Supreme Court Chronicle

Issue III | January 2024

Highlights

- A Leap Toward Justice: A Special Feature on Digitisation in the Supreme Court
- The Supreme Court Judges' Library: "Bringing Humans and Technology Together"
- Felicitation of the Winners of the Annual Sports and Cultural Events 2023



Chief Justice's Corner



A very Happy New Year! It is a pleasure to welcome you back to the Supreme Court with another edition of *Supreme Court Chronicle*. Within its pages, you will find "A Leap Toward Justice: A Special Feature on Digitisation in the Supreme Court." An exciting way to kick off the new year, it takes readers behind the scenes of the Court's Computer Cell to provide an inside view of the institution's digitisation drive. It discusses the many initiatives launched by the Court in its pursuit to be a more equitable, citizen-centric and efficient justice delivery institution. It also offers a glimpse of what is to come.

The issue features a snapshot of the operations of the Supreme Court Judges' Library, an indispensable part of the day-to-day functioning of our Court. The valuable research assistance rendered by the Library allows Judges to discharge their duties smoothly. Other offerings in the newsletter include a sampling of reported judgments, important initiatives undertaken for the well-being of Registry staff, and a roundup of other Court events for the month of December 2023.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Court's founding, I invite you to reflect on our institution's rich and storied legacy. I look forward to the next edition of *Supreme Court Chronicle*, which will mark Foundation Day, a momentous milestone of national importance.

Happy Reading!

Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud
Chief Justice of India

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Judges' Library
Supreme Court of India

Publisher
The Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi-110001
Website: https://main.sci.gov.in/Chronicle/

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Fresh from the Bench

Cox and Kings Ltd v SAP India Pvt Ltd & Anr, 2023 INSC 1051

Group of Companies Doctrine

In its judgment dated 6 December 2023, a Constitution bench comprising the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, unanimously upheld the Group of Companies Doctrine (GOCD). The GOCD provides that an arbitration agreement may bind non-signatory affiliates if the circumstances demonstrate the mutual intention of the parties to bind both signatories and non-signatories. Emphasising the corporate separateness of the group companies, the Court held that the principle of alter ego or piercing the corporate veil cannot be the basis for the application of the GOCD. The Court pointed out that the definition of 'parties' under Section 2 (1) (h) r/w Section 7 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 includes both signatory and non–signatory parties. Further, the requirement of a written arbitration agreement under Section 7 cannot exclude the possibility of binding non-signatory parties to an arbitration agreement. The Court explained that the consent of non-signatories to be bound by an arbitration agreement could be inferred from their conduct. To determine the applicability of the GOCD, the Court held that the cumulative factors laid down in *Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd v Discovery Enterprises Pvt Ltd, 2022 INSC 483* must be considered.

M/s North Eastern Chemicals Industries (P) Ltd & Anr v M/s Ashok Paper Mill (Assam) Ltd & Anr, 2023 INSC 1059

Appeal in Absence of Prescribed Limitation Period

In its judgment dated 11 December 2023, a bench comprising Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Sanjay Karol addressed the question of filing an appeal in the absence of a prescribed limitation period under a general or specific statute. The Court ruled that in the absence of a prescribed limitation period in a statute, an appeal must be filed within 'reasonable time,' which is to be determined by undertaking a holistic assessment of the facts and circumstances of each case. The Court observed that the party raising the plea of delay bears the burden of demonstrating how the delay itself would cause the party additional prejudice or loss as opposed to if the claim, that was the subject matter of dispute, was raised at an earlier point in time. Notably, the bench clarified that in the absence of a prescribed limitation period, a shorter delay in initiating litigation would not attract delay and latches.

In Re: Interplay Between Arbitration Agreements Under The Arbitration And Conciliation Act 1996 And The Indian Stamp Act 1899, 2023 INSC 1066

Enforceability of Unstamped Arbitration Agreements

On 13 December 2023, a bench comprising the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice J B Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra unanimously held that arbitration clauses in unstamped or inadequately stamped agreements are enforceable. Through its judgment, the Court overruled its earlier holding in *M/s N N Global Mercantile Pvt Ltd v M/s Indo Unique Flame Ltd & Ors,* by which it had held the unenforceability of unstamped arbitration agreements. The 7 judge bench clarified the distinction between admissibility and enforceability, noting that although unstamped or inadequately stamped agreements are inadmissible in evidence under Section 35 of the Stamp Act, 1899, they are not void, *void ab initio* or unenforceable. The Court held that non-stamping or inadequate stamping is a curable defect. The bench reaffirmed the competence-competence doctrine, stating that objections related to stamping of the agreement fall under the arbitral tribunal's jurisdiction and cannot be raised under Sections 8 or 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 before a court.

