



विधि कार्य विभाग

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**HANDBOOK
&
OPERATIONAL GUIDE**

For

**Management Framework for Responsible,
Disciplined and Data - Driven Conduct of
Union of India Litigation**

28th February 2026

Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi



Handbook & Operational Guide

For

**Management Framework for Responsible,
Disciplined and Data-Driven Conduct of
Union of India Litigation**



Dr. Rajiv Mani
Secretary
Department of Legal Affairs

FOREWORD

I am happy to present the *Handbook & Operational Guide Management- Framework for Responsible, Disciplined and Data-Driven Conduct of Union of India Litigation*.

The conduct of Government litigation sits at the intersection of governance, justice delivery, and institutional accountability. With substantial cases pending across courts at different levels, litigation has ceased to be merely a legal matter; it has become an administrative concern that demands structured, systemic, and sustained attention.

The scale of Government litigation is vast and therefore necessitates a profound sense of institutional responsibility. The “*Directive on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation by the Government of India, 2025*” marks a paradigm shift - transitioning from the mere monitoring of case volumes to a structured, end-to-end management of the litigation.

This Handbook is designed to serve as a guide for this transition. It acknowledges that the escalation of litigation is often rooted in structural causes that require systematic intervention rather than standard responses. By introducing in the SOP made pursuant to the Directives, a robust Three-Tier Framework - comprising the Committee of Secretaries, Secretary-level Supervision Committees, and Legal Cells, an attempt is being made to mark this area for due consideration at every echelon of the administration.

A key pillar of this reform is prevention of litigation. The objective is to curtail the filing of unnecessary appeals through early risk assessment and institutional discipline. By strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism and utilising the Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Commercial Disputes (AMRCD/AMRD), the aim is to resolve intra-governmental and CPSE disputes, mainly contractual or commercial, outside the adversarial courtroom environment, thereby reducing the burden on the judiciary.

Furthermore, the integration of LIMBS (Legal Information Management & Briefing System) as a decision-support platform will ensure that our litigation strategy is data-driven, transparent, and proactive. The Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) annexed to the Handbook may serve as a guide from the initial stage of case scrutiny to the complexities of Special Leave Petition (SLP), and every step outlined therein may support and strengthen the better conduct of litigation by the respective Ministries/Departments.

The Ld. Law Officers, Panel Counsel, and Nodal Officers of various Ministries/Departments need to co-work closely as Institutional Partners for better conduct and outcome of litigation, involving the Government.

The Constitution is based on the principles ensuring "*Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity*" to the citizens. I hope that this Handbook will assist the Departments/Ministries to conduct their litigation in an effective and efficient manner, which has an impact on Governance and to contribute in achieving the goal of "*Viksit Bharat@2047*".



(Dr. Rajiv Mani)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	Page No.
INTRODUCTION	1
PART I - LITIGATION LANDSCAPE	2-3
1.1 Scale and Systemic Characteristics of Union of India Litigation	2
1.2 Primary Causes of Escalation of Litigation	2
1.3 Evolution: From Litigation Volume to Litigation Management	3
PART II - POLICY FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	3-4
2.1 The Directive on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation by the Government of India, 2025	3
2.2 Preventive Litigation Management	4
2.3 Institutional Discipline in Appeal Management	4
PART III - INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR LITIGATION MANAGEMENT	4-6
3.1 Three-Tier Framework	4
3.1.1 Apex Level: Committee of Secretaries	4
3.1.2 Secretary-Level Supervision Committee	5
3.1.3 Legal Cells: Operational Backbone	5
3.2 Staffing and Capacity Building	5
PART IV - END-TO-END LITIGATION MANAGEMENT	6-7
4.1 Case Intake and Early Scrutiny	6
4.2 Coordination, Pleadings and Case Conduct	6
4.3 Compliance Management and Post-Judgment Review	6
4.4 Institutional Appeal Discipline and SLP Management	7
4.5 Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)	7
PART V - DIGITAL AND DATA-DRIVEN LITIGATION MANAGEMENT	8-9
5.1 LIMBS as Decision-Support and Proactive Monitoring Platform	8
5.2 Data Integrity, Analytics and Monitoring	8

PART VI - PREVENTIVE MANAGEMENT AND DISPUTE AVOIDANCE	9-10
6.1 Early Risk Assessment	9
6.2 Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms	9
6.3 Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Commercial Disputes (AMRCD/AMRD)	9
PART VII – CO-WORKING WITH LEARNED LAW OFFICERS	10-11
7.1 Law Officers as Institutional Partners	10
7.2 Role of Panel Counsel in Litigation Management	11
7.3 Collaborative Engagement Framework	11
PART VIII – PHASED IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP	12
PART IX - CAPACITY BUILDING AND FACILITATION ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS	13
9.1 Capacity Building for Institutional Litigation Management	13
9.2 Facilitation and Support Role of the DLA	13
PART X - THE CONFERENCE AS A PLATFORM FOR COLLECTIVE DELIBERATION	14-15
10.1 Objectives and Structure of the Conference	14
10.2 Thematic Focus and Expected Outcomes	15
PART XI - WAY FORWARD	15-16
ANNEXURES	17-122
I. Directive on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation, 2025	18-57
II. Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)	58-75
III. Relevant Office Memoranda and Instructions	76-97
IV. Contact Details (ASGs, DSGs, Nodal Officers and LIMBS)	98-122

INTRODUCTION

This Handbook is a supplement to the *Directive on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation by the Government of India, 2025 (Directives)*. It serves as a guide for Ministries and Departments in implementing a framework for conduct of litigation.

The Handbook is for the use of officers and officials of the Government of India, including the nodal officers, legal cells, administrative divisions responsible for litigation management, and Learned Law Officers and Counsel, representing the Union of India. It provides a common reference framework for understanding institutional responsibilities, decision-making disciplines, and expectations of the Union as a party in any litigation.

The Handbook has been supplemented with the Directives, the Model Standard Operating Procedure, and other related documents. It does not dilute any statutory provisions, judicial directions, or binding executive instructions; rather, it supports their coherent, consistent, and disciplined application.

Litigation Management in the Context of *Viksit Bharat*

Litigation involving the Union of India (UOI) is not confined to defending of cases before the Courts and Tribunals wherein UOI is a party. Such proceedings often serve as a reflection on administrative decision-making, fiscal responsibility, institutional credibility, and adherence to the rule of law.

When litigation is managed in a fragmented or reactive manner, it leads to repetitive disputes, avoidable appeals, increased financial exposure, and erosion of institutional consistency. Conversely, disciplined litigation management strengthens policy certainty, enhances administrative coherence, and supports effective implementation of governmental programs.

Litigation management is an integral component of effective governance. It seeks to shift the system from case-specific reaction to structured institutional supervision, from routine escalation to reasoned evaluation, and from fragmented handling to coordinated strategy aligned with the goals of *Viksit Bharat*.

PART I - LITIGATION LANDSCAPE

Litigation against the Union of India is initiated for various reasons, including, *inter alia*, challenges to the provisions of Acts and the rules made thereunder, policy decisions, and administrative actions. This part attempts to examine the scale, systemic characteristics, and structural drivers of government litigation.

1.1 Scale and Systemic Characteristics of Government Litigation

Government litigation extends across various Courts and Tribunals, and *quasi-judicial* fora. The subject spectrum is extensive and includes:

- Service and pension matters
- Tax and revenue litigation
- Infrastructure and contractual matters
- Regulatory enforcement and land acquisition matters
- Environmental issues and public interest litigations

Data with respect to Union of India litigation indicates concentration of litigation in specific sectors, suggesting that systemic reform within those sectors can result in significant reduction in disputes. Over time, the scale and complexity of Government litigation have increased enormously alongside the expanding responsibilities of the Government. As policy areas have grown more interconnected, disputes often arise from regulatory frameworks, administrative processes, and sectoral challenges.

1.2 Primary Causes of Escalation of Litigation

Recurring litigation often arises from the absence of early legal assessment at the stage of decision making, whether issue being policy or otherwise, delayed compliance with judicial orders, mechanical filing of appeals without proper merit assessment, lack of convergence in legal and administrative stand across Ministries and Departments, and inadequate grievance redressal mechanisms.

These factors, taken together, result in prolonged litigation cycles, accumulation of legacy cases, and avoidable strain on judicial and public resources. Breaking this cycle requires institutional reforms rather than case-by-case responses. Structured processes, preventive management, and clear lines of accountability are essential to achieve improvement in litigation outcomes.

1.3 Evolution: From Litigation Volume to Litigation Management

Earlier initiatives relating to Government litigation focused on advisory principles and incremental reforms. While these initiatives identified important objectives, there was no uniform institutional framework to ensure consistent implementation across Ministries and Departments. Variations in practice continued, and systemic drivers of escalation remained insufficiently addressed.

These challenges are largely addressed through the management framework introduced by the *Directive on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation, 2025*, which establishes defined institutional mechanisms, documented processes, and senior-level supervision. The emphasis shifts from managing the number of cases to governing litigation as a core administrative responsibility, guided by discipline, accountability, and consistency.

PART II - POLICY FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 The Directive on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation by the Government of India, 2025

By placing litigation management within the administrative framework of each Ministry and Department, the Directives promotes accountability, transparency, and consistency in Government litigation.

The Directives issued on 4th April 2025 (**Annexure-I**) consolidates earlier reform efforts into a comprehensive framework. It places litigation management within the broader structure of administrative management and provides mandatory arrangements applicable across all Ministries and Departments. The Directives emphasises that litigation affects policy delivery, fiscal discipline, and public trust in institutions.

The framework established under the Directives provides for structured appeal management based on merit, public interest, and fiscal prudence; defined institutional roles through a three-tier management structure; digital monitoring through the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS); regular supervision at senior levels through Secretary-level committees; and documented Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for litigation management.

2.2 Preventive Litigation Management

Litigation is often the result of process gaps, unclear decisions, or lack of early risk assessment. Hence, the Directives are based on the principle of preventive litigation management. It emphasises that many disputes can be reduced through cautious policy decisions, timely legal consultation, and proper administrative review. Such a preventive approach improves the quality of management, reduces unnecessary escalation of matters to appellate forums, strengthens decision quality, and establishes credibility.

Ministries and Departments may therefore identify legal challenges at the stage of policy formulation and implementation, and examine recurring causes of dispute and address them through corrective administrative and legal measures.

2.3 Institutional Discipline in Appeal Management

The Directives provides that appeals should not be taken as routine response to adverse judicial orders. Decisions relating to appeals and Special Leave Petitions must conform to merit-based standards set out in Part IV of this Handbook.

Institutional discipline is ensured through defined roles and collective review mechanisms, regular supervision by senior officers, including Secretary-level committee and coordination mechanisms across Ministries and Departments.

PART III - INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR LITIGATION MANAGEMENT

3.1 Three-Tier Framework

The Directives establish a three-tier framework to ensure strategic coherence, disciplined execution, and effective supervision of Government litigation. Supervision at the Secretary level will ensure accountability, effective monitoring and proper litigation management.

3.1.1 Apex Level: Committee of Secretaries

At the apex level, supervision is exercised through the Committee of Secretaries, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. This forum provides strategic direction, reviews systemic issues, monitors overall implementation of the Directives, and guides on measures for inter-ministerial coordination on cross-cutting litigation matters.

3.1.2 Secretary-Level Supervision Committee

In the Ministries/Departments, Secretary-level supervision anchors litigation management within the core administrative hierarchy. Supervision at this level ensures that litigation strategy, appellate decisions, and compliance with judicial directions are aligned with policy objectives, constitutional obligations, and public interest considerations.

The Secretary-level Committee oversees litigation strategy to ensure alignment with policy objectives, conducts holistic examinations of proposals for appeals, reviews, and Special Leave Petitions based on merit, public interest, and fiscal prudence, while also reviewing long-pending cases and monitoring court order implementation for timely compliance to minimise contempt risks. It supervises grievance redressal mechanisms to prevent unnecessary escalation into litigation, ensures data discipline and regular LIMBS reporting, and holds periodic meetings to assess litigation status. Additionally, the Committee undertakes review of high stake/sensitive cases with significant policy implications and tracks compliance timelines and adjournment patterns.

3.1.3 Legal Cells: Operational Backbone

Legal Cells (LCs), headed by designated Nodal Officers at the Joint Secretary level, serve as the operational backbone of litigation management. These units are responsible for comprehensive tracking of all cases across judicial forums, coordination with Government Counsel, and adherence to timelines.

Key functions of Legal Cells encompass comprehensive tracking and monitoring of all cases across forums; timely briefing of counsel with complete instructions; preparation and vetting of pleadings in coordination with administrative divisions; early identification of high-risk matters requiring attention at senior levels; and systematic monitoring of case progress and compliance deadlines. They also need to ensure data discipline by maintaining accurate and up-to-date records on LIMBS, coordination between administrative divisions, counsel, and Law Officers, as well as having timely decisions on appeal proposals and SLPs.

3.2 Staffing and Capacity Building:

Adequate staffing and continuous capacity building are essential for the effective functioning of Legal Cells. Deploying officers with legal backgrounds or litigation experience, supported by regular training programs,

will ensure effective case management. The specific staffing requirements and training frameworks are detailed in Part IX of this Handbook.

PART IV - END-TO-END LITIGATION MANAGEMENT

Effective management requires structured management from initiation to closure. This Part outlines the institutional processes for managing litigation across its entire lifecycle.

4.1 Case Intake and Early Scrutiny

Upon receipt of a case or notice, early scrutiny of issues of facts and law must identify the legal merit and statutory basis of the relief sought, policy implications and alignment with Government position; financial exposure and budgetary implications; precedential value and impact on similar matters; as well as the risk of adverse orders or contempt exposure.

Legal Cells, in coordination with concerned administrative divisions, shall conduct this early assessment and flag high-risk matters for immediate senior-level attention. Early scrutiny enables informed decision-making on defence strategy, settlement possibilities, or corrective administrative action.

4.2 Coordination, Pleadings and Case Conduct

Effective coordination ensures that the Government's position is presented accurately, consistently, and professionally before courts and tribunals.

Coordination between administrative divisions and legal cells (detailed in Part III) ensures correct pleadings and informed representation through timely collection of complete factual and documentary material from administrative divisions; verification of facts and legal positions by Legal Cells; preparation of comprehensive briefs for counsel; and vetting of draft pleadings and affidavits for accuracy and consistency with Government policy. The process also includes regular coordination meetings between Legal Cells, administrative divisions, and counsel, as well as monitoring of hearing dates and appearances of counsel.

4.3 Compliance Management and Post-Judgment Review

A cyclical and corrective approach transforms litigation management from reactive and repetitive to proactive and preventive.

Compliance with judicial directions must be monitored systematically to prevent contempt exposure and unnecessary escalation. Legal Cells shall track

compliance timelines for all orders and judgments; coordinate with administrative divisions to ensure timely implementation; report status to the Secretary-level Supervision Committee; and identify issues leading to non-compliance and recommending corrective measures. Post-judgment review should extract institutional lessons to prevent repetition of similar disputes, covering grounds on which the case was lost; whether the dispute could have been avoided through preventive measures; systemic or policy issues requiring administrative action; and lessons learnt for guidance in similar cases.

4.4 Institutional Appeal Discipline and SLP Management

The Directives rationalise appeal management through structured and documented decision-making processes. The filing of appeals and Special Leave Petitions must be the result of reasoned decisions rather than routine reactions to adverse judicial orders.

Decision-Making Criteria:

Every appeal proposal must be evaluated on the basis of legal merit, public interest, financial implication and feasibility of compliance. SLPs before the Supreme Court shall be filed only after through scrutiny where a substantial question of law of general importance is involved. This approach to appeal management will help to reduce litigation at appellate levels.

4.5 Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

The SOP ensure that litigation management promotes consistency, accountability, and institutional memory rather than individual discretion.

The SOP constitute the operational foundation of the litigation management framework. They translate the principles and institutional responsibilities articulated in the Directives into clear, uniform, and time bound processes applicable across Ministries and Departments.

By standardising these processes, SOP reduces inconsistency in practice, and support disciplined execution of litigation responsibilities. A model SOP is appended at **Annexure-II** for guidance of Ministries/Departments.

PART V - DIGITAL AND DATA-DRIVEN LITIGATION MANAGEMENT

5.1 LIMBS as a Decision-Support and Proactive Monitoring Platform

LIMBS supports a shift from reactive case handling to proactive monitoring of court cases empowered by real-time data and analytics. LIMBS is being used effectively to achieve the objectives given in Directive for Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation of Government of India.

Digitization is one of the most important pillars of effective litigation management. The Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) monitoring the entire life-cycle of court cases and provides a platform for real-time decision making support to all the Ministries of the Government of India. It enables consolidated, real-time access to case information across all courts, tribunals etc.

Core Features of LIMBS:

- Real-time visibility of case status, next date of hearing, pending actions, and compliance timelines.
- Automated SMS alerts and reminders for timely filing, appearance, and compliance. It will reduce the risk of inadvertent defaults.
- Trend analysis through analytics on pendency patterns, repetitive issues, sectoral concentrations, and adjournments.
- Dashboards providing Secretary-level and senior management, visibility into key metrics such as high-risk cases, appeal profiles, compliance status, and overall litigation performance.
- Repository of pleadings, orders, and judgments for institutional memory and reference.
- Integration with e-Courts through APS for automatic updates on case status.
- Fee payment to Advocates for Supreme Court is fully automated and integrated with PFMS.

5.2 Data Integrity, Analytics and Monitoring

Accurate and timely data entry on LIMBS can ensure data integrity, effective monitoring and accountability. By aggregating litigation data across Ministries

and Departments, LIMBS facilitate data analysis, evidence-based policy reforms and preventive management measures.

PART VI - PREVENTIVE MANAGEMENT AND DISPUTE AVOIDANCE

6.1 Early Risk Assessment

Building on the main goal set out in Part II, Ministries and Departments may undertake early risk assessment and preventive litigation management at Policy Formulation Stage.

6.2 Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms form an important component of the preventive litigation framework. Timely and constructive resolution of disputes through mediation, conciliation, negotiated settlements, and pre-litigation engagement can significantly reduce escalation of grievances/disputes to litigation, costs, and delays.

Ministries and Departments shall:

- Identify suitable cases for ADR at the earliest stage
- Designate nodal officers for ADR coordination
- Approach dispute resolution with a problem-solving orientation consistent with public interest
- Participate in mediation and conciliation proceedings
- Consider settlement proposals objectively based on legal merit and public interest
- Seek approval from Secretary-level Supervision Committee for settlements involving significant financial or policy implications

6.3 Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Commercial Disputes (AMRCD/AMRD)

Effective utilisation of the AMRCD will contribute towards a reduction in arbitration and commercial litigation between Government entities, promote fiscal prudence, and support a predictable dispute resolution environment.

The AMRCD provides a structured framework for resolving commercial disputes involving Government CPSEs without resorting to litigation. The

mechanism enables Ministries and Departments to examine disputes through a coordinated administrative process, supported by legal and financial inputs, with a view to achieving timely and cost-effective resolution.

Similarly, to provide for a mechanism for resolution of disputes other than taxation, between Ministries and Departments *inter se* as well as between Ministries/Departments and their Subordinate, Attached, Autonomous, or Statutory Bodies, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs has *vide* DO letter No. 332619/338367/LS/2019 dated 28th February, 2020 advised all Secretaries to the Government of India that the existing Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Commercial Disputes (AMRCD), currently applicable to commercial disputes between CPSEs *inter se* and between CPSEs and Government Departments / Organisations, shall be extended to disputes of such nature and between such parties for resolution through their mechanism of Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Disputes (AMRD).

PART VII – CO-WORKING WITH LEARNED LAW OFFICERS

7.1 Law Officers as Institutional Partners

The Directives acknowledges Law Officers as institutional partners and important stakeholders in the conduct of Government litigation. Their role extends beyond courtroom representation to providing informed and strategic legal advice that supports disciplined decision-making, consistency of legal positions, and alignment of litigation conduct with public interest considerations.

The Law Officers -

- i. give advice to the Government of India upon such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time, be referred or assigned to him by the Government of India.
- ii. appear, whenever required, in the Supreme Court or in any High Court on behalf of the Government of India in cases (including suits, writ petitions, appeal and other proceedings) in which the Government of India is concerned as a party or is otherwise interested;
- iii. represent the Government of India in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution; and
- iv. discharge such other functions as are conferred on a Law Officer by or under the Constitution or any other Law for the time being in force.

