 2023 at London.
 - Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh to deliver a public lecture on "Global change and the legal profession, past and future: perspectives from India" on 1 June 2023.
 - Royal Courts of Justice, London for a bilateral meeting with Lord Burnett of Maldon, Hon'ble Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, as he then was, on 6 June 2023.
 - Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) Institute, Prague, Czech Republic on 7 June 2023 for participating in the third and final training of trainers workshops organised by the CEELI Institute from 6 to 10 June 2023 in Prague.
 - Federal Constitutional Court of Germany for a bilateral meeting with Professor Dr Stephan Harbarth, President, Federal Constitutional Court of Germany along with Professor Dr. Henning Radtke, Mr. Thomas Offenloch and Dr. Miriam Meßling, Judges, on 12 June 2023.
 - Federal Court of Justice, Germany for a meeting with Ms. Justice Bettina Limperg, President of the Federal Court of Justice, Germany on 14 June 2023.
 - Hessian Higher Regional Court for a meeting with Ms. Dr. Ruth Römer, Acting President of Hessian Higher Regional Court on 15 June 2023.
3. Hon'ble Dr. Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India visited Singapore Academy of Law, Singapore and delivered Singapore Academy of Law Annual Lecture 2023 on the topic "Seven decades of the Indian Constitution: The Life of a Nation", on 8 September 2023, organised by the Singapore Academy of Law.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India also headed the Indian Delegation comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Shakhder, Judge, High Court of Delhi, Hon'ble Dr. Justice A K Jayasankaran Nambiar, Judge, High Court of Kerala, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Hon'ble Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth, Judge, Madras High Court for the Inaugural Singapore-India Roundtable organised by the Supreme Court of Singapore on 9 September 2023.

The topics that were discussed during the said Roundtable were (a) New and Emerging Digital Assets, and (b) Legal Limits on Free Speech.

Mr Atul M Kurhekar, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, and Mr Rakesh Kumar, Registrar, Supreme Court of India accompanied the Indian Delegation during the visit.
4. Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India :
 - visited Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom to attend International Judicial Symposium on Freedom of Expression, organized within the framework of the "2023 Global Conference of the

International Day of Universal Access to Information” by the UNESCO and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights of the University of Oxford.

- on the invitation from Lord Burnett of Maldon, Hon’ble Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, as he then was, attended Opening of the Legal Year Service on 2 October 2023 at Westminster Abbey, London.
 - visited Hon’ble Society of Lincoln’s Inn, London for a meeting with Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Vos, Treasurer, the Hon’ble Society of Lincoln’s Inn on 3 October 2023.
 - visited Royal Courts of Justice, London for a meeting with Hon’ble Ms Justice Dame Sue Carr, Head of the Judiciary of England and Wales and the President of the Courts of England and Wales on 3 October 2023.
5. Hon’ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India:
- visited Harvard Law School, Cambridge, USA on 21 October 2023 and had a meeting with Faculty members of Mittal South Asia Institute. Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India also participated in Fireside chat (Questions and Answers) with Mr. David B. Wilkins, Professor at Harvard Law School. Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India was also felicitated with an ‘Award for Global Leadership by Harvard Law School Center on Legal Profession.
 - visited Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA on 22 October 2023 to deliver keynote address at the Sixth International Conference on the Unfinished Legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, on the topic: “Reformation beyond

representaion: The social life of the Constitution in remedying historical wrongs”.

- visited Georgetown Law University, Washington DC, USA on 23 October 2023 to be their Guest in the event “In Conversation Series, 2023” under the theme “Comparative Constitutional Law Conversation: Perspectives from the Supreme Courts of India and the United States”. Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India shared the dais with Mr. William M. Treanor, Dean of Georgetown Law, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Stephen Breyer, former Judge, Supreme Court of the United States and Ms. Vibha Datta Makhija, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India.

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

1. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna**, (through Video Conferencing) participated in the BRICS Justice Forum, Haikou, Hainan Province, Republic of China, held on 21 September 2022.
2. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Hon’ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi (since retired)**, visited Russia to Participate in the 11th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum organized by Ministry of Justice of Russian Federation at St. Petersburg, Russia from 11-13 May, 2023 and the International Conference entitled “Constitution and Constitutional Supervision: Developing the Doctrine and Advancing the Case-Law” organized by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation on 11 May 2023. During the International Conference, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna and

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi delivered speeches under the themes "Constitutional Evolution and Constitutional Supervision", and "Constitutional Supervision: Response to Changes", respectively. During the XIth St. Petersburg International Legal Forum, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna delivered speech on the topic "International Commercial Arbitration: New Challenges" under the theme "Justice and Dispute Resolution: New Realities and Horizons" and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi delivered speech on the topic "Public Meeting of the Council for the Improvement of Arbitration on Efforts to Develop Domestic Arbitration" under the theme "Justice and Dispute Resolution: New Realities and Horizons" and also on the topic "Legal Education: Problems and Opportunities" under the theme "Law and Society". Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi also participated as a speaker in the Plenary Session of the Legal Forum under the theme "Sovereignty in Law". Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Registrar, Supreme Court of India accompanied the Indian Delegation during the aforesaid visit.

3. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha, Judges**, Supreme Court of India participated in the Indo-Pacific Judicial Colloquium on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Technology organised by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) from 25th to 27th July, 2023 in Washington, DC, USA. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha participated in the discussion sessions under the topics "Perspectives

on the Impact of Global Change on the Courts", and "Rule of Law, Access to Justice, Fairness, and Transparency in Proceedings and Decision-making", respectively. Mr. Anurag Bhaskar, Deputy Registrar (Research), Supreme Court of India accompanied the Indian Delegation during the aforesaid visit.

4. **Hon'ble Mr Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul**, Judge, Supreme Court of India participated in the 12th International Legal Forum of the Asia-Pacific Region held by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation via web conferencing on 5 October 2023. Hon'ble Mr Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul delivered Opening Remarks and also delivered a speech on the topic "Cross-Border Legal Relations and National Justice", during the Forum.
5. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari (since retired)**, visited Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and attended the 5th congress of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC) "Recent Developments of Constitutional Justice in Asia" held from 18 to 21 August 2022. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari delivered a speech on the topic "Constitutional Justice in Changing Times: Indian Perspective" while Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai delivered the speech on the topic "The Constitutional Review in Challenging Times – An Indian Perspective".
6. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta**, visited New York and attended Second Meeting of the International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network (JDRN) held

between 22 May 2023 to 24 May 2023 at United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

7. **Hon'ble Mr Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai**, Judge, Supreme Court of India participated in the Chief Justices' Meeting held on 10 September 2023 and the Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association on the theme "Open Justice Today" held from 10-14 September 2023 in Cardiff, Wales. During the Conference, Hon'ble Judge participated as a Speaker in the Panel Session on the theme "Corporate Legal Responsibility and Climate Change" and also in the Specialist Meetings under the themes (a) "Discrimination and the employment/industrial courts" and (b) "Are international human rights courts fulfilling their job?"
8. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**, visited Warsaw, Poland to attend Judicial Bilateral Meeting at Warsaw, Poland on 5-6 June 2023 hosted by the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Poland.
9. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**, visited Wroclaw, Poland to deliver Guest lecture as Keynote Speaker on "Rule of Law and Good Governance –India's Perspective" at University of Wroclaw on 7 June 2023.
10. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**, Represented India as Head of Delegation in Amsterdam at Judicial Insolvency Network and Judicial Colloquium of International Insolvency Institute and attended Judicial Colloquium of International Insolvency Institute on 9 June 2023 and delivered a Lecture on "Features of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 in India, the

Role of the Resolution Professional and a comparison of the position in India with International Best Practices in Amsterdam. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli**, visited Amsterdam to attend a meeting of Judicial Insolvency Network (JIN), to attend the 'Judicial Colloquium" and the 'Annual Conference' organized by International Insolvency Institute (III) from 9 to 11 June 2023.

11. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose and Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Bopanna**, visited Seoul (Republic of Korea) to attend the 4th International Symposium organised by Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions Secretariat for Research and Development (AACC SRD) on the topic "Access to Justice: Constitutional Perspectives" from 29 May to 1 June, 2023 and chaired Session-I. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose delivered a speech on "Individual Access to Constitutional Justice" and also chaired Session 3 on "Constitutional Rights Ensuring Access to Justice". **Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Bopanna**, delivered speech on the topic "Constitutional rights ensuring access to justice". Mr. Pavanesh D., Registrar, Supreme Court of India accompanied the Indian Delegation during the aforesaid visit.
12. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath**, visited Botswana to participate in the 10th Biennial meeting of Commonwealth Judicial Educators, by Commonwealth Judicial Education Institution (CJEI) held from 11 to 14 May 2023 under the theme "Contemporary Issues, Innovative Responses and Judicial Education".

13. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli**, visited London (United Kingdom) to attend the Inaugural Session of the International Conference on Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes - 2nd Edition as a Keynote Speaker on 5 June 2023 and attended the India Dispute Resolution Forum and delivered the Key Note address on 7 and 8 June 2023.
14. **Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna**, visited Singapore to participate in the International Trademark Association (INTA) Annual Meeting 2023 held at Singapore from 16-20 May 2023 and; to Participate in India Reception and be a panelist in the session titled "India Case Law update" held on 18-19 May 2023.
15. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. M. Sundresh**, visited Kathmandu (Nepal) to participate in "Regional Symposium of Forest and Protected Areas Legislation and Jurisprudence: Bridging Law and Science" held from 27 to 29 April 2023 at Kathmandu, Nepal and the World Commission on Environmental Law, In cooperation with the Judicial Academies of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Indian delegation also comprised of Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Palli, Judge, Delhi High Court. Mr. Mahesh T. Patankar, as Additional Registrar, Supreme Court of India (now Registrar, Supreme Court of India) accompanied the Indian Delegation during the aforesaid visit.
16. **Hon'ble Mr Justice P V Sanjay Kumar and Hon'ble Mr Justice K V Viswanathan**, Judges, Supreme Court of India participated 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 on 7 - 8 September 2023 in commemoration of the Constitution Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Hon'ble Mr Justice P V Sanjay Kumar made presentation on the topic "The role of constitutional control in promoting the values of protecting human rights and freedoms" during the International Conference.
17. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah**, visited Prague (Czech Republic) from 29 May to 3 June 2023 and participated in the programmes, on Human Trafficking and Cyber Crimes, consisting of two High Court Judges, five District Judges, National Judicial Academy delegation and Resource Persons, organized by the Federal Judicial Center (FJC), Washington and Central and Eastern European Law Initiative Institute (CEELI), Prague at Prague, Czech Republic.
18. **Mr. Sunil Chauhan, Additional Registrar**, visited Boston (USA) to attend 15th Biennial conference "The Challenges of Access to Justice" organized by the Centre for the Legal Profession at Harvard Law School, Boston, USA in conjunction with the International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) held in Boston (USA) from 21 to 23 June 2023. He presented a paper titled "Legal Needs in Rural India: Challenges & Response of Legal Aid Authorities (available at <https://clp.law.harvard.edu/ilag-2023-challenges-of-access-to-justice>).
19. **Mr. Hargurvarinder S Jaggi, Registrar**, Supreme Court of India, and Dr Parvinder Singh Arora, Member Project Management, e-Committee, Supreme Court of India participated in the 11th

Summer School Program under the theme “Judicial Independence as a Safeguard of the Right to a Fair Trial” organised by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye, from 18 - 21 September 2023 in Ankara, Türkiye. Mr Hargurvarinder S Jaggi and Dr Parvinder Singh Arora made presentations on the said theme during the said Summer School Program.

20. **Hon’ble Shri N.V. Ramana**, the then Chief Justice of India visited (a) Dortmund, Germany to deliver inaugural address on “Arbitration in the Globalized World - Indian Experience” at the annual meeting of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce organized on 21st June, 2022; (b) San Francisco to be Keynote Speaker at an event organized by the Association of Indo Americans on 1st July, 2022 and (c) London, United Kingdom to inaugurate Conference on the topic “Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes” held in the first week of July, 2022 organized by Indian Council of Arbitration. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Goel and Mr. Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara, the then Registrars, Supreme Court of India accompanied Hon’ble the then Chief Justice of India during the aforesaid visit.
21. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Uday U. Lalit**, as Judge, Supreme Court of India (as His Lordship then was), **Hon’ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar** and **Hon’ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian**, as Judges Supreme Court of India participated in the 10th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum organized from 29 June to 1 July 2022 at St. Petersburg, Russia by the Ministry of Justice, Russian Federation. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Uday U. Lalit delivered speech on the topic “The Digitization of Court in India”, Hon’ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar delivered speech during the Session under the theme “Regulation of the Pharmaceutical Market: Law in Search of a Balance”, and Hon’ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian delivered speech during the Session under the theme “Family Law in the 21st Century: Institutions and Values”.
22. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Uday U. Lalit**, as Chief Justice of India, **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna** and **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai**, Judges, Supreme Court of India participated in the BRICS Justices Forum under the theme “BRICS Judicial Cooperation in the New Era” organized virtually by the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China on 21 September 2022. Hon’ble Mr. Justice made Opening and Closing remarks during the Forum. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Hon’ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai delivered speeches on the topics “Development and Prospects of Diversified Dispute Resolution Mechanism for International Commercial Matters” and “In Depth Application of Judicial Big Data to Enhance Empirical Justice and Social Governance” respectively.
23. **Hon’ble Shri Uday U. Lalit**, as Chief Justice of India and **Hon’ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi**, Judge, Supreme Court of India visited Munich, Germany to attend an event entitled ‘Leveraging Arbitration for Ease of Doing Business: Working towards a Developed India by 2047’ organised by the Indien Institut, Munich on 4th October, 2022 in Munich, Germany. During the visit, Hon’ble Mr. Justice U.U. Lalit had a meeting with

- Prof. Dr. Stephan Harbarth, President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany in Karlsruhe on October 6, 2022. Mr. Virender Kumar Bansal, the then Secretary General, Supreme Court of India accompanied the Indian Delegation.
24. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (since retired)**, visited Moscow, Russia to Participate in the 10th All-Russia Congress of Judges and a solemn even dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation held from 29 November 2022 to 1 December 2022.
 25. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. R. Shah (since retired)**, visited Bangladesh to attend the celebration of 50th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 17-18 December 2022 and to deliver a speech on the topic 'Constitutional Law'.
 26. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi (since retired)**, visited Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to participate in the 17th Session of Chairman of Supreme Courts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), member states held on 18 and 19 August 2022. Hon'ble Judge presented Opening and Closing remarks and delivered speeches on the topics "Experience of SCO member States in Cybercrime Cases" and "ADR: The Indian Experience and Efficacy".
 27. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat**, visited Boston (USA) to speak at the 20th Edition of the Annual India Conference at Boston, USA on the theme "Vision 2047: India at 100 years of Independence" organised by Harvard Law School, USA held on 11-12 February 2023 at Boston, USA.
 28. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat**, visited Malaysia to deliver a keynote address on 8 June 2023 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 to 10 June 2023 organized by the LAWASIA and the Sabah Law Society.
 29. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat**, visited Maldives to be a part of the 'Regional Consultation – Child rights Institutions of South Asia' hosted by Children's Ombudsperson's Office, Republic of Maldives, in Collaboration with the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia and UNICEF Maldives on 19-20 June 2023.

Domestic Programmes/ Meetings/ Conferences /Chaired or Attended by Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Judges in India

1. **Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, (then Judge)** (i) visited Pune to attend 1st Convocation Ceremony of Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai at Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Gori Road, Bhayander West, Pune on 2 July 2022; (ii) attended NALSA – Inauguration function - Chaired Technical Session-I "Use of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Platforms in Enhancing Delivery of Legal Services to the Beneficiaries" and Vote of Thanks and the Valedictory Function at the 1st All India District Legal Services Authorities' Meet on 30-31 July 2022; (iii) [Sent Recorded speech] - Presided over at the Eleventh Convocation of Gujarat National

- Law University, Gandhinagar on 6 August 2022; (iv) visited as a Guest of Honor and delivered the Convocation Address at the Eleventh Convocation of the O.P. Jindal Global University at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi on 7 August 2022; (v) inaugurated the ILS Centre for Arbitration and Mediation and to deliver the 1st memorial Lecture in the memory of Hon'ble late Shri Y.V. Chandrachud, former Chief Justice of India, held at the Principal Pandit Auditorium, Laxmi Building, ILS Law College, on 19 August 2022 at Pune; (vi) Inaugural Talk: IIT Delhi Office of Diversity and Inclusion on Realizing Diversity: Making Differences Matter in Higher Education at IIT Delhi on 6 September 2022; (vii) Gave a Keynote Address at the Inauguration of Record Room Digitization Centre at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack on 9 September 2022; (viii) attended and addressed an inauguration function of the paperless court in each of the District Courts in Odisha organized by the High Court of Orissa and to grace the 9th Convocation of National Law University, Odisha on 17 September 2022 at Cuttack; (ix) attended the 99th Executive Council Meeting, 36th General Council Meeting on 17 September 2022 and the 30th Annual Convocation of the NLSIU at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convocation Centre, GKVK Campus on 18 September 2022 at Bengaluru; (x) Chief Guest at the IX Convocation, National Law University, Delhi on 15 October 2022;
2. **Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, [Chief Justice of India-Designate]** Attended ONLINE, National Legal Services Authority- Delivered a Keynote Address on Launch of "Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach" on 31 October 2022.
3. **Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India,** (i) Attended and addressed the Twentieth edition of the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit at Taj Palace, New Delhi on 12 November 2022; (ii) Supreme Court Bar Association- Constitution Day Function in the Supreme Court Laws on 25 November 2022; (iii) Constitution Day Celebrations 2022 and Chief Justices' Conference on Envisioning a Futuristic Judiciary at Supreme Court of India on 26-27 November 2022; (iv) Keynote Speaker & Guest of Honor at the 8th Dr L M Singhvi on Universal Adult Franchise : Translating India's Political Transformation into a Social Transformation on 2 December 2022; (v) inaugurated the Academic Session 2022-2023 of India International University of Legal Education and Research on 3 December 2022 at Goa; (vi) Delivered at the National Annual Stakeholders' Consultation on Child Protection on Focus on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 Implementation, at Auditorium, C-Block, ABC SCI on 10-11 November 2022; (vii) Delivered speech at the Inauguration of District Courts Digitisation hubs at High Court of Orissa on 12 December 2022; (viii) Delivered lecture as Chief Guest at the Ashok Desai Memorial Lecture (Law and Morality: The Bounds and Reaches), High Court of Bombay on 17 December 2022; (ix) Delivered speech at the Felicitation function at Bombay High Court at the Central Court Hall, High Court of Bombay on 17 December

2022; (x) Addressed at Inauguration of Initiatives of the Andhra Pradesh High Court at Acharya Nagarjuna University Auditorium, Andhra Pradesh on 30 December 2022; (xi) Delivered Keynote address at Purple Fest at Goa on 6-8 January 2023; (xii) Vijayawada to attend official programme of High Court on 30 December 2022; (xiii) delivered the Eighteenth Nani A Palkhivala Memorial Lecture at the Tata Theatre, NCPA Mumbai and also to attend the felicitation function in Honour of His Lordship organised by Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa on 21 January 2023 at Mumbai; (xiv) Inaugurated Online e-Inspection Software at the Auditoriums, 'S' Block, High Court of Delhi on 24 January 2023; (xv) Inaugurated Virtual High Court [ONLINE] of High Court of Orissa at the Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack on 3 February 2023; (xvi) Delivered speech at the Commemoration of the 73rd Anniversary of the Establishment of the Supreme Court of India on 4 February 2023; (xvii) addressed the First Convocation organised by Maharashtra National Law University on 11 February 2023 at Nagpur; (xviii) Delivered Keynote address at the Inaugural Session at the Delhi Arbitration Weekend at the High Court of Delhi on 16 February 2023; (xix) Hyderabad as a Chief Guest to deliver the Inaugural Silver Jubilee Lecture-cum-19th Convocation address at NALSAR University of Law on 25 February 2023; (xx) Delivered 19th Sir Ganga Ram Oration at the The Trust Society, Board of Management, Consultants & Staff of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital at the The Sovereign Hall, Hotel Le Meridian, Windsor Place, C.P. New Delhi on 26 February 2023; (xxi) Delivered speech at the Virtual

Inauguration Ceremony of the New Administrative Block of the High Court at Calcutta and e-Initiatives of the High Court at Calcutta at Sesquicentenary Building, High Court at Calcutta on 1 March 2023; (xxii) Delivered keynote address at the American Bar Association International Law Section, ABA India Conference 2023 at the Imperial, the Royal Ballroom (First Floor), Janpath, New Delhi on 3 March 2023; (xxiii) Goa to Chair the Meeting – Private Discussion by the Patron Chief Justices (Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute) at Hotel Grand Hyatt, Bambolim on 5 March 2023; (xxiv) Delivered (ONLINE) Free Speech : Identity, Expression, and self-realisation, 2nd Soli Sorabjee Memorial Lecture on 9 March 2023; (xxv) Delivered speeches at the XVIII Meeting of Chief Justices/ Chairmen of Supreme Courts of the Shanghai Corporation Organisation (SCO) Member States at the Conference Hall, ABC Building, SCI on 10-12 March 2023; (xxvi) Attended India Today Conclave as a Speaker at the opening session at the Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi on 18 March 2023; (xxvii) Delivered Keynote Address at the 4th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards at Kamal Mahal, ITC Maurya, New Delhi on 22 March 2023; (xxviii) Madurai (Tamil Nadu) to lay the foundation stone at District Court Campus on 25 March 2023; (xxix) Guwahati to attend the Platinum Jubilee Programme of Gauhati High Court on 7 April 2023; (xxx) Delivered Presidential Address at the Inaugural Session at National Meditation Conference, Samadhan at the High Court of Delhi on 14-15 April 2023; (xxxi) Delivered [ONLINE] speech at the Inauguration Ceremony of 'Digital Courts

for Contested Traffic Challans’ and ‘Bail Orders Sharing Module : E-Prison’ at High Court of Delhi on 28 April 2023; (xxxii) Bhubaneswar to inaugurate the National Conference on Digitization, Paperless Courts and e-initiatives organized by the High Court of Odisha on 6 May 2023; (xxxiii) Ranchi to inaugurate the New Building of High Court of Jharkhand at Dhurwa on 24 May 2023; (xxxiv) Jammu to attend laying of foundation stone of the Jammu Wing of the High Court and launching of Document Management System and National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes on 28 June 2023; (xxxv) Srinagar to inaugurate the 19th All India Meet of Legal Services Authorities on 30 June 2023.

4. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul**, visited (i) Patna to release a book written by Hon’ble Mr. Justice S. K. Katriar, former Judge, Patna High Court at Hotel Maurya on 16 July 2022; (ii) Chennai to attend Silver Jubilee Celebration of State Human Rights Commission, Tamil Nadu on 6 August, 2022; (iii) Chennai to attend the laying of foundation stone for the proposed construction of a multi-storied building for the combined court complex and to inaugurate the renovation work of the old Madras Law College heritage building on 4 September 2022; (iv) Jabalpur to visit to Justice Tankha Memorial Rotary Institute for Special Children, Manas Bhavan, Wright Town on 17 September 2022 and to deliver 1st Justice J. S. Verma Memorial Lecture at Manas Bhavan, Gole Bazaar, on 18 September 2022; (v) Patna to attend the Inaugural Session of the National Seminar & Training Programme on the topic “Lawyers’ contribution in Building Society” organized by the Bar

Council of India in association with Bihar State Bar Council on 24 September 2022; (vi) Itanagar to address members of the Guwahati High Court Itanagar Permanent Bench Bar Association on 28 October 2022; (vii) Kohima to inaugurate Legal Aid Clinic of Nagaland State Legal Services Authority on 11 December 2022; (viii) Varanasi to Inaugurate Northern Regional Conference on Enhancing Access to Justice organized by the National Legal Services Authority on 21 January 2023; (ix) Jaipur to attend an event ‘Patang – A celebration of Justice, Liberty and Dignity’ organized by PAAR – Prison Aid and Action Research at Sanganer Open Prison on 28 January 2023; (x) Bhopal to attend the 12th Annual Convocation of National Law Institute University, Bhopal on 11 February 2023; (xi) Udaipur (Rajasthan) to attend the West Zone Regional Conference on “Enhancing Access to Justice” organized by the Rajasthan High Court Legal Services Committee, Jodhpur on 4 March 2023; (xii) Shillong to attend the East Zone Regional Conference on “Enhancing Access to Justice” organized by the National Legal Services Authority on 18 March 2023; (xiii) Chennai to attend a fund raising event for Cancer Institute (WIA) on 25 March 2023 organized by Tamil Nadu Senior Advocates Forum (TNSAF); (xiv) Mysuru (Karnataka) to attend South Zone Regional Conference on “Enhancing Access to Justice” on 8 April 2023 at Mysuru organized by NALSA; (xv) Srinagar, to attend Foundation Stone Laying for the New High Court Complex, Jammu on 28 June 2023 and to attend 19th All India Meet of the Legal Services Authority organised by the NALSA on 30 June 2023.

5. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna**, (i) visited Shimla to preside over as the Chief Guest of the First Convocation of the Himachal Pradesh National Law University on 19 November 2022; (ii) visited Varanasi to attend the North-Zone Regional Conference on 21 January 2023; (iii) visited Cuttack (Odisha) to attend the inauguration of the District Judges' Conference, 2023 at the Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack organized by the High Court of Odisha on 11 February 2023; (iv) Chaired the Session on "Appointment of Arbitrators: Discussing the Role of Judiciary, Institution and Parties, held by Delhi International Arbitration Centre during Delhi Arbitration Week, on 18 February 2023; (v) Inauguration of Two Days' Conference on Direct and Indirect Taxes organized by the Sales Tax Bar Association on 25 February 2023; (vi) visited Udaipur (Rajasthan) to attend the NALSA's West-Zone Regional Conference on Enhancing Access to Justice on 4 March 2023; (vii) visited Shillong to attend the NALSA East-Zone Conference at Taj Vivanta Hotel, Shillong on 18 March 2023; (viii) visited Mysore (Karnataka) to attend the NALSA's South-Zone Regional Conference on Enhancing Access to Justice at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Mysore on 8 April 2023; (ix) inaugurated the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courtrooms (VWDC) in Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi on 29 April 2023; (x) visited Srinagar, 19th All India Meet at Main Auditorium, Shere Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Cheshmashahi, Srinagar on 1 July 2023.
6. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai**, (i) visited Nagpur to attend inauguration of the Hostel Building at MNLU on 10 July 2022; (ii) visited Aurangabad to attend State Lawyers Conference 2022 on 23 July 2022; (iii) Attended Inauguration of the Front Office of SCLSC by Hon. CJI at Area Behind Post Office, Lawyers' Chamber Nos. 107, 109 and 110, R.K. Jain Block, SC premises on 27 July 2022 (Wednesday); (iv) Attended 1st All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet 2022 – Inaugural Program at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi organized by NALSA on 30 July 2022 (Saturday); (v) Attended Book Release of "Arbitrator's Handbook" function of Shri Shashank Garg, Adv. At Mansion Oval, Hyatt Regency, New Delhi held on 5 August 2022 (Friday); (vi) Attended Talk with Student Officers – Middle Level CDRs & Staff OFFrs Law Course in the Institute of Military Law, New Delhi on 6 August 2022 (Saturday); (vii) Attended Farewell ceremony of HMJ A.M. Khanwilkar organized by CAN Foundation at Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi on 6 August 2022 (Saturday); (viii) Attended Western Maharashtra Regional Lawyer's Conference, Pune 2022 on the theme 'Skillful Development of Conveyancing Practice" organized by Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa in Association with Pune Bar Association, Pune on 13.8.2022 (Saturday) at Seasons 24 Banquets Hall, Wagholi, Tal. Haveli, Dist. Pune; (ix) Attended Inauguration of newly constructed ADR building at 'Vidhi-Seva Sadan', New ADR Building, District Court Campus, Sindhudurg at Oras held on 14 August 2022; (x) Attended Felicitation function of Hon'ble Shri Justice U.U. Lalit, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India organized by High Court Bar Association, Nagpur at Dr. Vasantrao Deshpande Hall, Civil Lines, Nagpur on 3 September 2022

at 6.30 p.m; (xi) Attended Felicitation Function of Hon. Shri U. U. Lalit, Hon. CJI organized by Bombay High Court at Crystal Room, The Taj Mahal Palace, Colaba, Mumbai held on 10.9.2022; (xii) Attended 5th Meeting of the General Council of MNLU, Nagpur held on 18 September 2022; (xiii) Attended National Seminar on the topic "Lawyers Contribution in Building the Society" on 24 September 2022 at Patna organized by BCI in association with Bihar State Bar Council; (xiv) Attended Thalassaemia Awareness Program at Main Auditorium, Indian Society of International Law, Krishna Menon Bhawan, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi held on 28 September 2022 at 4.00 p.m. organized by SCBA and Thalassaemia Care Foundation; (xv) Inauguration of Academic Session of India International University of Legal Education and Research, Goa held on 3 December 2022 organised by the BCI Pearl Trust; (xvi) Attended function to felicitate Hon. CJI D.Y. Chandrachud by the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice and His Companion Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay on 17 December 2022 at the Central Court Hall, Room No. 46, 2nd Floor, High Court of Bombay; (xvii) Attended as Guest of Honour the program of Felicitation of Hon. CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and publication of civil and criminal practice hand book and launching of BCMG-Air news & Views Channel organized by Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa held on 21 January 2023 at 3.30 p.m. at Yogi Sabhagruha, Swaminarayan Mandir, Opp. Dadar Station, Dadar (East), Mumbai-400014; (xviii) Attended State Lawyers Conference, 2023 organized by Pune Bar Association on the Theme

"Strengthening the Bar in Trial Court Practice: Issues, Challenges & Solutions" held on 22 January 2023; (xix) Inaugural Function of 20th Edition of Justa Causa of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Law, R.B.D. Laxminarayan Campus, Amravati Road, Nagpur held on 27 January 2023; (xx) Attended First Convocation Ceremony of MNLU, Nagpur held on 11 February 2023 at 12:00 noon; (xxi) Installation Ceremony 2023 at "Nyay Mandir Extension Building Premises" Civil Lines, Nagpur organized by District Bar Association, Nagpur held on 11 February 2023 at 5.00 p.m.; (xxii) Chaired Session 2B at Plenary Hall, Delhi International Arbitration Centre on the topic "Conflict of Interest: Do's and Don'ts for Arbitration on 18 February 2023 (Saturday) at the Delhi Arbitration Weekend held between 16 - 19 February 2023; (xxiii) Prize Distribution Ceremony of the 19th K.K. Luthra Memorial Moot Court Competition held on 19 February 2023 at 4.00 p.m. at the India Habitat Centre, new Delhi; (xxiv) Inaugural Function of the National Seminar on Administrative Law at State and Central Level held on 25 February 2023 at Maharashtra Judicial Academy and Indian Mediation Centre Training Institute, Uttan; (xxv) Inaugural function of New Annex Court Building (G+9 floors) in the premises of District & Sessions Court, Nagpur, held on 19 March 2023 at 10.00 a.m.; (xxvi) Inaugural function of 'A' and 'B' wings of Lawyers' Chambers Building of High Court of Bombay, Bench at Aurangabad held on 25 March 2023 at 10.00 a.m.; (xxvii) Inauguration Ceremony of Boys' Hostel, First Floor and Second Floor of Center of Excellence Building and Open Gym

at MNLU, Aurangabad held on 25 March 2023 at 2.00 p.m.; (xxviii) Presided over the function of celebration of 75th year of the High Court of Orissa at Cuttack held on 8 April 2023; (xxix) Attended SCBA Lawn Tennis Tournament – Prize Distribution Function at R.K. Khanna Tennis Stadium, DLTA Complex, Africa Avenue, New Delhi-110029 held on 16 May 2023 at 6.00 p.m.; (xxx) Attended as Chief Guest for the Book Release function of V.D. Mahajan’s Constitutional Law of India , 8th Edition revised by Dr. Sanjay Jain”,– Organized by EBC, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, 15, Janpath on 17 April 2023 at 4.30 p.m.; (xxxii) Attended at Samarasata Divas (Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti) organized by Adhivakta Parishad Supreme Court Unit held on 19 April 2023 at 4.30 p.m. at Auditorium, Indian Society of International Law (ISIL); (xxxiii) Attended Valedictory Session of 2nd P.N. Mathur Memorial National Moot Court Competition, 2023 held on 30 April 2023 at 2.30 p.m. at Auditorium, Gautam Buddha University, Greater NOIDA; (xxxiv) Attended State Lawyers’ Conference, Dharashiv (Osmanabad) 2023 on the Theme “Modernisation of Judicial System for Speedy Justice” organized by Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in association with Osmanabad District Bar Association held on 5 May 2023; (xxxv) Attended Award night of the 1st APCAM International ADR Summit held on 6 May 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at Le Meridian, New Delhi; (xxxvi) Attended Inauguration of Conference Hall of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa held on Saturday, 13 May 2023 at Mumbai; (xxxvii) Attended Inauguration of Centenary year of the ILS Law College, Pune held on 18 June

2023 at 10.00 a.m.; (xxxviii) Attended Inauguration of 19th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet organized by NALSA and J&K Legal Services Authority held on 30 June 2023 at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

7. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**, (i) Graced the inauguration of Museum in premises of the Gauhati High Court AND Delivered Lecture at National Seminar on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee Function of Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in association with BCI and BCI Trust on 10 September 2022; (ii) Chaired the Second Session of National Seminar at Kaziranga on “Digitization of Indian judiciary—Its impact in dispensation of justice” organised by Gauhati High Court on 29 October 2022; (iii) 8th Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer Memorial Law Lecture – ‘Future of Work-reimagining Public Services and Employment in India organised by Sarada-Krishna-Satgamaya Foundation for Law and Justice” on 12 November 2022; (iv) Graced the inaugural function of initiation of a lecture series—‘Alumni Speaks’ as Chief Guest at Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak on 7 January 2023; (v) Chaired Working Session 4A : Supervisory Powers of Courts at the Seat : Lex Loci of Delhi Arbitration Weekend at Delhi High Court on 18 February 2023; (vi) attended as a Chief Guest, Inauguration of Legal Service Clinic at Faculty of Law, Delhi University on 17 March 2023; (vii) Valedictory Address at Commonwealth Legal Education Association Golden Jubilee International Conference, 2023 – “Augmenting Legal Education through

Technology: Issues and Challenges” organised by CLEA in association with ILL at Lloyd Law College, Greater NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh on 4 March 2023; (viii) Distinguished Speaker at American Bar Association (ABA) India Conference, 2023 at New Delhi - First Plenary Session-Role of Judiciary and the Rule of Law in Advancing Economic Development organised by O.P. Jindal in association with American Bar Association on 4 March 2023; (ix) Graced the 12th Annual Convocation Ceremony as Chief Guest at Indian Institute of Management, Rohtak on 8 April 2023; (x) Valedictory Address on Arbitration & Dispute Resolution : Creating Conducive Business Climate Summit at Delhi High Court on 30 April 2023; (xi) Delivered Inaugural Speech on the occasion of APCAM International ADR Summit: Unleashing the Dispute Resolution System for mending the Global Economy organised by Asia Pacific Centre for Arbitration & Mediation at New Delhi on 6 May 2023; (xii) Delivered Keynote Address at 9th Annual Dinner of the State Bar Council at Chandigarh on 6 May 2023; (xiii) Inauguration of Regional Judicial Academies at Angul, Balasore, Berhampur, Koraput-at-Jeypore and Samalpur through virtual mode at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack on 13 May 2023; (xiv) Delivered Lecture in Seminar organised by H.P. High Court Lawyers Cricket Association on “Pre-Litigative Mediation: Whether it should be made mandatory to Reform the Legal System?” on 27 May 2023; (xv) Delivered Pilot Lecture of V.R. Krishna Iyer Annual Law Lecture Series at Shimla by H.P. National Law University, Shimla on 28 May 2023.

8. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose**, (i) visited Jaipur To attend 18th All India Legal Services Authorities’ Meet, Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre on 16 July 2022 at Jaipur; (ii) visited Ranchi to attend the Conference of Crime against Women at Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Auditorium, Judicial Academy, Jharkhand on 10 September 2022, Chaired the 2nd Technical Session and delivered a speech on “Crime against women: Judicial approach at Ranchi; (iii) visited Kolkata to attend the 14th Annual Convocation of WBNUJS at Biswa Bangla Convocation Centre on 30 October 2022; (iv) in online memorial lecture, delivered a speech on the 2nd Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture 2023 Web seminar organized by Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur on 30 January 2023; (v) attended National Annual Stakeholders’ Consultation on Child Protection organised by Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India and UNICEF on 10 December 2022 at New Delhi; (vi) attended and deliver a speech on the celebration of Justice, Liberty and Dignity organized by PAAR – Prison Aid & Action Research at Sangner Open Prison, Jaipur on 28 January 2023 at Jaipur; (vii) attended the programme as panelist organized by NIMHANS-SAMVAD’s 2-Day Review Consultation on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, 2012 in collaboration with the National Judicial Academy from 11 to 12 February 2023 and delivered a speech on “Trial Procedure in Child Sexual Abuse Cases. Are the imperatives for a paradigm shift” at Bhopal; (viii) attended 12th Annual Legal Era - Indian Legal Awards 2023 on 15 April 2023 at New Delhi as a Guest of Honour; (ix) attended Inaugural Session and Chaired Session I in

the North Zone-II Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology, Shimla on 29 April 2023 at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh; (x) Inaugurated – SB Sinha Centre of Legal Research and Excellence & First Graduation Ceremony at Chotanagpur Law College organised by Chotanagpur Law College Nyay Vihar Campus, Namkum” on 6 May 2023 at Ranchi; (xi) attended the inauguration of the New Building of the High Court of Jharkhand at Dhurwa, Ranchi on 24 May 2023 at Ranchi; (xii) Chaired the Sixth Convocation of Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur on 18 June 2023 at Raipur; (xiii) Chaired the 89th Executive Council Meeting at WBNUJS, Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan, Salt Lake City, on 9 July 2023 at Kolkata; (xiv) attended as a Chief Guest and delivered a keynote address in the State Level Seminar on the topic “Cross-Border organised 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 on 29 July 2023 at Agartala; (xv) attended as a Guest of Honour to grace the International Lawyers’ Conference 2023 and delivered a speech and co-chaired 2nd Technical Session on “Access to Justice and Legal Aid in Developing Nations” organised by Bar Council of India on 23 September 2023 at New Delhi; (xvi) Delivered a lecture on “Justice Delivery System & Role of Lawyers” organised by Supreme Court Bar Association, New Delhi on 12 October 2023.

9. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy,** (i) visited Aurangabad to attend First Convocation of the Maharashtra National

Law University, Aurangabad on 9 July 2022; (ii) visited Guwahati to attend the Inaugural Ceremony of Diamond Jubilee Function of the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh & Sikkim and National Seminar 2022 at Pragjyoti ITA, Machkhowa and to attend Inauguration of the Museum in the Old Block of the Gauhati High Court on 10 September 2022; (iii) visited Kaziranga to attend National Seminar on the Topics “Environment and Sustainable Development – Role of Judiciary” on 29 October 2022; (iv) visited Guwahati to attend the NALUJA Convocation on 23 December 2022; (v) visited Guwahati to attend Gauhati High Court Jubilee Programme on 7 April 2023; (vi) visited Guwahati to attend concluding ceremony of the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of the Gauhati High Court at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati on 14 April 2023; (vii) visited Guwahati, to attend East Zone-II Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati on 6 May 2023.

10. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Abhay S. Oka,** (i) visited Aurangabad to inaugurate the Regional Conference on Mediation at Auditorium, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, organized by Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority and Main Mediation Monitoring Committee, Bombay High Court on 24 July 2022; (ii) visited Patna to address the newly recruited Judicial Officers at Bihar Judicial Academy on 31 July 2022; (iii) visited Bengaluru to address the lawyers on the subject “India’s Judicial

System in its 75th year and the Vision to build it as the best Justice Delivery System in the world – The Role of Judges and Lawyers in this endeavour” organized by The Advocates’ Association, Bengaluru at City Civil Court on 20 August 2022; (iv) visited Srinagar to be one of the Speakers at the Inaugural Session of the North Zone-I Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology organized by National Judicial Academy at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre on 24 September 2022; (v) visited Bengaluru (Karnataka) To address the Trainee Judicial Officers on the subject “Conduct of Judges inside and outside the Court” organized by Karnataka Judicial Academy at The Karnataka Judicial Academy Campus Bengaluru on 15 January 2023; (vi) visited Bhopal to deliver a Lecture on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebrations of National Law Institute University, Bhopal on the subject “Expectations from Students of National Law Schools” at National Law Institute University, Kerwa Dam Road, Bhopal on 21 January 2023; (vii) visited Chennai to be a Resource Person in Session-1 – “Contemporary Trends in Constitutional Law: Recent Judicial Developments” at the South Zone-II Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology” organized by National Judicial Academy, Bhopal in association with High Court of Madras and Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy at Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy No.30(95), “Malligai” PSKR Salai, Greenways Road, R.A. Puram, Chennai on 25 February 2023; (viii) visited Bengaluru to attend

National Law School Trilegal International Arbitration Moot organized by Moot Court Society 2022-23, National Law School of India University at Hotel Taj, Yeshwantpur Bengaluru on 21 May 2023.

11. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath,**
 - (i) Delivered 2nd Justice H.R.Khanna Memorial National Symposium (virtual) on “Fundamental Duties vis-à-vis Fundamental Rights under our Constitution” on 3 July 2022 at Delhi; (ii) visited Patna to deliver the Lecture to the Judges of the Bihar Judicial Service on 3 September 2022; (iii) visited Lucknow to attend a Conference on ‘Justice Delivery System: Issues, Challenges and Solutions’ at the Judicial Training and Research Institute (under the aegis of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad), Gomti Nagar, on 10 September 2022; (iv) visited Kaziranga to attend National Seminar organized by the Gauhati High Court on 29 October 2022; (v) Chaired the session on “Role and Duties of Experts in Assisting the Arbitral Tribunal” organized by the Delhi International Arbitration Centre/ DAW, High Court of Delhi at Delhi on 19 February 2023; (vi) visited Goa for attending a Meeting of the Executive Council of India International University of Legal Education and Research (IIULER), Goa held on 15 April 2023; (vii) visited Patna to attend the “Basudeva Prasad Memorial Lecture” hosted by the Prasad Memorial Trust on 25 June 2023.
12. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice J. K. Maheshwari,**
 - (i) visited Guna to attend Inauguration of ‘Late Shri Ratan Lal Lahoti, Advocate e-library’ at the District & Sessions Court on 23 July 2022; (ii) visited Ahmedabad to attend programme at GLS University

on 3 September 2022; (iii) visited Patna to attend National Seminar organized by Bar Council of India on 24 September 2022; (iv) visited Indore to attend the 40th Annual Conference of MP Chapter of IOA, MPIOACON 2022 and inaugurate a Law College on 8 October 2022; (v) visited Morena to attend function of Morena Bar Association at the Premises of Inderlok Hotel on 15 October 2022; (vi) visited Bilaspur to attend the function hosted by Chhattisgarh High Court Bar Association on 5 November 2022; (vii) visited Indore to attend the function organized by Indore Institute of Law on 9 December 2022; (viii) visited Indore to attend the function at ICAI Auditorium organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants on 17 December 2022; (ix) visited Indore to attend the Convocation organized by Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya on 26 December 2022; (x) visited Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) to attend the State Level Conference of the Judicial Officers of Chhattisgarh organized by the Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy, Bilaspur from 6 to 7 January 2023; (xi) visited Udaipur (Rajasthan) to attend the Convocation ceremony of Pacific Medical University on 4 February 2023; (xii) Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh) to Inaugurate New Building of Dr. Kailasnath Katju Law College 11, Anand Colony, Ratlam; to attend the function at Shriji Palace, Barbud Road, Ratlam; and to attend the function organized by District Court Bar Association, Ratlam at Bar Conference Hall, District Court Premises, Ratlam on 4 March 2023; (iv) Sabalgarh to attend the prize distribution ceremony of Super Genius Examination 2023 organized by Facebook Media M.P. India, District Sabalgarh, Morena, M.P.; and Function

organized by District Bar Association, Sabalgarh on 9 March 2023; (xiii) visited Gwalior to attend the National Seminar on Direct & Indirect Taxes, M.P; and visited Chamber of Commerce & Industry Shrimant Madhav Rao Scindia Sabhagar Som Road, Gwalior on 8 April 2023 and Jabalpur to attend Laying down foundation stone function of the office of the Advocate General Opposite Gate No. 5, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur on 9 April 2023; (xiv) visited Goa to attend the meeting of Executive Council of India International University of Legal Education and Research, Upasnagar, Sancoale, Airport Road on 15th April, 2023; (xv) visited Ranchi to attend the convocation at National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi on 29 April 2023.

13. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli**, (i) attended as a Chief Guest at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Mount Carmel School, Anand Niketan in Thyagraj Stadium, Laxmi Bai Nagar, New Delhi on Wednesday, 13 July 2022; (ii) Delivered 27th Justice Sunanda Bhandare Memorial Lecture at the India International Centre, New Delhi on Friday, 4 November 2022; (iii) delivered General Awareness Talk on "Cancer on Prevention to Palliation" organized in memory of Late Mr. P.P. Rao, Senior Advocate in the SCBA Lounge, on Wednesday, 23 November 2022; (iv) Chaired a session on "Empowering the Marginalized Sections: Access to Justice" on Sunday, 27 November 2022 on the occasion of the Constitution Day in the Main Auditorium, Supreme Court of India; (v) delivered a Lecture on "Professional Ethics" to aspiring candidates for the Supreme Court AOR Examination

on Wednesday, 30 November 2022; (vi) Attended as a Chief Guest at the "Lawyers of India" Day organized by the Bar Association of India on Saturday, 3 December 2022 at the New Maharashtra Sadan, Kasturbha Gandhi Marg, New Delhi; (vii) Attended a Fire side Chat event on "Inclusion and Empowerment" organized by IAMC Hyderabad in collaboration with Medi Cover Hospitals, Hyderabad on 10 December 2022 and a programme on Mediation Sensitization organized by the Telangana State Judicial Academy on 11 December 2022, both at Hyderabad; (viii) Chaired a Session on "Diversity and Representation in Insolvency – Gender Balance in Insolvency Industry Bridging the gap" at the Inaugural Conference of the Insolvency Scholars Forum organised by the Insolvency Law Academy Delhi on Saturday, 4 February 2023 at ITC Maurya, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi; (ix) Invited to the 1st anniversary of i-Amicus organized by the ICICI Bank on Saturday, 11 February 2023 and spoke on "Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Sector" at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi; (x) Chaired a session on "Emergency Arbitration and its developing contours in India" on the occasion of the Delhi Arbitration Weekend on Saturday, 18 February 2023, at the Delhi High Court, New Delhi; (xi) Invited to speak at the Inaugural Session of a Seminar on "Evolution and Future Military Jurisprudence – An India Army Perspective" organized by the Institute of Military Law at Manekshaw Auditorium, New Delhi, on Saturday, 25 February 2023; (xii) Spoke on the release of the Third Issue of the Journal "Children First: Journal on Children's Lives" organized by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Children's Rights on Saturday, 25

February 2023 at the Triveni Auditorium, New Delhi; (xiii) A Symposium on "Independent Judiciary: Critical for a Vibrant Democracy" organized by FICCI in collaboration with Bharat Chamber of Commerce in association with Indian Council of Arbitration held on Saturday, 4 March 2023 at Kolkata; (xiv) Gave an inaugural address at Concordia: National ADR Fest 2023 and laid the foundation stone of the Hamdard Institute of Legal Studies and Research organized by the Jamia Hamdard University at the Jamia Hamdard Convention Centre, New Delhi on Saturday, 17 March 2023; (xv) Attended the International Women's Day organized by the Adhivakta Parishad, Supreme Court Unit and spoke on the theme, "Embracing Equity in Justice Delivery System" on Tuesday, the 21 March 2023; (xvi) Attended the 11th Justice P.N. Bhagwati International Moot Court Competition on Human Rights held at New Law College, Pune organized by the Bharti Vidyapeeth University, Erandwane, Paud Road, Kothrud, Pune on Saturday 25 March 2023; (xvii) visited Hyderabad from 13-16 April 2023 and attended Inaugural function of the Special Mediators Workshop organized by SIMC and IAMC Hyderabad and participated in the two days' workshop; Inaugural Ceremony of the India Mediation Day, 2023 organized by the IAMC Hyderabad; and Attended the meeting of the Governing Council, NALSAR University; (xviii) Attended the World Intellectual Property Day, 2023 organised by the Delhi High Court and spoke on the topic "Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity" on Wednesday, 26 April 2023 at the Delhi High Court; (xix) Attended the Inaugural Session of the 19th All India Meet of the

Legal Services Authorities organized by NALSA at Srinagar, Kashmir on Friday, 30 June 2023.

14. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna,

(i) visited Bengaluru to attend 99th Executive Council Meeting, NLSIU on 17 September 2022; (ii) Bengaluru to attend 30th Annual Convocation, NLSIU at the Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convocation Centre GKVK Campus, Bellary Road on 18 September 2022; (iii) visited Pune to attend "Law Day & Justice Y. V. Chandrachud Memorial Public Lecture, 2022." at Symbiosis Law School on 30 September 2022; (iv) visited Ranchi to attend the conference on "Crime against women" organized by Judicial Academy on 8 October 2022; (v) visited Bengaluru to attend International Arbitration Conference at Gardenia Hotel on 17 December 2022; (vi) visited Shivamogga to attend programme (Lecture) on Amurtha Mahotsava at Kuvempu Rangamandira organized by C.B.R. National College of Law on 24 December 2022; (vii) visited Bhopal to attend NIMHANS-SAMVAD Review Consultation on POCSO on 11 February 2023 at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal; (viii) visited Bhubaneshwar to deliver the Presidential Address at 1st Conference of Central Government Counsel of Eastern States of India on 4 March 2023; (ix) visited Bengaluru to inaugurate PES University's 1st Law Summit at MRD Auditorium, PES University on 6 March 2023; (x) visited Goa to attend 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference at Grand Hyatt Hotel, Bambolim, Goa and to deliver the address on "Safeguarding and strengthening the independence of Judiciary" on 8 March

2023; (xi) visited Kochi to deliver K.K. Usha Memorial lecture on "Transformative Constitutionalism" in Kerala High Court on 10 March 2023; (xii) visited Bengaluru to inaugurate Platinum Jubilee (75th Year) of Sri Ramanavami Music Festival on 30 March 2023; (xiii) visited Bengaluru to attend 5th Conference of Central Government Counsels of Southern States of India at Hotel, The Lalit Ashok, Kumarakrupa Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka on 25 March 2023; (xiv) visited Madurai (Tamil Nadu) to attend the Laying of the Foundation Stone ceremony for the Additional Court Buildings in the District Court Campus, Madurai on 25 March 2023; (xv) visited Bengaluru to attend the Valedictory Session of the 5th Conference of Central Government Counsel of Southern States of India at the Hotel Lalit Ashok, Kumarakrupa Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka on 25 March 2023; (xvi) visited Bhopal to attend "Training of Trainers for High Court Justices: Judge's In-charge/Chairperson and Board of Governors of the State Judicial Academies" at National Judicial Academy India, Bhopal on 21 April 2023; (xvii) visited Bengaluru, to attend Book release function at Bangalore International Centre, Teri on 29 May 2023.

15. Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. T. Ravikumar,

(i) visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authority Meet on 17 July 2022; (ii) visited Bengaluru to attend 99th Executive Council Meeting of NLSIU and 36th General Council Meeting at Hotel ITC Windsor, Golf Course Road on 17 September 2022; (iii) visited Bengaluru to attend the Convocation at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK Camp, Bellary Road, on 18

September 2022; (iv) visited Kaziranga to attend the National Seminar on the topic “Environment and Sustainable Development – role of Judiciary” organized by the High Court of Guwahati held on 29 October 2022; (v) visited Kochi to attend function organized by Kerala High Court Bar Association on 19 December 2022; (vi) visited Indore to attend ,as Chief Guest, the Graduation Ceremony at Indore Institute of Law as Chief Guest on 18 February 2023; (vii) visited Bhopal to deliver a lecture at the National Law Institute University, Bhopal on the topic “Juvenile Delinquency” on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebration’s Lecture series for 2022-23 on 25 February 2023; (viii) visited Pune to attend the Valedictory function at Bharati Vidyapeeth New Law College, Pune on 26 March 2023; (ix) visited Kozhikode, Government law College, Kozhikode and to deliver the inaugural address at 11.00 am as Chief Guest of Honour on 5 June 2023; (x) visited Srinagar, to attend the Inaugural Session of the 19th All India Meet of the Legal Services Authorities on 30 June 2023.

16. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice M. M. Sundresh**, (i) visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authority Meet on 16 and 17 July 2022; (ii) visited Chennai to attend the foundation stone laying function of the proposed multi-storied building for the combined court complex and to inaugurate the renovation work of the old Madras Law college heritage building on 4 September 2022; (iii) visited Puducherry to attend the Valedictory function of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Dr. Ambedkar Govt. Law College, on 10 September 2022; (iv) visited Patna

to attend the National Seminar on the topic “Lawyers Contribution in Building the Society” organized by the Bar Council of India in collaboration with the Bihar State Bar Council in Gyan Bhawan on 24 September 2022; (v) Delhi to attend “Conclave on Indianisation of Legal System and Education” organized by Faculty of Law, University of Delhi in collaboration with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Supreme Court of India on 30 September 2022; (vi) visited Bhopal to attend programme on ‘Bail Jurisprudence’ for the Newly Elevated High Court Justices at the National Judicial Academy on 15 October 2022; (vii) visited Kaziranga, Assam to attend National Seminar on Environment and Sustainable Development – Role of Judiciary, and Digitization of Indian Judiciary – its Impact in Dispensation of Justice organized by Gauhati High Court on 28 and 29 October, 2022; (viii) visited Chennai to attend Graduation Day Function of the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University on 13 November 2022; (ix) visited Madurai to attend the function to unveil the portrait of Late Thiru J. Ramamoorthy, former President, Madurai Bar Association in the premises of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on 19 December 2022; (x) visited Chennai to attend a function at the Madras High Court Complex on 23 December 2022; (xi) visited Chennai to attend the Seminar on the topic “Telecom, Broadcasting and Cyber Sectors – Disputes and Resolution” organized by the TDSAT inaugurated on 11 February 2023; (xii) visited Madurai (Tamil Nadu) to attend the Laying of the Foundation stone ceremony for the Additional Court Buildings in the District Court Campus on 25 March 2023; (xiii) visited Bangalore

to attend the Valedictory Session of the 5th Conference of Central Government Counsel of Southern States of India at the Hotel Lalit Ashok, Kumarakrupa Road on 25 March 2023; (xiv) visited Erode (Tamil Nadu) to participate in the celebration of Centenary year of Legend Advocate Late Thiru. A.P. Chinnasamy at Parimalam Mahal, Perundurai Road, Erode on 1 April 2023; (xv) visited Srinagar, to attend the Inaugural Session of the 19th All India Legal Services Meet at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Center (SKICC), organized by NALSA on 30 June 2023.

17. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi**, (i) Delivered the speech on the First Gujarat State Judicial Officers' Conference on 23 July 2022 through virtual mode; (ii) At Bengaluru attended the 36th General Council Meeting of the University at ITC Windsor, Golf Course Road on 17 September 2022; (iii) visited Bengaluru and attended 30th Annual Convocation of NLSIU at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK Campus, Bellary Road, on 18 September 2022; (iv) Co-chaired the Session on 'Access to Justice – Constitutional Vision' and address the participants in Session-II of the Conference on 27 November 2022 – Empowerment of Marginalized Sections – Access to Justice at Supreme Court of India, New Delhi; (v) At Ahmedabad attended and delivered the convocation address on 31st Convocation programme of the Nirma University held on 10 December 2022; (vi) As a Distinguished Speaker (Role of the judiciary and the Rule of Law advancing economic development) in the conference of American Bar Association (ABA) and O.P. Jindal Global University

held at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi on 4 March 2023; (vii) At Ahmedabad (Gujarat) attended and delivered public lecture under the auspices of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair – "Constitution as a reflection of masses." at Prof. C.C. Mehta Auditorium, General Auditorium Centre, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Faculty of Law on 18 March 2023; (viii) At Mehsana (Gujarat) inaugurated National Seminar 2023 at Shri S.M. Shah Law College, Mehsana- "Sustainability in Climate Change, Sustainable Energy, Environment and Role of G-20" and at Gandhinagar attended General Council Meeting and 12th Convocation Ceremony at Gujarat National Law University on 25 March 2023; (ix) At Ahmedabad attended General Council Meeting and 13th Convocation Ceremony at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar held on 22 April 2023; and also attended Bhoomi Poojan ceremony for the construction of New District Court Building, Gandhinagar and virtual Bhoomi Poojan Ceremony for the construction of New Quarters at Dhuliakot, Law Garden, Ahmedabad held at Ram Katha Maidan, on 23 April 2023.

18. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha**, visited (i) Pune to attend the Pune Bar Association Judicial Colloquia Inaugural Function as Chief Guest on 2 July 2022; (ii) visited Nagpur to attend the inauguration of the Hostel Building of Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur (MNLU) on 10 July 2022; (iii) visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authority Meet on 16-17 July 2022; (iv) visited Shimla to attend the 25th Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Memorial Lecture at Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) on 14 October

2022; (v) visited Kaziranga to attend National Seminar on Environment and Sustainable Development Role of Judiciary and Digitization of Indian Judiciary Its Impact in Dispensation of Justice organized by Gauhati High Court on 29 October 2022; (vi) visited Goa to attend the programme of India International University of Legal Education and Research (IILUER) on 3 December 2022; (vii) visited Hyderabad to deliver the Guest Lecture at Telangana High Court on 27 January 2023; (viii) visited Mumbai to deliver Key-Note Address and Release of Report- 'Legal Aid to Undertrials in Maharashtra: Learning from the Field at Mumbai on 28 January 2023; (ix) Attended a Session on 'Modern Boundaries of Investment Treaty Arbitration' of the Delhi Arbitration Weekend (DAW) at Delhi High Court on 18 February 2023; (x) visited Hyderabad with Hon'ble Chief Justice of India to attend Convocation at NALSAR, University of Law on 25 February 2023; (xi) visited Hyderabad for Inauguration Programme of Court Rooms at Telangana High Court on 18 March 2023; (xii) Attended the Children Champions Award Conferment Ceremony as Chief Guest at Triveni Auditorium, Mandi House, New Delhi on 25 March 2023; (xiii) Delivered the Special Address at the Valedictory Session of the National Conference on Mediation: At the Dawn of the Golden Age at Delhi High Court on 15 April 2023; (xiv) Attended and Chaired a Session: Navigating Intercultural Conflicts: A protocol for designing Cross Border Dispute Resolution Process of the Asia Pacific Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (APCAM) International ADR Summit on 7 May 2023 at Le Meridien

Hotel, New Delhi; (xv) Delivered a Lecture on Mediation organized by Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at the Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court on 9 May 2023; (xvi) Attended the Awareness Workshop on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse as Chief Guest at Delhi High Court on 25 May 2023; (xvii) visited Goa, to attend 1st Foundation day of the India international university of legal education and research, Goa on 9 June 2023; (xviii) visited Hyderabad, to attend the One day referral Judges Training Programme Inaugural ceremony at Park Hyatt Hotel, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad on 24 June 2023.

19. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia,** (i) visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authority Meet on 16 and 17 July 2022; (ii) visited Guwahati being the Chief Guest for inauguration of the Museum in the premises of the Old Block of the Gauhati High Court, State of Assam on 9 to 10 September, 2022; (iii) visited Nainital to attend "Judicial Conference on Human Trafficking, Gender Justice & Upliftment of Weaker Sections of Society" at Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy, Bhowali on 19 to 20 November 2022; (iv) visited Mussoorie (Uttarakhand) to deliver the Lecture on the topic of "Civil Servants and the Constitution of India" at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration on 6 March 2023; (v) visited Guwahati to attend the platinum jubilee celebration of Gauhati High Court on completing 75 years of its existence on 5 April 2023; (vi) visited Srinagar, to attend the Inaugural Session of the 19th All India Meet of the Legal Services Authorities on 30 June 2023 and 1 July 2023.

20. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.B. Pardiwala**, (i) attended the 2nd Justice H.R. Khanna Memorial National Symposium (CAN Foundation) Vox Populi vs. Rule of Law : Supreme Court of India, 3 July 2022 (through VC); (ii) First Gujarat State Judicial Officers' Conference, 23 July 2022 (through VC) Organised by the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority and the Gujarat State Judicial Academy; (iii) 8th Manipal Ranka International Moot Court Competition, 1 October 2022 (Through VC) Organised by the Manipal University, Jaipur.
21. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta**, (i) visited Kolkata to attend a seminar on the topic 'Regulatory Framework, Dispute Resolution of Protection of Consumer Rights in Telecom, Broadcasting and Cyber Sector' as Chief Guest, organized by Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) from 28 to 29 April 2023; (ii) attended the Inaugural Ceremony of Justice SB Sinha Centre of Legal Research and Excellence and First Graduation Ceremony as Gest of Honour at Chotanagpur Law College, Ranchi.
22. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal**, (i) Attended celebration of 'International Women's Day' organized by Adhivakta Parishad, Delhi as Chief Guest on 17 March 2023 at the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) Delhi; (ii) Attended 40th Anniversary celebration of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at Delhi High Court on 18 March 2023; (iii) Participated in the 75th Anniversary celebration of the Gauhati High Court Guwahati, from 7 to 9 April 2023; (iv) Attended felicitation function at NAS Degree College, E.K. Road, Meerut from 14 to 16 April 2023; (v) Attended awareness programme by SCAORA on Thalassemia, Hemophilia & Sickle Cell on 'World Thalassemia Day' for legal fraternity and general public at Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) Delhi on 8 May 2023; (vi) Attended the occasion as Chief Guest at Ghaziabad Education Foundation Ghaziabad (U.P.), on 21 May 2023; (vii) Attended Alumni function at Law Faculty, Meerut College, Meerut on 13 May 2023 as Chief Guest; (viii) Participated in 19th All India Meet of the Legal Services Authority from 30 June 2023 to 1 July 2023 at Srinagar.
23. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol**, (i) attended ABA India Conference 2022 at New Delhi on 3 March 2023; (ii) visited Tripura as an honored guest and one of the most valued speakers at the 9th Annual Judicial Conclave organized by the Tripura Judicial Academy under the aegis of the High Court of Tripura from 25 to 26 March 2023; (iii) attended North Zone-II Regional Conference at Shimla on 29 and 30 April 2023; (iv) attended 19th All India Meet, NALSA, Srinagar on 30 June 2023 to 1 July 2023; (v) visited Patna for Bihar State Legal Service Authority on 21 July 2023; (vi) visited Tripura for State Level Seminar on 29 July 2023; (vii) visited National Law School of India, Bengaluru on 25 August 2023; (viii) visited Patna for Bihar State Civil Courts Employees Assn. Seminar on 10 September 2023; (ix) visited Nainital for North Zone-I Regional Conference in Uttarakhand on 30 September 2023 to 1 October 2023.
24. **Hon'ble Justice Sanjay Kumar**, (i) Inauguration of Integrated Courts on

Family Disputes Complex at Purani Haveli, Hyderabad on 18 March 2023; (ii) Attended 10th Anniversary Celebration of the establishment of the High Court of Manipur as Chief Guest on 25 March 2023; (iii) Attended Inaugural ceremony of the one-day referral Judges Training Programme at Park Hyatt Hotel, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad on 24 June 2023.

25. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah**, (i) on 18 and 19 February 2023 visited Bhopal to attend the ToT -2 program on Human Trafficking at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, consisting of 2 High Court Judges, 5 District Judges, National Judicial Academy delegation and Resource Persons, held with collaboration of CEELI Institute, Prague, Czech Republic & FJC Washington; (ii) On 18 March 2023 visited Bihar, earlier being the Chairman of the Bihar Judicial Academy, on the felicitation programme organised by the Bihar Judicial Academy upon elevation as Judge of the Supreme Court of India; (iii) On 7 April 2023 visited Guwahati to attend the momentous occasion of Platinum Jubilee Celebration i.e. 75 years of functioning of Gauhati High Court, In the said event "Bhoroxa" app was also launched for Safety of Women and software applications was also launched which includes Online e-Sewa Kendra and Integrated CIS and e-Prisons application; (iv) On 23 June 2023 visited Patna, earlier being Executive Chairman of the Bihar State Legal Services Authority, to attend consultation programme on Legal Aid and Awareness: Challenges and opportunities in India, organized by Bihar State Legal Services Authority; (v) visited Srinagar, to attend the inaugural

session of the 19th All India Meet of the Legal Services Authorities at Srinagar, Organised by NALSA on 30 June 2023.

26. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**, (i) visited Ahmedabad to attend West Zone-II Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology organized by National Judicial Academy in Association with High Court of Gujarat and Gujarat State Judicial Academy, Ahmedabad on 25 March 2023; (ii) Guwahati to attend the celebration of 75 years of existence of Gauhati High Court on 7 April 2023.
27. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal**, (i) attended as a Chief Guest in the National Tax Conference-2023, "Gomti Gyan Pravah" organized by All India Federation of Tax Practitioners (North Zone) at Lucknow on 18 March 2023; (ii) as Chief Guest in the 10th Mahamana Malaviya National Moot Court Competition, 2023 organized by Banaras Hindu University, Faculty of Law, Varanasi on 25 March 2023; (iii) Chief Guest in the National Seminar on Completion of 50 years of Basic Structure Doctrine: The way ahead organized by Department of Laws, Punjab University, Chandigarh and Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana on 31 March 2023; (iv) Delivered Convocation Address at Goswami Ganesh Dutta S.D. College, Chandigarh on 1 April 2023; (v) Chief Guest at the Valedictory Function of 24th National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions organized by Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission at Lucknow on 23 April 2023; (vi) Chief Guest in the National Tax Conference organized by All India Federation of Tax Practitioners

- (West Zone) and Central Gujarat Chamber of Tax Consultants at Vadodara, Gujarat on 29 April 2023; (vii) Chaired Session-3 in the National Conference on Digitisation, Paperless Court and e-Initiatives organized by the High Court of Orissa, Odisha Judicial Academy, Bhubaneswar Cuttack on 6 May 2023; (viii) Delivered Convocation Address at LLOYD Law College as Chief Guest, Greater Noida on 7 May 2023; (ix) Distribution of the licences to the newly enrolled Advocates in the Ceremony organized by the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana at Law Auditorium, Chandigarh on 24 May 2023; (x) Interaction at Law Faculty, Manav Rachna Educational Institutions, Faridabad on 14 June 2023; (xi) Participated in the 19th All India Meet of the Legal Services Authorities organized by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at Srinagar on 30 June 2023.
28. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar**, visited Bengaluru to attend the 5th Conference of Central Government Counsels of Southern States of India at Hotel, The Lalit Ashok, Kumarakrupa Road, Bengaluru on 25 March 2023.
 29. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra**, visited Raipur, to attend the programme, namely, Convocation of Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur being organized by Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur on 18 June 2023.
 30. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan**, (i) attended All India Legal Service Authorities Meet at Jaipur on 16 July 2022; (ii) attended 1st All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet at Delhi 30 July 2022; (iii) Meeting of Chief Justices in Supreme Court of India, Delhi on 27 November 2022; (iv) Convocation of NALSAR Law University, Hyderabad wherein the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India was the Chief Guest on 25 February 2023; (v) attended All India Legal Services Meet at Srinagar on 30 June 2023.
 31. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Ramana, the then Chief Justice of India**, visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet on 16 July 2022.
 32. **Hon'ble Shri Uday Umesh Lalit, the then Chief Justice of India, [As a Judge]** visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authority Meet organised by National Legal Services Authority in coordination with Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority on July 2022.
 33. **Hon'ble Shri Uday Umesh Lalit, the then Chief Justice of India**, (i) visited Nagpur for Felicitation ceremony by High Court Bar Association & Interaction and felicitation programme at Maharashtra National Law University at Waranga on 4 September 2022; (ii) visited Puducherry to be the Chief Guest in the Valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College on 10 September 2022; (iii) visited Mumbai for felicitation function organized by the Bombay High Court on September, 2022; (iv) visited Cuttack to be the Chief Guest to inaugurate the paperless courts in each of the District Courts in Odisha and to be the Chief Guest in the Ninth Convocation of National Law University on 17 September 2022; (v) visited Bengaluru to be the Chief Guest in the Convocation of National Law University on 18 September 2022; (vi) visited Patna to inaugurate the National Seminar on the topic " Lawyers

contribution in building the society" followed by a training programme of young lawyers organized by Bar Council of India in collaboration with Bihar State Bar Council on 24 September 2022; (vii) Dharamshala to preside over as Chief Guest at NALSA Module Legal Services Camp organized by Himachal Pradesh SLSA under the aegis of NALSA on 25 September 2022; (viii) visited Solapur to be Chief Guest for the Inaugural function of "State Lawyer's Conference Solapur-2022" held at Late Justice Bhimrao Nail Memorial Auditorium on 16 October 2022; (ix) visited Kolkata to preside over the 14th Convocation of West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre on 30 October 2022; (x) visited Mumbai for felicitation ceremony by Government of Maharashtra on 5 November 2022.

34. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar (since retired)**, visited Aurangabad to attend the first Convocation Ceremony of the Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Aurangabad on 9 July 2022.
35. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (since retired)**, (i) visited Jaipur to attend the 18th All India Legal Services Authority Meet on 16 July 2022; (ii) visited Raipur to attend the Convocation Ceremony of Hidayatullah National Law University on July 2022; (iii) visited Mangalore to deliver the Silver Jubilee Endowment Lecture at the Auditorium of the S.D.M. Law College on 13 August 2022; (iv) visited Puttige to attend the Flag Hoisting Ceremony at Smt. Vanajakshi K. Shripati Bhat Playground organized by Alva's Education Foundation on the occasion of 75th Year of Indian Independence

Day on 15 August 2022; (v) visited Kodangallu to attend the Founders' Day & College Day Celebration as Chief Guest of Sri Mahaveera College at the College Auditorium on 18 August 2022; (vi) visited Bhopal to visit the National Judicial Academy as a Resource Person in the Orientation Course for Newly elevated High Court Justices on September, 2022; (vii) visited Bengaluru for inauguration at Vakilara Bhavana at City Civil Court Compound organized by The Advocate's Association, Bengaluru, Public Works Department and Building Committee of the High Court on 4 November 2022; (viii) visited Bengaluru to deliver lecture on "Law and Dharama" at YMCA International Programme Centre on 17 December 2022; (ix) visited Bengaluru to Inaugurate the National Seminar at Bengaluru Law College on 19 December 2022; (x) visited Udupi for laying the Foundation Stone Ceremony for Construction of New Annex Court Complex at District Court Complex Premises by the Hon'ble Judges and for the Inauguration of newly constructed Bar Association Building at Moodabidri by the Hon'ble Judges on 30 December 2022.

36. **Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee (since retired)**, (i) visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet, organised by National Legal Services Authority on 16 July 2022; (ii) visited Kolkata to attend at Centenary Celebration of Shikshayatan Foundation at Science City Auditorium as Chief Guest on 31 August 2022; (iii) visited Chennai to attend function for laying of foundation stone for the proposed construction of a multi-storied building for the combined court complex and to inaugurate the

commencement of renovation work of the old Madras Law college heritage building, hosted by Madras High Court on 4 September 2022; (iv) visited Ranchi to attend Conference on 'Crime Against Women' organised by Judicial Academy, Jharkhand, Ranchi on 10 September 2022.

37. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.R. Shah (since retired)**, (i) visited Jaipur to attend the All India Legal Services Meet organized by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on 16 July 2022; (ii) visited Ahmedabad to attend the Gujarat State Judicial Officers Conference under the aegis of Gujarat State Legal Services Authority and Gujarat State Judicial Academy on 23 July 2022; (iii) Raipur to grace the Convocation Ceremony 2022 of the Hidayatullah National Law University on 31 July 2022; (iv) visited Ranchi to grace the conference on "Crime against Women" organised by the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand on 10 September 2022; (v) visited Bhubaneswar to grace the Inauguration function of the paperless Court in each of the District Courts in Odisha, organized by the High Court of Orissa and to Preside over the 9th Convocation of the National Law University, Odisha on 17 September 2022; (vi) visited Patna to grace the National Seminar on the topic "Lawyers contribution in Building the society" organized by the Bar Council of India in association with Bihar State Bar Council on 24 September 2022; (vii) visited Surat to grace the Valedictory session of 40 hours Mediation training programme organized by the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority under the aegis & guidance of Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of

India on 1 October 2022; (viii) visited Mumbai to grace the SICC (Singapore International Commercial Court) ASIA conference on 8 October 2022; (ix) visited Kaziranga to grace the National Seminar on the topic 'Environment and Sustainable Development – Role of Judiciary, organized by the Gauhati High Court on 29 October 2022; (x) visited Ahmedabad to grace the function organized in the City Civil Court on 12 November 2022; (xi) visited Ahmedabad to Chair the meeting of the Advisory Board of the School of Law, Forensic Justice and Policy Studies on 18 February 2023; (xii) visited Gandhinagar (Gujarat) as the Chief Guest at SIAC Gujarat Conference 2023 at Gandhinagar and then Chair the General Council Meeting of Gujarat National Law University followed by Convocation Ceremony of the said University and attend one function at National Forensic Science University at Gandhinagar on 25 March 2023; (xiii) visited Raipur (Chhattisgarh) to chair the Executive Council meeting of Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur on 15 April 2023; (xiv) visited Ahmedabad for Chairing the Convocation Ceremony of Gujarat National Law University on 22 April 2023; (xv) visited Gandhinagar, to chair the function to be organized by All India Reporter Pvt. Ltd. on 5 May 2023; (xvi) visited Bhopal, to chair the Smt. Nirmala Devi Bam Memorial International Moot Court Competition on 20 May 2023.

38. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi (since retired)**, (i) visited Jaipur to attend the 18th All India Legal Services Authority Meet on 16 July, 2022; (ii) visited Jaipur to attend the 25th National Tax Convention, 2022 on 17 December 2022; (iii) visited

Jaipur to attend the 6th Convocation of JECRC University, Jaipur from 6 to 7 January 2023.

39. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari (since retired)**, (i) visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authority Meet on 16 July 2022; (ii) visited Lucknow to attend a function organised by the Oudh Bar Association of High Court of Allahabad on 22 July 2022; (iii) visited Jaipur to attend the inauguration of National Law Conclave on "Judicial Transformation and Collective Governance" as Chief Guest organized by Asgar Khan Advocate Charitable Trust on 18 December 2022; (iv) visited Pune to inaugurate Dr. Patangrao Kadam Memorial Public Lecture Series – 2023 organized by Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) New Law College, Pune on 7 January 2023; (v) visited Jodhpur to preside over the Inaugural Ceremony of the 'Training Programme for Judges and Judicial Officers of Bangladesh' on 22 January 2023; (vi) visited Jaipur to preside over Inaugural Ceremony of the 3rd edition of Rajasthan Law Fest organized by Vidhishala in collaboration with Ranka Public Charitable Trust from 28 to 29 January 2023; (vii) visited Greater Noida (U.P.) to attend the Inaugural Function of Prof. N. R. Madhava Menon Global Jural Conclave, 2023 as the Chief Guest at Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida on 15 February 2023; (viii) visited Lucknow to attend LPS Excellence Award ceremony at Lucknow Public College, Vinamra Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow on 18 February 2023; (ix) visited Panipat (Haryana) to preside over Valedictory Ceremony of 13th GIL National Moot Court Competition organized by Geeta Institute of Law,

Panipat on 26 February 2023; (x) visited Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) to preside over as the Chief Guest of the seminar on "75 Years of Parliamentary Democracy: Retrospect and Prospect" organized by at Banaras Hindu University Law School at Varanasi on 4 March 2023; (xi) visited Bengaluru to attend the traditional 'Annual Banquet of the High Court of Karnataka' organised by High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru from 10 to 11 March 2023; (xii) visited Ahmedabad to inaugurate the conference on the Right to Equality organized by the Institute of Law, NIRMA University, Ahmedabad on 25 March 2023; (xiii) visited Jaipur to preside over as the Chief Guest at the Annual Function and Felicitation Ceremony of Rajasthali Group of Institutions at Jaipur on 1 April 2023, to preside over as the Chief Guest at One day seminar at Vivekanand Global University on 2 April 2023 and to attend Inaugural Ceremony of RJS Induction Training Programme; (xiv) visited Guwahati to attend the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Gauhati High Court on 7 April 2023; (xv) visited Chandigarh to deliver 'Meher Chand Mahajan Memorial Lecture' organized by Department of Laws, Punjab University, Chandigarh on 29 April 2023; (xvi) visited Guwahati, to attend the East Zone-II Regional Conference on 6 May 2023; (xvii) visited Indore, to attend as a Chief Guest at "Valedictory Ceremony" of Chapter V- Smt. Nirmala Devi Bam Memorial International Moot Court Competition 2023 on 21 May 2023.

40. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishna Murari (since retired)**, (i) visited Varanasi to attend the function of Varanasi District Bar Association on 29 October 2022; (ii)

visited Chandigarh to be the 'Chief Guest' for the BCPH's National Legal Seminar, 2022 on the theme 'Young Lawyers: Transcending Legal Barriers' organised by Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana, held at Bhargava Auditorium, PGI Chandigarh on 12 November 2022; (iii) visited Etawah to participate as Chief Guest in the 30th Annual 'Saraswat Samman Samaroh' on 10 December 2022; (iv) visited Mumbai to attend 'Vidhiprabha 2023 – National Law Fest' organized by Shree L.R. Tiwari College of Law on 11 March 2023; (v) visited Bhubaneswar, to attend the National Conference on Digitization, Paperless Courts and e-initiatives organised by the High Court of Orissa from 5 to 7 May 2023; (vi) visited Aligarh, Guest Lecture at Faculty of Law, A.M.U. On 13 May 2023; (vii) visited Kolkata, as was invited to be the Chief Guest in the IBC Conclave at Hotel Hindustan International, Kolkata by the ACAE Chartered Accountants CPE Study Circle of Eirc of ICAI on 20 May 2023; (viii) Srinagar, invited by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) for the 19th All India Meet of the Legal Service Authorities being held at Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir on 30 June 2023.

41. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat (since retired)**, (i) visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet held at the Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre on 16 July 2022; (ii) On 24 July 2022, attended the 7th State Level Coordination and Review Meeting on Child Protection with specific focus on Family Based Care Rehabilitation efforts for Children; (iii) On 29 July 2022, attended the Golden Jubilee 50th Annual Conference of the ISIL; (iv) attended the NJA, Bhopal as resource

person for Orientation Course for newly elevated High Court Justices on the theme "Judicial Restraint, Activism and Overreach: Evolving Jurisprudence" on 11 September, 2022; (v) On 27 September 2022, chaired a video conference meeting with the Chairpersons of the JJs/POCSO Committees of the High Courts of A.P., Allahabad, Gauhati, Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana to review the progress of Pilot Project; (vi) on 28th & 29th October 2022, attended the National Seminar on "Environment and Sustainable Development: Role of Judiciary" organised by the Gauhati High Court; (vii) visited Nainital to attend the Judicial Conference on Human Trafficking, Gender Justice & Upliftment of Weaker Sections of Society organized by the High Court of Uttarakhand at Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy, Bhowali on 19 November 2022; (viii) On 27 November 2022, addressed Session I of the Conference on the occasion of the Constitution Day on the topic "Overview of eCourts initiatives and judicial process re-engineering" at the Supreme Court of India; (ix) On 10 December 2022 and 11 December 2022, attended the Inaugural Session of National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Child Protection; (x) On 25 February 2023, virtually attended the Regional Judicial Colloquium on POCSO Act, JJ and Drug Abuse among Children, 2023; (xi) visited Mussoorie (Uttarakhand) to inaugurate the two days workshop on Arbitration for senior officers on the topic "Vidhaan aur Samvidhaan: Celebrating the Rule of Law" at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand (LBSNAA) on 25 March 2023; (xii) On 30 April 2023, attended the summit on "Arbitration and

Dispute Resolution: Creating Conducive Business Climate” jointly organised by India International Arbitration Centre and IIM Rohtak; (xiii) On 6 May 2023, attended the 1st APCAM International ADR Summit organised at the Le Meridien, New Delhi.

42. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian (since retired)**, (i) visited Jaipur to attend 18th All India Meet of the Legal Services Authorities on 16 and 17 July 2022; (ii) visited Chennai to participate in the Induction program for students in DOT, School of Design, South phase, Ambattur Industrial Estate on 9 September 2022; (iii) visited Puducherry to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College on 10 September 2022; (iv) visited Chennai to attend a function on 1 October 2022; (v) visited Chennai to inaugurate Library Section at the Madras Bar Association on 8 November 2022; (vi) visited Shimla to attend First Convocation of HPNLU at Adventure Resorts, New Kufri on 19 November 2022; (vii) visited Bengaluru to attend South Zone-I Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology” organized by National Judicial Academy on 27 January 2023; (viii) visited Hyderabad to attend Convocation Ceremony of the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad on 25 February 2023; (ix) visited Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) to attend function at the NGM College, Pollachi, Coimbatore on 4 March 2023; (x) visited Hyderabad to inaugurate “Integrated Courts on Family Disputes” complex at Purani Haveli, Hyderabad; and to attend inauguration of Vedic Pathshala on 18 March 2023; (xi) visited Madurai (Tamil Nadu) for laying of Foundation

stone for the Additional Court Building in the District Court Campus, Madurai; and Chennai to attend function organized by Tamil Nadu Senior Advocates Forum on 25 March 2023; (xii) visited Madurai (Tamil Nadu) to inaugurate Law Symposium organized by MMBA at Conference Hall, World Tamil Sangam, Madurai on 8 April 2023; (xiii) visited Hyderabad to attend 110th Janmadina Aradhana Mahothsavam followed by National Astrological Seminar at The Institution of Engineers, Khairatabad, Hyderabad on 9 April 2023; (xiv) visited Telangana, Felicitation function by Telangana High Court Advocates Association at High Court Premises on 22 June 2023; (xv) visited Srinagar, to attend 19th All India Meet of the Legal Services Authorities being held at Srinagar on 30 June 2023.

