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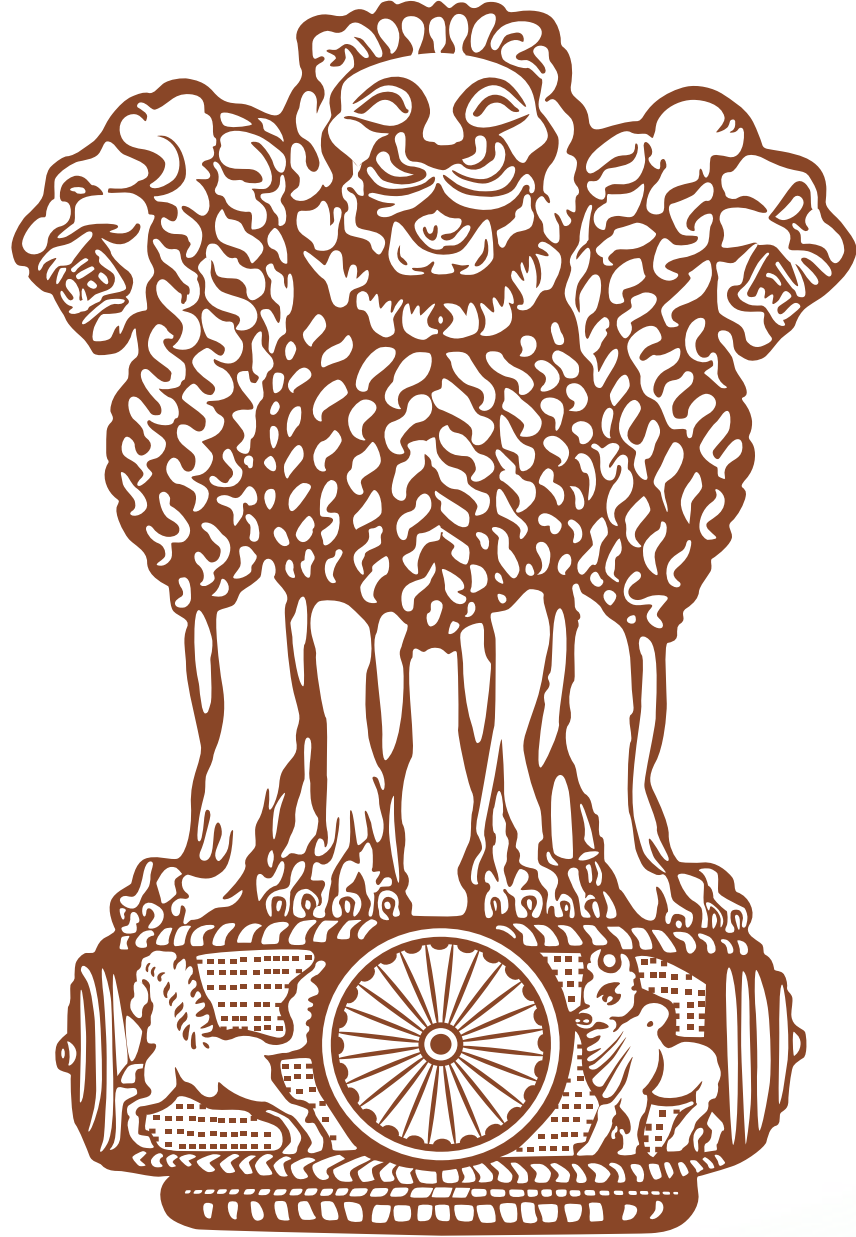
भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

विधि कार्य विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS



AT A GLANCE
2022-23
एक नज़र में



सत्यमेव जयते





2022-23 AT A GLANCE

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS



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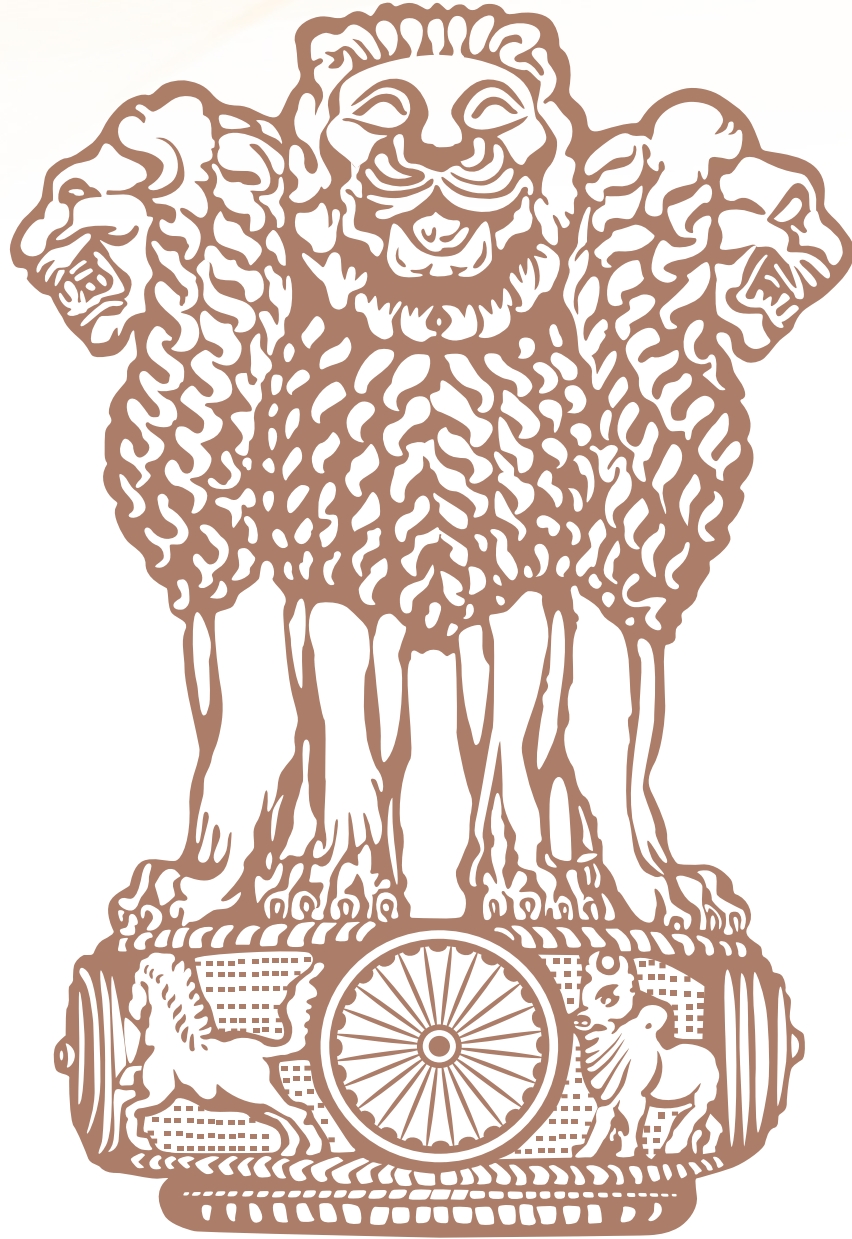


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2022-23 AT A GLANCE



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NOTE FROM THE LAW SECRETARY

The year 2022-23 was significantly eventful for the Department of Legal Affairs. The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 was amended as the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 to set the stage for making India a global hub for arbitration. The Mediation Bill was examined by the Rajya Sabha Committee and its Report was received by the Department. With the appointment of Members, the Law Commission of India became functional. The 9th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held at the Ministerial-Level to reaffirm the commitment of Member States on international cooperation in the field of Law and Justice. The communication strategy of the Department was overhauled by induction of professional Social Media team which helped to keep the public at large abreast of happenings in the Department of Legal Affairs. The All India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries was organised in Kevadia, Gujarat which enabled strengthening the principles of cooperative federalism in governance. A unanimous resolution was passed for modernisation and simplification of Indian Legal System to make it citizen centric and business friendly. Thrust was laid on using regional language including Hindi in legislation and court proceedings. Bar Council of India took number of steps to promote legal reforms in the country including using Hindi in legal education as well as in court proceedings. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with Bulgaria & Iran was ratified. Negotiations continued with United Kingdom for exchange of legal services.

All these would not have been possible without modernisation and automation of internal processes. More than one crore official documents were digitized, physical file system was abandoned and replaced by forward looking system of e-Office 7.0. All Officers were given training for use of latest technology for office automation and to enhance their capacity for research and advisory services. Young Professionals were engaged to assist the Department in research and analysis of contemporary legal issues and pave the way for reforms in public policy that would make the Government citizen-centric, technology driven and future ready for broad-based general well-being of the citizens in the 'Amrit Kaal' that India is experiencing.

For the curious readers this brief note can only whet the appetite. The details in the Annual Report will help the readers fulfill their curiosity.


DR. NITEN CHANDRA

I: ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

VISION

To achieve excellence in legal affairs for accomplishing the goals set out in the Constitution of India.

MISSION

To design, develop and maintain an environment for enabling individuals, organisations and institutions in Government to meet the challenges in the fields of legal advice, litigation, legal education and research.

OBJECTIVES

1. To bring in legal reforms to achieve the vision and mission of the Department;
2. To facilitate the functioning of Ministries and Departments for good governance by providing appropriate legal advice and opinion;
3. To reform the Indian Legal Service to make it efficient and responsive;
4. To develop a comprehensive e-governance solution for the conduct of litigation;
5. To transform the Department of Legal Affairs through Information-Technology;
6. To reduce litigation and encourage settlement of disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms;
7. To promote excellence in the legal profession;
8. To reform legal education.

FUNCTIONS

The Department has been allocated the following items as per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961:

1. Advice to Ministries on legal matters including interpretation of the Constitution and the laws, conveyancing and engagement of counsel to appear on behalf of the Union of India in the High Courts and subordinate courts where the Union of India is a party;
2. Attorney General of India, Solicitor General of India, and other Central Government law Officers of the States whose services are shared by the Ministries of the Government of India;
3. Conduct of cases in the Supreme Court and the High Courts on behalf of the Central

Government and on behalf of the Governments of States participating in the Central Agency Scheme;

4. Reciprocal arrangements with foreign countries for the service of summons in civil suits for the execution of decrees of Civil Courts, for the enforcement of maintenance orders, and for the administration of the estates of foreigners dying in India intestate;
5. Authorisation of Officers to execute contracts and assurances of property on behalf of the President under Article 299(1) of the Constitution, and authorisation of Officers to sign and verify plaints or written statements in suits by or against the Central Government;
6. Indian Legal Service;
7. Treaties and agreements with foreign countries in matters of civil law;
8. Law Commission of India;
9. Legal profession including the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961) and persons entitled to practice before the High Courts;
10. Enlargement of the jurisdiction of Supreme Court and the conferring thereon of further powers; persons entitled to practice before the Supreme Court, references to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution of India;
11. Administration of the Notaries Act, 1952 (53 of 1952);
12. Income-tax Appellate Tribunal.

The Department has also been allocated administration of the following Acts:-

- a) The Advocates Act, 1961
- b) The Notaries Act, 1952
- c) The Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001
- d) The Commercial Courts Act, 2015
- e) The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019

Additionally, the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and the Law Commission of India fall under the administrative purview of the Department. The Department is also in-charge of all administrative aspects of the Indian Legal Service. This Department also handles the appointment of the Attorney General of India, the Solicitor General of India, and the Additional Solicitor General of India. This Department approves grant-in-aid to specific

institutions active, such as the Indian Law Institute, in order to encourage legal education and research and to advance the legal profession.

ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP

The Main Secretariat of the Department of Legal Affairs is located in New Delhi, and Branch Secretariats are located in Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. The types of responsibilities performed can be roughly divided into two categories: advice work and litigation work. The organisation chart of the Department of Legal Affairs is as follows:-

Figure I 1
Organisational setup of the Department of Legal Affairs



I. MAIN SECRETARIAT

- i. The Main Secretariat has the Law Secretary as its head, who is assisted by Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, and several levels of Legal Advisers. The Department's legal advisers are organised into small groups, led by an Officer with the rank of Additional Secretary or Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser. For the various Ministries/Departments of the Indian Government assigned to their respective groups, these groups of legal advisers offer legal assistance on legal issues and conveyancing.
- ii. The work relating to the Railway Board and the Department of Telecommunications organisations is handled by an officer at the Joint Secretary level. In addition, the Officers of the Indian Legal Services are employed by SFIO, NTRO, CBI, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- iii. The Central Agency Section, which is currently led by the Law Secretary and supported by Officers from the Government Advocates cadre of the ILS and other supporting staff, handles litigation at the Supreme Court on behalf of all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India as well as some administrations of the Union Territories.
- iv. The Litigation (High Court) Section, currently led by an Additional Legal Adviser, handles the litigation work in the High Court of Delhi and in CAT (Principal Bench) on behalf of all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.
- v. The Litigation (Lower Court) Section, currently supervised by an Assistant Legal Adviser, handles the litigation work in the District Judiciary of Delhi.
- vi. The Department has established a separate cell called the 'Implementation Cell' to handle the implementation of the recommendations of the Law Commission of India and the administration of the Advocates Act, 1961 and the Advocates Welfare Fund Act, 2015. The Cell also administers the subject of 'Legal Education' as provided under Entry 26 of List III to the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Figure I 2:
Offices of the Department of Legal Affairs



II. BRANCH SECRETARIATS

The Department of Legal Affairs has Branch Secretariats at Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

i. BRANCH SECRETARIAT, BENGALURU– It has jurisdiction over the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It is headed by an officer of the rank of an Additional Legal Adviser.

ii. BRANCH SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI– It has jurisdiction over the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry. It is headed by an Officer of the rank of a Deputy Legal Adviser.

iii. BRANCH SECRETARIAT, KOLKATA– It has jurisdiction over the States of West Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim, Orissa, Assam, Bihar and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is headed by an Officer of the rank of an Additional Government Advocate.

iv. BRANCH SECRETARIAT, MUMBAI– It has jurisdiction over the entire Western Region consisting of the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. It is headed by an Officer of the rank of a Senior Government Advocate.

All the Branch Secretariats perform an extended function of the Main Secretariat, such as rendering legal opinion and handling litigation pertaining to the Central Government, in the respective States under their jurisdiction.

II: ADVICE

1. There are three Advice Sections in the Department of Legal Affairs; namely, Advice A, Advice B and Advice C. The Advice A and Advice B Sections facilitate the movement of files relating to the requests for advice received from various Ministries/Departments for legal opinion. The requests received for legal advice are placed before the concerned group heads to whom a particular Ministry/Department has been allocated to. To make functioning more convenient, the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are distributed between Advice A and Advice B Sections:

Figure II-1:
Advice Section



Figure II 2:
Organisational setup and process

Organisational setup and process



The following Ministries/Departments/Organisations are dealt by Advice 'A' Section:

1. Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Ministry of External Affairs
3. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
4. Ministry of Defence
5. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
6. Ministry of Labour and Employment
7. Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
8. Ministry of Steel
9. Ministry of Mines
10. Department of Justice
11. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
12. Ministry of Coal
13. Ministry of Communications
14. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
15. Development of North Eastern Region
16. Union Public Service Commission
17. Staff Selection Commission
18. Central Information Commission
19. Ministry of Shipping
20. Ministry of Civil Aviation
21. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
22. Ministry of Minority Affairs
23. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
24. Ministry of Tourism
25. Election Commission of India
26. Central Vigilance Commission
27. Conveyancing matters including house building advance cases of all the Ministries and Departments.

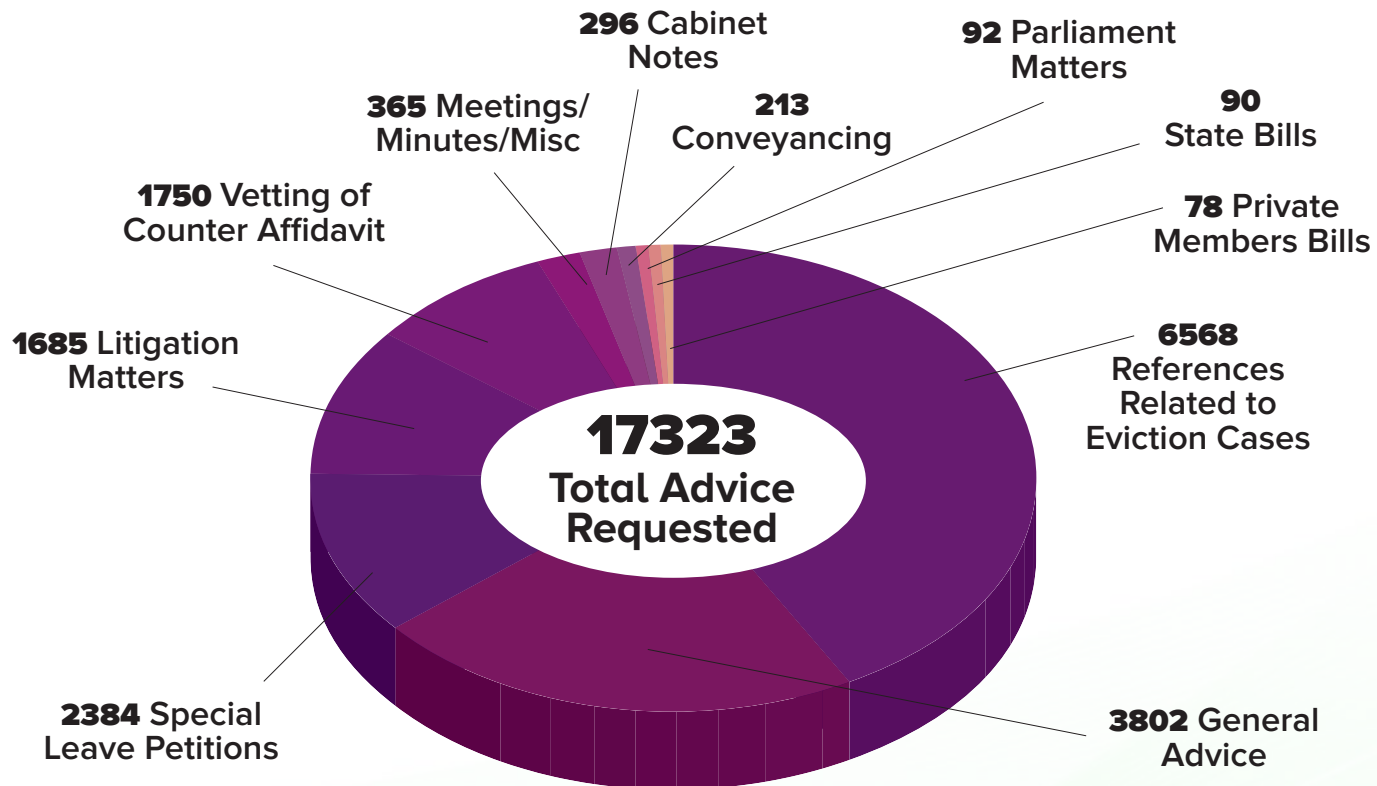
The following Ministries/Departments/Organisations are dealt by Advice 'B' Section:

1. Ministry of Finance
2. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
3. Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises
4. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
5. Ministry of Railways
6. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
7. Ministry of Commerce & Industry
8. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
9. Lok Sabha Secretariat
10. Rajya Sabha Secretariat
11. President Secretariat
12. Prime Minister Office
13. Cabinet Secretariat
14. Ministry of Science & Technology
15. Ministry of Jal Shakti
16. Ministry of Textiles
17. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
18. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
19. Department of Atomic Energy
20. Ministry of Power
21. Comptroller and Auditor General for India
22. NITI Aayog
23. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
24. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
25. Ministry of Agriculture
26. Ministry of Rural Development
27. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
28. Ministry of Education
29. Ministry of Culture
30. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
31. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
32. Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
33. Department of Space
34. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
35. Ministry of Women & Child Development
36. Ministry of Earth Sciences
37. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
38. Ministry of Cooperation
39. Ministry of AYUSH
40. Department of Legal Affairs
41. Legislative Department
42. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

1.1 REQUESTS FOR ADVICE RECEIVED IN ADVICE 'A' SECTION

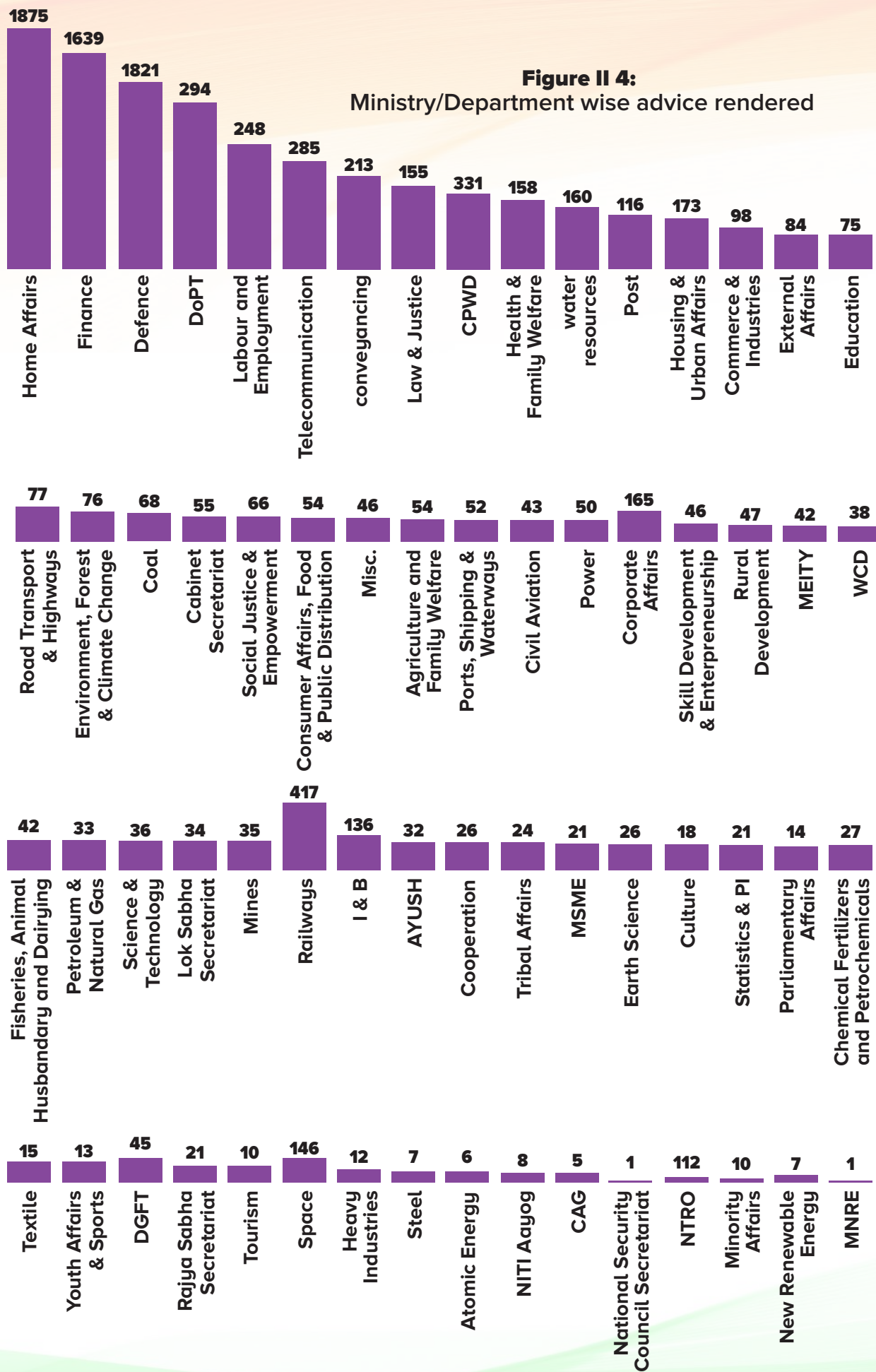
- 1.1.1. The Advice 'A' Section received 6127 references from various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for the vetting of legal documents and for the tendering of legal opinions/advice on various issues. The Officials of this Department took part in 165 national and international conferences and meetings for advice work.
- 1.1.2. 213 references relating to examination from the angle of conveyancing, which include international agreements, were received.
- 1.1.3. 4885 SLPs/litigation issues, 113 Cabinet Notes/Legislative Proposals, and 103 references pertaining to State Bills and Ordinances were examined.
- 1.1.4. Apart from tendering legal advice, this Section dealt with references and other communications received by the Minister and Officers of this Department.
- 1.1.5. 82 RTI applications and 20 public grievances pertaining to the Advice Sections were dealt with.

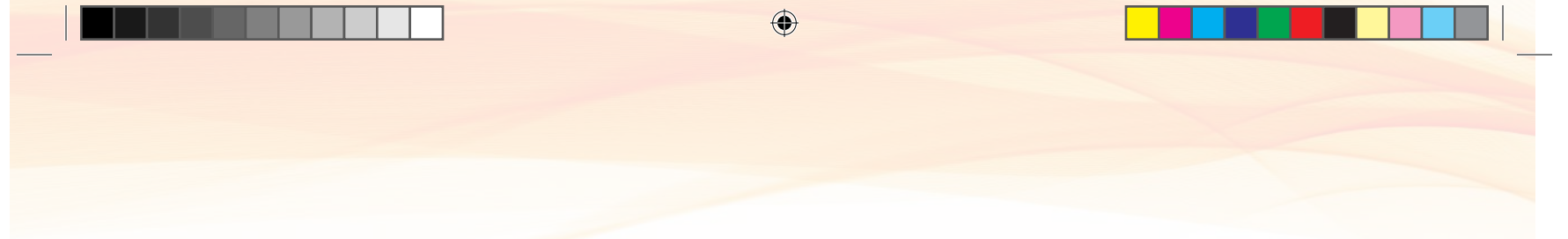
Figure II 3:
Subject-wise categories of advice



1.2 REQUESTS FOR ADVICE RECEIVED IN ADVICE 'B' SECTION

- 1.2.1. Advice B Section received 10,775 requests from various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for vetting of legal documents and legal opinion/advice on various issues.



- 
- 1.2.2.** 183 Cabinet Notes/ Legislative Proposals, and 2810 SLPs/Litigation matters were received for examination/advice.
- 1.2.3.** The Officers of this Department participated in 209 national/ international meetings and conferences for advice work.
- 1.2.4.** This Section also dealt with references and official communications received by the Minister's Office and Officers of this Department.
- 1.2.5.** 92 Parliament Questions including assurances were processed.

1.3 REQUESTS FOR ADVICE RECEIVED IN ADVICE 'C' SECTION

- 1.3.1** Seven new cases on different subjects were sent for the opinion of the Attorney General for India, Solicitor General of India, and Additional Solicitor General of India through this Section, out of which five opinions were received and forwarded to the respective Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.
- 1.3.2** The Section has rendered general and secretarial assistance to the Officers in the Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice and in finding precedents on different subjects.
- 1.3.3** The Section disposed of three RTI applications this year.
- 1.3.4** The files related to Law Officers from 1944 to 2023 and others related to advice of the Officers of our Department from 1991 to 2019 are being digitized. 4.59 lakh pages with 8937 files were scanned, which include files relating to Attorney General's opinions from the year 1944 to 2023 and also the opinions of the Officers of this Department from the year 1991 to 1997.
- 1.3.5** Out of 8937 scanned files in Advice C, 2061 files related to Attorney General's opinion were uploaded on e-Office portal.
- 1.3.6** The subject list of files from the year 1944 to 1997 regarding scrutiny of at least 25-year-old records were prepared and follow up action to send them to the National Archive of India was taken.

III: JUDICIAL WORK

The Judicial Section is responsible for the conduct of litigation of the Government of India and Union Territories before the Supreme Court, various High Courts, the Central Administrative Tribunals and the District Courts. Its functions include processing the appointments of the Attorney General for India, the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General of India, Central Government Counsels in the Supreme Court, High Courts, the Central Administrative Tribunals, the District Courts and the Consumer Forums in various States for conducting litigation work on behalf of the Central Government, engaging Law Officers and other Counsels on behalf of the Ministries/Departments for conducting cases before the Supreme Court, the High Courts, the Tribunals, the Commissions of Inquiry, the District Courts, the Quasi-Judicial Authorities etc. Its functions also include formulation and settlement of their terms and conditions for conducting cases. The Judicial Section is also responsible for nomination of Arbitrators in disputes between the various Departments of the Government of India and private parties.

Figure III 1:
Judicial Section





The Section is responsible for issuing statutory orders authorizing various Officers to sign and verify plaints and written statements in suits before any Court with civil jurisdiction or in writ proceedings by or against Central Government under Order XXVII, Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908. This Section authorizes Officers to sign contracts and agreements on behalf of the President of India under Article 299(1) of the Constitution of India.

This Section deals with the work of reciprocal arrangements with foreign countries for service of summons in civil suits, execution of decrees of Civil Courts, enforcement of maintenance orders and administration of the estates of foreigners dying intestate in India.

India acceded to the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters and also to the Hague Convention on Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil and Commercial Matters in the year 2007. The Ministry of Law and Justice is the Central Authority for both the Conventions. The Judicial Section deals with the processing of service of summons/notices received through Judicial Authorities from foreign countries under the said Convention to Indian nationals. It also deals with forwarding of summons/notices originating from Judicial Authorities of our country to the Central Authorities of foreign countries.

The activities undertaken by the Judicial Section are as follows:

1. Conduct of Central Government litigation before various courts of law through Law Officers/Panel Counsels:

- a) On 01.10.2022, Shri R. Venkataramani, Senior Advocate, was appointed as the new Attorney General of India.
- b) Additional Solicitors General of India for the High Court of Rajasthan and for the Allahabad High Court were re-appointed for a further term of three years. New Additional Solicitors General of India were appointed for the High Courts of Calcutta, Jharkhand, Madras and for the Southern Zone (which includes Kerala, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh).
- c) Resignation of two Additional Solicitors General of India, i.e. one for the Supreme Court of India and other for the High Court of Calcutta was accepted.
- d) Eight new Deputy Solicitors General of India were engaged afresh before various High Courts / Benches of High Courts across the country. The terms of four Deputy Solicitors General of India were extended for a further term of three years.



Table III-1:
Number of Empanelled Counsels in States/Union Territories

S.NO	NAME OF STATE/UT	EMPANELLED COUNSELS
1.	Delhi	1392
2.	West Bengal	314
3.	Maharashtra	259
4.	Telangana	120
5.	Andhra Pradesh	42
6.	Jharkhand	14
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	09
8.	Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar	06
9.	Karnataka	04
10.	Rajasthan	08
11.	Tamil Nadu	04
12.	Assam	03
13.	Gujarat	02
14.	Union Territory of Ladakh & Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir	03
15.	Himachal Pradesh	02
TOTAL		2182

- e) A number of advocates were empanelled or their terms as panel counsels were extended for the various Courts / Tribunals in the States/Union Territories.
- f) Resignations of 36 Panel Counsels (including two Deputy Solicitors General of India) were accepted.
- g) 318 proposals were received from the Ministries/Departments regarding separate panels of Advocates and for the engagement of Law Officers, Panel Counsels and private Advocates to represent them before various Courts on normal or on special terms and conditions.
2. The Department has created thirteen new posts of **Additional Solicitor General of India**, one each for the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gauhati, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand and assigned the existing post of **Additional Solicitor General of India (Southern Zone)** to the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana.

3. Nomination of Arbitration Panel Counsels in domestic as well as International commercial disputes, involving Government/PSE on the one hand and PSE/private party on the other:

Requests were received regarding the engagement of Arbitration Panel Counsels to represent various Ministries/Departments in arbitration cases. In response to such requests, Arbitration Panel Counsels were engaged in **290** arbitration cases.

4. RTI: 254 RTI applications were disposed of.

Litigation at Delhi High Court

The Litigation (HC) Section handles the litigation work at the High Court of Delhi on behalf of all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, except the Income Tax Department. The litigation work is dealt with by two Sections; Litigation (HC) Section 'A' and Section 'B', supervised by a Superintendent (L). Section 'A' deals with the advance notices pertaining to the Writ Petitions, Letters Patent Appeals (LPA), and Miscellaneous Petitions under Article 226 and Article 227 of the Constitution of India. Section 'B' deals with cases relating to the Original, Appellate, Revisional and Writ jurisdictions of the High Court of Delhi.

Figure III 2:
Delhi High Court Litigation Section



There is one Additional Solicitor General of India (ASG) and a panel of Central Government Standing Counsel (CGSC), Senior Counsel and Government Pleaders (GPs) to conduct litigation on behalf of the Central Government. Close liaison is maintained between the concerned Ministry/Department and the nominated Panel Counsels to safeguard the interests of the Government before the High Court of Delhi.

The following table represents the number of cases received in the High Court of Delhi during 2022-23 (Table III.2).

Table III 2
Litigation before the High Court of Delhi

Year	NO. OF CASES RECEIVED
2022 - 2023	10,939

This Section deals with the payment of professional fee pertaining to Law Officers, CGSCs, Senior Counsels and Government Pleaders on the panel. The requisite information regarding budgetary allocations and expenditure details for the year F.Y.2022-23 are furnished hereunder:-

Table III-3
Budgetary Allocation and Expenditure Incurred in ₹ (2022-23)

S.No.	Financial Year	Budgetary Allocation	Expenditure incurred
1.	2022-23	13.65 Crore	13.65 Crore

LITIGATION (LOWER COURT) SECTION, TIS – HAZARI, NEW DELHI

The litigation work in the various District Courts as well as in the Consumer Forums/ Tribunals in Delhi on behalf of all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, except the Income Tax Department, is handled by Litigation (LC) Section. The litigation work is dealt with by an Assistant Legal Adviser and In-Charge assisted by a Superintendent (Legal) and an Assistant (Legal).

Figure III 3:
Tis–Hazari, Litigation (Lower Court) Section, New Delhi



PANEL COUNSELS ENGAGED

There is a panel of senior Counsels and Additional Central Government Counsels who are nominated for conducting cases on behalf of Union of India. On receipt of a request from the Ministry/Department, a suitable Government Counsel is engaged to appear on their behalf before the Courts. Close liaison is maintained between the various Departments and the Government Counsels at all times to safeguard the interests of the Government before the District Courts/Consumer Forums/Tribunals. There are 284 Panel Counsels engaged for a tenure of three years.

Table III-4
Cases before various District Courts as well as in the Consumer Forums/Tribunals in Delhi

Total Cases	Cases Disposed
1158	44

BUDGET

When cases are decided by the Courts, the Government Counsels submit fee bill in a prescribed format. This Section received 309 fee bills from Government Counsel/Senior Panel Counsels. During the financial year 2022-23, this Section was allocated a budget of ₹1,30,00,000, out of which ₹49,13,885 was utilised to settle the professional fee bills.