This partnership strengthens institutional credibility before courts and supports reduction of avoidable and low-merit litigation. The coordination and co-working between Ministries, Legal Cells, and Law Officers will facilitate early identification of inconsistencies in legal positions across departments or forums, thereby contributing significantly to predict litigation outcomes.

7.2 Role of Panel Counsel in Litigation Management

The Panel Counsel serve as operational partners in the day-to-day conduct of Government litigation. Their responsibilities extend beyond courtroom appearances and preparation of pleadings to include maintenance of procedural discipline and coordinated handling of similar matters involving diverse questions of law.

A regular reporting to legal cells on case progress will improve effective coordination between Panel Counsel, legal cells, and administrative divisions.

7.3 Collaborative Engagement Framework

Effective coordination with the Law Officers and Panel Counsel is premised on co-working for ensuring effective outcomes in litigation. It is a fundamental responsibility of the Ministries and Departments to provide complete and accurate instructions to counsel in a timely manner, facilitating access to officials and documents for preparation of cases.

At the same time, the role of Law Officers and Panel Counsel to offer professional advice on legal merit and prospects, timely preparation and filing of pleadings and regular appearances and effective representation in courts is highly impactful. This collaborative approach establishes institutional capacity, strengthens litigation discipline, and contributes to sustained improvement in the quality and effectiveness of litigation management.

PART VIII - PHASED IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

Implementation of the Directives is structured through a phased roadmap to ensure orderly institutionalisation, capacity building, and sustained adoption across Ministries and Departments.

Phase	Key Activities and Milestones
Phase I:	Institutional Readiness (0--3 months) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and notify Litigation Nodal Officers• Establish or formalise Legal Cells with adequate staffing• Adopt and notify Model Standard Operating Procedure (see Annexure II)• Complete onboarding on LIMBS, including data reconciliation and validation• Constitute Secretary-level Supervision Committees• Baseline assessment of pending litigation and key risk areas
Phase II:	Process Stabilisation (3--6 months) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operationalise SOP-driven workflows across all litigation categories• Regular functioning of Secretary-level Supervision Committees (quarterly meetings)• Adoption of digital dashboards and adjournment tracking mechanisms• Structured periodic reporting and internal review processes• Training program for Legal Cell officers and administrative staff• Review and approval of pending appeal proposals
Phase III:	Performance Optimisation (6--9 months) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data analytics through LIMBS to identify systemic issues and recurring themes• Sector-specific preventive Management measures and compliance discipline• Continuous improvement actions based on review outcomes• Recognition of good practices and dissemination of successful models• Assessment of measurable improvements in pendency, appeal discipline, and compliance

This phased roadmap ensures time-bound institutionalisation while allowing Ministries to build capacity systematically and establish robust mechanisms for long-term sustainability.

PART IX - CAPACITY BUILDING AND FACILITATION ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

9.1 Capacity Building for Institutional Litigation Management

Sustainable improvement in litigation Management requires continuous strengthening of institutional capacity across Ministries and Departments. The objective is to equip administrative and legal functionaries with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to manage litigation in a disciplined, consistent, and proactive manner.

Training Framework:

Training programmes and sensitisation initiatives shall be undertaken for:

- **Litigation Nodal Officers:** Strategic supervision, appeal discipline, coordination with Law Officers
- **Officers in Legal Cells:** Litigation management, LIMBS operations, case tracking and compliance monitoring
- **Administrative divisions:** Early legal risk assessment, preventive Management, coordination with Legal Cells
- **Senior officers:** Management perspectives on litigation management, strategic decision-making

9.2 Facilitation and Support Role of the DLA

The Department of Legal Affairs plays a facilitative and coordinating role in strengthening litigation management across the Government of India.

In accordance with the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 each Ministry and Department remains fully responsible for matters falling within its assigned subject domain, including policy formulation, administrative decisions, and consequential litigation arising therefrom. Ownership of litigation strategy, decisions regarding appeals, compliance with judicial directions, and overall case outcomes rests with the concerned Ministry or Department.

Within this framework, the role of the Department of Legal Affairs is supportive and enabling, including the development and dissemination of model Standard Operating Procedures, and guidance materials, organisation of training and capacity building programmes and monitoring of overall implementation of the Directives.

PART X - THE CONFERENCE AS A PLATFORM FOR COLLECTIVE DELIBERATION

10.1 Objectives and Structure of the Conference

The Conference on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation by the Department of Legal Affairs has been convened as a focused platform for collective deliberation, knowledge sharing, and coordinated action in furtherance of the Directives. It brings together Law Officers, Secretaries to the Government of India, and senior officers responsible for litigation management to adopt a shared vision.

Conference Structure:

Plenary Sessions:

- Provide common management context and facilitate shared understanding of the objectives of the Directives and institutional framework;
- Keynote addresses on strategic vision for litigation management; and
- Overview of implementation roadmap and expectations

Thematic Deliberations:

Focused on major categories of Government litigation, enabling sector-specific examination of challenges and practices:

- Service and Pension Matters
- Infrastructure and Contractual Disputes
- Tax and Revenue Litigation
- Regulatory and Enforcement Actions

Facilitated Discussions:

- Active participation and experience sharing among participants
- Problem solving orientation and identification of practical solutions
- Candid dialogue on challenges and bottlenecks
- Convergence of views on implementation priorities

10.2 Thematic Focus and Expected Outcomes

Each thematic session is oriented towards operationalising the preventive management and ADR measures set out in Part VI in the respective sector.

Thematic deliberations shall focus on:

- Identifying systemic challenges specific to each litigation category
- Assessing adequacy of existing processes and identifying gaps
- Sharing best practices and successful interventions
- Developing actionable recommendations for each domain
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities for follow-up action

Expected Outcomes:

The Conference is intended to serve as a catalyst for actionable outcomes rather than a standalone event. Expected outcomes include:

- Identification of priority action areas requiring focused intervention
- Development of sector specific recommendations for preventive measures
- Clarification of roles and responsibilities for implementation
- Strengthening of partnership between Ministries, Legal Cells, and Law Officers
- Commitment to timelines and measurable targets for pendency reduction
- Establishment of follow-up mechanisms for monitoring progress

PART XI - WAY FORWARD

The *Directive on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation by the Government of India*, marks a structural transformation in Government litigation management, as outlined in Part II. Its sustained implementation will reduce unwanted litigation and enhance consistency of legal positions through coordinated engagement with Law Officers.

Litigation management, when performed with discipline and foresight, becomes an instrument of administrative strength rather than a symptom of systemic challenge. It reflects the Government's commitment to reduce

litigation, enforce rule of law, and achieve the national goal of *Viksit Bharat@2047*.

All Ministries and Departments are requested to:

- Implement the Directives in letter and spirit through the phased roadmap outlined in Part VIII
- Strengthen institutional mechanisms for litigation management
- Foster a culture of accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement
- Engage constructively with Law Officers and Panel Counsel as institutional partners
- Leverage digital platforms and data analytics for informed decision-making
- Embrace preventive management as a core administrative responsibility

The success of these measures depends on collective commitment, sustained leadership attention, and institutional discipline across all levels. This Handbook provides the framework; effective implementation requires ownership, accountability, and persistent effort by each Ministry and Department.

ANNEXURES

Annexure I - Directive on Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation, 2025

Annexure II - Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Annexure III - Relevant Office Memoranda and Instructions

- Cabinet Secretariat
- Department of Legal Affairs
- Revised retainer fee and allowances of Law Officers
- Revised fee payable to various categories of Central Government Counsel.

Annexure IV - Contact Details

- List of Law Officers
- List of Deputy Solicitors General
- List of Litigation Nodal Officers (Ministry-wise)
- LIMBS technical support contact

ANNEXURES



**DIRECTIVE FOR THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE
MANAGEMENT OF LITIGATION BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	CONTENT	PAGE NO.
1.	Introduction	2
2.	Background	3
3.	Vision	5
4.	Objectives	6
5.	Justification	6
6.	Operational Framework	11
7.	Directive - Monitoring Mechanism	36
8.	Applicability	37
9.	Litigation management of the State Governments	37

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

**DIRECTIVE FOR THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE
MANAGEMENT OF LITIGATION BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

1. Introduction

1.1 The Government engages in a wide range of activities that profoundly impact individuals, society, public and private institutions as well as its own functioning. Litigation often emerges as a consequence of the intricacies of the legal and governance processes. The process of litigation is complex and its outcome is uncertain. This is further aggravated by overburdened courts, where cases having merit or otherwise often clog the judicial system, thereby causing delays in justice dispensation and hindering timely and effective decision-making.

1.2 Efficient management of its litigation by the Government of India is crucial to promoting good governance and ensuring public welfare and timely dispensation of justice. Therefore,

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

it is essential to develop a well-coordinated and integrated approach to managing litigation before the courts, tribunals and other quasi-judicial fora involving the Union of India to comprehensively move towards reinforcing the goal of good governance.

2. Background

2.1 **Litigation and its context:** In every society based on the rule of law, litigation is the primary mechanism for peaceful resolution of disputes, recognition and protection of rights as well as other interests of the citizens. In a developing country like India, the Government is engaged in a wide range of developmental, welfare and regulatory activities which have a bearing upon the lives of the citizens and others. Decisions and actions of the Government based on furtherance of public policy pertaining to welfare activities and beyond are, *inter alia*, designed to ensure orderly conduct of citizens, civil society, businesses, and public and private institutions. Although the objective of the various

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

decisions and actions is to promote public good and better governance, sometimes their ineffective implementation may lead to the exclusion of intended beneficiaries or the unintended ones being benefited. In some cases, affected parties may perceive certain decisions as unfair and pursue legal recourse through litigation.

2.2 In order to achieve the objective of effective implementation of laws and policies in the right earnest and to secure its own interests, the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government or its attached and subordinate offices and the autonomous bodies at times also may have to take recourse to litigation.

2.3 **Effect of litigation:** The litigation process is seen to be time-consuming, complex, and influenced by various external factors, resulting in significant delays in resolving disputes. These delays contribute to uncertainty of outcome, undermine system accountability, and increase the financial

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

burden on the parties or the public exchequer, as the case may be.

- 2.4. **Rationale:** The burden of avoidable litigation can be reduced by identifying and addressing systemic issues, such as closing the gaps in the legislative framework or correcting any infirmities in executive action. It is essential to streamline and accelerate efforts on these issues by leveraging the capabilities of Information Technology (IT) to serve the broader public interest, enhance ease of doing business, protect investments, and preserve the environment, thereby fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

3. Vision

This directive is designed to establish a system to ensure effective, efficient, integrated and coordinated management of litigation involving the Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government and its attached and subordinate offices and autonomous bodies, before courts and tribunals

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

and other quasi-judicial fora to promote good governance in pursuit of the goal of *Viksit Bharat* by 2047. It may be seen as the “Standard Operating Procedure” for litigation management.

4. Objectives

The directive seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- (i) Streamline the administrative processes involved in the conduct of litigation;
- (ii) Reduce litigation of recurrent nature;
- (iii) Reduce anomalies/inconsistencies in statutory or non-statutory notifications and administrative orders;
- (iv) Reduce unnecessary appeals against orders of the Court;
- (v) Put in place a sound Knowledge Management System (KMS).

5. Justification

- 5.1. **Concentration of Litigation:** The Union of India is involved as a litigant in numerous ongoing cases across the

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts, as well as in Tribunals and quasi-judicial fora. At any given time, the resources of a significant number of Ministries and Departments are engaged substantially in these legal proceedings.

- 5.2. **Avoidance of Contempt Cases:** At times, contempt proceedings are initiated against the Government officials for non-compliance of judgment and orders, which can be prevented by enhancing the monitoring and coordination mechanisms to ensure timely and adequate responses to judgments and orders.
- 5.3. **Capacity Constraints:** The capacity of Ministries and Departments to manage litigation is limited due to resource constraints. Most Ministries and Departments do not have a dedicated Legal Cell, and cases are generally being handled by the administrative or technical divisions overseeing the relevant subject matter. Additionally, many officials managing litigation in these Ministries/Departments do not possess qualification in the field of Law. This results in a

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

lack of understanding of legal implications and delayed response to judicial directives, contributing at times in filing of contempt cases against the Head of the Organisations.

5.4. **Lack of clear guidelines:** Most Ministries /Departments have not laid down any SoPs for handling litigation matters, pertaining to them.

5.5. **Litigation on recurrent issues:** An analysis of litigation data of several Ministries/Departments reveals that at times litigation within a given Ministry or Department, is recurring in nature. Common issues include service related and pension matters, land acquisition and compensation disputes, commercial disputes, issues relating to violation of fundamental rights, public interest litigation (PIL), intellectual property matters, cases involving interpretation of legal or administrative policy or tax laws and the like.

5.6. **Varied success rate:** The success rate of litigation outcome varies not only between Ministries/Departments of the Central Government but also depends on the nature of litigation(s) within a given Ministry/Department.

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

5.7. **Narrow interpretation of Rules:** A narrow interpretation of a statutory provision often serves as the primary catalyst for escalating grievances into litigation. Contributing factors include inadequate or incorrect understanding of administrative and legal issues, as well as incomplete, inconsistent, or selective implementation of existing policies. Additionally, administrative Ministries or Departments occasionally propose litigation that does not align with the guidelines issued by the Government of India (such as, by Department of Personnel and Training or Department of Expenditure). In some cases, ambiguities in the law or conflicts between applicable laws further complicates the situation.

5.8. **Non-fulfilment of procedural requirement:** Non-fulfillment of procedural requirements such as improper or incomplete submission of forms, affidavits and other such related issues lead to delay in scrutiny and rejection of relief prayed for at the level of the Government. This is another major reason for litigation on the given subject matter.

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

- 5.9. **Litigation on contractual matters:** The Government and its agencies enter into contracts with private entities for a variety of purposes, including commercial, financial, and developmental objectives, etc. Non-adherence to contractual obligations often leads one party to resort to arbitration or litigation. Sometimes, perceived unfairness in procedure may also lead to litigation.
- 5.10. **Litigation on settled issues:** In many instances, litigation is pursued over issues that have already been settled by a Court of law and implemented by the relevant Government Department. Such instances lead to the growth of unnecessary litigation and associated costs, without any tangible benefits.
- 5.11. **Need for greater coordination:** The analysis of the factors fueling litigation highlights the gaps in the working of the Ministries/Departments and its impact along with other issues that can be resolved through better monitoring. In some cases, issuance of fresh administrative

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

orders/instructions or appropriate action for amendment in laws, may be required.

5.12. **Emergent issues of Litigation:** India, as one of the fastest-growing major economies, is experiencing unprecedented digital transformation and emerging as a significant manufacturing hub. This progress is complemented by notable improvements in ease of doing business, rapid urbanization and a rising middle class and entrepreneurship. At the same time, several coordinated actions ushering in initiatives for new policy and law in areas such as education, labour laws, consumer rights, data protection, credit and distressed corporate assets, taxation, information technology, are undertaken from time to time. Accordingly, there is a need to take prospective measures in management of Government litigation to achieve the goal of *Viksit Bharat* by 2047.

6. Operational Framework

6.1 **Strengthening Capacities:** Each Ministry/ Department must strengthen its human resource responsible for managing its

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

litigation. Accordingly, in Ministries/Departments, having large volume of litigation or engaged in legal proceedings with substantial financial impact, the following measures may be taken: -

- 1) Creation of a dedicated or common Legal Cell as per case-load of respective Departments in a Ministry may be undertaken within three months from notification of this Directive. The Department of Legal Affairs may frame training/guidance module for the officials of Legal Cell.
- 2) Nomination of a Nodal Officer ordinarily not below the rank of Joint Secretary who shall be assigned the responsibility to oversee litigation management. The officer should preferably have an LLB degree or above and/or sufficient legal expertise, as well as a reasonable continuity of tenure.
- 3) Post of Director (Legal)/Deputy Secretary (Legal)/ Under Secretary (Legal) needs to be designated or created and as far as possible, officers possessing qualification of

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

LL.B. degree or above may be posted or appointed including on deputation in the Legal Cell for strengthening it and ensuring effective monitoring and management of litigation.

- 4) Dedicated staff may be involved in overseeing litigation management and coordination with all concerned. Young Professionals holding an LL.B degree may be engaged on contractual basis, where necessary.
- 5) In case there is a special requirement for expert legal personnel at the higher level in a Ministry/Department, such person may be hired for the specific purpose and duration. Separate terms and condition of service may be worked out for them. In order to attract persons with expertise and requisite experience, the post at the level of Joint Secretary/Director/Deputy Secretary or Consultants dealing with litigation management may also be filled from outside Government as per the extant policy of the Government of India.

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

6.2 **Independent examination of litigation risks of new initiatives:** When drafting new statutes, rules, or policies or making significant changes to existing ones, a standalone examination for assessing litigation potential may be done to minimise unexpected/ unwarranted litigation and ensure efficient litigation management at the outset. Such examination should address the following:

(a) **Litigation Landscape:**

Overview of applicable statutes, subordinate legislations, relevant case laws, and precedents.

(b) **Litigation Risk Assessment:**

- (i) Evaluation of litigation risk levels (high, medium, or low).
- (ii) Assessment of the likelihood of adverse rulings.
- (iii) Estimation of potential litigation costs, wherever feasible.

(c) **Litigation Mitigation Plan:**

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

- (i) Implementation of safeguards to reduce litigation exposure, including amendments to contracts, policies, statutes, and subordinate legislations.
- (ii) Development of a resolution timeline to effectively address disputes before they escalate into full-fledged litigation.

(d) **Summary:** Concise overview of the above-mentioned points, highlighting key considerations and proposed measures to mitigate potential legal challenges.

6.3 **Simplification of Procedure:** There should be periodic scrutiny of subordinate legislation to identify issues which are the cause of, or may lead to, litigation. While formulating the policy to be reflected in the subordinate legislation, special emphasis may be placed on elimination of ambiguous provisions, procedural deficiencies, operational challenges etc. Such exercise can limit the potential of litigation emanating from such law. Similarly, while finalizing any administrative policy or action, the

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

Competent Authority needs to consider all possible avenues to minimise chances of litigation, attributable to it.

6.4 **Master Circular:** All important Office Memorandums / Guidelines / Circulars on important subjects may be compiled and updated as a Master Circular and the same should be prominently displayed on the website of the respective Ministry/Department.

6.5 **Grievance redressal mechanism:** A considerable portion of Government litigation relates to service matters, which can be substantially addressed by implementing a robust grievance redressal mechanism. Secretaries of Ministries/Departments may undertake a quarterly review to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of such grievance redressal mechanisms. Data on the nature of grievance may be compiled to understand trends, general issues etc. which leads to dissatisfaction amongst the employees and others. Feedback mechanisms from employees for grievance redressal mechanism and its working, may be provided for. The Department of Post have

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

introduced “Staff Adalat” being held at Circle and Regional level every six months as a mechanism of grievance redressal. Similar steps may be taken by other Ministries/ Departments to ensure that a review/ appellate mechanism, to decide the staff grievances by an authority/ officer who is independent/ superior to the original authority, is put in place.

- 6.6 **Capacity Building Programs:** Efforts should be made to ensure availability of litigation specific courses on i-GOT Karmayogi platform. Capacity building programs may also be introduced to ensure that pleadings filed in the Courts are drafted with clarity and without errors. The Department of Legal Affairs may also be consulted wherever required.
- 6.7 **Annual workshop on service matters:** Annual workshops may be organised focusing on major service-related issues that experience a high volume of grievances or litigation. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) may issue appropriate guidelines in this regard.

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

- 6.8 **Disciplinary proceedings:** The DoPT *inter alia* may bring in amendments/ guidelines for simplifying and expediting, disciplinary proceedings to avoid delays in disposal of cases at the administrative level. A common pool of dedicated and competent retired Government officers who are willing to act as Inquiry Officer (I.O.) or Presenting Officer (P.O.) or both may be created who undertake the conduct of inquiry cutting across Ministries/Departments. A dashboard of such data may be made available online which can guide the Disciplinary Authority in appointment of I.O. and P.O. considering factors such as their experience, details pertaining to pendency of inquiry proceedings and disposal thereof, etc.
- 6.9 **Periodic review of the application fee for filing petitions in the CAT:** The DoPT may periodically review the application fee for filing of original applications etc., before the Central Administrative Tribunal, to ensure it remains aligned with prevailing costs.