Details of visit of foreign delegations to Supreme Court

1. Hon’ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Hon’ble Mr. Justice J.B. Pardiwala participated virtually in the First Gujarat State Legal Judicial Officers Conference from Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Main Building Supreme Court Premises on 23 July 2022.
2. H.E. Mr. Alex Ellis, High Commissioner, British High Commission, New Delhi, Mr. I. Stephanie Boyee, President, the Law Society of England and Wales, Mr. Mickael Laurans, Head of International, the Law Society of England and Wales visited the Supreme Court of India and held meeting with Hon’ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Judge (as His Lordship then was) on 9 September 2022.

3. A fifty-member delegation of YPO (Young Presidents' Organization) including practicing lawyers from the United States of America, Academicians and Professionals visited the Supreme Court of India and held a meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India on 11 November 2022.
4. A delegation of 37 students from various countries visited the Supreme Court of India and held meeting with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge of Supreme Court of India on 13 January 2023.
5. Forty-four participants from various countries attending the Specialized International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting for Foreign Parliamentary and Government officials being organized by Parliamentary Research & Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) visited the Supreme Court of India and held meeting with Secretary General, Mr. Sanjeev S. Kalgaonkar on 19 January, 2023.
6. A 36-member delegation of US State Judges including the Indian-American Judges headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay T. Tailor, visited the Supreme Court of India, and held discussion with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India on 13 February 2023.
7. The Speakers of Delhi Arbitration Weekend visited Supreme Court of India for interaction with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India on 17 February 2023.
8. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kannan Ramesh, Judge, Supreme Court of Singapore visited the Supreme Court of India for meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India on 27 February 2023.
9. Ms. Jennie Collis Price, from the office of Inner Temple, London, Sir Robert Francis KC, Head of the Inner Temple (known as the Treasurer) and Mr. Greg Dorey CVO, Sub-Treasurer (CEO) of the Inner Temple, London visited the Supreme Court of India and held a meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India on 1 March 2023.
10. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Cheema Grubb, High Court Judge of the Kings Bench Division, High Court of England and Wales visited the Supreme Court of India and held a



meeting with Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi, Judges, Supreme Court of India on 2 March 2023.

11. A five-member delegation from United Kingdom headed by H.E. Mr. Alex Ellis, High Commissioner, British High Commission, New Delhi visited the Supreme Court of India and held a meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India on 3 March 2023.
12. A nine-member French delegation headed by Mr Jean-Louis Bourlanges, President of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, French National Assembly visited the Supreme Court of India and held a meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India on 13 March 2023.
13. A thirteen-member delegation from Supreme Court of Kenya headed by Hon'ble Ms. Justice Martha K. Koome,

Chief Justice and President, Supreme Court of Kenya visited the Supreme Court of India and held a meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.R. Shah and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi, Judges, Supreme Court of India on 14 March 2023.

14. A delegation consisting of Baroness Jan Royall, Principal, Somerville College and former leader of the House of Lords, Prof. Radhika Khosla, Research Director, Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development, Ms. Sara Kalim, Fellow & Director of Development, Somerville College and Ms. Vinita Govindarajan, Partnerships and Communication Manager, Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development, visited the Supreme Court of India and held a meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli, Hon'ble and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M.





Trivedi, Judges, Supreme Court of India on 21 March 2023.

- 15. Mr. Laurence R. Simon, Professor of International Development and Director Center for Global Development & Sustainability, The Heller School for Social Policy & Management, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, U.S.A. visited the Supreme Court of India and held a meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India on 18 April 2023.



The Bar

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 organise 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 Hon’ble 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 v. Supreme Court of India & Ors.* [Writ Petition (C) No. 454/2015, Writ Petition (C) No. 33/2016 and Writ Petition (C) No. 819/2016], [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 Advocate in the Supreme Court and the High Courts. In compliance with the judgment of the Court, a Permanent Committee has been constituted by the Hon’ble 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 under (a) Hon’ble Chief Justice of India-Chairperson (b) Two senior most Hon’ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India-Members (c) Learned 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 has framed detailed Guidelines to regulate conferment of designation of Senior Advocates, which are available on the website of the Court. The process for designation of Senior Advocates was initiated after the Guidelines to Regulate Conferment of Designation of Senior Advocates were framed and it 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 Court	25
27 March 2019	Advocates-on-Record/ Advocates	37
8 December 2021	Former Chief Justices/ Judges of High Court	7
	Advocates-on-Record/ Advocates	18
20 May 2022	Former Chief Justices/ Judges of High Court	52

Pursuant to the judgment delivered by a 3-Judge Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 12 May 2023 in M.A. Nos. 709/2022, 1502/2020, IA Nos. 58694/2022, 74393/2020, 75687/2021 in Writ Petition (C) No. 454/2015 in the matter of **Ms. Indira Jaising V. Supreme Court of India, through Secretary General**, the Registry of the Court notified Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court, 2023. Two separate notices inviting request-cum-consent letters from former Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts and updated/substituted applications from 355 Advocates-on-Record/Advocates who had applied earlier for designation of Senior Advocate, were published on the official website of the Supreme Court on 17 July 2023.

Till date, requests from 63 former Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts have been received. As for advocates, last date for submission of applications stands extended till 19 August 2023.

The process for designation of former Chief Justices/Judges of the High Courts and Advocates-On-Record/Advocates as Senior Advocates is underway.

III. 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 conditions prescribed. In 1959, the Rules were amended, introducing the 'Advocate-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 Advocate-on-

Record Examination periodically with approval of the Examination Committee and under the supervision of Secretary, Board of Examiners, appointed by the Hon'ble The 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 AOR 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 Rule 1(b) of Supreme Court Rules, 2013).

SCBA and its Welfare 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. Recently the Supreme Court allotted a brand-new canteen space within the Additional Building Complex which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. The Supreme Court's decision to allot new space for the canteen is a welcome move, as it will accommodate the large number of lawyers and litigants who visit the court every day.





iv. The SCBA arranged around 400 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.

Other milestone events:

i. The SCBA, organised a meet-up with the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Secretary (Health), Government of NCT of Delhi to ensure upgraded medical facilities for the members. The Hon'ble Minister visited the dispensary located inside the Supreme Court compound, surveyed the facility and interacted with the members of the association who are actual user of the facility. Resultantly, a Centralised Accident and Trauma Service (CATS) Ambulance was made available for the utilization of SCBA Members and the same will be stationed at D-Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court. Further, the Ministry of Health, Govt. of NCT of Delhi appointed Nodal

Officers in GB Pant Hospital and Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi, who can be contact in case of medical issues/emergencies to ensure timely medical attention to Members of SCBA. The Hon'ble Minister also agreed to upgrade the existing medical dispensary and equip it the latest facilities.

ii. Recently, the SCBA initiated Lecture Series which plays a pivotal role in fostering legal education, promoting discussions on matters of constitutional importance, and enhancing the knowledge base of its members and the legal community at large. The lecture will be delivered by Hon'ble Judges, Senior Advocates, eminent legal experts and practitioners, and is open to all members of the SCBA. The first SCBA Lecture Series was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Bhat and was well attended by the members.

iii. The Supreme Court recently upgraded the E-Filing system to ensure paperless,

seamless, glitch-free process of online filings. The SCBA played a crucial role in bridging the gap between the bar and the registry during the implementation of the E-Filing 2.0 system being a channel. Furthermore, the association took proactive steps by organizing an orientation program to address any concerns or inquiries raised by advocates, ensuring a smooth transition to the new system.

iv. There are several other activities undertaken by the SCBA ensuring easy and hassle free use of resources provided by the Supreme Court and access to Court, like, organization of BSES Camp and an MTNL Camp to enable the Members in obtaining electricity and telephone connection respectively, for the newly allotted chambers in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court; and meeting with ACP Traffic Control, DCP Traffic Supreme Court, and ACP Barakhamba to ensure a seamless flow of traffic towards the court premises, etc.

v. In addition to the above, the SCBA organizes various social, cultural and sport events for its members throughout the year. These events provide an opportunity for lawyers to relax and socialize with each other outside of the courtroom and promote camaraderie and unity among the legal community. Some of the social and cultural events that the SCBA has organised in recent past are:

i) On the occasion of Independence Day celebration, the SCBA organised flag hoisting program

in the Supreme Court of India grounds, in the august presence of Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Hon'ble Law Minister of India. On this occasion, for the first time SCBA also organised a plantation drive which reflects its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability. During this event, the Hon'ble Chief Justice planted an Amaltas tree and the Hon'ble Law Minister planted Kadamba tree. These efforts not only promote cultural and environmental awareness but also foster a sense of community and social responsibility among the bar members. A cultural event was also conducted after the plantation drive where many members participated and displayed their soft skills of singing, acting and dancing.

ii) On the 2 October 2023, the SCBA marked a significant milestone by organizing first of its kind celebration to commemorate birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. This inaugural event, was presided over by the Hon'ble



Judges of the Supreme Court of India and attended by the members of the bar. Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India shared his message with the entire Bar on this auspicious occasion paying tribute to legacy of both the leaders and promoted Gandhian ideals of peace, non-violence, and social justice within the legal community. This new tradition reflects the SCBA's commitment to honouring the great leader and promoting his timeless values among its members.

- iii) This year, to celebrate the spirit of Holi, the SCBA organised a 'Holi Milan' program followed by KaviSammelan and Mushaira. Renowned poets including Dr. Ashok Chakradhar, Shri Gajendra Solanki, Dr. Popular Meeruthi and Shri Shambhu Shikar conducted the event and kept all the members enthralled with their shayari.
- iv) On the occasion of 'Constitution Day', the SCBA organised an event presided by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud and Mr. Kiren Rijju, the then Hon'ble Law Minister of India. In the said occasion, members who had completed 50 years at the bar were honoured. Similarly, all the members who had published literary work were felicitated. Such encouragement at the hands of the Hon'ble Chief Justice gives the members a feeling of fulfilment and achievement.
- v) The SCBA also hosts a diverse range of sporting events, including badminton, cricket, and lawn tennis, which enjoy significant popularity among its member. All members participate enthusiastically and whole heartedly. The culminating

event of the Cricket Tournament is a match between the Bench and the Bar, in which the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Senior Advocates participate.

Further, being the Apex Court's Bar Association, the SCBA shoulders a larger role of extending support to address the challenges faced by bar associations in other states where advocates are encountering difficulties, as also for advocating for justice and human rights. Recently, the SCBA expressed deep concern and condemnation regarding incidents of violence in Manipur, particularly those involving gender-based violence. By an unanimous resolution, the SCBA called for swift action against perpetrators, highlighting the importance of upholding humanitarian ethics. The SCBA also passed a resolution taking serious note of the intimidation and violence on an advocate representing his client, highlighting that such act has the effect of interfering with the administration of justice. Similarly, in connection with the violent actions of the police against advocates in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, the SCBA while condemning such action, demanded for accountability from the state government, including an investigation, punishment for responsible police officers, compensation for injured advocates, and measures to prevent such incidents.

Through these resolutions, the SCBA has demonstrated its commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of its members and the broader legal community. It has also playing a vital role in advocating for legislative changes, such as the Advocates Protection Act, to safeguard the interests and well-being of advocates and their families.

Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) and Its Activities

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) is an association of 1950+ Advocates-on-Record serving at the Supreme Court of India. As per order IV of Supreme Court Rules, 2013, as framed by the Supreme Court of India under Article 145 of the Constitution, AORs are authorised to appear themselves before the Court and only upon their instruction, other lawyers, can plead for a party/litigant in the Supreme Court of India and thus are an important collective amongst the officers of the court.

SCAORA was established in the year 1985 and is a registered body under the Societies Registration Act 1860, and since then it has functioned to amplify the voices of AORs by promoting and working towards protecting the interests of practising AORs as in the Supreme Court of India for more than 38 years. To its credit, SCAORA has been involved in raising issues of public importance and for the betterment of the system of administration of justice in India, as well.

The aims and objectives of SCAORA include taking all such steps as deemed necessary steps to promote professional competence and maintain the professional integrity of lawyers, prevent unethical practices and decide and settle all disputed questions of professional conduct between or among the Advocates-on-Record of the Supreme Court and other Advocates. In addition, SCAORA endeavours to provide financial assistance to its members and their families in times of need. SCAORA has always strived to uphold constitutional values and worked towards ensuring the independence of the judiciary. Towards the attainment of this objective

SCAORA has filed petitions of crucial jurisprudential and constitutional importance such as that of the appointment of Judges and the NJAC amongst others. Since the landmark decision of a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court rendered in SCAORA Vs. UOI better known as the 2nd Judges Case in the year 1993, which laid the foundation of collegium system of appointment of Judges in higher Judiciary, SCAORA has contributed continuously to improve the judicial system of the Country. Dissemination of information on legal subjects by way of lectures, seminars, discussions and publications of books and journals, intended at promoting meaningful dialogue within the court, is an important function of the SCAORA. Every year SCAORA organises a lecture series featuring lectures delivered by Hon'ble Judges and eminent lawyers of the Supreme Court, for the benefit of young lawyers who appear for the annual AOR examinations.

SCAORA has a full-fledged office and conference room inside the main Supreme Court building duly equipped with proper infrastructure with Computers, printers, and research software to help its members. For young lawyers who would like to become AORs, SCAORA has built a robust and enduring lecture series, which takes place every year before the AOR examinations.

Recently his Lordship the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud has allotted additional space adjacent to present SCAORA room for the purpose of SCAORA E-Library and Lounge.

SCAORA's contribution during COVID-19 has also been noteworthy, having provided financial help to more than 450 lawyers and families in addition to about 40 registered clerks. SCAORA has also filed an application



before the Supreme Court for the restoration of relaxation in the context of the period of limitation in the filing of all kinds of cases during the COVID-19 pandemic period which was granted by this Hon'ble Court.

SCAORA is taking care of education of children of the members of SCAORA who have unfortunately passed away during the covid pandemic. In the last months itself SCAORA has released Rs.8 Lakhs for the purpose of education of few such members.

SCAORA continues to advocate for an institutionalised mechanism to facilitate the elevation of AORs practising in the Supreme Court of India to elevation to the Bench of different High Courts where success has just begun to be seen. In addition, SCAORA continues to work in close association with judges and the registry of the Supreme Court to streamline various issues regarding the filing and listing of matters and to shape sharper solutions which would be beneficial to ordinary members of the Bar and ordinary litigants. Member of SCAORA Mr. Devashish Bharukha was awarded the first prize with the Member Executive of SCAORA Mr. Aakarshan Aditya was conferred the second best in the Hackathon conducted this year under the aegis of the Supreme Court with the inspiration of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India.

SCAORA has been successful in its efforts for allotment of more than 500 chambers to the members of the Bar within the Supreme Court premises in the last about 18 months and more than 60 members of the Bar would be allotted chambers shortly within next few months. SCAORA has also conducted an Ayurvedic Camp earlier this year which was a huge success.

SCAORA has consistently raised the issues of better facilities for women lawyers such as providing video conferencing facilities on all five working days for women lawyers with small children and also to promote first generation lawyers. SCAORA has raised several issues in the Senior Designation matter decided earlier this year by this Hon'ble Supreme Court, few of the suggestions such as giving more weightage to first generation lawyers, reducing and retaining the points to be given for the purpose of Articles and Publications, taking into account the Legal drafting such as synopsis of matters filed by the lawyers, enhancing the points allotted for pro bono work, giving more weightage to counsels appearing in private matters as opposed to government counsels appearing in large number of matters etc. were the suggestions which this Hon'ble Court was pleased to accept and incorporate in its decision rendered in this particular matter.

SCAORA would like to place on record its appreciation of the individual achievements of many of its distinguished members such as former President of India Sh. Ram Nath Kovind, former Chief Justice of India Sh. U.U. Lalit, and the current Attorney General of India Sh. R. Venkatramani to name a few from many eminent personalities who are former and present judges of various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India.

SCAORA believes that associations such as this are essential to the functioning of the democratic and vibrant character of public institutions like the Supreme Court of India and will be proud to continue to work towards the betterment of advocates and stronger dispensation of justice.

Legal Services and Alternative Dispute Resolution

I. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)



1. Introduction

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was formed 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 citing reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairperson of NALSA.

In every State/UT, State Legal Services Authority (SLSAs) have been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of NALSA, to give free legal services to the

people and conduct various other activities such as Lok Adalats and Awareness Campaigns in their respective States. 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 Legal Services Authorities Act, the following categories of persons are eligible:

- 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 Governments

NALSA's mission is 'to legally empower the marginalised and excluded groups of society by providing effective legal representation, legal literacy and awareness and to bridge the gap between legally available benefits and the entitled beneficiaries.'

The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides for establishment of legal services authorities at various levels. The following is the overview of the said Authorities:

Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	01
State Legal Services Authorities	37
High Court Legal Services Committees	39
District Legal Services Authorities	703
Taluk Legal Services Committees	2,341

To strengthen the functioning of Legal Services Institutions (LSIs), a huge network of human resources has been deployed to ensure that legal services reach every nook and corner of our country. A brief overview is provided below:

HUMAN RESOURCE OF LSIs	
Panel Lawyer	49,126
Pro Bono Lawyers	42,446
Paralegal Volunteers	7,968

2. National Meets and Conferences

During FY 2022-23, NALSA in collaboration with various LSIs and other Government Organisations organised various National Meets and Visits. 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:

I. 18th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet:

Every Year NALSA organizes 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.

In the year 2022, 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet was organized on **16 and 17 July 2022** at Jaipur, Rajasthan in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, the then Chief Justice of India and the then Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Shri Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Union Minister of Law and Justice (as he then was), Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister for the State of Rajasthan, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Judge, Supreme Court of India (as he then was) and Executive Chairman, NALSA (as he then was), Hon'ble Minister Shri S.P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Minister of State, the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble Judges from High Courts across India and other dignitaries.

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Executive Chairman of the NALSA (as he then was), presented the set of '**Goals to be achieved by 2047**'. Addressing the conference, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Ramana, the Chief Justice of India (as he then was) said "We need a holistic plan of action, to increase the efficiency of the administration of criminal justice. Training and sensitisation of the police and modernization of the prison system is one

facet of improving the administration of criminal justice”.

The Meet included sessions on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital platforms to enhance the delivery of legal services, approaches to ensure access to legal services for disadvantaged groups, strengthening mediation, and Lok Adalats for quicker disposal of disputes, for ensuring access to justice for people in custody.

The first ever District Legal Services Authorities’ Meet was organized on 30-31 July 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Since, DLSAs act as the pillars of LSIs, it was important to provide a platform wherein exchange of ideas and best practices among DLSAs can be promoted. The Meet also celebrated the achievements of DLSAs and brought their efforts into the centre stage.



The All-India District Legal Services Authorities Meet was organized under the leadership of Hon’ble Mr. Justice U.U. Lalit, Executive Chairman NALSA (as he then was). Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India addressed the inaugural session. Hon’ble Mr. Justice N. V. Ramana, the Chief Justice of India (as he then was), Supreme Court Judges Hon’ble Mr. Justice U. U. Lalit, Hon’ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Hon’ble Union Minister of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju (as he then was), Hon’ble Minister Shri S. P. Singh Baghel, Hon’ble Supreme Court Judges, Hon’ble Chief Justices of High Courts,

Hon’ble Executive Chairpersons of the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and Chairpersons of the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Hon’ble Prime Minister expressed that we are currently in the era of the “Azadi ka Amrit Kaal”. This era presents us with the opportunity to formulate resolutions that will propel the nation to unprecedented heights over the next 25 years. Hon’ble Prime Minister highlighted that the country’s focus should be on enhancing both the “Ease of Doing Business” and the “Ease of Living”. He underscored that providing “Access of Justice” holds equal significance during this transformative journey of our nation.



The Hon’ble Prime Minister highlighted the significance of ‘Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid’ as outlined in the Directive Principles of State Policy. He emphasized that ensuring equal access to the judicial system is pivotal for any society, and the expeditious administration of justice holds immense importance. He further highlighted that to achieve the aforesaid, the infrastructural framework of the judiciary assumes a vital position. In this context, he highlighted that over the past eight years, substantial

progress has been made to improve the judicial infrastructure of the country.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister also released a commemorative postal stamp on the 'Right to free legal aid'.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice U. U. Lalit in his address highlighted that NALSA had been planning to have a programme where legal aid defense counsel would be provided to the accused who cannot afford private lawyers across the nation. His Lordship mentioned that to start with 350 districts have been chosen in which the first phase of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS) will be implemented. He highlighted that in the second phase the system will be implemented across India. It was observed that these 350 districts also include 112 Aspirational Districts, which according to the Government of India, are to be given top priority, based on parameters like infrastructure, facilities, opportunities etc.

North Zone Regional Conference

The North Zone Regional Conference on 'Enhancing Access to Justice' was organised at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on **21 January 2023**. In the said Conference, State Legal Services Authorities of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana,

Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Delhi participated.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal, the Chief Justice, High Court of Judicature at Allahabad and Patron-in-Chief, UPSLSA (as he then was), alongwith Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pritinkar Diwaker, Judge, High Court of Judicature at Allahabad and Executive Chairperson, UPSLSA (as he then was), and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra, Judge, High Court of Judicature at Allahabad and Chairperson, HCLSC (as he then was) extended a warm welcome to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Member, Advisory-cum-Consultative Panel, NALSA alongwith other dignitaries at Varanasi, UP.



During this event, an insightful report titled "**Inside Punjab Prisons: Study on the Conditions of Prisons in Punjab**" authored by

the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) in collaboration with Punjab State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), was unveiled by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

West Zone Regional Conference



The West Zone Regional Conference on 'Enhancing Access to Justice' was organised at Udaipur, Rajasthan on 4 March 2023. In the said Conference, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu were the participating State Legal Services Authorities.



The formal welcome was extended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court and Executive Chairman of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Judge of Rajasthan High Court

and Chairman of High Court Legal Services Committee, Rajasthan.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA concluded the conference by asserting that these conferences are designed to carry out detailed deliberations on the challenges and solutions towards strengthening the legal service delivery by the legal aid authorities. His Lordship encouraged the participants to continue the momentum shaped through such conferences and urged them to take the required measures.

East Zone Regional Conference

The East Zone Regional Conference on 'Enhancing Access to Justice' was organized at Shillong, Meghalaya on 18 March 2023. In the said Conference, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Andaman, Nicobar Islands and West Bengal were the participating SLSAs.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya and Patron-in-Chief of Meghalaya SLSA, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hamarsan Singh Thangkhiew, Judge of the High Court of Meghalaya and Executive Chairman of Meghalaya SLSA, extended a gracious welcome.



Ms. Santosh Snehi Mann, Ld. Member Secretary, NALSA thanked all the participating SLSAs and expressed deep gratitude to all the dignitaries present in the conference. She remarked that all the SLSAs gave engrossing presentations with valuable inputs. Ld. Member Secretary, NALSA quoted the words of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Member, Advisory-cum-Consultative Panel, NALSA and stated that "Access to justice means removing injustice" while laying emphasis on the role entrusted to the LSIs.



Visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice to Supreme Court of India:

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice chaired by Shri Sushil Modi, Hon'ble Chairman visited Supreme Court of India for interaction with Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Consultative panel of NALSA was also present in the interaction.

3. National Lok Adalat

Legal Services Institutions 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 Instrument Act, Labour Disputes, and other Civil Cases are taken up.

A brief overview of the National Lok Adalats organised in the year 2022-23 is provided below:

▪ National Lok Adalat held on 14 May 2022:

NALSA in collaboration with LSIs organized the second National Lok Adalat of the year 2022, 25 States/UTs organized the Lok Adalat on 14 May 2022. While 7 States and 2 Union Territories organized the Second National Lok Adalat on 25 and 26 June 2022.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice U. U. Lalit, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, who was in Srinagar in connection with the foundation stone laying of the new High Court building, inaugurated the National Lok Adalat in District Court Complex, Srinagar in presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

In this National Lok Adalat, about 96 lakh cases were disposed off. Out of this around 67 lakhs were at pre-litigation stage and 29 lakhs were pending cases. The settlement amount was about ₹9422.48 crores.

- **National Lok Adalat held on 13 August 2022:**

NALSA in collaboration with SLSAs organized the third National Lok Adalat of the year 2022 on 13 August 2022 except for Delhi which organized it on 21 August 2022.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit overviewed the entire process and progress of the proceedings. As a preparatory step, His Lordship himself interacted with the Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the State Legal Services Authorities and gave valuable guidance and motivated all the States to prepare for the Lok Adalat.

This National Lok Adalat witnessed a transition from the conventional method as two states namely Maharashtra and Rajasthan used technological platforms to conduct the Lok Adalat. In the National Lok Adalat, more than 1 crore cases were settled, out of which about 82 lakhs were pre-litigation cases and around 26 lakhs were pending cases. The total settlement amount of the Lok Adalat was around ₹10,081 Crores.

- **National Lok Adalat held on 12 November 2022:**

NALSA in collaboration with SLSAs organized the fourth National Lok Adalat of the year 2022 on 12 November 2022 except for Goa and Himachal Pradesh, which organized their Lok Adalats on 26 and 27 November 2022 respectively.

The fourth National Lok Adalat was a huge success, in which around 1.4 crore cases were disposed off. Out of these around 1.1 Crore were pre-litigation cases while around 30 lakhs were pending cases. The settlement amount was to the tune of ₹11,872 Crores.

- **National Lok Adalat held on 11 February 2023:**

NALSA in collaboration with LSIs organized the first National Lok Adalat of 2023 on 11 February 2023 in 36 SLSAs and UTs, with the exception of Himachal Pradesh, which organized it on 11 March 2023.

The inaugural National Lok Adalat was a resounding success, resolving around 2.06 Crore cases out of 3.87 Crore cases referred to it. The total settlement sum in these cases was approximately ₹15,424 crores.

4. Awareness and Outreach Programmes

Section 4(l), Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 *inter alia* provide that it shall be a function of NALSA to spread legal awareness amongst the people and, in particular, to educate 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:

- **Inauguration of Centre for Citizen Services:**

NALSA's Centre for Citizen Services, was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA in the august presence of Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) and His Companion Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court on 6 September 2022 at Jaisalmer House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi.



Hon'ble Justice Lalit congratulated the Executive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and functionaries of the legal services authorities for taking a leap forward in catering to the needs of free legal aid beneficiaries which is in line with the futuristic vision of 2047. Justice Lalit proudly stated that it is a historic moment for NALSA in establishing a dedicated Centre for citizen services in dispensation of efficacious legal aid in the country.

Hon'ble Dr. Justice Chandrachud enunciated that the Centre for Citizen Services, as the name itself suggests would prove to be an excellent medium of providing effective legal services to the common man without any hassles. Dr. Justice Chandrachud further expressed his happiness at the fact that the Centre would propel the outreach of NALSA to the people as it is a centrally located and easily accessible place equipped with all technological facilities.

- **Seminar on 'People-Centric Legal Aid System and Role of Law Colleges':**

DLSA, Pune organized a seminar on 27 May 2022, on the topic 'People-Centric Legal Aid System and Role of Law Colleges' at Gokhale Institute, Pune. In the said Seminar around 300 participants (including Judicial Officers, Principal of Law Colleges, Panel Advocates, representatives of NGOs and Law College Students) took part.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.U. Lalit, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA presided over the said Seminar.

- **Launch of Awareness and Outreach Campaign "Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach" & "Haq hamra bhi toh hai@75":**

The National Legal Services Authority has announced the launch of its flagship campaigns, 'Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach' and 'Haq Humara Bhi To Hai@75' on 31 October 2022. These campaigns were formally launched by Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India Designate (as His Lordship then was) and Executive Chairman, NALSA through virtual mode.

Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud in his address stated that the campaign "Haq Humara Bhi Toh Hai@75" is aimed at providing basic legal assistance to the undertrial prisoners and children in conflict with law.

Under this campaign, district teams formulated by District Legal Services Authorities visited Prisons and Child Care Institutions to interact with individual undertrial prisoners and children in conflict with law. Through such interactions, the teams ascertained whether the concerned individual is represented by a lawyer, and

they also provided free legal counselling and assistance including drafting and filing appropriate legal applications.

Apart from this, as part of the Pan India Campaigns, various programmes were organised which were spread over a two-week long period, i.e., from 31 October 2022 to 13 November 2022. During this period, legal awareness camps were organised in every district of the country. The Legal Services Day was also celebrated at all levels during the campaigns.

- **One day conference on “Early Access to Justice at Pre-arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage” at Uttan, Maharashtra:**

State Legal Services Authority, Maharashtra and State Legal Services Authority, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu under the Aegis of National Legal Services Authority, and in co-ordination with the Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Uttan organized ‘One-Day Conference on “Early Access to Justice at Pre-arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage” on 26 March 2022 at Maharashtra Judicial Academy.

While addressing the Judges, Lawyers, and Legal services provider at the Conference, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive

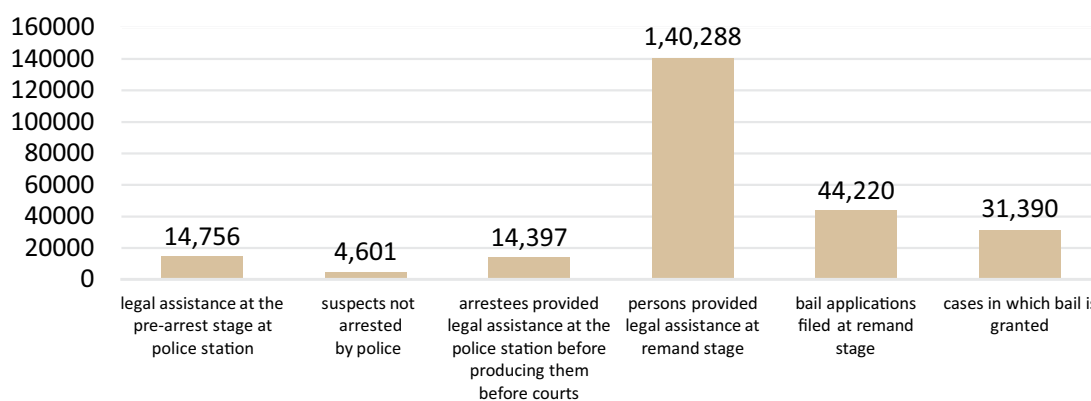
Chairman of NALSA (as he then was) appealed LSIs to “Open the doors of legal aid for unrepresented persons by giving quality legal aid services”. His Lordship also urged LSIs for providing early access to justice and quality legal aid to the arrested person. His Lordship further enunciated that at every possible stage a man must receive advantage and benefit of qualified legal assistance and the Legal services authorities are meant to facilitate said mechanism.

His Lordship enunciated that it is expected that good talented legal professionals should be inducted in the legal aid services through which quality legal services may be provided to the needy person. His Lordship added that the Judicial Officers needs to be sensitized in order protect the rights of the suspect.

- **Regional Consultative Meeting of Western Region on “POCSO: Factors hindering the implementation and aspects of assistance to victims”:**

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights organised the Regional Consultative Meeting of Western Region State/ UTs on 26 June 2022 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This meeting was organised by National Forensic Sciences University in collaboration with NALSA, SVPNPA, and BPR&D.

Legal Services provided under NALSA’s Early Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage Framework (January to December, 2022)



- Rehabilitation of Children who have lost either of their Parents or Primary Earning Member of the Family, due to COVID-19, under Project Shishu by CCL Scholarship Scheme:



Central Coal Field Ltd. (CCL) announced Scholarship for the children who lost either of their parents or primary earning member of the family due to COVID-19. CCL provided Scholarship to the Children identified by DLSAs of Jharkhand under 'Project Shishu'. Total 180 children have been linked with the CCL Scholarship Scheme.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, the then Chief Justice of India, handed over cheques to beneficiaries of "CCL Covid Crisis Scholarship Scheme", during a function at Judicial Academy, Ranchi on 23 July 2022.

On the said occasion Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan, the Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand-cum-Patron-in-Chief, JHALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice, Aparesh Kumar Singh, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand and Executive Chairman, JHALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice, S Chandrashekhar, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand and Judge-In-Charge, Judicial Academy Jharkhand, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand and Chairman, HCLSC, Hon'ble Judges of High Court of Jharkhand and other dignitaries were present.

5. 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:

- **40 Hours Intensive Mediation Training Programme for Judicial Officers of the State of Jharkhand:**

Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JHALSA) under the aegis of NALSA and Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India organised 40 Hours Intensive Mediation Training Programme for Judicial Officers from 11 June 2022 to 15 June 2022 at Nyaya Sadan, JHALSA, Ranchi.

In the said five-day long Mediation Training programme, Sri K.K. Makhija, Advocate and Senior Trainer of MCPC alongwith two other trainers imparted training to the participants.

- **Training Workshop Programme for Para Legal Volunteers at Conference Hall, Bengaluru:**

Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority, Bengaluru Urban and District Legal Services Authority, Bengaluru Rural organized 'Training Workshop Programme' for Para Legal Volunteers at Conference Hall, City Civil Court, Bengaluru on 18 August 2022.

- **Capacity Building on Digital Initiatives of NALSA and Launch of Expansion of LADCS in 22 SLSAs:**

A 2 days NALSA event was organized at Vigyan Bhawan on 20-21 August 2022 for

capacity building and sensitisation of Member Secretaries and officials of State Legal Services Authorities on the recently launched digital initiatives of NALSA including the E-prison portal and NALSA platforms.

During the event, the LADCS was formally launched by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Chief Justice of India Designate (as His Lordship then was) and Executive Chairman, NALSA in 365 District Legal Services Authorities.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice U. U. Lalit emphasized on the need of LADCS in improving legal aid delivery mechanism. His Lordship highlighted the fact that over 70% population is below poverty line but only 12% opt for legal aid, in this scenario the population between 12% to 70% are forced to opt for private lawyers. The LADCS has been brought specifically to bridge this gap and ensure 'Equal Access to Justice'.

▪ **Three Days Training of Trainers Programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016:**

NALSA in collaboration with DoPT, Government of India and Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration, Chandigarh organised a training programme on 'NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015'.

Sh. Rajeshwar Singh, Law Officer, Chandigarh SLSA was the Resource Person. He conducted the session on "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016". The objective of the programme was to create pool of trainers among various departments of Punjab Government. The Act was widely discussed and the queries were answered.

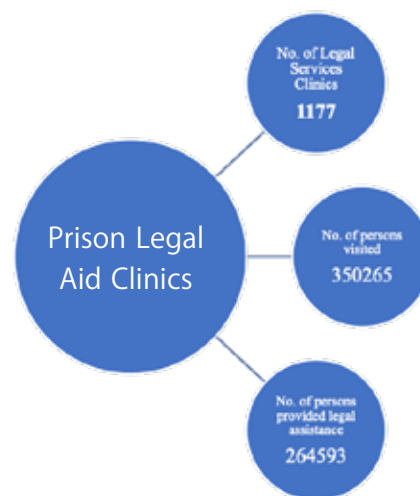
6. NALSA Schemes, SOPs and Guidelines

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 acts as a yardstick in ensuring that mandate of law is being fulfilled.

In this regard, NALSA in FY 2022-23 developed the following:

▪ **NALSA's Standard Operating Procedure on Access to Legal Aid Services to Prisoners and Functioning of the Prison Legal Aid Clinics, 2022:**

NALSA's SOP on Access to Legal Aid Services to Prisoners and Functioning of the Prison Legal Aid Clinics, 2022 was formulated with the aim to further strengthen the functioning of Prison Legal Aid Clinics and to ensure that effective legal service is provided to persons behind bars. This SOP highlights the priority areas and aims to address the day-to-day socio-legal challenges faced by the prisoners. For effective implementation of this SOP, a coordinated approach is required among the various functionaries of the criminal justice system and the legal services institutions.



The objective of establishing and operationalizing the Prison Legal Aid Clinic in every Prison of the country is as follows:

- a) To ensure at all times that no person is without legal representation at any stage of the criminal proceeding and to generate awareness about the same;
- b) To bridge the information gap between the Prisoner and the Court;
- c) To facilitate communication between the Prisoner and the Lawyer, whether legal aid or private;
- d) To ensure that no person is illegally or unnecessarily detained;
- e) To ensure special needs of vulnerable groups of persons (women, young offenders, mentally-ill, foreign nationals, persons from other states, etc.); in prisons are addressed;
- f) To collaborate with local authorities, universities, academic institutions and civil society organisations to further strengthen legal aid services for prisoners;
- g) To act as a One Stop Centre (OSC) for raising the grievances of the prisoners and to direct the grievances to appropriate authorities through DLSA; and
- h) To undertake implementation of the NALSA and SLSA campaigns for prisoners or any other work assigned to fulfill their mandate of providing legal aid services and assistance to the prisoners.

During April, 2022 to March, 2023 legal assistance was provided to 5,54,562 prisoners by LSIs through various modes.

▪ **NALSA’s Standard Operating Procedures on the Process of Premature Release, Parole and Furlough of Prisoners, 2022:**

Hon’ble Supreme Court while dealing with the challenge of having a uniform policy for premature release in the case titled ‘**Sonadhar v. State of Chhattisgarh**’ [SLP (CrI) No. 529/2021] observed that there are four vital aspects of the premature release process:

- (i) Timely identification of the eligible convicts;
- (ii) Making applications by the eligible convicts with the help of District Legal Services Authority;
- (iii) Timelines for the application procedure and decision on the premature release applications;
- (iv) If the premature release applications are rejected by the State Government, then legal aid is to be provided to the said convict to decide whether the said rejection should be challenged in a Court or not.

Hon’ble Supreme Court further directed NALSA to consider to issue Standard Operating Procedures on premature release. Hence, the present SOP was formulated by NALSA.

The SOP provides time-bound steps to be taken by Authorities to ensure that the premature release applications are processed and considered by the Appropriate Government. The SOP identifies 4 stages in cases of pre-mature release, namely:

- Stage 1- Identification of eligible convicts;

- Stage 2- Preparation and submission of the Applications to the 'Recommending Authority';
- Stage 3- Recommendation by the Recommending Authority;
- Stage 4- Orders by the State Government / Appropriate Government.

Modified LADC Scheme, 2022

The Modified LADCS 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.

	No. of DLSAs Covered	Date of Implementation
Pilot Project	12 (12 States)	Implemented (2021-22)
First Phase	365 (22 States)	Implemented (2022-23)
Second Phase	326 (Pan India)	In Process
Total DLSAs	703	

The objective of the Scheme is as follows:

- To provide qualitative and competent legal services in criminal matters to all eligible persons;
- To manage and implement legal aid system in professional manner in criminal matters.

Category of LADC	Human Resource
No. of Chief Legal Aid Counsels	401
No. of Deputy Chief Legal Aid Counsels	566
No. of Assistant Legal Aid Counsels	987
Total No. of Legal Aid Defence Counsels	1,954

7. Role of Technology

Technology plays a vital role in increasing the reach of LSIs, NALSA has been at the forefront of accommodating 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 Authorities/ Committees involved in the process to manage the applications, provide panel lawyers, data collection related to legal services schemes, and generation of periodic statistical reports.

Year	Legal Aid Application Received Online
2016	163
2017	13,562
2018	44,087
2019	74,206
2020	49,828
2021	56,042
2022	87,729

NALSA alongwith various LSIs has taken active steps to ensure that training is provided to various stakeholders under 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 including NALSA, SCLSC, HCLSC, SLISA, DLSA and TLSC have access to the portal. LSIs through the portal monitor the progress made in a particular case, track

cases assigned to a particular advocate, and assign cases to Empanelled Advocates.

The Empanelled Advocates 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 at the portal itself. The Empanelled Advocates 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.

8. Statistical Overview

Statistical Overview provides a holistic understanding of the impact of various steps and initiatives being implemented by LSIs under the aegis of NALSA.

Statistical overview is provided for the following categories:

Persons benefitted through Legal Aid and Advice:

- Aid and Advice:

Year	Persons benefitted through Legal Aid and Advice
2022-23	12,14,769

- Beneficiaries through Legal Aid Clinics (from April '22 to March '23):

	Legal Services Clinics	Persons visited	Persons provided legal assistance
Colleges/ Universities	1093	56195	37351
Villages	4134	459161	157436
Community Centres	776	157436	146718
Courts	904	146718	350265
Jails	1177	350265	264593
JJBs	439	45918	29280
For the people of North-East	64	4166	1170
Others	3124	424508	194729
Total	11711	1644367	1014464

- Cases settled through Mediation:

Year	Cases settled through mediation
2022-23	1,92,446

Total Disposal in Monthly National Lok Adalats (All types of cases) organised during the financial year April 2022 to March 2023

S. No.	Date	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.	14.05.2022, 25.06.2022 and 26.06.2022	All types of cases	14428609	6707435	18009204714	5215548	2870774	76215650373	19982403	9578209	94224855087
2	13.08.2022	All types of cases	20410902	8246801	22048396115	6232491	2604752	78770952949	25626450	10851553	100819349064
3	12.11.2022	All types of cases	23953773	10701498	25190258045	5990139	2999391	93530501897	30186264	13700889	118720759942
4	11.07.2023	All types of cases	32713845	17604677	27485393280	22991972	3057454	126759049411	38703984	20662131	154244442691
Grand Total			91507129	43260411	92733252154	22991972	11532371	375276154630	114499101	54792782	468009406784

▪ **Victim Compensation u/s 357-A, CrPC**

Years	Applications received including Court Orders (A+B)	Applications Decided	Applications Pending	Compensation Awarded (in ₹)
2022-23	29936	20900	17085	3,47,80,37,352/-

▪ **Awareness and Outreach Programmes**

Year	Programmes organized	Persons attended
2022-23	490055	6,75,17,665

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 V 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. There is, however, no income bar for litigants belonging to SC/ST, women, 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 advice can call on 011-23381257 or visit the Front Office of SCLSC at 107, Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court Compound, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on a working day and from 10:00 A.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.

Activities of SCLSC

1. Vision Document

The SCLSC has worked for implementation of the Vision Document prepared on 30 April, 2022 by providing litigant centric, pro-active approach for reaching the masses to espouse public causes amongst all, self-sustaining programs for strengthening SCLSC, leveraging technology, modifying and upgrading the SCLSC and the Supreme Court Mediation Center.

2 SCLSC Web Portal

There is a large increase in the legal aid applications submitted through SCLSC Online Web Portal (sclsc.gov.in) which was introduced to improve 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. The SCLSC Online Web Portal is integrated to connect with the e-prison,

e-courts, HCLSC, HCLSC, DLSA and other authorities through their website

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 recently developed and launched 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 facilitates Video Conferencing to the legal aid applicants with the authorities of SCLSC or the concerned official dealing with the matter.

The services of the advocates on the panel of Non-AOR is utilized in the Front Office of the SCLSC for proper legal consultation to the litigants approaching the Front Office for legal advice or submitting legal aid application.

4. Introduction of internships 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 22 Interns have successfully completed their Internship during July, 2022 to June, 2023.

5. Panel Advocates

The SCLSC maintains a Panel of Advocates

S.No	Year	Total Application Received			Legal aid given by advice counselling/ Enquiry	Legal aid given by advice VC Enquiry	Total ANR Generated in application	Total ANR in which legal aid Granted/ panel advocate	Total ANR in which legal aid refused/ closed
		Physical	Online	E-mail					
1	(01-07-2022) to (30-06-2023)	8204	276	87	906	32	2596	1348	511
Total		8204	276	87	906	32	2596	1348	511

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 shifted and 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 2022 to June

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, 2022 to June, 2023 is as follows:

2023 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. A pilot project in this regard was launched at Tis Hazari District Courts in Delhi in August 2005 with Judicial Officers as Mediators. The MCPC receives grant-in-aid from the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) for implementing its activities.

The constitution of the MCPC shall remain as follows till further orders:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanajy Kishan Kaul	Chairman
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna	Member
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh	Member
Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S.Narasimha	Member
Mr. Rakesh K. Khanna	Member
Ms. Santosh Snehi Mann,	Secretary NALSA
Mrs. Mezivolu T. Therieh	Member Secretary 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

Categorywise Programmes Conducted from July 2022 to June 2023

40hrs Mediation Training Programme	67 (both Offline and Online)
20hrs Refresher Programme	04

Advanced Course (Capsule Course)	01
Training of Trainers (ToT)	02
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	01
05 Days Intensive Training Programme for Potential Trainers	01
TOTAL	91

Other Programmes Conducted during July, 2022 to June, 2023

- National Conference on Mediation was held from 14 to 15 April 2023 in association with SAMADHAN, Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) from 14th to 15th April, 2023 at the Auditorium of 'S' Block of Delhi High Court. The aim of the Conference was to create national synergy in the understanding and promotion of mediation as an alternative mode of dispute resolution and promotes it in the justice dispensation system. Further, it will give a new outlook and fillip to the mediation movement in the country by keeping abreast with international trends.
- One Day Referral Judges Training Programme were conducted for the Hon'ble High Court Judges wherein training was imparted to 164 High Court Judges.

Upcoming Activities Under The Pipeline of MCPC:

Training of Trainers workshop under the aegis of the MCPC in collaboration with Centre for Advanced Mediation Practice (CAMP), Bangalore is proposed to be held from 11 to 12 October 2023 in Delhi for the Trainers of the MCPC. The programme aims at enhancing and adding to the quality of MCPC's Mediation Training Programme.

Education, Training and Research

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 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 manifold. 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 2022-2023, the NJA organized 73 programmes with the participation of 3227 participants between August 2022 and July 2023. During this period, 20 programmes for High Courts Justices; 19 programmes for District Judiciary, Judges; 01 workshop for State Judicial Academy; 08 Regional Conferences; and 25 Special Events were conducted.

A) Programmes for High Court Justices

The National Judicial Academy organized 20 conferences for High Court Judges on the following themes:

- Master Trainer Programme for High Court Judges (e-committee), 21 August 2022
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justice, 10 - 11 September 2022
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Goods & Services Tax (GST), 17 - 18 September 2022
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 15 - 16 October 2022
- e-committee National Conference (e-committee), 6 November 2022
- National Conference on Development of

Constitutional Law by the Supreme Court & High Courts, 12 - 13 November 2022

- National Workshop for High Court Justices, 19 - 20 November 2022
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 3 - 4 December 2022
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Goods & Services Tax (GST), 10 - 12 December 2022
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Commercial Law, 17 - 18 December, 2022
- Orientation Course for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 7 - 8 January 2023
- National Convention for Senior High Court Justices: Strengthening Fiscal & Administrative Protocols in High Courts, 14 - 15 January 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices, 21 - 22 January 2023
- National Conference on Development of Constitutional Law by the Supreme Court & High Courts, 4 - 5 February 2023
- e-courts Introductory Programme & Computer Skills Enhancement Programme - Level I & II (e-committee), 5 March 2023
- National Convention for Senior High Court Justices: Strengthening Fiscal & Administrative Protocols in High Courts, 18 - 19 March 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Commercial Law, 1 - 2 April 2023
- National Workshop for High Court Justices on Direct Tax, 15 - 16 April 2023
- Training of Trainers for High Court Justices, 22 - 23 April 2023

- Cyber Laws & Appreciation of Digital Evidence & Special Programme (e-committee), 13 May 2023

B) Programmes for District Judiciary, Judges

The Academy organized 19 conferences for District Judiciary, Judges on the following themes:

- National Seminar on Cyber Crime & Electronic Evidence, 20 - 21 August 2022
- National Seminar on Bail & Interlocutory Applications, 27 - 28 August 2022
- National Seminar on Judicial & Leadership Skills, 3 - 4 September 2022
- Workshop on Medical Forensic, 10 - 11 September 2022
- Workshop on Judicial Ethics & Behaviour, 17 - 18 September 2022
- Seminar on Judicial Reasoning: Knowledge, Skills & Perspective Development, 15 - 16 October 2022
- National Seminar on Bail & Interlocutory Applications, 5 - 6 November 2022
- National Seminar on Constitutional & Administrative Law, 12 - 13 November 2022
- Conference on Matrimonial Laws, 19 - 20 November 2022
- National Seminar on Arbitration and Stress Management, 3 - 4 December 2022
- National Seminar of Presiding Officers of the PMLA Courts, 7 - 8 January 2023
- National Seminar on Constitutional & Administrative Law, 21 - 22 January 2023
- Workshop on Judgment Writing, 4 - 5 February 2023

- 2 Day Review Consultation on POCSO, 11 - 12 February 2023
- National Seminar on Arbitration and Stress Management, 4 - 5 March 2023
- Workshop on Witness Protection, 11 – 12 March 2023
- National Seminar of Presiding Officers of the NIA Courts, 18 - 19 March 2023
- Refresher Course on Land Acquisition, 1 - 2 April 2023
- National Conference on Sentencing, Probation and Victim Compensation, 8 - 9 April 2023

C) Programmes for State Judicial Academies

Training of Trainers for Faculty of State Judicial Academies, 13 – 14 May 2023

D) Regional Conferences

The Academy organized 08 Regional Conference, on the following themes:

- North Zone-I Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh), 24 - 25 September 2022
- West Zone-I Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology (Rajasthan), 29 - 30 October 2022
- East Zone-I Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology (Jharkhand), 26 - 27 November 2022
- South Zone-I Regional Conference on

Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology (Karnataka), 28 -29 January 2023

- South Zone-II Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology” (Chennai), 25 -26 February 2023
- West Zone-II Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology (Ahmedabad - Gujarat), 25 - 26 March 2023
- North Zone- II Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology (Shimla), 29 - 30 April 2023
- East Zone- II Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law & Technology (Gauhati Assam), 6 - 7 March 2023

E) Programmes for overseas / foreign Judges (Special Events)

The Academy organized 26 Special Events, as under:

- Training Programme for Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI Officers), 10 – 12 October 2022
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges & Judicial Officers, 17 - 2 October 2022
- Counter Terrorism (ToT-1), 12 – 13 November 2022
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges & Judicial Officers, 14 - 18 November 2022

- Cybercrime Phase Two: Curriculum Design and Faculty Development in USA, 28 October - 2 November 2022
- Training Programme for Myanmar Judges & Judicial Officers, 5 -8 December 2022
- Training Programme for Maldives Judicial Officers, 12 - 15 December 2022
- Human Trafficking (ToT-1), FJC, Washington DC, 12 - 16 December 2022
- E-lecture Series for Officers posted at Authorized Representative [AR] Officer and Field Officers of CBIC (Office of the Commissioner Customs, Excise Service Tax Appellate Tribunal) (CESTAT)-Online 14 October; 21 November; 4, 16, 18, 23 and 30 December 2022
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges & Judicial Officers, 16 - 20 January 2023
- Cybercrime (ToT-2), 21 - 22 January 2023
- Judicial Dialogue Webinar on Digital Reform Roll Out, Judicial Training and Future Potential Collaboration, 23 January 2023
- Counter Terrorism (ToT-2), 28 - 29 January 2023
- Training Programme for SEBI Officers 1-3 February 2023
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges & Judicial Officers, 6 - 10 February 2023
- Training Programme for Maldives Judicial Officers, 13 - 16 February 2023
- Trafficking (ToT-2), 18- 19 February 2023
- Meeting with UK Delegation on Digital Reform Roll Out, 4 March 2023
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges & Judicial Officers, 13 - 17 March 2023
- National Seminar for Presiding Officers of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), 21 - 22 March 2022
- Counter Terrorism (ToT-3), 25 - 26 March 2023
- Training Programme for Bangladesh Judges & Judicial Officers, 3 -7 April 2023
- Training Programme for Myanmar Judges & Judicial Officers, 17 - 20 April 2023
- Human Trafficking (ToT-3), 29 May - 2 June 2023
- Cybercrime (ToT-3), 5 - 9 June 2023

II. THE INDIAN LAW INSTITUTE

The Indian Law Institute (ILI) is a premier legal research Institute founded on 27 December, 1956. The first President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad formally inaugurated the Institute on 12 December, 1957 in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi which was witnessed by the first Prime Minister of India Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das, the then Chief Justice of India.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of India is the Ex-officio President of the Institute. The Law Minister of the Union Government is the Ex-officio Vice President. Institutes governance are under supervision and guidance of nominated Judges of the Supreme Court of India.

The prime objective of the Institute is to promote advanced studies and research in law and to contribute substantially in reforming the administration of Justice, so as to meet the socio economic aspirations through law and its instrumentalities.

The Indian Law Institute was granted Deemed University status in 2004 by Ministry of Human

Resource Development, Government of India. Institute has been accredited with 'A' Grade (CGPA 3.35 out of 4.00) by NAAC in March 2017. The UGC Expert Committee approved the inclusion of Indian Law Institute u/s 12B of the UGC Act in June 2018. The Indian Law Institute was granted Graded Autonomy (Grade – II) by University Grants Commission during the year 2017.

The Institute is conducting LL.M. and Ph.D. Programme in Law. It also runs PG Diploma Courses in various areas of law, i.e., Alternative Dispute Resolution, Corporate Laws and Management, Cyber Law and Intellectual Property Rights Laws.

Indian Law Institute Library is one of the leading law libraries in Asia and attracts scholars from all over the world for legal research. The ILI library has computerized all its catalogue to provide access to the computerized information about the availability of books, journals and various other legal resources. It contains around 82500 volumes and receives about 190 current legal periodicals including serial publications. Digitisation of rare documents and Institute's publications are done on regular basis and placed in the repository for access by public at large. The library of the Institute has recently shared its Institutional repository at the coveted National Digital Library platform (NDL) which is the brain child of the MHRD-NME-ICT.

Research Publications Released

The following research publications have been released by the ILI during the period of report:

- Journal of the Indian Law Institute (JILI) – Published quarterly containing research

articles on contemporary legal issues of National/International Importance.

- ILI Newsletter – Published quarterly referring various activities undertaken by the Institute during the year and forthcoming activities.
- Index to Legal Periodicals – Published yearly and contains indexes, periodicals (including year books and other annual publications) pertaining to law and related fields being received (either by subscription or exchange or on complementary basis) by the ILI Library.
- Annual Survey of Indian Law –Published yearly and is a very prestigious publication of the Institute and contains Annual Survey of Indian Law including latest trends in every branch of law of importance.
- ILI Law Review (Summer) & (Winter)

Book:- India At 75: Reminiscences and Reflections–

India 75: Reminiscences and Reflections is a compilation of lectures delivered by eminent academicians and scholars as a part of the series of lectures organized by the Indian Law Institute to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Azade Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) is an initiative launched by the Government of India to mark the occasion of completion of seventy-five glorious years of Indian independence. The lectures curated around the five themes of AKAM (Freedom Struggle, Ideas@75, Resolve@75, Actions@75 and Achievement@75) seek to provoke within us, a reflection upon our history, and a progressive imagination of the years to come by.

Editors: Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ILI & Swaril Dania, Ph.D. Scholar, ILI

Activities in ILI:

Series of Lectures/ Conferences/ Talk/ Seminars/ Training Programmes conducted by the Indian Law Institute

- **International Conference on “Situating Justice in Armed Conflict: Can there be Just Wars?” on 5 - 7 August 2022**

The Indian Law Institute conducted a 3-Day International Conference on “Situating Justice in Armed Conflict: Can There Be Just Wars?”, from 5 - 7 August 2022, with the objective of interrogating the notion of justice in armed conflicts. The Conference was coordinated by Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Dogra Sood, Professor, Indian Law Institute and Dr. Latika Vashist, Asst. Professor (Sr. Scale), Indian Law Institute.