TRIBUNALS

The Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976 introduced Part XIV-A-Tribunals to the Constitution, under which Article 323A and Article 323B were inserted. The details of Tribunals constituted by the Parliament are as follows:

Table III-5
Details of Tribunals constituted by the Parliament

S. No.	NAME OF THE TRIBUNAL	STATUTE UNDER WHICH THE TRIBUNAL HAS BEEN CONSTITUTED	MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE TRIBUNAL
1.	Industrial Tribunal	The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947)	Ministry of Labour & Employment
2.	Income Tax Appellate Tribunal	The Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961)	Department of Legal Affairs
3.	Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal	The Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962)	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
4.	Appellate Tribunal under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 (13 of 1976)	Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 (13 of 1976)	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
5.	Central Administrative Tribunal	The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 (13 of 1985)	Department of Personnel & Training
6.	Railway Claims Tribunal	The Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987 (54 of 1987)	Ministry of Railways
7.	Securities Appellate Tribunal	The Securities Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992)	Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
8.	Debts Recovery Tribunal	The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (51 of 1993)	Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
9.	Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal	The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (51 of 1993)	Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance
10.	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal	The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997)	Department of Communications, Ministry of Communications
11.	National Company Law Tribunal	The Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013)	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
12.	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	The Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013)	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
13.	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission	The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (35 of 2019)	Department of Consumer Affairs
14.	Appellate Tribunal for Electricity	The Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003)	Ministry of Power
15.	Armed Forces Tribunal	The Armed Forces Act, 2007 (55 of 2007)	Department of Defence
16.	National Green Tribunal	The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (19 of 2010)	Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change

LIMBS (LEGAL INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT BRIEFING SYSTEM)

The Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) is a web-based application for monitoring all court cases where Union of India is a party. LIMBS came into operation in February, 2016 and since then the application is working under the supervision of the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice. It is an innovative and easy to access online tool which is available 24x7 to all the stakeholders, viz., senior Government Officials, Nodal Officers and users of Ministries/Departments.

LIMBS Version 2.0 is an upgraded version of LIMBS and was launched in the year 2020 in collaboration with NIC. It is a dashboard-based system for the user Ministries/Departments on which they can monitor their cases at a glance. This version uses Open Source technologies using Coordinator framework of PHP to enhance the security and improve the efficiency of the system.

LIMBS also captures arbitration cases right from internal processing of the dispute at Ministry/Department level followed by nomination of arbitrators, and the proceedings. The Department of Legal Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, NITI Aayog and PMO can access details of court cases on LIMBS. Central Agency Section (CAS) of the Department of Legal Affairs also identifies and enters the details of important cases filed by the Union of India (UoI) before the Supreme Court. Various research bodies such as the Indian Law Institute can also access information available on LIMBS platform for research and study purpose.

Figure III 4:
Legal Information and Management Briefing System Section



EAC-PM (Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister) was also given access to LIMBS Portal for preparation of white paper on litigation on behalf of Union of India.

To upgrade to a more automated system and to minimize the manual data entry process, efforts are being made to integrate LIMBS with various Courts and Tribunal data bases through APIs for seamless data transfer and update. In this regard, Supreme Court, High Court, District Courts and 17 Tribunals were approached. Department of Legal Affairs, in cooperation with NIC and respective Court/Tribunal Authorities, successfully integrated LIMBS with the following Courts and Tribunals:

Courts/Tribunals integrated with LIMBS via API i.e.

- High Courts
- District and Session Courts

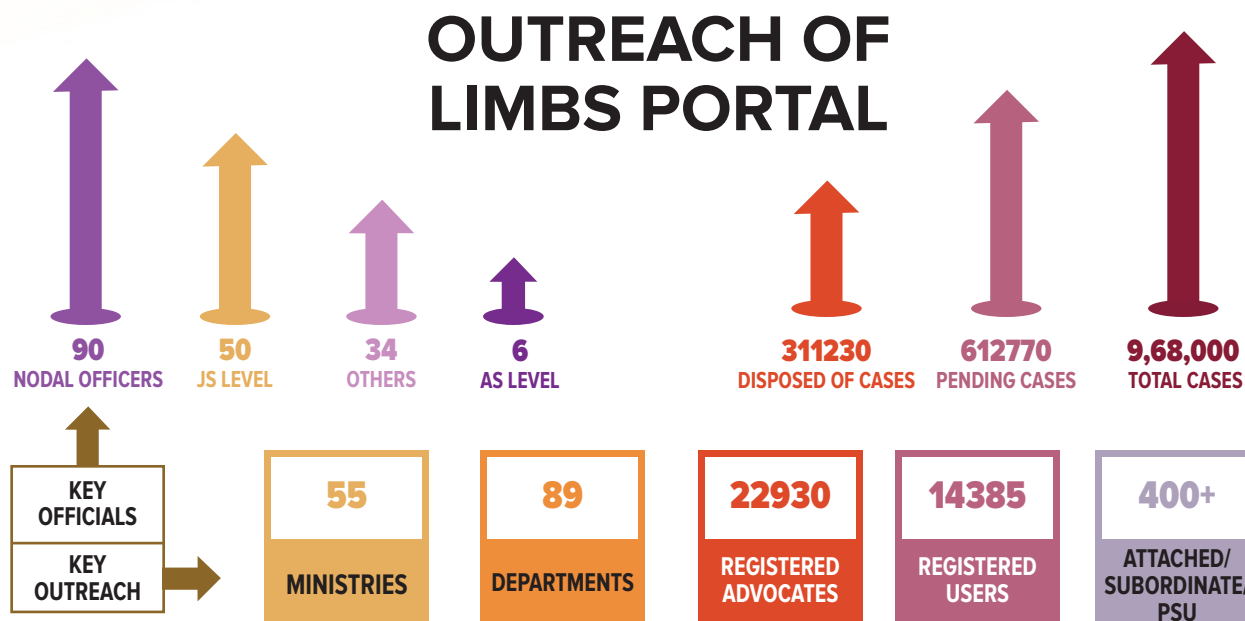
Tribunals (9):

1. Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)
2. Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)
3. Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)
4. Customs Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) 9.68
5. Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)
6. National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
7. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)
8. National Green Tribunal (NGT)
9. Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT)

Integration of LIMBS with the Supreme Court and the remaining 4 Tribunals (AFT, NCDRC, CGIT and Appellate Tribunals under SAFEMA) is under progress.

LIMBS was implemented in 55 Ministries of Government of India, its Departments and attached offices and it brought all the stakeholders viz. users, Nodal Officers of the various Ministry/Departments and advocates on a single platform. With the concerted efforts of Ministries/Departments, the application has captured **9.68 lakh** court cases (including disposed of cases) through **14,385** registered users, thereby creating a unified database of litigations pertaining to Union of India. The application has captured details of **3,281** courts and **22,930** advocates.

Figure III 5:
Outreach of LIMBS Portal



MAIN FEATURES OF LIMBS

LIMBS is enabled with advanced data analytics. It has a separate domain to enter and monitor cases pertaining to Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Commercial Disputes (AMRCD). Reports can also be generated under the 'MIS Report' tab. These features facilitate monitoring of cases, uploading of fee bills by law Officers, panel counsels and advocates. The main features of LIMBS are as follows:

- (i) **Dashboard:** On the dashboard, users can view litigation status of the concerned Ministry, viz. total number of cases entered, pending cases, disposed of cases, cases pending for compliance, important cases, contempt cases, counsel wise top 10 cases, subject wise pending cases, etc.
- (ii) **MIS Reports:** Users can view statistical reports or summary reports, viz. case status-wise summary, case category-wise summary, financial implication-wise summary, court wise summary, decided cases summary, total arbitration cases, total raised bills, total nodal Officers list, total user list, etc.
- (iii) **Advanced Search:** Through this powerful utility, users can search court cases through various fields - Ministry/Department, court details, case category, financial implication, case status, party name, advocate, system date, case date, next date of hearing/judgment date and brief history.
- (iv) **Important Cases** – A Nodal Officer has the facility to mark cases as 'Important' after taking approval from the concerned Secretary. Users can also view important cases of concerned Ministry/Department under Important Cases tab on the dashboard.
- (v) **Nodal Officers and Local Admins** can activate newly registered users of concerned Ministry/ Departments/ sub-Departments/ autonomous organizations/ CPSEs, etc. They can change the profile of users who have retired or transferred and can delete wrongly entered or duplicate cases.

- (vi) **Data Entry of a New Case and Case Updation** - Users can enter new cases using 'New Entry' tab on dashboard. They can update last hearing dates and can upload relevant documents relating to a case using 'Compliance Entry' under 'My Court Cases' tab. Users can also edit or add basic detail of cases such as CNR number, advocate's name, mobile no, brief history, etc.
- (vii) **Add Progress:** Users can add day to day progress of the cases and display its details on the web page.
- (viii) **Transfer of Cases:** Users of one Ministry/Department can transfer cases to other users of same Ministry/Department or to nodal Officers of other Ministries.
- (ix) **Arbitration Cases:** Users can enter details using 'Case Entry' tab and can view entered cases using the list under 'Arbitration' tab.
- (x) **Advocate Login:** Presently, advocates can log into their accounts and enter new cases. Advocates can update last hearing dates, next hearing dates, transfer cases by marking status 'This is not my case' to the concerned user, send message to respective user who is dealing with the case and can raise bill online.
- (xi) **Advice Module/ (SLP):** SLP module was developed to capture timelines of physical process to curb delays in timely filing of SLPs/Appeals.
- (xii) **Exception Cases:** The exception cases are those cases containing exceptions/errors related to courts, advocate details, case category, case status, financial implication, case date and last date of hearing. To update the exceptions/errors, a sub- module was developed.

UPGRADATION OF LIMBS

- (i) **FAB Module** - On September 17, 2022, Minister of Law & Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju inaugurated the FAB Module (Form for Appearance Bill) to enable law Officers to raise bills online. This digital initiative not only saves time but also helps the smooth processing of the bills.
- (ii) Facility of CNR number (unique 16-digit number generated in every case in e-Courts website) was added. Users can search their cases using CNR number.
- (iii) Direct integration with Tribunals websites through APIs for minimizing errors of Manual entry of cases.
- (iv) **Security Audit** - Third party security audit of LIMBS application was completed.
- (v) Integration of LIMBS with e-Office was started. Ministry/Department user can initiate files seeking advice from LIMBS website to the Department. The Advice Sections forward uploaded advice to the corresponding Joint Secretary of the said Ministry/ Department.
- (vi) **Central Agency Section** - In-house digitization was done.
- (vii) **Regular LIMBS Workshop** - LIMBS team provides training to Ministry/Department users through both, online and offline mode.

IMPACT OF LIMBS

- (i) LIMBS acts as a catalyst to bring improvement in monitoring of court cases by Ministries/Departments and integrates it with e-Court application to provide a complete and holistic solution. LIMBS uses a unified database, standard templates and common nomenclature to eliminate the confusion and ambiguity in dealing with court cases. SMS alerts to advocates, users and concerned Officers ensure

that no case escapes attention. The MIS reports have improved the working of legal cell in various Ministries/Departments.

- (ii) LIMBS has thus revolutionized the litigation monitoring system of Union of India by introducing accountability, ownership and cohesiveness among the users across the Ministries and improving transparency through the entry of the necessary information on this web application.

TRAINING CONDUCTED ON LEGAL INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT BRIEFING SYSTEM (LIMBS)

Department of Legal Affairs extended its support for smooth adoption of application by all concerned Ministries/Departments. 162 training/meeting sessions (online/offline) were conducted by the LIMBS team which covered Officers of various Ministries/Departments to ensure effective dissemination and adoption of its features.

Figure III 6:
Training at West Central Railways, Mumbai



Figure III 7:
Training at North Block, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance



IV. LEGAL REFORMS

MANAGEMENT OF COMMERCIAL COURTS

One of the key success factors in the transformation of economies is business' confidence in enforcement of contracts by the Courts. Both domestic and foreign investments which are fundamental to economic growth involve entering of parties into commercial contracts. Often, contracts result in disputes that require proper and speedy adjudication by the Courts. This facilitates faster execution of contracts and reduces business costs and enhances returns on investment.

Figure IV 1: Administration III



In order to ensure that commercial contracts are enforced properly and business activities continue unimpeded, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was enacted and Commercial Courts were established at the District levels. Five High Courts at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Madras exercise Original Civil Jurisdiction wherein commercial divisions have been established. The Act was amended in 2018. The specified value of the commercial disputes to be adjudicated by the Commercial Courts is ₹3 lakhs. The Act simplifies the process of settlement of dispute by introducing mechanism of Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) where no interim relief is contemplated.

The mediation is to be conducted under the aegis of the State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority as provided under the National Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. On failure to resolve dispute through PIMS mechanism, the claimant can approach the Courts for resolution of their commercial dispute. The amendments also provide for establishment of Commercial Appellate Court at District level in such territories wherein the High Courts do not enjoy ordinary original civil jurisdiction and the commercial dispute case at the first instance is decided by a Court below the Court of District Judge.

Table IV-1:
Courts established under Commercial Courts Act, 2015

S. No.	HIGH COURTS	Commercial Courts (Below District Judge Level)	Commercial Courts (At District Judge Level)	Commercial Appellate Court (District Judge Level)	Commercial Division	Commercial Appellate Division
1	High Court of Jharkhand (as on 31.12.2022)	24	24	24	0	1
2	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	1
3	High Court of Sikkim	6	6	6	N.A.	1
4	High Court of Delhi (as on 30.09.2022)	NA	35	NA	9	7
5	Gauhati High Court (as on 30.09.2022)	34	4	34	-	-
6	High Court of Madras (as on 31.12.2022)	114	34	29	3	3
7	High Court of Meghalaya	-	1	-	-	1
8	High Court of Uttarakhand (as on 30.09.2022)	-	2	-	Division Bench at High Court	Division Bench at High Court
9	High Court of Patna	117	37	37	2	1
10	High Court of Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	--	1
11	High Court of Kerala (as on 31.12.2022)	56	0	14	0	1
12	High Court of Calcutta	N.A.	4	N.A.	High Court, Calcutta	High Court, Calcutta
13	High Court of Gujarat (as on 01.12.2022)	118	76	32	1	1
14	Punjab and Haryana High Court (as on 31.12.2022)	185	98	103	1	2
15	High Court of Karnataka (as on 30.09.2022)	-	54	-	-	3

S. No.	HIGH COURTS	Commercial Courts (Below District Judge Level)	Commercial Courts (At District Judge Level)	Commercial Appellate Court (District Judge Level)	Commercial Division	Commercial Appellate Division
16	High Court of Bombay (as on 30.09.2022)	101	90	88	4	4
17	High Court of Tripura	-	9	1	-	1
18	High Court of Chhattisgarh (as on 31.12.2022)	-	1	-	-	1
19	High Court of Madhya Pradesh (as on 01.12.2022)	7	5	1	Not Established	3
20	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh	Vide Notification LD (A) 2005/22-II dated:- 02.07.2019 which has been issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (Judicial Administration Section) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu, the Courts of Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) at Jammu and Srinagar are designated as Commercial Courts respectively for Srinagar and Jammu districts. The Principal District Courts in remaining districts of the UT have been designated as Commercial Courts. Moreover the commercial cases including commercial value (>₹500 crores) filed in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are listed in the Benches constituted according to the roster of that week.				
21	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	--	2	--	1	1
22	High Court of Orissa (as on 30.09.2022)	4	--	10	NA	1
23	High Court of Rajasthan (as on 01.12.2022)	--	12	--	--	2

There are 766 Commercial Courts constituted below District Judge level, 494 Commercial Courts at the District Judge level, 379 Commercial Appellate Division Courts at District Judge Level. 25 Commercial Divisions and 38 Commercial Appellate Division constituted in the High Courts.

BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

The Bar Council of India is the statutory regulator of legal education and legal profession, entrusted with maintaining and improving their standards. The Bar Council of India ensures maintenance of professional standards of conduct and etiquette of advocates. It acts as the Appellate Authority in disciplinary matters relating to conduct of Advocates while the first authority in this regard is the concerned State Bar Council. The Bar Council of India, under Section 48B of the Advocates Act, 1961, has the power of general supervision and control over State Bar Councils and to issue directions for proper and efficient discharge of the functions of State Bar Councils.

The Bar Council of India also conducts the All India Bar Examination for advocates who graduated with effect from 2010 and are provisionally enrolled with their respective State Bar Councils. The examination has to be cleared by such Advocates within a period of two years of their provisional enrolment in order to obtain the Certificate of Practice.

LEGAL EDUCATION

The Advocates Act, 1961 lays down the standards for legal education in India. It confers powers on the Bar Council of India to recognise Universities offering degrees in Law for enrolment as an Advocate. In order to strengthen the outreach of legal education in India, 23 National Law Universities have been established. The table below provides State wise private as well as Government Law Colleges and Universities in India.

Rules of Legal Education have been formulated to maintain and raise the standards of legal education of the Universities and Colleges imparting legal education.

The Rules specify minimum requirements, such as infrastructure, class rooms, minimum library requirement, qualifications of faculties, moot courts, legal aid clinic, computer facility, etc.

Compulsory clinical education through Drafting, Pleading and Conveyancing, Professional Ethics, Alternate Dispute Resolution, Moot Court and Internship, which includes pre-trial preparations, are also included in syllabus and encouraged.

Visit to police stations, courts, women cells, jail visits are important as it provides an opportunity for practical observation.

The Prime Minister of India, in his speech on 30 April, 2022 at the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts urged the inclusion of certain subjects in legal education such as blockchain technology, electronic discovery, cyber security, robotic, Artificial Intelligence and bioethics. This has been adopted by the Bar Council of India.

The syllabus and other norms are laid down by the Bar Council of India in consultation with the Universities.

Rules of Legal Education provide for imparting legal education in English or in any other regional language that allows students to appear in examinations in that chosen language.

The Bar Council of India conducts and promotes seminars and workshops by eminent jurists and publishes journals of legal interest, namely, the Indian Bar Review.

Under Section 10 of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Legal Education Committee, chaired by a former Supreme Court Judge, regulates the standards of legal education in India.

Table No IV-2
Private and Government Law Colleges and Universities

S.No.	State	Private		Government	
		Law College	University	Law College	University
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29	4	10	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	6	2	1
3.	Assam	15	1	14	4
4.	Bihar	10	3	15	12
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	7	20	6
6.	Delhi	15	2	4	4
7.	Gujarat	67	12	32	12
8.	Goa	0	0	2	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	9	4	2
10.	Haryana	20	23	10	8
11.	J&K	11	0	2	2
12.	Jharkhand	5	10	6	7
13.	Karnataka	103	10	10	5
14.	Kerala	19	0	8	6
15.	Madhya Pradesh	56	23	68	9
16.	Maharashtra	131	17	38	12
17.	Manipur	3	0	1	2
18.	Meghalaya	0	2	4	2
19.	Mizoram	0	0	1	1
20.	Nagaland	2	0	1	1
21.	Odisha	23	4	8	6
22.	Puducherry	1	0	2	1
23.	Punjab	29	11	14	4
24.	Rajasthan	55	38	26	7
25.	Sikkim	0	1	2	2
26.	Tamil Nadu	2	15	10	2
27.	Telangana	23	4	5	6
28.	Tripura	0	1	1	1
29.	Uttarakhand	32	8	5	3
30.	Uttar Pradesh	223	27	47	20
31.	West Bengal	31	10	11	12
Total		920	248	383	170

ACTIVITIES OF BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

SURPRISE INSPECTION

The Bar Council of India has set up a High-Level Surprise Inspection Committee headed by a former Chief Justice of High Court. The task of the Committee is to verify and monitor the functioning of Centres of Legal Education for improving the standards of legal education and legal profession.

REVIEW OF AIBE SYLLABUS AND PATTERN

The Bar Council of India, pursuant to the observations made by the Supreme Court of India in Bar Council of India vs. Twinkle Rahul Mangaonkar and Ors., set up a Committee headed by Justice Naveen Sinha, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The Committee is analysing the course, curriculum, pattern of Bar Examination held in various jurisdictions including UK and USA so that the syllabus and the pattern of the All India Bar Examination can be made more meaningful to test the skills and knowledge of the practitioners of law.

INTERNSHIP OF LAW STUDENTS AND FRESH LAW GRADUATES

The Bar Council of India is devising a scheme whereby examinations are held for fresh law graduates to provide them internships under the best and noted Advocates of their respective States according to their performance.

Training Programme and Seminars

The Bar Council of India conducted seminars and workshops on various topics like “Court’s Technology and Access to Justice: Changing Perspectives”, “Lawyers Contribution in Building the Society” and “Future of legal education and the scope of globalisation of legal education” in the year 2022.

BHARATIYA BHASHA SAMITI

The Bar Council of India constituted the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti. Its members are as follows: -

1. **Justice S. A. Bobde**,
Former Chief Justice of India,
President, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti of B.C.I.
2. **Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra**,
Senior Advocate,
Chairman, Bar Council of India
Working President, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti
3. **Justice L. Narasimha Reddy**
Former Chief Justice of Patna High Court
Vice-President, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti
4. **Sri. Chamu Krishna Shastri**
Chairman, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti,
5. **Prof. (Dr.) P. Ishwara Bhat**,
Vice-Chancellor, KSLU
Former Vice-Chancellor, NUJS Kolkata
6. **Sri Ashok Mehta**, Senior Advocate,
High Court of Allahabad
7. **Smt. Anjali Thakur**, Advocate,
High Court of Bombay, Nagpur
Member, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti of B.C.I.
8. **Prof. Satyanarayana Sharma**,
Former Dean of Law Department and
Former Principal, Ujjain
9. **Prof. Vaidhyasubramaniam**,
Vice Chancellor, SASTRA University,
10. **Dr. N. Gopukumar**
Joint Secretary, University Grants
Commission
11. **Mr. J.P.Singh**,
Assistant Registrar, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

The objective of the Committee is to make legal education accessible in regional languages through translation of books. It has resolved that the task of providing Bharatiya Bhasha vocabulary of words and phrases, which are commonly used in local language, will be undertaken by a Sub-Committee consisting of the following-

1. **Justice L. Narasimha Reddy**,
Former Chief Justice of Patna High Court,
Vice-President, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti;
2. **Mr. Chamu Krishna Shastry**,
Chairman, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti; and
3. **Mrs. Anjali Thakur**, Advocate.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The Bar Council of India Trust established the India International University of Legal Education and Research (IIULER), at Goa. The University offers integrated LL.B., LL.M, Ph.D. courses, as well as certificate and diploma courses. Special emphasis is given to research.

According to Para-17.3 of New Education Policy, 2020, legal education will be restructured to become globally competitive, adopting best practices and embracing new technologies for wider access and timely delivery of justice. The inauguration of first Academic Session of the University was held on 3rd December, 2022.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The Bar Council of India, pursuant to the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 7478/2019, heard 2370 transfer cases through Disciplinary Committees and has been able to successfully dispose 1605 cases.

PUBLICATION OF BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA 'RULES FOR REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS OR FOREIGN LAW FIRMS IN INDIA, 2022'

The Bar Council of India, vide notification dated 10th March, 2023 published the Bar Council of India Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers or Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022 in the Gazette of India. The Rule provides for foreign lawyers and foreign law firms to practice foreign law and diverse international law and international arbitration matters in India, on the principle of reciprocity in a well-defined, regulated and controlled manner. This will permit foreign lawyers and law firms, with some conditions to set up offices in India on the basis of reciprocity and undertake arbitration practice. The initiative of BCI will inter-alia facilitate the endeavor to establish India as a hub of International Commercial Arbitration.

VISION @ 2047

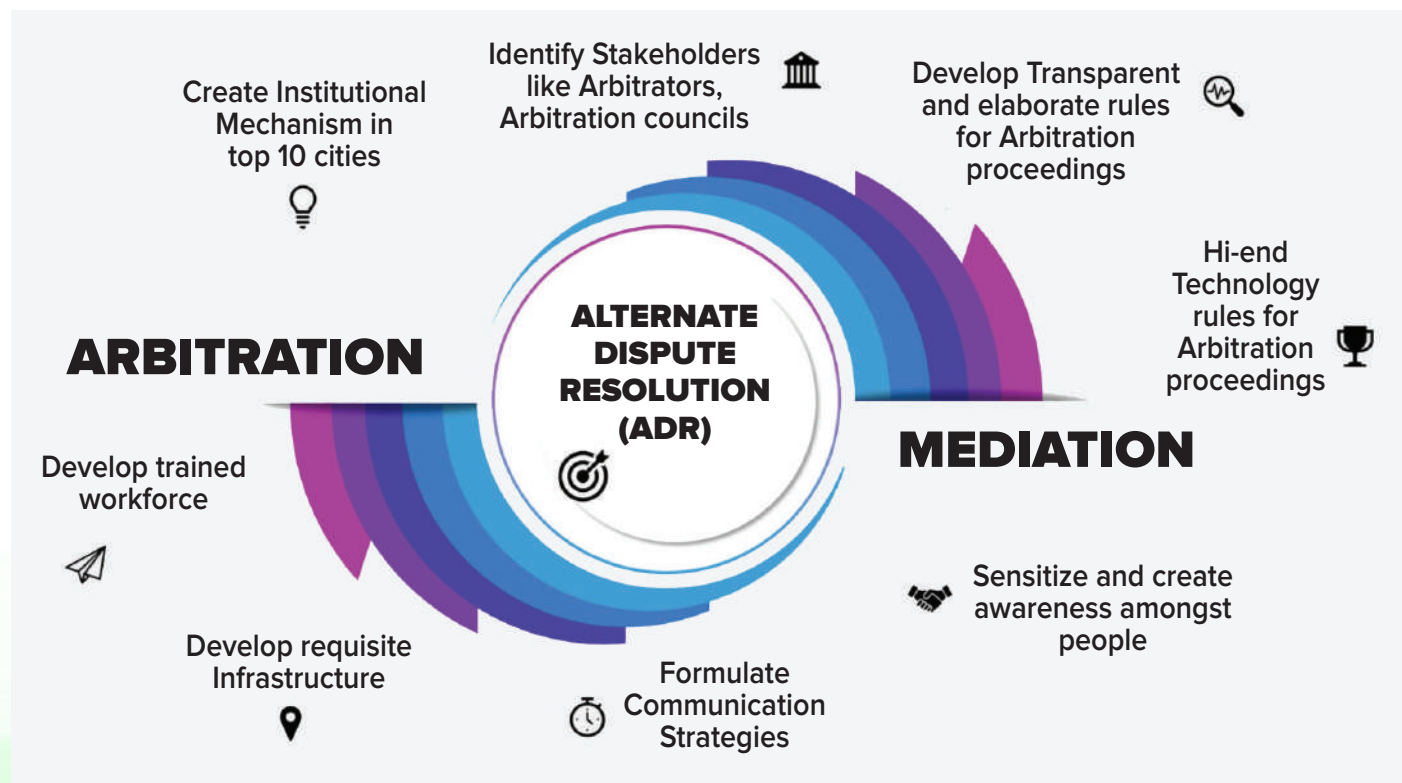
The Prime Minister of India described the Vision @ 2047 as follows: -

“In this decade of ‘AMRIT KAAL’, we will ensure that all the facilities like service delivery should reach the citizen up to the last mile; for the overall development of the country unnecessary interference by the government and government processes in the lives of the people must be ended.”

In the light of VISION @ 2047 of the Prime Minister of India, the Department of Legal Affairs has laid down the following strategies: -

1. Strengthening of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to make India a hub of institutional arbitration.
2. Establishment of “New Delhi International Arbitration Centre” vide notification dated 13 June, 2022 and notification of rules for its functioning, as well as appointment of its Chairperson and Members. In order to lend global identity to the institution, the name was changed to “India International Arbitration Centre”.
3. Creation and development of institutional mechanism to support ADR ecosystem in all top 10 cities of India within 18 months and the expansion of the initiative to the remaining Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities within 5 years.
4. Identification of relevant stakeholders like Arbitrators, Arbitration Counsels, service providers, etc. to support the implementation plan and collaborate with the existing 35 Arbitration Institutions.
5. Development of infrastructure, trained workforce and resources through capacity building/ training and formulation of communication strategy for effective Institutional Arbitration Mechanism.
6. Creation of a “GIFT CITY” ecosystem for promoting globalisation of arbitration.
7. Introduction of high-end technology enabled processes in arbitration proceedings through use of Metaverse to facilitate virtual hearing.
8. Simplification of laws governing taxation, bail matters, under trials, civil procedure, and rules regulating the conduct of Government employees.
9. Use of digital and print media channels to generate awareness on mediation and arbitration.

Figure IV 2:
Highlights of Vision @ 2047



V: TRANSPARENCY

RIGHT TO INFORMATION CELL

The RTI Cell coordinates all the work relating to the implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. It receives applications and appeals physically as well as in online mode. It forwards them to the CPIO's/Appellate Authorities within the Department or to the other concerned public authority. The RTI Cell serves as a nodal point for applications received by the Office of the Minister of Law & Justice and the Office of the Attorney General of India. The Department of Legal Affairs, including Branch Secretariats, has 18 CPIOs and 10 First Appellate Authorities.

Figure V 1:
Right to Information Cell



The Cell coordinates various matters relating to the Central Information Commission (CIC) in terms of hearing/compliance of orders. The Cell submits quarterly returns to the CIC under section 25(1) of the RTI Act, 2005. The RTI Cell works as a master division for all other Sections/Divisions for clearing any doubts related to RTI and assists them. Other functions of the RTI Cell of the Department include the following:

1. Issuing login-id/password details of the CPIOs/Appellate Authorities for online RTI portal and assisting them.
2. Dealing with the suo-motu disclosures on the website.
3. Time to time updating of information on the RTI portal of the Department's website.
4. Any other work relating to RTI Act, 2005.

Table V-1:
RTI applications and disposal

RTI Application	Pending Cases	Disposed Cases	RTI First Appeal	Pending Cases	Disposed Cases	RTI Second Appeal
3975	53	3922	429	1	428	41

PUBLIC GRIEVANCE (PG) CELL

PG Cell of the Department deals with public grievances received online as well as in offline mode. Online grievances are handled through the Centralized Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). CPGRAMS is an online platform available 24X7 to the citizens to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to 'service delivery'.

However, issues relating to sub-judice cases or any matter concerning judgments given by any court, personal and family disputes, RTI matters, matters that impact upon territorial integrity of the country or friendly relations with other countries, and suggestions are excluded from the purview of CPGRAMS.

Figure V 2:
Public Grievance Cell



The Division is headed by Shri Rajveer Singh Verma, Additional Secretary, and assisted by Shri Saji Gopinath, Under Secretary, Shri Upendra Nath Mishra, Section Officer and Ms Shweta Negi, Court Clerk.

Table V 2:
Status of Public Grievances in CPGRAMS

TOTAL CASES	DISPOSED CASES	PENDING CASES
5422	5417	5

VIGILANCE UNIT

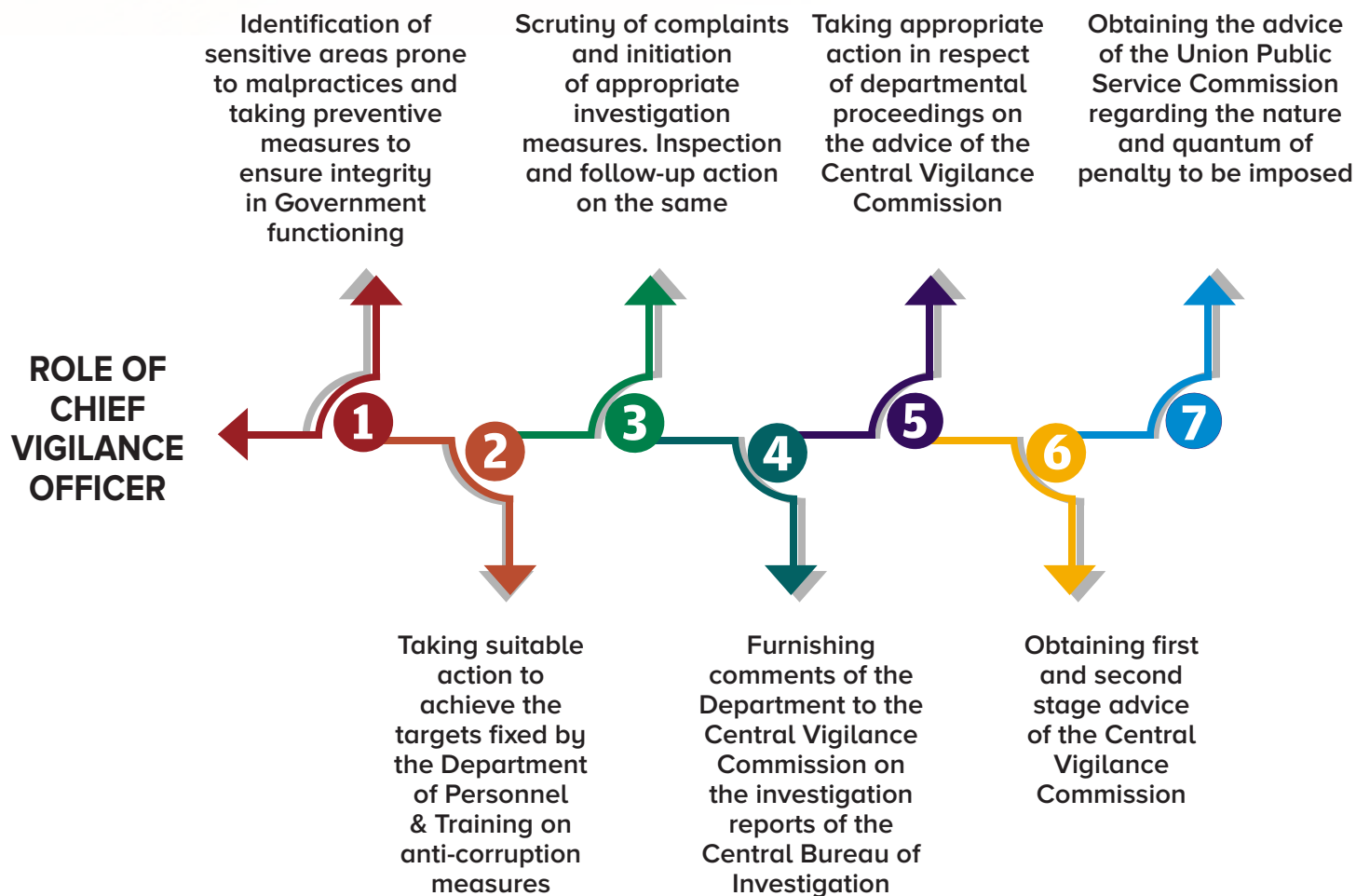
The Vigilance Unit in the Ministry of Law and Justice caters to the Department of Legal Affairs (including the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal) and the Legislative Department. The Vigilance Unit is headed by a Chief Vigilance Officer of the rank of an Additional Secretary who is appointed with the concurrence of the Central Vigilance Commission. The Vigilance Unit is presently headed by Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary. The overall responsibility of vigilance activities for both the Departments rests with the Chief Vigilance Officer.

Preventive vigilance continues to receive priority attention with emphasis on the identification of areas sensitive or prone to malpractices. The guidelines/instructions issued from time to time by the Department of Personnel & Training and Central Vigilance Commission in this regard are followed.

Figure V 3:
Vigilance Unit



The Chief Vigilance Officer is the nodal point in the Vigilance Unit and is entrusted with the following responsibilities:



Vigilance Clearance certifies whether an employee is clear from vigilance angle or not. Acts like demand/acceptance of illegal gratification, possession of disproportionate assets, instances of misappropriation, forgery or cheating, abuse of official position, other such acts are considered to be grounds for withholding Vigilance Clearance.

The Vigilance Unit issued 518 Vigilance Clearances.

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed in the week starting from 31.10.2022 to

06.11.2022. On 31 October 2022, the Law Secretary administered the Integrity Pledge to the Officers and employees of the Department of Legal Affairs as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week. Several activities were conducted to sensitise the employees of the Department. Eminent academicians from the Indian Law Institute also gave a lecture on the CVC's theme of 'Corruption free India for a developed nation' to the Department's Officials. Competitions on essay writing and poster making were also held on the aforesaid theme. The Law Secretary presented certificates and cash awards to the competition's winners on 14 December, 2022.