Saumya Chaurasia v Directorate of Enforcement, 2023 INSC 1073

First Proviso to S 45 PMLA Not Mandatory

On 14 December 2023, a bench comprising Justice Aniruddha Bose and Justice Bela M Trivedi analysed the first proviso to Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The proviso confers discretion to the special court in granting bail to an accused who is either a woman, under sixteen, or sick or infirm. The bench clarified that the use of the expression "may be" in the first proviso to Section 45 indicates discretionary rather than mandatory power, which is to be exercised judiciously based on the facts and circumstances of each case. In granting bail or refusing bail, factors like the alleged offence, the severity of punishment, the extent of involvement in the offence, and the nature of evidence must be considered. Additionally, while granting or refusing bail, the court is expected to express its *prima facie* opinion which demonstrates an application of mind, particularly in dealing with serious economic offences.

Training Hub



On 2 and 9 December 2023, a workshop on "Response to emergency contingency" and a demo on the use of fire hose reels and fire extinguishers were conducted for 35 Branch Officers and 41 non-clerical staff of the Registry. The workshop was conducted by Col (retired) K B Marwah, Additional Registrar (Security), and Fire Department Trainers



e-Filing training for Dealing Assistants of Section I-B and other branches on 18 December 2023 and 19 December 2023. Sessions were conducted by senior officials from the Registry's Computer Cell, including Mr Anupam Patra, Additional Registrar, Mr Pavan Prathapa, Branch Officer, Mr Amit Kumar Tripathi, and Mr Khashti Pujari, both Senior Programmers





On 20 December 2023, a training session on "Coram and listing of Mentioning matters" was conducted at the Training-cum-Examination Centre for the staff of Section I-B, Mentioning, Listing, DEU Sections. Dr Sushil Kumar Sharma, Deputy Registrar conducted the session, which included 27 participants

The Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India organised 4 mediation training programmes, 2 refresher training programmes, and 2 mediation training programmes across India in December 2023.



From left to right: Justice P S Narasimha, Justice M M Sundresh, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, and outgoing Chairman of the MCPC, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, along with senior trainers and mediators of the Supreme Court at a meeting organised in honour of retiring Justice Kaul in the Mediation Centre, Additional Building Complex on 14 December 2023

Event Roundup

Visit of District Judge Delegation

On 2 December 2023, Judges from District Courts across the nation toured the Supreme Court premises and witnessed firsthand the remarkable digital transformation of the courtrooms. They explored the Museum and Judges' Library, and paid homage to the newly-installed statue of Dr B R Ambedkar in the Court's front lawn.

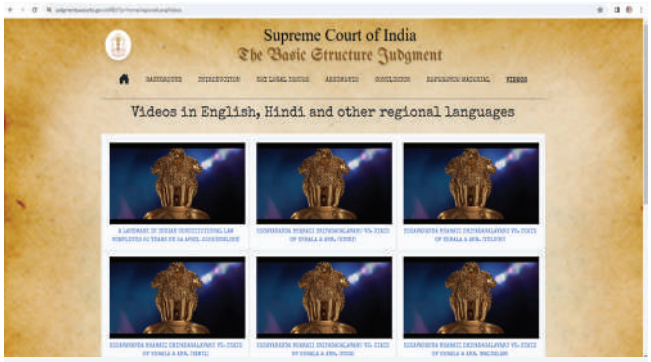




Judges of the District Courts visited the Supreme Court of India on 2 December 2023

Launch of *Kesavananda Bharati* Video in Ten Regional Languages

On 7 December 2023, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud launched a short video about the *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment in ten Indian languages on the Supreme Court's website to commemorate 50 years of *Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala*. During the launch, the Chief Justice observed that language barriers can cause covert discrimination which finds no place in our justice system. The video is available in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Odia, Malayalam, Gujarati, Kannada, Bengali, Assamese and Marathi. It provides a summary of the landmark judgment and its highlights. Its release will ensure that knowledge about 'the basic structure judgment' is not confined to a select few, well-versed in English. It is an important addition to a designated webpage about *Kesavananda Bharati* that was launched last year.



Video summarising Kesavananda Bharati (1973) in ten regional languages

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



Secretary General, Mr Atul M Kurhekar sharing the dais with members of the GSICC during the gender sensitisation training on 8 December 2023

GSICC Training

On 8 December 2023, the Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) of the Supreme Court organised a "Training on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace and Gender Sensitisation" at the Multi-Purpose Hall for Court staff. Around 120 employees from the Registry participated in the Training, including Junior Court Assistants, and Court Attendants. In his keynote address, the Secretary General, Mr Atul M Kurhekar emphasised the importance of such an initiative given the prevalent gender bias in society. Mr Kurhekar underlined the Supreme Court's zero tolerance policy toward sexual harassment.



Dr Surabhi Pandey from the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) conducting an interactive session during GSICC training

Felicitation of the Winners of the Annual Sports and Cultural Events 2023

The Annual Sports and Cultural Events is a special occasion that builds team spirit among the staff of the Supreme Court Registry, and re-energizes them for their duties at the workplace. Its 2023 edition was held on 19 April. Activities were designed to be inclusive and attracted participants of all ages, genders, fitness levels and abilities. Sports events included volleyball, badminton, table tennis, cricket, football, and athletics. Carrom, chess, musical chairs and Antakshari proved very popular. Essay writing, general knowledge and painting competitions were well-attended by the children of Registry officials.

On 13 December 2023, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Justice K V Viswanathan, felicitated winners and runners-up, PwD participants, and the Organising Committee of the Sports and Cultural Events 2023 at the Auditorium, Additional Building Complex.









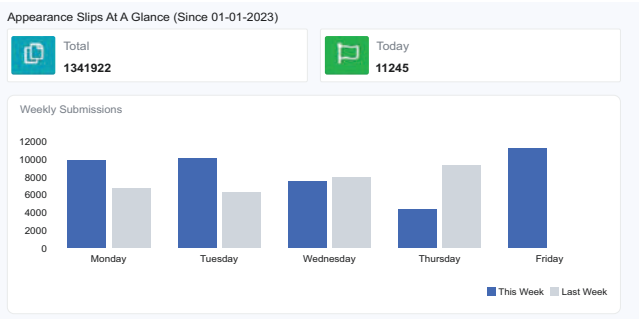
The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice K V Viswanathan at the felicitation for Annual Sports and Cultural Events 2023 on 13 December 2023

A Leap Toward Justice:
A Special Feature on Digitisation in the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court seeks to harness technology to build a justice delivery system that is accessible to all, regardless of geographical, socio-economic and other constraints. The integration of technology into court processes has streamlined them, making them more resource-efficient, transparent and accessible. Some of the Court's initiatives have been discussed below:

Accelerated by COVID-19, **virtual hearings** have become an integral part of the Indian court process. Hybrid hearings offer both lawyers and litigants the flexibility of choosing between physical and virtual courtrooms and save time and resources. As of 31 December 2023, the Supreme Court has heard 6,20,581 cases through video conferencing. **Paperless courtrooms** are equipped with modern technologies including monitors, LED screens, and document cameras, which facilitate the real-time sharing of evidentiary materials.

The **Advocate Appearance Portal**, which records the appearance of advocates in the Record of Proceedings online, rather than on paper slips, has slashed paper waste, and contributed to the reduction of the Court's carbon footprint.



Number of appearances marked through online appearance slips from 1 January 2023 at the Supreme Court

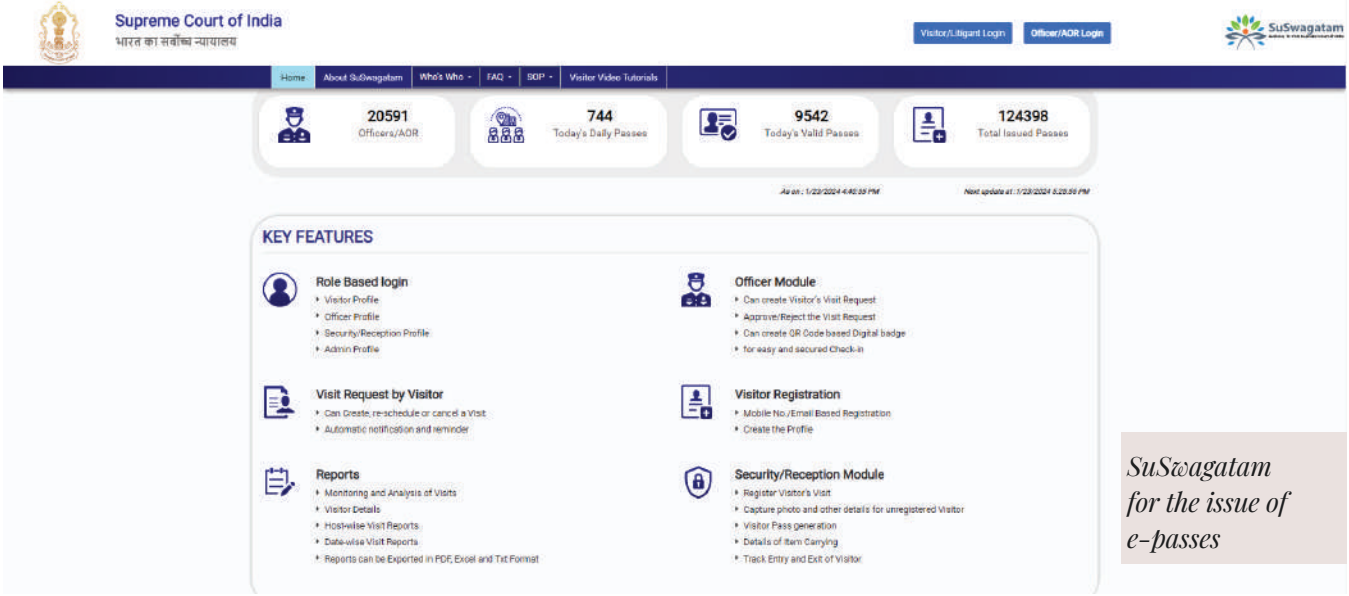
The Supreme Court is committed to a paperless future, evident through its emphasis on the e-filing of cases. Upgraded software applications, including **e-filing 2.0**, operate round-the-clock, and allow for efficient electronic filing, the curing of defects, and quicker listing. The **Integrated Court Management Information System (ICMIS)**, updated to streamline case management, scheduling, and document handling, has also reduced the reliance on paper. The Court plans to deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify filing defects and speed up the filing process in the future.



e-filing 2.0

The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud introduced a web-based **RTI portal** in November 2022, eliminating the need to submit applications physically in Court. This portal has processed 1,262 applications in 2023, enhancing accessibility and simplifying the process through online payment gateways.

Through **SuSwagatam**, a citizen-centric, web-based and mobile-friendly app, visitors to the Supreme Court may now request an e-pass to enter the Court premises rather than waiting in long and tedious queues. **FASTER 2.0** ensures



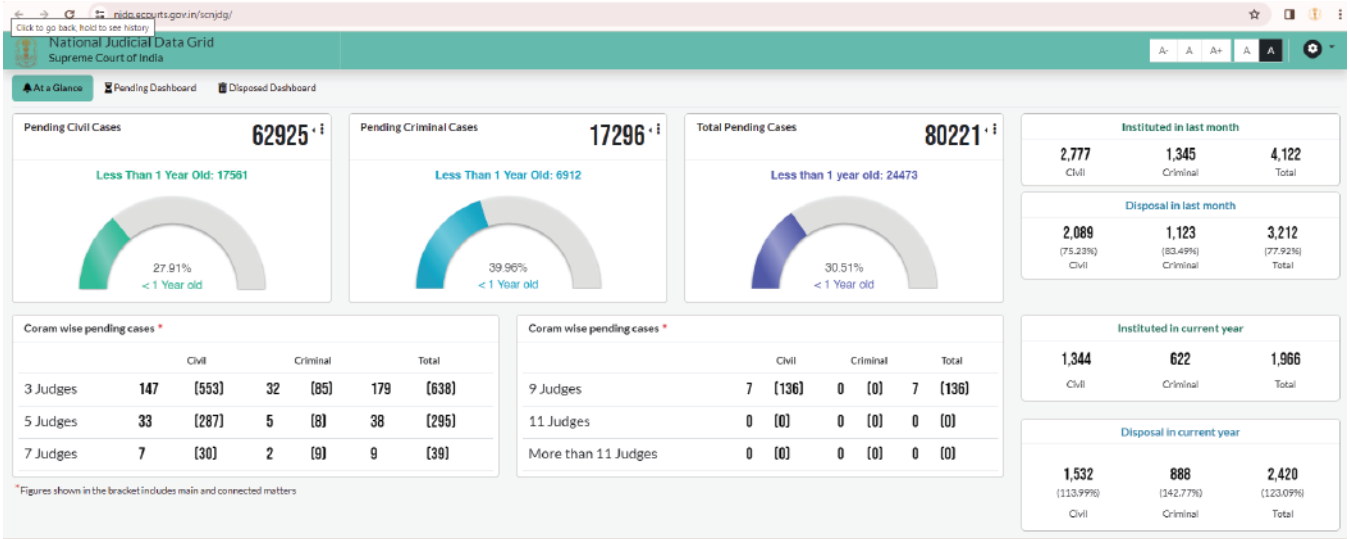
SuSwagatam for the issue of e-passes

that judicial orders of release are immediately transferred to jail authorities and District and High Courts electronically to secure the swift release of undertrials, accused and convicts.

In 2022, the Court started **live-streaming** proceedings of Constitution benches. AI was employed to transcribe oral arguments in courtrooms. In an effort to enhance transparency and reduce delays, the Court onboarded its data onto the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**, a centralised online database that provides information about case pendency, in September 2023.

e-SCR, an online repository of reported judgments, provides free access to over 36,209 of the Supreme Court's reported judgments from 1950 to the present day. It also features translations of judgments into 17 regional languages, including Garo, Hindi, Konkani, Odia, and Tamil. **e-Sewa Kendras** enhance access to justice by facilitating litigants' access to case information including copies of judgments and orders.

The Supreme Court of India's embrace of technology signals an era of rapid development for the nation's judiciary. From hybrid hearings to paperless processes and online repositories, each of its initiatives represents a stride toward a more inclusive, transparent, and responsive justice delivery system.



Real-time data on the National Judicial Data Grid

"Technology is a Force Multiplier:" Discussing Digitisation with Mr H S Jaggi



H S Jaggi Registrar (Technology) at his desk

Supreme Court Chronicle met with Mr H S Jaggi, Registrar (Technology) to discuss the digitisation drive of the Supreme Court. Mr Jaggi helms the Court's Computer Cell, and likens the coordination of the Court's technological initiatives to manning an aircraft with multiple screens. Mr Jaggi's understanding of case management dates back to his time in the Delhi Higher Judicial Service. Back then, he was the Service's first differently-abled appointee. Mr Jaggi shares that being given an opportunity to spearhead crucial projects is a testament to a judiciary that not only talks about embracing diversity, but actively walks the talk. Throughout our conversation, his pragmatism, determination, and enthusiasm shine through. He recognises the need to balance the technological initiatives he coordinates so closely with a humanity that should undergird any judicial institution.

To establish a robust and efficient working system, Mr Jaggi stresses the importance of investing in technology. "You spend money on technology, money makes the mare go." He discusses the "redundancy model," by which a single backup can kick in for the collapse of multiple systems. So if digital servers are arranged in an x model— if one goes bad, another takes over. Acknowledging the rapid pace of change in our world, he reiterates the Supreme Court's commitment to keeping abreast with the latest technologies.

Transitions are never easy though. "Change is always very messy in the beginning, hard in the middle, and beautiful in the end," he admits. A great challenge for his team in 2020 was the switch to video conferencing (VC) necessitated by COVID-19. The creation and maintenance of a stable VC infrastructure was the priority. Mr Jaggi shares that technologies like video conferencing hold great power in bolstering the right to access justice. But with great power comes great responsibility. "If you fail to mute, timely, unmute, or not help the advocates and parties with the camera, their 10 seconds to start with are gone and they may lose out on their last resort in the apex court."

For Mr Jaggi, a common platform for information flow will facilitate the Court's goal of ensuring access to justice. Currently, the three tiers of the Indian judiciary use separate information management software. The e-Committee has facilitated the adoption of a common software technology across District Courts, creating a unified Case Information System (CIS). Mr Jaggi shares that harmonising the software of all three tiers of the judiciary will ensure that when a case progresses through each of the tiers, information about it remains standardised and coherent. This approach will bring efficiency to information management and address the challenges of disparate platforms and isolated data islands.

Mr Jaggi is grateful for the encouragement extended by Judges and their role in fostering a conducive environment for a technologically-enabled court. Their enthusiasm for employing technological tools advances the Computer Cell's mission. Mr Jaggi notes the vital role played by the youth in ushering in these changes. "The new generation is coming in very technologically handy, and I call them 'instant' because we all love instant things, we consume instant coffee, instant noodles, instant content." For Mr Jaggi, an important part of change is having everyone on board to facilitate it. He envisions developing institutional goals while ensuring accessibility and inclusivity. "Take everyone along, no person is left behind."

Mr Jaggi is proud of the work being done at the Supreme Court. His eyes glisten when he shares that the Court's use of AI for transcription was recognised in UNESCO's "Global Toolkit on AI and the Rule of Law for the Judiciary." A host of new technological initiatives is in store. Among them are the establishment of an independent data centre that leverages both public and private cloud services, cutting-edge live-streaming solutions, a tenfold boost in internet speed, and a new Supreme Court website that offers both English and Hindi options, in recognition of the needs of a diverse audience. These initiatives signify the Court's commitment to embracing a future that upholds principles of justice, inclusivity and transparency while leveraging technology for efficiency and progress.



The Video Conferencing and Network Teams of the Computer Cell

The Supreme Court Judges' Library: "Bringing Humans and Technology Together"

The Supreme Court Judges' Library is a vast network of libraries. It includes the main Judges' Library, 17 Bench Libraries, 34 Residential Libraries for Judges, and a Staff Library for the Registry's reference. The Judges' Library in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court is spread over three storeys of the A block. It houses 3,75,000 documents including books, journals, commission reports, bare acts, Central and State Gazettes, Parliamentary Debates, and reference books.

Unlike other Court departments, the Library's operational hours extend beyond the typical 10 am to 5 pm. Some members of the professional Library staff start working from their homes as early as 5:30 am, to collate important news clippings that are circulated to the offices of Judges all 365 days of the year. Under the leadership of Dr Uma Narayan, Registrar, Judges' Library, the staff ensures that the Library runs for 360 days a year except for three national holidays, Holi and Diwali.



Dr Uma Narayan, Registrar, Judges' Library



The State Emblem and the Preamble to the Constitution adorn the Judges' Library

"Our library is not just shelves of books as many believe," says Dr Narayan. "It serves as a nexus bringing humans and technology together. We are the crucial stakeholders in the smooth functioning of



The Judges' Library in the Additional Building Complex is spread over three storeys

everyday court proceedings. The digital library page that we have created has the required information in a digitised form which earlier used to be in physical copy. From bare acts, rules regulations, books and commentaries to the e-SCR, LexisNexis, EBC Reader, SCC Online, WestLaw etc, we have trained the Junior Court Assistants (JCAs) in Courts to use these facilities so that they can find whatever is required by the Judge in real-time during proceedings," she shares.

On 3 July 2023, Courtroom Nos 1 to 3 became paperless. This radical transformation heralded an era of digital courts that promises to reshape justice delivery. From requisitions to document access, everyday court processes have undergone a high-tech makeover. But like any transition, the shift was not without its challenges.

Traditionally, lawyers would requisition critical case references like books, bare acts, and rules, by indicating courtroom numbers and item



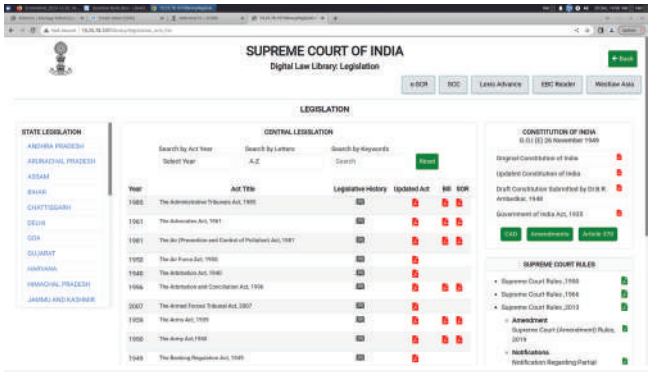
The Judges' Library is home to 3,75,000 documents



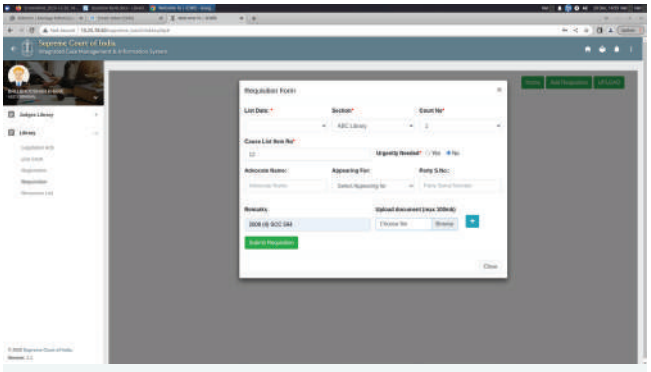
From left to right: Mr Brij Bhooshan Khare, Ms Versha Shah, and Ms Rajshree Jalal of the Information Management Section coordinate paperless proceedings in Courtroom Nos 1, 2, and 3

details on paper slips. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic altered this practice, necessitating requisitions via a designated email address. After the Court's move toward digitisation, email requisitions became mandatory. Despite this, explains Mr Brij Bhooshan Khare, Librarian at the Information Management Section, many lawyers continue to submit last-minute requests, which proves challenging for the Court's library staff. Mr Vijay Kumar, a Court Management Librarian with 23 years of experience, shares that despite a designated email address for requisitions, advocates call the Library directly for urgent requests.

A two-way communication module crafted by the Computer Cell organises requisition requests from Courtroom Nos 1, 2 and 3. It mandates that JCAs be present in each courtroom to relay requisitions received in court to the Library. However high-paced proceedings often hinder the JCAs' ability to fill out requisition forms. To address this, a Telegram channel facilitates quick coordination between JCAs and internal Library staff. Although this adds to the responsibilities of the staff, it allows for the swift processing of last-minute requisition images sent by the JCAs, ensures the delivery of digital versions of reference materials and facilitates Judges' instant access to necessary resources.



The Legislation section of the Digital Law Library



Requisition requests received on the internal portal of the Library from Courtroom Nos 1, 2, and 3

Although courtrooms that are yet to be digitised do store frequently accessed materials, the need for specific acts, rules, regulations, and commentaries not available in them, arises sporadically. The Library ensures the presence of a JCA and Restorer (Library) in such courtrooms to ensure preparedness in case of anticipated requisitions. Diligent professional staff swiftly retrieve documents from the Judges' Library to fulfil last-minute requests.

The Library staff emphasises that while the initial stages of digitisation might appear laborious, the eventual relief and assistance it offers is truly rewarding. It is just a matter of time before all courtrooms seamlessly transition into a fully digitised, paperless environment, significantly reducing reliance on physical documents. Currently, the Library is scanning and digitising crucial documents— books, references, legislations, acts, rules, and more— in order to integrate them into its digital platform. This proactive step aims to gradually diminish dependence on physical materials.

Beyond a mere repository of books, the Supreme Court Library functions as a dynamic system shaping past, present, and future legal dialogues. Its seamless transition into the digital era sets a remarkable precedent for the judiciary, ensuring efficient, real-time access to crucial information resources for the country's legal system.

Staff Corner

A Revamped Medical Section for the Staff of the Registry

The Registry of the Supreme Court is prioritising the well-being of its staff, particularly through its investment in the Medical Section. The Registry has installed five Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) around the Court premises and trained staff about their use. Employees now have extended access to the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Wellness Centre and can consult an Ayurvedic Doctor three days a week. New medical equipment like digital x-ray and Immunoassay Analyzer machines have improved diagnostic capabilities. The Physiotherapy Unit has introduced a number of therapy options. More upgrades are on the way, including OPG machines for dental scanning, ultrasound units, and new EMT stations. The Registry shows a strong commitment to prioritising staff health and expanding medical services within the Court.



Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) outside Courtroom No 1

SCBA Scoop

The Supreme Court Bar Association organised a free cancer detection and health camp in association with the Rotary Club of Delhi Humanity on 12 December 2023 at the Supreme Court lawns for members of the Bar. Over 300 members participated. The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud inaugurated the Health Camp. Justice P S Narasimha, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice K V Viswanathan also graced the occasion.





On 12 December 2023, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Justice K V Viswanathan inaugurated a cancer detection and health camp organised by the SCBA at the Supreme Court



The SCBA farewell in honour of retiring Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul on 15 December 2023. The Chief Justice of India presided over the function. The Attorney General, R Venkataramani, President SCBA, Adish C Aggarwala and members of the Bar were also present



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and SCBA President, Adish C Aggarwala at the Christmas Day celebration organised by the SCBA

Beyond the Court



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud delivered the 14th Justice V M Tarkunde Memorial Lecture on "Upholding Civil Liberties in the Digital Age: Privacy, Surveillance and Free Speech" on 1 December 2023

On 8 December 2023, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addressed an audience at the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation Awards 2023, which are conferred in recognition of humanitarian and social work and the promotion of Gandhian principles. In his address, the Chief Justice highlighted the transformative power of kindness and compassion.

> *"Let us weave together the threads of justice and fairness, not merely as words spoken, but as inspirations fulfilling and fueling our actions. May this ceremony ignite the spark in each of us to strip the life of justice and selflessness into the fabric of our inclusive society's tapestry."*



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud at the Jamnalal Bajaj Awards 2023 on 8 December 2023



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud at the inauguration of the office premises of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Bench at Nishtha Bhawan on 8 December 2023



Justice Vikram Nath delivered a lecture at SCL India's Biennial International Conference on "Construction Law and Arbitration: Reshaping Construction Dispute Resolution," on 8 December 2023 (Credits: SCC Online)



On 9 December 2023, Justice Dipankar Datta chaired Session 1 on the"Scope of Writ Jurisdiction under Article 226" and Session 2 on "Supervisory Power under Article 227" during the orientation course for newly elevated High Court Justices organised by the National Judicial Academy at Bhopal. Justice Datta also addressed Session 3 on "Court and Case Management" (Credits: NJA)



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and Justice Abhay S Oka at Kaivalyadhama inaugurating the Justice M L Pendse Centre for Cancer Survivors and Lifestyle Conditions on 10 December 2023

The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud delivering the inaugural address at "A Symposium on Conflict Resolution - Internal and External" at Kaivalyadhama on 10 December 2023