The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Mishra, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of India. Mr. Narinder Singh, independent consultant in international law and former Legal Adviser & Head of the Legal & Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, was also a distinguished guest at the Inaugural ceremony.

The technical sessions were held from 5 to 7 August, 2022 where several distinguished speakers shared their expertise on their topics.

- **CLEA-MILAT Certificate Course on Comparative Constitutional and Public Law: Valedictory Function, 4 September 2022**

Valedictory function for the Certificate Course on Constitutional and Public Law organised by the Indian Law Institute in collaboration with Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy and Training (MILAT) was held at the Indian Law Institute on 4 September 2022. Hon'ble Justice Mr. Aniruddha Bose, Judge, Supreme Court of India presided over the function as the Chief Guest and Dr. Niten Chandra, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.



- **Two-Days Programme for Judicial Officer on Human Rights : Issues and Challenges on 17-18 September 2022**

The Indian Law Institute in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission organised a Two days Programme for Judicial Officers on 17 -18 September 2022. The Training Programme was

inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Justice Arijit Pasayat, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India and the Special Address was given by Mr. Rakesh Munjal, Sr. Advocate, Supreme Court of India. The event was graced with the presence of judicial officers from across the country.

- **Conference on Gender and the Indian Penal Code on 6 - 8 October 2022**

Indian Law Institute organized three days Conference on Gender and the Indian Penal Code on 6 -8 October 2022. The Conference was inaugurated by Professor (Dr.) Ved Kumari, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Odisha. In the Conference distinguished speakers included: Prof. Dr. Kalpana Kannabiran, Dr. Usha Ramanathan, Dr. Latika Vashist, Dr. Rachna Chaudhary, Prof. (Dr.) Anju Valli Tikku, Dr. Amit Bindal and Dr. P. Puneeth.

- **The Indian Law Institute CLEA-MILAT Research Mentoring Programme (RMP) 2022" on 31 October - 4 November 2022**

The Indian Law Institute and CLEA-MILAT Research Mentoring Program, 2022 held at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi from 31 October - 4 November 2022. The Research Mentoring Programme (RMP) has been envisaged with two-fold objectives: (a) to educate and train the young educators/ researchers of tomorrow in the field of law and (b) to create institutional infrastructure to have research-intensive curriculum and legal pedagogy.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.U. Lalit, Chief Justice of India/President, ILI (as he then was) inaugurate the programme on 31 October 2022 at the Indian Law

Institute, New Delhi. The Hon'ble Chief Justice spoke about the importance of conducting research in law and the need to have perspective on judgments in the inaugural Ceremony of the RMP 2022.



- **One Day Programme for Police Personnel on Police and Human Rights : Issues and Challenges on 5 November 2022**

The Indian Law Institute and the National Human Rights Commission Jointly organized a One Day Programme for Officials working in Juvenile Homes, Old age homes and Health Sector on 'Human Rights: Issues and Challenges'. Shri Rajiv Jain, Member, NHRC was the Chief Guest of the event. Mr. Anurag Kundu, Chairperson, DCPCR, Govt NCT of Delhi was the guest of honor of the event. Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute formally welcomed the gathering. Prof. Dr. A. Lakshminath gave the special address.

- **Two-Days Programme for Police Personnel on Police and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 10-11 December 2022**

The Indian Law Institute in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission organized a two-day program for Police personnel on Human Rights: Issues and

Challenges. The training program aimed at sensitizing police officials to the nuances of the human rights framework and the due process guarantees. The Training Programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Justice Mukundakam Sharma, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India. Over these 2 days, the participants critically engaged with the relationship of the policing system with myriad concerns like investigative procedures, national security, media impact, and the protection of women and children.

- **One-Day Programme for Media Personnel on Human Rights : Issues and Challenges on 21 January 2023**

The Indian Law Institute in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, organised a one-day training program for media personnel and government public relations officers. In the program, several challenges and issues that arise during reporting were discussed. Several eminent speakers like Dr. P. Puneeth, Ms. Anju Mangla, Mr. Sudhanshu Ranjan and Mr. Vikram Srivastava graced the occasion as guest speakers.

- **International Webinar on Disaster Management Laws in Asia: A Retrospect on 27 - 28 January 2023**

International Webinar on Disaster Management Laws in Asia: A Retrospect was organized by Commonwealth Institute of Justice Education & Research (CIJER) and Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. This event was held on 27 - 28 January 2023, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India/ Former Chairperson, National

Green Tribunal graced the occasion as a Chief Guest.

- **Two-Days Programme for Prison Officials on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 11-12 February 2023**

The Indian Law Institute and the National Human Rights Commission jointly organized a two-day training programme for Prison Officials on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges. The event was graced with the presence of prison officials from across the country. The Inaugural address was given by Smt. Jyotika Kalra. She focused on the Role of NHRC in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

- **CLEA Golden Jubilee International Conference, 2023 on Augmenting Legal Education through Technology: Issues and Challenges from 2-4 March 2023**

The Indian Law Institute in Collaboration with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association, London and the Lloyd Law College Greater Noida (U.P) organized The Commonwealth Legal Education Association Golden Jubilee International Conference, 2023 on Augmenting Legal Education through Technology: Issues and Challenges, 2023 held from 2 March 2023 to 4 March 2023. The Conference started with pre-conference Workshops on: i) Street Law, ii) Combating Corruption and Money Laundering and iii) Comparative Constitution & Public Law. The Inaugural ceremony had the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Judge, Supreme Court of India, as the Chief Guest and Mr. R. Venkataramani, Ld. Attorney General for India, along with Mr. AM Amin Uddin, Mr Attorney General of Bangladesh as the Guests of Honour. The

valedictory ceremony had the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge Supreme Court of India as the Chief Guest along with the presence of Prof. (Dr.) David McQuoid Mason Professor Emeritus, University of Kwazulu - Natal, Durban, South Africa and Prof. John Hatchard Vice - President, CLEA/Emeritus Professor, School of Law, University of Buckingham.



- **Gold Medal Distribution Ceremony for ILI Convocation – 2023 held on 15 March 2023**



The Gold Medals distribution ceremony was organised on 15 March 2023, at ILI wherein gold medals were distributed among the Toppers of various courses (LL.M. & PG Diploma Programmes, Session 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 & 2020-21) by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Bhat, Chairman, Academic Council, ILI / Judge, Supreme Court of India. The

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degrees was also awarded to seven scholars and eight merit certificates to the meritorious students of PG Diploma courses.



- **Two-Days Programme for First Class Judicial Magistrates on Human Rights : Issues and Challenges on 25 - 26 March 2023**

The Indian Law Institute and the National Human Rights Commission jointly organized a two-day training programme for first class judicial magistrates on human rights issues and challenges. The event began with the inaugural function on 25 March 2023 with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Former Chief Justice of India, the Guest of Honour Shri Devendra Kumar Singh, IAS Secretary General and CEO of the National Human Rights Commission.

- **The Indian Law Institute in collaboration with Delhi High Court Mediation & Conciliation Centre, SAARC Law India and SAMADHAN will organise 40 Hours Training Program in Mediation on 28 March to 1 April 2023**

Indian Law Institute in collaboration with SAARC India and Samadhan, Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre, conducted a 40 Hours' Training Program in Mediation in the month of March-April, 2023 spread over 5 days. The training was imparted by the trainers of Samadhan, Ms. Veena Ralli, Mediator/Trainer, Organising Secretary, Samadhan, Mr. J.P Sengh, Mediator/Trainer along with their team of young mediators Mr. Sumit Chander, Ms. Swati Setia and Ms. Mitali Gupta. The training was attended by professionals from varied background like Lawyers, Teachers, Researchers and even students. The training was curated to explain the theory through Role Plays. To be accurate, it was a blend of theory and practice.

- **The Indian Law Institute organised a National Conference on the Working of the Indian Judicial System on 22-23 April 2023**

The Indian Law Institute organized a National Conference on the working of the Indian Judicial System. The event began with the inaugural function on 22nd April, 2023 with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India.



In session one, an interesting presentation involved a live demo of a machine learning tool to assist judges in their judgement. While the algorithm was promising, the presenters acknowledged much work was needed before it could be used in real time. Nevertheless, this prompted a healthy discussion on how AI can be used to assist judges in their work, shifting the focus from replacing judges with AI to helping them in their work.

- **The Indian Law Institute organised a National Conference on Fifty Years of Basic Structure Doctrine (1973-2023) : In Retrospect and Prospect on 24 April 2023**

The Indian Law Institute and Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU jointly organised a National Conference on Fifty Years of Basic Structure Doctrine (1973-2023) : In Retrospect and Prospect on 24th April, 2023. The conference commenced by a welcome address by the Director of the Indian Law Institute, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha. He flagged the importance of the relationship between globalization and the basic structure. Through a reading of Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he stressed on the significance of being a citizen of the world.

- **The Indian Law Institute in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission organised a one-day program on 27 May 2023 for Officials working in Juvenile Homes, Old Age Homes and, Health Sector on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges**

The Indian Law Institute and the National Human Rights Commission jointly organized a one-day training programme for Officials working in Juvenile Homes,

Old Age Homes & Health Sector on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Menon, Chairperson, Armed Forces Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi. The Chief Guest while delivering his inaugural address put stress on the juvenile offenders back to the main stream society. He laid stress on the reformatory approach and move out the child from the clutches of the criminal tendencies.

- **Indian Law Institute and National Institute of Defence Estate Management (NIDEM) organised a 5-day Training programme on Law for Group A Officers of Indian Defence Estate Services from 5 - 9 June, 2023**

This programme was jointly organized by the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi and National Institute of Defense Estate Management (NIDEM). This programme aimed to enhance the officer's understanding on the practical as well as theoretical aspects on law which would help them in their services. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Founding Vice-Chancellor of National Law University, Delhi and NALSAR, Hyderabad, presently Pro-Vice Chancellor, IILM University with the lighting of lamp along with other dignitaries. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Sinha, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India was the Chief Guest and Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Director, NIDEM was also present in the Valedictory Function.

III. Legal Education

The Supreme Court is instrumental in enhancing and maintenance 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

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 Rs. 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 Rs. 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.

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.

As per the Scheme for Engaging Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates on Short-Term Contractual Assignment in the Supreme Court of India – April, 2023, 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 or 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 and 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 could not clear the interview stage of selection process may be, based on their willingness, put in the Reserve Pool of qualified candidates as per the rank list and the requirement of the Registry. The candidates who are not engaged in a Judge's office or are not 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 its aforesaid roles, aims, and objectives. Some of the key initiatives taken up by the CRP are as follows:

- Assisted the 'High Court Chief Justices' Committee on Uniform Annual Confidential Report (ACR) format for district judiciary' in preparation of a final report titled "**Draft White Paper on Uniformity in ACR of Judicial Officer**".
- Corrected and updated the contents on the official website of the Supreme Court of India.
- Prepared in co-ordination, an Audio-Visual video commemorating the 50 years of Kesavananda Bharati's judgment.
- Prepared and submitted a Fact File on "**Access to Justice: Constitutional Perspectives**" for the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC), Secretariat for

Research and Development (SRD) Annual Book Project, South Korea.

- Assisted in the preparation of theme and draft statements for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Chief Justices / Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States.
- Assisted preparation of **“Judicial Education and Training Survey”** for the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI), Tenth Biennial Meeting of Commonwealth Judicial Educators, Gaborone, Botswana based on the responses received for the National Judicial Academy and the State Judicial Academies.
- Proposed and assisted in organizing the ‘1st Supreme Court Annual Lecture’ commemorating the first sitting of the Supreme Court that was delivered by the Chief Justice of Singapore on 4 February 2023.
- Assisted in the preparation of the

“Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes” that offers guidance on how to avoid utilizing harmful gender stereotypes in judicial decision-making and writing.

- Assisted the Committee of Judges for selection/appointment of Law Clerks-cum-Research Associates, by finalizing the new clerkship scheme for (approved in April 2023) and further assisted by:
 - Preparing a sample guide with instructions for the Law clerk-cum-Research Associate examination.
 - Preparing a Handbook on the Orientation of Law Clerks-cum-Research Associates.
 - Conducting an Orientation-cum-Training program for the recently joined Law Clerks-cum-Research Associates.
- Assisted in the preparation and development of the Annual Training Calendar for the staff of the Supreme Court of India.

Inauguration of Sports, Cultural & Other Events-2023 by
Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud



Table Tennis- Registry Sports Complex



Annual Sports, Cultural and Other Events-2023

In today's fast-paced and demanding work environment, the well-being and productivity of staff members are paramount for the success of any institution. One powerful tool that can contribute significantly in creating a thriving work environment is the incorporation of sports activities in the workplace.

Sports and Cultural events facilitate the all-round development of personality of an individual. Team sports, in particular, offers a unique platform to foster team spirit, trust, bonding and interpersonal relations. Through shared experiences on the field, employees learn to communicate effectively and to work towards a common goal. These skills are directly transferable to the workplace, leading to a more harmonious and efficient work environment. Stronger teamwork also leads to increased creativity, problem-solving abilities, and enhanced productivity. Engaged and motivated staff members are more likely to approach their tasks with enthusiasm and dedication. This boost in morale has a cascading effect, contributing to a positive work culture, efficiency and ultimately enhancing the overall performance of the institution.

The nature of duties of staff of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India requires prompt attention and quick disposal. They are

constantly engaged with work during office hours and sometimes even beyond the normal working office hours. Therefore, to provide a break from the daily routine and for injecting a sense of excitement and motivation into the work environment sports and cultural events are conducted. In all Central Government offices, Inter-Ministry Tournaments for various sports are held from time to time to refresh and re-energize the staff particularly the youth. Similarly, on these lines Sports activities was introduced for the First Time in the year 2014 for the staff of the Registry annually. In the step towards inclusivity, for the first time, Sports, Cultural & Other Events was also organized for differently abled Employees of the Registry.

Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India was kind enough to inaugurate Sports, Cultural and other Events-2023 on 19 April 2023 in the Multipurpose Hall, Additional Building Complex in the presence of Sports and Cultural Participants, Officers and Officials of the Registry.

The list of Sports, Cultural & Other Events-2023 is as under:-

1. Sports Events

- a) Volleyball (Smash)
- b) Badminton (Singles, Doubles)

- c) Table Tennis (Singles, Doubles)
- d) Cricket
- e) Football
- f) Athletics (100 meter race)

Age Categories:- [Upto 30 years, 31-40 years & 41-50 years]

- g) Mini-Marathon (3-5 KM)
- h) Carrom
- i) Chess
- j) Musical Chair

2. Cultural Events

- a) Singing (Classical & Gazals, Patriotic and Folk songs)
- b) Musical Antakshari (Group Event)

3. Other Events

- i) **For Children of Officers/Officials studying in 7th to 10th Class**
 - a) Essay Writing
 - b) General Knowledge and
 - c) Painting/Drawing Competition
- ii) **For the Officers and Officials of this Registry**
 - a) Quiz Contest-Topic 'Know your Supreme Court'
 - b) Painting/Drawing Competition
 - c) Rangoli Competition
 - d) Debate on issues relating to working of the Registry of the Supreme Court of India.

The entire process for annual sports, cultural and other events for receiving applications



for participation and selection was conducted through online mode.

The list of Participants for various events was uploaded on the SUPNET (Intranet). A total number of 2024 entries for the Sports Events and 480 entries for the Cultural & Other Events were received from the Officers and Officials of the Registry in the year 2023, which is highest participation so far.

All the Sports Events were played/organized between 21 April 2023 to 25 May 2023. The participants in the games and events were from 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, Tyagraj Stadium and Vinay Marg Sports Complex and the Indoor Sports and Cultural activities were held in the premises of the Registry. All the Sports and Cultural



Cricket at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium



Badminton at Tyagraj Stadium



events have been successfully conducted with the help and services rendered by Admn.-General Branch including Caretaking Branch, Admn.-Material Branch and Departmental Canteen and Transport Branch etc..

The members of the Organization 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. Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India has generously made provision for distribution of Sports Uniform to all the participants of Sports and Cultural Event-2023.

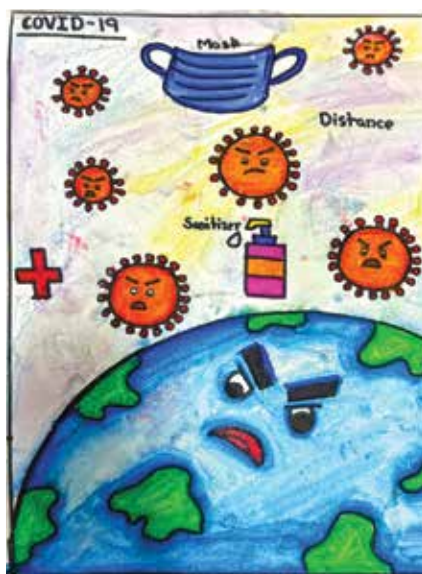
The Registry has also successfully conducted competitions like Essay Writing, General Knowledge and Painting/Drawing for Children of Officers/Officials studying in 7th to 10th Class as a part of the annual sports and cultural event.

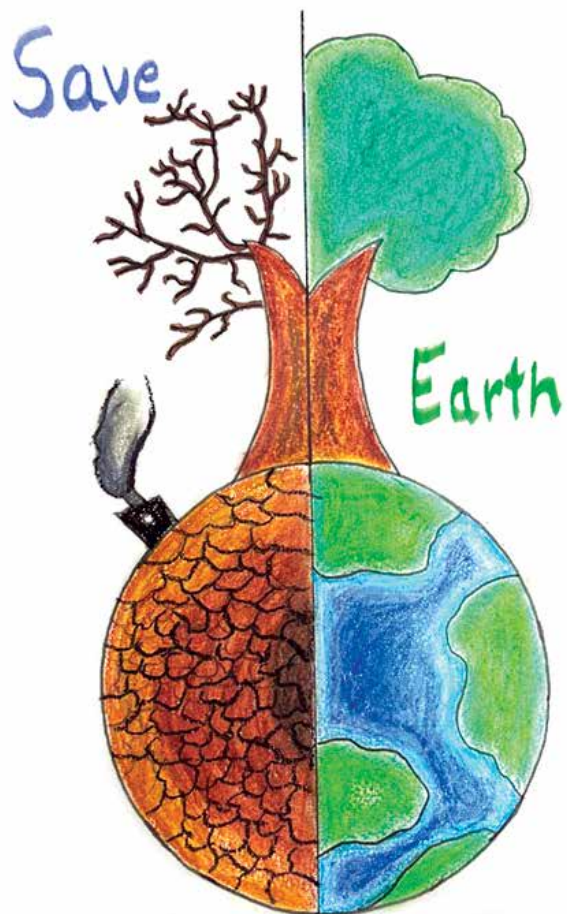
The Sports and Cultural Event 2023 is commendable and unique as it has promoted diversity and inclusivity by organizing Sports Events to it's employees who are

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 enhance the organization's reputation as an equitable and employee-centric workplace.

The Sports and Cultural Events-2023 be concluded after presentation of Trophy/ Medal/Certificate of Merit/Excellence by Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India, in recognition of the performance of participants/teams, those who come first and second in their respective categories. Further, The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India also will present Trophies and Medals to Coordination Committee and Sports Organization Committee for successfully organizing the events.

The Sport Events organized by Supreme Court of India have proven to be a resounding success in promoting employee well-being, team building, and a positive workplace culture. This event has not only made a positive impact on employee health but have also contributed to a stronger, more united staff fraternity of the Registry.





Landmark Judgments

- 1. WgCdr A U Tayyaba (Retd) and Others v. Union of India and Others [Civil Appeal Nos 79-82 of 2012; November 16, 2022]:** The High Court in its lead judgment in *Babita Puniya's* case had issued specific directions for considering women Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs) in the Air Force and in the Army for the grant of Permanent Commission. Following the decision of the Delhi High Court in *Babita Puniya*, a batch of writ petitions under Article 226 of the Constitution of India came to be instituted before the Delhi High Court seeking the benefit of the *Babita Puniya* judgment. The Delhi High Court dismissed the batch of writ petitions holding that the petitioners who had moved the specific proceedings were not covered by the directions contained in the earlier decision in *Babita Puniya*. In the present appeals, a three Judge Bench of the Supreme Court held that the batch of officers who moved the Delhi High Court soon after the decision in *Babita Puniya* and within a reasonable period from the date of their release should not be denied the benefit which emanates from that judgment. However, at the same time, the Bench also observed that it “cannot be oblivious of the fact that the officers have been released from service on diverse dates between December 2006 to December 2009” and “reinstatement in service would not therefore be a viable option particularly having regard to the exigencies of service in an armed force of the nation.” However, following the logic of the earlier decision of this Court in *Secretary, Ministry of Defence v. Babita Puniya*, the Bench was of the view that the officers should be considered for the grant of pensionary benefits. This direction emanated in exercise of the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India to bring about complete and substantial justice and remove the pernicious effects of gender discrimination which had taken place in the past in the Indian Air Force.
- 2. In re: Perry Kansagra [Suo-motu contempt petition (Civil) No. 3 of 2021; November 3, 2022]:** In a case arising out of a dispute between the contemnor and his spouse over custody of their minor child, the Supreme Court held that there was “concrete material and reason to believe that it was a well-planned conspiracy on part of the contemnor to persuade this Court to pass orders in his favour and allow him the custody of the minor child and then turn around and defy the orders of this Court.” It was observed by the Court that the subsequent conduct of the contemnor after taking the minor child out of India leaves no doubt “that the

entire proceedings were conducted with the deliberate and malafide intention to mislead the Supreme Court in permitting the contemnor to shift the minor child out of India." The Bench held that "the contemnor falsely represented before the foreign jurisdiction that Indian Courts have not sought the consent of the minor child and that the decision of the Supreme Court of India is unenforceable" and "these acts clearly lower the authority of this Court." The contemnor also never showed any remorse or tender any apology for his conduct. In the circumstances and in order to mention the majesty of law, it was directed that the contemnor be punished with (a) simple imprisonment for six months for civil contempt of Court for his acts of deliberate and willful disobedience of the orders passed by this Court and to pay a fine of Rs. 12,50,000/- and (b) simple imprisonment for a term of six months for criminal contempt of Court for obstructing the administration of Justice and lowering the authority of this Court and to pay a fine of Rs. 12,50,000/-. In view of the egregious acts of civil as well as criminal contempt, it was directed that the sentences be served consecutively.

3. **State of Jharkhand v. Shiv Shankar Sharma & Ors. [Civil Appeal (arising out of SLP (C) nos. 10622-10623 of 2022)]: November 7, 2022:** The Supreme Court held that "what is of crucial significance in a Public Interest Litigation is the *bona fide* of the petitioner who files the PIL. It is an extremely relevant consideration and must be examined by the Court at the very threshold itself and this has to be done irrespective of the seemingly high public cause

being espoused by the petitioner in a PIL." It was held that "the fundamental requirement for the issuance of a writ of mandamus is that the petitioner must have sought such a relief before the appropriate authority and only when it is denied the Court can be approached for a writ a mandamus. This principle cannot be ignored merely because this Court is dealing with a Public Interest Litigation."

4. **In re: Felling of trees in Aarey forest (Maharashtra) [IA No 169860 of 2022 in Suo Moto Writ (Civil) No 2 of 2019]: November 29, 2022:** The Supreme Court held that "in projects involving large outlay of public funds, the Court cannot be oblivious to the serious dislocation which would be caused if the public investment which has gone into the project were to be disregarded." It was held that "considerations pertaining to the environment are of concern because all development must be sustainable."
5. **K.T.V. Health Food Pvt. Ltd. v. Union of India and Ors. [Civil Appeal No.3626 of 2020: February 01, 2023]:** The Supreme Court held that the 2011 Coastal Regulation Zone Notification in question, issued under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, "cannot receive an interpretation which would leave matters of moment to be afflicted with the vice of uncertainty" and this was "apart from the importance of avoiding an interpretation which seemingly allows free play in the joints to the Administrator but, at the same time, vest an arbitrary power in him."
6. **Bar Council of India v. Bonnie Foi Law College & Ors. [Civil Appeal No.969 of**

- 2023: February 10, 2023]:** The Supreme Court held that “the objective of the legislature while giving wide powers to the Bar Council of India under Section 49 of the Advocates Act, 1961, which gives it the powers to make Rules, read with Section 24(3)(d), which gives it the powers to prescribe the norms for entitlement to be enrolled as an Advocate under the Rules of the Bar Council of India, leads to the conclusion that these are adequate powers with the Bar Council of India under the said Act to provide such norms and Rules. It was held that the interdict placed by the judgment of this Court in **V. Sudeer** on the powers of the Bar Council of India cannot be sustained. It has to be left to the Bar Council of India as to at what stage the All India Bar Examination has to be held – pre or post.
7. **Office of the Odisha Lokayukta v. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi and Others [Civil Appeal Nos. 1384-85 of 2023: February 23, 2023]:** The Supreme Court held that the action of the appellant initiated pursuant to order dated 11th December, 2020 for conducting a preliminary inquiry in exercise of powers conferred under s.20(1) of the Odisha Lokayukta Act, 2014 was a subject matter of challenge before the High Court at the instance of respondent no.1 and if that is being interfered with and the action of the appellant is being set aside under the impugned judgment, the appellant, indeed, was a person aggrieved and has a locus standi to question the action interfered with by the Division Bench of the High Court and the only remedy available with the appellant is to question the order of the Division Bench of the High Court by filing an special leave petition in this Court under Article 136 of the Constitution.
8. **Karan @ Fatiya v. The State of Madhya Pradesh [Criminal Appeal nos.572-573 of 2019; March 03, 2023]:** The question for consideration was whether once an accused after conviction at the stage of appeal is held to be a juvenile/child under the provisions of the 2015 Act, what would be the status of the trial, the conviction and sentence recorded by the Trial Court and the appellate Courts. Having considered the statutory provisions laid down in section 9 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015 and also section 7A of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 which is identical to section 9 of the 2015 Act, the Supreme Court held that “merits of the conviction could be tested and the conviction which was recorded cannot be held to be vitiated in law merely because the inquiry was not conducted by JJB. It is only the question of sentence for which the provisions of the 2015 Act would be attracted and any sentence in excess of what is permissible under the 2015 Act will have to be accordingly amended as per the provisions of the 2015 Act. Otherwise, the accused who has committed a heinous offence and who did not claim juvenility before the Trial Court would be allowed to go scot-free. This is also not the object and intention provided in the 2015 Act. The object under the 2015 Act dealing with the rights and liberties of the juvenile is only to ensure that if he or she could be brought into the main stream by awarding lesser sentence and also directing for other facilities for welfare of the juvenile in conflict with law during

his stay in any of the institutions defined under the 2015 Act.”