Internal Complaints Committee under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

A Complaints Committee to investigate sexual harassment complaints made by officials of the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department has been established under section 4 of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. It examines the allegations of sexual harassment made by women employees and, if required, launches an investigation. The Complaints Committee is deemed to be the inquiring authority appointed by the disciplinary authority for the purpose of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965. The report of the Complaints Committee is treated as an enquiry report. On completion of the enquiry, the Committee submits its findings to the Department of Legal Affairs for any necessary action. At present, Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, is in-charge of the Complaints Committee.

Currently, there are no pending cases of sexual harassment in the Department of Legal Affairs.

On December 6, 2022, a workshop was held to create awareness of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. Through the interactive workshop, Supreme Court Advocate, Sh. Shashank Shekhar delivered a lecture on the topic.

In addition to the workshop, the students of the Culture Society, Campus Law Centre, Delhi University performed a Nukkad Natak on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 on 7 December, 2022 at Shastri Bhawan to create awareness and instill the values of respect and equality for all women. Students presented the audience with vibrant messages in an innovative way, showing how the problem of sexual harassment exists in workplaces, public transportation hubs, educational institutions, and other social settings, and outlining various measures that can be taken to prevent sexual harassment.

VI: NOTARY

The Notary Cell of the Department of Legal Affairs makes appointments of the Notaries and implements the Notaries Act, 1952 and the rules framed thereunder.

As part of the Digital India Campaign, the notary work was digitalised. This has eased the appointment process of Notaries and the functioning of administration. 23,565 Notaries have been appointed by the Central Government in different States and Union Territories.

FUNCTIONS OF THE NOTARY CELL

1. The Notary Cell deals with the scrutiny of the online applications received from different States/Union Territories, processing of the applications and holding of interviews for appointment as Notaries.

Figure VI 1:
Notary Cell



Table VI 1:
Notaries appointed by the Central Government since inception

S.No.	State	NOTARIES APPOINTED SINCE INCEPTION
1.	Andhra Pradesh	584
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24
3.	Assam	28
4.	Bihar	346
5.	Chhattisgarh	194
6.	Goa	32
7.	Gujarat	4814
8.	Haryana	1474
9.	Himachal Pradesh	466
10.	Jharkhand	123
11.	Karnataka	1700
12.	Kerala	1077
13.	Madhya Pradesh	267
14.	Maharashtra	4191
15.	Manipur	04
16.	Meghalaya	10
17.	Mizoram	01
18.	Nagaland	05
19.	Odisha	146
20.	Punjab	1341
21.	Rajasthan	2039
22.	Sikkim	00
23.	Tamil Nadu	1631
24.	Telangana	79
25.	Tripura	34
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2141
27.	Uttarakhand	67
28.	West Bengal	352
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	00
30.	Chandigarh	71
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	00
32.	Jammu and Kashmir	91
33.	Ladakh	00
34.	Lakshadweep	03
35.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	872
36.	Puducherry	250
Total		24457

2. This Cell conducts inquiry into the allegations of professional misconduct on the part of the Notaries.
3. The Cell deals with RTI applications, first and second appeals.
4. The Cell handles court cases filed in various High Courts. It renews Certificates of Practice of Notaries issued by the Central Government every five years. On sufficient reasons, it also grants extension of tenure and allows change of the area of practice to the notary.

AMENDMENTS IN THE NOTARIES RULES, 1956

- The vacancies for Central Public Notaries for various States/Union Territories were enhanced. (Vide GSR No 438(E) dated 9th June, 2022)
- Rule 8B of the Notaries Rules, 1956 was amended for empowering the Central Government to renew the Certificates of Practice which were received within one year after the expiry of validity period. (Vide GSR No. 597(E) dated 22nd July, 2022)
- Sub-rule 2 of Rule 7A of the Notaries Rules, 1956 was amended, i.e. the Chairperson of every Interview Board shall be an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Legal Advisor or Law Officer of that Government [Vide GSR No.176(E) dated 13 March 2023].

NOTARY ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL (NOAP)

The Notary Cell of the Department conducted online interviews. An exclusive web portal namely Notary Online Application Portal (NOAP) was launched on 27.05.2022. The key features of NOAP are as follows:

1. The application form is user friendly and can be filled up with no technical assistance;
2. No physical copy of the documents is required to be forwarded to the Notary Cell, resulting in a paperless mechanism;
3. All kinds of statutory fees relating to appointment of Notaries are to be paid online (through Bharatkosh);
4. The applications are no more required to be forwarded through a District Judge;
5. Notaries can upload their annual returns through NOAP;
6. Notaries do not need to send specimen signature for renewing their license as these can be uploaded on the portal;
7. Notary applications received all over India can be tracked by Notary Cell as well as by applicants.

NOTARY APPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS HELD THROUGH DIGITAL MODE

1. The Notary Cell of the Department conducted online interviews in the State of Himachal Pradesh where 685 candidates were interviewed for appointment of Central Government Notaries.
2. The Notary Cell of the Department conducted online interviews of 9198 candidates for appointment of Notaries for the State of Gujarat, out of which 1236 candidates have been recommended for the Central Government notaries.
3. The Notary Cell of the Department conducted online interviews of around 5,500 candidates for appointment as Central Government for the State of Karnataka.
4. The Notary Cell of the Department conducted offline interviews of 103 candidates for appointment as Notaries for the North-Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) out of whom 59 candidates were recommended as Central Government Notary Public.

Figure VI 2:
Transformation from Physical to Paperless Governance

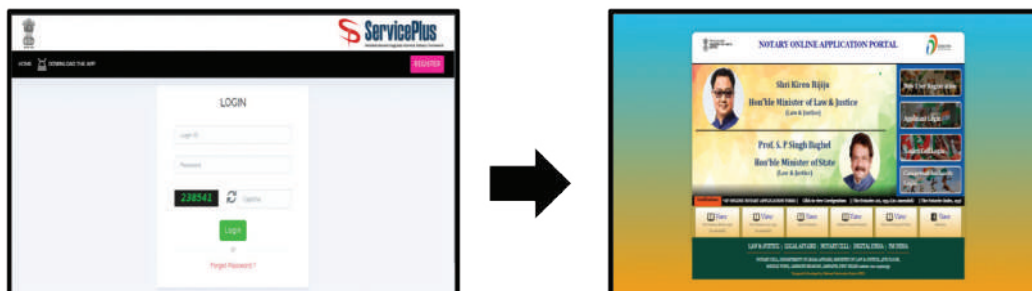


Table VI 2:
Transformation from Service Plus to NOAP

SERVICE PLUS	NOAP
Offline Payment of Notaries Fees	Online Payment through BharatKosh
Offline interview call Letter generation	Online interview call letter generation
Physical interviews Concluded	Online interviews using Bharat VC
Complicated GUL user Hostile	User Friendly portal with advanced search
No report generation	Report generation state/ District wise
Comprehensive Portal with other services	Exclusive portal for Notary Cell in the Department website
No Dashboard view	Dashboard view with all statistics of Notaries

VII: DIGITALISATION AND CYBER SECURITY

India's digital footprint witnessed accelerated growth rates with its outreach expanding to more than 50% of its population in less than a decade. Empowering the common citizenry. In keeping with this spirit, the Department of Legal Affairs, which was hitherto considered a paper-heavy Department has made significant progress towards becoming a paperless organization.

Figure VII 1:
Cyber Cell



One of the key initiatives is the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS), which is a web-based application to monitor all court cases where the Union of India is one of the parties. This application allows for real time monitoring of all Union of India related cases, while also managing the fees for all the Law Officers, Panel Counsels and Advocates associated with those cases. Earlier, officials had to line up in Courts simply to find the status of an order, now the same is available at the click of a button.

Equally significant is the initiative to digitalize the application process for Notaries. This has directly benefitted the citizens by allowing them to apply for Notaries online. The larger intent is to transform the entire end-to-end notarization process into a digitized system that can be easily accessed and executed from the comfort of home. This initiative is an important step towards the Government's public-centric approach and is also in line with Vision 2047, while at the same time, enhancing the Ease of Doing Business.

Department of Legal Affairs has also made its website more comprehensive and user friendly, easier to navigate with more readable text. The website has also been enriched with detailed information along with hyperlinks to other allied and subordinate organizations and now provides seamless interoperability across different web browsers, operating systems, connection speeds, mobile browsers, etc.

The Department of Legal Affairs is also moving towards a paperless office by digitizing many documents and process flows, thereby, increasing transparency and the pace of decision-making. Creation of files, noting in files, decisions at various levels and issuing decisions as letters and notifications have all become online through e-Office 7.0.

With the ability to create files online, track files online, and speedy decision-making due to constant monitoring online, e-Office is rapidly transforming the entire way of life at Government Offices. E-Office comes equipped with high-tech features like e-File, Knowledge Management System, CAMS, e-Leave, e-Tour, Sparrow, PIMS, etc.

GeM is a completely paperless, cashless system driven e-market place enabling procurement of common-use goods and services with minimal human interface that has been completely adopted by the Department of Legal Affairs.

Figure VII 2:
Features of the Cyber Security Crisis Management Plan (CCMP)



DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVES ON CYBER SECURITY

In parallel to enhancing the digital footprint of Department of Legal Affairs, a high level of attention has been focused towards enhancing cyber security in the Department, to safeguard the critical digital infrastructure and the data and information therein.

Given the widespread and pernicious nature of cyber based threats, all Ministries/ Departments/Organizations have been mandated to significantly improve their IT and cyber security protocols. The intent is to safeguard their networks, data and organizations against any possible IT and cyber based threats and attacks.

In this regard, action plans, in line with the directions from MeitY, have been undertaken by the Department of Legal Affairs. The first step was the formulation of a Cyber Security Crisis Management Plan (CCMP). This plan included the designation of a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), along with a Deputy CISO, to coordinate the creation and implementation of the CCMP.

The CCMP has created the impetus for a structured policy formation process within the Department of Legal Affairs to deal with such crisis. The plan involves the installation of updated versions of the software used within the Department to ensure better network and equipment security, as well as replacement of old IT equipment with modern, higher capability, and more secure models. The Department included within the purview of this plan, the external locations of the Department of Legal Affairs, to ensure uniformity in network security protocols.

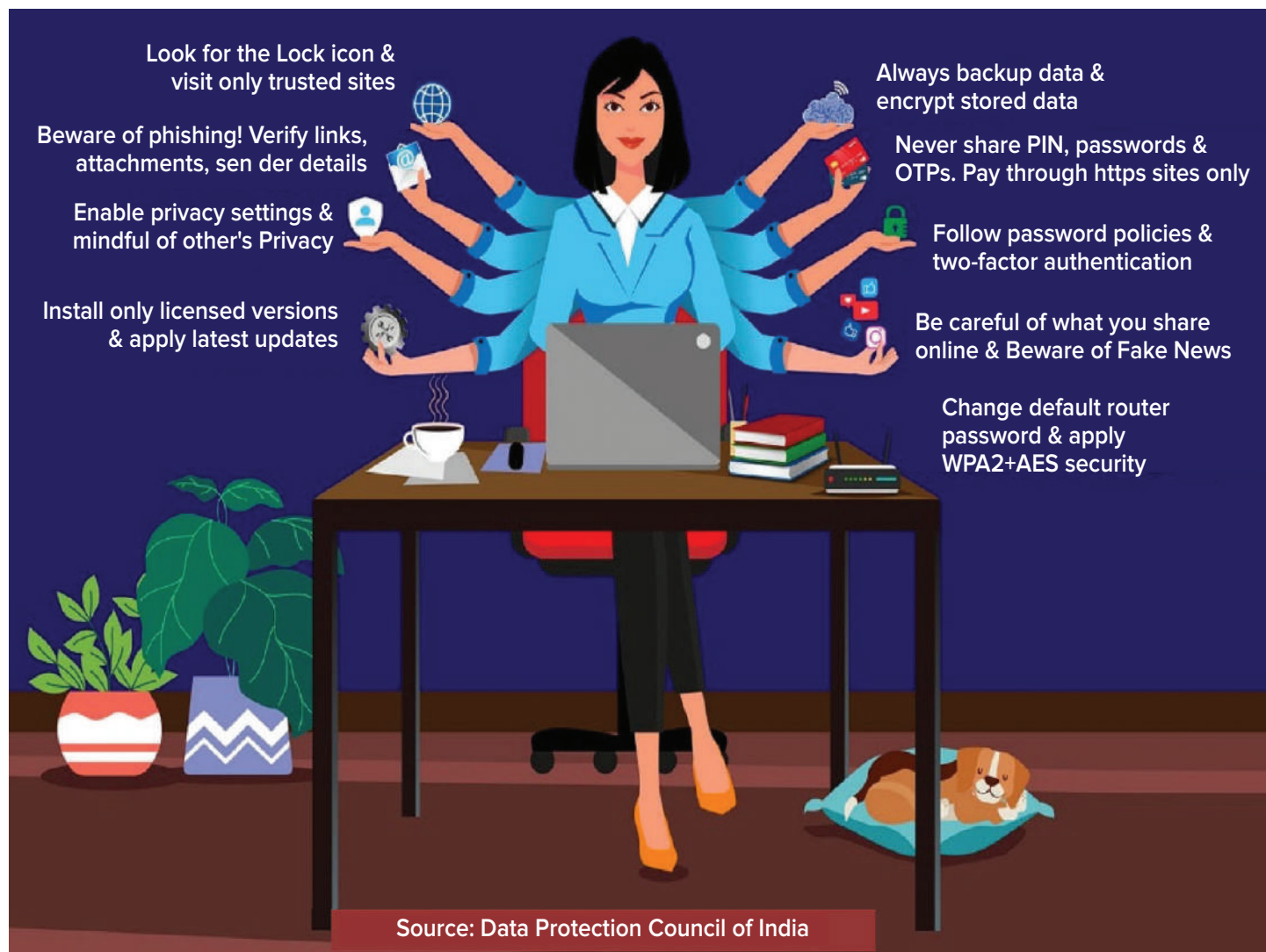
Additionally, a dedicated team was identified for the constant monitoring of cyber security issues, especially, any possible breaches or lapses that might happen within the Department. Budgetary estimates was drawn up, and funds were sanctioned for implementing the CCMP, to safeguard the Department from cyberattacks. To illustrate visually, the CCMP action plan strives to provide holistic coverage for all aspects pertaining to the IT infrastructure within the Department.

JAGAROOKTA SESSION

As part of the holistic plan to share information and create awareness about cybersecurity and cyber based threats as it pertains to Department of Legal Affairs, the Department conducted a comprehensive awareness session in November 2022 comprising presentations and lectures by experienced professionals. All senior Officers of the Department were in attendance and actively participated, along with all staff members of the Department, in the awareness session. The information presented included critical aspects such as Dos & Don'ts as well as the intricacies of these attacks and examples of mitigation measures. The actual event was preceded by a week-long campaign comprising quizzes and attendant publicity to generate interest and enthusiasm for the Jagarookta session. The session ultimately turned out to be a major success which also saw participation by Senior Advocates and MeitY Officers. The key success for Department was the all-round participation by all members of the Department at all levels.



Figure VII 3:
Do's and Don'ts to be cyber-secure.



INSTITUTIONALISING CYBER POLICY

Overall, 2022 was a salient year for the Department in the domain of cybersecurity with key action plans implemented, nodal Officers appointed, and specific budgetary measures being executed to ensure cybersecurity. This is all with the broader intent of ensuring that the Department's public services such as notarization and mediation, to name just a few, provide ease of access for the common citizen of India, in line with the Central Government's 2047 Vision. As India's growth story continues, the Department will continue to play a leading role in providing a safe, secure, trusted legal framework for cyberlaws in the sphere of online gaming and sports, data protection, online lotteries, etc.

VIII: BUDGET AND AUDIT

INTEGRATED FINANCE DIVISION

Integrated Finance Division (IFD) assists the Department of Legal Affairs in budget management and control. It is headed by Smt. Ranjana Chopra, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor. Shri Hansraj Meena, Deputy Secretary, helps in monitoring the budget and finance of the Ministry of Law & Justice including the Department of Legal Affairs. The Integrated Finance Unit tenders financial advice to the Department. The broad functions of the division include financial advice, budgeting, accounts, and internal audit in the Ministry.

HEAD WISE EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEARS 2021-2022 AND 2022-2023

The statement of expenditure for the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 may be seen in the table given below. The major heads include the Administration of Justice, Collection of Taxes on Income and Expenditure, Secretariat General Service, other Administrative Services and Capital Outlay on Other Administrative Services along with their respective Budget Provision, Revised Estimate, Expenditure, Excess and Saving and Balance Available.

HEAD WISE EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022

The highest and lowest Revised Estimate for the year 2021-2022 amounted to ₹122 crores (Capital Outlay on Other Administrative Services) and ₹7.3 crores (Other Administrative Services) respectively. The highest and lowest expenditure amounted to ₹120.78 crores (Capital Outlay on Other Administrative Services) and ₹4.27 crores (Other Administrative Services) respectively.

HEAD WISE EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023

The highest and lowest Expenditure for the year 2022-2023 amounted to ₹113.90 crores (Collection of Taxes on Income and Expenditure) and ₹5.23 crores (Other Administrative Services) respectively. The highest and lowest Balance Available amounted to ₹3.82 crores (Collection of Taxes on Income and Expenditure) and ₹-12.89 crores (Administration of Justice) respectively.

Table VIII 1:
Head-wise expenditure statement for the years 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

HEAD WISE EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEARS 2021-2022 & 2022-2023 {In Crores(₹)}										
S.No.	CODE	MAJOR HEADS	BUDGET PROVISION		REVISED ESTIMATE		EXPENDITURE		EXCESS(+) SAVING(-)	BALANCE AVAILABLE
			2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23
1	2014	Administration of Justice	60	64.6	69	52.70	63.81	65.59	5.19	-12.89
2	2020	Collection of Taxes on Income and Expenditure	119.30	122	118.35	117.72	102.07	113.90	16.28	3.82
3	2052	Secretariat General Service	72.9	88.18	78.78	93.53	65.25	91.21	13.53	2.32
4	2070	Other Administrative Services	7.3	7.7	7.3	8.00	4.27	5.23	3.03	2.77
5	4070	Capital Outlay on Other Administrative Services	100	115	122	21.00	120.78	23.23	1.22	-2.23
TOTAL(₹)			359.50	397.48	395.43	292.95	356.18	299.17	39.25	-6.21

STATUS OF AUDIT OBSERVATIONS

Table VIII 2:
Audit Para No.12.1 of Report No.6 of 2020 reg. Grant for construction of Auditorium not used since January 2000

Sl.No.	Year	No. of Paras/ PA reports on which ATNs have been submitted to PAC after vetting by audit	Details of the Paras/PA reports on which ATNs are pending		
			No. of ATNs not sent by the Ministry even for the first time	No. of ATNs sent but returned with observations and Audit is awaiting their resubmission by the Ministry	No. of ATNs which have been finally vetted by audit but have not been submitted by the Ministry to PAC
12.1	Report No.6 of 2020 reg. Grant for construction of Auditorium not used since January, 2000.	1	0	0	0

IX: ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The traditional mode of dispute resolution, i.e. litigation, is a lengthy process leading to unnecessary delays in dispensation of justice as well as overburdening of Judiciary. In such a scenario, Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms like arbitration, conciliation and mediation assume significance. These ADR mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes.

ADR mechanisms have the advantage of resolving disputes namely civil, commercial and family etc., where people are not able to start any type of negotiation and reach settlement, and also in many cases where privacy is important.

In modern times, to keep pace with the globalization of trade and commerce, several legislative measures to promote ADR mechanisms have been taken. The Department of Legal Affairs is concerned with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 and the Mediation Bill, 2021.

Figure IX 1:
Alternate Dispute Resolution



INDIA INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 provides for the establishment of an institution of national importance, namely the India International Arbitration Centre as an autonomous body for facilitating institutional arbitration. It is proposed to develop the Centre as a preferred seat for domestic and international commercial arbitration.

The Centre envisages providing world class facilities and administrative assistance for conciliation, mediation and arbitral proceedings, maintaining panel of reputed arbitrators, both at national and international level, promoting research and study, providing teaching and training and organising conferences and seminars in arbitration, conciliation, mediation and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

The Centre, being an institution of national importance, owes its origin to a statute passed by the Parliament. Globally, Indian parties account for a large number of arbitration cases. The Centre will provide fair and speedy resolution of arbitration cases at affordable cost and thus promotes institutional arbitration, without entangling the parties in the uncertainties associated with ad-hoc arbitrations. The Centre is strategically located at Vasant Kunj in Delhi. The website of IIAC is operational since February 2023 and provides an overview of the Centre and its functioning.

The Centre was established vide Notification dated 13th June, 2022. Further, the following Rules as required under the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, were notified: -

- i. India International Arbitration Centre (Number of Posts and Recruitment of Registrar, Counsel and other Officers and employees) Rules, 2022.
- ii. India International Arbitration Centre (Terms and Conditions and the Salary and allowances payable to Chairperson and Full-time Members) Rules, 2022.
- iii. India International Arbitration Centre (Form of Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2022.
- iv. India International Arbitration Centre (Travelling and other Allowances Payable to Part-time Members) Rules, 2022.

The following Regulations of India International Arbitration Centre have also been notified on 31.03.2023:

- (i) India International Arbitration Centre (Criteria for Admission to the Panel of Arbitrator) Regulations, 2023.
- (ii) India International Arbitration Centre (Transaction of Business) Regulations, 2023.

The Chamber of Arbitration under the Centre has been established to empanel experienced arbitrators of repute, at national and international level.

The Centre has appointed 10 members in the Chamber of Arbitration to carry out the empanelment process in terms of the IIAC (Criteria for Admission to the Panel of Arbitrator) Regulations, 2023.

Justice Hemant Gupta, former Judge, Supreme Court of India was appointed as the Chairperson of the Centre. Mr. Ganesh Chandru and Mr. Anant Vijay Palli were appointed as part-time Members of the Centre.

The Centre will have association with other contemporary international arbitral institutions for mutual collaboration and cooperation for promoting institutional arbitration and enhancing the credibility of the Centre as a specialised arbitral institution.

The Centre has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with IIM Rohtak to enable mutual collaboration and co-operation for promoting arbitration as an efficacious mode of alternate dispute resolution.

The Centre's operation in the conduct of arbitration in a timely and credible manner may prove to be a game changer in investor's perception of doing business in India, thereby also establishing itself as a professionally managed arbitration centre.

ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1996 AND ARBITRATION COUNCIL OF INDIA

To keep pace with current developments in the arbitration landscape and to enable arbitration as a viable dispute resolution mechanism, the Indian arbitration law has undergone significant changes in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021. The changes are enabled to signal a paradigm shift for ensuring timely conclusion of arbitration proceedings, minimizing judicial intervention in the arbitral process and enforcement of arbitral awards. The amendments are further aimed at promoting institutional arbitration, updating the law to reflect best global practices and resolve ambiguities thereby establishing an arbitration ecosystem where arbitral institutions can flourish.

The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for establishment of the Arbitration Council of India (Council) which will frame, review and update norms to ensure satisfactory levels of arbitration and will also frame policies governing the grading of arbitral institutions. The Council will lay down norms to bring uniformity of standards among the arbitral institutions in the country.

The establishment of the Council further minimizes court intervention in arbitration matters by providing that parties may approach the Supreme Court and High Courts designated and Council graded arbitral institutions for the purpose of appointment of arbitrators under section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, thereby reducing the time and expenses of the concerned parties. With a view to expedite the establishment of the Council, the following Rules have been notified according to the provisions of the Amendment Act: -

- i. The Arbitration Council of India (Terms and Conditions and the salary and allowances

- payable to Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2022.
- ii. The Arbitration Council of India (Qualifications, Appointment and other Terms and Conditions of the Service of Chief Executive Officer) Rules, 2022.
- iii. The Arbitration Council of India (Travelling and other Allowances Payable to Part-time Members) Rules, 2022.
- iv. The Arbitration Council of India (Number of Officers and other Employees, their qualifications, appointment and other Terms and Conditions) Rules, 2022.

MEDIATION BILL, 2021

Mediation, as is known, is more informal and facilitates negotiations between the disputant parties which may culminate in a settlement. Thus, mediation, in contrast to arbitration, helps people and businesses in conflict to preserve their relationships, as the settlement arrived at in the process is on a voluntary and consensual basis.

With the objective of promoting, encouraging and facilitating mediation, especially institutional mediation for resolution of civil and commercial disputes, enforcing mediation settlement agreements, providing for a body for registration of mediators, encouraging community mediation and making online mediation as an acceptable and cost effective process and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, a comprehensive standalone law on Mediation has been introduced during the winter session of the Parliament on 20.12.2021.

The Bill was referred for examination and report to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on 20.12.2021. The Committee has submitted its 117th report on Mediation Bill, 2021 on 13.07.2022 which is under consideration of Government, for moving of official amendments to the Bill.

AMRCD/ AMRD

Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) Commercial Disputes (AMRCD)

A two-level mechanism called the Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) Commercial Disputes (AMRCD) was established on 22 May 2018 to settle commercial disputes between CPSEs and other government departments and organizations, with the exception of those involving the railways, income tax, customs, and exercise departments.

This mechanism was developed in cooperation with various stakeholders to replace the then PMA (Permanent Machinery of Arbitration) Mechanism, and to make it more effective and binding on the disputing parties.

1. APPLICABILITY

Any disagreements or disputes regarding the interpretation and application of the terms of a commercial contract between Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)/

Port Trusts and other CPSEs, as well as between CPSEs and governmental agencies or organizations (with the exception of disagreements involving the railways, income tax, customs, or exercise departments) may be brought up by either party for resolution through the AMRCD.

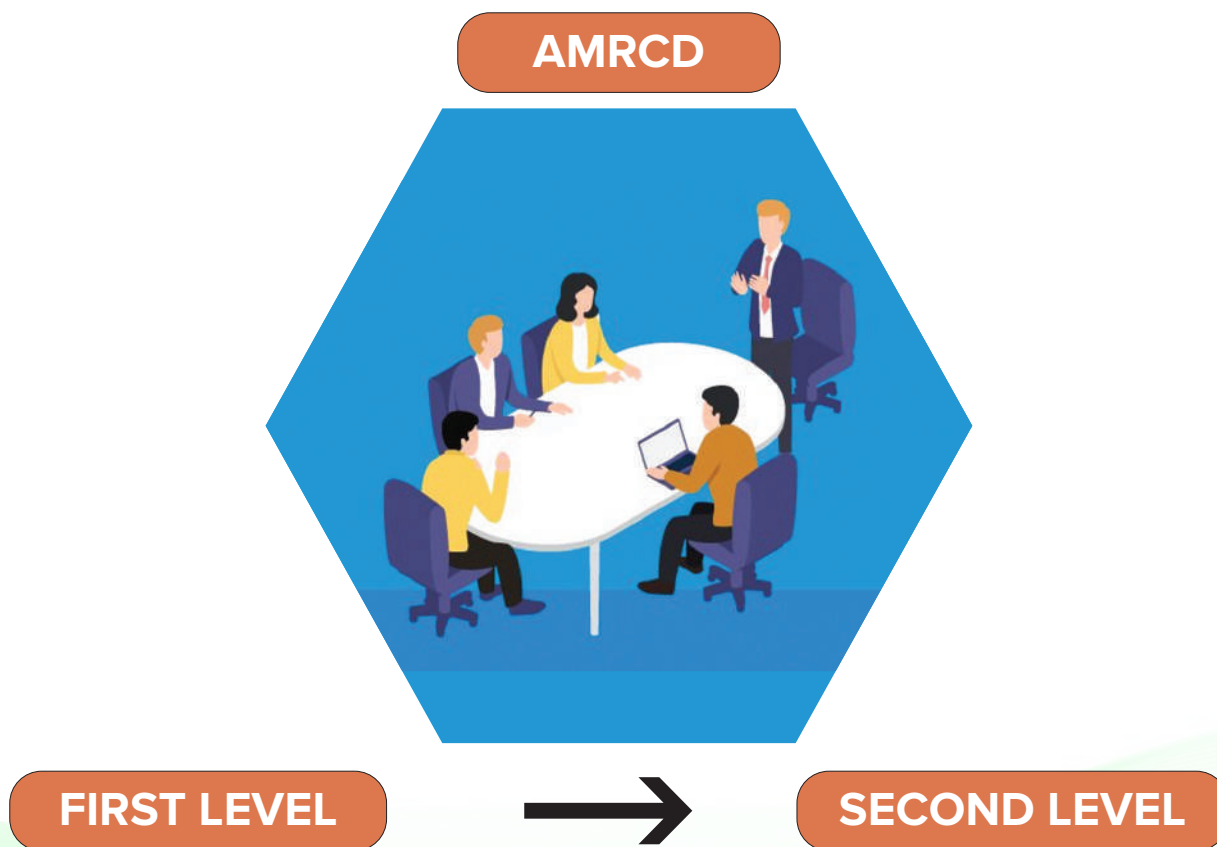
2. STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURE

According to the approved new mechanism to resolve commercial disputes, the following structure and procedure shall be followed by the concerned disputing parties:

- At the First level, such commercial disputes shall be referred to a Committee comprising the Secretaries of the Administrative Ministries/Departments to which the disputing CPSEs/Parties belong, and Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, who shall be represented by their respective Financial Advisors (FAs).
- In case the two disputing parties belong to the same Ministry/Department, the above said Committee will comprise the Secretary of the administrative Ministry/Department concerned, the Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, and the Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises. In such a case, the matter may be represented before the Committee by the FA and one Joint Secretary of that Ministry/Department.

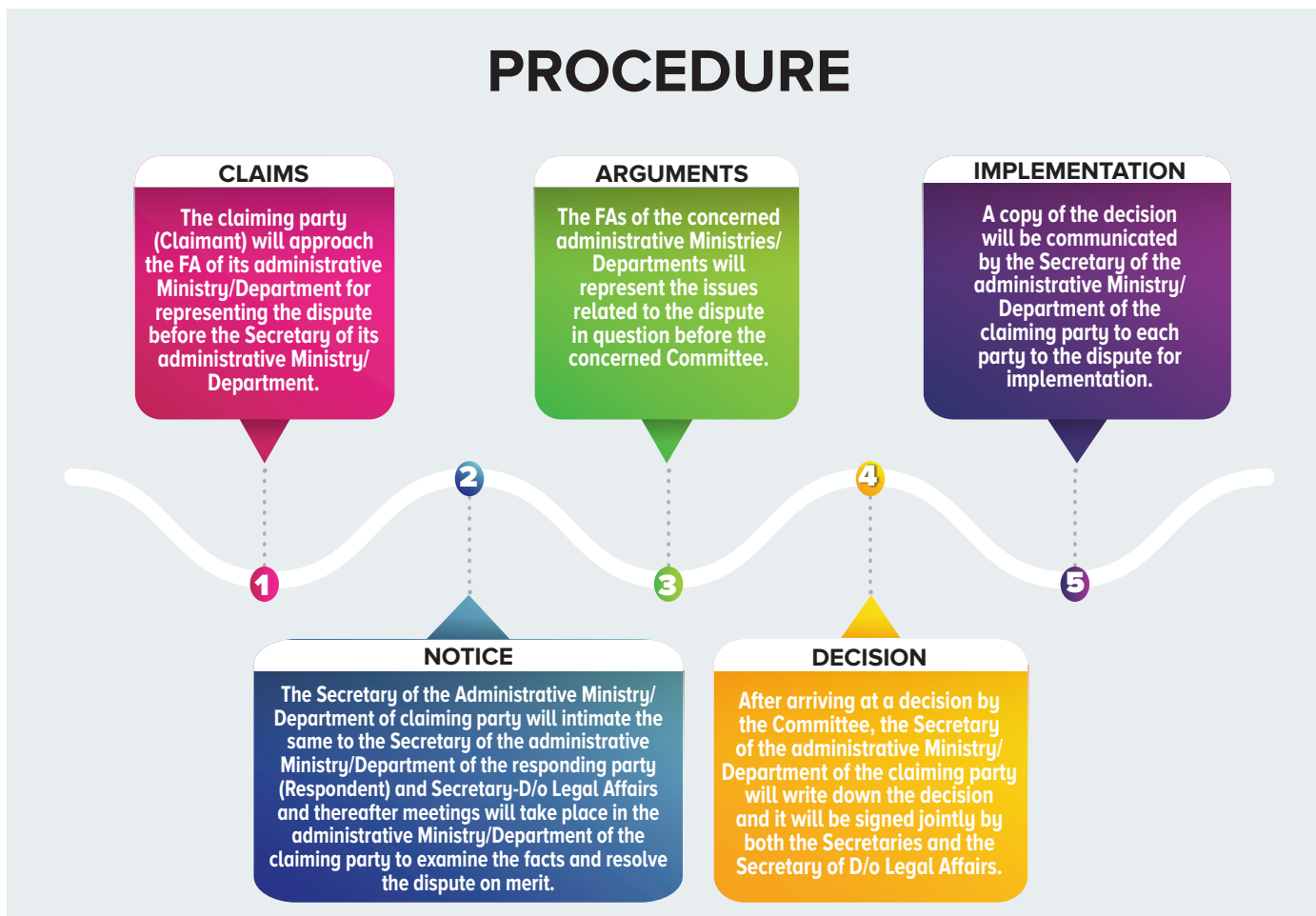
Figure IX-2:
Structure of AMRCD

ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISM FOR RESOLUTION OF CPSES COMMERCIAL DISPUTE



➤ In case the dispute remains unresolved even after consideration by the above Committee, the same will be referred at the Second level to the Cabinet Secretary, whose decision would be final and binding on all concerned.

Figure IX 3:
Procedure of AMRCD



➤ **When one of the parties is a Department or Organization of a State government:** In cases where one party to the dispute is a Department/Organisation of a State Government (1st party), the procedure for admitting the dispute will be the same as described above. However, all meetings in connection with the resolution of the dispute will be held in the administrative Ministry/Department (Union) of other party (2nd party) irrespective of the position of the 1st party as a Claimant or Respondent. The presentation of the issues before the above Committee in this case will be done by the Financial Advisers of the concerned Administrative Ministry/Department and concerned Principal Secretary of the State Government Department/Organization.

3. APPEAL

Any party aggrieved with the decision of the Committee at the First Level may prefer an appeal before the Cabinet Secretary at the Second level within 15 days from the date of receipt of decision of the Committee at the First level, through its administrative Ministry/Department, whose decision will be final and binding on all concerned.

4. ARBITRATION CLAUSE

The CPSEs will ensure the inclusion of an arbitration clause in all the existing and future commercial contracts between CPSEs inter-se, and CPSEs, and Government Departments/Organizations.

5. DISPOSAL OF PENDING CASES IN PMA

All pending cases with Sole Arbitrator- PMA (Permanent Machinery of Arbitration) and Appellate Authority shall stand transferred with immediate effect to concerned administrative Ministries/Departments to be dealt in according with the AMRCD mechanism of dispute resolution. All cases in which the hearing has been completed by a Sole Arbitrator, the award will be made by that Sole Arbitrator. Appeal, if any, made against such cases will lie with the Cabinet Secretary at the Second level.

ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISM FOR RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES (AMRD)

In order to provide an institutionalized mechanism for the resolution of such disputes, the Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Disputes (AMRD) was set up on 31 March 2020.

1. APPLICABILITY

AMRD shall apply to any/all dispute(s), other than those related to taxation, between Central Government Ministries / Departments *inter se* and between Central Government Ministries / Departments and other Ministries/ Organisation(s)/ Subordinate/ Attached Offices/ Autonomous Institutions, under their administrative supervision/control.