Justice Surya Kant addressing the 2nd edition of the Law and Constitution Dialogue on 15 December 2023 in New Delhi



Justice B R Gavai delivered a keynote address at a conference organised by the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) on "Arbitration as a Catalyst for Economic Development" on 16 December 2023 in Mumbai



Justice M M Sundresh addressed the inaugural session of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Conclave 2023 organised by ASSOCHAM Karnataka State Development Council in Bengaluru on 16 December 2023



Justice Aravind Kumar attended the inauguration of the Surabharathi Sanskrit and Cultural Foundation, Bengaluru on 16 December 2023

Inaugural Justice E S Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture



On 17 December 2023, the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru organised the inaugural Justice E S Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture in Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Bengaluru under the aegis of the family of Justice B V Nagarathna, Judge of the Supreme Court and daughter of Justice Engalaguppe Seetharamiah Venkataramiah. The lecture was organised in memory of Justice Venkataramiah who served as the 19th Chief Justice of India from 19 June 1989 to 17 December 1989. Before his elevation to the Supreme Court, Justice Venkataramiah also served as a Judge of the Karnataka High Court and the Advocate General of Mysore State. After retiring from the Supreme Court, Justice Venkataramiah taught Constitutional Law at NLSIU from 1992-97, during which he held the M K Nambyar Chair.

The event commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and Justice Nagarathna. A welcome address by Dr Sudir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, NLSIU followed. Justice Nagarathna introduced the speakers and spoke about the career and personality of her father with special insight. The Chief Justice of India delivered the inaugural lecture on "Constitutional Imperatives of the State: Navigating Discrimination in Public and Private Spaces." While addressing the gathering, the Chief Justice called for change in the legal landscape to accommodate difference, eradicate biases, and ensure substantive equality.

The lecture was attended by several dignitaries including serving and retired Supreme Court Judges, serving and retired Chief Justices of High Courts, serving and retired Judges of High Courts, Judicial Officers, Deans and faculty of law colleges, other distinguished invitees, family members of Justice E S Venkataramiah, learned Senior Advocates, members of the Bar of Bengaluru and members of the Supreme Court Bar Association. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Professor Dr N S Nigam, Registrar, NLSIU.



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and Justice B V Nagarathna lighting the lamp in tribute to Justice E S Venkataramiah

From left to right:
Justice R V Raveendran (retired),
Justice Ravindra Bhat (retired),
Justice Hrishikesh Roy,
Justice Rajesh Bindal,
Justice S Abdul Nazeer (retired)
along with Justice Prasanna B Varale,
Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court
at the Justice E S Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture





The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud at the Justice E S Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture



Justice B V Nagarathna addressing the audience at the Justice E S Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture



Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah attended the Human Trafficking Workshop-1 (Pilot) at the National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal from 16 to 18 December 2023 (Credits: NJA)

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah attended the pilot workshop on "Human Trafficking" at the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal from 16 to 18 December 2023. The workshop marked the successful culmination of a collaboration involving the National Judicial Academy, the Federal Judicial Center in Washington D C, USA, and the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative in Prague, Czech Republic. The workshop was geared towards empowering members of the judiciary with essential knowledge and tools for handling the complexities of human trafficking cases.



Justice Surya Kant being honoured at the "One Day Cluster Workshop/In-Service Training for Judicial Officers of Assam" at the National Law University, Assam on 17 December 2023



Justice B V Nagarathna delivering a lecture on "Transformative Constitutionalism" during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the V M Salgaocar College of Law, Miramar, Panaji, Goa on 20 December 2023





Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah attended the valedictory ceremony of the Judge Advocates Basic Course at the Institute of Military Law, New Delhi on 27 December 2023

Upcoming Events

Foundation Day Celebration on 28 January 2024

The Supreme Court of India will celebrate its Foundation Day on January 28. A year-long celebration to mark the Court's rich institutional legacy is in store. The Court is planning a dynamic commemoration through the release of documentaries, photographs, and publications to highlight the role of the Supreme Court in the life of the nation.

Visit of Judge Hillary Charlesworth on 10 February 2024

Judge Charlesworth is an eminent jurist who has made outstanding contributions to the field of International Law. She was appointed a Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) following her election in November 2021. Before joining the ICJ, Judge Charlesworth was a Laureate Professor at the Melbourne University Law School, a Distinguished Professor at The Australian National University, and served as Judge *ad hoc* for the ICJ in the cases of *Guyana v Venezuela* and *Australia v Japan*.



Judge Charlesworth of the ICJ
(Credits: ICJ)



Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001

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