9. **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India [Writ Petition (Civil) No.104 of 2015; March 02, 2023]**: In a clutch of writ petitions maintained under Article 32 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court was called upon to consider the true effect of Article 324 and, in particular, Article 324(2) of the Constitution. It was declared that as far as appointment to the posts of Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners are concerned, the same shall be done by the President of India on the basis of the advice tendered by a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister of India, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and, in case, there is no such Leader, the Leader of the largest Party in the Opposition in the Lok Sabha having the largest numerical strength, and the Chief Justice of India. The Court held that “this norm will continue to hold good till a law is made by the Parliament.” As regards the relief relating to putting in place a permanent Secretariat for the Election Commission of India and charging its expenditure to the Consolidated Fund of India was concerned, the Supreme Court made a fervent appeal that the Union of India/Parliament may consider bringing in the necessary changes so that the Election Commission of India becomes truly independent.
10. **Union of India & Ors. v. M/s. Union Carbide Corporation & Ors. [Curative Pet (C) no.345-347 of 2010 in R.P. No.229/1989 & 623-624/1989 in C.A.No.3187-3188/1988 and SLP (c) no.13080/1988; March 14, 2023]**: A horrendous tragedy occurred

on the night of 2nd and 3rd December 1984, due to the escape of deadly chemical fumes from the factory owned and operated by M/s Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) in Bhopal. Union of India filed the present curative petitions seeking reconsideration of the settlement that was effected in the aftermath of the tragedy. The curative petitions were dismissed by the Supreme Court. It held that the “Union of India’s claim for a ‘top up’ has no foundations in any known legal principle. Either a settlement is valid or it is to be set aside in cases where it is vitiated by fraud. No such fraud has been pleaded by the Union, and their only contention relates to a number of victims, injuries, and costs that were not contemplated at the time the settlement was effected. The Court observed that it was dissatisfied with the Union being unable to furnish any rationale for raking up this issue more than two decades after the incident and that “the money was needed in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy and not after three decades.” The Supreme Court held that “finality was reached at an early stage by way of the settlement” and “now the curative petitions have been filed by the Union of India having not filed review petitions” and private parties “seek to ride on the coattails of the Union” and this was not something the Court can countenance.

11. **Arnab Roy v. Consortium of National Law Universities & Anr. [Writ Petition (Civil) No 1109 of 2022; March 17, 2023]**: The petitioner moved these proceedings under Article 32 of the Constitution of India for challenging certain conditions which were imposed for the conduct of the Common Law Admission Test 2023

(CLAT). The issue specifically addressed by the petitioner relates to the facilities for visually impaired candidates who intended to avail of a scribe. The petitioner averred that at least 13 visually impaired candidates would be denied the assistance of a scribe because of the conditions belatedly imposed by the Consortium of National Law Universities less than four weeks before the date of the examination. In this view of the matter, the Supreme Court directed that in future, the guidelines which shall be applicable for the facilities which should be extended to PwD candidates are to be notified sufficiently in advance and, in any event, together with the advertisement by which the schedule for the CLAT is placed in the public domain. "This would ensure that candidates are not left in a state of uncertainty and know precisely the nature of the facilities and reasonable accommodation which has been made available to them consistent with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016", the Court said. The Supreme Court directed that "CLAT shall, in the future, formulate the modalities in a manner consistent with its formulation which was placed on the record before this Court so as to obviate any inconvenience to PwD candidates. The consortium shall also take due steps to ensure that its guidelines are consistent with the Office Memorandum dated 10 August 2022 issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Persons with Disabilities."

12. **The Animal Welfare Board of India & Ors. v. Union of India & Anr. [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 23 of 2016; May 18, 2023]:** In the case of Animal Welfare Board

of India -vs- A. Nagaraja and Others [(2014) 7 SCC 547], a Division Bench of this Court had essentially outlawed two common sports practised in the States of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra popularly referred to as 'Jallikattu' and 'Bullock Cart Race' respectively. These bovine sports were held to be contrary to the provisions of Sections 3, 11(1)(a) and (m) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 which is a Statute enacted by the Parliament. The two Judge Bench had construed the said provisions in the Constitutional backdrop of Article 51-A (g) and (h) as also Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India. This judgment was delivered on 7th May 2014. At that point of time, Jallikattu was regulated by a State Act in Tamil Nadu, being Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act, 2009. The Bench held that this State Act was repugnant to the provisions of the 1960 Act and was held to be void, having regard to the provisions of Article 254 (1) of the Constitution of India. On 7th January 2016, a notification was issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ("MoEF&CC") [bearing number GSR 13 (E)]. This notification was issued in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 22 of the 1960 Act and prohibited exhibition or training of bulls as performing animals. However, an exception was carved and it was specified in this notification that bulls might be continued to be trained as performing animals at events such as Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu and Bullock Cart Races in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Gujarat in the manner by the customs of common community or practice traditionally under the customs or as part of culture in any part of the country. In the State of Karnataka, the

race involved male buffaloes, known in that State as “Kambala”. This exception, however, was made subject to certain conditions seeking to reduce the pain and suffering of bulls while being used in such sports. A batch of writ petitions were instituted before a Division Bench of this Court questioning legality of the said notification. The petitioners in those proceedings also sought compliance with the directions of this Court contained in the case of **A. Nagaraja**. The Division Bench of this Court formulated five questions to be answered by a Constitution Bench, as under:-

- (1) Is the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act referable, in pith and substance, to Entry 17, List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, or does it further and perpetuate cruelty to animals; and can it, therefore, be said to be a measure of prevention of cruelty to animals? Is it colourable legislation which does not relate to any Entry in the State List or Entry 17 of the Concurrent List?
- (2) The Tamil Nadu Amendment Act states that it is to preserve the cultural heritage of the State of Tamil Nadu. Can the impugned Tamil Nadu Amendment Act be stated to be part of the cultural heritage of the people of the State of Tamil Nadu so as to receive the protection of Article 29 of the Constitution of India?
- (3) Is the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act, in pith and substance, to ensure the survival and well-being of the native breed of bulls? Is the Act, in pith and substance, relatable to Article 48 of the Constitution of India?

- (4) Does the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act go contrary to Articles 51A(g) and 51A(h), and could it be said, therefore, to be unreasonable and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India?
- (5) Is the impugned Tamil Nadu Amendment Act directly contrary to the judgment in **A. Nagaraja**, and the review judgment dated 16th November, 2016 in the aforesaid case, and whether the defects pointed out in the aforesaid two judgments could be said to have been overcome by the Tamil Nadu Legislature by enacting the impugned Tamil Nadu Amendment Act?”

The said five referred questions were answered by the Constitution Bench in the following terms:-

- (i) The Tamil Nadu Amendment Act is not a piece of colourable legislation. It relates, in pith and substance, to Entry 17 of List III of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It minimises cruelty to animals in the concerned sports and once the Amendment Act, along with their Rules and Notification are implemented, the aforesaid sports would not come within the mischief sought to be remedied by Sections 3, 11(1) (a) and (m) of the 1960 Act.
- (ii) Jallikattu is a type of bovine sports and is going on in the State of Tamil Nadu for at least last few centuries. This event essentially involves a bull which is set free in an arena and human participants are meant to grab the hump to score in the “game”. But whether this has become integral part of Tamil culture

or not requires religious, cultural and social analysis in greater detail, which is an exercise that cannot be undertaken by the Judiciary. The question as to whether the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act is to preserve the cultural heritage of a particular State is a debatable issue which has to be concluded in the House of the People. This ought not be a part of judicial inquiry and this question cannot be conclusively determined in the writ proceedings. Since legislative exercise has already been undertaken and Jallikattu has been found to be part of cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu, the Court would not disrupt this view of the legislature. The view reflected in the case of **A. Nagaraja** that performance of Jallikattu is not a part of the cultural heritage of the people of the State of Tamil Nadu, cannot be accepted. In the Preamble to the Amendment Act, Jallikattu has been described to be part of culture and tradition of Tamil Nadu. In the case of **A. Nagaraja**, the Division Bench found the cultural approach unsubstantiated and referring to the manner in which the bulls are inflicted pain and suffering, the Division Bench concluded that such activities offended Sections 3 and 11(1)(a) and (m) of the 1960 Act. Even if one proceeds on the basis that legislature is best suited branch of the State to determine if particular animal-sports are part of cultural tradition of a region or community, or not, if such cultural event or tradition offends the law, the penal consequence would follow. Such activities cannot be justified on the ground of being part of cultural tradition of a State. In **A. Nagaraja**, the sports were held to attract the restriction of Sections 3 and 11(1)(a) and (m) of the

1960 Act because of the manner it was practiced. The Amendment Act read with the Rules seek to substantially minimise the pain and suffering and continue with the traditional sports. The Amendment having received Presidential assent, there is no flaw in the State action. "Jallikattu" as bovine sports have to be isolated from the manner in which they were earlier practiced and organising the sports itself would be permissible, in terms of the Tamil Nadu Rules.

- (iii) The Tamil Nadu Amendment Act is not in pith and substance, to ensure survival and well-being of the native breeds of bulls. The said Act is also not relatable to Article 48 of the Constitution of India. Incidental impact of the said Amendment Act may fall upon the breed of a particular type of bulls and affect agricultural activities, but in pith and substance the Act is relatable to Entry 17 of List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- (iv) The Tamil Nadu Amendment Act does not go contrary to the Articles 51-A (g) and 51-A(h) and it does not violate the provisions of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.
- (v) The Tamil Nadu Amendment Act read along with the Rules framed in that behalf is not directly contrary to the ratio of the judgment in the case of **A. Nagaraja** and judgment of this Court delivered on 16th November 2016 dismissing the plea for Review of the **A. Nagaraja** judgment as the defects pointed out in the aforesaid two judgments have been overcome by the State Amendment Act read with the Rules made in that behalf.

13. Mohd. Naushad v. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) [Criminal Appeal No.1269 of 2013; 06 July, 2023]: In a case arising out of a crime committed for destabilising the country by having a series of bomb blasts, the prosecution case was that 17 persons (A1 to A17) conspired and actually conducted one blast on 21.05.1996, at a crowded central market in Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. The bomb blast caused at the behest of the accused persons resulted in the death of 13 persons and 38 persons suffered injuries. There was further damage caused to the livelihood of the shopkeepers, whose shops were burnt down due to the said bomb blast.

The Supreme Court held "it was evident that A3, A5, A6 and A9 were part of a criminal conspiracy to cause the blast in the capital city, New Delhi" and "the blast was planned at the behest of other accused persons, namely, A15, who was working under the instructions of A11 to A1, who never faced trial." From an evaluation of the evidence on record including the judicial confession of A9, the Court observed that "all these accused persons were known to each other and were participating with the common objective to carry out the blast in Delhi in furtherance of an international conspiracy to cause disruptive activities in India. All the proven circumstances taken together form a chain of events that implicates the accused persons."

The Supreme Court held that "A9 specifically names A5 - Naza and A6 - Killiey. A5 in furtherance of this object arrived in Delhi on 10.05.1996 from Kathmandu, which stands proved. A9 carrying the RDX to Delhi and A6's arrival

has already been proved. A3, A5 and A6 proceeded to prepare the bomb in Delhi for which they procured various articles including battery, gas cylinder, duplicate key, fake number plates etc.; stole a car and made two attempts for the blast, out of which the second one came to be successful." "Pertinently, the material which came to be recovered from the residence of A3 in the form of RDX is the same explosive material used in the Lajpat Nagar bomb blast, as has come through the CFSL Reports, Ex.PW101/C and Ex.PW101/G." It was further held that "in view of the recovery from the residence of A3 and the confessional statement of A9, it is evident that these accused persons were part of the plan for future blasts in the nation as well."

However, "the incident took place on 21.05.1996, i.e., approximately 27 years ago; the Trial Court awarded the sentence of death on 22.04.2010, i.e., more than 13 years ago; and the present accused acting at the behest of the principal conspirators; are all mitigating circumstances in not awarding the sentence of death even though it falls within the category of rarest of rare cases." In view of the conspiracy, and the facts at hand, including mitigating circumstances as against the punishment of death penalty, the Supreme Court considered "it a fit case to award life imprisonment without remission, extending to natural life of A3, A5, A6 and A9."

14. Rajo @ Rajwa @ Rajendra Mandal v. The State of Bihar & Ors. [Writ Petition (Criminal) no(s). 252 of 2023; August 25, 2023]: The Supreme Court held that "overemphasis on the presiding

judge's opinion and complete disregard of comments of other authorities, while arriving at its conclusion, would render the appropriate government's decision on a remission application, unsustainable." It was held that "the discretion that the executive is empowered with in *executing* a sentence, would be denuded of its content, if the presiding judge's view—which is formed in all likelihood, largely (if not solely) on the basis of the *judicial* record— is mechanically followed by the concerned authority. Such an approach has the potential to strikes at the heart, and subvert the concept of remission – *as a reward and incentive encouraging actions and behaviour geared towards reformation* – in a modern legal system."

However, the Supreme Court also clarified that "this is not to say that the presiding judge's view is *only* one of the factors that has no real weight; but instead that if the presiding judge's report is only reflective of the facts and circumstances that led to the conclusion of the convict's guilt, and is merely a reiteration of those circumstances available to the judge at the time of sentencing (some 14 or more years earlier, as the case may be), then the appropriate government should attach weight to this finding, *accordingly*. Such a report, cannot be relied on as carrying predominance, if it focusses on the crime, with little or no attention to the *criminal*. The appropriate government, should take a holistic view of all the opinions received (in terms of the relevant rules), including the *judicial view* of the presiding judge of the concerned court, keeping in mind the purpose and objective, of remission."

The Supreme Court observed that "apart from the other considerations (on the nature of the crime, whether it affected the society at large, the chance of its recurrence, etc.), the appropriate government should while considering the potential of the convict to commit crimes in the future, whether there remains any fruitful purpose of continued incarceration, and the socio-economic conditions, review: the convict's age, state of health, familial relationships and possibility of reintegration, extent of earned remission, and the post-conviction conduct including, but not limited to – whether the convict has attained any educational qualification whilst in custody, volunteer services offered, job/work done, jail conduct, whether they were engaged in any socially aimed or productive activity, and the overall development as a human being." It held that the Remission Board "should not entirely rely either on the presiding judge, or the report prepared by the police" and "it would also serve the ends of justice if the appropriate government had the benefit of a report contemporaneously prepared by a qualified psychologist after interacting /interviewing the convict that has applied for premature release."

15. **Vivek Narayan Sharma v. Union of India [Writ Petition (Civil) No.906 of 2016; 2 January, 2023]**: Writ petitions were filed challenging the Notification No. 3407(E) dated 8th November 2016 issued by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, vide which the Central Government declared that the bank notes of denominations of the existing series of

the value of five hundred rupees and one thousand rupees shall cease to be legal tender with effect from 9th November 2016, to the extent specified in the impugned Notification. This is popularly known as an act/policy of 'demonetization'.

Per majority of 4:1, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held as under:-

- (i) The power available to the Central Government under sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act cannot be restricted to mean that it can be exercised only for 'one' or 'some' series of bank notes and not for 'all' series of bank notes. The power can be exercised for all series of bank notes. Merely because on two earlier occasions, the demonetization exercise was by plenary legislation, it cannot be held that such a power would not be available to the Central Government under sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act;
- (ii) Sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act does not provide for excessive delegation inasmuch as there is an inbuilt safeguard that such a power has to be exercised on the recommendation of the Central Board. As such, sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act is not liable to be struck down on the said ground;
- (iii) The impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 does not suffer from any flaws in the decision-making process;
- (iv) The impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 satisfies the test of proportionality and, as such, cannot be struck down on the said ground;

(v) The period provided for exchange of notes vide the impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 cannot be said to be unreasonable; and

(vi) The RBI does not possess independent power under sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the 2017 Act in isolation of the provisions of Sections 3 and 4(1) thereof to accept the demonetized notes beyond the period specified in notifications issued under sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the 2017 Act.

16. Resident's Welfare Association and Another v. The Union Territory of Chandigarh and Others [Civil Appeal of 2023 (Arising out of SLP (c) no. 4950 of 2022); January 10, 2023]: The Supreme Court held that in view of Rule 14 of the Chandigarh (Sale of Sites and Building) Rules, 1960, Rule 16 of the Chandigarh Estate Rules, 2007 and the repeal of the Chandigarh Apartment Rules, 2001, fragmentation / division / bifurcation / apartmentalization of a residential unit in Phase I of Chandigarh was prohibited; and directed the Chandigarh Heritage Conservation Committee to consider the issue of redensification in Phase-I of the city of Chandigarh. The Court observed that it "is necessary that a proper balance is struck between sustainable development and environmental protection" and "appealed to the Legislature, the Executive and the Policy Makers at the Centre as well as at the State levels to make necessary provisions for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment studies before permitting urban development."

17. Kaushal Kishor v. State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. [Writ Petition (Criminal) no. 113

of 2016; January 3, 2023]: The Supreme Court held that the grounds lined up in Article 19(2) of the Constitution for restricting the right to free speech are exhaustive. "Under the guise of invoking other fundamental rights or under the guise of two fundamental rights staking a competing claim against each other, additional restrictions not found in Article 19(2), cannot be imposed on the exercise of the right conferred by Article 19(1)(a) upon any individual." It was further held that "a fundamental right under Article 19/21 can be enforced even against persons other than the State or its instrumentalities" and "the State is under a duty to affirmatively protect the rights of a person under Article 21, whenever there is a threat to personal liberty, even by a non-State actor."

The Supreme Court further held that "a statement made by a Minister even if traceable to any affairs of the State or for protecting the Government, cannot be attributed vicariously to the Government by invoking the principle of collective responsibility." "A mere statement made by a Minister, inconsistent with the rights of a citizen under Part III of the Constitution, may not constitute a violation of the constitutional rights and become actionable as Constitutional tort. But if as a consequence of such a statement, any act of omission or commission is done by the officers resulting in harm or loss to a person/citizen, then the same may be actionable as a constitutional tort."

18. **Arup Bhuyan v. State of Assam & Anr. [Criminal Appeal No. 889 of 2007; March 24, 2023]:** The Supreme Court observed

and held that when an association is declared unlawful by notification issued under Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 which has become effective under sub-section 3 of that Section, a person who is and continues to be a member of such association is liable to be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine under Section 10(a)(i) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The cases of *State of Kerala vs. Raneef*, (2011) 1 SCC 784; *Arup Bhuyan vs. Union of India*, (2011) 3 SCC 377 and *Sri Indra Das vs. State of Assam* 2011 (3) SCC 380 taking the view that under Section 3(5) of Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 and Section 10(a) (i) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 mere membership of a banned organization will not incriminate a person unless he resorts to violence or incites people to violence and does an act intended to create disorder or disturbance of public peace by resort to violence and reading down the said provisions to mean that over and above the membership of a banned organization there must be an overt act and/or further criminal activities and adding the element of mens rea, were held to be not a good law.

19. **Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited v. Union of India & Ors. [Civil Appeal No. 8129 of 2022; April 05, 2023]:** The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) revoked the permission which it had granted to Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited to uplink and downlink a news and current affairs television channel called "Media One". MIB revoked the permission that was granted to uplink and downlink 'Media One' because

of the denial of a security clearance. Appellants initiated proceedings under Article 226 of the Constitution before the High Court. A Single Judge dismissed the petitions. Writ appeal was dismissed by the Division Bench of the High Court. The High Court relied on material which was disclosed solely to the Court in a sealed cover by the second respondent, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. The challenge to the order of the MIB and judgment of the High Court was allowed by the Supreme Court on procedural grounds. It was held that the core of the principles of natural justice breathes reasonableness into procedure and the burden is on the claimant to prove that the procedure followed infringes upon the core of procedural guarantees. Though confidentiality and national security are legitimate aims for the purpose of limiting procedural guarantees, the state has been unable to prove that these considerations arise in the present factual scenario. A blanket immunity from disclosure of all investigative reports cannot be granted. The validity of the claim of involvement of national security considerations must be assessed on the test of (i) whether there is material to conclude that the non-disclosure of information is in the interest of national security; and (ii) whether a reasonable prudent person would draw the same inference from the material on record. It was held that even assuming that non-disclosure is in the interest of confidentiality and national security, the means adopted by the respondents do not satisfy the other prongs of the proportionality standard. The non-disclosure of a summary of the reasons for the denial of security clearance to MBL, which constitutes the

core irreducible minimum of procedural guarantees, does not satisfy the suitability prong. The challenge to the order of MIB was also allowed on substantive grounds. It was held that the non-renewal of permission to operate a media channel is a restriction on the freedom of the press which can only be reasonably restricted on the grounds stipulated in Article 19(2) of the Constitution. The Supreme Court observed that the reasons for denying a security clearance to MBL, that is, its alleged anti-establishment stance and the alleged link of the shareholders to the Jamaat-e-Islami / JEI-H, were not legitimate purposes for the restriction of the right of freedom of speech protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. It was held that in any event, there was no material to demonstrate any link of the shareholders, as was alleged.

20. **Anil Agarwal Foundation Etc. Etc. v. State of Orissa and Ors.** [Civil Appeal Nos. 1144-1146 of 2011; April 12, 2023]: The Supreme Court held that, in the case at hand, the entire acquisition proceedings and the benefits, which were proposed by the State Government were vitiated by favourism and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India. It was held that the High Court was justified in setting aside the entire acquisition proceedings, which was vitiated by non-compliance of the statutory provisions under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and the Land Acquisition (Companies) Rules, 1963 and also vitiated by mala fides and favourism and was a clear case of the non-application of mind on relevant aspects.
21. **M/s Tata Motors Ltd. v. Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Spl) & Anr.** [Civil Appeal No. 1822 of 2007 ;

May 15, 2023]: The issue for consideration in the case at hand was that whether, a credit note issued by a manufacturer to a dealer of automobiles in consideration of the replacement of a defective part in the automobile sold pursuant to a warranty agreement being collateral to the sale of the automobile is exigible to sales tax under the sales tax enactments of the respective States. The correctness of the observations made by Supreme Court in Mohd. Ekram Khan case wherein three other judgments of the Delhi High Court, Madhya Pradesh High Court and Kerala High Court in Prem Nath Motors; Prem Motors and Geo Motors respectively were considered and the latter two judgments were overruled, was in issue.

It was held by the Supreme Court that the judgment of in Mohd. Ekram Khan is applicable to a situation where a manufacturer issues a credit note to a dealer acting under a warranty given by the manufacturer pursuant to a sale of an automobile in the following situations. The dealer replaces a defective part of the automobile by a spare part maintained in the stock of the dealer or when the same is purchased by the dealer from the open market. In such situations, the credit note issued in the name of the dealer is a valuable consideration for a transfer of property in the spare part made by the dealer to the customer and hence a sale within the meaning of the sales tax legislations of the respective States under consideration. The value in the credit note is thus exigible to sales tax under the respective sales tax enactments under consideration. The Court held that the judgment in Mohd. Ekram Khan does not apply to a case where the dealer has simply received a spare part from the manufacturer of the automobile so as

to replace a defective part therein under a warranty collateral to the sale of the automobile. In such a situation also, the dealer may receive a consideration for the purpose of the service rendered by him as a dealer under a dealership agreement or any other agreement akin to an agent of the manufacturer which is not a sale transaction. On the above understanding of the judgment in Mohd. Ekram Khan, it was held by the Supreme Court that the same does not call for any interference. In light of the above, overruling of the judgments in the case of Prem Motors and Geo Motors in Mohd. Ekram Khan, was held to be just and proper.

22. **Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Union of India & Ors [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 456 of 2022 ; July 11, 2023]:** The Supreme Court held that “it is not at the sweet-will of the Government that the extensions can be granted to the incumbents in the office of the Director of CBI/Director of Enforcement. It is only on the basis of the recommendations of the Committees which are constituted to recommend their appointment and that too when it is found in public interest and when the reasons are recorded in writing, such an extension can be granted by the Government.”

The Court held that when a committee can be trusted with regard to recommending their initial appointment, there is no reason as to why such committees cannot be trusted to consider as to whether the extension is required to be given in public interest or not; and “such Committee is also required to record reasons in writing in support of such recommendations.” The Supreme Court declined to accept the arguments that the impugned Amendments grant arbitrary power to

the Government to extend the tenure of the Director of ED/CBI and has the effect of wiping out the insulation of these offices from extraneous pressures.

23. **Coal India Limited and Anr. v. Competition Commission of India and Anr. [Civil Appeal No.2845 of 2017; June 15, 2023]:** The Competition Appellate Tribunal had affirmed the findings recorded by the Competition Commission of India on various facets of abuse of dominant position against the Coal India Limited and its subsidiary company. The question for consideration was whether the Competition Act, 2002 was applicable to the appellants or not. The Supreme Court held that the "Sovereign function" of the Government was excluded from the ambit of s.2(h) of the Act and carrying on business in mining, could not be described as a sovereign function and hence, the appellant was a person within the meaning of s.2(h), therefore came under the preview of "enterprise". The Court held that the appellants being State, have a duty to keep uppermost, in their minds, the goal in Art.39(b) of the Constitution and there is nothing in the definition which excludes a State monopoly which is even set up to achieve the goals in Art.39(b). It was held that when Parliament enacts laws, it is deemed to be aware of all the existing laws and the Parliament was indeed aware of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973; and therefore the express reference in s.19(4)(g) of the Competition Act to monopolies created under Statutes as also Government Companies and Public Sector Units for determining existence of dominant position indicates the intention of Parliament to bring State Monopolies, Government Companies and Public Sector units within the purview of the Act.

The Court found no reason to hold that a State Monopoly being run through the medium of a Government Company, even for attaining the goals in the Directive Principles, will go outside the purview of the Competition Act. It was held that as a matter of fact there may be forums other than the CCI whereunder redress may be sought against action of the appellants, but that by itself cannot result in denial of access to a party complaining of contravention of a law which is otherwise applicable. The Supreme Court held that the appellants cannot resist the imposition of standards of fairness and the duty to avoid discriminatory practices when a specialized forum has been created by Parliament under the Competition Act. The contention of the appellants that the Competition Act will not apply to them for the reason that the appellants were governed by the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and the Nationalisation Act could not be reconciled with the Competition Act, was rejected by the Supreme Court.

24. **M/s Trinity Infraventures Ltd. & Ors. Etc. v. M. S. Murthy & Ors. Etc. [Civil Appeal Nos. 4049-4053 ; June 15, 2023]:** The Supreme Court held that "in an enquiry under Order XXI, Rules 97 to 101, CPC, the Executing Court cannot decide questions of title set up by third parties (not claiming through or under the parties to the suit or their family members), who assert independent title in themselves." It was further held by the Court in the case at hand that "a preliminary decree in a suit for partition merely declares the shares that the parties are entitled to in any of the properties included in the plaint schedule and liable to partition. On the basis of a mere declaration of the rights that take place under the preliminary

decree, the parties cannot trade in, on specific items of properties or specific portions of suit schedule properties. Since there are three stages in a partition suit, namely (i) passing of a preliminary decree in terms of Order XX Rule 18(2); (ii) appointment of a Commissioner and passing of a final decree in terms of Order XXVI Rule 14 (3); and (iii) taking possession in execution of such decree under Order XXI Rule 35, no party to a suit for partition, even by way of compromise, can acquire any title to any specific item of property or any particular portion of a specific property, if such a compromise is struck only with a few parties to the suit.”

25. **KC Ninan v. Kerala State Electricity Board & Ors. [Civil Appeal No 2109-2110 of 2004; May 19, 2023]:** In the case at hand, the supply of electricity was discontinued due to the failure of the previous owners to pay the dues for consumption of electricity on the premises. The previous owners had borrowed money or raised loans on the security of their premises. In some cases, the erstwhile owner went into liquidation. The premises were sold in auction sales generally on an “as is where is” basis. The new owners, who purchased the properties in auction, applied for new electricity connections for the premises to which electricity had been disconnected for failure to pay the dues. The Electric Utilities refused to provide an electricity connection unless the auction purchaser paid the dues of the previous owner. This refusal was derived from powers conferred under subordinate legislations, notifications, electricity Supply Codes or state regulations. The denial of electricity supply resulted in the institution of petitions under Article 226 before the High Court, leading to judgments which

were challenged in the present appeal.

The Supreme Court held that the duty to supply electricity under Section 43 of the Electricity Act, 2003 is not absolute, and is subject to the such charges and compliances stipulated by the Electric Utilities as part of the application for supply of electricity. The duty to supply electricity under Section 43 is with respect to the owner or occupier of the premises. The 2003 Act contemplates a synergy between the consumer and premises. It was held that under Section 43, when electricity is supplied, the owner or occupier becomes a consumer only with respect to those particular premises for which electricity is sought and provided by the Electric Utilities.