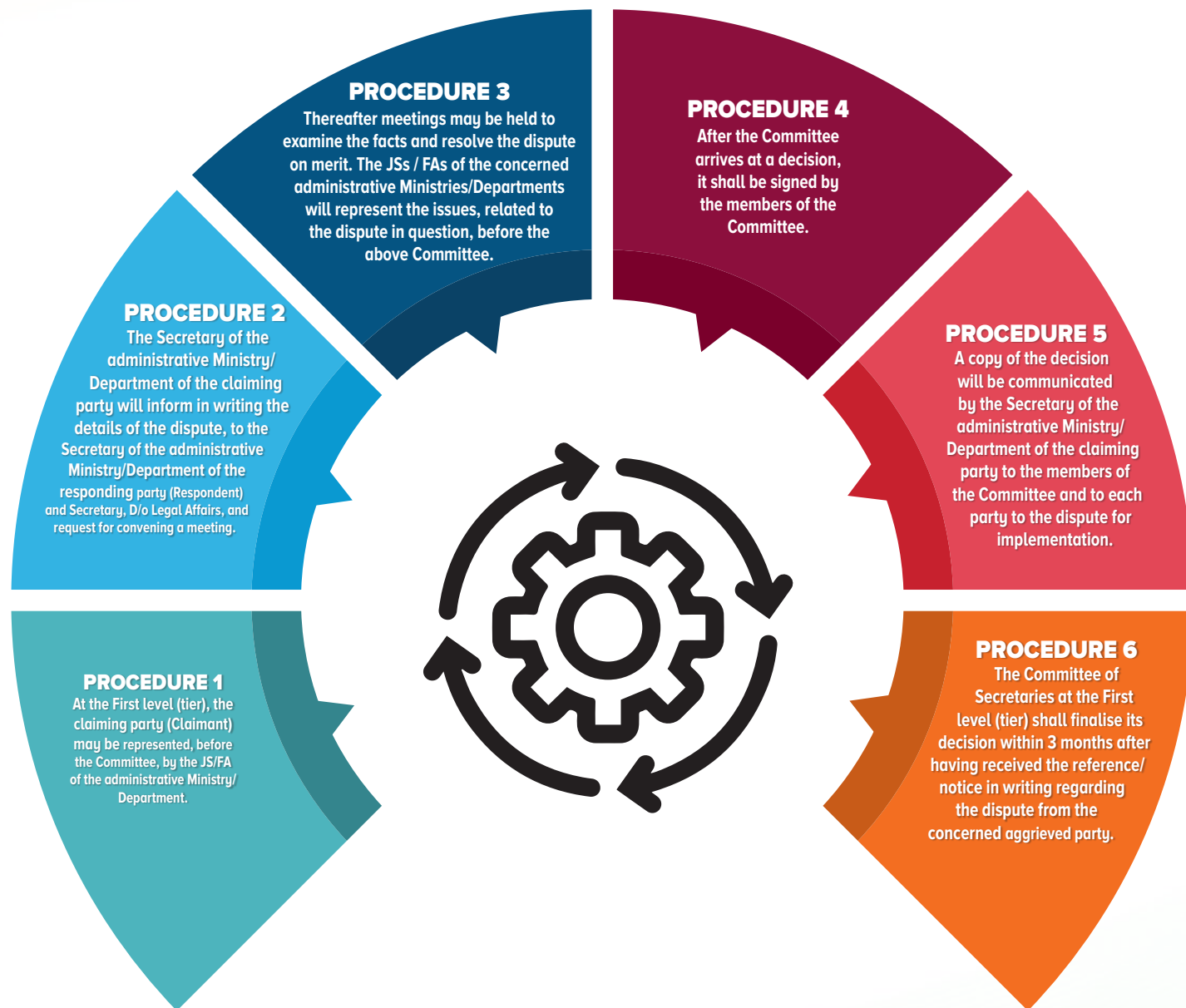
2. STRUCTURE

Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Disputes (AMRD) follows the following structure:-

- a. Disputes, other than taxation, shall be referred at the First level, to a Committee comprising the Secretaries of the Administrative Ministries/Departments to which the disputing Parties belong, and Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs.
- b. The Joint Secretaries (JSs)/Financial Advisers (FAs) (for commercial disputes) of the two concerned Administrative Ministries/ Departments may represent the issues related to the dispute in question, before the Committee.
- c. In case the two disputing parties belong to the same Ministry / Department, the above Committee may comprise of the Secretary of the Administrative Ministries/Department concerned and Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs. Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises may be invited in case the dispute pertains to a CPSE.
- d. The resolution of such disputes shall be by unanimous decision of the Committee.
- e. In case the dispute remains unresolved after consideration by the Committee, it will be referred at the Second level, to the Cabinet Secretary, whose decision will be final and binding on all concerned.

3. PROCEDURE

Figure IX 4:
Procedure of AMRD



4. APPEAL

Any party aggrieved with the decision of the Committee at the First level may prefer an appeal before the Cabinet Secretary at the Second level within 15 days from the date of receipt of decision of the Committee at the First level, whose decision will be final and binding on all concerned.

AMRCD/AMRD (LIST OF SETTLED MATTERS)

63 matters were referred to the AMRCD/AMRD mechanism, out of which 16 matters were resolved by the First level Committee of Secretaries (CoS). The others are under process.

X: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to keep the Officers abreast with the latest judicial and legal trends and to acquaint them with latest developments in the fields of law, legal databases, cyber security, and information technology, the Department of Legal Affairs undertakes capacity building and training programmes for its employees.

The Capacity Building Commission (CBC) facilitates the preparation of Annual Capacity Building Plans for Departments, Ministries, and Agencies. Along with Karmayogi, its digital wing, the National Program for Civil Services Capacity Building bases itself on the goals of good governance, citizen centric performance, and public accountability and provides training of the highest quality and resources to individuals, organisations and institutions

Training and Capacity Building Activities:-

A one-day workshop was organized by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and Capacity Building Commission on 02.12.2022 for the preparation of an Annual Capacity Building Plan. The plan of a Ministry/Department/Agency will identify their capacity needs through the three lenses of National Priorities, Emerging Technologies, and Citizen Centricity.

Kick-off Meeting

The workshop was followed by a kick-off meeting held on 19 December 2022 between the Capacity Building Commission and the Department of Legal Affairs. The vision and a 15-week plan was shared to achieve the aim of creating an Annual Capacity Building Plan. The vision of the Department of Legal Affairs is to achieve excellence in legal affairs for accomplishing the goals set out in the Constitution of India. Focus areas were identified such as legal reforms, advice to Ministries, e-Governance solutions, ADR methods, international cooperation and conduct of litigation. A training strategy will be designed and developed for all employees basing on the roles and activities of the employees and challenges faced by them.

Preparation and Planning:

While preparing the Annual Capacity Building Plan, four critical areas of training (Domain, Technology, Behavioural and Functional) are identified. The training areas include litigation, LIMBS, tendering legal advice, judgment analysis, drafting of speeches, and RTI, among other things.

Figure X 1:
Training Division and Administration I



TRAINING DIVISION

The Union Public Service Commission hires Officers for the Indian Legal Service (ILS) primarily on the basis of their legal competence and prior work experience. Upon appointment, the new recruits to the Service are placed under the supervision of the senior Officers of the Department based on an internal work allocation system devised by the Department. The necessity for training is to improve professional abilities in accordance with the Department's work requirements.

A separate Training Division has been created to coordinate the creation of the training academy. Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, oversees the Training Division.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE TRAINING DIVISION:

1. Training of SCC Online Portal for Assistant Legal Advisers on 18.05.2022
2. Training of SCC Online Portal for Deputy Legal Advisers and above level Officers on 08.06.2022.
3. Training of SCC Online Portal for Indian Legal Service Officers of Legislative Department, Superintendent (Legal) and Assistant (Legal) on 07.07.2022.
4. Training on Handling Parliament related matters and Questions
5. Organized Workshop on PM Gati-Shakti NMP for Training and Capacity Building of Government Officers in association with DPIIT for all the three Departments of Ministry of Law & Justice.
6. Organized Hindi Pakhwada Celebrations on 29.09.2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

7. Organised All India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries at Ekta Nagar, Kewadia, Gujarat.
8. Celebrated Constitution Day on 26th November, 2022.
9. Created awareness for wider dissemination and adoption of millet based products and food through organising a special lunch programme for all the three Departments of Ministry of Law & Justice viz. Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Justice and Legislative Department on 28th December, 2022.

ADMINISTRATION OF INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

Brief History

Ministry of Law and Justice is the oldest limb of the Government of India dating back to 1833 when the Charter Act, 1833 was enacted by the British Parliament.

After independence, Government created a cadre of specialized legal service within the Ministry of Law and Justice to serve the Government of India to cater to its need for assistance in all legal matters viz. legal advisory, legal drafting, litigation and judicial reforms.

The Union Government in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India made the Rules namely "The Indian Legal Service Rules, 1957" which came into force on 1st October 1957. The said Rules constituted a service to be known as the "Indian Legal Service" which is an All India Central Group-A Service.

Indian Legal Service render dedicated service to the nation by giving legal advice in matters to various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and drafting bills and ordinances which are introduced in Parliament. They, being the Principal Legal Advisers to the Government, respond to the demands made upon them by the various organs of the Government and play a pivotal role in both advisory as well as in drafting work.

Apart from posting in the Main Secretariat i.e., New Delhi, the Officers of the ILS Service are posted in its Branch Secretariats at Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, and some other important Ministries/Departments like Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Financial Services, Railways, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Defense, NTRO, Central Public Works Department, Directorate of Estates and Central Bureau of Investigation.

Structure of the Indian Legal Service:

There are four cadres within the Indian Legal Service:

- A) Legal Adviser Cadre: Officers of this Cadre are posted in the Department of Legal Affairs and render advice in the litigation matters and policy of the Government of India.
- B) Law Officer Cadre: Officers of this Cadre are being posted in the Law Commission of India and their main work is related to legal research and study on specific subjects in the field of law and justice delivery system.
- C) Government Advocate Cadre: Officers of this cadre are posted in the Central Agency Section of the Department of Legal Affairs situated within the premises of Supreme Court and four Branch Secretariats situated at Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. Officers posted in this cadre look after the litigation work of the Central Government.

D) Legislative Counsel Cadre: Officers of this Cadre are posted in the Legislative Department and they look after the drafting of legislations, notifications and government orders.

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT SERVICE

The Central Secretariat Service (CSS) is one of the earliest organized Services in the country. It facilitates maintaining the vital link between Parliament and the Central Secretariat, especially when it comes to handling of Parliament Questions, Assurances, Government Bills, etc.

Figure X 2:
Administration IV



There is also substantial contribution by CSS Officers in financial management and preparation of the budget of various Departments of the Central Government and also in monitoring the schemes funded and contributed by Government of India but executed by States and other Implementing Agencies. The CSS Officers have been handling various litigation works quite effectively and protect the interests of the Central Government.

The Service provides a set of trained personnel, who serve as carrier of the Secretariat tradition of institutional memory and bridge between the past and the present and between lower and top management of the Government. The Service provides a strong permanent bureaucratic set up at lower and middle levels of the Central Government.

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT STENOGRAPHERS' SERVICE

The Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS) is one of the three Services in the Central Secretariat, the other two being Central Secretariat Service (CSS) and Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS). The CSSS was constituted to provide secretarial and

office support to Officers in the Secretariat and its attached offices. It is a specialized service whose personnel have the technical core competency of stenographic skills.

The service conditions of the members of the Service are regulated through CSSS Rules, 2010 and Regulations made thereunder. The CSSS personnel manage and supervise personal section of Secretary/ Special Secretary/ Additional Secretary. Their duties also include facilitating meetings, e-tracking of files and important papers, coordinating parliamentary work and management system of important references.

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT CLERICAL SERVICES

The Central Secretariat Clerical Service is one of the three Services included in the CSS. This was constituted along with CSS in 1951, but its Rules were framed later and came into force on 1 November 1962.

The CSCS Cadre comprises the following two posts:-

- i. Senior Secretariat Assistants (SSA) (formerly known as Upper Division Clerk);
- ii. Junior Secretariat Assistants (JSA) (formerly known as Lower Division Clerk)

According to the latest Manual of Office Procedure, the duties of SSA and JSA are as under:-

- i. Senior Secretariat Assistants(SSA):- Deal with the subject areas allocated to the Section and also expected to deal with all matters allocated or any other work assigned to him/her from time to time.
- ii. Junior Secretariat Assistants (JSA):-Provide miscellaneous support to the Section/ Unit/Desk in carrying out day to day work like photocopying/record handling and maintenance, registration of Dak, marking/sending Receipts/files and other associated tasks or any other work assigned from time to time.

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SERVICES

Central Secretariat Official Language Services was constituted by the Department of Official Language, in accordance with the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, to ensure compliance of the Constitutional and legal provisions regarding official language.

**Figure X 3:
Administration II**



GENERAL CENTRAL SERVICE

1. There are fourteen (14) Group B and Group C postings in the General Central Service cadre. It has 174 Officials/Officers in total, distributed among the various positions listed below:-

Table X-1:
Name of the posts and their Group

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	Group of Post
1.	Superintendent (Legal)	Group-B
2.	Assistant (Legal)	Group-B
3.	Junior Central Government Advocate (Jr.CGA)	Group-B
4.	Librarian Grade- I	Group-B
5.	Library information Assistant/Sr.Library Information Assistant	Group-B
6.	Senior Library Attendant	Group-C
7.	Library Clerk	Group-C
8.	Sr. Court Clerk Grade – I	Group-B
9.	Sr.Court Clerk Grade – II	Group-C
10.	Court Clerk	Group-C
11.	Record Clerk	Group-C
12.	Staff Car Driver	Group-C
13.	Dispatch Rider	Group-C
14.	Senior Gestetnor Operator	Group-C

2. Superintendent (Legal), Assistant (Legal) and Jr.CGA in the GCS cadre perform the following duties:-
 - a. Putting up precedents on matters referred to the Department for legal advice.
 - b. Rendering of general and secretarial assistance to the Officers of the Department of Legal Affairs in disposing of matters referred for legal advice/conduct of litigation, including submission of notes and drafts in such cases.
 - c. Providing general and secretarial support to the Legal Advisers of the Department in handling matters referred for legal advice, including the preparation of notes and drafts.
 - d. Undertake research and reference work, whenever necessary.
3. Librarian (Grade-I), Library Information Assistant, Sr.Library Attendant and Library Clerk perform the following duties:-
 - a. Provide research materials/books as required by the Officers of the Legislative Department and Legal Affairs, as well as the chamber libraries of the Minister of Law and Justice and Minister of State, Law and Justice.
 - b. Facilitate research and reference work, wherever necessary.
4. Court Clerk, Sr.Court Clerk Grade-I and Sr.Court Clerk Grade-II perform the following duties:-

- a. Typing of documents on computer.
- b. Diarizing, indexing and maintaining records.
- c. Managing regular court related works such as marking cause lists, filing papers in the registry, procuring court fee stamps and maintaining the records thereof.
- d. To attend the court proceedings.
- e. To assist the Law Officers and Counsels in locating references in the law books/journals.
5. Further; Record Clerk, Despatch Rider and Staff Car Driver perform the miscellaneous work of the Ministry.

CONSULTANTS

Twenty three consultants were hired by the Department of Legal Affairs for fulfilling specialized tasks.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Department of Legal Affairs hired 29 Young Professionals from the legal field to provide professional expertise on specific spheres of law. Young Professionals work as an in-house talent pool and undertake research and analysis work on special projects of the Department.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Department organizes Internship Programme for young law students. The purpose of this Programme is to acquaint young law students with the functions of the Department. During the internship, the students are trained in research and referencing work, rendering advice on various legal issues and litigation matters pertaining to various fields of law. Indian law students who have completed their LL.B. programme at any accredited law college or University as well as those who are pursuing their second and third year of a three-year degree programme or their third, fourth or fifth year of a five-year degree programme are eligible for applying for the internship programme. The duration of the internship is generally for a month, beginning on the first of each month.

APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTIONS

HAG Level - Two Joint Secretaries were promoted to the rank of Additional Secretaries.

SAG Level – 2 (Two) Joint Secretaries & Legal Advisers were appointed at the SAG level through direct recruitment; 1 (One) Additional Law Officer was promoted as Joint Secretary and Law Officer (JS & LO); 1 (One) Additional Legal Adviser was promoted as Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser (JS & LA); and 2 (Two) Additional Government Advocates were promoted as Senior Government Advocates.

NFSG Level – 1 (One) Additional Government Advocate was appointed through direct recruitment and 10 (Ten) Deputy Legal Advisers were promoted as Additional Legal Adviser.

JAG Level – 7 (Seven) Assistant Legal Advisers were promoted as Deputy Legal Advisers.

GENDER PARITY

The Government has introduced programmes/schemes aimed at reducing gender gap and has allocated funds dedicated to this goal. Through this effort the Government is continuously promoting gender parity/equality with a focus on alleviating gender gap in all sectors and at all levels of governance.

Representation of Women employees:

The representation of women employees in the Department of Legal Affairs (including Legislative Department) is given below.

Table X-2:
Number of Women Employees

GROUPS	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	WOMEN EMPLOYEES
GROUP A	133	37
GROUP B	163	41
GROUP C	235	18
TOTAL	531	96

REPRESENTATION OF SC, ST, OBC, AND DIVYANGJANS IN DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

The following table depicts the total number of Government servants and the number of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Ex-service-men and Persons with Disabilities amongst them.

Table X-3:
Number of Employees and Percentage under different categories

Group	Total No. of Employees	Sched-uled Castes	% of total employ-ees	Sched-uled Tribes	% of total employ-ees	Other Back-ward Classes	% of total employ-ees	Ex-ser-vice-men	% of total employ-ees	Per-sons with Disabil-ities	% of total employ-ees
Group 'A'	133	31	23.30%	5	3.75%	14	10.52%	0	0%	2	1.50%
Group 'B'	163	20	12.26%	8	4.90%	38	23.31%	3	1.84%	7	4.29%
Group 'C'	235	66	28.08%	12	5.10%	38	16.17%	0	0%	4	1.7%
TOTAL	531	117	22.03	25	4.70%	90	16.94%	3	0.56%	13 *	2.44%

**[OH-10 (SC-01, ST-01, OBC-01), HH-01, VH-02 (OBC-01)]*

The above table includes information with respect to the posts existing in Legislative Department, Law Commission and Central Agency Section.

The above statement does not include information about posts in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT).

XI. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE UNIT

ABOUT

The Official Language Unit aims to promote the usage of Hindi language in the Department of Legal Affairs. The Unit undertakes translation of official documents, preparation and research for publication on different media in Hindi.

Figure XI 1:
Official Language Unit



WHO'S WHO

The Official Language Unit is headed by Shri Rajveer Singh Verma, Additional Secretary & Rajbhasha Adhikari. It is managed by Mrs. Savita Singh, Deputy Director, Shri Shamsher Singh, Assistant Director and Shri Sanjay Kumar, Assistant Director, Assistant Director along with Senior Translation Officers and Junior Translation Officers namely Shri Jetharam Godara, Ms. Madhuleena Ghosh and Ms. Indu, Shri Surya Pal Yadav respectively.

PROGRESSIVE USE OF HINDI IN OFFICIAL WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Legal Affairs has taken the following steps to implement various instructions issued by the Department of Official Language on the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes of the Union as contained in the Official Languages Act, 1963

and the Official Languages (Use for Official Purposes of the Union) Rules, 1976.

- 1. Orders for individuals under Rule 8(4):** Under Rule 8(4) of the Official Languages (Use for Official Purpose of the Union) Rules, 1976 (as amended, 1987), latest orders in the name of 39 personnel who are proficient in Hindi were issued on 02.12.2022 to do their complete official work in Hindi.
- 2. Check Points:** A review of the check points for implementation of orders relating to the Official Language was made and orders for creation of adequate number of check points in accordance with Rule 12 of the Official Languages Rules, 1976 were issued on 18.11.2022. The effectiveness of check points is regularly monitored through quarterly progress reports received from sections/offices.
- 3. Steps to promote usage of Hindi:** In Sections / Units where the staff are proficient in Hindi, the use of Hindi in their day-to-day work is encouraged. Work relating to grant of various types of leave is being done in Hindi. Most cases relating to House Building Advances, GPF Advances and Withdrawals etc. are also being processed in Hindi and orders are also being issued in Hindi.
- 4. Promotion of Bilingual form:** All general orders, notifications, resolutions and administrative reports etc. are invariably issued in bilingual form. All letters received in Hindi are invariably replied to in Hindi only. It is strictly ensured that there is no violation of the relevant Rules in this regard. English to Hindi dictionaries have been provided to all sections of the Department for encouraging the use of Hindi in day-to-day official work.
- 5. Standard draft of Hindi Specimen:** Hindi specimen of standard drafts of all letters used frequently by various sections are provided. All standard forms were prepared in Hindi and English so that employees can use them without facing any difficulty. All forms used in the Department were translated to Hindi. Entries in service books are also made in Hindi. All rubber stamps, name plates, sign boards etc., are prepared in bilingual form.
- 6. Bilingual Computers:** All computers in the Department are bilingual. Facility to work in Hindi is available on the computers which have been provided to the Officers and Sections of the Department.
- 7. Hindi Teaching Scheme:** A time bound programme was prepared for imparting Hindi/ Hindi Stenography/ Hindi Typing Training to the employees of the Department and its Offices under the Hindi Teaching Scheme. Employees are awarded personal pay/ Advance increments/ Cash Awards etc. as per the instructions of the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 8. Official Language Implementation Committee Meetings:** The meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee of the Department are held regularly. Additional Secretary (Rajbhasha Adhikari) of the Department is the Chairman of this Committee and Director (Admn.), all Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries and all Section

Incharge and Branch Officers are members of this Committee. The Deputy Director (O.L.)/Assistant Director (O.L.) is the Member Secretary. In these meetings, compliance status of quarterly progressive report and implementation of orders related to Official Language are reviewed. Minutes of the meetings are circulated to all concerned for follow-up action.

9. Hindi Workshop: In compliance with the Official Language Policy of the Union and the instructions issued by Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, with the objective of removing the difficulties being faced by the employees of Department of Legal Affairs in their day-to-day official work in Hindi, a Hindi workshop was organized on 27.09.2022. A lecture/training was given in this workshop to the Officers/Assistants/UDCs/Court Clerks posted in Department of Legal Affairs by Shri Shriprakash Shukla, Joint Director (Retd.).

Figure XI 2:
Hindi Workshop organised on 27.09.2022



10. Organisation of Hindi Pakhwada: To promote the use of Hindi and to increase the awareness among the employees as regards the Official Language Policy and the various incentive schemes for using Hindi in official work, 'Hindi Pakhwada' was organised by the Department from 14.09.2022 to 29.09.2022. This year, during the 'Hindi Pakhwada', five competitions, namely, Hindi Essay Competition, Hindi Typing Competition, Translation Competition, Hindi Noting and Drafting Competition and Hindi Dictation (for Group 'C' employees and LDC and Court Clerks) were organised by the Department. 83 Officers/employees participated in these competitions, out of which 63 successful participants were awarded cash prizes totalling Rs. 86,500. Hindi Pakhwada was also celebrated in the Branch Secretariats of the Department and Benches of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

Figure XI 3:
Hindi Essay Competition conducted by the Department of Legal Affairs



11. Closing Ceremony of Hindi Pakhwada: A prize distribution function was organized on the closing ceremony of Hindi Pakhwada on 29.09.2022 at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners of various competitions organized in the Department of Legal Affairs, in which Officers/employees of the Ministry participated. The awards/certificates were distributed by the Minister of Law and Justice.
12. Hindi Essay Competition: The Official Language Unit organised a Hindi essay competition titled 'Corruption free India: Developed India' during the Vigilance Awareness Week in which 23 personnel participated and 13 winners were awarded prizes.

Figure XI 4:
Minister of Law & Justice, Shri. Kiren Rijiju, distributing a certificate to the winner in a Hindi Competition



XII: INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

INTRODUCTION

ITAT is one of the oldest Tribunals, set up under section 252 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 to hear second appeals in all matters of Direct Taxes and Appeals against the revision orders of Administrative Commissioners as well as orders denying registration under Section 12A or under Section 80G of the Income-Tax Act, 1961. It functions as the final fact-finding authority in the matters concerning income-tax, wealth-tax, gift-tax. The orders passed by the ITAT are final; an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.

Figure XII-1:
Presence of ITAT

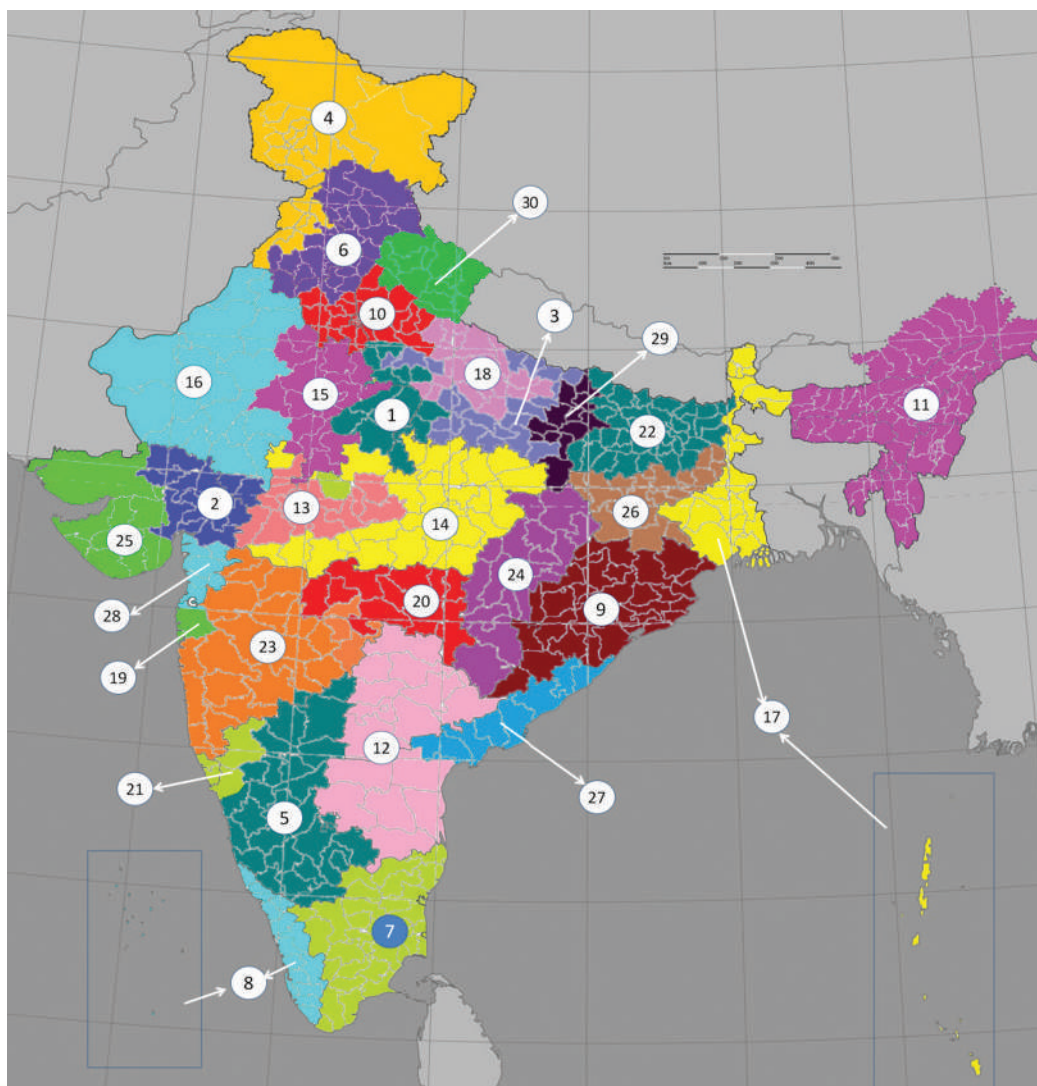


Table XII-1:
Presence of ITAT

PRESENCE OF ITAT			
1.	Agra	16.	Jodhpur
2.	Ahmedabad (ZO)	17.	Kolkata (ZO)
3.	Allahabad	18.	Lucknow (ZO)
4.	Amritsar	19.	Mumbai (HQ & ZO)
5.	Bengaluru (ZO)	20.	Nagpur
6.	Chandigarh (ZO)	21.	Panaji
7.	Chennai (ZO)	22.	Patna
8.	Cochin	23.	Pune (ZO)
9.	Cuttack	24.	Raipur
10.	Delhi (ZO)	25.	Rajkot
11.	Guwahati	26.	Ranchi
12.	Hyderabad (ZO)	27.	Visakhapatnam
13.	Indore	28.	Surat
14.	Jabalpur	29.	Varanasi (Circuit Bench)
15.	Jaipur	30.	Dehradun (Circuit Bench)

ZO – Zonal Office; HQ - Headquarters

COMPOSITION

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body headed by a President and assisted by Zonal Vice-Presidents, and Members (both Accountant Members and Judicial Members). The powers and functions of ITAT are exercised and discharged by the Benches constituted by the President of the Tribunal from amongst the Members thereof, which ordinarily consists of one Judicial Member and one Accountant Member.

Table XII-2:
Administrative structure of ITAT

PRESIDENT	
Head Office (Mumbai)	Zones (10 Zones in various parts of the country)
Registrar	Vice President
Deputy Registrar	Members (AMs & JMs)
Assistant Registrar	Deputy Registrar
	Assistant Registrar
	Benches (At 30 Stations)
	Members (AMs & JMs)
	Assistant Registrar

BENCH STRENGTH

As constituted presently, the Tribunal consists of 63 Benches. For 63 Benches spread over 30 stations (including 02 Circuit Benches) throughout the country, the present sanctioned strength of Members is 126 including one (01) President and ten (10) Zonal Vice-Presidents. The present position of sanctioned, filled up and vacant post is as under:

**Table XII-3:
ITAT Bench Strength**

Sr.No.	Posts	Sanctioned	Filled up	Vacant
1	President	01	01	00
2	Vice-President	10	05	05
3	Accountant Member	63	38	25
4	Judicial Member	63	45	18
TOTAL		126*	83**	43***

*including 01 President and 10 Vice Presidents

**including 01 President and 05 Vice Presidents

***including 05 Vice Presidents

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal, constituted under the Income-Tax Act, 1961, deals with second appeals in all matters of direct taxes, including appeals against the revisionary orders of Administrative Commissioners as well as orders denying registration under Section 12A or under Section 80G of the Act. The Appellate Tribunal also deals with second appeals in all matters of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 including any revisionary order passed by the Principal Commissioner/Commissioner.

The powers and functions of the Appellate Tribunal are exercised and discharged by the Benches constituted by the President of the Tribunal from amongst the Members thereof. Generally, a Bench consists of one Judicial Member and one Accountant Member. However, in appropriate cases, at the discretion of the President, a Bench may consist of more than two Members. The President or any other Member of Tribunal authorised on this behalf by the Central Government may, sitting singly, dispose of any case which has been allotted to the Bench of which he is a Member and which pertains to an assessee whose total income as computed by the Assessing Officer, in that case, does not exceed ₹ fifty (50) lakhs and the President may, for the disposal of any particular case, constitute a Special Bench consisting of three or more Members, one of whom shall necessarily be a Judicial Member and one Accountant Member, subject to the provisions of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

Table XII 4:
Zone-wise Location of Benches

ZONE-WISE LOCATION OF BENCHES		
Zone	Station	No. of Benches
Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	4
	Indore	1
	Rajkot	1
	Surat	1
Bengaluru	Bengaluru	3
	Cochin	1
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	2
	Amritsar	1
	Jaipur	2
	Jodhpur	1
Chennai	Chennai	4
Delhi	Delhi	9
	Agra	1
	Dehradun	Circuit Bench
Hyderabad	Hyderabad	2
	Viskhapatnam	1
Kolkata	Kolkata	4
	Cuttack	1
	Guwahati	1
	Patna	1
	Ranchi	1
	Lucknow	2
Lucknow	Jabalpur	1
	Allahabad	1
	Varanasi	Circuit Bench
	Mumbai	11
Pune	Pune	3
	Nagpur	1
	Panaji	1
	Raipur	1
		63

PROCEDURE AND RULES

The Appellate Tribunal has the power to regulate its own procedure and the procedure of its Benches in all matters arising out of the exercise of its powers or in the discharge of its functions, including the places at which the Benches hold their sittings.

The Appellate Tribunal has, accordingly, framed its own rules called the Income-Tax (Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 1963. The said Rules provide for expeditious disposal of all matters pending before the Appellate Tribunal. The Appellate Tribunal functions as the final fact-finding authority not only in the matters concerning Income-Tax but also in all matters of taxation.

The matters, which the Appellate Tribunal disposes, involve revenue to the tune of several crores. The Tribunal is entrusted with the responsible task of deciding intricate questions of law and fact.

The presence of both the Judicial and Accountant Members ensures that questions of law and fact, which arise for consideration are properly enquired into and weighed properly. The Appellate Tribunal allows the representatives of both the parties to appear before it and hears them before passing any order. The Members hear the parties, peruse the evidence on record, make their own notes, refer to the authorities cited at the Bar, confer among themselves and then pass final orders.

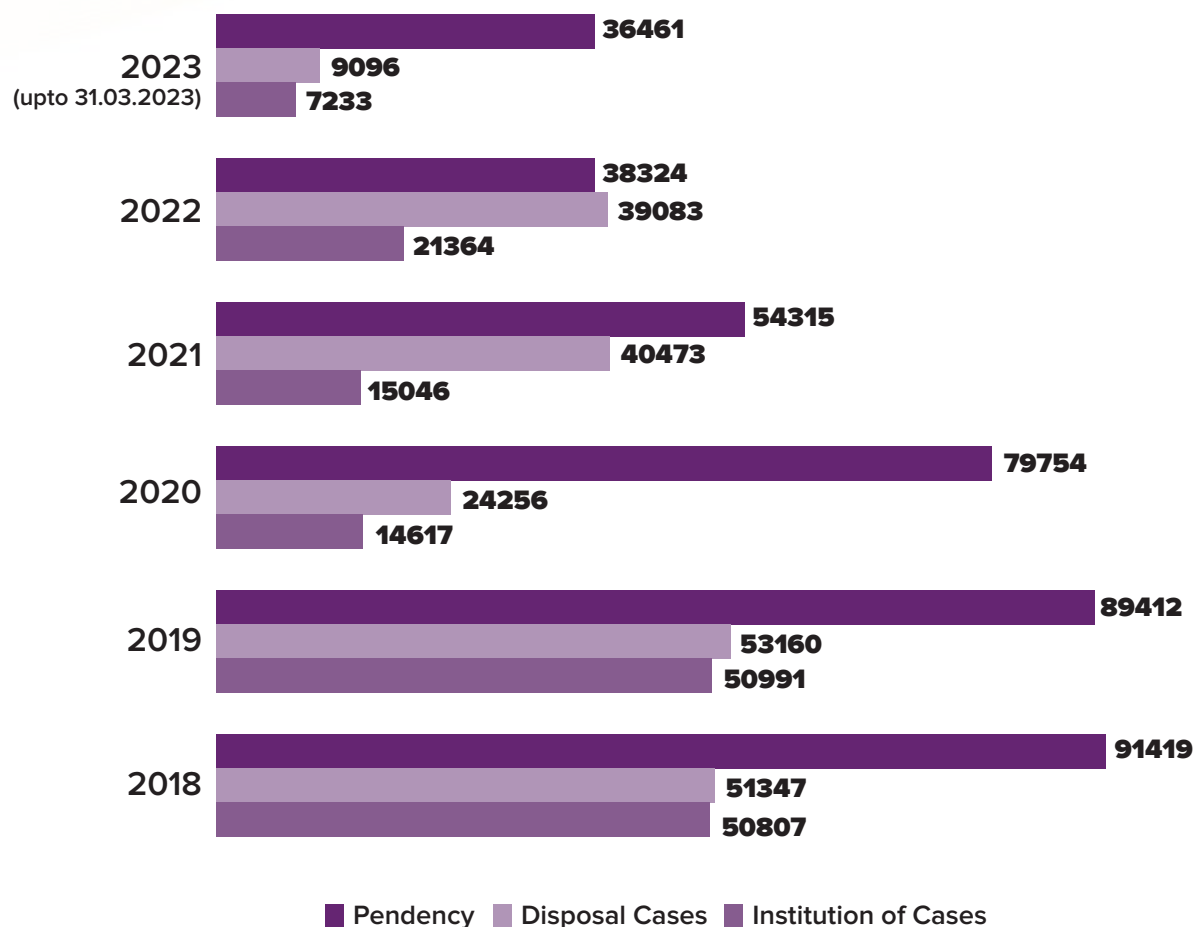
PENDENCY OF APPEALS

Necessary instructions were issued to all the Benches to scrutinize and identify cases which are covered by decisions of I.T.A.T., High Courts, and the Supreme Court and post them on priority basis. This includes group and small matters. The members of the Bar were also requested to bring all such covered cases to the notice of I.T.A.T., for out of turn posting. Besides, appeals dealing with Search and Seizure matters and appeals against Order passed under section 263 by the Administrative Commissioners are prioritised. Similarly, appeals against the denial of registration to charitable institutions under section 12A and denial of recognition under Section 80G are also prioritised. Appeals of senior citizens are also taken up for priority hearing. Further, according to amendments made in Income Tax Act, 1961 by Finance Act, 2015, appeals involving assessed income upto ₹50 lakh can be heard by a single member Bench.

The bar graph shows the result of efforts taken by ITAT to effectively reduce the pending number of cases from 2018 to 2023.

Figure XII-2:
Pendency of ITAT cases

Graphical Representation of Decreasing Number of Pending Cases



DIGITIZATION

Initiated in early 2000s, digitization has taken great momentum in living up to the motto of “*Nishpaksh Sulabh Satvar Nyay.*” Various efforts have been detailed as follows:

a. ITAT Online Project

This project was the first initiative to automate the process of judicial administration in the Tribunal starting from receipt and registration of appeals and applications up to the disposal and uploading of Tribunal orders. This project was commissioned and implemented in all Benches of the Tribunal in a phased manner. ITAT Online is a web-based application which can be accessed from anywhere and anytime. Now all Benches of ITAT have been connected to the ITAT Online database and activities like registration, data updation, Tribunal order uploading, etc., are carried out through the web application. Web-cum-Database Server of this project has been set up in National Informatics Centre Cloud Server.

b. ITAT Official Website

As an extension of the ITAT Online Project, Official Website of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal was redeveloped in 2016 and equipped to deliver judicial and general information to the

public. The Official Website was redesigned to make it more user friendly, informative, responsive, updated and compliant with the Government of India's Guidelines for Websites. Dynamic information like Cause Lists, Constitution, Case Status, Order Search, Pronouncement Search have been provided to cater to the judicial information needs of the litigants. Besides, static information like Holiday Lists, Tenders and Auctions, Notice Boards, Right to Information are accessible to the litigants in particular, and to the public in general. This website is widely used and appreciated.

c. Digital Display Boards

As an innovative and eco-friendly step, physical notice boards were replaced with digital notice boards at ITAT, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Raipur Benches. Cause Lists, Constitutions, Friday lists, etc. are digitally displayed on the digital notice boards.

d. Lunching of Mobile Application

Android version of ITAT Judicial Information Portal was developed and released for the benefit of appellants, respondents as well as their counsels. Owing to its simplicity and ease of use, the portal is convenient.

e. JudiSIS Application

JudiSIS is an internal desktop application developed in-house for managing various day-to-day judicial activities. JudiSIS enables internal users to manage cause lists, hearings, prepare notices, generate periodical statements, send email communications, update case status and publicise daily order-sheets on website.

f. Budget and Expenditure Monitoring System

For monitoring and consolidating the budget availability and expenditure position efficiently and accurately in real-time, ITAT implemented an online application namely BudgetMan, developed via the in-house talent pool. This application enabled the Head Office to generate periodical budgetary statements at the click of a button.

g. CCTV Cameras

According to the directions of the Supreme Court of India, and the guidelines of the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, CCTV Cameras with audio and video recording facility were installed in court rooms and other important entry points of various Benches of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. Currently, CCTV Cameras were installed and are operational at 26 Benches of ITAT. CCTV Cameras are working in good condition and recording is regularly done and reports have been received from these Benches. Procurement and installation are in progress at four more Benches.

h. E-Court

E-Court Project is aimed at connecting non-functional benches with functional benches and conducting judicial proceedings through video conferencing. E-Court infrastructure has been set up at all Benches of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. Hearings at ITAT Rajkot, Guwahati, Ranchi and Patna Benches are conducted through E-Courts.

i. Infrastructure Up-gradation

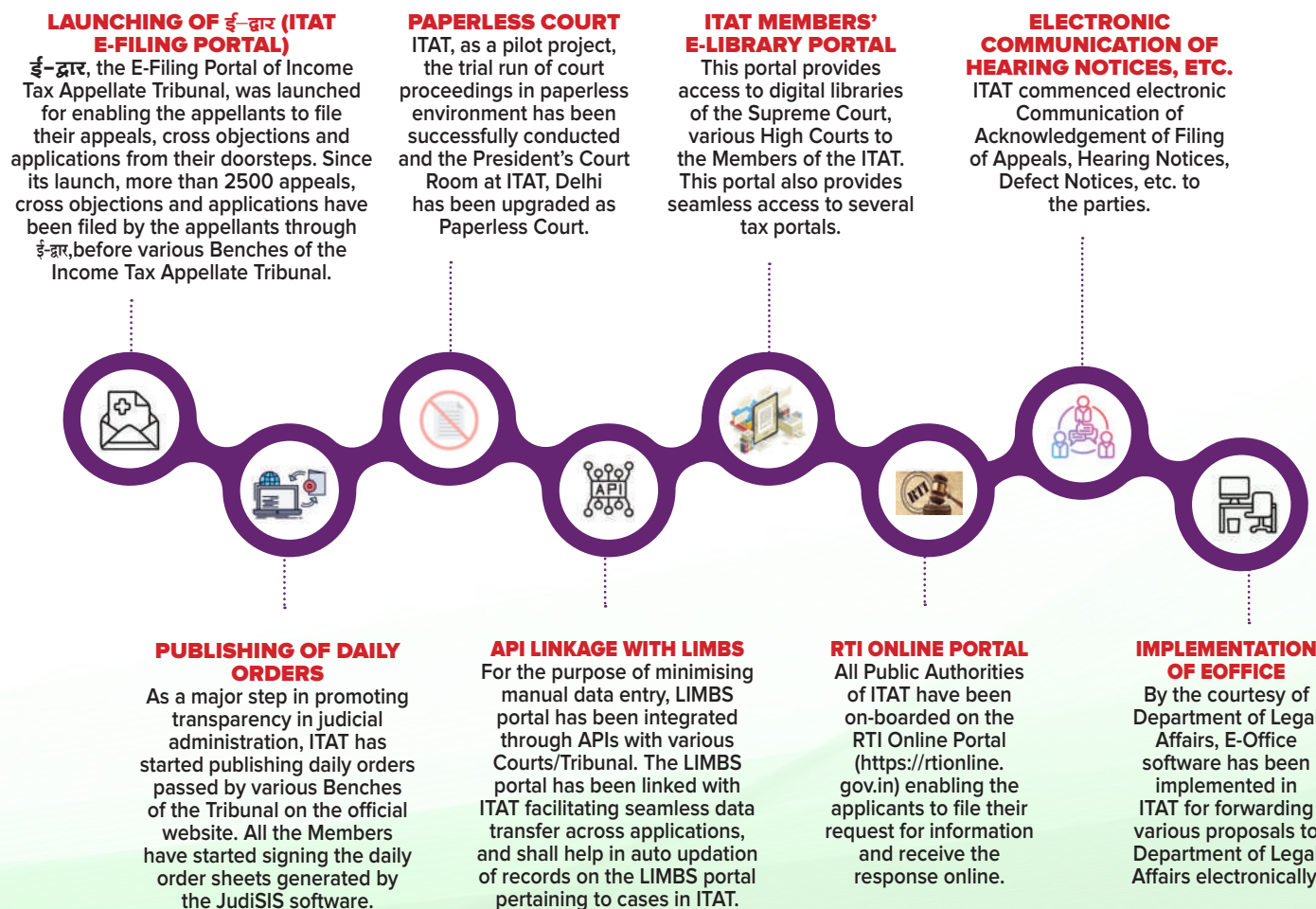
Better computerization needs better infrastructure. Accordingly, ITAT is replacing old and obsolete computers, printers and other equipment with the latest ones in a phased manner. All members of ITAT have already been provided with laptops for their official use. The Members of ITAT are equipped with dictation Software to assist in the dictation of orders. Optic fiber-based high-speed internet connectivity is provided to every Bench to meet the bandwidth requirements of various projects and applications.

j. Centralization

Work towards centralization of non-judicial functions of subordinate Benches at the Zonal Headquarters is in progress. This is done for Optimal Utilization of Human Resources of ITAT. Centralization has already commenced in Delhi and Bangalore Zonal Headquarters by taking over the work of Agra and Cochin Benches respectively w.e.f. 1st November, 2022.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Figure XII-3:
Achievements of ITAT



EVENTS

a. Inauguration Of New Office

New office premises of ITAT Raipur Bench was inaugurated on 4th June, 2022 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh by Shri Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of Law & Justice in the presence of Professor S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Law & Justice, Shri. Sunil Kumar Soni, Member of Parliament and Shri. G. S. Pannu, President, ITAT. The Vice-Presidents, Members, Officers from Income Tax Department and Members of Bar Association.

b. Interactive Meeting With The Stakeholders of ITAT

An interactive meeting with the stakeholders of ITAT was conducted at Mumbai on 15.01.2023. Shri Kiren Rijju, Humble Union Minister of Law & Justice chaired the meeting. Shri G.S.Pannu, President, ITAT, Vice President, ITAT, Pune zone, Members of Bar Association and Officers of Income Tax Department attended the meeting.

c. Women's Day Celebration

Women's Day Celebration was conducted at various Benches on 08th Mar, 2023 to empower the female Officers/Officials of ITAT. They were rewarded with a memento in the form of Cups.

d. Training Programmes

A 02 days' Refresher Training Programme for Superintendents of ITAT was conducted on 27th – 28th May, 2022 at ITAT Bangalore.

e. Swachhata Pakhwada

"Swachhata Pakhwada" was observed at all the Benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal during the period from 1st to 15th April, 2022 and "Swachhata Pledge" was administered to all Officers and staff of ITAT on 01.04.2022.

f. Yoga Day Celebration

International day of Yoga was celebrated on 21st June, 2022 in all Benches of ITAT.

g. Hindi Diwas and Hindi Pakhwada

Inauguration of the Hindi Pakhwada was held on 14 September 2022 at Surat under the Chairmanship of Shri. Amit Shah, Home Minister of India. Thereafter all the Benches of the ITAT organized Hindi Diwas and Hindi Pakhwada. Various competitions were conducted from 16 September, 2022 to 29 September, 2022 at all ITAT Benches.

I. VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

“Vigilance Awareness Week” was observed at all the Benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and “Integrity Pledge” was administered to all Officers and staff of ITAT on 31.10.2022.

Figure XII 4:
Inauguration of New office premises at Raipur Bench



Figure XII 5:
Orientation and Training of New Members of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal at New Delhi on 07 February, 2022



Figure XII 6:
Hindi Pakhwada Closing Ceremony at ITAT Mumbai Benches



THE PREMISES OF BENCHES OF ITAT

At the following stations, the ITAT is functioning from its own building:-

- i. Jaipur
- ii. Bengaluru
- iii. Cuttack

At the following stations, pieces of land have been purchased by ITAT for construction of office-cum-residential buildings:-

1. **Pune:** Construction of Training Centre, Guest House and Staff Quarters at Akurdi is underway.
2. **Lucknow:** The Construction of office-cum-residential building of ITAT, Lucknow Benches, Lucknow is in full swing.
3. **Guwahati:** ITAT has purchased 1 Bigha, 3 Katha, 1 Lessa at Fancy Bazar, Uzanbazar, Guwahati from Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC).
4. **Kolkata:** The WBHIDCO Ltd. has allotted 1.25 Acres of leasehold land at Financial and Legal Hub.
5. **Ahmedabad:** A land admeasuring 11,559 sq mts has been allotted for the construction of office building/Staff Quarters for ITAT, Ahmedabad Benches.
6. **Delhi:** The construction of office building of the ITAT, Delhi Benches, Delhi by the NBCC India Ltd. in Tower 'B' at World Trade Center, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi is in full swing.
7. **Raipur:** An Office Space admeasuring 8730 sq.ft. area in the newly constructed GPOA Building at Naya Raipur (Atal Nagar), Chattisgarh has been allotted to the ITAT, Raipur Bench.

BENEVOLENT FUND

ITAT also has a Benevolent Fund, the corpus of which has been built out of voluntary contributions by the Officers and staff. The President, Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, is the patron. Officers and staff contribute voluntarily to this fund and disbursements are made to officials in need of medical or other emergent situations on the recommendation of the Committee formed under the Rules.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

RTI Act, 2005 has already been implemented by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. All the 28 stations (63 Benches) of ITAT are registered on the website of CIC, Delhi. For facilitating quicker access to information to the RTI applicants in keeping with the letter and spirit of the RTI Act, all 28 Public Authorities of ITAT have been brought under the RTI Online Portal (rtionline.gov.in).

IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGE POLICY

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Language Act, 1963, Official Language Implementation Committees (OLICs) were constituted at all the Benches of the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal.

The OLICs of the concerned Bench monitor progress in achieving the targets set for Hindi correspondence and implementation of Official Language Policies. The Head Office at Mumbai regularly scrutinizes periodical reports on the progressive use of Hindi forwarded by the Benches. Training in Hindi, Hindi Typing and Hindi Stenography is offered by nominating sufficient number of officials under the Hindi Teaching Scheme of the Department of Official Language, Government of India.

Hindi workshops were also held in all the Benches for proper implementation of the Official Language policy. Sufficient funds were provided to purchase Hindi Books at all the Benches. All offices of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal were instructed to make expenditure towards purchase of Hindi Books (i.e. 50% of total library grant) according to the Official Language policy and in accordance with the targets fixed by the Department of Official Language, Government of India.

With a view to create awareness on the use of Hindi in official work as well as to accelerate the pace of its progressive use, Hindi Day and Hindi Fortnight were organized at all Benches.

An Annual Magazine "Srijan" is published at the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Mumbai. It contains articles, stories, poems and travelogues written by Members, Officers and employees of various Benches of ITAT.

Implementation of instructions regarding representation of PwDs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and ex-servicemen etc.

The Government of India's instructions regarding the concessions in appointments to the persons with disabilities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Ex-Serviceman etc., were duly implemented during the period under consideration. The statistics relating to the representation of these categories in services of the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal are as follows:

TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OF I.T.A.T. INCLUDING SCS, STS, OBCS, EXS, PH UPTO 31.03.2023

Table XII-5:
Category wise ITAT Staff Statistics

GROUP A	No of employees	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	Ex-serv	PH
President	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Vice President	5	3	-	-	2	-	-
Accountant Member	36	22	3	1	10	-	-
Judicial Member	41	26	7	0	8	-	-
Registrar	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
Deputy Registrar	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Assistant Registrar	9	4	2	1	2	-	-
Hindi Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	93	57	12	2	22	-	-

GROUP B	No of employees	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	Ex-serv				PH			
						SC	ST	OBC	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	GEN
Senior P.S.	86	53	13	2	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private Secretary	7	1	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Superintendent	6	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office Suptd.	48	31	6	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hindi Translator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Accountant	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Librarian	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	149	92	23	4	29	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Note: 07 post of Sr. Hindi Translator filled on Ad-hoc basis

GROUP C	No of employees	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	Ex-serv				PH			
						SC	ST	OBC	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	GEN
Upper Division Clerk	119	50	25	8	32	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Steno Grade 'D'	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Division Clerk	107	46	17	7	34	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Staff Car Driver	29	6	9	1	6	1	0	2	4	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	256	103	51	16	72	1	0	4	4	0	0	3	2

	No of employees	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	Ex-serv				PH			
						SC	ST	OBC	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	GEN
Multi-Tasking Staff	176	58	56	16	46	1	-	3	5	4	-	3	1
TOTAL	176	58	56	16	46	1	-	3	5	4	-	3	1

NUMBER OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES WORKING IN THE DEPARTMENT:

Table XII-6:
ITAT Female Employee Statistics

S.NO.	Categories of Staff	No. of Female Employees
1.	Group A	11
2.	Group B	47
3.	Group C	26
4.	MTS	11
	Total	95

XIII. LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA

BACKGROUND

Law Commission of India is constituted every three years by a notification of the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India with definite Terms of Reference to carry out research in the field of law. The Commission makes recommendations to the Government according to its mandate.

The 22nd Law Commission was constituted vide Notification dated 21.02.2020 for a period of three years. The Central Government appointed Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Retired Chief Justice, Karnataka High Court as the Chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission along with three Full-time Members and two Part-Time Members.

The full time members of the Commission are: Justice K.T. Sankaran, Retired Judge of the Kerala High Court, (Prof.) Dr. Anand Paliwal, Professor Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur and (Prof.) Dr. D.P. Verma, Former Head and Dean, Law School, BHU and Former Additional Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

The Part-Time Members of the Commission are: Shri M. Karunanithi, Advocate, and (Prof.) Dr. Raka Arya, Professor of Political Science at National Law Institute University, Bhopal. The Commission also comprises of two ex-officio Members, namely, the Law Secretary and the Legislative Secretary, and one Member Secretary. The Commission is assisted by Law Officers of Indian Legal Service. Besides, Officers of CSS and CSSS deal with the administration.

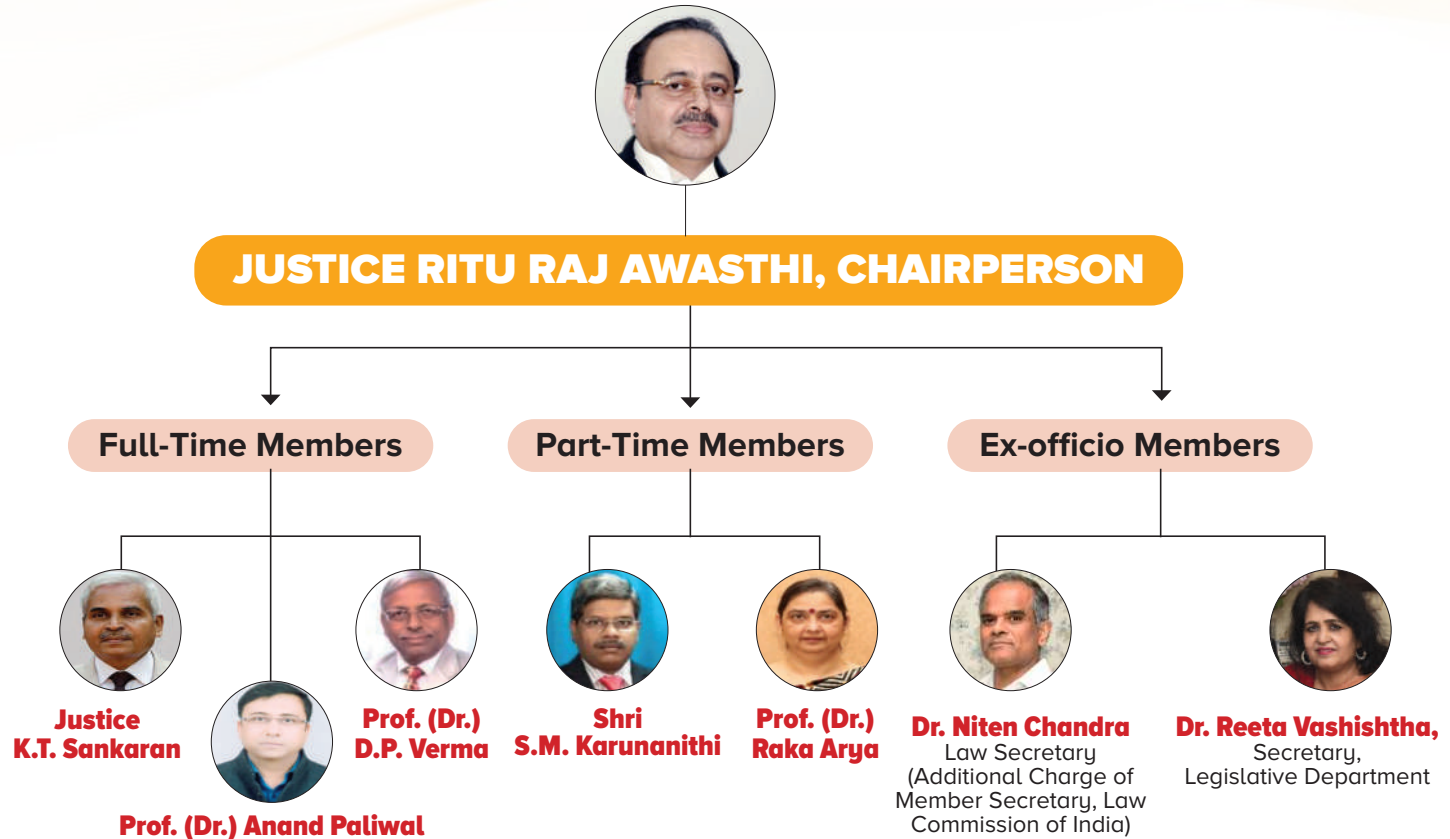
VISION

Making recommendations for reforming the laws for fostering justice in society and promoting good governance under the rule of law.

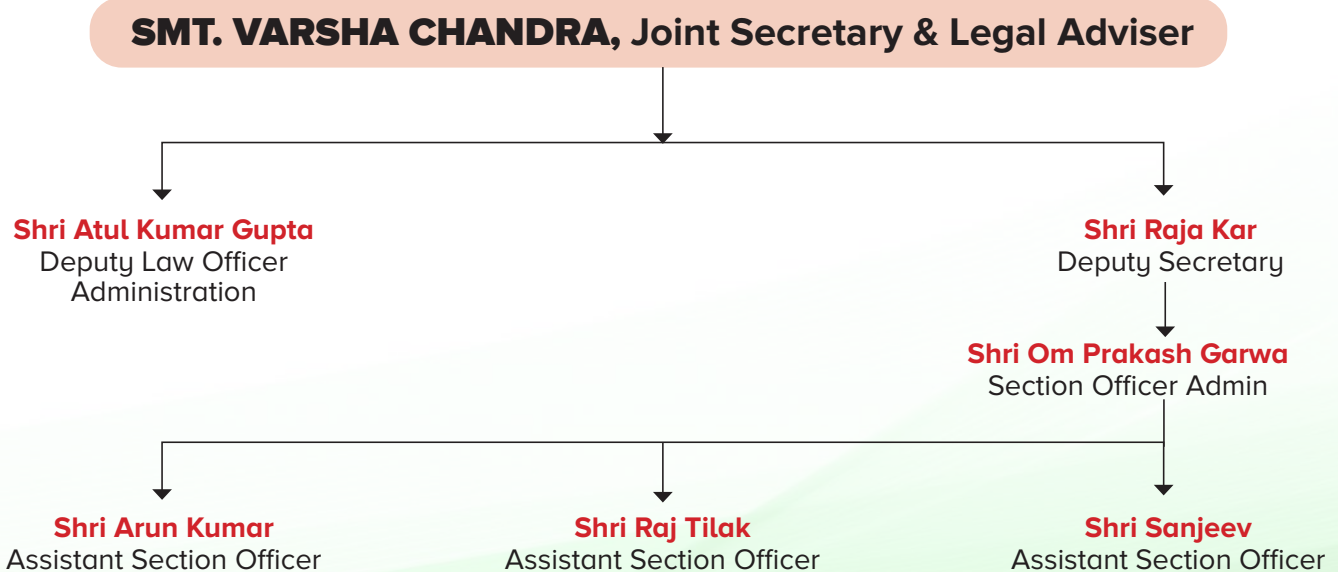
ROLE

The task of the Law Commission of India, *inter alia*, include review of obsolete laws, to examine the laws which affect the poor and carry out post-audit for socio-economic legislations, to keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduce costs so as to secure quick and economic disposal of cases, to examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways for improvement, reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble to the Constitution, to examine the existing laws with a view to promote gender equality and suggest amendments thereto, to revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities, to examine the impact of globalization on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalized.

Twenty-Second Law Commission of India



ADMINISTRATION



FUNCTIONS OF THE LAW COMMISSION

The Law Commission works on projects based on:

- (a) References received from the Central Government and/or from Supreme Court of India and High Courts.
- (b) *Suo motu* Cognizance: Keeping in view the importance of the subject matter, the Commission may initiate study on specific subjects.

METHODOLOGY ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

On receipt of references for examination, priorities are decided, and preparatory work is assigned to the Members of the Commission. Depending upon the nature and scope of the topic, research methodologies for collection of data and views are formulated keeping the scope of the proposal for reform in mind.

Discussion at Commission meetings during this period helps not only in articulating the issues and focusing on the research, but also in evolving a consensus among the Members of the Commission. A working paper outlining the problem and suggesting matters deserving consideration emerges out of this preparatory work in the Commission.

The success of the Commission's work in law reforms is dependent upon its capacity to consult the widest section of the people and collect data, views/suggestions, and inputs from the public and concerned interest groups.

At times, the working paper is sent out for circulation among the public and concerned interest groups/stakeholders with a view to elicit comments. Usually, a carefully prepared questionnaire is sent to interest groups/stakeholders.

The Law Commission makes every effort to ensure that the widest sections of people are consulted in formulating proposals for law reforms. In this process, the Commission involves professional bodies and academic institutions. Seminars and workshops are organised to elicit critical opinions on proposed strategies for reform. The Commission always welcomes suggestions from any person, institution, or organization on the issues under consideration.

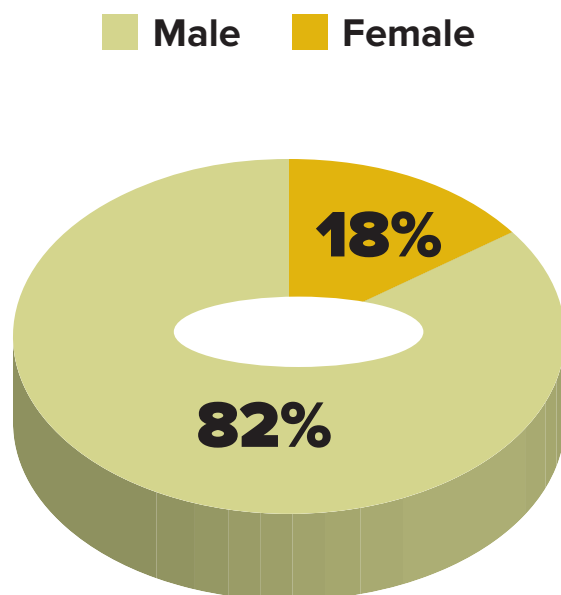
Final Report: Once the data and suggestions are assimilated, the Commission evaluates them, and the information is used for appropriate incorporation in the report which is written under the guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission. It is then subjected to scrutiny by the entire Commission in a meeting. Once the Report and summary are finalised, the Commission may decide to prepare a draft amendment or a new Bill which may be appended to its Report. Thereafter, the final report is submitted to the Central Government for consideration.

Follow-up: The Reports of the Law Commission are laid before the Parliament from time to time by the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice and forwarded to the concerned administrative Departments/Ministries for implementation. They are acted upon by concerned Departments/ Ministries depending on the Government's decision. Invariably, the reports are cited in Courts, Parliamentary Standing Committees, and in academic and public discourses.

GENDER REPRESENTATION

The number of female and male employees employed in the Commission is mentioned below:

Figure XIII-1:
Number of Male and Female Employees in the
Law Commission of India (in percentage)



A total number of 37 employees are employed in the Law Commission, out of whom seven are female employees (i.e. 18%) and the rest are male employees (i.e. 82%).

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

The Right to Information Act, 2005 is strictly adhered to in the Law Commission of India. A large number of online/offline applications are received seeking information on various issues pertaining to Law Commission's projects under study, reports submitted by earlier Law Commissions and on administrative matters. During the year, 490 RTI applications seeking information under the said Act were received, which were promptly attended to by giving due reply to the applicants according to the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and the rules made thereunder. 17 First Appeals were preferred before the First Appellate Officer by the applicants which were duly disposed on merits. One Second Appeal was filed before the Central Information Commission and the same was dismissed.

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES



The Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) is an online web-enabled system developed by NIC in association with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, with an objective of speedy redress and effective monitoring of grievances by Ministries/Departments/Organizations of the Government of India. This year, few public grievances were received from PMO and through the online portal which were addressed by the Public Grievance Officer of the Commission.

BUDGET

The total budget allocated to the Commission for the financial year 2022-23 is ₹7.7 Crore.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Technological Advancement:** The website of the Law Commission of India was upgraded from HTML to content management framework (CMF) S3WAAS based module. This had enabled the Commission to make available to the citizens the information of the Law Commission in bilingual form i.e. both in English and Hindi. The content audit of the website was also accomplished. In the Law Commission of India, e-Office has been implemented, thereby doing away with physical file movement. Special steps have been taken to impart training to all officials for smooth implementation and optimal utilization of e-Office. The software 'LIMBS', developed by NIC, is also functional in the Law Commission of India. The matters pertaining to the Law Commission are duly updated in the said portal.
- 2. Swachhta Campaign:** Cleanliness Drive under the "Special Campaign 2.0" was conducted at the Law Commission of India. Under the said campaign, during September 2022, old files/records were reviewed according to the Record Retention Schedule issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances for weeding out or otherwise retaining the reviewed files, thereby cleaning up the office. 231 files were reviewed, out of which 90 files were weeded out. The old, obsolete/unserviceable items, such as furniture, ACs, e-waste, old vehicles etc. were auctioned and 308 sq. ft. of space was created in the office.
- 3. Events:** To promote and encourage the implementation of Official Language in the Law Commission of India, *Hindi Diwas* was organized on 14 September 2022. Hindi Fortnight (*Hindi Pakhwada*) was organized from 16 September 2022 to 29 September 2022. During the Hindi Pakhwada, four competitions, i.e. Hindi Essay, Hindi Typing, Hindi Dictation and Hindi translation were organized. Total 30 employees participated in these competitions. Cash prizes along with certificates were given to the winners of each competition.
- 4.** On 21 June 2022, the 7th International Yoga Day was celebrated at the Law Commission of India by organising yoga camp, whereby yoga T-shirts and yoga mats were distributed for encouraging everyone to practice and adopt Yoga. A yoga expert was invited for a practical session and meditation.

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5. On 26 November 2022, the Preamble of the Constitution of India was read by all the Officers and employees of the Commission in the presence of Member Mr. Justice K.T. Sankaran on the occasion of the Constitution Day.
 6. **Empowerment of Women:** In compliance with Section 4(1) of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, an Internal Complaints Committee has been constituted for redressal of complaints by aggrieved women employees of the Commission. The Committee consists of two women (including one Member from an NGO) and one male employee.
 7. **Disposal of obsolete/unserviceable items:** The old, obsolete/unserviceable items i.e. Furniture, ACs, e-waste were auctioned and approximately 300 sq. ft. of space was created in the office. An amount of ₹65,000/- was generated through the auction.
 8. **Weeding out of records:** Physical files and records were reviewed and old records/ files were weeded out under special campaign and approximately 200 sq. ft of space was created in the office.
 9. **Conference on Sustainable Development In India: Evolution And Legal Perspectives:-** Law Commission of India organized a conference on Sustainable Development In India: Evolution And Legal Perspectives in association with University College of Law, Mohanlal Sukhadia University from 25th to 26th February 2023 in Udaipur.
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XIV: INDIAN LAW INSTITUTE

BRIEF BACKGROUND

The Indian Law Institute (ILI) was established in 1956 for the promotion of legal research. It was granted a 'Deemed University' status in 2004 vide notification of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. It was accredited with an 'A' Grade (CGPA 3.35 out of 4.00) by NAAC in 2017 and completed its first cycle of accreditation. It is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The autonomous character of the Institute ensures academic freedom to carry out its objectives and meaningful research.

Figure XIV-1:
Indian Law Institute



VISION

The primary vision of the Institute is to create good researchers. It aims to impart the art of research through an interdisciplinary approach. It focuses on the following key areas: (i) To enquire about unanswered questions and knowledge gaps for the creation of new legal knowledge, theories, analyses, and methods; (ii) To generate new policy proposals on law and justice; and (iii) To actively participate in global academic discourse.

MISSION

The key features of the mission of the Institute are as follows:

- i. To cultivate and promote the science of law;
- ii. To bring substantial reforms in the administration of justice; and
- iii. To meet the socio-economic aspirations of the general masses through law and its instrumentalities.

BROAD OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Institute are as follows:

- i. To promote the universalization and systematization of law;
- ii. To encourage and conduct research in legal and its allied fields;
- iii. To disseminate legal knowledge and its principles;
- iv. To publish studies, treatises, books, periodicals, reports, and other literature relating to law and allied fields;
- v. To undertake documentation of significant legal and allied materials;
- vi. To maintain libraries;
- vii. To constitute regional offices at convenient centres across the nation for the promotion of institutional activities.

FUNCTIONS

The Indian Law Institute imparts legal education and encourages research activities in various fields of law. It holds various workshops/training programmes/ conferences/ awareness programmes in the area of law and its applicability for larger societal requirement. It is also associated with various national/international organisations/ institutions for dissemination of legal thoughts and development of newer dimensions of law.

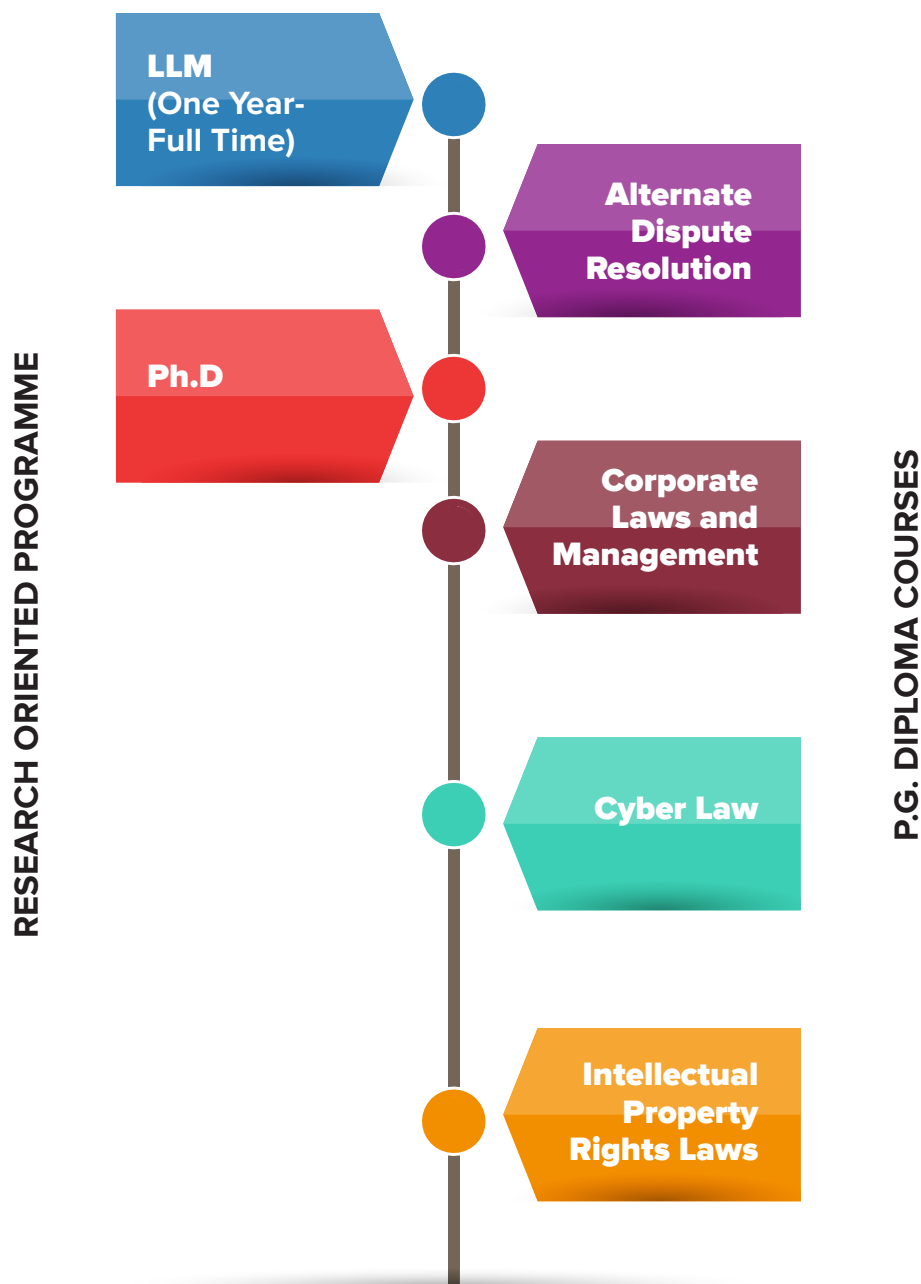
ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The Institute introduced its LL.M. (One Year, full-time) programme from the academic session 2013-2014. The one-year LL.M. programme is designed to facilitate scholars with a comparative understanding of legal systems and the concept of 'justice' in the globalized world. The LL.M. programme covers vital areas like International Trade Law, Intellectual Property Rights Law, Criminal Law, Human Rights, and Judicial Administration. The publication of scholarly research papers is an integral part of this course. It helps scholars to acquire sufficient teaching and research skills for pursuing a career in academics and research.

The Institute offers a Ph.D. Programme. The Ph.D. regulation is specially tailored for individuals having outstanding research skills.

The Institute offers Post Graduate Diploma Courses in vital areas like Corporate Law and Management, Cyber Law, Intellectual Property Rights Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADRs). These programs are designed to enhance the domain knowledge of the students.

Figure XIV 2
Academic Programmes offered by the Institute



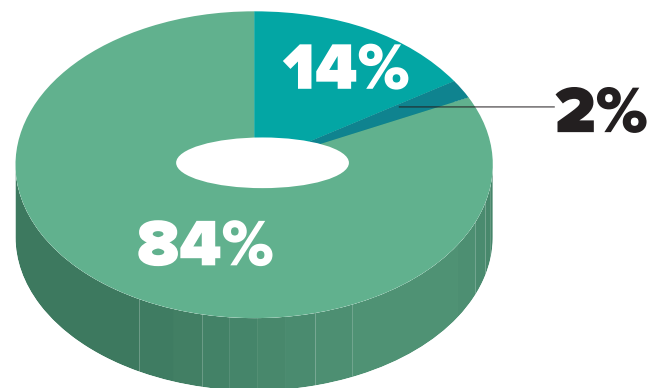
Apart from the above-mentioned academic programmes, the Institute offers e-Learning courses of three months duration. The batches completed their courses on 11 July 2022.

- i. Cyber Law: 67 students were enrolled in the 41st batch.
- ii. Intellectual Property Rights and Information Technology in the Internet Age: 47 students were enrolled in the 52nd batch.

The new batch commenced on 17th August 2022. The strength of the scholars enrolled in the academic year 2022-23 is as follows:

Figure XIV 3
Strength of Scholars in the Academic Year 2022-23

■ LLM ■ Ph.D ■ PG Diploma Courses

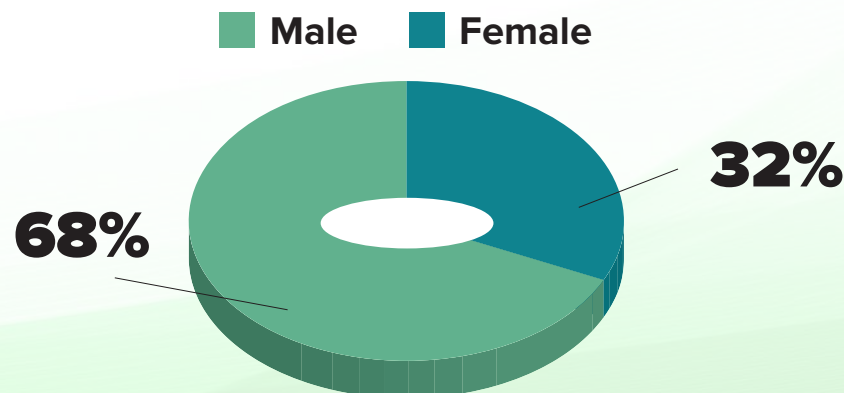


A total of 38 (14%) and 5 (2%) scholars are enrolled in LL.M. and Ph.D. programmes respectively. Further, a total of 222 (84%) scholars are enrolled in P.G. Diploma Courses.

GENDER REPRESENTATION

The percentage share of employees employed in the Institute is mentioned below: The total number of female employees employed in the Institute is 14 (32%) and the total number of male employees is 30 (68%).

Figure XIV 4
Percentage share of Male and Female employees



HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources of the Indian Law Institute is mentioned below (brackets represent the strength of the employees):

- I. Group A: Director (1), Professor (4), Librarian (1), Registrar (1), Associate Professor (5), Deputy Librarian (1), Deputy Registrar (1), Assistant Professor (10), Assistant Librarian (2), Accounts Officer (1), Assistant Registrar (2), Assistant Controller of Examination (1), Computer System Administrator (1)
- II. Group B: Superintendent (2), Library Superintendent (1), Estate Officer (1), Chief Accountant (1), Editorial Assistant (1), Assistant (4), Library Assistant (4), Building Assistant (1), Technical Assistant (5), Exam Assistant (2), Junior Accounts Officer (2), Caretaker (1), Sr. Stenographer (1)
- III. Group C: UDC (3), Stenographer (2), Junior Technical Assistant (6), Junior Library Assistant (7), Head Mali (1), LDC (2), Sr. Attendant (1)
- IV. Group D: Sr. Farash (1), Daftri (1), Sr. Chowkidar (2), Sr. Sweeper (2), Sr. Attendant (1), Attendant cum Driver (1), Chowkidar (3), Sweeper (2), Attendant (5), Attendant cum electrician (1), Attendant cum Mali (1), Attendant cum Plumber (1)

BUDGET

The budget of the Institute for the Financial year 2023-2024 is ₹1130 lakhs.

ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

1. **Web Series of Lectures/ Conferences/ Talk/ Seminars conducted by the Indian Law Institute:**
 - a. National Seminar on 'Gender Justice and Women's Rights for Sustainable Tomorrow' on March 08, 2022.
 - b. Webinar on 'Handling Erroneous Convictions: Learning from the American Experience' on March 14, 2022.
 - c. Integrated Certificate Course in Mediation (April 7-8 and 13-15, 2022).
 - d. Commonwealth Legal Association (CLEA) and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy and Training (MILAT), in association with Indian Law Institute (ILI) and Lloyd Law College (LLC), with academic support from Empowerment through Law of the Common People (ELCOP), Bangladesh organised an eleven-day Human Rights and Social Justice Summer School-2022. The summer school was organised on the theme 'Freedom of Expression' (May 27 - June 06, 2022).
 - e. The Indian Law Institute organised a Faculty Seminar on 'Supreme Court decisions on Sexual Harassment' on May 31, 2022.
 - f. Inaugural function of World Environment Day Observance, 2022 and International Conference on Sustainability and Subsistence: Human Rights and Environmental Issues on June 05-06, 2022.
 - g. International Yoga Day Celebration: To raise awareness of the health advantages of Yoga, the Indian Law Institute observed the 8th International Yoga Day on June 21, 2022.
 - h. International Conference on 'Situating Justice in Armed Conflict: Can there be Just Wars?' on August 5-7, 2022
 - i. Two-Day Programme for Judicial Officers on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on September 17-18, 2022.
 - j. Conference on Gender and the Indian Penal Code on 6-8 October, 2022.
 - k. The Indian Law Institute CLEA-MILAT Research Mentoring Programme (RMP) 2022" on October 31-November 4, 2022.

- l. Two-Day Programme for Police Personnel on Police and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 10-11 December, 2022.
- m. One-Day Programme for Media Personnel on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 21 January, 2023.
- n. International Webinar on Disaster Management Laws in Asia: A Retrospect on 27-28 January, 2023.
- o. Two-Day Programme for Prison Officials on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 11-12 February, 2023
- p. CLEA Golden Jubilee International Conference, 2023 on Augmenting Legal Education through Technology: Issues and Challenges on 2-4 March, 2023.
- q. Two-Day Programme for First Class Judicial Magistrates on Human Rights: Issues and Challenges on 25-26 March, 2023.
- r. 40 Hour Training Program on Mediation in collaboration with Delhi High Court Mediation & Conciliation Centre, SAARC Law India and SAMADHAN on 28 March - 1 April, 2023.

2. Book Release: The Institute released the following books:

- a. Book titled 'Novel Dimensions of Copyright Law'
- b. Book titled 'Legal Research and Writing'

3. Publications: The following research publications were released by the institute:

- a. Journal of the Indian Law Institute (JILI) - Published quarterly, containing research articles on contemporary legal issues of National/International Importance.
- b. ILI Newsletter - Published quarterly, referring to various activities undertaken by the Institute during the year and forthcoming activities.
- c. Index to Legal Periodicals - Published yearly and contains indexes, periodicals (including year books and other annual publications) pertaining to law and related fields received (either by subscription or exchange or complementary) by the ILI Library.
- d. Annual Survey of Indian Law - Published yearly and is a prestigious publication of the Institute and contains Annual Survey of Indian Law including latest trends in every branch of law of importance.
- e. Legal Research Manual - Published by Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ILI.
- f. ILI Law Review (Summer) and (Winter).
- g. Legal Research and Writing - Published by Prof.(Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha and Dr. Deepa Kharb
- h. India at 75: Reminiscences and Reflections - Published by Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha

4. Forthcoming Publication: Book on 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' lectures series organised by the Indian Law Institute.

XV : CENTRAL AGENCY SECTION

ABOUT

The Central Agency Section ('CAS') was established in 1950. This office is responsible for conducting litigation before the Supreme Court of India on behalf of all Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Union Territories, the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India ('CAG') and all field offices under the CAG. Special Leave Petitions and appeals are to be filed through the Central Agency Section after obtaining the opinion of Law Officers on the feasibility of filing such petitions or appeals in the Supreme Court. This Section functions from the Supreme Court Compound, New Delhi.

Figure XV 1:
Central Agency Section

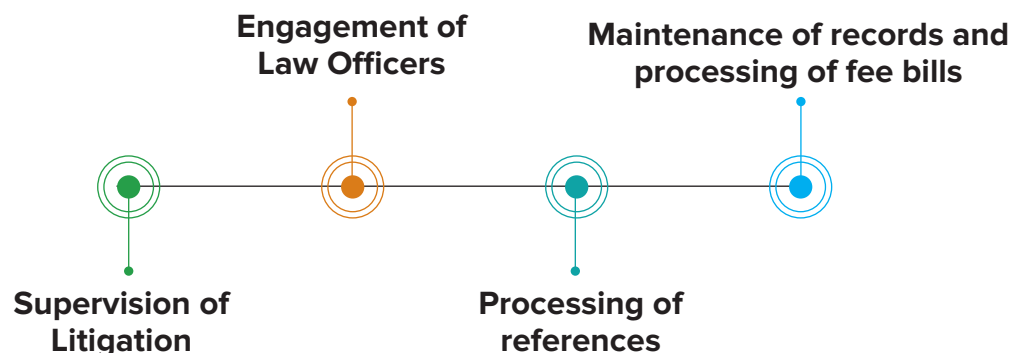


FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL AGENCY SECTION

The Central Agency Section assists the Union Government and all other associated bodies in conducting their litigation before the Supreme Court of India. The other functions of the Section are as follows:

- i. **Supervision of litigation:** It conducts and supervises litigation on behalf of the Union of India, NCT of Delhi, CAG, and Union Territories in the Supreme Court.
- ii. **Engagement of Law Officers:** It engages Law Officers or approves Panel Counsels for various cases.
- iii. **Processing of references:** It receives references from the Ministries/Departments of Government of India through the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice to obtain the opinions of the Attorney General of India, the Solicitor General of India and the Additional Solicitors General of India.
- iv. **Maintenance of records and Payment of fee bills:** It supervises and maintains records, payment of fee bills of Law Officers, Panel Counsels, computer typists, and photocopy machine operators.

Figure XV-2:
Central Agency Section and its Core Functions



COMPOSITION OF THE CENTRAL AGENCY SECTION:

The Central Agency Section is constituted of the following officials:

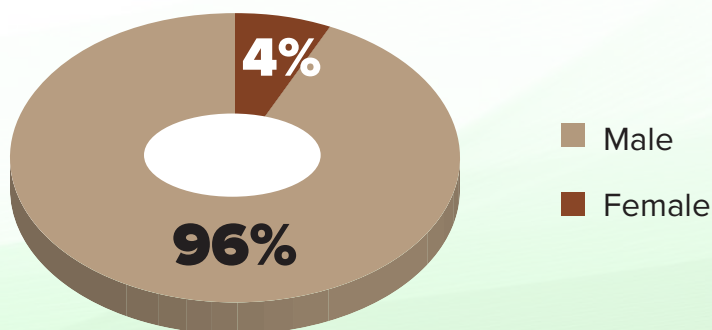
- i. **In-charge:** The Additional Secretary is in-charge of this Section and has been delegated the power of Head of Department. He is assisted by eight Government Advocates and one Consultant (Advocate-on-Record). Government Advocates require the qualification of Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court. They appear before the Supreme Court in matters pertaining to the Union of India, NCT of Delhi, CAG, and Union Territories according to the Supreme Court Rules.
- ii. **Government Panel Counsels:** There are 587 Government Panel Counsels which include 11 Law Officers and 576 Advocates.

The office bearers of the Central Agency Section are as follows:

- i. Dr. Niten Chandra, IAS, Law Secretary, In-Charge, CAS
- ii. M.K. Maroria, Senior Government Advocate; Raj Bahadur, Additional Government Advocate; Sudarshan K, Additional Government Advocate; Amrish Kumar, Deputy Government Advocate; G.S Makkar, Additional Government Advocate; N.Vishakamurthy, Assistant Government Advocate; A.K. Sharma, Consultant/AOR; Shreekant N. Terdal/AOR; Arun Kumar Yadav, Assistant Government Advocate.

Gender Representation: The number of female and male employees employed in the Central Agency Section is mentioned below:

Figure XV-3:
Percentage Share of Male and Female Employees



A total number of 93 employees are employed in the Central Agency Section, out of whom, four (i.e. 4%) are female employees and the rest are male employees (i.e. 96%).

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

➤ Budget for Financial Year 2022-23

The allocated budget to the Central Agency Section for the financial year 2022-23 is ₹42.60 Crores.

➤ Payment of Fees

Counsel Fee: The fee to the Panel Counsels is paid according to the prescribed rates by the Government. The fee bills submitted by the Panel Counsels are checked and verified from the proceeding registers maintained by the concerned Government Advocates.

Court Fee: In cases where large amounts of court fees are required to be paid, the concerned Ministries/Departments make arrangements for payment of court fees through M/s Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL). For smaller amounts of court fees, Central Agency Section has entered into an arrangement with SHCIL for the e-payment of court fees.

Computer Typist / Photostat Operators: A panel of Computer Typists/ Photostat Machine Operators discharges the litigation work. After necessary scrutiny, the CAS pays off the bills raised by them.

CASES MATRIX AT A GLANCE

The total number of pending cases is 47,486, out of which Union cases are 41,836 and State cases are 5,650. A total number of 4914 cases (i.e. 4082 Union cases and 832 State cases) of 59 Ministries of the Government of India were filed.

Figure XV-4:
Number of Pending, Filed and Disposed Cases

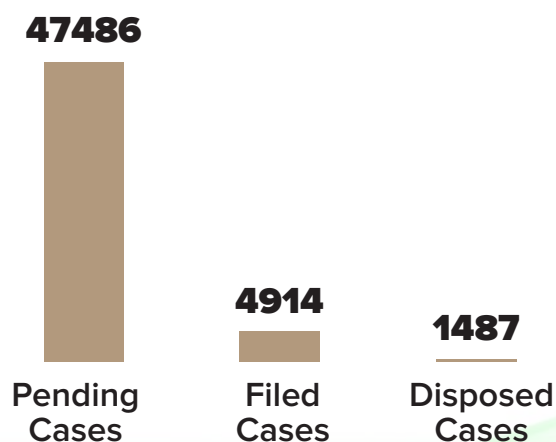


Table XV1:
Ministry-wise number of cases filed

Ministry/Department	No. of filed cases
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE	12
AYUSH	13
CABINET SECRETARIAT	11
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS	1
CIVIL AVIATION	15
COAL	6
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	15
COMMUNICATION TELECOMMUNICATION (DoT)	15
COMMUNICATIONS (DoP)	28
COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA	26
CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION	14
COOPERATION	3
CORPORATE AFFAIRS	46
CULTURE	6
DEFENCE	238
DELHI ADMINISTRATION	239
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY	5
EARTH SCIENCES	1
EDUCATION (MoE)	14
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE	111
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	22
FINANCE	2016
FISHERIES ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING	3
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA	1
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE	69
HEAVY INDUSTRIES	1
HOME AFFAIRS	519
HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS	23

Ministry	No. of filed cases
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING	7
JAL SHAKTI(DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES)	12
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT	9
LAW AND JUSTICE	114
MEITY	8
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	4
MINES	11
MINORITY AFFAIRS	11
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY	1
PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS	2
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS	358
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS	17
PORTS SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS	3
POWER	3
PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE	3
RAILWAYS	172
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS	11
RURAL DEVELOPMENT	27
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	2
SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	3
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT	26
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION	3
STEEL	2
TEXTILES	4
TOURISM	2
TRIBAL AFFAIRS	3
UTS EXCLUDING DELHI	604
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT	17
YOUTH AFFAIR AND SPORTS	2
Total	4914

Table XV2:
Ministry-wise number of disposed cases

Total no. of disposed Cases					
Sr. No.	Ministry/ Department	No. of Cases	Sr. No.	Ministry/ Department	No. of Cases
1	AGRICULTURE & FARMER WELFARE	5	23	HOME AFFAIRS	122
2	ATOMIC ENERGY	1	24	HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS	10
3	AYUSH	2	25	INFORMATION & BROADCASTING	5
4	CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	91	26	LAW & JUSTICE	6
5	CHEMICAL & FERTILISER	1	27	MEITY	3
6	COAL	1	28	MINES	1
7	COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES	1	29	MINORITY AFFAIRS	6
8	COMMUNICATION TELECOMMUNICATION (DoT)	4	30	NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY	1
9	COMMUNICATIONS (DoP)	87	31	PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS	22
10	COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA	4	32	PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS	1
11	CORPORATE AFFAIRS	9	33	POWER	2
12	CULTURE	1	34	RAILWAYS	80
13	DEFENCE	109	35	ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS	4
14	DELHI ADMINISTRATION	40	36	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	13
15	EARTH & SCIENCE	1	37	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	1
16	EDUCATION	2	38	SKILL DEVELOPMENT	2
17	ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE	5	39	SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT	6
18	EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	1	40	TEXTILE	1
19	FINANCE	792	41	TRIBAL AFFAIRS	1
20	FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDARY & DAIRYING	1	42	UNION TERRITORIES	16
21	HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE	23	43	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT	1
22	HEAVY INDUSTRIES	2			
Total					1487

XVI: BRANCH SECRETARIATS

1. BRANCH SECRETARIAT, BENGALURU

The Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru has jurisdiction over the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Union Territory of Puducherry (with Andhra Pradesh) in handling litigation and rendering legal advice of various Central Government Departments/Ministries. An Assistant Legal Adviser heads the Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru.

Figure XVI 1:
Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru



1.1 ADVICE

The Branch Secretariat renders legal advice to all the Central Government Departments and offices located within its jurisdiction. 756 references were received for legal advice. The advice work includes scrutiny and vetting of pleadings i.e., statement of objections, counter affidavits to be filed before the High Courts i.e., High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru (including Benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi), High Court of Telangana at Hyderabad and High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati, reply statement filed before Central Administrative Tribunals at Bengaluru and Hyderabad, written statement, counter affidavits filed before District Courts and various other Tribunals. The advice work also includes examining the feasibility of filing SLP, Appeals, review etc. interpretation of laws guiding Departments on legal sustainability of their action and holding discussions with the administrative Departments, whenever necessary.

1.2 SUPERVISING LITIGATION

The Branch Secretariat supervises the entire litigation of the Central Government Departments and offices in the High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru (including Benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi), High Court of Telangana at Hyderabad and High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati, District Courts located at Bengaluru and other districts of Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, CAT located in these States and Union Territory of Puducherry (with Andhra Pradesh).

The Branch Secretariat also looks after Government litigation before the District Consumer Dispute Redressal Fora, the State Consumer Redressal Commissions of the States, Central Government Industrial Tribunal and Debt Recovery Tribunal. The function of the Branch Secretariat in this regard includes engagement/ nomination of the Counsel and distribution of cases among the Central Government Counsel. 6694 litigation matters, which include nomination of Counsel, counsel fee bills and general correspondence relating to litigation, were received.

1.3 FEE BILLS OF COUNSELS

This Branch Secretariat processes counsel fee bills and pays the fees directly from its centralized funds to the Assistant Solicitor General of India and Central Government Counsel in the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru. 921 fee bills were received by the Branch Secretariat. So far as the Benches of High Court of Karnataka at Dharwad and Gulbarga are concerned, the counsel fee is borne by the Department concerned on whose behalf the Counsel conducts the cases. The Departments concerned pay the fee for Central Government Panel Counsel in CAT and District Courts.

1.4 EVENTS OF THE BRANCH SECRETARIAT, BENGALURU

i. International Yoga Day

The International Yoga Day was celebrated by the employees of the Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru by performing yoga collectively.

Figure XVI-2:
Employees performing Yoga Asanas on the occasion of International Yoga Day



The significance of performing yoga was discussed along with the benefits associated with it. All the employees were encouraged to incorporate the same in their respective daily routine.

ii. Observance of Hindi Month

The Hindi Month was celebrated in the Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru by conducting various competitions for the Officers and Staff. Officers/Staff posted with the Branch Secretariat participated in various competitions organised with the assistance of the Deputy Director of the Hindi Teaching Scheme, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bengaluru. Certificates and cash prizes were awarded to the winners.

Figure XVI-3: Deputy Director of the Hindi Teaching Scheme, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bengaluru distributing prizes to the winner of Competition



iii. Celebration of Constitution Day

As part of the Branch Secretariat's commemoration of the Constitution Day, the Preamble to the Constitution was read. A senior panel counsel was invited to deliver a lecture on the Indian Constitution which was attended by the Officers and staff of the Branch Secretariat, as well as some members of the legal fraternity. A poster with the Preamble of the Constitution was printed and put up in the office complex at Kendriya Sadan. A speech and essay writing was also organised for the employees.

Figure XVI-4:
Employees sharing their insightful thoughts on the occasion of Constitution Day



iv. Vigilance Awareness Week

Every year, the Vigilance Awareness Week is observed to sensitise the public on prevention of and the fight against corruption in the country. During the Vigilance Awareness Week, 2022, the Integrity Pledge was administered by the In-Charge on 26th October, 2022 to all the officials/Officers following the COVID protocols.

v. Special Campaign for Weeding-Out of Old Files

More than 500 old files of the Branch Secretariat were reviewed, identified and weeded-out during the Special Campaign 2.0.

vi. Observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, 2022

The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge was administered by Shri. B. Nanda Kumar, Assistant Legal Adviser & In-Charge on 31st October 2022. All the officials attended the event and took the oath of the National Unity Pledge.

2. BRANCH SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI

The Branch Secretariat, Chennai has jurisdiction over the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry in rendering legal advice and handling litigations of various Central Government Departments/offices located in the region. It is headed by an Assistant Legal Adviser who is functioning as In-charge.

Figure XVI-5:
Branch Secretariat, Chennai



2.1 ADVICE

The Branch Secretariat renders legal advice to all Central Government Offices located in the States within its jurisdiction. 956 references were received for advice, which were disposed.

2.2 SUPERVISING LITIGATION

The Branch Secretariat looks after the litigation work of Central Government (except cases relating to Income-Tax, Central Excise and Customs, etc.) in the High Court of Madras (including the Madurai Bench) and High Court of Kerala. It also looks after the litigation work of Central Government Departments/offices in the District Courts, Tribunals, Consumer Fora, etc. in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Besides, the Branch Secretariat has also been entrusted with the work of Central Government litigation before the Madras Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal at Chennai and Ernakulam Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal in Kerala. 6286 litigation matters were received including litigation receipts, fee bills and files opened for cases of High Court/CAT/LC etc.

The Branch Secretariat keeps the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government informed about the important developments of their cases as well as the outcome of the litigation and provides suitable advice for further course of action, whenever necessary. Pleadings, affidavits etc., to be filed in the Courts/ Tribunals / Consumer Fora / Arbitration

matters in Tamil Nadu and Kerala are scrutinized and vetted at the draft stage. Functions of Branch Secretariat also include engagement / nominations of the Counsel and collection of inputs from the Central Government Departments involved in the cases for forwarding to the Counsel after necessary scrutiny of the documents from a legal angle.

2.3. FEE BILLS OF COUNSELS

The Branch Secretariat makes payment of professional fees to the Additional Solicitor General of India, Assistant Solicitor General, Senior Panel Counsel and the Central Government Standing Counsel directly from funds allocated to it, in respect of cases before the Madras High Court (including Madurai Bench). 2384 fee bills pertaining to High Court, CAT and Lower Court were processed, whereby a total of ₹4,30,92,159/- was paid to Counsels including payment towards Retainer Fees.

2.4 OBSERVANCE OF 'INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA' ON 21ST JUNE, 2022

A demonstration session of one hour was conducted on 21.06.2022 by a yoga instructor in light of the Yoga Day celebrations in order to enlighten the Officers and officials about the multiple physical and mental health benefits of yoga.

2.5 OBSERVANCE OF 'HINDI PAKHWADA' IN SEPTEMBER 2022

The Hindi Pakhwada was observed in the month of September, 2022 in order to encourage the usage of Hindi in day-to-day official work. Various competitions were conducted under the guidance of Deputy Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme, Chennai. All Officers of Branch Secretariat participated in these competitions. During the prize distribution function, In-Charge, Branch Secretariat and the Deputy Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme provided valuable suggestions to improve usage of Hindi in day-to-day official work.

2.6 OBSERVANCE OF 'VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

According to the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission, the 'Vigilance Awareness Week' with the theme "Corruption free India for a developed Nation" was observed in the Branch Secretariat, Chennai from 31st October to 6th November, 2022. The 'Integrity Pledge' oath was administered to all officials of the Branch Secretariat by the In-charge on 31st October, 2022.

2.7 'SWACHCHA BHARAT' MISSION

The Assistant Legal Adviser and In charge of this Branch Secretariat has been periodically monitoring and inspecting the cleanliness activities of the office. In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, cleanliness of office premises, hand sanitization, wearing masks, social distancing are given high priority.

2.8 RETAINER FEES

Out of the allotted funds, the Branch Secretariat has been entrusted with the job of making payment of the Retainer Fee to the Standing Government Counsel of District Courts in Tamil Nadu. During the above period, an amount of ₹ 27,90,000/- was paid towards Retainer Fees.

2.9 IMPLEMENTATION OF E-OFFICE

This Office initiated correspondence with NIC and BSNL, Chennai for the provision of necessary prerequisites towards the implementation of e-Office in this Branch Secretariat. E-payment of all bills including fee bills is being made directly credited to the concerned Counsel. Further, necessary modifications have been incorporated in the 'Litcase' software under the guidance of concerned NIC personnel, so that information related to Fee Bill receipts and their disposal is duly updated.

2.10 CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION

On 25th November, 2022, the Constitution Day was observed wherein the Officers/officials read the Preamble to the Constitution. The officials also participated in the Constitution Day Quiz on the website of Department of Legal Affairs.

3. BRANCH SECRETARIAT, KOLKATA

The Branch Secretariat, Kolkata has jurisdiction over the States of West Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim, Orissa, Assam, Bihar and Andaman and Nicobar in handling litigation and advice of various Central Government Departments/ offices located in the region. It is headed by an Additional Government Advocate who is functioning as In-charge.

Figure XVI-6:
Branch Secretariat, Kolkata



3.1 ADVICE

The Branch Secretariat, Kolkata renders legal advice to various Ministries/Departments within its jurisdiction. However, Central Government Ministries/Departments located outside the jurisdiction of Branch Secretariat, Kolkata also approach Branch Secretariat for advice in matters pertaining to Court cases within the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata's jurisdiction. A total of 1658 references were received for advice.

3.2 SUPERVISION OF LITIGATION

The Branch Secretariat, Kolkata looks after the litigation matters pertaining to different Ministries/Departments of the Central Government in the High Court at Calcutta, Circuit Benches at Port Blair and Jalpaiguri and also various Tribunals, District Forums, State Commission and District Courts located in 12 States and 1 Union Territory. The Branch Secretariat also monitors cases before other High Courts whenever a Ministry/Department approaches the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata.

9536 cases were received by the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata pertaining to High Court at Calcutta from different Ministries/Departments, Autonomous bodies etc. 741 references were received pertaining to National Company Law Tribunal, Kolkata Bench. 3986 cases were received for the engagement of Counsels for the matters pertaining to CAT, Kolkata and Circuit Benches at Port Blair and Jalpaiguri. 1513 cases were received for engagement of Counsels in RCT, Industrial Tribunal, CESTAT, Consumer Commission and District Courts including arbitration cases.

3.3 FEE BILLS OF COUNSELS

The claims submitted by the Panel Counsels have been processed proportionately out of the sanctioned budget estimates for the payment of Professional Fees and Retainership Fees for the State of West Bengal.

3.4 RTI APPLICATIONS

Branch Secretariat, Kolkata has designated Assistant Legal Adviser as CPIO and Additional Government Advocate/In-charge as the First Appellate Authority under the RTI Act, 2005. 48 RTI applications and 2 first appeals were received.

3.5 BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

The Budget and Accounts related work in the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata are being done online using the portal-based payment system 'PFMS' developed by NIC. All payments to employees, Government Counsels, and other service providers are being made online through the PFMS portal. Periodical reports are directly submitted to Pay and Accounts Office and other Public Authorities online. For procurement of Goods, Stationeries, and other Services, the Government e-procurement website <https://gem.gov.in> is being used extensively for direct procurement as well as procurement through bids. Pension matters are being processed through the 'Bhavishya' online portal.

3.6 LIBRARY AND RESEARCH

The Library of the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata houses approximately 10800 books and journals which are used for reference in Litigation and legal advice. Online Journals 'Manupatra' and 'SCC Online' are also subscribed by this Branch Secretariat.

3.7 AUDIT

The last audit of the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata was conducted by an Audit Party from the Office of the Director General of Audit Central, Kolkata with effect from 05.05.2022 to 13.05.2022. During the course of the periodical inspection of accounts by the Audit Party, five objections were raised by the Audit Party. Action is in progress to settle the paras of audit objection. Since the action on the outstanding six audit objections made by the Audit Party during the audit from 01.04.2016 to 31.03.2018, was completed hence, the present audit party dropped the said objection.

Table XVI-1:

Details of settled Audit Objections during 01.04.2016 to 31.03.2018
for the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata

Sl. No. (1)	Paras/Queries up to 31.03.2018 (2)	Subject in brief (3)	Action taken for settling the paras as in Col.2 (4)
1	Para 2.1 of Audit Report	Observation on implementation of LIMBS	Action taken and para dropped by Audit
2	Para 2.2. of Audit Report	Irregularity in tendering of Security Services	Action taken and para dropped by Audit
3	Para 2.3 of Audit Report	Observation on outsourcing of services	Action taken and para dropped by Audit
4	Para 2.4(i) of Audit Report	Observation maintenance of Assets- Physical verification of fixed assets	Action taken and para dropped by Audit
	Para 2(4)(ii) of Audit Report	No requisite certification on paid vouchers	Action taken and para dropped by Audit
5	Para 2.1 of Audit Report	Irregularities in payment towards Journey by owned/ Arranged/Private Vehicle amounting to 0.33 lakh	Action taken and para dropped by Audit
6	Para 2.2. of Audit Report	Short deduction of Licence Fee amounting to 0.06 lakhs	Action taken and para dropped by Audit

Table XVI-2:

Details of outstanding Audit Objections during 01.04.2018 to 30.04.2022
for the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata

Sl. No. (1)	Paras/Queries up to 30.04.2022 (2)	Subject in brief (3)	Action taken for settling the paras as in Col.2 (4)
1	Para 2.1 of Audit Report	Avoidable expenditure on Electricity Duty amounting `0.56 lakh	Intimated to concerned Authority and audit will be intimated whenever reply is received
2	Para 2.2 of Audit Report	Non-conduction of physical verification of Stock Register and Accession Register	Necessary action taken and audit will be intimated in due course
3	Para 2.3 of Audit Report	Rush of Expenditure in the month of March and last quarter of Financial year	Necessary action taken and audit will be intimated in due course

Sl. No. (1)	Paras/Queries up to 30.04.2022 (2)	Subject in brief (3)	Action taken for settling the paras as in Col.2 (4)
4	Para 2.4 of Audit Report	Observation on Bill Register	Necessary action taken and audit will be intimated in due course
5	Para 2.5 of Audit Report	Non-disposal of unserviceable vehicle	Necessary action taken and audit will be intimated in due course

3.8 FUNCTIONING OF THE LIMBS PORTAL

The 'LIMBS' portal is functional in the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata w.e.f. 1st January, 2022. Training was organised in April, 2022 for the employees and the Panel Counsels. The Panel Counsels have registered themselves on the LIMBS portal to enable them to upload the Court orders and fee bills. Instructions have also been issued to different Ministries/ Departments to upload the case details on the LIMBS portal and mention the LIMBS ID in the references made to the Branch Secretariat, Kolkata.

A total of 4844 number of bills were received through LIMBS portal from Panel Counsels.

3.9 EVENTS

- **Observation of Hindi Month:** Hindi workshops and quarterly meetings of Rajbhasha Coordination Committee were organised. Employees have obtained working knowledge of Hindi under the Hindi Teaching Scheme. Reference notes have been prepared and distributed among Sections for doing regular office work in Hindi. 'Hindi Pakhwada' was observed in the Branch Secretariat from 14th to 29th September, 2022. The theme of this year's 'Hindi Pakhwada' was "पढ़ना है, पढ़ाना है। सबको सिखाना है, हिन्दी भाषा को आगे बढ़ाना है" 'Hindi Diwas' was also celebrated on 14th September, 2022, which was attended by the Head of Office and Junior Translation Officer of this office at Surat. Various steps are being taken for implementation and propagation of Hindi in the day to day functioning of the Branch Secretariat.
- **SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 2.0/ SWACHHATA PAKHWADA:** 2203 files have been reviewed for weeding out during the Special Campaign 2.0 conducted from 2.10.2022 to 16.10.2022, according to the guidelines of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in this regard. Also, 'Swachhata Pakhwada' was organised in the Branch Secretariat during 1st April, 2022 to 15th April, 2022. Oath of the 'Swachhata Pledge' was taken by the employees on 1st April, 2022.
- **Common Yoga Protocol (CYP)** on 29th April, 2022 with active participation of the employees was observed. Also, International Yoga Day was observed on 21st June, 2022.

Figure XVI-7:
Employees during practice of common yoga Protocol on 29th April 2022



Figure XVI-8:
Employees performing yoga during International Yoga Day on 21st June 2022



- **'Vigilance Awareness Week'** was observed between 31st October, 2022 and 6th November, 2022. Integrity Pledge on 'Vigilance Awareness Week' was administered by Incharge, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata.

Figure XVI-9:
Integrity Pledge being administered by In-Charge, Branch Secretariat,
Kolkata on 31st October 2022



- **'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'** was observed on 31st October, 2022 to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Ballavbhai Patel. 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge' was read by the employees.

Figure XVI-10:
Employees being administered 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge'
by the Incharge of Branch Secretariat



- **'Constitution Day'** was observed on 25th November 2022 wherein the employees read the Preamble to the Constitution. The employees participated in the Constitution Day Quiz on the website of Department of Legal Affairs.

4. BRANCH SECRETARIAT, MUMBAI

The Branch Secretariat, Mumbai has jurisdiction over States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu in rendering legal advice and handling of litigation of various Central Government Departments/Ministries located in the region. The Branch Secretariat, Mumbai is presently headed by the Senior Government Advocate, Shri A.A. Ansari as the In-charge.

Figure XVI-11:
Branch Secretariat, Mumbai



4.1 ADVICE

The Branch Secretariat renders legal advice to all the Central Government Departments/offices located in the States within its jurisdiction. If required, the advice matters are also referred to the Additional Solicitor General of India for his expert opinion. The Branch Secretariat received 3602 reference seeking advice.

4.2 SUPERVISION OF LITIGATION

The Branch Secretariat, Mumbai handles the litigation matters pertaining to Central Government Ministries/Departments in Bombay High Court and District Courts. The Branch Secretariat received 1925 litigation matters.

4.3 RAILWAY MATTERS

The procedure to be followed for the engagement of Counsels for Ministry of Railways for various High Courts and District Courts was reviewed by the Department. Hereafter, the cases on behalf of Ministry of Railways will be defended by the Counsels empanelled by the Department of Legal Affairs. 1015 Railways matters were received and attended to by the Branch Secretariat.

4.4 ADMINISTRATION

The Senior Government Advocate and In-charge is the head of the Administration of the Branch Secretariat, Mumbai. He is assisted by DDO and Section Officer in handling the day-to-day administrative matters of the Branch Secretariat.

The budget and accounts work in this Branch Secretariat is done online using various **software** and the “**PFMS**” portal. All payments are done through PFMS Portal. **GeM** is used for procurement of goods, stationeries and other services. Pension cases are also processed through “**Bhavishya**” online portal.

4.5 LIBRARY

The Mumbai Branch Secretariat has a library containing more than 14475 books. This library proves to be very useful for the Officers and staff while tendering advice and also in litigation matters. The books related to various subjects i.e. various journals, law books, Swamy Handbook, MoP etc. are regularly purchased for the use of Officers and staff. During the year, 260 books and 248 Bare Acts were purchased. The Library in this Branch Secretariat subscribes to 20 journals.

4.6 PROGRESSIVE USE OF HINDI AND HINDI PAKHWADA

A ‘Rajbhasha Samiti’ has been constituted in the Branch Secretariat which submits periodical reports to the In-charge on the progressive use of Hindi language. Various statements and forms viz. leave forms, joining report etc. have been made bi-lingual. Hindi Pakhwada and Hindi Diwas was organized in the month of September, 2022. A number of events and competitions were conducted for promotion of Hindi language.

4.7 RTI MATTERS

The Senior Government Advocate has been designated as First Appellate Authority, Assistant Legal Adviser as the CPIO and one Superintendent as CAPIO.

The applications received under RTI Act are disposed of by this Branch Secretariat within the stipulated period. In case the applicant is not satisfied with the information provided by the CPIO, one may file an appeal and the same is suitably dealt with by the Appellate Authority. This year this Branch Secretariat received 35 RTI Applications. It also received one Appeal and one Second Appeal.

4.8 FEE BILLS OF COUNSELS

The Mumbai Branch Secretariat itself makes payment of professional fees directly from its funds to the Additional Solicitor General of India, Deputy Solicitor General, Senior Panel Counsel and Central Government Standing Counsel in respect of cases before the Bombay High Court and its benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad and Goa. ₹2,23,94,125/- was paid to Counsels.

4.9 CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S DAY

Women's Day was celebrated in the Branch Secretariat where the women employees were felicitated and speeches were delivered by the Officers on this occasion.

4.10 CELEBRATION OF 8TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA DURING AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Ministry of Law & Justice was allotted 29th April, 2022 for practicing the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) for conducting yoga related activities. Accordingly, the activity was given wide publicity and the staff performed yoga, along with their families.

The 8th International Yoga Day was observed on 21st June, 2022 with "Yoga for Humanity" theme. Shri Sanjay Gurvekar, Yoga Teacher was invited to guide and teach yoga to the Officers and staff of this Branch Secretariat. All the Officers and staff members actively participated in the Yoga activity.

4.11 LIMBS TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Branch Secretariat, Mumbai organized a Training Programme on the Advocate Module and Litigation Module from 5th to 6th May, 2022 for the Officers of Branch Secretariat, Mumbai and also for Officers of Central Railway, Western Railway, etc. since the Branch Secretariat, Mumbai started conducting a huge number of Litigation pertaining to Railways before the Bombay High Court and its Subordinate Courts including Tribunals, etc.

4.12 INTERNSHIP OF LAW STUDENTS

The internship programme was started by the Department of Legal Affairs for young law students. Accordingly, this Branch Secretariat accepts interns every month as nominated by the Main Secretariat and provides them training since June, 2022.

4.13 WORKSHOP ON DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRIES/COURT CASES

The Branch Secretariat, Mumbai deutes Officers to various organizations to impart training on various legal subjects. Shri K. Santosh Ramanna, Asst. LA and Shri N.A. Pande, Supdt. were deputed at CISF to address a session on Departmental Enquiries/ Court Cases held from 20th-23rd September, 2022.

4.14 'SWACHCHA BHARAT' MISSION/ SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 2.0

The Branch Secretariat, Mumbai undertakes the activity of weeding out of records from time to time, under the Swachhta Mission. During the month of October, 2022, 3137 files were identified, reviewed and weeded out.

4.15 VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

The Branch Secretariat, Mumbai observed Vigilance Awareness Week. The 'Integrity Pledge' was administered by the In-charge on 31st October 2022. All the Officers attended the event and took the oath of Integrity.

4.16 CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION

The Branch Secretariat, Mumbai celebrated Constitution Day on 25th November 2022 where Officers attended lectures delivered by the senior Officers.

XVII: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND COOPERATION SECTION

Globalization has brought a radical change in the economic and social landscape of India. In the last seven decades, national and international legal policies and rules concerning trade and investments have changed. International investment and its varieties have also undergone substantial transformation in its magnitude and content. The advent of globalization and the enormous advances made in communication and information technology have rendered countries interdependent.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

➤ BIPAs¹/BITs²/CEPA³/CECA⁴

BIPAs/BITs/CEPA/CECA are agreements laying down the methodology of dispute resolution between foreign investors and the Government of India within the framework of our domestic laws.

➤ DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLAUSES IN BIT/CECA

1. Dispute resolution clauses in BITs provide mechanism for resolution of disputes between the foreign investor and the host State, arising either under the BIT or under any investment agreement between the investor and host State – the breach of which rises to the level of treaty violation.
2. Under a BIT the investor is given direct standing to pursue his own claim against the host State of investment in respect of any “investment dispute”.
3. The Arbitration provision in the BIT can amount to a standing offer to investors to arbitrate, and acceptance of this standing offer to arbitrate by an investor gives rise to a binding arbitration agreement between the investor on the one hand and the host State on the other.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Department of Legal Affairs participated in the following events and negotiations:

1. Review of the FTA/CECA signed between India and Korea during 3-4 November, 2022 at Seoul, South Korea.
2. Evidentiary hearing at London during 14-15 November, 2022 at London in the matter of GPIX v. Union of India and assisted counsels.

¹ Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPAs)

² Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

³ Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

⁴ Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)

3. India-EU FTA Negotiations at Vanijya Bhawan during 5-8 December, 2022.
4. India-Canada FTA Negotiations (virtually) during 28-30 November, 2022.
5. India-Russia BIT Negotiations (virtually) on 12 November, 2022.
6. India-Australia FTA Negotiations (virtually) on 16 February, 2022.
7. India-UK FTA Negotiations (virtually) during 25 - 30 July, 2022 and Inter-Session meeting (virtually) during 31 August-1 September, 2022.
8. India-UAE BIT Negotiations (virtually) on 10 February, 2022, 18 April, 2022 and 1 June, 2022.
9. India-Uzbekistan BIT discussion (virtually) on 12 January, 2022.
10. India-South Africa BIT discussion (virtually) on 19 January, 2022.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO)

BACKGROUND

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an eight-member multilateral organization, established on 15 June 2001 at Shanghai, China by the leaders of 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.

SCO has two Permanent Bodies - (i) SCO Secretariat in Beijing and (ii) Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent. The Chairmanship of SCO is by rotation for a year by Member States.

The official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are Chinese and Russian.

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SCO

The senior officials / experts from the Ministry of Law & Justice of India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the three-day deliberations of the 9th Meeting of the Justice Ministers of SCO Member States. The next meeting of the Ministers of Justice of the SCO Member States will be held in 2023 in the People's Republic of China.

9TH MEETING OF THE JUSTICE MINISTERS OF SCO MEMBER STATES

The 9th Meeting of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held on 9 December 2022 through video conferencing mode which was preceded by the third Experts Group Meeting on 7 December 2022. The first and second Experts Group Meeting for preparation of the 9th Justice Ministers meeting was held on 20-21 June 2022 and 19-20 July 2022 respectively. This Department had represented the 9th SCO Justice Ministers meeting at the level of the Minister of Law & Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju. The details of the Indian delegation led by the Minister of Law and Justice are as under:-

- (i) Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Law and Justice;
- (ii) Dr. Niten Chandra, Law Secretary;
- (iii) Shri R.S. Verma, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs;
- (iv) Dr. S.K. Jain, Director cum-Chief Forensic Scientist, Directorate of Forensic Science Services.
- (v) Prof. (Dr.) S.O. Junare, Campus Director, National Forensic Sciences University, Delhi Campus.

Prosecutors General meeting of SCO Member States

As part of various forms of discussion within the multilateral framework of the SCO, the meeting of the Prosecutors General of SCO Member States is held every year. The forum is, inter alia, utilized by the SCO Member States to discuss and exchange experiences in the Prosecutors Office of the SCO Member States, modern practices and effective mechanisms for countering and combating corruption. In the past, after becoming a full member, India participated in the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th meeting of the Prosecutors General during 2017-2022.

The 20th Meeting of the Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States was held on 23 September 2022 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Indian Delegation attended the meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan virtually under the leadership of:-

- (i) Shri Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India, Department of Legal Affairs.
- (ii) Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs.

Figure XVII-1: Shri. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India, Department of Legal Affairs and Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs attended the meeting from the Indian side



FOREIGN VISITS/ VIDEO CONFERENCING INTERACTIONS

Foreign visits by the Minister of Law and Justice, Officials of the Department of Legal Affairs and Law Officers were undertaken to promote friendly relations with foreign nations and to discharge official responsibilities in foreign countries. The details of the foreign visits are given below:-

Table XVII-1:
Details of Foreign Visits undertaken by the Minister of Law and Justice and Officials of the Department of Legal Affairs and Law Officers

S.No.	Name and Designation	Country Name	Purpose of visit and duration.
1.	Shri Kiren Rijju, Minister of Law and Justice	Mongolia	For Exposition of Lord Buddha Relics at Gandantegchinlen Monastery in Mongolia from 13 th to 15 th June, 2022.
		London, United Kingdom	To attend the Conference on “Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes” and to deliver a special address on the topic of the Conference from 4 th to 5 th July, 2022.
		Through video-conferencing	To attend the 9 th Meeting of Ministers of Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 9 th December 2022.
2	Dr. Reeta Vasishta, Secretary, then Law Secretary	Through video-conferencing	To attend the round table organized by the Prosecutors General Office of the Russian Federation on 14 th April, 2022
3	Shri Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India	Through video-conferencing	To attend the 20 th Meeting of Prosecutors General of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 23 rd September, 2022
		Geneva, Switzerland	To attend the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of India, 2022 from 8 th to 11 th November, 2022
4	Sh. Suryaprakash V. Raju, Additional Solicitor General	At the residence of Additional Solicitor General	Meeting between Russian Deputy Prosecutor General and Additional Solicitor General for India on 22 October, 2022

5.	Shri K.M. Nataraj, Additional Solicitor General of India	Geneva, Switzerland	To attend the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of India, 2022 from 8th to 11th November, 2022
6	Sh. Rajveer Singh Verma, Additional Secretary	Through video- conferencing	To attend the First Experts Group meeting on preparation of 9th Justice Ministers' Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 20-21 June, 2022
		Through video- conferencing	To attend the Second Experts Group meeting on preparation of 9th Justice Ministers Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 19-20 July, 2022
		Through video- conferencing	To attend the third Experts Group meeting on preparation of 9th Justice Ministers Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States and 9th Justice Minister Meeting from 7th to 9th December, 2022
7.	Dr. Rajiv Mani, Additional Secretary	Singapore	To attend the 13th Leaders in Governance (LGP) Programme from 22nd to 26th August, 2022.
8	Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary	Through video- conferencing	To attend the round table organised by the Prosecutors General Office of the Russian Federation on 14 April 2022
		Through video- conferencing	To attend the First Experts Group meeting on preparation of 20th Prosecutors General Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 8 September 2022
		Through video- conferencing	To attend the Second Experts Group meeting on preparation of 20th Prosecutors General Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 13 September 2022
		Through video- conferencing	To attend the 20th Meeting of Prosecutors General of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 23 September 2022



9	Sh. Mahendra Khandelwal, Senior Government Advocate	Through video-conferencing	To attend the First Experts Group meeting on preparation of 9 th Justice Ministers' Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 20-21 June, 2022
		Through video-conferencing	To attend the Second Experts Group meeting on preparation of 9 th Justice Ministers' Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States on 19-20 July, 2022
10.	Shri Vijay Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser	Balacava, Mauritius	To attend the Senior Officials & Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting (CLMM), 2022 from 22 nd to 25 th November, 2022
11.	Dr. R.J.R. Kasibhatla, Additional Legal Adviser	Through video-conferencing	To attend the 43 rd Session of United Nation Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group III on Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Reform from 5-16 September, 2022
		Through video-conferencing	To attend the 76 th Session of Working Group II (Dispute Settlement) of the United Nation Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) from 10-14 October, 2022
		Seoul, South Korea	To attend the 9 th Round Negotiations with Korea for upgradation of India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) scheduled held at Seoul, South Korea from 3 rd to 4 th November, 2022.
		London, UK	To attend the International Arbitration between GPIX LLC vs The Republic of India - Main Evidentiary hearing from 14 th to 25 th November, 2022.
12.	Shri Sachin Vasant Shinde, P.S. to Minister of Law and Justice	London, UK	To attend the Conference on "Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes" from 4 th to 5 th July, 2022.



13	Sh. Japan Babu, Additional Legal Adviser	Through video-conferencing	42 nd Session of United Nation Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group III on Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Reform on 9 February 2022.
		New York, USA	To attend the 75 th Session of Working Group-II (Dispute Settlement) of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in New York, USA from 29 March to 1 April, 2022.
14.	Shri Aprit Anant Mishra, Deputy Legal Adviser	Balaclava, Mauritius	To attend the Senior Officials and Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting (CLMM), 2022 from 22 nd to 25 th November, 2022
15.	Shri Manish Malhotra, P.P.S to Solicitor General of India	Geneva, Switzerland	To attend the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of India, 2022 from 8 th to 11 th November, 2022
16.	Shri Dejir Zirido, Assistant P.S. to Minister of Law and Justice	Mongolia	For Exposition of Lord Buddha Relics at Gandantegchinlen Monastery in Mongolia from 13 th to 15 th June, 2022.
17.	Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser	Singapore	To attend the Korea Western Power Company Ltd. (KOWEPO) Arbitration Case hearing from 16 th to 20 th January, 2023
18.	Dr. R.J.R. Kasibhatla, Additional Legal Adviser	Singapore	To attend the Korea Western Power Company Ltd. (KOWEPO) Arbitration Case hearing from 16 th to 20 th January, 2023
		Paris, France	To attend the meeting of the Task Force on Digital Economy from 27 th Feb-1 st March, 2023.
		Brussels, Belgium	To attend the 4 th round of India-EU Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) from 20 th to 24 th March, 2023
19	Sh. Avnit Singh Arora, Director	New York, USA	To attend the 77 th Session of Working Group-II (Dispute Settlement) of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) scheduled to be held from 6 th to 10 th February, 2023.

MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATIES (MLATs)

According to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice is entrusted with the subject of reciprocal arrangements with foreign countries for the service of summons in civil suits, for the execution of decrees of civil courts, for the enforcement of maintenance orders, etc.

The Department of Legal Affairs, being the nodal Department, enters into Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) in Civil and Commercial matters with foreign countries.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Civil and Commercial matters is a comprehensive agreement for reciprocal arrangements with foreign countries for service of summons under clause (c) of section 29 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 (CPC), for execution of decrees under section 44A of CPC, for issuing letters of request under section 77 of CPC, for taking evidence under section 78 of CPC, and for enforcement of arbitral awards under clause (b) of section 44 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties in civil and commercial matters with the Republic of Bulgaria and the Islamic Republic of Iran were ratified on 29.07.2022 and 18.10.2022 respectively.

SERVICE OF SUMMONS UNDER HAGUE CONVENTION

India is a signatory to the Hague Convention, 1965, under which the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice is the Central Authority for serving of summons abroad, issued by Judicial Authorities in India, or serving of summons issued by Judicial Authorities abroad, in India. 3,627 requests arising out of bilateral treaties in respect of service of summons were processed.

XVIII: ACHIEVEMENTS AND MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SECTION SETUP

In order to assess progress made and to identify bottlenecks in implementation, the Department of Legal Affairs set up a Monitoring and Evaluation Section. The Section aids decision-making towards achieving planned goals in a structured manner. The aim of this Section is to systematically ensure that relevant progress and performance information is collected, processed and any deviation or shortfall is analyzed on a regular basis to allow for real-time, evidence-based decision-making and to achieve targets in a time-bound manner.

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 2.0

A Special Campaign on Disposal of Pending References and Cleanliness was launched in 2021 across Government Departments and Ministries. Following its success, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances organised Special Campaign 2.0 on Swachhta in Central Government Ministries and Departments from 2nd October 2022 to 31st October 2022. The Department of Legal Affairs conducted various activities as part of the Special Campaign 2.0 on Swachhta across its premises located at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. During the preparatory phase from 14th to 30th September 2022, targets were identified for the campaign period. The campaign achieved efficient space management and enhancement of workplace experience in offices under the Department and reduced pendency.

During the Special Campaign 2.0 on Swachhta, the Department focussed on efficient handling of pending references, parliamentary assurances, public complaints, record management, Swachhta/Cleanliness Drive, disposal of scrap, and weeding out of obsolete files. Special drives to promote the ideals of 'Swachhta' were carried out by designating 11 specific spots, including the Notary Cell, Central Agency Section, Tis-Hazari, Litigation Section (High Court), four Branch Secretariats, Law Commission of India, and NDIAC.

Adhering to Digital India's best practices, the Department of Legal Affairs successfully reviewed physical as well as e-files to ensure efficient record management. 27,927 files have been scanned under the Special Campaign 2.0.

To improve service delivery system, 2,719 Public Grievances and Appeals were redressed. As part of the Special Campaign 2.0, 2500 sq. ft. space was freed. For paperless management, e-Office 7.0 was implemented.

Table XVIII-1
Achievements under Special Campaign 2.0

S. NO.	CATEGORY	SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 2.0	
1	Swachhta Campaign Sites	11	
2	Records Management Files Reviewed (Physical files + e-files)	27,927	
3	Public Grievances + Appeals Redressed	2719	
4	Revenue Earned	₹ 1,38,960	
5	Space Freed (square feet)	2500 square feet	
6	MP's References	7	
7	IMC References (Cabinet Proposals)	141	
8	State Government References	NIL	
9	PMO ID's	02	
10	Easing of Rules/ Processes	01	
11	Pending Parliamentary Assurances	January 2022	December 2022
	Lok Sabha	42	07
	Rajya Sabha	33	08
	Total	75	15

Cleanliness drive was initiated in the library of Department of Legal Affairs by Library and Research Section with the help of Young Professionals and Law Interns. It was successfully concluded with weeding out of 15000 old books not in use and 22 dilapidated racks resulting in creation of vacant space.

In the Central Agency Section, old records were identified and 21,865 kg of waste paper, 3860 kg of iron scrap and 2900 kg of gatta were weeded out which resulted in creation of extra space of 4500 sq. ft. 13,67,430 was contributed to the Government exchequer by sale of scrap and waste paper.

Pictures, and a short film on the initiatives undertaken by the Department during the Special Campaign 2.0 were posted on all social media handles under the hashtag #SpecialCampaign2.0.

Figure XVIII-1:
Swachhata Campaign at Library, Department of
Legal Affairs



Figure XVIII-2: Digitisation of Records



GeM – GOVERNMENT e-MARKETPLACE

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is hosted by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) where common user goods and services can be procured. GeM is a dynamic, self-sustaining and user-friendly portal for making procurement by Government Officers.

Public procurement forms a very important part of Government activity and reform in Public Procurement is one of the top priorities of the Government. GeM transforms the way in which procurement of goods and services is done by the Government Ministries and Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and other apex autonomous bodies of the Central Government.

DGS&D with technical support of National e-Governance Division (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) developed GeM portal for procurement of both products and services. The portal was launched on 9th August 2016 by the Commerce & Industry Minister. Procurement on GeM has been authorized by General Financial Rules by making necessary changes in government Rules. Presently, more than 7400 products in about 150 product categories and hiring of transport services are available on GeM POC portal. Transactions for ₹ 140 crores have already been processed through GeM.

GeM is a paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place that enables procurement of common use goods and services

The Department of Legal Affairs switched to this paperless, cashless E-Market place i.e. the GeM Portal from this year, for procurement of all products, goods and services with minimal human interface. It is an initiative by the Department towards more transparency and accountability in its procurement function.

Out of the blocked amount of Budget for the financial year 2022-23 of ₹ 5,27,07,252; the amount spent through Gem Portal is ₹5,09,94,587 and the balance amount of blocked budget is ₹17,12,665.

Table XVIII-2:
Data for the Financial Year 2022-2023

S. NO.	BUDGET	AMOUNT (in ₹)
1.	BLOCKED AMOUNT OF BUDGET	5,27,07,252
2.	BALANCE AMOUNT OF BLOCKED BUDGET	17,12,665
3.	AMOUNT SPENT THROUGH GeM PORTAL	5,09,94,587

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Department of Legal Affairs organises an Internship Programme for young law students. The purpose of this internship is to acquaint them with the working of the Department by providing training in the field of research and referencing work, tendering legal advice in various specialised fields of law such as constitutional and administrative law, finance law, infrastructure law, economic law, labour law, conveyancing, arbitration and contract law etc. Indian students who are pursuing studies in 2nd and 3rd year of three-year degree course and in 3rd to 5th year of five-year degree course or students who have completed their LL.B. course from any recognised college/law school/university are eligible for undertaking this internship. The duration of the internship is one month.

Honorarium: The interns are given an honorarium of ₹ 5000/- on completion of their internship.

Table XVIII-3:
Number of Interns in 2022-2023

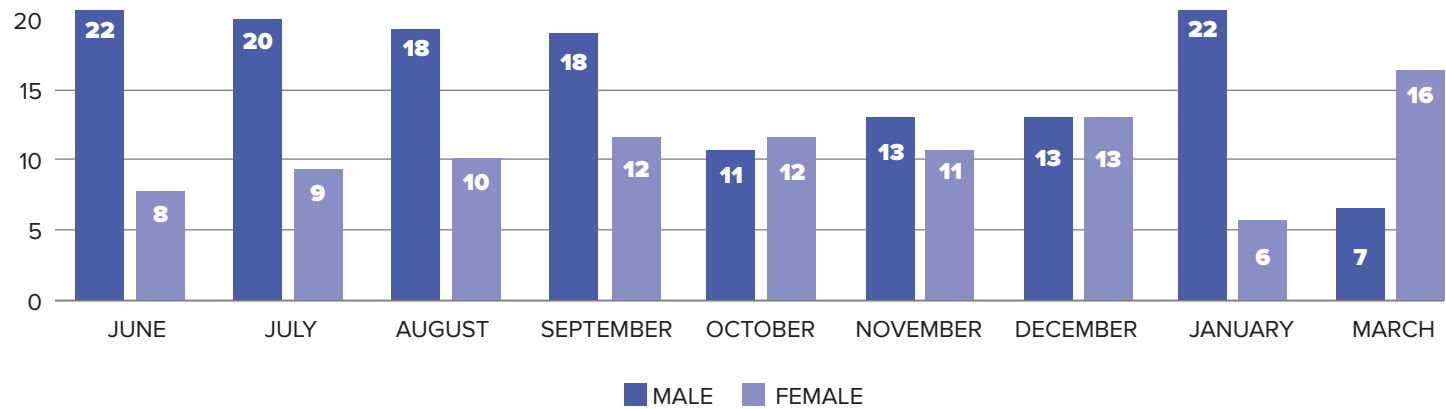
S. NO.	MAIN SECRETARIAT AND BRANCH SECRETARIAT	NO. OF INTERNS
1	Main Secretariat, Delhi	175
2	Branch Secretariat, Mumbai	18
3	Branch Secretariat, Chennai	17
4	Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru	18
5	Branch Secretariat, Kolkata	13
	TOTAL	241

The Department of Legal Affairs, while offering internships, ensures that gender equality is maintained



Figure XVIII-3:
Month wise gender representation of Interns at the Department of Legal Affairs
between June, 2022 and March, 2023

GENDER REPRESENTATION IN INTERNSHIPS



The Department of Legal Affairs felicitates every batch of law students on the successful completion of their internship at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Figure XVIII-4: Felicitation of Interns



Figure XVIII-5: Interns sharing their Internship experience at the Department of Legal Affairs



Feedback received from the Interns at the Department of Legal Affairs, post successful completion of their Internship: -

The Department of Legal Affairs, while hiring interns also ensures that equal opportunity is given to law students from all the recognized Universities across the country. In the last six months, students from various Universities have been a part of the Internship Programme of the Department of Legal Affairs. Some of these are mentioned below:-

1. Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur
2. Banasthali Vidyapith University
3. Chanakya National Law University, Patna, Bihar
4. Christ University
5. Chandigarh University
6. Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam
7. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University Gorakhpur
8. Delhi University
9. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow
10. Faculty of Law, Lucknow University
11. Gujarat University
12. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University
13. Himachal Pradesh National Law University
14. Himachal Pradesh University
15. Jhansi University
16. Kurukshetra University
17. Kalinga University
18. Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida

19. Lovely Professional University, Punjab
20. Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies, Rohini
21. Maharashtra National Law University
22. O.P. Jindal Global University
23. Osmania University College of Law
24. Prestige Institute of Management And Research (PIMR) Indore
25. Punjab University
26. Swami Vivekanand Subharti University
27. Symbiosis International University
28. Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad
29. Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur
30. University of Allahabad
31. UPES School of Law
32. Uttaranchal University
33. VIT School of Law, Chennai

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Department of Legal Affairs invites applications to the position of 'Young Professionals' on contract basis for providing professional services in specific spheres of law. The Young Professionals are accorded the status of an independent Consultant. The Department hired 29 Young Professionals.

Young Professionals work as an in-house talent pool and undertake research and analysis work. They assisted the Department in the work of repeal of obsolete laws, and amendment of pre-Independence laws. They helped in the organisation of the All India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries held at Gujarat this year.

Figure XVIII 6:
Young Professionals'



XIX: EVENTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE

SOCIAL MEDIA CELL

The Department of Legal Affairs has established a Social Media Cell w.e.f. 6th June, 2022 comprising the Officers of the Department and a Social Media Team consisting of professionals engaged on a contract basis. The Social Media Cell is responsible for dissemination of information about the Department of Legal Affairs and promoting its activities and events on its various social media platforms. Social Media Cell works with several Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for active mass engagement in order to increase this Department's reach among the general public. Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, serves as the Nodal Officer for the Social Media Cell, and the Officers in-charge of running the Cell are Ms. Madhubala Soni, Under Secretary, Ms. Preeti Wadhwa, Section Officer and Shri Alok Yadav, Assistant Section Officer.

Figure XIX 1: Social Media Cell



ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED/ COORDINATED BY THE SOCIAL MEDIA CELL

1. International Yoga Day in the Dong Valley, Arunachal Pradesh | 21st June 2022
2. Participation at Digital India Week | 4th July - 6th July 2022
3. Launch of Notary Online Application Portal | 9th July 2022
4. Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign | 22nd July - 15th August 2022
5. COVID Vaccination Amrit Mahotsav | 5th August 2022
6. National Sports Day | 29th August 2022
7. Inauguration of FAB (Form for Appearance Bill) on the LIMBS Portal
17th September 2022

8. Inter Ministry, Bar and Bench Badminton Championship | 17th and 18th September 2022
9. Functions of Notaries | 20th September 2022
10. Income Tax Appellate Tribunal - Vacancies Applications | 21st September 2022
11. Cyber Security Tips | 21st and 26th September
12. Hindi Diwas and Hindi Pakhwada | 14th and 16th – 29th September 2022
13. 20th Meeting of the Prosecutors General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization
23rd September 2022
14. Indo-UK Meet | 28th September 2022
15. Special Campaign 2.0 | 2nd – 31st October 2022
16. Attorney General for India | 7th October 2022
17. Notaries Online Interviews - Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat
12th and 21st October 2022
18. All India Law Ministers and Law Secretaries Conference | 15th – 16th October 2022
19. Ayurveda Day under Ayurveda @ 2047 – Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal | 23rd October 2022
20. Fit India Freedom Run | 29th October 2022
21. Vigilance Awareness Week | 31st October – 6th November 2022
22. National Unity Day | 31st October 2022
23. Cyber Jaagrookta Diwas | 7th – 18th November 2022
24. Minister of Law and Justice' visit to Central Agency Section | 9th November 2022
25. Law Commission of India Appointment of Chairperson & Members
9th November 2022
26. Constitution Day Celebration | 26th November 2022
27. Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel's meeting with
Mongolia Delegation | 19th November 2022
28. Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel's at Rozgar Mela |
22nd November 2022
29. International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women | 25th November 2022
30. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal)
Act, 2013 Campaign | 25th November – 10th December 2022
31. Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting | 30th November 2022
32. SCO Justice Ministers Meeting | 9th December 2022
33. International Human Rights Day | 10th December 2022
34. India-EU FTA Meeting | 13th December 2022
35. Celebration for International Year of Millets 2023 | 28th December 2022
36. National Girl Child Day | 24th January 2023
37. Republic Day | 26th January 2023
38. International Day Women & Girls in Science | 2nd February 2023
39. World Day of Social Justice | 20th February 2023
40. Simplification of Law (Orientation Meeting) | 23rd February 2023
41. Conference on Sustainable Development, Law Commission of India |
25th February 2023
42. National Science Day | 28th February 2023
43. Zero Discrimination Day | 1st March 2023
44. UK Delegation meeting with officers of the Department of Legal Affairs |
7th March 2023
45. 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference | 5th March - 9th March 2023
46. International Women's Day | 8th March 2023
47. Har Ghar Dhyam Program | 15th March 2023

- 48. International Day of Forests - Photography Competition | 21 March 2023
- 49. Rashtrapati Bhavan Visit | 31 March 2023
- 50. Monthly Activity - Legal Interns Felicitation and Testimonials | July - December 2022

Social Media Cell raises awareness about the Department of Legal Affairs by utilizing social media platforms i.e. Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Koo, Facebook and YouTube. Activities range from social media posts covering international and national days of importance, highlighting achievements and on going successful activities conducted by DoLA, in addition to running informative campaigns for wider outreach.

Some of the campaigns and activities duly highlighted by the Social Media Cell include:

1. INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY | 21ST JUNE 2022

The staff of the Department of Legal Affairs participated in the International Yoga Day at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi in association with Art of Living, under which the participants learnt the meaning of Yoga for Humanity, well-being and inner peace. Posters designed by the Social Media Team were put up across Shastri Bhawan to highlight benefits of Yoga in daily life. Online posts and videos were shared to spread the message of the Department of Legal Affairs celebrating Yoga Day this year with the theme of Yoga for Humanity; encouraging the audience to adopt Yoga in daily life. A pre-event was organised for International Yoga Day in an association with Brahma Kumaris in which *raj yog* for the mind was practiced on the theme of Yoga for Humanity.

Figure XIX-2: Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju at Dong Valley, Arunachal Pradesh and Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel at Nainital, Uttarakhand on International Yoga Day



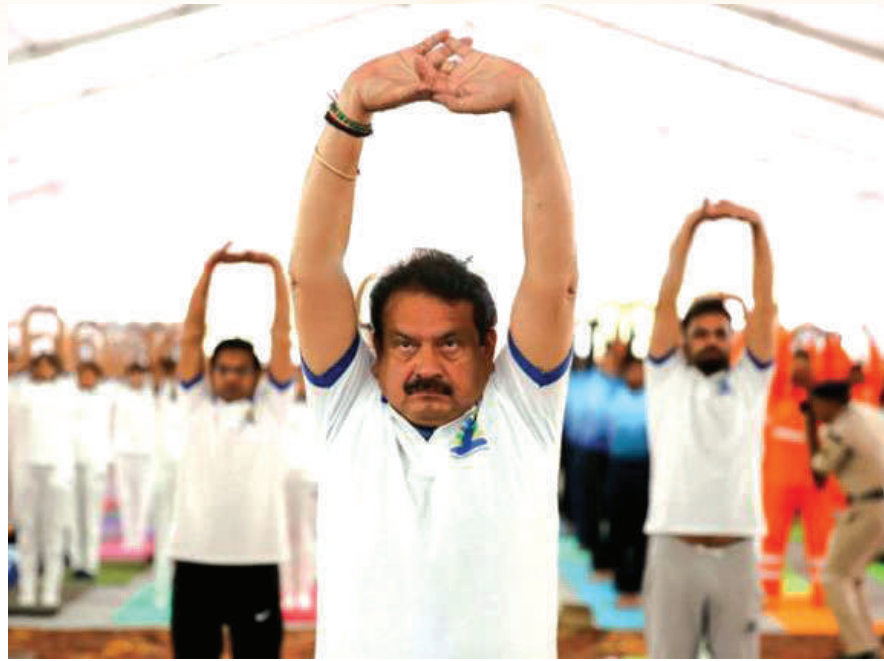


Figure XIX-3:
International Yoga Day at the Department of Legal Affairs



2. PARTICIPATION AT DIGITAL INDIA WEEK | 4TH JULY - 6TH JULY 2022

Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice participated in the Digital India Week to showcase the digital initiatives for enhancing e-governance such as Notary Online Application Portal (NOAP) and Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS).

Figure XIX-4:
Digital India Week – NOAP and LIMBS



3. LAUNCH OF NOTARY ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL 9TH JULY 2022

The recently launched Notary Online Application Portal is a user friendly software that enables applicants to apply online. The application process is simpler, paperless, saves time and money. It is an initiative for efficient delivery of Justice. It was showcased at #IndiasTechade and highlighted on all social media handles of the Ministry.

Figure XIX-5:
Minister of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijju at the launch of the
Notary Online Application Portal



4. HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN 22ND JULY - 15TH AUGUST 2022

The Department of Legal Affairs, in its extended efforts to celebrate “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”, also initiated “Har Ghar Tiranga” Campaign with an aim to infuse the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the citizen and promote awareness about our national flag. The Constitution of India provides right of freedom to the citizens of India and guarantees individual rights that were considered vital by the framers of the Constitution. In this context, Department of Legal Affairs organised following competitions for wider participation of law students studying in Law Colleges / Institutes of India in the following categories:

- Essay Competition on “Envisioning India @2047” in around 2500 words
- Debate on Constitutional Issues - Topic chosen by the students based on the Constitution of India
- Posts on Social Media - Videos summarizing the “Landmark Judgments in India” - Link of Video posted on social media

Social Media Posts over the course of entire campaign, a Podcast Series, Informative posts and a Selfie Point at Shastri Bhawan were also part of the activities.

Figure XIX-6:
Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign at the Department of Legal Affairs



5. COVID VACCINATION AMRIT MAHOTSAV | 5TH AUGUST 2022

Department of Legal Affairs steered a Co-Vid Vaccination Drive under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, in association with Ministry of Health and Family elfare, to ensure booster dose #vaccination of the entire staff on time.

Figure XIX-7:
Co-Vid 19 Vaccination Drive at the Department of Legal Affairs, New Delhi



6. NATIONAL SPORTS DAY | 29TH AUGUST 2022

The Department of Legal Affairs organised a sporting event to celebrate National Sports Day in the spirit of fitness and recreation. Central government employees participated in the event at Shastri Bhawan to promote an inclusive and fit society.

Figure XIX-8:
National Sports Day at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi



7. INAUGURATION OF FAB (FORM FOR APPEARANCE BILL) ON THE LIMBS PORTAL | 17TH SEPTEMBER 2022

The Legal Information and Management Briefing System (LIMBS) constantly rolls out new features and updates with a focus on improving governance. The Form for Appearance Bill (FAB) is one such module that allows advocates to submit the bill online. The Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju and the Minister of State, Law and Justice, Professor S.P. Singh Baghel inaugurated the Form for Appearance Bill (FAB) at the Union of India Counsel (West Zone) Conference held on 17th-18th September 2022 at Udaipur.

Figure XIX-9: Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijju and Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel at LIMBS-FAB launch at Udaipur, Rajasthan



8. INTER MINISTRY BAR AND BENCH BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP | 17TH AND 18TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Under the supervision of the Minister of Law & Justice, the Ministry of Law & Justice supported the Inter Ministry Bar and Bench Badminton Championship at Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi.


Figure XIX-10: Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijju at Inter Ministry Bar and Bench Badminton Championship



9. FUNCTIONS OF NOTARIES | 20TH SEPTEMBER 2022

With the help of Social Media, important information about Notaries was disseminated across all handles of the Ministry of Law & Justice. Notaries are the public officials appointed by both the Central and the State governments to verify, authenticate, certify or attest the execution of instruments.


Figure XIX-11: Functions of Notaries



विधि कार्य विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
LEGAL AFFAIRS

FUNCTIONS OF **NOTARIES**

- 1 Prepare, attest or authenticate any instrument
- 2 Administer oath
- 3 Translate and verify the translation of documents
- 4 Act as -
 - A Commissioner to record evidence,
 - An Arbitrator,
 - A Mediator,
 - A Conciliator
- 5 Present any promissory note



10. INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL - VACANCIES APPLICATIONS | 21ST SEPTEMBER 2022

Social Media became a platform to invite applications for vacancies in the Department of Legal Affairs. The Department invited applications for the posts of Judicial and Accountant Members, on all platforms of the Ministry of Law & Justice.

Figure XIX-12:
ITAT Online Application Portal



11. CYBER SECURITY TIPS | 21ST AND 26TH SEPTEMBER

In order to promote online safety and to sensitise citizens against any kind of cyber attack, the Department of Legal Affairs posted on Cyber Security Tips on the Social Media Handles.

Figure XIX-13:
Cyber Security Tips



12. HINDI DIWAS AND HINDI PAKHWADA | 14TH AND 16TH – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2022

The Department of Legal Affairs celebrated Hindi Diwas on 14th September and Hindi Pakhwada from 16-29 September, 2022. Various competitions were organised on this occasion and highlighted on all social media handles of the Ministry. Minister of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju, in the closing ceremony of Hindi Pakhwada organised by the Department of Legal Affairs, gave prizes to the winners of various competitions. Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel was also present at the function. The Social Media Team designed the back drop, standees and ensured social media coverage of the event.

Figure XIX-14:

Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijju and Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel at Hindi Pakhwada Closing Ceremony, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi



13. 20TH MEETING OF THE PROSECUTORS GENERAL OF SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION 23RD SEPTEMBER 2022

20th Meeting of the Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Member States was held on 23rd September 2022 in Astana, Kazakhstan. India was represented by Shri Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India and Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs. Two Experts Group meeting took place as a precursor to the 20th Meeting of the Prosecutors General of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States.

Figure XIX-15: 20th Meeting of the Prosecutors General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization



14. INDO-UK MEET | 28TH SEPTEMBER 2022

British High Commissioner to India, H.E. Mr Alex Ellis met the Law Secretary on 28th September 2022. Fruitful discussions took place for enhancing cooperation in various areas of Law & Justice, strengthening bilateral relations in trade and commerce between both countries.

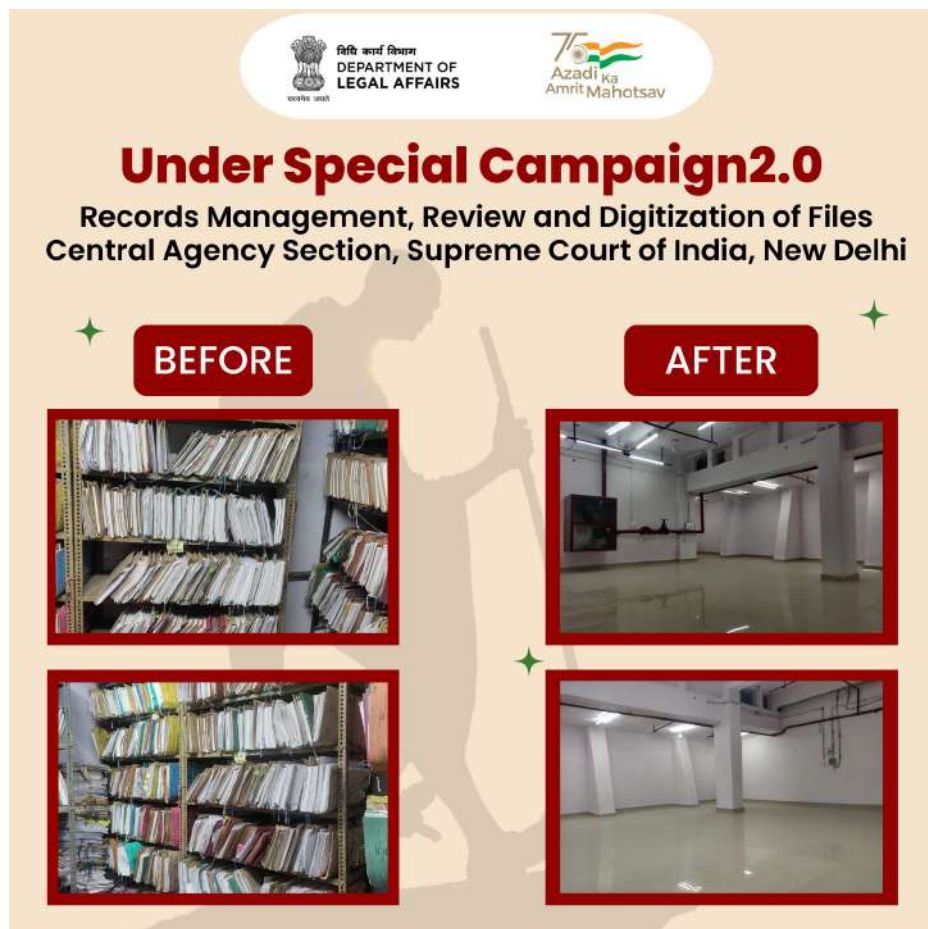
Figure XIX-16: British High Commissioner to India, H.E. Mr Alex Ellis with Law Secretary Dr. Niten Chandra, Officers and Staff of Department of Legal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi



15. SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 2.0 | 2ND – 31ST OCTOBER 2022

Special Campaign 2.0 was organised under the overall guidance of DARPG, Government of India from 2-10-2022 to 31-10-2022. Regular social media posts and videos were posted according to the Department’s initiative during the campaign. Digitisation drives were conducted to digitise the physical records.

Figure XIX-17:
Special Campaign 2.0 at Department of Legal Affairs



16. ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INDIA | 7TH OCTOBER 2022

Senior Advocate and former Member of the Law Commission of India, Shri R. Venkataramani took over as the new Attorney General for India. The Social Media Cell posted the notification of appointment online and shared video bytes of the top Law Officer of the Country.

Figure XIX-18: Shri R. Venkataramani, the Attorney General for India



17. NOTARIES ONLINE INTERVIEWS - HIMACHAL PRADESH AND GUJARAT | 12TH AND 21ST OCTOBER 2022

Online Interviews for the appointment of Notaries were successfully conducted by the Central Government for Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. Social media posts were created along with the designs and posted across all the platforms for wider dissemination to the public.

Figure XIX-19:
Online Interview for Notaries held at the Department of Legal Affairs



18. ALL INDIA LAW MINISTERS AND LAW SECRETARIES CONFERENCE | 15TH – 16TH OCTOBER 2022

Realizing the need to develop a robust and citizen-friendly justice delivery system and imagining India's vision for the year 2047 as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the All India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries was held on the 15th and 16th of October, 2022 at Tent City, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat. The two day Conference was hosted by the Ministry of Law & Justice with the objective of providing a common forum for the policy makers of the nation to discuss the plethora of issues that concerns the Indian Legal System. It was envisioned on the lines of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Prayas' (everyone's efforts) to build a new India and to inculcate a sense of coordination and cooperation in every organ of our democracy.

Figure XIX-20: Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijju, Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel with Officers from Ministry of Law & Justice at Law Ministers and Law Secretaries Conference, Kevadia, Gujarat



The Centre, the States and the Union Territories discussed and deliberated on making our legal system more accessible, affordable and citizen friendly. A variety of topics relating to the Indian legal system were also discussed, and it gave an opportunity for the States and Union Territories to exchange their best practices that can serve to upgrade the overall legal system of the country in the interests of its citizens, particularly the weaker sections of the society, thereby empowering them to create an inclusive and vibrant new India. Live coverage, social media postings and videos of the event and views of Law Ministers from across the nation.

19. AYURVEDA DAY | 23RD OCTOBER 2022

Under Ayurveda Day celebrations, montage videos of the Officers were uploaded pertaining to the significance of Ayurveda in day to day life.

Figure XIX-21:
Montage on Ayurveda Day, 2022



20. FIT INDIA FREEDOM RUN | 29TH OCTOBER 2022

To promote the culture of fitness in the country, Freedom Run was organised on 29.10.2022 from Vijay Chowk to India Gate by the Ministry of Law & Justice wherein all 3 Departments of the Ministry of Law & Justice participated. Social Media coverage across all the platforms highlighted the event in which the Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel participated.

Figure XIX-22: Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel and Officers of Ministry of Law & Justice at Fit India Freedom Run 2022, India Gate, New Delhi



21. VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK | 31ST OCTOBER – 6TH NOVEMBER 2022

The Department of Legal Affairs organized a lecture on "Corruption Free India for a Developed Nation" delivered by Dr. Anurag Deep, Professor, Indian Law Institute, in addition to poster making and essay writing competition as part of Vigilance Awareness Week. Social media posts were published across all platforms for wider outreach.

Figure XIX-23: Officers and staff of Department of Legal Affairs observing Vigilance Awareness Week, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi



22. NATIONAL UNITY DAY | 31ST OCTOBER 2022

Department of Legal Affairs commemorated the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel as the National Unity Day 2022. The Department pledged to preserve the unity, integrity, and security of the Nation. Photos along with the captions posted across all the social media platforms.

Figure XIX-24: Unity Day Pledge at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi



23. CYBER JAAGROOKTA DIWAS | 7TH – 18TH NOVEMBER 2022

Observing Cyber Jagrookta Diwas, the Department of Legal Affairs organised a Cybersecurity Awareness Workshop for the Officers and Staff of the Department. An interactive Q&A session was held as part of the workshop. Guest speakers Dr. Pavan Duggal, Senior Advocate (Supreme Court of India), Founder and Chair (International Commission on Cyber Security Law) and Founder-cum-Chancellor, Cyber Law University and Shri V.T.V. Ramanna, DDG, NIC MeitY deliberated on the safety laws pertaining to cybersecurity. Informative posters on cyber tips and Dos & Don't were displayed at the Department for generating awareness among the staff.

Figure XIX-25:
Cyber security workshop at the Department of Legal Affairs



24. MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE VISIT TO THE CENTRAL AGENCY SECTION | 9TH NOVEMBER 2022

Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijju reviewed the digitisation and record management process at Central Agency Section, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi as part of #SpecialCampaign2.0 of DARPG with objective of Swacchta that the Prime Minister had started in 2014 from birthdate of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October to birthdate of Sardar Patel on 31st Oct.

Figure XIX-26: Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijju at Central Agency Section, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi



25. LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA - APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS | 9TH NOVEMBER 2022

The Central Government appointed Justice Shri Rituraj Awasthi, retired Chief Justice, Karnataka High Court, as the Chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission of India. Justice K. T. Sankaran, retired Judge, Kerala High Court, was appointed as the Member and Shri M. Karunanithi, Advocate, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, was appointed as a part-time Member of the Law Commission of India.

Figure XIX-27: From L-R, Justice K. T. Shankaran-Member, Justice Shri Rituraj Awasthi-Chairperson, Shri M. Karunanithi, Part-time Member



26. CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS | 14TH – 26TH NOVEMBER 2022

As part of the 73rd Constitution Day Celebrations at Department of Legal Affairs, the Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju led the way by endorsing the pledge to abide by the Constitution of India. As a run-up to commemorate the 73rd Constitution Day, the Department of Legal Affairs took up the initiative to reach out to the citizens of India by reading out the Preamble and taking a Pledge on this occasion to honour and abide by the Constitution.

Figure XIX-28: Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju endorsing the pledge to abide by the Constitution of India



27. MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW & JUSTICE PROFESSOR S.P. SINGH BAGHEL MEETING WITH MONGOLIA DELEGATION | 19TH NOVEMBER 2022

The 3rd 'No Money for Terror' Conference was held in New Delhi where an interactive session was hosted by Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel for Ms. Bayarsaikhan Solongoo, Vice-Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs of Mongolia. The glimpses of the session were highlighted on the social media handles of the Ministry of Law & Justice.

Figure XIX-29:

Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel and Vice-Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs of Mongolia Ms. Bayarsaikhan Solongoo



28. MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW & JUSTICE PROFESSOR S.P. SINGH BAGHEL AT ROZGAR MELA | 22ND NOVEMBER 2022

The Minister of State, Law and Justice Professor S. P. Singh Baghel participated in the Rozgar Mela initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 22nd November. The Minister addressed the newly inducted recruits at Shaurya Officers Institute, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. He also handed the Appointment Letters to the newly inducted recruits. The event was duly covered by the Social Media Team of Department of Legal Affairs and was amplified on the social media handles.

Figure XIX-30:

Minister of State of Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel at Rozgar Mela



29. INTERNATIONAL DAY TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN | 25TH NOVEMBER 2022

The Ministry of Women and Child Development started a 16 day campaign on social media to mark the International Day to Eliminate Violence between 25th November and 10th December 2022. The Department of Legal Affairs focused on Generation Equality and covered the trend #OrangeTheWorld on all the social media handles. Two special videos “Respect Women Everywhere”, by the Officers and staff of the Department were also posted which got over 2200 views.

Figure XIX-31: Poster on the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women



30. SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013 CAMPAIGN – | 25TH NOVEMBER – 10TH DECEMBER 2022

The Department of Legal Affairs held a sensitisation workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. Advocate Shashank Shekhar deliberated on the Act and its provisions. Dr. Niten Chandra, Law Secretary, Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary, along with other Officers and staff of Department of Legal Affairs participated in the workshop. A Nukkad Natak was also organised to spread awareness on prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace, educational and training institutions, public transport, home and trusted places among others. Students of Culture Society, Campus Law Centre, Delhi University depicted the various compelling issues in an engaging and innovative way.

Figure XIX-32:

Nukkad Natak performance at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi



31. COMMONWEALTH LAW MINISTERS MEETING 30TH NOVEMBER 2022

Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting convened from 22-25 November 2022 in Balaclava, Mauritius hosted by the Attorney General's Office, Mauritius. In the meeting of 31 Member Countries, the Indian delegation consisted of Shri Vijay Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary and Shri Arpit Anant Mishra, DLA, Department of Legal Affairs.

Figure XIX-33:
Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Balaclava, Mauritius



32. SCO JUSTICE MINISTERS MEETING | 9TH DECEMBER 2022

Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijju stressed on role of digital technology to move towards SCO's goal of common development during the 9th Meeting of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States and lauded various reform initiatives including eCourts, India Code and others taken by India. During the meeting, Member States expressed readiness to further improve cooperation between the Ministries of (Law and) Justice in accordance with the principles and provisions established according to the SCO Charter and other cooperative accords between the member States.

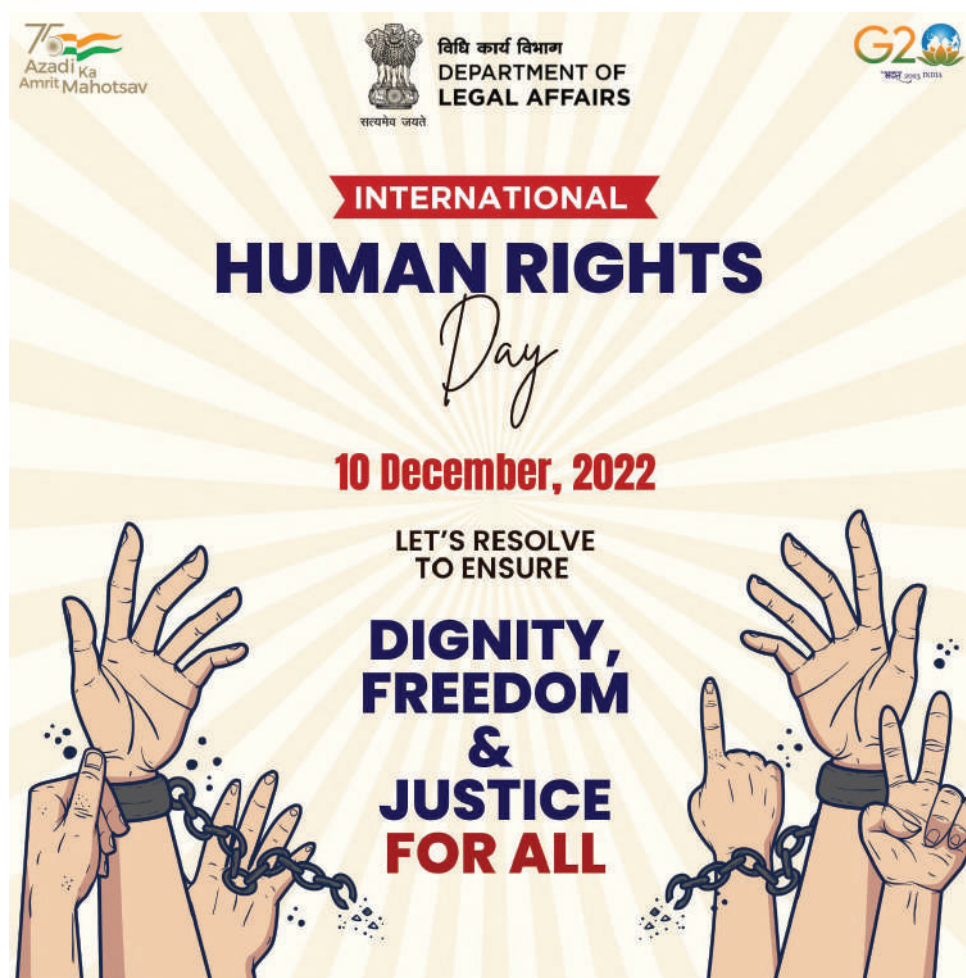
Figure XIX-34:
Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijju with Minister of State for Law & Justice Professor S.P. Singh Baghel and Law Secretary Dr Niten Chandra attending the 9th Meeting of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States



33. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY | 10TH DECEMBER 2022

On International Human Rights Day the Department, through its Social Media Handles, gave out a message to resolve to create a more resilient and equal society to ensure Dignity, Freedom and Justice for all, free from any discrimination.

Figure XIX-35: Poster on International Human Rights Day



34. INDIA-EU FTA MEETING | 13TH DECEMBER 2022

Negotiations between India and European Union on Free Trade Agreement were held from 5th-8th December, 2022 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The information about both sides expressing their positions on different aspects and agreeing to resolve the differences to reach an early agreement on all outstanding issues, was disseminated to the general public through Social Media.

Figure XIX-36:
Officers involved in the negotiations between India and European Union on Free Trade Agreement Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi



35. OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS 2023 | 28TH DECEMBER 2022

United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. As a precursor, the Department of Legal Affairs organized a Millet Lunch for the Officers and staff of the Ministry of Law & Justice. The event was graced by Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju and Minister of State for Law & Justice Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel along with officials and staff from all the three Departments of the Ministry.

Figure XIX-37: Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju at the Observation of International Year of Millets 2023, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi



36. NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY | 24 JANUARY 2023

The Department of Legal Affairs celebrated the National Girl Child Day by collecting photographs of female employees alongside their parents and creating a touching video. The campaign highlighted the achievements and accomplishments of girl children who carved a place for themselves. Through the video compilation, the Department showcased their success stories and emphasised the significance of empowering and supporting the girl child. The campaign served as an inspiration and a reminder of the potential and capabilities of every girl child in contributing to the progress of the nation.

Figure XIX-38:
A glimpse of the video posted on social media on National Girl Child Day



37. REPUBLIC DAY | 26 JANUARY 2023

The Department of Legal Affairs extended its greetings on the occasion of the 74th Republic Day and organised quiz campaigns aimed at promoting awareness and engaging the public in a fun and informative manner. The quizzes encouraged participants to test their knowledge about the history and significance of Republic Day. Additionally, the Department shared short video compilations capturing the grandeur and patriotic spirit of the event.



Figure XIX-39:
Poster on 74th
Republic Day

38. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN & GIRLS IN SCIENCE | 2 FEBRUARY 2023

On the occasion of the International Day of Women & Girls in Science, the Department of Legal Affairs initiated a series of campaigns by leveraging the power of social media. The Department conducted quiz campaigns to promote awareness and engage the audience in a fun and educational manner. These quizzes aimed to test participants' knowledge about the contributions of women in the field of science and inspire the next generation of girls to pursue careers in STEM. Furthermore, the Department shared observance posts on social media, highlighting the remarkable achievements of women in science and underscoring the importance of gender equality in the scientific community. Through these initiatives, the Department aimed to celebrate and recognize the invaluable role of women in advancing scientific knowledge and encourage equal opportunities for girls in the field of science.

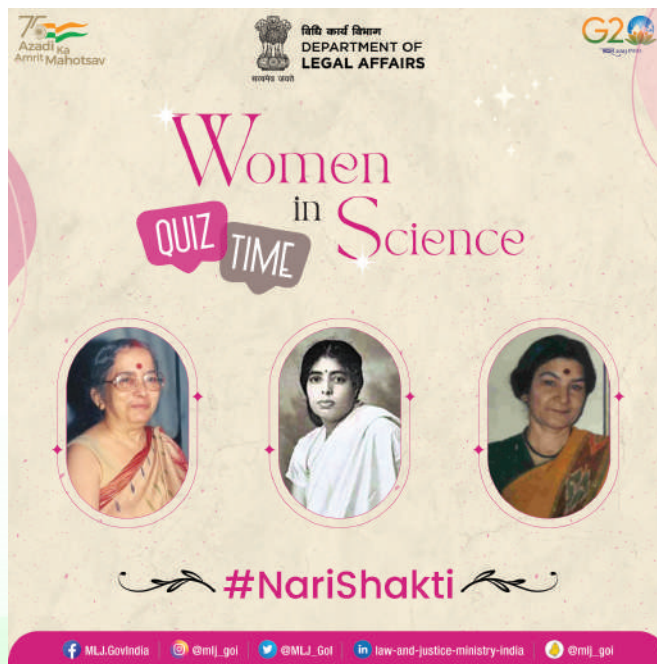


Figure XIX-40:
Poster on International
Day of Women & Girls
in Science

39. WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE | 20 FEBRUARY 2023

On the World Day of Social Justice, the Department shared an observance post that reiterated its unwavering commitment to promoting justice for historically marginalised groups. The observance post served as a reminder of the ongoing efforts needed to address social inequalities and promote social justice. Through this initiative, the Department aimed to inspire collective action and raise awareness about the imperative need for a just and equitable society.

Figure XIX-41:
Poster on World Day of Social Justice



40. SIMPLIFICATION OF LAW (ORIENTATION MEETING) | 23 FEBRUARY 2023

On 23rd February 2023, the Department of Legal Affairs conducted an orientation meeting focused on simplification of laws. Senior officials from various Ministries and Departments actively participated in the meeting. The primary objective was to identify laws that required simplification.

Figure XIX-42: Glimpse from the Orientation meeting on Simplification of Laws at Department of Legal Affairs



41. CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA | 25 FEBRUARY 2023

The Conference on Sustainable Development in India, organised by the Law Commission of India at the University College of Law, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, was graced by the esteemed presence of Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law & Justice, and Prof. SP Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Law & Justice. Their presence added significance to the event, and they highlighted the government's commitment to sustainable development. The Conference served as a platform to discuss and explore ways to promote and implement sustainable practices for the betterment of India's future.

Figure XIX-43: Glimpse from the Conference on Sustainable Development organised by Law Commission of India in Udaipur



42. NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY | 28 FEBRUARY 2023

The Department acknowledged the exceptional contributions of science and its pivotal role in the progress of human civilization. To commemorate this special day, a Social Media post was shared to highlight the remarkable advancements made possible through scientific endeavours.

Figure XIX-44:
Poster on National Science Day



43. ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY | 1 MARCH 2023

On Zero Discrimination Day, the Department highlighted the significance of a discrimination-free society for the progress of any nation. This was emphasised by enumerating the provisions of law that guide India towards an era devoid of discrimination. By acknowledging the importance of a discrimination-free society, the Department aimed to foster inclusivity, respect, and harmony among the citizens. The commemoration of Zero Discrimination Day served as a reminder of the ongoing efforts required to create a society where every individual is treated fairly and without prejudice, ultimately contributing to the overall development and well-being of the nation.

Figure XIX-45:
Poster on Zero Discrimination Day



44. UK DELEGATION MEETING WITH OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS | 7 MARCH 2023

A delegation from the United Kingdom headed by Ms. Jo Farrar, Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, United Kingdom, & Ms. Lubna Shuja, President, Law Society of England & Wales met Dr. Niten Chandra, Law Secretary, Dr. Rajiv Mani, Additional Secretary and other officers of the Department of Legal Affairs in New Delhi.

Figure XIX-46: Meeting of a delegation from United Kingdom with the officers of Department of Legal Affairs



45. 23RD COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE | 5 MARCH 2023 - 9 MARCH 2023

The 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference took place between 5 March and 9 March, 2023 and was graced with the presence of Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law & Justice, and Prof. SP Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Law & Justice. The Conference served as a platform for legal professionals from Commonwealth nations to gather and exchange knowledge and insights. It was a significant event highlighting the importance of international collaboration and cooperation in the field of law.



Figure XIX- 47: Minister of Law & Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju addressing the attendees of 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference

46. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY | 8 MARCH 2023

The Department of Legal Affairs celebrated International Women's Day in a grand manner by organising cultural events that showcased the remarkable talent of its female staff members such as through solo singing performances, group songs, classical and folk dances, skits and a Rangoli competition.



Figure XIX- 48:
Cultural events & Rangoli Competition held on the occasion of International Women's Day



47. HAR GHAR DHYAN PROGRAM | 15 MARCH 2023

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Ayush, the Department of Legal Affairs organised the "Har Ghar Dhyan" Campaign in collaboration with Art of Living. The session was moderated by an instructor from Art of Living, who enlightened the staff members about the profound significance of meditation and its practice through various Dhyan mudras. Through the "Har Ghar Dhyan" Campaign, the Department of Legal Affairs encouraged the staff members to prioritise their mental and emotional health, fostering a harmonious and peaceful work environment.

Figure XIX- 49:
Har Ghar Dhyan Meditation Session held at the Department of Legal Affairs



48. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION | 21 MARCH 2023

To celebrate the International Day of Forests, the Department organised an online photography competition. Participants from all over the country enthusiastically took part and showcased their photographs capturing the serenity of forests. The competition provided a platform to appreciate the beauty and importance of forests while raising awareness about their preservation.

Figure XIX- 50:
Poster on International Day of Forests



49. RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN VISIT | 31 MARCH 2023

The women staff and officers from the Department of Legal Affairs visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens, also known as Amrit Udyan, on 31 March 2023. It is a delightful garden known for its enchanting beauty and diverse collection of flower species.



Figure XIX- 51:
Visit by women officers and staff of Department of Legal Affairs to Amrit Udyan

50. MONTHLY ACTIVITY - LEGAL INTERNS FELICITATION AND TESTIMONIALS| JULY - DECEMBER

Legal Interns Felicitation and Testimonials

Young law students are given an opportunity to work in various Sections of the Department of Legal Affairs under a month-long internship. The interns receive exposure to conduct of government business and mentored on several aspects of law, policymaking and implementation.

Figure XIX- 52:
Legal Interns at the Department of Legal Affairs

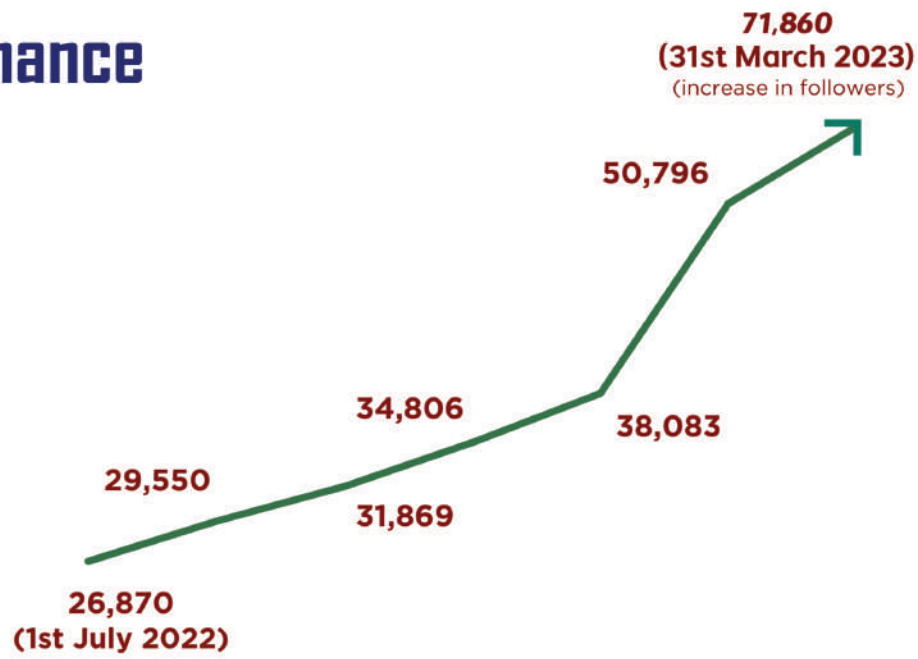


DISSEMINATION OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS ORGANISED BY DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS IN 2022 TO PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

1. 1st Workshop on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace held on 23rd February, 2022 under the aegis of Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice. Posted On: 23 Feb 2022
2. Celebration of International Women's Day. Posted On: 08 Mar 2022
3. National Law Universities. Posted On: 25 Mar 2022
4. Shri Kiren Rijiju recommends young talent to apply for Internship Programme introduced for Law students. Posted On: 01 Jun 2022
5. Union Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju to participate in IDY 2022 programme at Dong in Arunachal Pradesh tomorrow. Posted On: 20 Jun 2022
6. Prime Minister inaugurates Digital India Week in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Posted On: 04 Jul 2022
7. Cabinet approves signing of MoU in the field of Judicial Cooperation between Judicial Service Commission of Maldives. Posted On: 20 Jul 2022
8. Legal Arbitration Centres. Posted On: 29 Jul 2022
9. Settling of cases through Lok Adalat and Arbitration. Posted On: 04 Aug 2022
10. Status of Mediation Centres. Posted On: 04 Aug 2022
11. India-UK agree to exchange experiences and best practices in areas of working of commercial courts, and ADR mechanisms like arbitration and mediation. Posted On: 23 Aug 2022
12. 20th Meeting of Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States organized at Astana, Kazakhstan. Posted On: 23 Sep 2022
13. Ministry of Law and Justice supports Inter-Ministry, Bar and Bench Badminton Championship in association with Fit India Movement. Posted On: 18 Sep 2022
14. All India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries to begin from tomorrow in Gujarat. Posted On: 13 Oct 2022
15. The Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice conducts various activities as part of the Special Campaign 2.0 on Swachhta. Posted On: 31 Oct 2022
16. Law Commission of India PRESS COMMUNIQUE. Posted On: 09 Nov 2022
17. As part of the Prime Minister's commitment to accord highest priority towards employment generation, Rozgar Melas organized at 45 locations across the country. Posted On: 22 Nov 2022
18. Cyber Jaagrookta Campaign organised by the Department of Legal Affairs. Posted On: 24 Nov 2022
19. Awareness and Sensitisation Workshop and Nukkad Natak On Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 at Department of Legal Affairs. Posted On: 07 Dec 2022
20. SCO pursues its internal policy based on the principles of mutual trust and benefit, says Shri Kiren Rijiju Union Minister of Law & Justice at the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the SCO Member States. Posted On: 09 Dec 2022
21. International Law Vocabulary a guidance document for Countries which are party to Multilateral Treaties/Conventions and aims at common understanding of the basic terminology of International law. Posted On: 16 Dec 2022
22. Year End Review 2022: Department of Legal Affairs. Posted on: 26 Dec 2022

Figure XIX- 53:
Social Media Performance

Social Media Performance



2022-23 AT A GLANCE







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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



सत्यमेव जयते