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

- 6.10 **Streamlined and effective management of contract-related issues:** The Ministries/Departments with a significant volume of litigation related to contracts need to promptly and effectively address communication(s)/notice(s) received from contractors/concessionaires, assess the merits of issues or claims raised during project implementation. Such issues if not addressed appropriately may have the potential to trigger a full-blown arbitration or litigation.
- 6.11 **Initial review and examination of contractual documents:** The Government contracts including model concession agreements need thorough scrutiny to remove inconsistencies, gaps, and ambiguities in the proposed contract provisions which lead to disputes of a recurrent nature. A review of contract documents may be undertaken to eliminate divergent interpretations of any provision and reduce its potential to fuel disputes.
- 6.12 **Notice under section 80 of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908:** Appropriate action may be taken on any

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

notice/representation given by a party under section 80 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 to the Ministries/Departments. Such notices should be responded to, with reasons in a time-bound manner.

6.13 Approach towards Alternative Dispute Resolution

(ADR) Mechanisms: Recourse to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms as a means for resolving disputes needs to be promoted, wherever feasible.

(i) Resolution of Disputes through Mediation: The nature of disputes which can be resolved through mediation may be identified and a scheme/guideline for resolution of such disputes through mediation in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Mediation Act, 2023, may be rolled out.

(ii) Approach to Arbitration: While resorting to Alternate Disputes Resolution (ADR) mechanism leads to faster settlement of disputes, inclusion of arbitration clauses in Government contracts should be considered on a case-by-case basis, with such clauses

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

specifically designed to ensure public accountability and judicial oversight. Guidelines issued by the Government for recourse to Arbitration and/or Mediation may be kept in view including for Contracts of Domestic Public Procurement, issued by Department of Expenditure on 3rd June, 2024.

(iii) Promotion of Institutional Arbitration: Wherever a recourse to arbitration is deemed necessary, institutional arbitration may be preferred over *ad-hoc* arbitration.

(iv) No precedent value for arbitration awards: Wherever an arbitration award is being examined for its acceptance or challenge, it should be kept in view that arbitration awards are inherently case-specific, designed to address the unique facts, circumstances, and agreements of the parties involved. Therefore, arbitral awards do not serve as precedent for future cases.

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

(v) Periodic review of all arbitration cases involving the

Union of India as a party: A periodic review of all arbitration cases, whether domestic or international, should be conducted at the level of the Secretary or any Senior officer of the concerned Ministry/Department. The significant outcomes of such an assessment be communicated to the Department of Legal Affairs (DoLA), for record and reference.

(vi) Establishment of Government Arbitration Portal:

An Arbitration Portal shall be created by DoLA on the lines of National Judicial Data Grid, to collate the data on arbitration matters involving the Government and monitor the progress of arbitration cutting across Ministries/Departments of the Central Government or its attached and subordinate offices and the autonomous bodies. Every Arbitration matter involving the Central Government its sub-ordinate or attached offices or an autonomous body or CPSE should generate a unique case ID from this portal. Each

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

Department should regularly upload all required details pertaining to each arbitration, including amount under dispute, on the portal.

- 6.14 **Classification of cases:** The Legal Cell in each Ministry/Department should classify cases into three categories: i) highly sensitive, ii) sensitive, and iii) regular. Cases classified as highly sensitive or sensitive—such as those involving national security, internal security, law-and-order concerns, policy or statutory implications, or those with significant financial stakes. Such cases should be reviewed by the concerned Secretary to determine the appropriate course of action.
- 6.15 **Analysis of pending cases:** Detailed analysis of pending cases, may be conducted in areas of litigation having low success rates. Factors contributing to the adverse outcomes may be identified and rectified.
- 6.16 **Handling of sensitive cases:** In highly sensitive cases, the Secretary of the Ministry/Department may convene a meeting to strategise the conduct of litigation in such cases

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

with all relevant officials and the designated Nodal Officer of Legal Cell. This exercise be undertaken once the case is initiated before the Court or Tribunal, and continue to do so regularly throughout the life cycle of the case.

6.17 Tagging and transfer of cases with identical or similar question of law (legal issues): If more than one case involving the same or substantially the same question of law is pending before:-

- a) different Courts /Tribunals etc. or
- b) different Benches of the same Court/Tribunals etc.

then every effort should be made to get it transferred at one Court /Tribunal etc. and the same may be tagged for common adjudication and decision.

6.18 Coordination mechanism for litigation involving multiple Ministries/Departments: When litigation involves more than one Ministry/ Department, the concerned Ministry/Department against whom relief is sought, will coordinate with the other parties to the case

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

from the initial stage of the proceedings till its conclusion so as to ensure effective defence of the matter. When relief is sought from more than one Ministry/Department, the concerned Nodal Officer of the lead Ministry/Department may discuss and evolve a coordinated approach for conveying the comprehensive stand of the Government to the concerned Court or Tribunal. If there is any uncertainty regarding who should be the lead Ministry, the matter may be referred to the Department of Legal Affairs for advice and decision.

6.19 **Minimising adjournments:** If more than two continuous adjournments are sought, then the same may be reported along with the reason to the Nodal Officer of the Ministry/Department concerned. It should be ensured that Ministries/Departments or their Counsels do not request unwarranted adjournments in cases pending before the Courts and Tribunals or other quasi-judicial fora.

6.20 **Leveraging the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) for effective monitoring of**

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

litigation: For efficient monitoring of litigation, all Ministries/Departments need to leverage the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) operated by the Department of Legal Affairs and the Nodal Officer, users, and Advocates should regularly update the status of their cases. Payment of Counsel fee to be processed through LIMBS. Simultaneously, the Department of Legal Affairs shall upgrade LIMBS by improving user experience, ensuring seamless integration with other government databases such as e-courts and transforming it into a comprehensive modern management tool.

- 6.21 **Litigation where the likely outcome could impact the interests of the Government of India:** In cases involving question of general public importance or Constitutional Bench matters, wherein the concerned Ministry/Department may not be a party but the outcome of the litigation may impact its interest, the respective Law Officers or the Counsels of the Union of India (UoI) in the various Courts may keep a track of such matters and coordinate with the

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

Nodal Officers of concerned Department of the Central Government for taking such necessary steps to protect the Government's interest, wherever required.

6.22 **Analysis of root causes in significant cases:** The outcome of litigation in significant cases calls for root-cause analysis for guidance and determining the way forward. The issues identified/lesson learnt etc., from such exercise may be presented to the Secretary and circulated amongst the concerned officers. A template for root cause analysis is annexed (**Annexure-A**). Technology, data analytics, and artificial intelligence needs to be harnessed for the above purpose wherever feasible, as per the extant policy of the Government of India.

6.23 **Guidance from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) regarding the orders and judgments issued by Courts/Tribunals:** Ministries/Departments seeking advice of the DoP&T regarding further course of action to be undertaken as per the order of various Tribunals /Courts may at first exercise due diligence at their own

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

levels keeping in view instructions issued from time to time including DoP&T O.M No. 28027/1/2016-Estt.A-III dated 16.03.2016 and O.M. No. 43011/4/2015-Estt. (D) dated 07.06.2016 (**Annexure -B**).

6.24 **Regarding filing of Appeals in contractual/ commercial matters:** Appeals/challenges to arbitral awards and court orders to the next higher forum may be done strictly in adherence to provisions of section 34 of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. All Ministries/Department need to ensure that the time lines provided in the Act and in the court orders are followed. A decision to appeal/challenge should not be based on disagreement with the award/ order but on the merits of the case alone. The chances of success and the consequences of failure of an appeal/challenge must be realistically/rationally considered. In matters where interest liabilities may arise, preferring unsuccessful appeals may lead to much greater loss than acceptance of the lower forum's decision. The legal cell in each Ministry/Department may analyse the outcome based on a

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

risk -reward analysis. Quantum of pecuniary interest in any matter and realistic assessment of chances of success/consequences of failure may serve as criteria for deciding whether an appeal to a higher forum should be preferred or not.

- 6.25 **Pecuniary criteria for initiating litigation before an appellate forum in Contractual/ Commercial matters:** It is crucial to establish a pecuniary threshold for initiating litigation before an appellate forum. The advisability of pursuing litigation involving amounts of ₹10 crore or less, or such threshold as may be fixed (except in tax matters), by a Ministry or Department should be evaluated by a Committee on Appeals. This Committee may be chaired by the Secretary (Expenditure) or his nominee and include the Secretary of the Department of Legal Affairs or his nominee, the Secretary of the concerned Ministry or Department or his nominee, and a domain expert, if so required, as members. The criteria mentioned in para 6.24 may be kept in mind. The Department of Expenditure may

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

issue guidelines specifying pecuniary thresholds for filing appeals and circulate to all concerned. For tax matters, the Department of Revenue has already fixed pecuniary thresholds.

6.26 Discouraging the unnecessary filing of Special Leave Petitions under Article 136 of the Constitution of India:

Unnecessary and unwarranted filing of Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) under Article 136 of the Constitution of India may be discouraged. Recourse to SLP must not be in a routine manner but only be taken when exceptional and special circumstances exist for the same. The Supreme Court in a catena of cases has defined the scope of interference under Article 136 of the Constitution. The following is an indicative list of principles to be followed while filing of Special Leave Petitions under Article 136 of the Constitution of India:-

- a) Cases with significant domestic or international consequences/ramifications;

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

- b) Matters of substantial importance relating to social justice, especially those concerning marginalized or disadvantaged groups or communities;
- c) Cases raising legal questions of general public policy or interpretation of constitution;
- d) Cases involving legal questions with significant financial implications for the country;
- e) Cases where substantial and grave injustice has occurred, and no other remedy is available;
- f) Situations where there has been a clear violation of the principles of natural justice or a denial of fair hearing;
- g) Where different High Courts have passed contradictory orders on a specific subject.

In cases where one or more of these conditions exist the same may be specifically highlighted in the note being submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs for seeking

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

legal opinion, on filing a Special Leave Petition (SLP) under Article 136 of the Constitution.

6.27 Filing of appeal to be filed against *ex parte* interim orders should be avoided at the first instance: -Appeals may not to be filed against *ex parte ad interim* orders unless it is against the Policy of Government of India Rather, all efforts need to be made to get such orders vacated from the concerned Court or Tribunal.

6.28 Challenge to orders of Central Administrative Tribunals (CAT) or a High Court: Whenever an order of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) or a High Court is not in consonance with the policy instructions or guidelines issued by DoPT, the concerned administrative Ministry/Department needs to challenge the same either by filing a Review Petition in the same court (if possible) or an appeal before the higher court . In such cases, there is no need for prior consultation with DoPT for filing the Review Petition or Appeal.

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

6.29 **Inputs from DoPT for filing Review Petition/Appeal:** In case the administrative Ministry/Department requires additional inputs from DoPT for filing any Review Petition/Appeal, they may seek the same from DoPT well in time so that the Review Petition/Appeal does not become time barred.

6.30 **Filing appeal within the stipulated period of limitation:-** Different statutes provides specific period to challenge the order and judgments before the higher forum. Legal Cell of Ministry/Department must undertake all efforts to ensure that appeals are filed within the stipulated period of limitation as prescribed in the statute applicable to that particular matter.

6.31 **Assignment of Panel Counsels:** The assignment of Panel Counsels to Ministries/Departments for the conduct of litigation may be undertaken taking into account their subject specific expertise and competency, as far as feasible and the recommendation of the concerned Ministry/Department may also be duly considered. The

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

Department of Legal Affairs may issue guidelines for delegating authority to Ministries/ Departments for deciding on panel counsels or special counsels in cases involving very significant/ sensitive issues.

- 6.32 **Performance of Counsels:** The Department of Legal Affairs shall develop a framework for evaluating the performance of empanelled counsel. The evaluation exercise should involve comprehensive and objective assessments of the performance of Standing/Panel Counsels and Advocates by considering the feedback received from the relevant Ministries/Departments. Feedback on the performance of empaneled Advocates and Standing/Panel Counsels for Union of India may be submitted annually by the Ministries/Departments. Based on their performance, as assessed, Government Counsel at the lower levels may be considered for upgrade to higher positions, have their tenure extended, or may be removed from the panel.
- 6.33 **Conferences on Critical Legal Issues:** The Department of Legal Affairs and the Department of Justice may jointly

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

organize an Annual Conference to address emerging and pressing legal issues. This platform would bring together Civil Servants, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Ld. Law Officers, and distinguished Jurists to deliberate on such issues collectively. These discussions and outcomes will help having clarity on significant legal issues and foster greater understanding by breaking down institutional silos.

- 6.34 **Policy for amnesty schemes aimed to reduce pendency of litigation** To promote ease of living for citizens and for settlement of disputes/claims wherein the subject-matter is non-compliance of any direction or breach of regulatory procedure which does not affect public interest and is of a compoundable nature under non-tax/fiscal laws such as municipal laws, the Ministries/Departments dealing with such matters may frame amnesty schemes for settlement of such disputes/claims and the resolution of such disputes may be undertaken under the aegis of ADR mechanism. This would reduce litigation, avoid corruption and bring

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

revenue to the Government. Old cases should be reviewed with objective to reduce pendency to maximum 3 years. Moreover, pending litigation instituted under Act since repealed should also be specifically reviewed.

7. Directive- Monitoring Mechanism:

The effective implementation of the directives may be ensured by respective Ministries/Departments and based on experience, to recommend necessary changes for better outcomes. The review of the Directive may be undertaken by the Committee of Secretaries to be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. The Department of Legal Affairs will provide necessary assistance in this regard. The Department of Legal Affairs will also prepare an Annual Report on adherence to, and implementation of this Directive and place it before the Committee of Secretaries.

F.No. J-18/5/2016-Judl.
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

8. Applicability:

This Directive shall be applicable to all Ministries/Departments of the Central Government, its attached and subordinate offices, and the autonomous bodies, and for arbitration matters to CPSEs also.

9. Litigation Management of the State Governments:

The State Government(s) may also consider adopting this Directive for the efficient and effective management of litigation involving them.

F. No. J-18/53/2025-Judicial
Government of India
Ministry of Law & Justice
Department of Legal Affairs
(Judicial Section)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 14th July, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Clarification on para 6.31 of the 'Directive for the Efficient and Effective management of litigation by the Government of India'.

In reference to this Department's OM No. F.No.18/5/2016-Judicial dated 04.04.2025 on the above subject, adverting to Efficient and Effective management of litigation by the Government of India, this Department is receiving request from various Ministries/Departments/Subordinate offices seeking concurrence of this Department for dedicated panel of counsels for handling litigation concerning their Department in light of Para 6.31 of the above Directive. For the sake of clarity, Para 6.31 of the Directive is re-produced as under:

*"6.31 **Assignment of Panel Counsels:** The assignment of Panel Counsels to Ministries/Departments for the conduct of litigation may be undertaken taking into account their subject specific expertise and competency, as far as feasible and the recommendation of the concerned Ministry/Department may also be duly considered. The Department of Legal Affairs may issue guidelines for delegating authority to Ministries/ Departments for deciding on panel counsels or special counsels in cases involving very significant/ sensitive issues."*

2. In this regard, attention is invited to the Government of India (Allocation of Business), Rules, 1961 wherein the mandate has been given to Department of Legal Affairs to engage Counsel & conduct of cases on behalf of the Union of India before various Courts/Tribunals, the relevant portion of the Rules is re-produced as under:

(i)...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.

(ii) 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.

3. Therefore, it is clarified that para 6.31 of the Directive may be read with the provisions of Government of India (Allocation of Business), Rules, 1961 and instructions issued by this Department in this regard from time to time.

4. It is reiterated that the engagement of counsel on behalf of Union of India (i.e. for Ministries / Departments) for the conduct of litigation will be undertaken by the Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs only. Without prejudice to the instructions contained in this Department's OM No. F. No J-12017/1/2019 dated 21.10.2019 and other subsequent instructions issued from time to time, it is further clarified that on specific request of the administrative Ministries/Departments, in significant / sensitive issues, based on specific expertise in the subject matter of litigation before the courts/tribunals, a counsel from the panel of Union of India as approved by the Department of Legal Affairs may be considered on case to case basis on the normal terms and conditions of their engagement.

5. The above clarification is issued with the approval of competent authority.



(Madhab Charan Prusty)
Senior Government Advocate

To,

All the Ministries / Departments of Government of India (as per standard list).

Copy (through email) to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MoS (I/C) L&J.
2. The Cabinet Secretary, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. PSO to Law Secretary / All Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries and Legal Advisers in the main secretariat of DoLA.
4. Ld. Attorney General for India / Ld. Solicitor General for India.
5. The Additional Solicitors General for India (as per list).
6. The In-charge, Central Agency Section, Supreme Court, New Delhi.
7. All the four Branch Secretariats of Department of Legal Affairs at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru.
8. The In-charge, Litigation (High Court/CAT/Lower Court) Sections.
9. To upload on website of this Department i.e. www.legalaffairs.gov.in under tab 'Judicial Section' in the link 'Circulars pertaining to litigation'.
10. Hindi Section for providing Hindi version of this OM.
11. Office / spare copies.



(Kumar Gaurva)
Section Officer (Judicial)
Tel: 011-23384945
Email: judicial-dla@nic.in

**MODEL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)
FOR EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF
GOVERNMENT LITIGATION**
(For circulation to all Ministries / Departments)

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE - Department of Legal Affairs (DLA), Ministry of Law and Justice, has notified the Directive for Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation (hereinafter referred to as the Directives) by the Government of India on 4th April, 2025 pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries. The Directives recognises litigation management as a core governance function and emphasises the need for institutional discipline, consistency in the stand taken by the Government, fiscal prudence, and timely compliance with judicial directions/orders.

This model SOP operationalises the Directives uniformly across all the Ministries and Departments their attached/subordinate offices, along with other autonomous bodies. It creates no new legal obligations but sought to provide for an effective administrative framework for dealing with the aspects of litigation in a more concerted manner.

2. APPLICABILITY

This SOP applies to:

- All Central Ministries and Departments, their attached/subordinate offices, and autonomous bodies.
- Litigation before Courts, Tribunals, Arbitration forums, and other dispute resolution proceedings involving the Union of India as a party or otherwise.

3. OBJECTIVES

- Institutionalize timely, merit-based decisions on litigation and appeals and SLPs.
- Ensure consistency and coherence in the Government's stand.
- Promote pre-litigation resolution and ADR mechanisms.
- Ensure timely compliance with judicial decisions, directions, orders etc.
- Enable transparent, technology-driven litigation governance via LIMBS platform.
- Establish clear accountability at every stage.

4. CONSTITUTION AND ORGANISATION OF LEGAL CELL

4.1 Standard Legal Cell Structure

As per directive no. 6.1 of the Directives, the Ministry/Department must create a dedicated/common Legal Cell as per case-load, staffed with officers possessing legal expertise and experience in handling court cases in order to ensure specialized attention,

timely coordination, and effective management of all litigation matters to strengthen the Union of India's position before judicial and quasi-judicial forums.

Along with this, each Ministry or Department must nominate a Nodal Officer (the officer should preferably have an LLB degree or above and/or sufficient legal expertise, as well as a reasonable continuity of tenure), ordinarily not below the rank of Joint Secretary, to oversee and supervise litigation management, ensure coordination with the Department of Legal Affairs, and maintain consistency in the stand taken by the Government, thereby strengthening accountability, transparency and streamlining of the handling of the various cases pending before the various forums across the country.

4.2 Case Ownership and Internal Accountability

Adopt a case-ownership model:

- Distribute cases numerically or subject-wise among the officers of the Legal Cell.
- Designated officers should manage end-to-end process they are entrusted with viz. Action Taken Reports (ATR), LIMBS, pleadings, compliance, appeals etc.

4.3 Indicative Financial and Case-Volume Benchmarks

Each Ministry / Department shall determine:

- an indicative financial exposure threshold, and
- an indicative capping for the number of active cases (mainly appeals) to be pursued by concerned Ministries/Departments.

These benchmarks shall be reviewed annually at Secretary level and used as management indicators to identify excessive or repetitive litigation. They may not operate as absolute bars where litigation is legally or administratively necessary.

5. PRINCIPLES FOR THE CONDUCT OF LITIGATION

Ministries/Departments should follow following principles in the litigation:

- Emphasis should be on avoidance of litigation.
- Merit-based decision-making.
- Consistency of stand taken by the Government.
- Timely compliance with Court/Tribunal directions/orders/decisions etc.
- Minimum adjournments.
- Online monitoring via LIMBS.
- Clear allocation of responsibility and review thereof.

6. CLASSIFICATION OF CASES BASED ON SENSITIVITY

The Directives suggests that every case shall be formally classified at the scrutiny stage to determine the level of supervision.

Classification	Illustrative Criteria	Supervision
Highly Sensitive	National security, constitutional validity, major policy implications, very high financial stakes	Secretary-level review and periodic monitoring is a pre-requisite and hence mandatory
Sensitive	High financial exposure, sector-wide impact, significant regulatory consequences	Review by Nodal Officers; escalation to the Secretary if required
Regular	Routine service, contractual, or administrative disputes	Managed within the hierarchy of the Legal Cell

Classification shall be recorded in LIMBS and reviewed periodically.

7. UNIFIED GOVERNMENT STAND AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

All pleadings filed before Courts, Tribunals, and quasi-judicial forums shall reflect a single, unified, and consistent stand of the Union of India.

A consolidated counter affidavit/reply, based on inputs from the concerned Ministries/Departments, shall be the default and preferable mode, particularly in cases involving more than one Ministry or Department (**Cabinet Secretariat D.O. No. 1/50/3/20 16-Cab. Dated 16.06.2016**).

Separate affidavits may be filed only where expressly directed by the Court, and even in such cases:

- positions shall be coordinated,
- inconsistency, if any, in the stand shall be avoided,
- Avoid inter-ministerial dispute.

8. RECEIPT OF CASES AND END-TO-END WORKFLOW

8.1 Immediate Actions on Receipt

- Diarise and enter in LIMBS portal: Same day
- Identify urgency, subject ownership
- Identification of pro forma party status, wherever applicable

- Identification of lead Ministry in cases involving multiple ministries.
- Where a Ministry / Department is only a pro forma party or should not have been a party to the proceeding, it shall formally request the lead Administrative Ministry to handle the litigation on its behalf, as per extant instructions, rules or guidelines.

8.2 CATEGORISATION

All cases shall be categorised as:

- **Category A:** Ministry/Department is a necessary/proper party
- **Category B:** Ministry/Department wrongly impleaded without any relief sought
- **Category C:** Case incorrectly marked or pertains to another Ministry/Department

Timeline: Within 7 days from the date of receipt of notice/communication, in the case of urgency i.e. to avoid *ex-parte* Order of stay, injunction etc, it shall be processed immediately by the legal cell.

8.2.1 Category A - Ministry is Necessary/Proper Party

Stage	Timeline	Responsibility
Forwarding to Section concerned	2-3 days	Legal Cell
ATR submission	3-5 days	Concerned Section
ATR review	Within 2 days	Legal Cell
LIMBS updates	Within 2 days	Legal Cell

8.2.2 Category B - Wrongly Impleaded Cases

Action	Timeline
Subject verification	Same day
Identification of correct Ministry/Department	Same day
Transfer of case to the correct Ministry/Department	Within seven days
Instruction to counsel for deletion	Within two days
Follow-up till deletion	Regularly
Closure & LIMBS update	Within one day of deletion

8.2.3 Category C - Incorrectly Marked Cases

- Transfer to concerned Ministry within 1 to 2 days
- Formal communication to be issued to the above effect to the concerned Ministry/Department and to the Counsel.
- Instruction to the Counsel for deletion
- Case to be transferred to the correct Ministry in LIMBS platform

9. DRAFTING, CONSULTATION & VETTING

- The Administrative Ministry concerned shall prepare the counter affidavit or reply on behalf of the Union of India. Inputs from other Ministries shall be focused and issue specific (after due consultation with Internal Sections/stakeholders).
- Duly vetted/settled counter affidavit/reply should be filed within the time frame.

10. ACTION TAKEN REPORT (ATR) SYSTEM

ATR shall be the primary monitoring tool.

Each ATR must indicate:

- Counsel briefing
- Status of drafting / filing
- Compliance with court directions (as applicable)
- Next date of hearing

Incomplete or delayed ATRs shall trigger escalation.

11. DECISION ON IMPLEMENTATION OR APPEAL/SLP

11.1 Mandatory Pre-Decision Examination

Before initiating litigation, or deciding to file an appeal / Special Leave Petition (SLP) against judgment/order, the Legal Cell shall undertake a structured and reasoned examination of the matter. This examination shall be documented and placed on record.

The assessment shall, at a minimum, cover the following:

i. Nature of the legal issue

- Whether the issue involves a substantial question of law
- Whether the reasoning of the impugned order is patently erroneous or perverse

- Whether the issue is fact-specific or has precedential value
- ii. Chances of success
- Realistic assessment based on judicial trends and past outcomes
 - Counsel's opinion to be evaluated critically, not treated as determinative
- iii. Policy consistency
- Alignment with existing Government policy, circulars, or executive instructions
 - Risk of contradictory stands across Ministries, courts, or forums
- iv. Financial implications
- Immediate and contingent financial exposure
 - Potential ripple or multiplier effect on similarly placed cases
- v. Settled position of law
- Whether the issue is already covered by binding precedent
 - Whether continued litigation may amount to re-agitation of settled law
- vi. Scope for compliance
- Feasibility and implications of implementing the order
 - Whether compliance would avoid protracted litigation without policy dilution
- vii. Limitation period
- Availability of sufficient time for informed decision-making
 - The Ministry/ Department should adhere to limitation period as prescribed under Limitation Act or in the Statute.

11.2 Pecuniary Threshold and Committee on Appeals

In accordance with the Directives, pecuniary discipline shall be applied while considering appeals in contractual and commercial matters.

- Appeals involving monetary liability which in the opinion of any Ministry/ Department may have huge financial impact, except in tax matters and may cause a burden on the Government exchequer, shall be considered by a Committee on Appeals.
- The Committee on Appeals may consist of the Secretary (Expenditure) or his nominee and shall include:
 - i. the Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, or his nominee;
 - ii. the Secretary of the concerned Ministry / Department, or his nominee;
 - iii. a subject expert, wherever required.

- The Committee shall undertake a risk-reward analysis, including assessment of chances of success and consequences of adverse orders.
- The Department of Expenditure may issue guidelines prescribing pecuniary thresholds for filing appeals. For tax matters, thresholds prescribed by the CBDT/CBIC.

11.3 Intra Court Appeal/SLP Timeline

Any question of appeal filed against an adverse order should be examined in the light of the legal issues involved and facts and circumstances of the case and as per the advice of the DLA.

The timeline stated below should broadly be complied with:

Stage	Maximum Time
Administrative decision	15 days
Seeking DLA opinion	15 days
Drafting of Appeal / SLP	15 days
Final approval & completing documents	5 days
Preparation of paper book & filing	10 days

Appeals shall not be filed mechanically or as a routine response to the adverse orders as passed against the Government.

Also, specifying the timelines in the case of challenge of an Award/Appeal under Section 34/37 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, etc.

Review application to be filed within the limitation period.

12. CONDUCT OF LITIGATION AND ADJOURNMENTS

12.1 Continuous Monitoring of Proceedings

All litigation matters shall be actively and continuously monitored by the Legal Cell through:

- Regular coordination with engaged counsel,
- Review of cause lists, hearing outcomes, and court orders, and
- Tracking of filing deadlines and compliance requirements.

Monitoring shall focus not merely on attendance, but also on substantive progress of the case.

12.2 Monitoring of Adjournments

- Adjournments shall be treated as an **exception**, not a routine litigation strategy.
- No matter shall ordinarily be allowed to suffer more than two consecutive adjournments at the instance of the Government or its counsel.

12.3 Review and Recording of Reasons

1. Where **more than two consecutive adjournments occur**, the matter shall be:
 - a. Reviewed at the level of the Nodal Officer or Legal Cell In-Charge, and
 - b. Supported by specific, recorded reasons, clearly indicating:
 - i. Whether the adjournment was sought or granted,
 - ii. The cause for adjournment (court-related / counsel-related / administrative), and
 - iii. Corrective steps proposed to avoid recurrence.
2. Generic reasons such as “instructions awaited” or “matter under consideration” shall be avoided unless accompanied by defined timelines.

13. COMPLIANCE WITH COURT DIRECTIONS

The timelines as mandated by the courts via directions, orders, decisions etc. shall be strictly adhered and followed. In the cases, where delay is inevitable and hence cannot be avoided, advance extensions or exemptions shall be sought through the prescribed application and other means as available. Also, in cases where partial compliance is sought, the same shall be reported and submitted via proper filing status affidavits.

In the cases where a policy issue has been conclusively decided and settled by the decisions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, the concerned Ministry/Department may consider on priority basis to revise its policy, instructions or directions to prevent future repetitive litigation on the same issue.

14. PREVENTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

All the new statutes, rules, and major policies decisions shall be examined for risk assessment of litigation. Subordinate legislation shall be periodically reviewed to remove ambiguities, shortcomings or lacunas inter alia in the light of basic interpretational and legal deficiencies as are regularly pointed out by the Courts from time to time.

Before resorting to litigation, Ministries/Departments shall mandatorily explore:

- Administrative review / correction
- Inter-departmental consultation (as applicable)
- Possibility of settlement by Mediation
- Negotiated settlement (where permissible)

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms shall be actively adopted and promoted. The ADR mechanisms like Arbitration should be institutional by default wherever feasible, and arbitral awards shall not be treated as precedent. The ADR mechanisms shall also be actively promoted in line with the mandate as provided in the Mediation Act, 2023.

15. LIMBS -MANDATORY DIGITAL COMPLIANCE

15.1 Mandatory Use and Timely Updating

LIMBS shall be the single authoritative digital platform for all litigation monitoring.

- New cases: within one day
- Orders and filings: within one day
- Upload the documents after filing

15.2 User Sanitisation and Access Control

Each Ministry/Department shall periodically verify, update, and sanitise the LIMBS user list by removing inactive or unauthorised users and re-assigning role-based access. User sanitisation shall be treated as a prerequisite for effective LIMBS operation.

15.3 Accountability and Review

A LIMBS Nodal Officer shall be designated. LIMBS performance, data quality, and timeliness shall be reviewed internally and at the Secretary level.

15.4 Reporting and Escalation Mechanism

Stage	Timeline	Authority
Reminder	After 7 days	Admin User
First escalation	After 9 days	Legal Cell In-Charge
Second escalation	After 11 days	Nodal Officer
Final escalation	Persistent / critical	Secretary / AS

Inaccurate or delayed LIMBS data shall be treated as inaction.

16. PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED

16.1 Litigation Risk Assessment for Policies

All new statutes, rules, and major policy initiatives should undergo a litigation risk assessment covering legal landscape, risk level, and mitigation plan.

16.2 Section 80 Civil Procedure Code 1908 Notices

All notices under Section 80 Civil Procedure Code (CPC) 1908 shall be examined and responded to with reasoned decisions in a time-bound manner.

16.3 Tagging and Consolidation of Similar Cases

Efforts shall be made to tag and consolidate cases involving identical or substantially similar questions of law.

16.4 Old Cases and Repealed Laws

Cases pending beyond three years and litigation under repealed laws shall be reviewed / monitor periodically.

17. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Training and capacity building is to be considered as a core/major requirement. The Ministries/Departments shall conduct induction and refresher training/courses, engagements with the Government Counsels, utilising I-GOT Karmayogi courses, and organise thematic and annual workshops in consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA). Further, collaborations with Judicial Academies shall also be encouraged to provide specialised training modules enabling exposure with the diverse judicial perspectives and ideas.

18. ROOT-CAUSE ANALYSIS

18.1 Applicability

A structured Root-Cause Analysis (RCA) shall be mandatorily undertaken in respect of significant judgments involving policy, constitutional, or financial implications; and adverse judgments.

18.2 Identification of Systemic Gaps

The RCA shall specifically identify and document:

- Policy gaps
- Administrative lapses
- Drafting deficiencies
- Coordination failures
- Litigation management issues

The focus shall be on **systemic causes**, not individual fault-finding.

18.3 Placement Before Senior Leadership

The findings of the RCA shall be Placed before the **Secretary of the concerned Ministry/Department**, and circulated to other affected Ministries or stakeholders.

18.4 Corrective and Preventive Measures

Based on the RCA findings, the concerned Ministry / Department shall initiate **time-bound corrective actions**, which may include:

- Policy revision or clarification,
- Amendments to legislation, rules, or executive instructions,
- Standardisation of drafting templates or contractual clauses,
- Strengthening inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms,
- Capacity building or targeted training of officers handling litigation.

19. REVIEW AND MONITORING MECHANISM

Secretary-Level Review

Each Ministry/Department shall conduct monthly or quarterly litigation reviews at the Secretary level covering litigation trends, pendency, appeals, ADR usage, LIMBS compliance, case-ownership effectiveness and other systemic issues.

Continuous monitoring of hearings, filings, and orders is mandatory.

20. ANNUAL REPORTING

Each Ministry/Department shall prepare an Annual Litigation Management Report covering litigation profile, pendency, outcomes, appeals, ADR, LIMBS compliance, capacity building, and systemic issues.

SUBJECT-WISE CUSTOMISED ANNEXURES TO THE SOP

These Annexures are issued as subject-specific operational supplements to the SOP. They address litigation patterns, risks, and decision control unique to different categories of cases.

Each Annexure shall be read together with the SOP.

ANNEXURE - A SERVICE MATTERS

A1. Typical Litigation Profile

Category	Nature of Cases
Service Matters	Recruitment, promotion, seniority, transfers, pay fixation etc.
Pension	Arrears, pension revision, recovery etc.
Discipline	Charge-sheets, inquiries, penalties

A2. Mandatory Pre-Litigation Checklist (Service Matters)

Checkpoint	Responsibility	Mandatory
Compliance with relevant OMs/ Circular/ Orders of the Nodal Ministries*	Concerned Section	Yes
Issue covered by settled law	Legal Cell	Yes
Scope for administrative correction	Section + Legal Cell	Yes
Grievance redressal exhausted	Section	Yes

Litigation Decision shall not be initiated unless all checkpoints are addressed.

**The Ministries/Departments shall from time to time consolidate and update the relevant circulars/FAQ covering the above aspects and place it on their website.*

A3. Handling CAT / Court Orders - Action Matrix

Nature of Order	Default SOP Action
Order aligns with policy	Implement within timeline
Order is against the Government policy	Consult with DoPT/Administrative Department, DLA, Department of Expenditure and DoP&PW (where applicable). Appeals shall be subject to pecuniary and overall yearly cap on appeals.
Issue settled by previous judicial pronouncements	Examine the feasibility for the implementation in consultation with DoPT, DLA, Department of Expenditure and DoP&PW (where applicable)
Conflicting judgments	Act as per legal advice given by DLA

A4. Appeal Discipline in Service Matters

Situation	SOP Direction
Issue settled by the Supreme Court	Administrative decision to be taken for compliance of the Order. If the decision is not consonance with Govt. policy may consult DLA.
Fact-based dispute where no substantive question of law is involved	Implementation should be preferred
Minor financial implication	In personam implementation should be preferred.
Recurring issue affecting cadre or Govt. policy	Cadre Controlling Authority level policy review is required in consultation with DoPT
Constitutional / policy issue involving substantial question of law	Appeal should be preferred

A5. Disciplinary Proceedings - Litigation Prevention Controls

Stage	SOP Control
Departmental inquiry	As per the timeline provided under the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965/as per respective Act to initiate and compilation of the proceeding.

ANNEXURE – B

CONTRACT / INFRASTRUCTURE / PROCUREMENT RELATED

B1. Typical Litigation Profile

Category	Nature of Cases
Contractual Disputes	Breach, termination, interpretation
Arbitration	Claims, counter-claims, enforcement
Compensation and Infrastructure Claims	Land acquisition, project delays and payment of compensation
Commercial Appeals	Commercial disputes under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015/Company Law / Insolvency matters/Arbitration related dispute/Banking & Debt Recovery/Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)/Securities & Market Regulation

B2. Pecuniary Threshold and Committee on Appeals

In contractual / commercial matters:

Financial Implication	SOP Requirement
High value cases	Mandatory consideration by Committee on Appeals

B3. Contract Drafting Feedback Loop

Litigation Insight	Corrective Action
Interpretation adversely affecting the interest of the Government	Modify specific contract clauses
Procedural lapses flagged by courts	Revise tender/contract procedures

B4. Arbitration Management

- Dedicated arbitration sub-group within Legal Cell where required.
- Strict adherence to timelines for pleadings and arbitrator appointments.
- Periodic review of cost exposure and settlement feasibility.

Issue	SOP Requirement
Choice of arbitration	Institutional (e.g. IIAC)
Challenge to award	Merit + cost based
Review of arbitration cases	Secretary level, periodic

B5. Appeals in Contractual Matters

Situation	SOP Direction
Low value disputes	Normally avoid appeal
Interest liability risk	Avoid prolonged litigation
Public finance impact	Appeal after due consideration within 90 days

ANNEXURE – C
TAX / REVENUE RELATED

C1. Typical Litigation Profile

Category	Nature of Cases
Statutory interpretation	Tax, compliance, penalties
Regulatory enforcement	Licences, sanctions
High value appeals	Revenue impact

C2. Pecuniary Thresholds

- Follow Board threshold limit in tax matters.
- SOP appeal discipline principles apply in addition.

C3. Conflicting High Court Judgments

Scenario	SOP Action
Conflicting High Court judgments	Centralised review
Issue on virus of the Statute or in high tax effect involved in the matter	Consider SLP
Issues settled by the Supreme Court	Administrative decision to be taken for compliance of the Order. If the decision is not consonance with Govt. policy may consult DLA.

C4. Case Ownership

- Allocate litigation area-wise (e.g., assessments, enforcement, regulatory penalties).
- LIMBS tagging to track recurring statutory issues

C5. Coordination Protocol

Requirement	SOP Mandate
Unified Government stand	Mandatory
Lead Ministry identification	At scrutiny stage
Law Officer/Govt. Counsel briefing	Structured & recorded within timeline

ANNEXURE – D

MULTI-MINISTRY / HIGH-SENSITIVITY LITIGATION PROTOCOL

D1. Identification Criteria and SOP Requirements:

A case shall be classified as multi-Ministry/ high-Sensitive Litigation at the earliest possible stage (preferably at receipt/diary stage) if it satisfies any one or more of the following criteria:

1. Constitutional Challenges
 - i. Direct challenge to:
 - Constitutional validity of Acts, Rules, Regulations, or Executive Policies
 - Legislative or executive competence
 - Fundamental Rights or Basic Structure principles
 - ii. Matters likely to set binding precedent beyond the instant dispute.
2. National Policy Implications
 - i. Litigation impacting:
 - Ongoing or proposed national programmes/schemes
 - International commitments or treaty obligations
 - ii. Cases where inconsistent positions may undermine policy coherence.
3. High Financial Exposure
 - i. Matters involving:
 - Substantial revenue implications
 - Potential refunds, damages, or compensation with exchequer impact
 - Budgetary or contingent liability concerns
 - ii. Include cases with multiplier effect on similarly placed stakeholders.
4. Multi-Ministry Impact
 - i. Issues requiring inputs, approvals, or coordinated action from:
 - Two or more Ministries/Departments
 - Autonomous bodies or statutory authorities under different Ministries
 - ii. Situations where divergent affidavits may weaken the Union's stand

Attached or subordinate offices under the Department should report to the concerned Administrative Department regarding the Court case and if there are any policy related matters pending which requires uniform stand before the Courts and Tribunals particularly

in respect of such Ministries and Department who have pan India presence such as Department of Post, Ministry of Railway etc.

D2. Litigation Protocol

Once a matter is classified under this category, the following framework shall apply:

Role / Function	Action required
Lead Ministry	To be identified at receipt stage by the designated Nodal Officer, based on subject matter.
Nodal Officer	A senior officer (Joint Secretary level or equivalent) shall be designated as Single Point of Coordination (SPOC).
Inter-Ministerial Coordination	a. Formal circulation of case brief to all concerned Ministries within a fixed timeline; responses to be timebound. b. Joint strategy should be finalised through consultation meetings (physical/virtual). Unilateral positions to be avoided.
Pleadings	Consolidated Counter Affidavit/Reply shall be the default norm, reflecting a uniform stand of the Union. Separate affidavits only with recorded justification. Pleading of Appeal or plaint should be clear and specific narrating the facts connected with the case, grounds relating to jurisdiction, limitation etc should be mentioned.
Counsel Engagement	Senior Counsel / ASG / SG to be engaged based on sensitivity, stakes, and forum.
Approvals	All pleadings and strategic decisions to be approved by the Lead Ministry after inter-ministerial consultation wherever required.
Monitoring	Secretary level supervision with periodic status reviews for milestones, compliance and risk assessment.
Consistency Control	Crosschecking with existing Union positions in similar matters to avoid contradictory submissions before different Courts.
Record Management	Centralised digital repository for pleadings, opinions, Court orders, and instructions accessible to all concerned Ministries.

IMPLEMENTATION NOTE

- **These Annexures are supplements to the SOP.**
- **Ministries shall circulate the relevant Annexure internally to all Sections.**
- **Deviations shall require recorded justification at the level of the Nodal Officer.**

SOP is for internal use and guidance

प्रदीप कुमार सिन्हा
PRADEEP K. SINHA



MOST IMMEDIATE

मंत्रिमंडल सचिव
भारत सरकार
CABINET SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

D.O. No. 1/50/3/2016-Cab.

16th June, 2016

Dear Secretary

I would like to draw your attention to this Secretariat's D.O. letter No. 6/1/1/94-Cab. dated 25.02.1994 (copy enclosed) wherein it was mentioned that the business of the Government of India is transacted in the Ministries and Departments in accordance with the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961. As the Ministries and Departments conduct the 'allocated' business on behalf of the Government of India, all Ministries / Departments were requested to ensure that (i) a unified stand is taken before Courts of Law rather than bringing out the point of view of each Ministry/Department in the counter-affidavit/reply; and (ii) a common counter-reply is filed on behalf of the Union of India by the Ministry/Department concerned instead of separate affidavits being filed by each Ministry/Department named as Respondents.

2. It has, however, been observed that at times different Departments take up divergent positions/ individual interpretations in court cases thereby causing avoidable confusion in the submissions finally deliberated upon before the Courts. It may be noted that it is primarily the responsibility of the Administrative Ministry/ Department to take timely action at each stage including filing of a counter affidavit during a Court case after completing necessary consultations with the other Ministries/ Departments concerned.

3. If in any case, separate counter-affidavits are required to be filed by orders of the Court, it should be ensured that this is done in consultation with the Ministries/ Departments concerned for a coordinated approach. In such cases, a short affidavit endorsing the views of the Administrative Ministry/Department can also be filed.

4. In this regard, attention is also drawn to instructions issued by the Ministry of Law, Department of Legal Affairs from time to time where it has been stipulated that the Ministry/ Department is required to get the counter affidavit vetted from the Department of Legal Affairs before filing.

5. I would therefore request you to ensure that differences, if any, in the stand of Ministries/ Departments in any particular court matter are resolved through mutual consultation, as brought out above. It may also be ensured that the counter affidavits are filed only after appropriate vetting by the Department of Legal Affairs.

6. Please ensure that these instructions are noted and disseminated to all concerned for strict compliance.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Pradeep K. Sinha)

Encl. - As above.

To

All Secretaries to the Government of India.

New Delhi, 8th May, 2015

OFFICE MEMORADUM

Subject:- Deletion of the name of Cabinet Secretary from the array of respondents in
Litigation/Court Cases - regarding

It has been brought to the notice of this Department that Cabinet Secretariat has been receiving a large number of cases from different Courts/Tribunals which would generally fall in either of the following categories in so far as enlisting of respondents is concerned:-

- (i) Union of India (UOI) through Cabinet Secretary is arrayed as a proforma respondent, with the Ministry/Department specifically concerned with the subject of the case having been made the main respondent;
- ii) UOI through Cabinet Secretary is arrayed as the only respondent and the Ministry/Department concerned is NOT impleaded as a respondent;
- (iii) UOI along with a Ministry/Department which is not in fact, concerned with the case, is arrayed as a respondent, resulting in the Notice for hearing being served to the Department which is not in a position to effectively defend the case on behalf of UOI, and
- (iv) UOI along with a PSU/subordinate office under the Ministry/Department proper is impleaded as the respondent, resulting in failure/inability of the Ministry/Department proper to defend the case on behalf of UOI.

2. Cabinet Secretariat has been forwarding copies of the OA/WP/CP as the case may be, along with the Notice to the concerned Ministries/Departments with the request to defend the case on behalf of the Union of India and to get the name of Cabinet Secretary who is not directly concerned with the subject of the case, deleted from the list of respondents.

3. There have been instances where the Ministry/Department referred the proposal (i.e. for deletion of the name of Cabinet Secretary from the array of respondents) to the Government Counsel for his/her views. There has not been consistency in the views expressed by the Government Counsel. Some of them express the view that deletion of the name of Cabinet Secretary from the array of respondents would not be possible, even as they fail to cite any reasons for the averment. The drafting of the counter-affidavit usually takes a considerable time on account of the need to consult different Departments and to take inputs from them. In some cases, the Court gives very limited timeline for filing reply.

4. In view of the above, it has been decided for the guidance of the Administrative Ministries that:-

- (i) All the Ministries/Departments will seek the deletion of the name of Cabinet Secretary from the array of respondents and defend the interest of UOI, after receiving the instructions from the Cabinet Secretariat on receipt of the Notice of the case.
- (ii) The Ministry/Department will immediately engage the services of Law Officers/panel counsel, only through the Officer in charge, Central Agency Section for the cases before the Supreme Court, In- charge, Litigation (High Court) of Delhi/CAT, Principal Bench & Lower court section, Branch Secretariats at Bengaluru/Chennai/Mumbai/ Kolkata or the concerned Additional/ Assistant Solicitors General for the cases before other High Courts.

- (iii) Once the Government Counsel is engaged, the Ministry/Department will get an application drafted in consultation with the Government Counsel to implead itself as a respondent (in case it has not already been impleaded as respondent) and also to seek deletion of the name of Cabinet Secretary from the array of respondents, incorporating a prayer to the Hon'ble Court/Tribunal on the following lines:

"..... It is submitted that the President of India has formulated two sets of Rules under Article 77 (3) of the Constitution of India for convenient transaction of Business of the Union. Under the Govt. of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, Business of the Govt. of India is allocated by assigning one or more Departments in the charge of a Minister. Under the Govt. of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961, the business of the Department is disposed of by or under the general or special directions of the Minister- in- charge (Ref: Rule 3). In short, the business allocated to Ministry/Department is disposed of by the Minister-in-charge after following the Rules cited above. Therefore, the name of Cabinet Secretary, to whom the subject matter of the instant petition is not allocated, may be deleted as a Respondent...."

- (iv) The Ministry/Department will also simultaneously prepare para-wise reply in consultation with all concerned. The parawise comments prepared by the administrative Department/Ministry will be forwarded to the Government Counsel so as to enable him to prepare counter affidavit/reply in accordance with the rules of the Court/Tribunal. Thereafter, the same may be got vetted from the Department of Legal Affairs. The Legal Adviser who vets the counter affidavit has to ensure that the legal defence which are available to the Union Government are properly reflected in the counter. The Counter affidavit will also contain a paragraph containing the prayer that the name of Cabinet Secretary be deleted from the array of Respondents, by reproducing the text as given in (iii) above.
- (V) The Ministry/Department will keep the Cabinet Secretariat informed of further development of the case, including status of compliance of interim directions, if any, given by the Hon'ble Court/Tribunal. The Court case Module of e-Samiksha hosted by the Cabinet Secretariat will also be kept updated by the Ministries/Departments at periodic intervals.

5. This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice.



(Suresh Chandra)

Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser to the Government of India

To

1. All Ministries/Departments as per the list.
2. All the Law Officers as per the list
3. All Assistant Solicitors General as per the list.
4. Incharge, Branch Secretariats at Bengaluru/Chennai/Mumbai/Kolkata.
5. The Cabinet Secretariat w.r.t. their U.O. No. A-60025/1/2014-CC dated 24.2.2015
6. NIC to upload the same on the Ministry's website.



(R. K. Srivastava)
Deputy Legal Adviser (Judl)



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-05022026-269851
CG-DL-E-05022026-269851

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (i)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (i)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 104]

नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, फरवरी 5, 2026/माघ 16, 1947

No. 104]

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026/MAGHA 16, 1947

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय

(विधि कार्य विभाग)

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 5 फरवरी, 2026

सा.का.नि. 110(अ).— राष्ट्रपति, संविधान के अनुच्छेद 76 के साथ पठित अनुच्छेद 309 के परंतुक द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, विधि अधिकारी (सेवा की शर्तें) नियम, 1987 का और संशोधन करने के लिए निम्नलिखित नियम बनाती हैं, अर्थात्:-

1. (1) इन नियमों का संक्षिप्त नाम विधि अधिकारी (सेवा की शर्तें) संशोधन नियम, 2026 है।
(2) ये राजपत्र 01, फरवरी, 2026 की तारीख से प्रवृत्त होंगे।
 2. विधि अधिकारी (सेवा की शर्तें) नियम, 1987 के नियम 7 के स्थान पर निम्नलिखित नियम रखा जाएगा, अर्थात्:-
- "7. रिटेनर, फीस और भत्ते- नियम 5 में उल्लिखित कर्तव्यों का निष्पादन करने के लिए, विधि अधिकारी को -
- (क) उसकी छुट्टी की अवधि के दौरान के सिवाय,-
 - (i) महान्यायवादी के मामले में, एक लाख बीस हजार रुपये प्रतिमास;
 - (ii) महा-सालिसीटर के मामले में, छियानवे हजार रुपये प्रतिमास; और
 - (iii) अपर महा-सालिसीटर के मामले में, बहत्तर हजार रुपये प्रतिमास"

रिटेनर का संदाय किया जाएगा।

(ख) उच्चतम न्यायालय, विभिन्न उच्च न्यायालयों, जांच आयोगों या अधिकरणों और इत्यादि के समक्ष लंबित मामलों में भारत सरकार की ओर से उपस्थित होने तथा अन्य कार्य के लिए निम्नलिखित मापमानों पर फीस, अर्थात्:-

क्रम सं.	कार्य के मद की नाम पद्धति	उच्चतम न्यायालय, उच्च न्यायालय (दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय सहित) और अन्य न्यायालय (उच्चतम न्यायालय या उच्च न्यायालय से भिन्न) या किसी अधिकरण या किसी जांच आयोग या किसी मध्यस्थ के समक्ष मामलों में उपस्थिति और अन्य कार्य के लिए संदेय फीस की दरें
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	वाद, रिट याचिकाएं, अपील और अनुच्छेद 143 के अधीन संदर्भ (प्रति मामला प्रतिदिन)	38,400 रुपए प्रति मामला प्रतिदिन
2.	विशेष अनुमति याचिकाएं और अन्य आवेदन (प्रति मामला प्रतिदिन)	24,000 रुपए प्रति मामला प्रतिदिन
3.	अभिवचनों का निपटान (शपथ पत्रों सहित प्रति अभिवचन)	12,000 रुपए प्रति अभिवचन
4.	मामले के कथन का निपटान	14,400 रुपए प्रति मामला
5.	विधि मंत्रालय द्वारा भेजे गए मामलों के कथनों में राय देने के लिए (केवल संवैधानिक या कानूनी निर्वचन संबंधी और महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्नों को अंतर्वलित करने वाले मामलों के लिए) प्रति मामला	24,000 रुपए प्रति मामला
6.	उच्चतम न्यायालय, उच्च न्यायालय और जांच आयोगों या अधिकरणों के समक्ष लिखित निवेदन के लिए (प्रति मामला)	24,000 रुपए प्रति मामला
7.	दिल्ली से बाहर न्यायालयों में उपस्थिति (केवल भारत के उच्चतम न्यायालय में विधि अधिकारियों के लिए) प्रति मामला प्रतिदिन	96,000 रुपए प्रतिदिन प्रति मामला
8.	उच्च न्यायालयों में अपर महा-सालिसिटर के लिए अपने मुख्यालयों के अलावा उनकी अधिकारिता के भीतर न्यायालयों में उपस्थिति के लिए	60,000 रुपए प्रतिदिन प्रति मामला

स्पष्टीकरण:- यदि समान तर्कों के साथ सारवान रूप से एक जैसे प्रश्नों को अंतर्वलित करने वाले दो या दो से अधिक मामलों की सुनवाई एक साथ की जाती है तो विधि अधिकारी केवल एक ही मामले के रूप में फीस का हकदार होगा।

(ग) जहां किसी विधि अधिकारी को अपने कर्तव्यों के निर्वहन में मुख्यालय से बाहर यात्रा किया जाना अपेक्षित है, वहां क्रमशः :-

- (i) भारत के महान्यायवादी के लिए, सातवें केंद्रीय वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर-18 पर;
- (ii) भारत के महा-सालिसिटर के लिए, सातवें केंद्रीय वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर-17 पर;
- (iii) भारत के अपर महा-सालिसिटर के लिए, सातवें केंद्रीय वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर-15 पर;

केंद्रीय सरकार के समूह 'क' अधिकारी की पात्रता के अनुसार यात्रा बोर्डिंग और आवास के लिए संदाय या प्रतिपूर्ति की जाएगी।

(घ) यदि किसी विधि अधिकारी से नियम 5 में निर्दिष्ट कर्तव्यों जैसे मध्यस्थ के रूप में कार्य करना या दोनों पक्षकारों, जिनमें एक पक्षकार भारत सरकार है, को सुनने के पश्चात् राय देना, से भिन्न किसी कर्तव्य का पालन करने की अपेक्षा की जाती है, तो उसे ऐसी फीस का संदाय किया जाएगा जो केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा अवधारित की जाए।

[फा.सं. 12011/6/2025/न्या.]

एम.सी. प्रष्टि, वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिवक्ता

पाद टिप्पणः- विधि अधिकारी (सेवा की शर्तें) नियम, 1987 भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण, भाग II, खंड 3, उपखंड (i) तारीख 1 जनवरी, 1987 को अधिसूचना सं. सा.का.नि. 1 (अ), तारीख 1 जनवरी, 1987 द्वारा प्रकाशित किए गए थे और तत्पश्चात् उनमें निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं द्वारा संशोधन किए गए :

1. सा.का.नि. नं. 379(अ) तारीख 14 अप्रैल, 1987
2. सा.का.नि. 473(अ), तारीख 22 जून, 1993
3. सा.का.नि. नं. 403(अ) तारीख 2 जून, 1999
4. सा.का.नि. नं. 345(अ) तारीख 10 मई, 2001
5. सा.का.नि. नं. 106(अ) तारीख 25 फरवरी, 2005
6. सा.का.नि. नं. 723(अ) तारीख 16 दिसंबर, 2005
7. सा.का.नि. नं. 568(अ) तारीख 18 जुलाई, 2008
- 8.. सा.का.नि. नं. 772(अ) तारीख 1 अक्तूबर, 2015 ।

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Department of Legal Affairs)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 5th February, 2026

G.S.R. 110(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to article 309 read with article 76 of the Constitution, the President hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987, namely :-

1. (1) These rules may be called the Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2026.
(2) They shall come into force with effect from 01st day of February, 2026.
2. In the Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987, for rule 7, the following rule shall be substituted, namely: -

“7. Retainer, fee and allowances.” For the performance of the duties mentioned in rule 5, a Law Officer shall be paid

- (a) a retainer, except during the period of his leave, -
 - (i) in the case of the Attorney General, of rupees one lakhs twenty thousand per month;
 - (ii) in the case of the Solicitor-General, of rupees ninety-six thousand per month; and
 - (iii) in the case of Additional Solicitor General, of rupees seventy-two thousand per month;

(b) a fee for appearance and other work on behalf of the Government of India in cases before the Supreme Court, various High Courts, Commissions of Inquiry or Tribunals and the like on the following scales, namely: -

Serial Number	Nomenclature of the item of work	Rates of fees payable for appearance and other works in cases before the Supreme Court, High Court (Including Delhi High Court) and any Court (other than the Supreme Court or High Court) or a Tribunal or a Commission of Inquiry or an Arbitrator
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Suits, writ petitions, appeals and reference under article 143 (per case per day).	Rs. 38,400/- per case per day
2.	Special leave petitions and other applications (per case per day).	Rs. 24,000/- per case per day
3.	Settling pleadings (including affidavits per pleading)	Rs. 12,000/- per pleading
4.	Settling statement of case (per case per day)	Rs. 14,400/- per case
5.	For giving opinions in statements of cases sent by the Ministry of Law (Only for matters involving questions of Constitutional or Statutory interpretation and importance) per case	Rs. 24,000/- per case
6.	For written submission before the Supreme Court, High Court and Commissions of Inquiry or Tribunals (per case)	Rs. 24,000/- per case
7.	Appearance in Courts outside Delhi (Only for Law Officers in Supreme Court of India) per case per day	Rs. 96,000/- per day per case
8.	For appearance in courts within their jurisdiction, apart from their headquarters, for Additional Solicitor General for India in High Courts.	Rs. 60,000/- per day per case

Explanation.- If two or more cases involving substantially identical questions are heard together with common arguments, Law Officers shall be entitled to only one fee as for a single case.

(c) Where a Law Officer is required to perform journeys outside the headquarter in the course of his duties, he shall be paid or reimbursed for travelling, boarding and lodging as per the entailment of group 'A' Officer of the Central Government as follows: -

(i) Attorney General for India at pay level-18 of the seventh central pay commission;

- (ii) Solicitor General for India at pay level-17 of the seventh central pay commission;
- (iii) Additional Solicitor General for India at pay level- 15 of the seventh central pay commission respectively.

(d) If a Law Officer is called upon to perform any duty other than those referred to in rule 5, such as, acting as Arbitrator or giving any opinion in any matter after hearing both the sides, one being the Government of India, he shall be paid such fee as may be determined by the Central Government.

[F. No. 12011/6/2025-Judl.]

M.C. PRUSTY, Senior Government Advocate

Pot Note: The Law Officers (Conditions of Services) Amendment Rules,1987 were published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary part II, Section 3, Sub-Section (i), dated the 1st January, 1987 vide notification number G.S.R. 1(E) dated the 1st January, 1987 and subsequently amended wide the following notifications, namely:

1. G.S.R. No. 379(E), dated the 14th April,1987
2. G.S.R. 473 (E), dated the 22nd June, 1993
3. G.S.R. R 403 (E), dated the 2nd June, 1999
4. G.S.R.345 (E), dated the10th May, 2001
5. G.S.R. 106 (E), dated the 25th February, 2005
6. G.S.R. 723(E), dated the16th December, 2005.
7. G.S.R. 568 (E), dated the 18th July, 2008
8. G.S.R. 772(E), dated on 1st October, 2015.

No.J-12011/6/2025-Judicial/E.158060
 Government of India
 Ministry of Law & Justice
 Department of Legal Affairs
 (Judicial Section)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
 Dated the 05th February, 2026

Office Memorandum

Subject - Revision of fee payable to various categories of Central Government Counsel – reg.

In partial modification to this Department's various OMs issued from time to time, the undersigned is directed to convey approval of Competent Authority for the revision of the fee structure applicable to Government counsels of all categories with effect from i.e.01.02.2026 as per the details given below: -

Table 'A'

The fee structure applicable to Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' panel Counsel in Supreme Court

Sl. No.	Item of work	Group 'A' Counsel	Group 'B' & 'C' Counsel
1.	All Regular Appeals and defended Writ Petitions (for final hearing) per case per day	21600/-	14400/-
2.	All defended Admission matters (SLP/TP, writ petitions & other misc. matters for admission) per case per day	14400/-	7200/-
3.	Settling of pleadings (per case)	8400/-	--
4.	Appearance in Miscellaneous Applications (per case)	7200/-	--
5.	Drafting SLP/Counter Affidavit/ Rejoinder etc. (per case)	--	4800/-
6.	Drawing Written Submission (per case)	--	4800/-
7.	Drafting or Appearance in Miscellaneous Applications (including mentioning the case / Caveat / Clearance/ obtaining the number and taking date for the hearing) (per case basis)	--	4800/-
8.	Conference	1440/-	--
9.	Daily fee for services out of Headquarters	21600/-	14400/-
10.	Entitlement for travel / hotel expenses for services availed outside Headquarters	Where a Counsel is required to perform journey outside the	

[Handwritten signature]
 5/2/26

		headquarter in the course of his duties (official purpose), he shall be paid or reimbursed travelling and on boarding and lodging as per the level - 12 of 7 th CPC of the Central Government.	
11.	Clerkage	NIL	Nil
12.	Fee in identical/ connected cases: If matter is contested (per case) If matter is disposed without contest (per case) (in terms of clause 8 (ii) in chapter 1 hereinaabove)	If substantially identical SLP/Petitions or of Appeal/Counter Affidavits including stay applications are drafted in connected cases, only one drafting fee will be payable in the main case and no separate drafting fee will be payable in connected cases	
13.	Out of pocket and Misc. expenses	Not applicable	Not applicable

All other terms and conditions applicable to Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' Panel Counsel in Supreme Court in the pre-revised OM No. 21(04)/1999-Judl. dated 24.09.1999 read with OM No. 21(05)/2011-Judl. dated 01.10.2011 shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

Table-B

**All the High Courts and Tribunals
(Except Principal Benches of High Court of Bombay and Calcutta)**

The Fee structure applicable to Deputy Solicitors General of all High Courts and its Benches, Counsels of all the High Courts and Tribunals (except Principal Benches of High Court of Bombay and Calcutta alongwith CAT Mumbai and Kolkata Benches) as per the following rates:

Sl. No.	Item of work	Dy.SG, Sr. CGSC, CGSC, and SPC	CGC, Addl. CGSC & GP
1.	Retainership fee (per month) [admissible to all the Deputy Solicitors General of India; Sr. CGSC and CGSC (DHC)]	14400/-	

[Handwritten Signature]
5/2/26

2.	Suits, Writ Petitions, and Appeals, including oral Applications for Leave to Appeal to the Supreme Court in Writ Petitions along-with Criminal Revision Applications, Criminal Reference matters, Contempt Petition (Criminal), Misc. Criminal cases, Bail Applications etc. (per case per day)	(a) 14400/- (b) 2400/-	(a) 3600/- (b) 720/-
	(a) For effective hearing		
	(b) for non-effective hearing (maximum five non-effective hearings in a case or bunch of cases)		
3.	Application for Leave to Appeal to Supreme Court in Writ Petitions (per case)	4800/-	--
4.	Settling pleadings (per case)	4800/-	--
5.	Drafting of pleadings, counter affidavits / returns / answer to writ petitions / grounds of appeal and application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court except in cases where fee on ad valorem basis has been prescribed (per pleading)	--	2160/-
6.	Drafting of civil miscellaneous applications to petitions under the Indian Succession Act, contempt of court proceedings and other proceedings of an original nature (per petitions)	--	1800/-
7.	Original suits, civil appeals from decrees in suits and proceedings including 2 nd appeal and land acquisition appeal except LPA from petitions under article 226 and 227 of the Constitution i.e. Ad Valorem/regulation fee (It is a lump sum fee per case including drafting fee)	--	As per concerned respective High Court General rules/procedure.
8.	Miscellaneous Application	4800/-	--
9.	Conference fee* (per conference)	1440/- Subject to ; (i) for setting pleadings : one conference (ii) In respect of hearing of Writ matters, Suits	720/-

msd
5/9/16

		appeals and Supreme Courts leave applications etc. - three conferences (maximum)	
10.	Entitlement for travel / hotel services availed outside Headquarters	Where a Counsel is required to perform journey outside the headquarter in the course of his duties (official purpose), he shall be paid or reimbursed travelling and on boarding and lodging as per the level - 11 of 7 th CPC of the Central Government.	Where a Counsel is required to perform journey outside the headquarter in the course of his duties (official purpose), he shall be paid or reimbursed travelling and on boarding and lodging as per the level - 11 of 7 th CPC of the Central Government.
11.	Clerkage @10% of total fee in a case	---	2880/-
12.	Fee in identical / connected cases:		
	(a) If matter is contested -	(a) 1500/-	(a) 600/-
	When the Counsel filed Separate and materially different, affidavits, applications or grounds of appeal etc. in more than one case but the argument is heard in the main case and the other cases are decided accordingly, the Counsel shall be paid the full fee in the main case and Rs.150/- in each of the connected cases.	(b) 750/-	(b) 300/-
	(b) If matter is disposed of without contest -		
	when the main case has been contested as in (a) above, but in the connected cases either affidavits or grounds of an appeal or petition similar to the one in the main case or nothing at all has been drafted by the Counsel, he shall be paid the full fee in the main case and Rs.75/- only in each of the connected case.	(c) 1/3rd fee in main case and Rs. 1500/- in each of	(c) 1/3rd fee in main case and Rs. 600/- in

Handwritten signature
5/2/26

<p>(c) When substantially different affidavits are drafted in each connected case but all the cases are disposed of without contest, the Counsel shall get 1/3rd fees in the main case and Rs. 150/- in each of the connected cases.</p> <p>(d) When the Counsel has drafted the affidavit, petition or ground of appeal in the main case and has not drafted them in the connected cases or the drafts in the connected cases are substantially similar to the one in the main case and the cases are disposed of without contest, the Counsel shall get 1/3rd fees in the main case and Rs. 75/- in each of the connected cases</p>	<p>the connected matters.</p> <p>(d) 1/3rd fee in main case and Rs. 750/- in each of the connect matters.</p>	<p>each of the connected matters.</p> <p>(d) 1/3rd fee in main case and Rs. 300/- in each of the connected matters.</p>
<p>13. Out of pocket and Misc. expenses</p>	<p>As per actual and subject to satisfaction of Ministry / Department concerned</p>	

All other terms and conditions applicable to Counsel in various High Courts/CAT Benches (excluding the High Court of Bombay and Calcutta) in to this Department's OM No. 24(02)/99-Judl. OM No. 26(01)/99-Judl., OM No. 25(03)/99-Judl. and OM No. 26(02)/99-Judl. all dated 24.09.1999 read with OM No. 26(01)/2005-Judl. dated 31.01.2008 and OM No. 26(01)/2011-Judl. dated 01.10.2011 shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

Table 'C'

High Courts (Principal Benches) as well as CAT & Other Tribunals Benches of Bombay and Calcutta

The Fee structure applicable to Counsels of High Courts (Principal Benches) as well as Central Administrative Tribunal & Other Tribunals Benches in Bombay and Calcutta as per the following rates:

Sl. No.	Item of work	Rates of fee			
		Special Counsel	Senior Counsel Group - I	Senior Counsel Group - II	Jr. Counsel Advocate on record.
1.	Suits, Appeals, Writ/Revision Petitions including Special Civil Application in High Court along-with Criminal Revision Applications, Criminal Reference matters.	14400/-	9600/-	6000/-	2880/-

statab

	Contempt Petition (Criminal), Misc. Criminal cases, Bail Applications etc.				
	Per conference/ consultation	1440/-	1200/-	960/-	720/-
2.	Application including interim Motions, Notices, Appeals, Leave Application, Arbitration, Company Matter, Criminal revision and other Land Acquisition References (Per day per effective hearing)	4800/-	4800/-	3600/-	2160/-
	Per conference/Consultation	1440/-	1200/-	960/-	720/-
3.	Drafting or Settling Pleadings, and Affidavits (per pleading)	4800/-	2880/-	2400/-	1680/-
	Per conference/Consultation	1440/-	1200/-	960/-	720/-
4.	Appearance before Arbitration and Tribunal etc and Courts other than High Courts (Per day per effective hearing) Per conference/ Consultation	12000/-	9600/-	6000/-	3600/-
	Per conference/Consultation	1440/-	1200/-	960/-	720/-
5.	Chamber Application, including Adjournment Application per day inclusive of consultation	-	2400/-	1440/-	960/-
6.	Written opinions and written advice including advice on evidence (inclusive of consultation)	6000/-	3600/-	2160/-	1680/-
7.	Entitlement for Travel and Hotel expenses for services availed out of headquarter	Where a Counsel is required to perform journey outside the headquarter in the course of his duties (official purpose), he shall be paid or reimbursed travelling and on boarding and lodging as per the level - 12 of 7 th CPC of the Central Government.		Where a Counsel is required to perform journey outside the headquarter in the course of his duties (official purpose), he shall be paid or reimbursed travelling and on boarding and lodging as per the level - 11 of 7 th CPC of the Central Government.	

Amesh
5/2/96

All other terms and conditions applicable to the Counsels of High Courts as well as CAT Benches of Bombay and Kolkata in the pre-revised OM No. 23(02)/2001-Judl. & OM No. 22(02)/2001- dated 14th July 2001 read with OM No. 23(02)/2011-Judl. dated 1st October 2011 shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

Note: There will be no ceiling on the number of conference/consultation in the case of Special Counsel, however in the case of other categories of Counsels, the number of conferences per cases will be limited to four (relaxable to six) at the discretion of the Incharge (Litigation) of Branch Secretariat, Mumbai/Kolkata.

Table - D

All the District & Subordinate Courts throughout the Country

The fee structure applicable to Standing Government Counsel and Additional Standing Government Counsel in all the District & Subordinate Courts throughout the Country as per the following rates:

Sl. No.	Item of work	Rate of fee (all figures are in Indian Rupees)
1.	Retainership fee admissible to 'Standing Government Counsel' only (per month) (except in Delhi)	9600/-
2.	Fee for effective hearing (per case per day)	2880/-
3.	Fee for non-effective hearing (per case per day for maximum five non-effective hearings in a case)	960/-
4.	Fee for drafting Written Statement, Grounds of Appeal, etc. (per pleading)	2400/-
5.	Fee for drafting other pleadings of misc. nature (per pleading)	960/-
6.	Fee per Conference* (Subject to maximum five conferences in a case or group of identical cases)	1440/-
7.	Daily fee for out of Headquarters (per day)	3600/-
8.	Entitlement for travel / hotel expenses for services availed out of Headquarters	Where a Counsel is required to perform journey outside the headquarter in the course of his duties (official purpose), he shall be paid on


5/2/26

		reimbursed travelling and on boarding and lodging as per the level - 8 of 7 th CPC of the Central Government.
9.	Clerkage 10% of total fee excluding miscellaneous and out of pocket expenses	8400/-
10.	Fee in identical/connected cases	1200/-
11.	Out of pocket and Misc. expenses	As per actual and subject to satisfaction of Ministry / Department concerned

All other terms and conditions applicable to above mentioned Counsels in to this Departments' OM No. 27(11)/1999-Judl dated 24.09.1999 read with OM No. 27 (25)/2011- Judl. dated 01.09.2011, shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

Table -E
Panel Counsel for conducting arbitration cases before the arbitrators and arbitration tribunals

The fee structure applicable to counsel for conducting arbitration cases before the arbitrators and arbitration Tribunals as per the following rates:

Sl. No.	Item of work	Rates of fee	
		Senior Arbitration Counsel	Junior Arbitration Counsel
1.	Fee for effective hearing (per appearance)	3600/-	2400/-
2.	Fee for Non-effective hearing (per appearance and for maximum four hearings in a case)	720/-	480/-
3.	For drafting pleadings (per pleading)	2400/-	1200/-
4.	Conference fee (subject to a maximum of three conferences in a case)	720/-	480/-
5.	Daily fee (Out.of Headquarters) (per day)	4800/-	360/-
6.	Entitlement for travel / hotel expenses(for services availed out of Headquarters)	Where a Counsel is required to perform journey outside the headquarter in the course of his duties (official purpose), he shall be paid or reimbursed	Where a Counsel is required to perform journey outside the headquarter in the course of his duties (official purpose), he shall be paid or reimbursed

[Signature]
5/3/26

		travelling and on boarding and lodging as per the level - 12 of 7 th CPC of the Central Government.	travelling and on boarding and lodging as per the level - 11 of 7 th CPC of the Central Government.
7.	Clerkage (NEW ITEM)	10% of total fee in a case subject to a maximum of Rs. 2880/-	

All other terms and conditions applicable to OM No. 30(3)/99-Judl. dated 24.09.99 read with OM No. 26(1)/2005/Judl. dated 31.01.2008, shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

2. The above revised fee will be effective from 01.02.2026.
3. The counsels will be paid fee at the old rates in respect of their appearance in the Court etc. and other work done by them prior to 01.02.2026 and at the revised rates in respect of the work done by them on/ after 01.02.2026.
4. This issues with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure E.II(B) Branch, ID Note No.9/8/2025-E.II(B) dated 02.03.2015 and 12.01.2026.



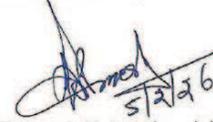
(M C Prusty)

Senior Government Advocate

Copy to:

1. All Ministries/Departments to the Government of India
2. Incharge. Central Agency Section, Litigation (HC) Section, Litigation Lower Courts Section, All Groups-A, B & C panel counsel of Supreme Court through Incharge.
3. Nodal Officer of Legal Cell, all Ministries/Departments to the Government of India
4. All Senior Panel Counsel of High Courts/ CATs through concerned Deputy Solicitors General in High Courts/Sr. CGSC of CATS Benches.
5. All Deputy Solicitors General in various High Courts/Sr CGSC of CATS Benches
6. All Central Government Standing Counsel/Central Government Pleaders of Delhi High Court
7. All Deputy Solicitors General/Central Legal Adviser of various High Courts
8. All Senior Central Government Standing Counsel/Addl. Central Government Standing Counsel of various CAT Benches.
9. All Standing Govt. Counsel and Additional Standing Govt. Counsel before various District and Subordinate Courts as per the list.
10. All Senior/Junior Counsel of the Arbitration Panel.

11. All Special Counsel, Senior Counsel Group-1, Senior Counsel Group-II and Junior Counsel of High Courts as well as CATs Benches of Bombay and Kolkata through the concerned Incharge of Branch Secretariat of Bombay and Kolkata.
12. Incharge, Branch Secretariats Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai/ Bangalore.
13. All Sections of Department of Legal Affairs.
14. Legal Advisor, Railway Board, New Delhi (with 5 spare copies).
15. Department of Personnel and Training (AT Section), New Delhi (with 5 s/copies.)
16. Joint Secretary (Legal), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi (with 5s/copies)
17. CBDT, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi (with 5s/copies).
18. Ministry of Urban Development, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi w.r.t. their ID Note No, 9/8/2025-E.II(B) dated 12.01.2026
20. DGS&D, New Delhi
21. NIC Cell with the request to upload the same in the website of this Department
22. Judicial Section with 50 spare copies.
23. O.L. Section for Hindi translation



(Ramesh Kairamkonda)
Section Officer
Tele – 23384945
Mail – judicial-dla@nic.in

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ON EMPANELMENT OF ADVOCATES FOR UNION OF INDIA

Q.1 What is 'Panel Counsel' for Union of India?

Department of Legal Affairs has been mandated with conduct of litigations on behalf of Union of India before various courts / tribunals in India. For this purpose, Department of Legal Affairs empanels Advocates for various courts / tribunals in the country generally for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. There are several categories (court-wise) in which this Department empanels Advocates and such empanelled Advocates are collectively called as 'Panel Counsel' for Union of India. However, 'Panel Counsel' is not a civil post and as such they are not regular Government Servant.

Q.2 Documentation / details required in the application for empanelment as a Panel Counsel for Union of India?

- (a) Name of court / tribunal seeking empanelment for.
- (b) Desired category of Panel Counsel available in that court / tribunal.
- (c) Certification on part of willing Advocate that he/she will be bound by all the terms & conditions (including fee) applicable to desired category of 'Panel Counsel' in the desired court/tribunal.
- (d) A detailed and duly signed Bio-data may be enclosed with application incorporating the necessary details like name, postal address, contact numbers, email, legal qualifications, full enrollment number with the Bar Council concerned.

Q.3 What categories of Panel Counsel for Union of India are available with Department of Legal Affairs?

Sl. No.	Name of Court / Tribunal	Available categories of Panel Counsel
1.	Supreme Court of India	(i) Group 'A' Panel Counsel (ii) Group 'B' Panel Counsel (iii) Group 'C' Panel Counsel
2.	High Court of Delhi	(i) Central Govt. Standing Counsel (ii) Senior Panel Counsel (iii) Government Pleader
3.	High Court of Bombay (PB) at Mumbai, and, High Court of Calcutta (PB) at Kolkata along-with CAT Mumbai and Kolkata Bench	(i) Special Counsel (ii) Senior Counsel Group – I (iii) Senior Counsel Group – II (iv) Junior Counsel
4.	All the other High Courts and their Benches alongwith Benches of High Court of Bombay at Nagpur, Aurangabad & Goa and the High Court of Calcutta at Jalpaiguri, Port Blair.	(i) Senior Panel Counsel (ii) Central Government Counsel

5.	All CAT Benches throughout the country (except CAT Benches at Mumbai and Kolkata)	(i) Senior Central Government Standing Counsel (ii) Senior Panel Counsel (iii) Additional Central Government Standing Counsel
6.	All AFT Benches throughout the country	(i) Senior Central Government Standing Counsel (ii) Senior Panel Counsel (iii) Central Government Counsel
7.	District Courts in Delhi	(i) Senior Panel Counsel (ii) Additional Central Government Counsel
8.	All District & Subordinate Courts throughout the country (except in Delhi)	(i) Standing Government Counsel (ii) Additional Standing Government Counsel

Q. 4 What is selection criteria / guidelines and procedure for empanelment of Advocates by Department of Legal Affairs for representing Union of India before various courts / tribunals in the country?

Department of Legal Affairs empanels / engages Advocates in various categories of Panel Counsel for conducting Central Government litigation before various courts / tribunals in the country with the approval of Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice on the basis of Advocate's interest, qualification, experience, reputation, expertise, professional competence and standing at Bar. Such empanelment / engagement is issued by the name of the President in the form of executive orders which are uploaded on website of Department of Legal Affairs.

Q.5 Whether any advertisement / notification is issued by Department of Legal Affairs for calling applications from desiring Advocates for the purpose of empanelment for any court / tribunal?

No. The empanelment of Advocates by Department of Legal Affairs is an ongoing process and is done on the basis of requirement of litigation before a particular court / tribunal.

Q.6 Whether there is any reservation on the basis of community and gender of Advocates for the purpose of empanelment by Department of Legal Affairs?

No.

Q.7 What emoluments are paid to 'Panel Counsel'?

As 'Panel Counsel' for Union of India are not Government Servant, they are not paid salaries and allowances. They are paid professional fee on case to case basis in lieu of their services as per the fee schedule applicable to their panel category. However, there are a few categories of 'Panel Counsel' which are paid retainerhip fee on monthly basis throughout their term in the entitled category. The fee schedule in this regard is as per this Department's OM No. [26\(1\)/2014-Judl. dated 01.10.2015](#) to be read with other OMs containing detailed terms & conditions applicable to 'Panel Counsel'.

Q.8 What is procedure for allotment of cases to 'Panel Counsel'?

Except in the Supreme Court of India, in all other courts / tribunals, allotment of cases to Panel Counsel is made by the Litigation In-charge of court concerned. The Litigation In-charges have been designated by the Department of Legal Affairs in OM No. [J-12017/1/2019-Judicial dated 21.10.2019](#). While in Supreme Court, Ld. Attorney General for India selects cases for his own appearance while other cases are marked by the Ld. Solicitor General for India to Additional Solicitors General for India and Panel Counsel vide OM No. [J-12017/1/2022-Judicial dated 13.09.2022](#).

Besides, recently an OM No. [J-16/20/2024-Judicial dated 16.10.2024](#) has also been issued wherein detailed guidelines were circulated for proper and transparent allocation of cases by designated litigation in-charges.

Q.9 Whether services of Panel Counsel engaged by Department of Legal Affairs are also available in criminal proceedings related to Delhi Police?

Yes, but only in criminal proceedings against the Delhi Police personnel related to their official duties and subject to specific approval of Ministry of Home Affairs, vide OM No. [J-11019/3/2024-Judicial dated 14.11.2024](#).

Q.10 Is there any special arrangement in case any Panel Counsel is designated as 'Senior Advocate' by the Supreme Court or a High Court?

In view of certain restrictions on designated 'Senior Advocates' mentioned in the Advocate's Act, 1961 and Bar Council of India Rules, whenever a Panel Counsel is designated as 'Senior Advocate', he / she would be provided a suitable assisting counsel from the respective panel, vide OM No. [J-11017/61/2024-Judicial dated 02.12.2024](#).

Q.11 Is there any sanctioned strength of Panel Counsel (Court-wise)?

As stated earlier 'Panel Counsel' for Union of India is not a civil post hence, the concept of sanctioned strength is not applicable in case of 'Panel Counsel'. Advocates are empanelled for a particular court / tribunal by Department of Legal Affairs in numbers as required from time to time.

Q.12 Are the Panel Counsel for Union of India allowed for private practice?

Panel Counsel for Union of India may continue their private practice but with restriction to the extent that they cannot appear / advise in matters against Union of India in any manner vide Department of Legal Affairs [OM No. J-16/11/2017-Judicial dated 08.02.2018](#).

Q.13 What are the terms & conditions applicable to Panel Counsel for Union of India?

The detailed terms & conditions applicable to various categories of panel counsel (court-wise) are governed by various Office Memoranda of Department of Legal Affairs, as indicated below:

Sl.No.	OM No. and date	Applicable to panel for
1.	21(4)/99-Judl. dated 24.09.1999	Supreme Court of India
2.	24(2)/99-Judl. dated 24.09.1999	Delhi High Court, CAT (PB), AFT (PB)
3.	23(1)/1987-Judl. dated 24.04.1987	High Court of Bombay (PB) at Mumbai, CAT Mumbai Bench
4.	23(1)/87-Judl. dated 05.06.1987	High Court of Calcutta (PB) at Kolkata, CAT Kolkata Bench
5.	26(2)/99-Judl. dated 24.09.1999	High Court of Karnataka (PB) at Bengaluru, CAT Bengaluru Bench
6.	25(3)/99-Judl. dated 24.09.1999	High Court of Madras (PB) at Chennai, CAT Chennai Bench
7.	26(1)/99-Judl. dated 24.09.1999	Rest of the High Courts in the country including Benches of the High Court of Bombay and the High Court of Calcutta, CAT Benches (excluding CAT Mumbai & CAT Kolkata) and AFT Benches in the country.
8.	27(11)/99-Judl. dated 24.09.1999	All the District & Subordinate Courts throughout the country.

All the above OMs are available on website of this Department i.e. www.legalaffairs.gov.in under tab 'Judicial Section' in the link '[Circulars pertaining to litigation](#)'.

Q.14 What action can be taken against a Panel Counsel on mis-conduct?

On receipt of a complaint against any panel counsel, due enquiry is conducted and in case a mis-conduct or violation of terms & conditions by a Panel Counsel is proved, the Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice can remove him / her from the panel.

LIST OF LAW OFFICERS

Sl. No.	Designation	Name (S/Shri/MS)	Contact Details	Date of Notification / Appointment	Date of Expiry of Term
1	Attorney General for India (Supreme Court of India)	R. VENKATARAMANI	Residence & Office: 10, Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110001; Tel: 011-23383254, 011-20818150; Fax: 011-23782101 (O); Email: attorney-general@gov.in	01.10.2022 (Reappointed w.e.f. 01.10.2025)	For a period of two years i.e. till 30.09.2027
2	Solicitor General of India (Supreme Court of India)	TUSHAR MEHTA	Res: 10, Akbar Road, New Delhi-110001; Chamber No. 25A, 2nd Floor, Supreme Court, New Delhi; Ph: 011-21411446; Mob: 09824009478; Email: tusharmehta.sg@gmail.com	10.10.2018 (Reappointed w.e.f. 01.07.2023)	For a period of three years i.e. till 30.06.2026 or until further orders whichever is earlier
3	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	VIKRAMJIT BANERJEE	Chamber/Residence: C-67, 2nd Floor, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-110013; Mob: 9910087714; Tel: 011-24354746; Email: vikramjit.b@gmail.com ; officeofvikramjitbanerjee@gmail.com	05.03.2018 (Reappointed w.e.f. 01.07.2023)	For a period of three years i.e. till 30.06.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
4	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	K. M. NATARAJ	Law Officer's Chambers, Supreme Court, Tilak Road, New Delhi-110001; Tel: 011-23384630; Res: Bungalow No. 28, Canning Lane, New Delhi-110001; Mob: 09845000171; Email: kmnagasc@gmail.com	14.01.2019 (Reappointed w.e.f. 01.07.2023)	For a period of three years i.e. till 30.06.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
5	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	SURYAPRAKSSH V. RAJU	Office: SE-124, Supreme Court of India, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi; Res: 12A, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-110001; Mob: 7926853003, 7926853005; Email: svrajunioradvocate@gmail.com	30.06.2020 (Reappointed w.e.f. 30.06.2023)	For a period of three years i.e. till 29.06.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
6	Additional Solicitor General for	N. VENKATARAMAN	Office: SE-121, 2nd Floor, Pandara Road, New Delhi-110003; Res: AB-2, Pandara	30.06.2020 (Reappointed	For a period of three years

LIST OF LAW OFFICERS

Sl. No.	Designation	Name (S/Shri/MS)	Contact Details	Date of Notification / Appointment	Date of Expiry of Term
	India (Supreme Court of India)		Road, New Delhi-110003; Mob: 9841019709; Email: nv@nvenkat.com	w.e.f. 30.06.2023)	i.e. till 29.06.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
7	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	MS. AISHWARYA BHATI	Office: 57, Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110003; Mob: 9350852003; Tel: 011-201818152; Email: aishwaryabhathi@gmail.com	30.06.2020 (Reappointed w.e.f. 30.06.2023)	For a period of three years i.e. till 29.06.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
8	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	S. DWARAKANATH	Chamber No. 06, ILI Building, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi-110001; Mob: 9849553375; Tel: 040-23356130; Email: asgdwarak@gmail.com	10.09.2024	For a period of three years i.e. till 09.09.2027 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
9	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	MS. ARCHANA PATHAK DAVE	Office: 530, Pocket E, Mayur Vihar Phase 2, New Delhi-110091; Mob: 9971222581; Email: archana.p.dave@gmail.com	10.09.2024	For a period of three years i.e. till 09.09.2027 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
10	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	S. D. SANJAY	C-41, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi; K-10, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi; Mob: 9835024488, 9334129925; Email: sdsanjaysg@gmail.com ; sdsanjaysgsc@gmail.com	10.09.2024	For a period of three years i.e. till 09.09.2027 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
11	Additional Solicitor	BRIJENDER CHAHAR	Office: C-253, First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-	10.09.2024	For a period of

LIST OF LAW OFFICERS

Sl. No.	Designation	Name (S/Shri/MS)	Contact Details	Date of Notification / Appointment	Date of Expiry of Term
	General for India (Supreme Court of India)		110024; Mob: 9811006761; Tel: 011-24336761, 23070930, 2275P9122; Email: chaharbs@hotmail.com		three years i.e. till 09.09.2027 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
12	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	RAJ KUMAR BHASKARTHAKAR E (Raja Thakare)	301, Maruti Mansion, 17 Raghunath Dadaji Street, Fort, Mumbai-400001; Mob: 9821110714; Email: raja.thakare@gmail.com	10.09.2024	For a period of three years i.e. till 09.09.2027 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
13	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	RAGHAVENDRA P. SHANKAR	Office: C-45, First Floor, Nizamuddin East, Delhi-110013; Mob: 9971129444; Email: raghav@rshankar.net	10.09.2024	For a period of three years i.e. till 09.09.2027 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
14	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	DAVINDER PAL SINGH	R-1, Nehru Enclave, New Delhi-110019; Tel: 011-40501734	23.12.2025	For a period of three years i.e. till 22.12.2028 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
15	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR	Hyderabad: 509-S-III, Road No. 86, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500096; Mob: 9849082757; Email: advocatekrk@gmail.com	23.12.2025	For a period of three years i.e. till 22.12.2028 or until further orders, whichever is earlier

LIST OF LAW OFFICERS

Sl. No.	Designation	Name (S/Shri/MS)	Contact Details	Date of Notification / Appointment	Date of Expiry of Term
16	Additional Solicitor General for India (Supreme Court of India)	ANIL KAUSHIK	H-11, LGF, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014; Mob: 9810414419; Email: anil.kaushik2000@gmail.com	23.12.2025	For a period of three years i.e. till 22.12.2028 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
17	Additional Solicitor General for India (Rajasthan High Court)	BHARAT VYAS	Chamber No. 217, A-Block, Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur; C-34B, Satya Marg, Hawa Sadak, Jaipur; Mob: 9829016067; Email: vyas.kapil@icloud.com	01.10.2025	For a period of three years i.e. till 25.09.2028 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
18	Additional Solicitor General for India (Punjab & Haryana High Court)	SATYAPAL JAIN	Kothi No. 2224, Sector-15-C, Chandigarh; Tel: 0172-2772232; Fax: 0172-4632232; Email: contact@satyapaljain.com	08.04.2015 (Reappointed w.e.f. 01.07.2023)	For a period of three years i.e. till 30.06.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
19	Additional Solicitor General for India (Allahabad High Court)	SHASHI PRAKASH SINGH	Savitri Nilayam, 2/22, Triveni Nagar, Kunwar Chandra Prakash Marg, Lucknow-226020; Mob: 9415418194, 7388418194; Email: shashiprakashsingh52@gmail.com	09.02.2018 (Reappointed w.e.f. 01.07.2019, 01.07.2022, 01.07.2025 and 01.10.2025)	For a further term of six months i.e. till 31.03.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
20	Additional Solicitor General for India (High Court of Madras)	AR. L. SUNDARESAN	Chamber: No. 247, Additional Law Chambers, High Court Buildings, Chennai-600104; Office: Door No. 101/6, 5th Street, Padmanabha Nagar, Adyar, Chennai-600104; Mob: 9841277324; Tel: 044-24423265, 24433442; Email: asgiarls67@gmail.com	19.12.2022 (Reappointed w.e.f. 19.12.2025)	For a period of three years i.e. till 18.12.2028 or until further orders,

LIST OF LAW OFFICERS

Sl. No.	Designation	Name (S/Shri/MS)	Contact Details	Date of Notification / Appointment	Date of Expiry of Term
					whichever is earlier
21	Additional Solicitor General for India (High Court of Calcutta)	ASOK KUMAR CHAKRABARTI	Address: 12, Anjuman ARA Begum Row, 2nd Floor, Tollygunj, Kolkata-700033; Chamber: 41, Haripada Dutta Lane, Tollygunj, Kolkata-700033; Mob: 9874374633; Tel: 033-24222797; Email: sr.adv.asok@gmail.com	09.07.2022 (Reappointed w.e.f. 09.07.2025)	For a period of one year i.e. till 08.07.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
22	Additional Solicitor General for India (High Court of Delhi)	CHETAN SHARMA	Office: K-8, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014; Residence: 16, Teen Murti Lane, New Delhi-110011; Email: chetansharmamailbox@yahoo.co.in ; chetan.asg@gmail.com	01.07.2020 (Reappointed w.e.f. 01.07.2023)	For a period of three years i.e. till 30.06.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
23	Additional Solicitor General for India (Patna High Court)	DR. KRISHNA NANDAN SINGH	7, Pataliputra Colony, Patna-800013; Mob: 9471622028; Tel (Res): 0612-2263675, 0612-2973016; Email: asgi.patna@yahoo.com	01.07.2020 (Reappointed w.e.f. 01.07.2023)	For a period of three years i.e. till 30.06.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
24	Additional Solicitor General for India (High Court of Jharkhand)	PRASHANT PALLAVA	Chamber-1C/278, High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi-834004; Mob: 9470307609, 9835582940; Email: prashantpallav.10@gmail.com	01.11.2025	For a period of three years i.e. till 31.10.2028 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
25	Additional Solicitor General for India (Karnataka High Court)	KULOOR ARVIND KAMATH	Address: 340 "Kailas", 4th Cross, GKVK Layout, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064; Mob: 9845101342; Email: kamathlaw@gmail.com	17.10.2023	For a period of three years i.e. till 16.10.2026 or until further

LIST OF LAW OFFICERS

Sl. No.	Designation	Name (S/Shri/MS)	Contact Details	Date of Notification / Appointment	Date of Expiry of Term
					orders, whichever is earlier
26	Additional Solicitor General for India (High Court for the State of Telangana)	B. NARASIMHA SHARMA	Office: 512, Nilagiri, Aditya Enclave, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-38; Residence: 38, Maple Town Villas, near Suncity, Rajendra Nagar Mandal, Bandlaguda Jagir Municipality, Hyderabad-500086, Telangana; Mob: 9440466775; Email: binsarmaadvocate@gmail.com	17.10.2023	For a period of three years i.e. till 16.10.2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
27	Additional Solicitor General for India (High Court of Bombay)	ANIL CHANDRABALI SINGH	Office: 2nd Floor, Building No. 35, Ambalal Doshi Marg, Opp. Hamam House, Fort, Mumbai-400023; Mob: 9820294439; Email: anilcsinghadv@gmail.com	10.03.2025	For a period of three years i.e. till 09.03.2028 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
28	Additional Solicitor General for India (High Court of Andhra Pradesh)	CHALLA DHANAMJAYA	#56-4-25, 3rd Floor, Thyagarajan Complex, High School Road, Patamata, Vijaywada-520010, Andhra Pradesh; Mob: 9849050205; Email: ghanamjayachalla999@gmail.com	27.01.2025	For a period of three years i.e. till 26.01.2028 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
29	Additional Solicitor General for India (High Court of Madhya Pradesh)	SUNIL JAIN	306-307, Man Heritage, 6/2, South Tukoganj, Indore (M.P.); Mob: 9826420424, 7314006377; Email: suniljain307@gmail.com	29.09.2025	For a period of three years i.e. till 28.09.2028 or until further orders, whichever is earlier

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

SI. No.	Name of High Court/ Bench of High Court	Name of present Deputy Solicitor General of India	Contact details	Date of Notification /Engagement	Date of expiry of term
1.	Allahabad High Court (PB) at Allahabad	SHIV KUMAR PAL	Chamber No. 105A, New Building, High Court, Allahabad, UP Residence: 87/56/1, Tilak Road, Baluaghat, Prayagraj, UP. Mob: 9415215802, 7054376729 Email: shivkumarpaladv@gmail.com	24.07.2025	23.07.2028
2.	Allahabad High Court Bench at Lucknow	SURYA BHAN PANDEY	C-8, Bhikhampur Colony, Paper Mill Road, Nishat Ganj, Lucknow-226006 Mob: 9415111887, 9415320088, 8004011848 Email: suryabhan.15@gmail.com	10.09.2014 (Term extended twice w.e.f. 10.09.2023)	Until Further Orders
3.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	PASALAPON NA RAO	H.No.7-455/R23, Rajivgruhakalpa Road, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503	19.08.2024	18.08.2027

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

			<p>Mob: 9885768905</p> <p>Email: pasala.advocate@gmail.com</p>		
4.	High Court of Bombay Bench at Aurangabad	AJAY GAJANAN TALHAR	<p>Plot No. 6, Mukund Cooperative Housing Society, CIDC N-2, Aurangabad- 431003</p> <p>Mob: 9890634453, 9284259009</p> <p>Email: advtalhar@rediffmail.com</p>	17.07.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 17.07.2023)	16.07.2026
5.	High Court of Bombay, Bench at Goa	PRAVIN NILKANTH FALDESSAI	<p>307, 3rd Floor, Rizvi Chambers, Opposite Hotel Delmon, Caetano, Albuquerque Road, Panaji, Goa</p> <p>Mob: 8322421677, 9422446598, 7722008562</p> <p>Email: pravinfaldessai@ gmail.com, faldessaiassociate s@gmail.com</p>	09.03.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 09.03.2023)	Until further orders
6.	High Court of Calcutta (PB) at Kolkata	DHIRAJ KUMAR TRIVEDI (DHIRAJ TRIVEDI)	<p>Res: "TrivediBhawan", 25A, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata- 700001, West</p>	13.01.2022 13.01.2026 (Term extended for six months w.e.f.	12.07.2026

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

			Bengal Off: 1B, Old Post Office Street, 1stFloor, Kolkata-700001, West Bengal Mob: 9831128150 Email: dhirajtrivedi@gm ail.com	13.01.2026 vide order dtd. 13.01.2026)	
7.	High Court of Calcutta (PB) at Kolkata	RAJDEEP MAZUMDER	AC-154, Salt Lake, Sector-I, Kolkata-700064. Mob: 9831113098 Email: rajdeep.legal@g mail.com	11.03.2024	10.03.2027
8.	High Court of Calcutta, Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri	SUDIPTO KUMAR MAZUMDAR	211, Sachin Sarkar Sarani, College para, Siliguri, PO & PS Siliguri, District Darjeeling- 734001 Mob: 9733048718 Email: sudiptomazumda r17@gmail.com	07.10.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 07.10.2023)	06.10.2026
9.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	RAMAKANT MISHRA	H. No. 67, Sector- 1, Geetanjali Nagar, Raipur- 492007, Chhattisgarh Mob: 9425207830, 0771-2442850	08.09.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 08.09.2023)	07.09.2026

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

			Email: officeofasgbsp@gmail.com		
10.	Gauhati High Court (PB) at Guwahati	RANJIT KUMAR DEV CHOUDHURY	S/o Late Bhabesh Chandra Dev Choudhury, Kailash Ganga” Nizarpar, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003 Mob: 9864062606 Email: rdevchoudhury@rediffmail.com	07.10.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 07.10.2023)	06.10.2026
11.	Gauhati High Court, Permanent Bench at Itanagar	MARTO KATO	D-Sector, Near Polo Park, Naharlagun, PO & PS Naharlagun, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh Mob: 9436271546, 9436221587 Email: martokato.kato10@gmail.com	08.09.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 08.09.2023)	07.09.2026
12.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	BALRAM SHARMA	Panchwati Bhawan, SDA Complex, Opposite Block No. 38, Kasumpati, Tehsil & District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh-171009 Mob: 9418010120	28.01.2021 (Term extended for another term w.e.f. 28.01.2024)	27.01.2027

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

			Email: balramsharmaadvocate@gmail.com		
13.	High Court of Jammu & Kashmir at Jammu	VISHAL SHARMA	H.No.45, LaneNo.1, Garden Avenue, Near Govt. Guest House Jammu 180016 Mob: 9419181558, 0191-2503422 Email: vishalsharma.jk@gmail.com	03.01.2019 03.01.2025 (Term extended for a six months w.e.f. 03.01.2025 vide order dtd. 18.12.2025)	02.07.2026
14.	High Court of Jammu & Kashmir at Srinagar	TAHIR MAJI SHAMSI	Shamsi Mansion, Kralpora link Road, Telhsil Baghat-e-Kannipora, Dist. Budgam Kashmir- 190019 Mob: 9419078450, 7006915258 Email: tahirshamsi@yahoo.com	28.12.2016 28.12.2022 (Term extended for three years w.e.f. 28.12.2025 vide order dtd 18.12.2025)	27.12.2028
15.	High Court of Jharkhand	PRASHANT KUMAR SINGH	Chamber-1/C 77, Ground, Jharkhand High Court Residence- Plot no. 467/C, Mandir Marg. Ashok Nagar, Ranchi-834002	01.11.2025	31.10.2028

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

			<p>Mob: 09431189644, 08292642626</p> <p>Email: prashantkrs11@g mail.com</p>		
16.	High Court of Karnataka (PB) at Bengaluru	SHANTHI BHUSHAN H.	<p>Chamber: No. F- 113, Central Chambers, 2-A, 2nd Floor, 2nd Main, Gandhinagar, Bangalore- 560009</p> <p>Residence: No. 583, “Hombelaku”, 1st Cross, 3rd Main, 2nd Block, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore- 560032 Mob: 9448460900, 9986583507</p> <p>Email: khsbhushan@gmail.com</p>	30.07.2021 (Term extended for a further period of one-year w.e.f. 30.07.2024 & 30.07.2025)	29.07.2026
17.	High Court of Karnataka, Bench at Kalaburagi (Gulbarga)	SUDHIR SINGH VIJAPUR	<p>Plot No. MIG 149, West Wing, KHB Colony, Akkamahadevi Colony, Beside High Court, Kalaburagi- 585107</p> <p>Mob: 9448408360</p> <p>Email: sudhirsinghgeeta@gmail.com</p>	08.09.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 08.09.2023)	07.09.2026

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

18.	High Court of Kerala	SHALINA O.M	"Light House", 2nd Floor, Tata Pipeline Road, Ayyappankkavu PO, Ernakulam-682018 Mob:9847932979 Tel: 0484-2390004 Email: shalinaom@gmail.com	05.05.2025	04.05.2028
19.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh (PB) at Jabalpur	SUYASH MOHAN GURU	F-3, C-Block, Satyemav Jayate Complex, Ambedkar Chowk, Near High Court, Jabalpur- 482001, Madhya Pradesh Mob: 9560038621 Tel: 0761-2629301 Email: suyash.guru@gmail.com	08.09.2025	07.09.2028
20.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Bench at Gwalior	PRAVEEN KUMAR NEWASKAR	303, Sai-Sankalp Apartment, Near Kilkari Hospital, Nai Sadak, Lashkar, Gwalior, M.P. Pin-474001 Mob: 9425308714, 7773081954 Tel. 0751-2424716	07.10.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 07.10.2023)	06.10.2026

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

			Email: newaskaradvocate@gmail.com		
21.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Bench at Indore	ROMESH DAVE	Chamber: Chamber No. 28, Advocates 15.05.2025 14.05.2028 Chamber, High Court Campus, M. G. Road, Indore-452001 Res.: Chamber No. HA-24, Takshshila Parisar, Near Rajendra Nagar Police Station, A.B. Road, Indore452012. Mob: 9826087724 Email:romeshdave@gmail.com	15.05.2025	14.05.2028
22.	High Court of Madras (PB) at Chennai	R. RAJESH VIVEKANANTHAN	Residence: No. 5, Ganapathy Street, LIC Colony Extension, Pammal, Chennai-600075 Mob: 9840260631 Email:rajesh_vivekananthan@yahoo.co.in	31.03.2021 (Term extended w.e.f. 28.02.2024)	27.02.2027
23.	High Court of Madras, Bench at Madurai	K. GOVINDARAJAN	Chamber No. 106, Law Chambers, High Court Bench at Madurai-625023	14.03.2023	13.03.2026

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

			Mob: 9443260698 Email: kgovindarajan@kgrassociates.net		
24.	High Court of Meghalaya	DR. NITESH MOZIKA	M. J. Towers, Morello Compound, Near High Court, Shillong-793001, Meghalaya Mob: 9436335046 Email: niteshmozika@gmail.com	08.09.2020 (Term extend ed w.e.f. 08.09.2023)	07.09.2026
25.	High Court of Orissa	PRASANNA KUMAR PARHI	Plot No. 6B-925/2, CDA, Sector-9, Cuttack-753014, Odisha Mob: 9437020376, 9040257118 Tel. 0671-2503076, 2504376(F) Email: prasanakumarparhi@yahoo.co.in	07.10.2020 (Term extend ed w.e.f. 07.10.2023)	06.10.2026
26.	High Court of Patna	RANA VIKRAM SINGH	Chamber No. 17, Bihar State Bar Council Building, Near Patna High Court Res: A/5, Biscomaun Colony, North of Kumhrar Flyover, PO Gulzar bagh, Patna- 800007. Mob: 9431015481, 9572607959	16.10.2024.	15.10.2027

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

			Email: rvs15873@gmail.com		
27.	Punjab & Haryana High Court	JAGJOT SINGH LALLI	HouseNo.806, Phase 3-B-1, Sector60, Mohali, Punjab. Mob: 9814800193 Tel: 0172-4017218 Email: lalli.advocate@gmail.com	18.10.2022 (Term extended w.e.f. 18.10.2025)	17.10.2028
28.	High Court of Sikkim	SANGITA PRADHAN	Housing Complex, 5th Mile Tadong, Opposite St. Paul's Church, PO Samdur-737102, Sikkim Mob: 8918853438 Email: sangitaadv@gmail.com	08.09.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 08.09.2023)	07.09.2026
29.	High Court of Karnataka, Circuit Bench at Dharwad	VENKATESH M. KHARVI (KARIKAL)	Karnataka High Court, Dharwad Bench, At: Dharwad Ankolekar Building, Opp: District Court, P.B. Road, Dharwad- 580001 Mob: 9448729855, 8970587999 Email: kharvi.venkatesh@gmail.com	23.09.2025	22.09.2028

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

30.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the state of Telangana	NAGARAM BHUJANGA RAO	Flat No. 101, Padmavathi Towers, H. No. 12-13-364, Street No. 19, Tarnaka, Hyderabad-500017 Mob: 9391055998 Email: advo.nbrao@gmail.com	23.09.2025	22.09.2028
31.	High Court of Tripura	BIDYUT MAJUMDER	R/o 74, South Reshambagan, PO Reshambagan, PS East Agartala, District West Tripura, Pin-799008 Mob: 9436120661 Email: majumderbidyut16@gmail.com	08.09.2020 (Term extended w.e.f. 08.09.2023)	07.09.2026
32.	High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital	LALIT SHARMA	Chamber No. 55, High Court Campus, Nainital, Uttarakhand Mob: 9412086102 Email: advlalitsharma@yahoo.co.in	23.09.2025	22.09.2028

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
IN VARIOUS HIGH COURTS/ BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS

33.	High Court of Rajasthan, Jaipur Bench	SAMIT BISHNOI	202, Goverdhan Kripa, Sahdev Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302001 Mob: 9828100081	19.12.2025	18.12.2028
			Email: samitbishnoi@hotmail.com		
34.	High Court of Manipur	KHOMDRAM SAMARJIT SINGH	Off. & Res: Haobam Marak Irom Leikai, Imphal West, Manipur-795001 Mob: 9862009051, 8787758022 Email: k_samarjit@yahoo.com samaritans1234@gmail.com	08.11.2025	07.05.2026
35.	High Court of Bombay Bench at Nagpur	KARTIK NAVNEET SHUKUL	Add.: Shop No. 30, V.C.A. Complex, Civil Lines, Nagpur440001 Add. 2: Plot No. 80, 2nd Floor, Golf Links, Dlehi- 03 Mob: 9890011557, 0712-2520121/2 Email:kartik.shukul@shukulassociates.com contact@shukulassociates.com	17.02.2026	16.02.2029

LIST OF NODAL OFFICERS

S. No	Name of Ministry	Name of Nodal Officers	Designation	Telephone	Mobile No	Email	Complete Postal Address
1	Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications)	Shri Rajiv Ranjan Tiwari	Dy. Director General (Law)	011-23210209	9868133208	ddglaw-dot@nic.in	Room No. 712, MDS Bhawan, JLN Marg, New Delhi-110002
2	Ministry of Minority Affairs	Shri. C.P.S. Bakshi	Joint Secretary	011-24364312	9810989000	Cps.bakshi@gov.in	Room No. 1126, 11 th Floor, Pt Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
3	Ministry of Finance (Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs)	Shri Arvinder Singh Ranga	Principal Commissioner	011-23219071	7087100071	dla-rev@nic.in	Directorate of Legal Affairs, BIC, 4 th Floor, Rajendra Bhawan, 210, Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi - 110002
4	Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure)	Shri Abhimanyu Sahoo	Deputy Secretary	011-23092668	9810655705	abhimanyu.sahoo@nic.in	Room No. 264-C, North Block, New Delhi-110001
5	Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services)	Shri Sudhir Shyam	Economic Advisor	011-23748778		Sudhir.s@nic.in	3 rd Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Sansad Marg, New Delhi
6	Ministry of Finance (Central Board of Direct Taxes)	Mr. Manvendra Goyal	ADG(L&R)-2	11-23370336	9599946108	dit2.lr@incometax.gov.in	4 th Floor, Drum Shaped Building, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110001
7	Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals)	Ms. Gayatri Nair	Economic Advisor, Department of Pharmaceuticals	100-21400463	9560338220	Head-coordination@pharmadept.gov.in	Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
8	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	Ms. Mini Prasannakumar	Deputy Director General	011-20849138	9911571901	Miniprasanna.k@nic.in	Room No 615, Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
9	Ministry of Coal	Shri S.K. Kassi	Joint Secretary	011-23384887		Sanjay_kassi@nic.in	Room No- 321-A, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
10	Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education)	Shri Mrutyunjay Behera	Economic Advisor (HE)	011-23381484	9868927012	Mrutyunjay.b@nic.in	Room No. 109-C, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
11	Ministry of Ayush	Dr. Mahendra Kumar Pal	Deputy Adviser (H)		9718964055	Mahendra.pal@gov.in	Room No 111, Ayush Bhawan, B-Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023

12	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Shri Devesh Deval	Joint Secretary	011-26499433	9910926978	Mofpl-js@gov.in	Ministry of Food Processing Industries Panchsheel
							Bhawan, August Kranti Marg, Khel Gaon, New Delhi-110049
13	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Shri M. Subramanian	Joint Secretary		8745986863	ms.manian69@nic.in	Room no 104, 1 st floor, Kaushal Bhawan, New Moti Bagh, New Delhi-110023
14	Ministry of Defence (Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare)	Shri Ajay Kumar	Joint Secretary (ESW)	011-23011804	9868101000	jsesw@nic.in	Room No 99A, South Block, New Delhi
15	Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, RD & GR)	Shri Pradeep Kumar Agrawal	Joint Secretary	011-23725477		Jsrddowr@gov.in	Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi
16	Department of Atomic Energy	Smt. Prajcta L. Verma	Joint Secretary	022-22022492	9699485831	jsaa@dae.gov.in	Department of Atomic Energy, Anushakti Bhawan, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Marg, Mumbai-400001
17	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Shri T. Roumuan Paite	Joint Secretary	011-26712519		Cmd.nstfcd@gmail.com	NBCC Tower, 5 th Floor, Hall No.1, 15 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi – 110066
18	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Shri Rajat Agarwal	Joint Secretary	011-20819340	9501399999	js.ia-moefcc@gov.in	1 st Floor, Prithvi Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003
19	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)	Dr. Sujit Kumar Dutta	Joint Commissioner	011-21401454	9971610409	sk.dutta@nic.in	2 nd Floor, Chander Lok Building, Janpath, New Delhi – 110001
20	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries)	Shri Sagar Mehra	Joint Secretary	011-23388688		Sagar.mehra@nic.in	Room No- 483, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
21	Ministry of Mines	Shri Dinesh Mahur	Joint Secretary	011-23384334	9868130666	Dinesh.mahur@nic.in	Room No. 322, A-wing, Shastri Bhawan New Delhi-110001
22	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	Shri Surat Singh	Joint Secretary	011-21411638	8860985288	Surats.edu@nic.in	Block-12A, Room NO-11, Jodhpur Officers' Hostel, Pandara Park, New Delhi-110003

23	Department of Pension & Pensioners	Shri Dhruvjayoti Sengupta	Joint Secretary	011-24625540	9433027444	Dhruv.sengupta@gov.in	3 rd Floor Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi-110003
24	Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Justice)	Shri Niraj Kumar Gayagi	Joint Secretary	011-23385020		Jsa2j-doj@gov.in	Jaisalmer House, 26 Man Singh Road, New Delhi
25	Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Legal Affairs)	Shri M C Prusty	Sr. Govt. Advocate	011-23384836		Madhab.prusty@gov.in	Room No-422-A, (A) Wing, 4 th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
26	Ministry of Law & Justice (legislative Department)	Ms. Akali V. Konghay	Joint Secretary & Legislative Counsel	011-23384832	9910501100	Akali.konghay@gov.in	Room No-419-A, (A) Wing, 4 th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
27	Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade)	Shri Jai Prakash Shivahare	Joint Secretary	011-23038876	9979005656	Js-jps@gov.in	Room No. 221 Vanijiya Bhawan New Delhi 110001
28	Ministry of Steel	Ms. Sudershan Mendiratta	Joint Secretary	011-23066287	9953460094	sudershan.m66@nic.in	Room No. 65, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
29	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public (Department of Food and Public Distribution)	Shri Rajender Kumar	Joint Secretary	011-23382529	8006338879	jsadmn.fpd@nic.in	183-A, Krishi Bhawan, Rajendra Prasad Rd, New Delhi-110001
30	Ministry of External Affairs	Additional Secretary (L&T)	Additional Secretary (L&T)	011-24156507		aslegal@mea.gov.in	320, Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Malcha Marg, New Delhi-110021
31	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Shri Balamurugan Devraj	Joint Secretary	011-23389088	9472660011	Jsbd-mca@gov.in	Room No. 505, 5 th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, Central Secretariat, R.P. Road, New Delhi-110001
32	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports)	Shri Harilal K.M	Director		99464946774	km.harilal@nic.in	Hall No. 101, JLN Stadium, New Delhi-110003
33	Ministry of Railway (Railway Board)	Mohd. Muqem	Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser	011-47845038		Mohd.muqem@gov.in	Room No-145-A Railway Bhawan, New Delhi
34	Ministry of Railway (Zonal Railway) (Central Railway)	Sh. V.S.P. Raj (Mumbai)	Dy Chief Law Officer	54026	8828110009	lawsectiongm@cr.railnet.gov.in	Dy chief law officer, 2nd Floor, General Manager's Office, CSMT, Mumbai-400001

35	Eastern Railway	Rakesh Kumar Tewary (Kolkata)	Sr. Law Officer/HQ	033-22488591	9002020010	srohq@gmail.com	3.Koilaghat Street,Ground Floor,Kolkata-700001
36	Northern Railway	Dr. Data Singh Meena (New Delhi)	Sr. Law Officer/HQ		9717648607	srlonrhq@gmail.com	R.No. 43G, Annex-1, Baroda House, New Delhi
37	North Central Railway	Ms. Anam Siddiqui (Prayagraj)	Dy. General Manager/Law	23481	9794835019	dgmlaw@ner.railnet.gov.in	GM's Office, NC Railway HQ, Prayagraj
38	North Eastern Railway	Sh. V.K. Dubey (Gorakhpur)	Secy to GM	-	9794844271	lawofficenergkp@gmail.com	General Manager (Law), North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur-273012
39	Northeast Frontier Railway	Sukanta Gouda (Guwahati)	Law Officer/IC/HQ		9957550046	lonfrmlg@gmail.com	officer of the General Manager (Law), Maliaon, Assam-781011
40	North Western Railway	Sh. Pratul Saraliya (Jaipur)	Dy. General Manager/Law	095-25011	9001195008	dgmlaw@ner.railnet.gov.in	North Western Railway HQ Office , Ner Jawahar Circle. Jaipur
41	East Central railway	Shh. Vijay Srivastava (Hajipur)	Dy. General 42Manag43er/La44w	0612-2677025	9771425007	dgmlaweer@gmail.com	Officer of General Manager/Law, 6th Floor, Nirman Bhawan, Mahendrughat, Patna-800004
42	East Coast Railway	Sh. Satya Narayan Mishra (Bhubaneswar)	Dy. 45Gene46ral Man47ager/La48w	0674-2303442	8455885062	dgmlawecorbbs@gmail.com	officer of the General Manager (Law), Rail sadan, 1st Floor, South Block, Bhubaneswar-751017
43	south Central railway	N. Muralli Krishna (Secunderbad)	Sr. L49aw Offi50cer/HQ		9710370018	krishna.28122@nic.in	Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, Telengana-500071
44	Southeast Central Railway	Sh. R. Shankaram (Bilaspur)	Dy. Chief Personnel officer/HQ		9752475604	r.shankaran69@gov.in	General Manager's officer, personnel Departments, Southeast Central Railway,Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)
45	South Eastern Railway	Sri Saugat Mitra (Kolkata)	Dy. General Manager/Law	033-24504600	9002080037	dgmlaw@ser.railnet.gov.in	GN's Law Officer,SE Railway,11 Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-7000043

46	Southern Railway	KP Harikrishna (Chennai)	Law Officer/IC/HQ		8056160826	lawofficersrly@gmail.com	Headquarters Officer, Law Branch, sixth Floor, Moore Market Complex, Chennai-600003
47	South Western Railway	Salil N.S (Hubballi)	Sr. Law Officer/HQ	836232506 6	9731665065	lawoffice@sw r.railnet.gov.i n	Headquarters Officer, Law Branch, Ground Floor, (East wing), R.No 117,
							Rail Saoda, Gadag Road, Hubballi-580020
48	West Central Railway	Ms. Shabana Ali Khan (Jabalpur)	Dy Secretary (CONF) & Dy. General Managaer (Law)	0761- 2677703	9752415006	slowerjbp@g mail.com	General Manager's Officer, West Central Railway , jabalpur
49	Western Railway	Ms. Hema Rakshe (Mumbai)	Dy. General Manager/Law	066- 67622962	9004490030	dgmlawa@wr .railnet.gov.in	Legal cell, General Manager Building, 1st Floor, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020
50	Metro Railway	Sh. Shatrujeet Singh (Kolkata)	Sr. Law Officer/HQ	55050	9163341944	lawmetro9@ gmail.com	Metrol Rail Bhava, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkate-700071
51	Chittaranajan Locomotive Works	Sh. Ranjan Mohanty (Chittaranajan)	Chief Personnel Officer	40030	9163340600	popoclw@el w.railnet.gov.i n	Chittaranajan Locomotive Works, Chittaranajan
52	COPMOW	Shri Aditiya Aggrawal (New Delhi)	Dy chief Material Manager	011- 23440720	9717644352	dyemm1- rly2confmov.r ailnet.gov.in	railways officer complex tilak Bridhge, New Delhi-110002
53	Central Organisation for Railway Electrification	Pradeep kumar singh (Prayagraj)	Dy. General Manager/Law		9794865623	dyclocoreald @yahoo.com	office of the General manager,CORE, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagaj
54	Banaras Locomotive Works	Sh. Manish Kr Singh (Varanasi)	Sr. Law Officer	42714	9794861610	srlo.blw@dlw .railnet.gov.in	R.No.136,GM/Ad min Office,BLW, Varanasi
55	Patiala Locomotive Works	Sh. Lalit Mohan Monga (Patiala)	Sr. Law Officer	017- 239672826 5	9779582140	lalit.monga@ gov.in	Legal Cell, Patiala Locomotive Works, Patiala
56	Integral Coach Factory	Sh. M. Radhakrishnan (Chennai)	Dy. CPO/G	044- 26147701	9003141603	dycpolef@gm ail.com.com	Integral Coach Factory, Shell Adminstrative Building , Chennai-600038
57	Rail Coach Factory	Shri Chhotey Lal (Kapurthala)	Consultant Personnel	031-92730	8288919657	clal65@gmail .com	Admn. Block, Personnel deptt, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala , Punjab-144602
58	Rail Wheel Factory	Sh.JV Appa Rao (Bangalore)	Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (M&P)	080- 28072410	9810850140	dycmemnp@ rwf.railnet.go v.in	Rail Wheel Factory, Yelshanka, Bangalore- 560064

59	Rail Wheel Plant	Sh. Anand Kumar roy (Bela)	Dy. CPO		7542028238	roy.anandkr@gov.in	office of the Pr. CAO/Rail Wheel Planet, Bela, Administrative Building, Ground Floor, Shitalpur-841231
60	Research, Design & Standards organisation (RDSO)	Shri Brijesh Kumar Chaturvedi (Lucknow)	Jt. Director-I		9794863061	brijeshchaturvedi25@gmail.com	R.No. 110-B, DG Building, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow-226011
61	Railway Board	Ms. Gomathi Shankar (New Delhi)	Dy. Secretart/E(O)-I/CC	47845582	9717647482	gomathi.sankar@gov.in	R.No.533, Rail Bhawan,Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001
62	Railway Recruitment Board (Head office)	Shri Manish Mathur (New Delhi)	Dir-II/E(RRB)	23047188	9717647818	manish.mathur@gov.in	R.NO. 427, Rail Bhawan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001
63	Railway Protection Force (H.Q)	Sh. Ambu P. Kumar (New Delhi)	Asst. Inspector General/RPF	23041540	9717141858	aigp@rb.railnet.gov.in	R.No. 444. Rail Bhawan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001
64	Ministry of Jal Shakti (National Water Development Agency)	Shri Neeraj Kumar Manglik	Chief Engineer (HQ) & Nodal officer (Court Cases)	011-26852735/24195733			National Water Development Agency (NWSA) 18-20, Community centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017
65	Ministry of Women and Child Development	Shri. Ajeet Kumar	Joint Secretary	011-23388442	9425828382	krajeet@ias.nic.in	Room No. 305-A, 3 rd Floor, shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
67	Ministry of Culture	Dr. Arvind Kumar	Joint Secretary	011-23381235		arvindkumar@nic.in	Room no.-332, C Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
68	Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways	Shri. R.P. Panda	Chief Engineer		9439946228	rp.panda11@gov.in	Jeevan Bhart building, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
69	Ministry of Panchayati Raj (General Coordination Division)	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Joint Secretary	011-23725307	9811902004	mopr-js@gov.in	Room No. 7, Tower II,9 th Floor, Jeevan Bharati Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
70	Ministry of information and Broadcasting	Shri. C. Senthil Rajan	Joint Secretary	011-23382597	7838391928	jspna-moib@gov.in	Room No: 659, 'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, M/o I&B

LIMBS Contact Details:

Joint Secretary (LIMBS): 011-23386763

Helpline Numbers: 7500061601, 8178165119, or 9795912130

(LIMBS Team is available from 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM on all working days)

Mail us your Query:

Email: [limbssupport-dla\[at\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:limbssupport-dla[at]gov[dot]in)

Escalate a Query:

If you are not satisfied regarding your issues/queries: call us at 8800279152 or 8510042202

NOTES