The Court observed that for an application to be considered as a ‘reconnection’, the applicant has to seek supply of electricity with respect to the same premises for which electricity was already provided. Even if the consumer is the same, but the premises are different, it will be considered as a fresh connection and not a reconnection.

“A condition of supply enacted under Section 49 of the 1948 Act requiring the new owner of the premises to clear the electricity arrears of the previous owner as a precondition to availing electricity supply will have a statutory character”, the Court said.

It was further held by the Court that “the scope of the regulatory powers of the State Commission under Section 50 of the 2003 Act is wide enough to stipulate conditions for recovery of electricity arrears of previous owners from new or subsequent owners” and “the Electricity

Supply Code providing for recoument of electricity dues of a previous consumer from a new owner has a reasonable nexus with the objects of the 2003 Act.”

The rule making power contained under Section 181 read with Section 50 of the 2003 Act was held to be “wide enough to enable the regulatory commission to provide for a statutory charge in the absence of a provision in the plenary statute providing for creation of such a charge.” The power to initiate recovery proceedings by filing a suit against the defaulting consumer was held to be “independent of the power to disconnect electrical supply as a means of recovery under Section 56 of the 2003 Act.” It was observed that “the implication of the expression “as is where is” basis is that every intending bidder is put on notice that the seller does not undertake responsibility in respect of the property offered for sale with regard to any liability for the payment of dues, like service charges, electricity dues for power connection, and taxes of the local authorities”

26. **Haryana Power Purchase Centre v. Sasan Power Ltd. & Ors. [Civil Appeal No. 11826 of 2018; April 06, 2023]:** The question for consideration in the case at hand was whether the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) were empowered to disregard the express words of a contract and create a new bargain.

The Supreme Court held that in a case where the matter is governed by express terms of the contract, it may not be open to the Central Electricity Regulatory

Commission even donning the garb of a regulatory body to go beyond the express terms of the contract. While it may be open for a regulation to extricate a party from its contractual obligations, in the course of its adjudicatory power it may not be open to the Commission by using the nomenclature regulation to usurp this power to disregard the terms of the contract. It was held that the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity cannot indeed make a new bargain for the parties and cannot rewrite a contract solemnly entered into.

27. **Government of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India [Civil Appeal No 2357 of 2017; May 11, 2023]:** The issue for the consideration related to the “scope of legislative and executive powers of the Centre and the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) with respect to the term “Services.” That is to say, whether the NCTD or the Union government has legislative and executive control over “services.” Article 239AA of the Constitution deals with “Special provisions with respect to Delhi” while the issue at hand related to interpretation of the phrases: “in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union Territories” and “Subject to the provisions of this Constitution” as contained in Article 239AA(3)(a).

On consideration of the matter, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held as follows:-

1. There does not exist a homogeneous class of Union Territories with similar governance structures;
2. NCTD is not similar to other Union Territories. By virtue of Article 239AA, NCTD is accorded a “sui generis” status,

- setting it apart from other Union Territories;
3. The Legislative Assembly of NCTD has competence over entries in List II and List III except for the expressly excluded entries of List II. In addition to the Entries in List I, Parliament has legislative competence over all matters in List II and List III in relation to NCTD, including the entries which have been kept out of the legislative domain of NCTD by virtue of Article 239AA(3)(a);
 4. The executive power of NCTD is co-extensive with its legislative power, that is, it shall extend to all matters with respect to which it has the power to legislate;
 5. The Union of India has executive power only over the three entries in List II over which NCTD does not have legislative competence;
 6. The executive power of NCTD with respect to entries in List II and List III shall be subject to the executive power expressly conferred upon the Union by the Constitution or by a law enacted by Parliament;
 7. The phrase 'insofar as any such matter is applicable to Union Territories' in Article 239AA(3) cannot be read to further exclude the legislative power of NCTD over entries in the State List or Concurrent List, over and above those subjects which have been expressly excluded;
 8. With reference to the phrase "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution" in Article 239AA(3), the legislative power of NCTD is to be guided, and not just limited, by the broader principles and provisions of the Constitution; and
 9. NCTD has legislative and executive power over "Services", that is, Entry 41 of List II of the Seventh Schedule because:
 - (a) The definition of State under Section 3(58) of the General Clauses Act 1897 applies to the term "State" in Part XIV of the Constitution. Thus, Part XIV is applicable to Union territories; and
 - (b) The exercise of rule-making power under the proviso to Article 309 does not oust the legislative power of the appropriate authority to make laws over Entry 41 of the State List.
28. **Subhash Desai v. Principal Secretary, Governor of Maharashtra & Ors. [Writ Petition (C) No. 493 of 2022 ; May 11, 2023]:** The case at hand arose from political imbroglio in the State Legislature of Maharashtra. After the State elections in 2019, a coalition government of Maha Vikas Agadi (MVA) [a post-poll alliance of Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Indian National Congress (INC) and some independent MLAs] was formed in Maharashtra, with Mr. Thackeray of Shiv Sena as the Chief Minister. However, certain events transpired in mid-2022 which led to split in Shiv Sena into two factions, one led by Mr. Thackeray and the other led by Mr. Shinde. 34 Shiv Sena MLAs (of Shinde Group) issued notice to the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly stating that he no longer enjoyed their support and calling upon him to move a motion for his own removal. In the meanwhile, notices were issued by the Deputy Speaker on petition filed by the Chief Whip of petitioners (Thackeray Group) under Tenth Schedule to the Constitution for disqualification of MLAs of Shinde Group. The Governor, pursuant to letter addressed by the Opposition

Party, called upon the Thackeray Group to prove majority on the floor of the House. Mr. Thackeray resigned on the very next day and thereafter a new Govt. was formed by a coalition consisting of BJP MLAs and rebel MLAs of Shiv Sena, with Mr. Shinde as the Chief Minister.

While examining the power and jurisdiction of the Court to adjudicate upon Disqualifications of Legislative Members, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that this Court cannot ordinarily adjudicate petitions for disqualification of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution in the first instance" and in the instant case there were no extraordinary circumstances that warranted the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court to adjudicate disqualification petitions. It was however held that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly must decide disqualification petitions within a reasonable period.

The Supreme Court held that "an MLA has the right to participate in the proceedings of the House regardless of the pendency of any petitions for their disqualification: and "validity of the proceedings of the House in the interregnum is not "subject to" the outcome of the disqualification petitions." The Court clarified that the "political party and not the legislature party appoints the Whip and the Leader of the party in the House" and "the direction to vote in a particular manner or to abstain from voting is issued by the political party and not the legislature party."

It was held by the Supreme Court that the Speaker and the Election Commission of India (ECI) are empowered to concurrently

adjudicate on the petitions before them under the Tenth Schedule and under Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968 respectively. While adjudicating petitions under Paragraph 15 of the Symbols Order, the ECI may apply a test that is best suited to the facts and circumstances of the case before it, the Court said. The Court observed that the "effect of the deletion of Paragraph 3 of the Tenth Schedule is that the defence of 'split' is no longer available to members facing disqualification proceedings" and the "Speaker would prima facie determine who the political party is for the purpose of adjudicating disqualification petitions under Paragraph 2(1) of the Tenth Schedule, where two or more factions claim to be that political party."

Examining the extent of discretion and power of Governor to invite a person to form the Government, the Supreme Court held that in the facts and circumstances of the case, the "Governor was not justified in calling upon Mr. Thackeray to prove his majority on the floor of the House because he did not have reasons based on objective material before him, to reach the conclusion that Mr. Thackeray had lost the confidence of the House. However, it was also held that "the status quo ante cannot be restored because Mr. Thackeray did not face the floor test and tendered his resignation; and "the Governor was justified in inviting Mr. Shinde to form the government."

29. **Union of India and Another v. Deloitte Haskins and Sells LLP & Anr. [Criminal Appeal Nos.2305-2307 of 2022; May 3, 2023]:** The Supreme Court rejected the challenge made to the constitutional validity of Section 140(5) of the Companies

Act, 2013. It was held that Section 140(5) was neither discriminatory, arbitrary and/or violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India, as alleged. The impugned judgment and order passed by the High Court quashing and setting aside the application/proceedings under Section 140(5) on the ground that the auditors had resigned and therefore thereafter the same was not maintainable was thereby quashed and set aside. The application /proceedings under section 140(5) of the Act, 2013 was held to be maintainable even after the resignation of the concerned auditors and now the NCLT was therefore directed to pass a final order on such application after holding enquiry in accordance with law and it was held that thereafter on the basis of such final order, further consequences as provided under the second proviso to section 140(5) shall follow.

30. **M. K. Rajagopalan v. Dr. Periasamy Palani Gounder & Anr. [Civil Appeal Nos. 1682-1683 of 2022; May 3, 2023]:** The Supreme Court held that disapproval of resolution plan by the Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) for want of presentation of final resolution plan before the Committee of Creditors (CoC) is unexceptionable and calls for no interference. It was held that when the modified resolution plan, even if carrying minor modification /revision was not finally approved by CoC, its presentation to the Adjudicating Authority amounts to a material irregularity and this defect cannot be cured. The Supreme Court held that there is no and there cannot be any concept of post facto approval of any resolution plan by CoC which had not been placed before it prior to the filing before the Adjudicating Authority and the requirement of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) Regulations,

particularly of placing the resolution plan in its final form before the CoC, has to be scrupulously complied as otherwise the very scheme of the Code and CIRP regulations would be left open-ended and would be capable of inviting arbitrariness at any level. The Court said that the irregularity in the process of approval by CoC and filing before Adjudicating Authority are not the matters of such formal nature that deviation in that regard could be ignored or condoned and “when commercial wisdom of CoC is assigned primacy, it presupposes a considered decision on the resolution plan in its final form.”

31. **Bishambhar Prasad v. M/s Arfat Petrochemicals Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. [Civil Appeal No. 2963 of 2023; April 20, 2023]**

This batch of appeals arose from a judgment passed by the High Court whereby the Writ Petition filed by Respondent No. 1 was allowed, and as a corollary, the decision by the Cabinet Committee of the State of Rajasthan, and resulting instructions issued to the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (“RIICO”) to cancel a series of permissions and approvals granted/awarded to Respondent No. 1 in respect of industrial land in Kota, Rajasthan, were set aside.

On consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case, the Supreme Court came to the finding that the State Government had always maintained title and ownership of the area and the land was also never allotted to RIICO on a leasehold basis under Rule 11A of the Rajasthan Industrial Areas Allotment Rules, 1959; and thus, RIICO was never expressly given any leasehold rights, and

had no authority to further sub-lease the land, along with other corresponding powers, under Rule 12 of the 1959 Rules. The Supreme Court observed that there was no violation of the Principles of Natural Justice in this case and that the entire basis for granting permission for conversion of the land, and subdivision of the plots, was on an incorrect assumption of power by RIICO under the 1979 Rules, to act as the lessor of LIA, Kota whereas RIICO was never given any leasehold rights over the land. It was held that “when the basis for a benefit received by a party is itself invalid, there is no question of giving the party a chance to be heard”. It was held that “there was no legitimate expectation nor promissory estoppel that could operate to the benefit of Respondent No. 1, as, once again, no such defences could be raised on the back of RIICO’s own erroneous utilization of powers that vest only with the rightful lessor of LIA, Kota, which is the State Government”, and further, “public interest overrides both these doctrines, and cannot come to the aid of a private party, when the larger interests of society are involved.”

32. M/s. N.N. Global Mercantile Private Limited v. M/s. Indo Unique Flame Ltd. & Ors. [Civil Appeal no(s). 3802-3803 of 2020; April 25, 2023]

The question for consideration before the Supreme Court was whether the statutory bar contained in s.35 of the Stamp Act, 1899 applicable to instruments chargeable to stamp duty under s.3 read with the Schedule to the Act, would also render the arbitration agreement contained in such an instrument, which is not chargeable to payment of stamp duty, as being non-existent, unenforceable, or

invalid, pending payment of stamp duty on the substantive contract/ instrument.

Per majority, it was held by the Supreme Court that an instrument, which is exigible to stamp duty, may contain an Arbitration Clause and which is not stamped, cannot be said to be a contract, which is enforceable in law within the meaning of s.2(h) of the Contract Act and is not enforceable under s.2(g) of the Contract Act. An unstamped instrument, when it is required to be stamped, being not a contract and not enforceable in law, cannot, therefore, exist in law. It was held that the true intention behind the insertion of s.11(6A) in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 was to confine the Court, acting under s.11, to examine and ascertain about the existence of an Arbitration Agreement. The Scheme permits the Court, under s.11 of the Act, acting on the basis of the original agreement or on a certified copy and the certified copy must, however, clearly indicate the stamp duty paid; and if it does not do so, the Court should not act on such a certified copy.

The Court held, per majority, that if the original of the instrument is produced and it is unstamped, the Court, acting under s.11, is duty-bound to act under s.33 of the Stamp Act. An Arbitration Agreement, within the meaning of s.7 of the Act, which attracts stamp duty and which is not stamped or insufficiently stamped, cannot be acted upon, in view of s.35 of the Stamp Act, unless following impounding and payment of the requisite duty, necessary certificate is provided under s.42 of the Stamp Act. It was held that the provisions of s.33 and the bar under s.35 of the Stamp Act, applicable to instruments chargeable to stamp duty

under s.3 read with the Schedule to the Stamp Act, would render the Arbitration Agreement contained in such instrument as being non-existent in law unless the instrument is validated under the Stamp Act.

33. Association of Vasanth Apartments' Owners v. V. Gopinath & Ors. [Civil Appeal 1890 of 2010; February 13, 2023]

The Supreme Court held that in a challenge to a provision based on discrimination under Article 14, the burden is on the applicant to lay clear foundation in pleadings and further to discharge the burden by making good the case and the court will not lightly enter a finding of discrimination. While examining a provision which provided for town planning, the Court observed that "in regard to such law, a certain measure of free play is to be given to the planning authority bearing in mind that it is urban planning what is involved." It was held that "town planning being a complex subject involving various inputs and value judgements which are intended to ensure the orderly, visionary and planned development, they require greater deference from courts."

34. Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 55 of 2019; November 7, 2022]

In a batch of transferred cases, transfer petitions, writ petitions and the petition for special leave to appeal, challenge was made to the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019, which came into effect on 14.01.2019, whereby the Parliament amended Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution of India by adding two new clauses viz., clause (6) to Article

15 with Explanation and clause (6) to Article 16; and thereby, the State was empowered, inter alia, to provide for a maximum of ten per cent reservation for "the economically weaker sections" of citizens other than "the Scheduled Castes", "the Scheduled Tribes" and the non-creamy layer of "the Other Backward Classes". The amendment in question did not mandate but enabled reservation for EWS and prescribed a ceiling limit of ten per cent. Per majority, the challenge raised to the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 was rejected by a five Judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

35. M.P. Power Management Company Limited, Jabalpur v. M/s. Sky Power Southeast Solar India Private Limited & Others [Civil Appeal (arising out of SLP(c) nos.4609-4610 of 2021); November 16, 2022]

The Supreme Court held that "the mere fact that relief is sought under a contract which is not statutory, will not entitle the respondent-State in a case by itself to ward-off scrutiny of its action or inaction under the contract, if the complaining party is able to establish that the action/inaction is, per se, arbitrary." It was held that even if it is a non-statutory contract, there is no absolute bar in dealing with a cause of action based on acts or omission by the State or its instrumentalities even during the course of the working of a contract.

Further, the Supreme Court summed up as to when an act is to be treated as arbitrary. It was held that "the court must carefully attend to the facts and the circumstances of the case. It should find out whether the impugned decision is based on any

principle. If not, it may unerringly point to arbitrariness. If the act betrays caprice or the mere exhibition of the whim of the authority it would sufficiently bear the insignia of arbitrariness." The Court observed that "if there is absence of good faith and the action is actuated with an oblique motive, it could be characterised as being arbitrary. A total non-application of mind without due regard to the rights

of the parties and public interest may be a clear indicator of arbitrary action. A wholly unreasonable decision which is little different from a perverse decision under the Wednesbury doctrine would qualify as an arbitrary decision under Article 14. Ordinarily visiting a party with the consequences of its breach under a contract may not be an arbitrary decision."

Publications

I. SUPREME COURT REPORTS (SCR)

Supreme Court Reports (SCR) is the official law report of reportable Supreme Court decisions. Each part of SCR *inter alia* contains the full text of reportable decisions with Head Notes. Further, highlights of the important decisions published on the front cover page of each part of SCR for the ease and convenience of the users. Besides circulation within the country, SCR is also sent on reciprocal basis to certain Commonwealth and other countries.

Digitization and scanning of SCR back volumes:

The process of digitization and scanning of back volumes of SCR from 1950 to 2017 and preservation of same as a digitized soft copy in the format of PDF (Portable Document Format), has been completed. The said digitization and scanning of SCR has led to creation of a digital repository of the Supreme Court judgments as published reported in SCR.

From the year 2018 onwards, SCRs are being prepared in-house in the Editorial Branch of the Supreme Court of India, and stored as digitized soft copies in PDF.

Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project:

In a step forward towards fulfilling the objective of digitization of Indian Judiciary, under the directions of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, the electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project was officially launched by the Supreme Court of India on 2nd January 2023 as a tribute to the nation in the New Year.

The e-SCR Project is an initiative to provide the digital version of the Supreme Court's judgments in the manner as they are reported in the official law report - 'Supreme Court Reports'. This is a project which, in essence, endeavours to take a step forward towards fulfilling the objective of digitization of Indian Judiciary and underlines the vision to bring in a positive change for the benefit of all the stakeholders of justice, primarily litigants and members of the Bar as also the High Courts, National Law University, Judicial Academies, etc. As the Judiciary is aligning more with technology, the e- SCR project is an important stepping stone for future of the modern Indian Judiciary and entails manifold benefits, including those of reduction in

burden of traveling and browsing through huge volumes of journals in libraries, as also for enhancing its accessibility to those with visual disabilities, as they may now be able to access them through their screen reading software. The electronic Supreme Court Reports project aspires to provide free access to the official law reports of the Supreme Court's reported Judgments to the law students, lawyers & other legal professionals and to the public at large. The e-SCR project showcases replica soft copies of SCRs by utilizing the verifiable authentic soft copies as available in the PDF format. This project has created an invaluable resource as the entire gamut of judgments from the inception of the Supreme Court in the year 1950 till date is available on e-SCR and digital repository. The search facility in e-SCR provides for free text search, search within search, case type and case year search, Judge search, year and volume search, bench strength search options. The inbuilt elastic search facilitates quick and user friendly search results. The e-SCR project has been rolled out on the Supreme Court's website and is also available on the mobile application of the Supreme Court of India.

"Digital Supreme Court Reports" project: Bridging Justice and Sustainability

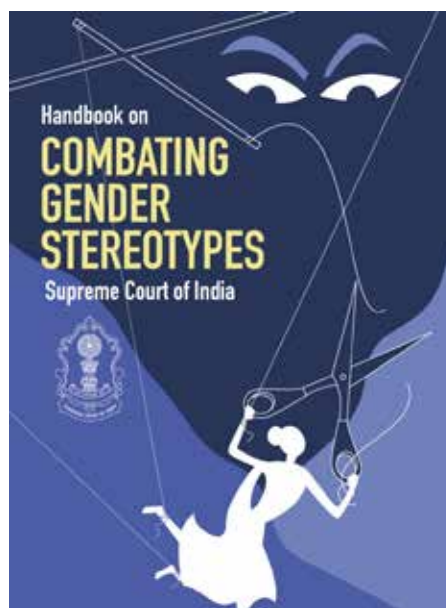
The "Digital Supreme Court Reports" project is envisioned by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, and the Hon'ble Judges of the Editorial Committee of Supreme Court of India. The work is carried on by the Editorial Wing and Library IT Cell, Supreme Court of India. It represents a monumental shift in legal information dissemination, promoting accessibility, transparency, and environmental consciousness. As the official law report of the Supreme Court of

India, this initiative will publish Supreme Court judgments in a digital, open-access format. By replacing the print edition with a digital version, this project aims to provide an invaluable resource for law students, young lawyers, and the wider public, while contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions.

II. New Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes in Judicial Decision-Making

In a significant step towards a gender just legal order, a "Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes" was released by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud on 16 August 2023, with the aim of fulfilling the Indian judiciary's goal of eradicating preconceived gender stereotypes, especially those concerning women, from judicial discourse.

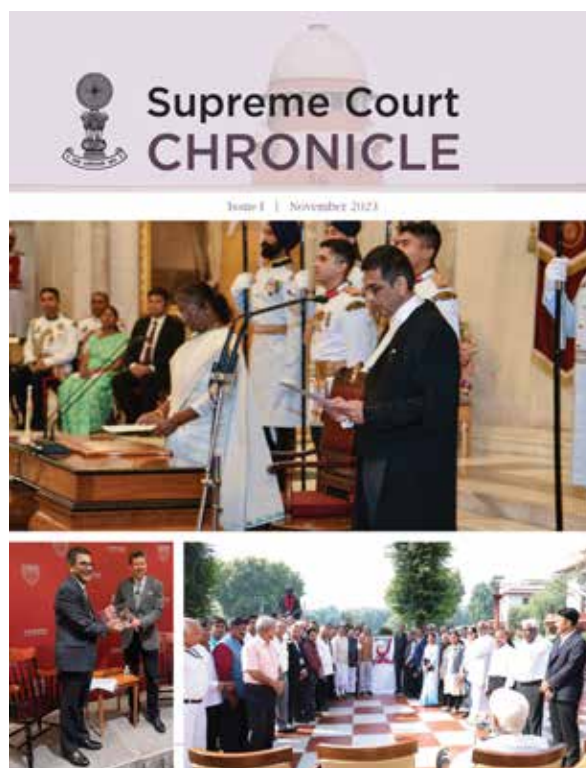
The cornerstone of a just legal system is its unwavering commitment to decide each case on its own merits, objectively and impartially. However, the use of gender stereotypes in judicial decisions and writing can distort the application of the law vis-a-vis women, perpetuate harmful stereotypes in society,



and ultimately undermine the judiciary's goal of promoting a constitutional ethos which guarantees the equal protection of laws to individuals of all genders.

The "Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes" seeks to empower judges and members of the legal community to identify, understand, and counteract harmful stereotypes about women by (i) identifying language that promotes gender stereotypes and offering alternative words and phrases; (ii) identifying common reasoning patterns that are based on gender stereotypes (particularly about women) and discussing why they are incorrect; and (iii) highlighting binding decisions of the Supreme Court of India that have rejected these stereotypes and can be utilised by judges to dispel gender stereotypes. The Handbook features a glossary of gender-unjust terms and proposes alternative words and phrases for use in legal documents, including pleadings, orders, and judgments. The Handbook identifies common stereotypes about women and demonstrates the inaccuracies of these stereotypes and how they can distort the application of the law. The Handbook also encapsulates the prevailing legal doctrine on crucial issues, particularly those involving sexual violence. In its entirety, the Handbook aims to equip judges with the knowledge and tools to critically evaluate their own reasoning and writing and to ensure that justice is served fairly and equitably.

The launch of the "Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes" marks a significant milestone in the journey towards a more just and equitable society. By equipping judges and the legal community with the tools to identify, understand, and reject stereotypes, the "Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes" seeks to pave the way for a more inclusive, impartial, and gender-just legal system.



III. Supreme Court Chronicle - Monthly Newsletter of Supreme Court

The inaugural issue of the Supreme Court Chronicle, a monthly newsletter was launched by Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India on 9 November, 2023. The Newsletter 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.

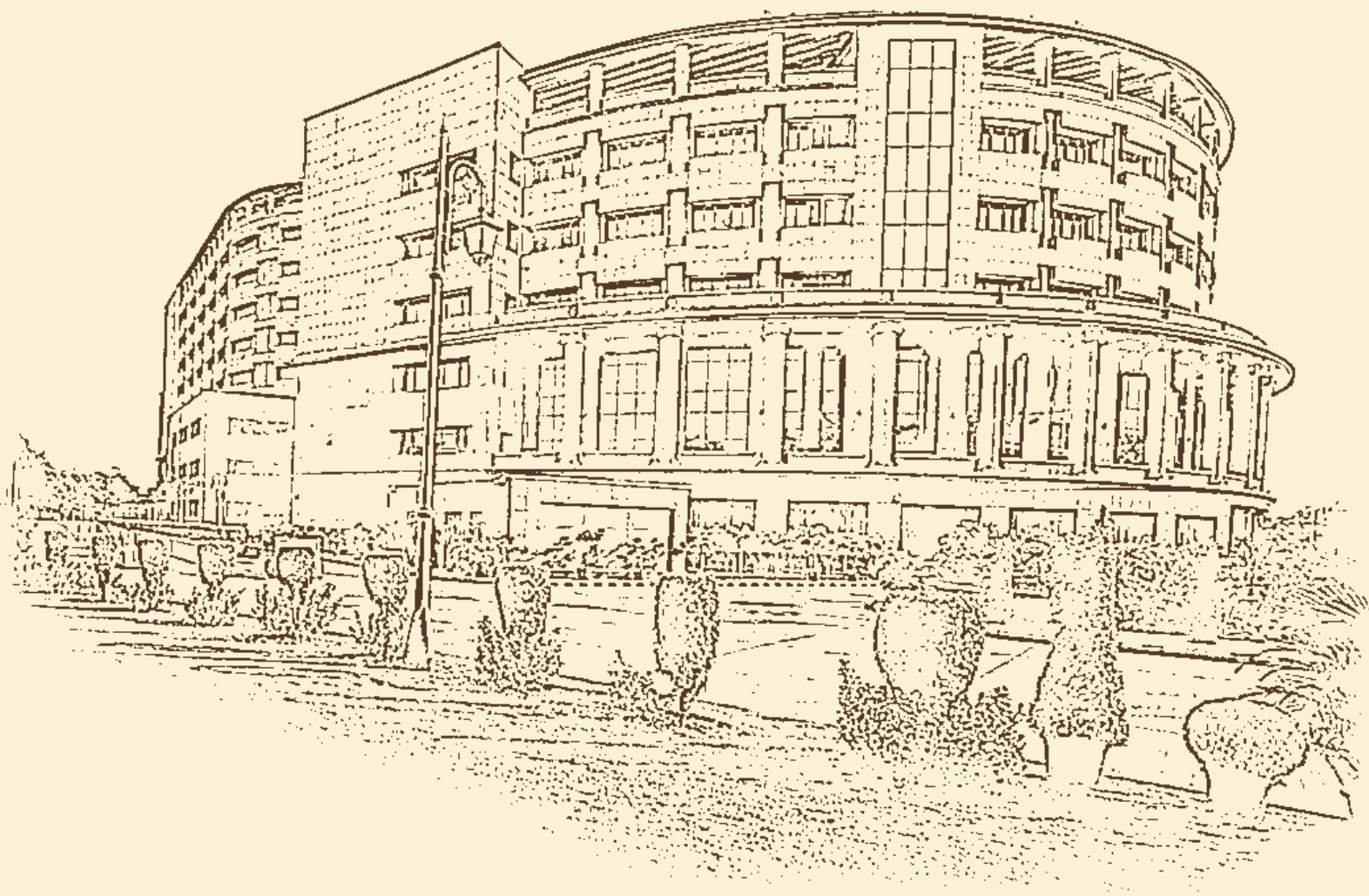
The subject matter of the Supreme Court Chronicle was prepared by the Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) and designed in-house by the Designing Cell, Judges Library.

**Hon'ble Dr. Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India
with the Editorial Team for Annual Report 2022-23**



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Published by
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA